

SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

OPERATION IRON RUCK

Operation Iron Ruck (OIR) is an annual event hosted by the Auburn Student Veterans Association (ASVA) and the University of Alabama Student Veterans of America (SVA) to raise awareness and funds for veteran suicide prevention. As the state of Alabama has one of the nation's highest veteran suicide rates, OIR seeks to increase the public's knowledge on this issue while uniting veterans with the community, funding charities, championing veteran suicide education and supporting local veteran organizations.



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!

As I write this, I am packing for my trip to Alaska for another fishing trip with my Army buddy. We hope to catch some Halibut and Salmon once again this year! Pray that I make it back in one piece! Well, football will be starting soon, and hopefully we will see some cooler weather! School has started, and many parents are happy to see their children back to getting an education!

Our guest speaker this month is Colonel (Ret.) William Mark Valentine, a former F-16 fighter jet pilot with the US Air Force who was in DC on 9/11 and flew the plane that was commissioned to shoot down anything in the air around the Capitol. He has a chilling account of 9/11. I hope you join us for what should be a very interesting story from someone who was there on that terrible day in our nation's history!

I would like to thank our Vice President, COL (Ret) Pat Downing, for hosting our speaker, Michael "Mike" Evans, who delivered a wonderful presentation on his duties as Director of the Mobile County Emergency Management Agency. His vast experience with the EMA and with the Alabama Army National Guard speaks highly of his patriotism and dedication to our community. As always, I hope we have a great turnout this month and want to encourage all of you to participate in the POW/MIA Candlelight Ceremony on

Friday evening, September 19, in honor of National POW/MIA Recognition Day. The ceremony will be held at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the park's grounds at 7:00 p.m. and will be conducted by the South Alabama Veterans Council. See you there!
Robert "Frank" Barrow, LTC (US Army Retired)
President, South Alabama Veterans Council



GREETINGS!

It's being enlightened. 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 to empower 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 the glory of His inheritance are priceless. There is no dollar, gold, silver, or precious jewelry amount that is equal to eternal life with Jesus Christ. So, I encourage us to continue our discipleship training development and maturity so we will be ready when Jesus returns.

In Jesus' Name Amen!
Pastor Lloyd Michael Austin,
Chaplain SAVC

The next SAVC meeting is scheduled for

Tuesday, September 16, 2025.

Denton-Drake American Legion Post 88
2663 Halls Mill Rd, Mobile, AL 36606

8:00 a.m. Pay-as-you-go Breakfast

Meeting starts promptly at 8:30 a.m.

GUEST SPEAKER

W. Mark Valentine, Col USAF (Retired)



U.S. Air Force Combat Veteran fighter pilot (F-16)

Mark Valentine is the President and GM of Skydio Global Government, where he focuses on providing autonomous aerial capabilities to national governments worldwide to enhance their productivity, creativity, and safety.

Prior to joining Skydio in 2023, he was the SVP/GM for Scale AI's Federal Team and the GM of Microsoft's National Security Team. In those roles, he focused on delivering advanced technologies such as AI/ML, cloud computing, and mixed reality to warfighters and analysts across the U.S. Federal Government. Before his time in industry, he served in the U.S. Air Force for over 25 years as a combat veteran fighter pilot (F-16), commander, and staff officer at Headquarters U.S. Air Force and the Joint Staff.



VETS RECOVER

TRANSFORMING THE CULTURE OF CARE

John Kilpatrick, CEO and Founder of Vets Recover, announced that Kent Davis, a retired admiral and former Alabama Veterans Affairs Commissioner, is now the CEO of Vets Recover in Mobile. Davis said his priority is to ensure that no veteran struggles alone.

The organization offers a wide range of services for veterans, including medical care, mental health treatment, and peer support.

John Kilpatrick, the founder and clinical director of Vets Recover, praised Davis's leadership experience.



Purple Heart Pride at
South Alabama

Army ROTC
and Air Force
ROTC on
campus

For military veterans and their families navigating the transition to civilian life, finding a university that truly understands their journey can make all the difference. At the University of South Alabama (South), that understanding is embedded in every layer of its culture. As a designated Top Yellow Ribbon School and Military Friendly Gold institution, South is earning national recognition for doing exactly what President Jo Bonner says the school is most proud of: serving those who have served.

