



South Alabama Veterans Council

*A Coalition of Veterans, Friends, and Organizations working
Together to Further the Cause of Veterans in the South Alabama Area*

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251-423-0437

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251-751-6619

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251-442-4349



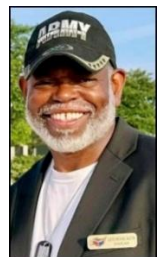
The South Alabama Veterans Council was established in 1998 by Col Glenn Frazier and other Veterans in the Mobile Area. The first meeting was held in the Denton-Drake American Legion Post 88. Welcome Back.

Denton-Drake American Legion Post 88



vacations and be safe as the temperatures and humidity begin to rise here in Lower Alabama! I look forward to seeing everyone again in July!

Robert "Frank" Barrow
LTC (US Army Retired)
President, South Alabama Veterans Council



Fellow Veterans!

Fellow Veterans! We have had a busy month this past May between the Armed Forces Day / Gold Star Family Ceremony and Memorial Day activities across several locations...we are so grateful to our vendors who provided financial support for these activities, as well as the many people who made it all possible! Please know how grateful I am to each of you...without your hard work, none of this would be possible!

For our next meeting at American Legion Post 88 on 17 June, I have asked COL (Ret) Pat Downing to host the meeting, as I will be in Washington, D.C., serving as an evaluator for the annual JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl. I was excited to be asked to return to this national-level competition. Our guest speaker in June is Chad Niblett, assistant to Congressman Barry Moore representing Alabama's District 1 in the House of Representatives. He will be giving an update on the initiatives Congressman Moore is submitting to support Veterans' issues. I hope we have a great turnout. In the meantime, enjoy your summer

GREETINGS!

Let's keep praying
Read Luke 18:1

"Then Jesus spoke a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray and not to faint."

Heavenly Father, we love you. Thank you for the abundance of your goodness in our lives. As we come before You humbly this day, we ask You to forgive us of our sins and wash us clean. As we confess and repent, create in us a clean heart and renew a right spirit in us. Thank you for your grace, your mercy, your love, and your kindness. Father God, we acknowledge that nothing happens on this earth that takes You by surprise. Whatever you bring us, you can carry us through, and what was meant for our harm, you use for our good. We praise and worship You in Jesus' Name, Amen!

Pastor Lloyd Michael Austin,
Chaplain SAVC

US Representative Barry Moore – Chad Nesbit, and Teresa Taylor are guest speakers at the June 17 meeting. Discussing Representative Moore’s plan for progress.



Chad Niblett, Community Relations Representative, Mobile Office

5253 Highway 90 W Suite 1
Mobile AL 36619

Phone: 251-264-6710

E-Mail: chad.niblett@mail.house.gov

Teresa Taylor, Constituent Advocate Bay Minette Office

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David Blair

Director
Office of Military Services
251-460-6230
dtblair@southalabama.edu

University of South Alabama

Academic Services Center, Suite 1345
111 Student Services Dr.
Mobile, AL 36688

[South Alabama - Office of Military Services](#)

Office of Military
Services Outreach
Specialist - 005278

Division Exec VP

Department 210250 - Office of Military Services

Minimum Qualifications Bachelor's degree in counseling, marketing, business or a related field from an accredited institution as approved combination of education and experience may be considered.

Preferred Qualifications General military knowledge to include service branches, ranks, and chains of command is highly preferred.

Job Description Summary The University of South Alabama's Office of Military Services is seeking to hire an Outreach Specialist. Interest

