



South Alabama Veterans Council

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

Robert "Frank" Barrow
President
251-423-0437

Pat Downing
Vice President
251-751-6619

Robert Shawn Davidson
Deputy VP Operations
985-264-3471

Fran Barber
Secretary / Newsletter
251-605-1290

Tom Schwarz
Treasurer
251-649-8459

Lloyd Michael Austin
Chaplain
251-391-8176

Pete Riehm
Liaison Officer / MC
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



Hello Friends and Fellow Veterans! It's HOT here in South Alabama with heat indexes reaching 110 and 112 degrees several days this past month! As we get ready to send our children back to school, let's be sure to enjoy these last few days of summer vacation with family and friends! Be sure to hydrate and be safe on the roads and waterways of our beautiful state.

I was very pleased to see a great turnout for our July meeting, where our guest speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Ross Clark, gave an excellent update on the Air Force ROTC program at the University of South Alabama and informed us of numerous scholarship opportunities for students interested in joining the United States Air Force as commissioned officers! I will be headed to Alaska again next month and will miss our August meeting. I have asked our Vice President, COL (Ret) Pat Downing, to chair the meeting. He will be introducing Michael "Mike" Evans who currently serves as the Director for the Mobile County Emergency Management Agency with over 23 years of Emergency Management experience. Mike also serves as a Brigadier General with over 39 years in the Alabama Army National Guard as a Multi-Functional Logistics Officer and serves as the Commanding General for the 135th Expeditionary Sustainment Command (ESC). With hurricane season about to kick in full swing, this will be a great opportunity for our members to ask questions on how to best prepare! As

always, I hope we have a great turnout. I will see you again in September!

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



GREETINGS!

It's enlightenment for us all: Read Ephesians 1:18 "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the Saints."

The eyes are the windows of the soul; if the eyes are darkened, then the soul is dark and there is no understanding. This is why we need to be enlightened, so that we may know the hope of his calling. Jesus Christ calls us out of darkness into His marvelous light. He saves us and fills us with the Holy Ghost and fire, empowering us to be witnesses to others for Him. Now let's talk about the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the Saints. The riches of his glory of his inheritance are priceless. There is no amount of dollars, gold, silver, or precious jewelry that is equal to eternal life with Jesus Christ. So, I encourage us to continue our training, development, and maturity so we will be ready when Jesus returns. In Jesus's Name Amen!

Pastor Lloyd Michael Austin,
Chaplain SAVC



MILITARY ORDER OF PURPLE HEART DAY AUGUST 7

The Purple Heart Medal is awarded to members of the armed forces of the U.S. who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy and, posthumously, to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action. It is specifically a combat decoration.

The organization now called the "Military Order of the Purple Heart" was established in 1932 to protect and serve the interests of all who have received the decoration. Made up solely of Purple Heart recipients, it is the only veterans service organization made up entirely of "combat" veterans.

Funds for welfare, rehabilitation, and/or service work conducted by the organization come from collecting used household items, running thrift stores, accepting automobile donations, and receiving monetary contributions. If you would like to support our many programs -

The Purple Heart Viola

At the community level, there is an annual distribution of the official flower, the Purple Heart Viola. These violas are assembled by disabled and needy veterans, many of whom receive little or no compensation from other sources. Therefore, your contribution to our programs is two-fold. It helps veterans participating in these efforts and also allows the organization to undertake numerous initiatives on behalf of hospitalized and needy veterans and their families.

Family members of Purple Heart recipients can join the Auxiliary of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, which also plays an important role both nationally and locally in veterans' hospitals.

Congress established the Military Order of the Purple Heart for combat-wounded veterans. The organization consists of military men and women who received the Purple Heart Medal for wounds endured in combat or due to acts of international terrorism.

From the day that will forever live in infamy to the terror attacks on our soil, our members have answered our country's call. Now, as combat-wounded veterans, we proudly continue to serve our country by helping America's active-duty service members, veterans, their families, and those who have borne the burden of battle.