"It's a major point of pride," Bonner said. "The University of South Alabama is grateful for the sacrifices made by our military-affiliated students, and we are committed to making the path on their academic journey as smooth as possible."



University of South Alabama's President Jo Bonner.

In April the university was designated a Purple Heart University and added to the

National Purple Heart Trail. It's a recognition Bonner calls "deeply meaningful." Signage and designated parking on campus now honor those wounded in combat. "They've defended our nation in conflicts around the globe sacrificing their most precious asset—their bodies," he said.

Bonner encourages any veteran or military family considering higher education to visit South. "You'll find a home here," he promised.

At the University of South Alabama, honoring military service goes far beyond ceremony—it's a commitment to action, advocacy and excellence.

Read the full article in the U.S. Veterans Magazine
[U.S. Veterans Magazine Fall 2025 Page 87](#)

For more information:



University of South Alabama
Office of Military Services

(251) 460-6230 | vets@southalabama.edu

**Receiving a ROTC
(Reserve Officers' Training Corps)
Scholarship for college can provide a wide
range of benefits—both financial and
personal.**

Here's a breakdown of the key advantages:

- Army Air Force & Navy ROTC Scholarships:
 - Often covers full tuition and mandatory fees at public and many private colleges.
 - Includes an annual book allowance (usually around \$1,200).
 - Some scholarships also cover room and board if tuition is already covered.
- Monthly Stipend
 - You receive a monthly tax-free stipend during the school year (usually around \$420/month).
 - Helps with living expenses without requiring a job during school.
- Guaranteed Career After Graduation
 - Upon graduation, you are commissioned as an officer in the U.S. military.
 - Offers job security and leadership opportunities right after college.
 - Entry-level officer pay (O-1) includes salary, housing, medical, and other benefits.
- Leadership & Professional Development
 - Extensive training in leadership, decision-making, discipline, and teamwork.
 - Valuable skills that are attractive to civilian employers if you leave the military later.
- Physical & Mental Training
 - Encourages a strong focus on fitness, resilience, and time management.
 - Helps build confidence and a strong sense of responsibility.
- Travel and Unique Experiences
 - Opportunities for summer training, cultural immersion, or internships (e.g., CULP for Army ROTC).
 - Exposure to military bases, operations, and life across the U.S. and abroad.
- Strong Community and Network
 - You'll be part of a close-knit group of cadets/midshipmen.
 - Lifelong connections within the military and ROTC alumni networks.

Did you know? MCPSS's Leadership Officer Training Corps Program (LOTIC), launched in 2023 at seven middle schools, has been expanded to include eight more middle schools this fall. The program features drone and robotics competitions, career overviews, field trips to local businesses and industries, and orienteering skills development. The participating MCPSS middle schools are Alba, Burns, Calloway-Smith, Causey, Chastang-Fournier K-8, Grand Bay, Hankins, Lott, Mobile County Training, North Mobile County K-8, Pillans, Scarborough, Semmes, Washington, and Williamson. Interested parents can contact their child's school for more information.

Mobile County Public School System held its first LOTIC STEM Leadership Academy Camp in Mobile, Alabama. The two-day camp ran from May 1 to June 2, 2025, with all 15 Mobile County public middle schools participating in LOTIC. Hosted by Bishop State Community College and Mattie T. Blount High School JROTC, the camp featured engaging, carefully planned learning activities.

The curriculum included leadership development and STEM learning through hands-on experiments at Bishop State Downtown campus. The STEM Academy allowed Cadets to see STEM content and technology in action while working with scientists and engineers, solving local industry and community problems. Cadets observed a variety of STEM activities and their impact on industry. They also collaborated in teams to create, test, and improve solutions for a STEM-focused engineering project, fostering their awareness of STEM careers, the necessary skills, and related college opportunities.

Congratulations to Blount, Bryant, Davidson, and Murphy High School JROTC programs within the Mobile County Public School System, each of which had a cadet receive the 2024-2025 National Army or Navy ROTC Scholarship this past school year.