Essential Functions

These are the job duties required of the position

- Oversees workshops, outreach, marketing, programs, and recruitment activities that focus on the holistic wellness of current and future military affiliated students (251 Frontline Initiative).
- Co-Leads the 251 Frontline Initiative.
- Develops, implements, manages/oversees, and assesses prevention and outreach training for faculty, staff and students and programs to support the mental health and wellness of military affiliated students.
- Assists in creating and facilitating a campus wide suicide prevention initiative.
- Develops, implements, manages/oversees, and assesses marketing initiatives aimed at educating faculty, staff, and students about campus and community support services for military affiliated students.
- Collaborates with Community Partners to develop and implement programs to educate faculty, staff, and students.
- Develops, implements, manages/oversees, and assesses campus recruitment activities aimed at getting military affiliated students involved in the programs offered through the 251 Frontline Initiative.
- Develops and implements an awareness campaign for the services offered through the USA Office of Military Services.
- Collaborates with the University Counseling and Wellness Center to develop programs and services to educate USA faculty, staff, and students.
- Develops a Peer Support Group for military affiliated students.
- Regular and prompt attendance.
- Ability to work schedule as defined and additional hours as required.
- Related duties as required.



South Alabama Veterans Council VETERANS SPOTLIGHT



Major, Todd Andel, USAF (Retired)

Served in both enlisted and officer roles from 1989 – 2012 in various research and engineering assignments in Florida, Ohio, and Texas, to include one tour of duty in Iraq supporting Joint Task Force 134 and the US Army Provost Marshall's Office

Dr. Todd R. Andel is a Professor and the Chair of the Computer Science Department at the University of South Alabama's School of Computing. He received his PhD in Computer Science from Florida State University (2007), a M.S. in Computer Engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology (2002), and a B.S. in Computer Engineering from the University of Central Florida (1998). He was a prior faculty member of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the Air Force Institute of Technology from 2007 to 2012. He is a retired Major in the U.S. Air Force, serving over 23 years, specializing in cyber systems defense, research, and education. He has published over 65 peer-reviewed papers and journals related to computer and information security, side-channel analysis, embedded systems security, network security protocols, and formal methods. Dr. Andel is a senior member of the IEEE and senior member of the ACM.

MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS

Battleship Memorial Park

SAVC Memorial Day Flag Lowering Ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.



W F Green Veterans Home, Bay Minette, AL

Memorial Day Ceremony guest speaker Col Robert Frank Barrow, USA (Ret), President SAVC

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1Acw8qbkFN/>



Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery



National Veterans Cemetery, Mobile

SAVC Memorial Day Ceremony, guest speaker Shomari Figures (AL-2)



The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs honored the sacrifices of the men and women who served our great nation, defending the liberties that we have and enjoy as Americans. USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park Executive Director CDR Mark K. Fields (Retired), U.S. Navy, delivered the keynote address. The Boy Scouts troop 87 presented the Flag Folding Ceremony, and the Military Order of Purple Hearts placed the wreath.

W F Green Veterans Home 14 Veterans went to visit the WWII museum in New Orleans, Louisiana! Thank you to the activities team for all that they do!






HISTORY OF PTSD AWARENESS DAY

PTSD in some form or another has long been documented in humans. The earliest known literature about the disorder is a poem from 50 BC. Hippocrates narrated a traumatic battle experience about a soldier who was haunted by PTSD-like combat flashbacks. PTSD has consistently been mentioned since then, notably during the Hundred Year's War between England and France, and even in the literature of Shakespeare — including Romeo and Juliet.

A new understanding of PTSD came with the Civil War in the 1800s, as the disorder became widespread in the traumatized country. PTSD was known under a variety of names, including “railway spine.” It was in 1915 that some understanding of PTSD was formally introduced into medical literature, under the name “shell shock.”

World War 1 threw the disease into the spotlight, and rudimentary treatments, like electric shock therapy, were attempted. It wasn't until the 1950s that more modern treatments, like group therapy, were introduced.

The Vietnam War issued in, yet again, a new understanding of the disorder. This coincided with research done by psychologists on both Holocaust victims and rape victims, which helped prove that many kinds of trauma can lead to PTSD. Today, it's largely considered treatable, so we've made significant progress. The Senate recognized June 27 as National PTSD Awareness Day at the urging of Senator Kent Conrad. Conrad wanted to honor a North Dakota National Guard member who had committed suicide after two tours of duty in Iraq. In 2014, the entire month of June was designated National PTSD Awareness Month by the Senate.