SAVC - AUGUST 19 MEETING GUEST SPEAKER



**Michael "Mike" Evans, Director
Mobile County Emergency Management
Agency**

Mike is the Director of Mobile County Emergency Management with over 23 years of experience. He coordinates with county and city resources to deploy disaster personnel and equipment during incidents and emergencies affecting Mobile County's 415,000 citizens. During emergencies, he staffs and activates the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), utilizing local and state resources. He also has ten years of experience in private industry manufacturing.

Mike is a Brigadier General with over 39 years of service in the Alabama Army National Guard as a Logistics Officer. He deployed twice for the Global War on Terror, in 2003 and 2013. He currently commands the 135th Expeditionary Sustainment Command. Previously, he led the 122nd Troop Support Command and the 731st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. He has completed numerous military courses and graduated from the U.S. Army War College.

Mr. Evans holds a B.S. in Business Management from the University of Mobile and an M.S. in Management from Troy University. He also earned a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. He is a Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) through the International Association of Emergency Managers and recently served as Region 4 Board President. Additionally, he holds a Master's Level Emergency Manager (MLEM) certification from the Alabama Association of Emergency Managers, where he has served as a committee chair, board member, and twice as President. He has extensive disaster response experience, including 19 presidential declarations, notably for Hurricanes Ivan, Dennis, Katrina, Sally, Zeta, the 2012 Christmas tornadoes, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mobile, Coast Guard officials to celebrate branch's 235th Anniversary on Aug 4

WHO: Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson
Captain Scott Lugo (Aviation Training Center Mobile)
Captain Michael Vega (Sector Mobile)
Commander Michelle Ferguson (Gulf Strike Team)
Mobile Navy League members

WHAT: Wreath Laying Ceremony for 235th Coast Guard Anniversary

WHEN: Monday, August 4, 2025
8:15 a.m. (CST)

WHERE: Battleship Memorial Park (Coast Guard Memorial)

2703 Battleship Parkway, Mobile, AL, 36602
Mobile, Ala. —

Mayor Sandy Stimpson will join United States Coast Guard (USCG) officials and members of the Mobile Navy League for a wreath-laying ceremony on August 4 to celebrate the USCG's 235th anniversary and pay tribute to Coast Guardsmen who have fallen in the line of duty.

The event will take place at 8:15 a.m. on Monday, August 4, at the Coast Guard Memorial located at USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park. Mayor Stimpson will speak at the ceremony and present a proclamation from the City of Mobile commemorating the 235th anniversary of the U.S. Coast Guard.

The City of Mobile is one of 37 communities across the country officially designated by Congress as a "Coast Guard City." Mobile's strong relationship with the U.S. Coast Guard dates back two centuries. It continues today, with the city serving as home to three major Coast Guard commands: Sector Mobile, the Aviation Training Center, and the Gulf Strike Team.

The event on August 4 will highlight and celebrate Mobile's connection to the U.S. Coast Guard while also recognizing those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. Members of the public are invited to join the celebration and help us honor the hundreds of men and women serving at Coast Guard commands here in our community.



BARRY MOORE
Representing the 1st District of Alabama

Media members are also invited to cover the event.

For additional information, please contact Media Relations Manager Dale Liesch at (251)508-8532.



CPOA Mobile AUGUST 10th

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



Mobile Bay National Estuary Program



Cody Aloï, Program Manager

caloi@mobilebaynep.com

Cody, a USN OEF Veteran, currently serves as the MBNEP Program Manager, where he applies his expertise in entrepreneurship and operations management to enhance the various initiatives he oversees. Establishing a Veterans Suicide Prevention Program



**Alabama District 1 represented by
Congressman Barry Moore**



Teresa Taylor
Green and Gold Congressional Aide
116 Courthouse Square. Bay Minette, Alabama
Cell: 202-809-2288, Office: 251-494-5151
Teresa.taylor@mail.house.gov

This is a list of Teresa's duties. As a veteran, if you need help with a veteran-related problem, contact Teresa; she can help you resolve those issues.