The theme for Mental Health Awareness Month 2025 is “[Turn Awareness into Action](#)”. This theme encourages individuals, organizations, and policymakers to move beyond simply understanding mental health issues to actively supporting those affected and advocating for change. It also emphasizes the need for skill-building and intentional behaviors to enhance emotional well-being. 



Help Raise PTSD Awareness

There are currently about 12 million people in the United States with PTSD.

Even though PTSD treatments work, most people who have PTSD don't get the help they need. **Help us spread the word that effective PTSD treatments are available.** Everyone with PTSD—whether they are Veterans or civilians who experienced sexual assault, serious accidents, natural disasters, or other traumatic events—needs to know that treatments really do work and can lead to a better quality of life.

[Help Raise PTSD Awareness - PTSD: National Center for PTSD](#)



VETS RECOVER
TRANSFORMING THE CULTURE OF CARE

Recovery Starts Here

Welcome to Vets Recover, a trusted organization dedicated to providing comprehensive care and support to veterans, first responders, and their families. Our mission is to remove barriers to care, deliver high-quality, integrated healthcare, and build a better community through recovery and connection.

The overall vision is to build a thriving community where those in need, including Service Members, Veterans, First Responders, and their families, receive the care needed to accelerate their overall well-being. We are committed to building relationships and being intentional with every person who comes through our door.

OUTPATIENT CLINIC SERVICES

We offer integrated mental and physical health to veterans, first responders, and their families. Services include:

- 24-hour Crisis Services
- Screening, Assessment, and Diagnosis
- Person-Centered Treatment Planning
- Outpatient Behavioral Health Services
- Outpatient Primary Care Screening and Monitoring
- Psychiatric rehabilitation
- Peer and family support
- Communication options such as TTD, TDY, and foreign language services
- Transportation assistance
- Telehealth

CALL TO TALK TO A VETERAN
251-405-3677



The 10th Annual Armed Forces Day Ceremony, Gold Star Ceremony, The EXPO, Silver Wings Jump Team Demonstration, and the MRE cookoff were a huge success.

Through the generous donations of our sponsors, SAVC was able to donate \$1000.00 to the USS Alabama Battleship Park. Receiving the funds was Ebb Counts.



The South Alabama Veterans Council and The Battleship Memorial Park wish to thank the sponsors who made it possible: Devoted, Gardburg & Kemmerly, Attorneys, Genesis Technical Staffing, Inc, Gentiva Hospice, Humana Sage Health, Sunpaws Pet Services, Synergy Home Care, University South Alabama, Uniti National LLC , and our in-kind sponsors.



A special thanks to Sunpaws Pet Services, owner Frances Dauster, for providing Dinner for the Silver Wings, and her annual sponsorship of the Armed Forces Day



Guest speaker: Representative Barry Moore, and Battleship Park CEO, CDR Mark Fields, with our Battleship crewmates



MEALS READY TO EAT MRE CONTEST JUDGES

Honorary Judge and Host, Elbert Wingfield, USMC, Saucy Q BBQ, Chef Pete Blohme, Operating partner and co-owner of PP Hospitality Group, Chef Nick DiMario, Operating partner and co-owner of PP Hospitality Group, Chef Frankie Little, Roosters,

Kelly Finley, News Director / News Anchor

MRE COOK-OFF WINNERS:

Presentation:

- 1st – The Mach Chefs
- 2nd – Vets Recovery
- 3rd – Patriot Guard

Taste:

- 1st – Vets Recovery
- 2nd – Montford Point Marines
- 3rd – DIP Vets

Creativity:

- 1st – JRS
- 2nd – DIP Vets
- 3rd – Vets Recovery

Best Overall – The Mach Chefs

Best Out of the Bag – DIP Vets



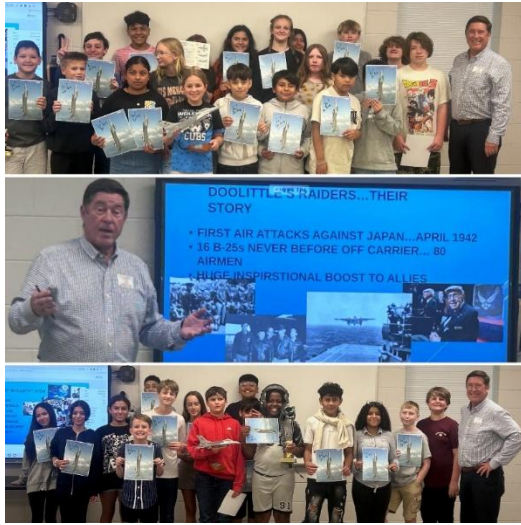


MOBILE BAY AREA VETERANS COMMISSION PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Steve Carey, Col USAF (Ret)

Col Carey spoke to the Silverhill sixth graders about Leadership and Integrity. Everyone has a chance to be a real leader, but they need to have that mindset.



MOBILE BAY AREA VETERAN OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

Veteran of the Year nominations for the 2025 Mobile Bay Area Veteran of the Year (VOY) will be accepted by the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Commission, from August 1 to August 22, 2025. Letter must be postmarked no later than midnight August 22, 2025. The veteran's cell phone number and mailing address must be with the nomination. The Veteran of the Year Committee will meet the following week and will select the VOY.

Award Criteria:

1. Must be a resident of the Mobile Bay Area, which includes Mobile and Baldwin Counties of Alabama.
2. Must be a living veteran of one of the six armed forces of the United States, including Reserve and National Guard, or the United States Merchant Marine.
3. Must have demonstrated outstanding patriotism, leadership, and selfless service and, also served as a volunteer in community or civic service.
4. May be awarded for a single act or for continuous service.
5. May not be a previous recipient of the Mobile Bay Veteran of the Year Award.
6. A DD-214 or other proof of service must be submitted with the nomination.

The award will be presented at the Honors Luncheon on Veterans Day, Tuesday, November 11, 2025.

The nomination will be valid for three years.

Nominations should be mailed to:

Col. Steve Carey, Mobile Bay Area Veterans Commission
P.O. Box 2187
Mobile, AL 36652



PP HOSPITALITY GROUP

Baldwin County Home Builders Charitable Foundation
and PR Foundation teamed up again to do good
things!

Warrior Legacy Ranch

Patrick Jump, President, Warrior Legacy Ranch

"We are truly grateful to everyone who came out to **The Waterfront Daphne** for our great Stars and Stripes Party. Panini Pete and his whole team did an amazing job; the food and service were amazing!!! Thank you to the PL Wilson Detachment of the Marine Corps League for conducting the flag ceremony. The wonderful sponsors and donors of the raffle items and VIP Corporate Tables. Thank you for supporting our vision of Warrior Legacy Ranch and the **Gulf Coast Veterans Community Resource Center at WLR** and the great things it will do for Veterans, Veteran Organizations, and First Responders in our area!



Pete Blohme and Nick DeMario



*Congratulations to Lou Lartigue, LTC USA (Ret)
Waterfront House Veteran of the Year*



**Gulf Coast Veterans Community Resource Center at Warrior
Legacy Ranch**

www.gulfcoastvets.org/about-us-2/aboutus/

American Legion Post 250 newly elected Executive Board Members

Eli Crawford-Commander
Pat Cook- 1st Vice
Maurice Ryan-2nd Vice
Steve Byrd- Sgt at Arms
Thomas Graham- Chaplin
Rick Mortiz- Committee member
Larry Horstman-Committee member
Corrine Busby-Adjutant



American Legion Post 88 newly elected Executive Board Members

Legionnaires 2025-2026 Officers

Commander: Gary Hensley
Sr. Vice Commander: Lloyd Pursley
Jr. Vice Commander: Vacant
Finance Officer: C.J. Simms
Adjutant: Greg Barr
Executive Board: Lloyd Pursley
Gene Weir
Jim Fitzgerald
Tom Maynard
Tom Smith
Immediate Past Commander: Coleman Sumrall



As a VA-approved provider, Veterans can now take advantage of our services through the Veterans Administration, offering them financial assistance with the cost. Some of the services we provide include transportation, meal prep, assistance with daily activities of living, medication reminders and companionship.