Role of a Green and Gold Congressional Aide and Constituent Advocate: To provide a voice between the veteran constituent and their families and a federal agency. Provide updates every 30 days on your claim.

Top Agencies serving Veterans:

Veterans Administration

- Provide monthly progress reports for benefit cases and appeals.
- Assist veterans with travel pay claims.
- VA pharmacy issues
- Appointment Scheduling
- Community Care Approval
- Medical and Personnel File Records Retrieval
- Widow Pension Application
- Education Benefits
- Duty to Assist Error Cases

Department of Defense

- Service Medal Awards Requests
- Assist in Appeal of Discharge Upgrades
- Assist in Combat Service-Related Compensation claims.
- Liaison between service members and Tricare benefits office.

Social Security Administration

---SSDI

- Provide Monthly updates on initial determination and appeal cases.
- Be a liaison between the constituent and the local or state offices.
- Be a voice for applicants when it is felt that an error has been made.

---Social Security Retirement

- Provide correct answers to constituents concerning their options of drawing Social Security early or on time.
- Facilitate face-to-face appointments at the local SSA offices
***Due to COVID, offices are only allowed to have 2 applicants in the office at a time. Appointments are scarce.

ATF

- Help to push through gun and suppressor applications in a timely manner.

Immigration/ UCIS

- Help family members overseas.
- Adoption Visa Assistance.

Passport Services

- Assist in last-minute appointments for lost or stolen passports.
- Tracking of passports that are stuck in the processing system.

IRS – Taxpayer Advocate Services

AUGUST DATES TO REMEMBER

Antiterrorism Awareness	Month of August
Air Force Day	Sept. 18
Coast Guard Day	Aug. 4
Purple Heart Day	Aug. 7
U.S. Department of Defense Birthday	Aug. 10
Agent Orange Awareness Day	Aug. 10
Navajo Code Talkers Day	Aug. 14
National Airborne Day	Aug. 16
Marine Corps Reserve Birthday	Aug. 29

Dr. Charles Dent recently joined the Military Services Staff at USA:



Dr. Charles Dent is a seasoned counselor, chaplain, and coach with over four decades of experience specializing in integrating spirituality and religion using Choice Theory and Reality Therapy. He has dedicated his career to applying therapeutic approaches in various settings.

Dr. Dent works in both faith-based and corporate settings. He is a licensed Mental Health First Aid trainer and helps train various agencies and organizations on trauma and mental health best practices.

University of South Alabama Military Services Staff

The staff of The University of South Alabama's Office of Military Services has many years of experience assisting students with questions and issues involving veteran benefits. If you have any questions, contact us.

David Blair - Director

drblair@southalabama.edu

Lauren Newman - Assistant Director

lsnewman@southalabama.edu

Cathryne Smith - Compliance Manager

cathrynesmith@southalabama.edu

Cayleigh Barber - Benefits Manager

csbarber@southalabama.edu

Dr. Charles Dent - Outreach Specialist

charles.dent@southalabama.edu

SAVC July Guest Speaker:



LTC Ross "Postal" Clark Univ South Alabama ROTC instructor with LTC Frank Barrow, USA (Ret), President, SAVC



Certificate of Appreciation to Sean Sullivan, FM106.5 Owner, Veteran Supporter



Grant Presentation: Brittany Lawrence, on behalf of Equine Therapy



Grant Presentation to Eli Crawford, Out of the Deep veterans fishing excursions



Young Patriots Receiving SAVC Challenge coin



Mr. Gillis put Mobile, AL, on the map he was the oldest veteran participating; he won 3 medals, sponsored by Campbell Caring Hands, at the National Golden Age Veterans Games



MOBILE BAY AREA VETERANS COMMISSION PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Steve Carey, Col USAF (Ret)

The Mobile Bay Area Veterans Commission was established in 1986 to energize the area's Veterans Day Commemoration. The founders included Admiral J. Lloyd "Doc" Abbot, USN (Ret), Admiral Bill Stewart, USCG (Ret), Captain Hal Pierce, USN (Ret), and Lieutenant Colonel Vince Schiavoni, USAF (Ret).