Christy Wilson

Home Care Consultant

Home Instead Mobile & Baldwin County Alabama

VA Approved Provider | NPI #1427891415

christy.wilson@homeinstead.com

251.391.7220

SAVC serves seven counties in lower Alabama, for our Veterans north of Mobile County



February 23 – February 26, 2025

Crystal Gateway Marriott
1700 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 22202
Phone: 1-800-393-3680 or 703-920-3230
Group Name: Disabled American Veterans
Event Code: M-MN2DWV5
\$216 Single/Double

Upcoming Events

DAV Department of Alabama
98th Annual Convention
6-7 June 2025
3101 Airport Blvd
Mobile, AL 36606



Opening Session—0900—Friday, 6 June 2025
Banquet—1900—Saturday, 7 June 2025

A big shout-out to Publix Bakery Store #1796, Cottager Hill West Mobile, for providing the pastries at our SAVC meetings.
Manager, Kandace Breelan. (4th on right)



Anger Williams, Chrisie Zeller, Becky Griffin, Kandace Breelan, and Candy Dixon

South Alabama Rural Training (SART) Program addresses the ongoing need for trained administrative support professionals in rural healthcare facilities by offering free education and training to local community members.

We want to help you advance towards a brighter future!



Student scholarships will be offered to cover full tuition fees, stipends, books, computers, and other related educational expenses to reduce financial barriers to student participation.

Accepting applications from only **current healthcare workers** in the following **Non-clinical Healthcare programs**:

- Medical Coding & Billing
- Electronic Health Records
- Medical Administrative Assistant
- Medical Office Manager, etc.

Join us in sharing your interests and knowledge about clinical healthcare careers and also apply for the SART program using the QR code. Complete the survey for the chance to win one of three \$50 gift cards

For more information, contact kmorgan@saahec.org



Scan this code to complete the survey



Scan this code to apply

The 2025-2026 South Alabama Rural Training (SART) Program is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling approximately \$2.4 million. Percentage financed with federal medical services. The content is the sole property of the HRSA and does not represent or warrant the HRSA or HHS, nor an endorsement by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.



We're proud to announce that we are once again a Blue Star Museum for Summer 2025! From Armed Forces Day (May 17) through Labor Day (September 1), we're offering free admission to active-duty military personnel and their families as part of the nationwide Blue Star Museums program. It's our way of saying thank you and supporting the families who serve our country.

Plan your visit, explore something new, and make lasting memories with us this summer.

SAVC, CAVC, NAVFOC, AND RRVC THE VETERANS VOICE VETERANS UNITE

In addition to the South Alabama Veterans Council, which covers seven counties in lower Alabama, three similar groups currently exist elsewhere in Alabama: the Central Alabama Veterans Collaborative (CAVC) in Birmingham and the North Alabama Veterans & Fraternal Organizations Coalition (NAVFOC), and the River Region Veterans Coalition (RRVC) Central Alabama in and near Montgomery, AL



South Alabama Veterans Council

www/savc.info



Central Alabama Veterans Collaborative (CAVC) www.facebook.com/AlabamaCAVC/



North Alabama Veterans & Fraternal Organizations Coalition (NAVFOC) www.navfoc.com



The RRVC organizers have been grateful for the guidance they have received from the other regional veterans groups in Alabama and hope that in the future, SAVC, CAVC, NAVFOC, and RRVC can work together to advocate for the state's large veteran community.

River Region Veterans Coalition – Central Alabama in and near Montgomery, AL
RRVC www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61574462792355 RRVC is a non-profit/apolitical coalition of public and private sector organizations that serve military veterans in the River Region of central Alabama.