A Patriot and Veteran of the Year is selected and honored at the Veterans Day Honors Luncheon. Registration is open. Follow the link or scan the QR Code to reserve your table or seats at the 39th Annual Veterans Day Events in Mobile.

Previous Recipients of the Patriot of the Year Award



1986
Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, USN (Ret.), a native of Alabama and a 1933 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, became a naval aviator and held a variety of commands. He served as Chief of Naval Operations and was appointed Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1970, retiring in 1974. He is still active in matters concerning foreign policy and private business.



1987
The late U.S. Representative William F. Nichols served in the Army during World War II, was critically wounded in battle and retired as a captain. After serving successfully in state politics, Mr. Nichols was elected to the U.S. Congress in 1966. His efforts on the House Armed Services Committee earned him the nickname, "Friend of the Serviceman."



1988
U.S. Senator Strom Thurmond served as state senator and circuit judge in South Carolina before serving in the Army in World War II. A decorated combat veteran, Senator Thurmond returned home and was elected governor of South Carolina. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1955. He is ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, senior member of both the Armed Services Committee and the Veterans Affairs Committee and a member of the Labor and Human Resource Committee.



1989
U.S. Representative G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, a retired Major General in the Mississippi National Guard, saw action in the European Theatre during World War II. He served in state politics before being elected to Congress in 1966. As chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, he successfully sponsored the Montgomery G.I. education bill and has served in various capacities investigating POWs and MIAs in Southeast Asia.



1990
Former U.S. Senator and Rear Admiral Jeremiah A. Denton, Jr., USN (Ret.) graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1946 and became a naval aviator. While flying a combat mission over Vietnam, Senator Denton was shot down and subsequently held as a POW for more than 7 1/2 years. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1980 and served as a member of the Judiciary, Labor and Human Resources and Veterans Affairs Committees. He also chaired the Senate subcommittee on Aging, Family and Human Resources.

2025 Veterans Day Luncheon Events - Mobile Chamber



WEBSITE:

vetscommission.com/home

FACEBOOK:

www.facebook.com/MobileBayVeterans/

MOBILE BAY AREA VETERANS COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Board of Trustees List

Mayor – Honorable Sandy Stimpson (Chairman)
Bradley Byrne CEO Chamber
Colonel Steven Carey, USAF (Ret), President
Colonel David Reaney USA (Ret), Secretary/Treasurer
Chief of Staff James Barber (Veteran)
Brigadier General Brad Brightman, ALNG (Ret)
Colonel Pat Downing USA (Ret)
Michael E Ledger, USN (Veteran)
RDML Endel Lee, Jr, USN Chaplain (Ret)
Major Craig Savage, USAF (Ret)
Captain Joseph H Snowden, USCG (Ret)
LTC Marcus Young, ARNG (Ret)

Working Committee

Colonel Steve Carey	President and Chief Executive Officer
Fran Barber	Secretary / Treasurer
Colonel Pat Downing	Vice President, Patriot / Veteran of the Year
Commander Pete Richm	Vice President, Parade Activities Treasurer
Shana Jordan	Vice President, Public Affairs / Marketing
Master Gunnery Sergeant Cynthia House	Vice President, Honors Luncheon
Margaret Colcy	Vice President, Education
Genavese Harris	Vice President, Parade of Flags
Colonel Nick Matranga	Vice President, Patriot Dinner
Jennifer Byrd	Vice President, Sponsorship
Judge George Hardesty	Vice President, Protocol



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**

AMERICAN LEGION POST 199

FORMER RANK CHALLENGE

Are you proud of your service and the accomplishments you've made? Announcing our newest Phase 1 Building Fund Raiser! The American Legion Eastern Shore Post 199 **"Former-Rank Challenge"** fundraising effort. **Help Us Help Ourselves!** We challenge every member Post 199 to accept the challenge reflected in the chart below. The challenge is open to SAL/AUX members as well as the public, so reach out to your old Battle Buddies! Tell your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and strangers! This will be a friendly competition between the Commissioned Officers and the combined forces of the Warrant Officers and Enlisted ranks. The winning group will receive a permanently displayed award in the Phase-1 Building for all to see, recognizing the group that raised the most in this fundraising challenge. Don't miss out!

If every member of Post 199 accepted this challenge, we would far outpace our current goal of \$35,000. Some estimates indicate we could raise three times that amount! This accomplishment will not only help us match (and potentially double-match) our anonymous donor's \$75,000 gift, but it will also send a loud and clear message of our strong commitment to restoring our vitality and strengthening our mission to serve our Veteran community. Additionally, if you step up your gift to \$500, you will be automatically enrolled in our limited "Plank Owner's" mug program (100 mugs limit). The mugs will be numbered and will have your name or call sign printed on it. Please act today....

You can accept this challenge by submitting your donation in the following ways:

- Through our GoFundMe page at: <https://gofund.me/be002807>
Please put your former rank (or your family member's rank in the case of SALS or AUX) after your last name so we can track this fundraiser.
- Mail your check to our Post at: PO Box 473, Fairhope, AL 36533.
Please put your former rank (or your family member's rank in the case of SALS or AUX) in the memo line of your check so we can track this fundraiser.
- Bring your donation to our next member meeting.

Minimum Rank-Based Donations:

O1 = \$100	WO1 = \$100	E1 = \$20
O2 = \$200	WO2 = \$200	E2 = \$40
O3 = \$300	WO3 = \$300	E3 = \$60
O4 = \$400	WO4 = \$400	E4 = \$80
O5 = \$500	WO5 = \$500	E5 = \$100
O6 = \$600		E6 = \$120
O7 = \$1000		E7 = \$150
O8 = \$2000		E8 = \$200
O9 = \$3000		E9 = \$300
O10 = \$4000		

**Nominate History's
Unsung Champions**

Our American story collects and preserves stories of men and women making a difference today. Alabamians can nominate anyone—friend, family member, neighbor, or community hero—whose story should be shared. Selected stories will be recorded, shared, and archived at the Library of Congress to preserve the collective American story. Every story is worth sharing.

Follow the link to nominate your Hero.

[Nominate history's unsung champions - America250](https://www.america250.org/nominate)

Just one of Alabama's many Heroes

Vietnam Veteran and Green Beret Colonel Pat Downing, USA (Ret), talks about his 36-year military career. He joined the U.S. Army in 1960.

Follow the link for the documentary.

<https://youtu.be/ywvh1YpeC58?si=vtVJMmM86c7tpzi>



QUILTS OF VALOR MOBILE & BALDWIN COUNTY



A large fundraiser took place on Saturday, July 19, at Oak Hollow Farm in Fairhope to support the Baldwin County Veterans Court. The event was organized by the Point Clear Republican Women and featured elected officials serving a fish fry for a charitable cause.

Among the elected officials attending, Congressman Barry Moore, his wife Heather, and other family members were serving fish and playing drums.

Congressman Moore, an Army and Alabama National Guard veteran, received a Quilt of Valor from Joyce Reed, leader of the Mobile QOV Chapter, and Linda Tipp, leader of the Baldwin County Chapter. After high school, Congressman Moore joined the Alabama National Guard and served for six years. He distinguished himself as a soldier and was part of the Army Ranger Challenge Team in Auburn's ROTC program. He also served as Chairman of the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. A Quilt of Valor, given to Armed Forces members and Veterans, clearly states, "Thank You for your service and sacrifice in serving our Nation."

Quilts of Valor - Mobile: Joyce Reed honored 10 veterans from Vietnam to OEF and OIF on Sunday, July 20, at the VFW Post 7320 in Saraland, AL, with their Quilts of Valor. We thank them for the many freedoms we enjoy and the sacrifices they and their families made for us all.



Sage Health



Hosted a major Veterans event on July 22nd at Tillman's Corner Senior Center.