PTSD Awareness Month	Month of June
D-Day	June 6
Women Veterans Day	June 12
Army Birthday	June 14
U.S. Flag Day	June 14
Veterans Golden Age Games	May 20-25, 2023
Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday	June 23
PTSD Awareness Day	June 27



AMERICAN LEGION POST 511 BICYCLE DRIVE – Dallas to Tampa August 2 – 22, 2025

The CPOA Mobile is planning an event for August 10th at USCG Sector Mobile to benefit the American Legion's Post 511 bicycle drive. The drive consists of the members of AL Post 511 riding bicycles from Rowlett, TX, to their National Convention to be held in Tampa, FL, this year. They did the drive last year to their convention in New Orleans and raised \$21,000 towards their "Be the One" and the Birdwell Foundation.

This year, they chose the USCG Sector Mobile as one of the military facilities they wanted to visit on their route and asked the CPOA to be their local POC. Their goal is to raise \$1 million. I am reaching out to all of you to request your assistance with planning and participation, respectfully. Some of the things we would welcome assistance with are the following:

- Fundraising (Ex, We are planning a ride-along from the State Line to Sector Mobile and charging a sign-up fee to donate to the cause)
- Media Requests
- Passing the word to other Vet Orgs.
- Planning with City

To participate or support the event, contact:
Pablo J. Rosa-Perez, CPOA President
mobilechapterpresidentcpoa@gmail.com

USCG Aviation Training Center Mobile's Light Off Committee

On April 25th, 2024, Aviation Training Center Mobile's Light Off Committee celebrated Coast Guard WWII veteran and SPAR Gladys Hughes's 100th birthday. Petty Officer First Class Gladys Lynge Hughes (U.S. Coast Guard Reserve) was recognized as a Military Women's Memorial Living Legend for her service as a U.S. Coast Guard SPAR from 1945-1946. Petty Officer Hughes served as a hospital apprentice at the Manhattan Beach Coast Guard Training Station sick bay, caring for recruits and cadre during and following the final year of World War 2.

Various accolades and gifts were presented to our Petty Officer Hughes, including the Military Women's Memorial Living Legend Proclamation, Letter from the Commandant, numerous challenge coins, a crocheted USCG airplane, and chocolate cake. Members of the ATC Mobile Light Off Committee were honored to celebrate such a momentous occasion with a true Living Legend.

Her daughter, Bonnie Hughes really speaks for her mother since she is in assisted care now in Mississippi. However, she is very alert and a joy to speak to.



**BE SURE TO CHECK OUT
THE TOPICS OF INTEREST IN
THE MAY MINUTES, LOTS OF
GOOD INFORMATION
REPORTED AT THE
MEETING...**



PP HOSPITALITY GROUP

Publix.

The bakery department provides SAVC pastries at meetings, Kandace Breeland, Publix Store Manager
9124 Cottage Hill Rd. Mobile, AL 251-634-5141



Thank you, Tad Denson, for creating our
Jump Drive of Patriotic songs
and Military medley