P L Wilson MCL Detachment will present the colors, a POW/MIA table, and 13 folds of the American flag.

Special presentation to Donnie Carter USMC Vietnam Veteran from the 2nd Battalion / 9th Marines, "Hell in a Helmet" was their nickname. They were Raiders, Amphibious, and Recon.

Guest Speakers: Lt. Col. Barrow, USA (Ret), President of the South Alabama Veterans Council; Admiral Kent Davis, USN (Ret); and CDR Mark Fields, USN (Ret), Director of Battleship Memorial Park, will also be speakers.



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

In addition to the South Alabama Veterans Council, which covers seven counties in southern Alabama, three similar groups are currently active elsewhere in the state: the Central Alabama Veterans Collaborative (CAVC) in Birmingham, the North Alabama Veterans & Fraternal Organizations Coalition (NAVFOC), and the River Region Veterans Coalition (RRVC) in and near Montgomery, AL. SAVC, CAVC, NAVFOC, and RRVC can collaborate to advocate for the state's large veteran community.



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



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.

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Veterans Helping Veterans
THIRD ANNUAL Car Show & Jeep Bash On the Bay

SEPTEMBER 13th
0700 – 1400
SCAN QR CODE TO PRE-REGISTER
REGISTRATION FEE AT GATE \$35.00
Registration managed by the Car Pro Program

Judging will be by the Bayou Sara Church Car Club

Sponsor:
P L Wilson Detachment 447
Marine Corps League

Location
Battleship Memorial Park
2703 Battleship Parkway Mobile, AL 36602

Co-Sponsors:
BAYOU SARAH
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
MOBILE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SHERIFF PAUL BURCH

Any questions contact: Tony Clayton 251-767-6489
Telaxton73@gmail.com



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Attorneys at Law



PP HOSPITALITY GROUP
Publix.

The bakery department provides SAVC pastries at SAVC meetings, 9124 Cottage Hill Rd. Mobile, AL



EDITORS NOTE

Too many times, I've been told "I didn't know there was a Veterans Cemetery in Spanish Fort"—often after the fact.

Just recently, a local veteran faced unforeseen circumstances that left his family struggling with unanswered questions about veterans' benefits. Thankfully, by God's grace, I connected with another Patriot who also dedicates their life to serving veterans. She met this veteran during her hospital stay. After a few calls to knowledgeable contacts, we were able to assist him and his family.

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN PRE-REGISTER?

The Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort covers more than 120 acres and includes an administration building, maintenance facility, committal shelter, and a memorial walk. Located in Baldwin County, the cemetery was dedicated in December 2012 and began interments in April 2013. It contains a total of 5,000 graves, including ground crypts, traditional graves, columbarium niches, and a scatter garden. The expected lifespan of the cemetery is 100 years.

Pre-registration is available and allows veterans and their spouses to confirm their eligibility for burial at the Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort ahead of time.

There is no cost for pre-registration, and it does not require the veteran to be interred at the cemetery. Pre-registration aims to make the process easier for the veteran's next of kin at the time of death. The primary items required for pre-registration are a copy of the veteran's discharge certificate (DD Form 214) and, for married veterans, a copy of their marriage certificate.

Contact Info:

Joseph S. Buschell, Cemetery Director
Kathy Miller, Assistant Cemetery Director

Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort
34904 Alabama Highway 225
Spanish Fort, AL 36527

Phone: (251) 625-1338
Fax: (251) 626-9204

[ALABAMA STATE VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY AT SPANISH FORT – Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

American Legion District 33 Auxiliary - Sharon Bunton, President of the Auxiliary, and Sissy Cunningham from Alabama Hospice Care host a hot dog luncheon for the Mobile VA Clinic on the first Tuesday of every month.

Sharon: sharonbunton@yahoo.com

Sissy Cunningham:

sissycunningham69@gmail.com

Creola Veterans Park - Visit the new veterans park mbrown@cityofcreola.org

Gentiva Hospice Monthly Vet Connect Meeting at Springhill College Golf Course, & Gentiva Hospice Ceremony, honoring deceased spouses of veterans.

Holly.Jordan@gentivahs.com

jwoodwardbarnett@gentivahs.com

Memorial Day Flag Relay: Endel Lee Memorial Day - 'Remember to Remember' flag relay – 251-649-1430 endellee@yahoo.com

MOPH Chapter 2206, Andrew Del Gaudio
godfatherdel@hotmail.com

QOV Baldwin County – 251-459-3282
lmtipp143@bellsouth.net

QOV Mobile Joyce Reed 251-634-0256
lsubookworm@hotmail.com

Right at Home Caregivers

Gina Shoub: gina@rahsouth.com

SACMOAA Phil Gabriel - contactdxd@aol.com

Vets Recover, Chaplain Lloyd Austin
info@vetsrecover.org 251- 405-3677

Website: vetsrecover.org

Vietnam Veterans of America - Meeting 4th Tuesday at Café Acadiana in Silverhill, AL
arleenronnie1967@gmail.com



SAVC Minutes July 15, 2025

Pastries provided by Publix West Mobile, McFarland, and Cottage Hill

- 1. Welcome and Call to Order: Pat Downing, LTC USA (Ret), called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., with 58 in attendance. The location was American Legion Post 88.**
 - 2. Opening Prayer & Pledge – Chaplain Austin offered the opening prayer.**
 - 3. Pledge - Jim Jeffries led the pledge.**
 - 4. Welcome and introduction of new attendees – Pat Downing welcomed new attendees. Cody Aloï, representing the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, reported on a Veterans Suicide Prevention Program they are establishing. Tom Claxton introduced Sean Sullivan, a veteran supporter and owner of FM106. Brittany Lawrence, an equine therapy therapist, introduced her son. MPM President introduced his son, Phil Quigley, who then introduced Christi Wilson from Home Instead. David Blair introduced their new Outreach and Wellness Program leader, Dr. Charles Dent, a USMC veteran. Austin introduced Stephanie Steele from Vets Recover.**
 - 5. Newsletter & Minutes, Fran Barber-Bruyn, Secretary - The June meeting minutes were included in the newsletter. The minutes were approved as read.**
 - 6. Treasury – Two bills and two grants totaling \$1,578.00, with deposits of \$636.00. Grant presentations included a check for \$500.00 presented to Equine Therapy and Out of the Deep. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Sean Sullivan FM106. The Publix certificate will be delivered to the store manager.**
 - 7. Introduction of Guest Speaker by Frank Barrow: LTC Ross “Postal” Clark, University of South Alabama Detachment Commander and AFROTC Instructor, Aerospace Studies - Air Force ROTC.**
 - 8. Navy & Veterans News - Pete Riehm.**
 - 9. Current Veterans Activities and AL News: Jim Jeffries, VVA, meets the 4th Tuesday; a new life membership was paid by the chapter. The Al POW/MIA event is scheduled for September 20 in Montgomery, AL. The American Legion Department of Alabama reported on flooding in Texas affecting the American Legion and VFW.**
 - 10. AL Veterans Cemetery Foundation – Robert Davidson VPO shared reports from Director Joe Buschell: an average of 4,548 internments per week.**
 - 11. USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park - Genavese Harris reported over 9,000 attendees on July 4th for the fireworks. Upcoming events in July include a USCG ceremony on August 4.**
 - 12. Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs -**
 - 13. VMRT: Vets Recover and the Montford Point Marines continue cleaning their areas.**
 - 14. Alabama Chapter 92nd Buffalo Soldiers – Main library, August 7; guest speaker Andrew Del Gaudio, Chapter MOPH 2206.**
 - 15. Topics of Interest—VSOs reported on various events and items of interest.**
- Patrick Jump gave a presentation on Warrior Legacy Ranch.**
- 16. Good of the Order – The next meeting will be at Denton Drake American Legion Post 88 on Halls Mill Rd, Mobile, AL, on August 19, 2025.**
 - 17. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.**

Fran Barber, Secretary.