SAVC Minutes May 20, 2025

Pastries provided by Publix West Mobile, McFarland and Cottage Hill

1. **Welcome and Call to Order:** Frank Barrow called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., with 62 in attendance. The Location was American Legion Post 88
2. **Opening Prayer & Pledge** – Chaplain Austin, opening prayer. Pledge led by Shawn Davidson.
3. **Welcome and introduction of new attendees** — Frank Barrow welcomed new attendees and thanked the AFD team for the great day for Armed Forces Day.
4. **Newsletter & Minutes, Fran Barber-Bruyn, Secretary:** The April meeting minutes were included in the newsletter. The minutes were approved as read.
5. **Treasury & Grant Presentations:** Four deposits totaling \$4206. 11 bills totaling \$5919, AFD \$2379.00, expenses \$3860.00 collected in May, and hat \$200. A check for \$1000.00 was presented to Ebb Counts, Battleship Commission for the use of the facility.
6. **Navy & Veterans News:** Pete Riehm reported on Memorial Day Events, Rep Figures guest speaker at the National Cemetery. Navy League dinner June 17. Barrow will be speaking at WF Green on Memorial Day.
7. **Current Veterans Activities and AL News:** Jim Jeffries returns after a 4-month recovery, reporting on current events. American Legion Meeting this June in Mobile, POW/MIA Ceremony in Sept
8. **AL Veterans Cemetery Foundation:** VP Shawn Davidson gave the Cemetery report, Family Flag Day May 24, Memorial Ceremony May 26, 11:00 a.m., guest speaker CDR Mark Fields.
9. **USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park:** Eb Counts, Armed Forces Day Ceremony a huge success. The City of Mobile is sponsoring the 4th of July fireworks.
11. **AFD – Barrow** - Hot Wash meeting after SAVC, Barrow thanked Davidson for joining the team.
12. **VMRT:** Vets Recover will clean their area on April 17, and Girl Scouts will be out on Earth Day.
13. **Alabama Chapter 92nd Buffalo Soldiers** –Eddie Irby, reported on June 7, Documentary at Mobile Public Library.
- 14 **SAVC MAY MEETING TOPICS OF INTEREST—Veterans Park in Creola,** Flynt Christian reported on the new veterans park and the Memorial Day Ceremony. mbrown@cityofcreola.org
Vietnam Veterans of America Meeting 4th Tuesday at Café Acadiana in Silverhill, AL arleenronnie1967@gmail.com
Memorial Day Flag Relay: Endel Lee reported on 'Remember to Remember' flag relay on Memorial Day. endellee@yahoo.com
John Joe Dec reported on My Healthy Vet, DAV – needs drivers at the VA Clinic, June 5-7, and the DAV Convention in Mobile. Belk's discount tickets are supporting DAV. yohnnyoe@icloud.com
SACMOAA Phil Gabriel thanked the SAVC for its support of the JROTC. contactdxd@aol.com
Female Veterans Memorial Day, June 12, Baldwin County QOV – Linda Tipp reported that ADVA requested support for June 12, Female Veterans Memorial Day. The Governor asked that QOV present a quilt to all female veterans in Alabama's veterans nursing homes. lmtipp143@bellsouth.net
River Region Veterans Coalition (RRVC) ADML Kent Davis, VP, reported it is a non-profit/apolitical coalition of public and private sector organizations that serve military veterans in the River Region of central Alabama (in and around Montgomery). Operation Iron Ruck, on the day of the Alabama/Auburn game, a 151-mile ruck march to recognize veteran suicide. lmtipp143@bellsouth.net
MOPH Chapter 2206, Andrew Del Gaudio, reported that MOPH Chapter donated \$ 1,000.00 to the purchase of the Vietnam Veterans statue for the Battleship. The MOPH will dedicate a memorial to the veterans of the Enterprise Veterans Home. MOPH wants to recognize the JROTC instructors this year. Andrew reported on May 15, the University of West Florida Convention conference on veterans' issues. godfatherdel@hotmail.com
American Legion District 33 Auxiliary, Sharon Bunton, President of the Auxiliary, reported that they host a hot dog luncheon for the Mobile VA Clinic on the first Tuesday of every month. sharonbunton@yahoo.com
Gentiva Hospice – Holly Jordan invited veterans to the monthly Vet Connect Meeting at Springhill College Golf Course, Jackie reported on the new Gentiva Hospice Ceremony, honoring deceased spouses of veterans. Holly.Jordan@gentivahs.com jwoodwardbarnett@gentivahs.com
Vets Recover, Chaplain Lloyd Austin, reported that they have passed their Joint Commission Certification inspection and are now open for business 24/7. About 35 veterans have graduated from the program. info@vetsrecover.org ☎
(251) 405-3677 **website:** vetsrecover.org
15. **Guest Speaker**—David Blair, USA (Ret), Univ So. Alabama. Gave an update on changes being made for Veterans.
16. **Good of the Order** – The next meeting will be at the Denton Drake American Legion Post 88 on Halls Mill Rd, Mobile, AL June 17, 2025
17. **The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.** Fran Barber - Secretary