Recipients are:

Cadet SGM Evan Eleekima, Blount High School;

Cadet COL Hannah Watson, Bryant High School;

Cadet COL Mercedes English, Murphy High School, all for the Army, and Cadet Tyler Dailey from Davidson High School for the Navy.

Each of them also received multiple academic scholarships.



**The Montford Point Marines Chapter 33
has been renamed the MG J. Gary Cooper
Montford Point Marine Chapter #33, Alabama**



South Alabama Veterans Council VETERANS SPOTLIGHT

Montford Point Marine Corporal Lewis Charles Malone



In 1943, at 18, Lewis Charles Malone became one of the first African Americans to join the US Marine Corps and complete basic training at the then segregated boot camp at Montford Point Camp, outside of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.. He was deployed to the South Pacific, where he participated in the Battle of Iwo Jima, sustaining a wound. In 1945, his unit returned to Oceanside, California, and later Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, before he was honorably discharged as a Corporal on February 1, 1946.

CPL Malone received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2015 during the Montford Point Marines' 50th National Convention in Mobile, AL. He joined the NMPMA, Mobile Chapter #33, on April 29, 2017. He was awarded the Special President's Award and was recommended for the NMPMA Inc. Gold Card Member in 2024. On his 102nd birthday, March 15, 2025, Corporal Malone received the "Centenarian Award."

Mr. Malone, a civilian, served in various roles, including Vocational Teacher, Assistant Principal, Assistant Coach, and Principal. After retiring from education, he founded two construction companies—Malone Land Development and Clark-Monroe Development—building city halls, churches, homes, and community buildings across Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, and Georgia. He also worked as a Supervisor for Scott Paper Company, coordinating around 80 construction firms in New York and North Carolina. Now retired, he stays active in the church as a Deacon Board leader, Assistant Sunday School Supervisor, Trustee, and Bible School teacher. In 2007, he authored and revised a Deaconship book, which was adopted in 27 states and released in December 2014.

At the Montford Point Marine Association's 60th National Convention this year, Corporal Malone was inducted into the Hall of Fame (class of 2025).



Montford Point Marines' 50th National Convention in
Mobile, AL. 2015



Corporal Malone received the "Centenarian Award."



Corporal Lewis Malone's 102nd birthday celebration with
Chapter 33, Mobile, AL. MPMA



Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs

!! Stay informed!

The ADVA's Laws Affecting Veterans booklet breaks down key state and federal laws that impact Alabama's veterans and their families.

View or download your copy today:

<https://va.alabama.gov/laws-affecting-veterans/>



MORE HISTORY OF THE SOUTH ALABAMA VETERANS COUNCIL AND THE MOBILE BAY AREA VETERANS COMMISSION.

There is a YouTube video about our founder, Glenn Frazier, which highlights his survival of the Bataan Death March, his time as a forced laborer in Japan, and his struggles upon returning home.

Glenn was promoted to colonel in the Alabama State Defense Force, now known as the United States National Reserve Corps. Glenn believed better communication was needed among veterans' groups due to scheduling conflicts. He thought a "**Council**" of these groups, led by a board of directors, could be effective. The first meeting of the SAVC was at American Legion Post 88 in August 1998. Glenn's vision has helped veterans for 27 years. Pat Downing, Col USA (Ret) has been SAVC vice-president since May 2016, succeeding Ray Chambless, who died in April 2016.

In August 2004, the Veterans Commission, Veteran of the Year Committee met to decide between Glenn Frazier and James F. Drake, both Bataan Death March survivors, for Veteran of the Year. The high scores were tied, and traditionally, a coin flip would decide the outcome, with the chairman calling the toss. However, Col. Ron Noland suggested both be honored, proposing an entrance with Glenn pushing James in his wheelchair. Both men endured brutal atrocities, survived, and served their communities and veterans for years.

The committee unanimously voted to honor both as 2005 Veterans of the Year. During the luncheon at the Riverview Hotel in Mobile, their names were announced, and Glenn pushed James in, causing emotional reactions among attendees, many of whom shed tears. That is why there are two Mobile Bay Area Veterans of the Year for 2005.

MOBILE BAY AREA VETERAN OF THE YEAR 2005

MOBILE BAY AREA VETERANS OF THE YEAR

Bataan Death March Survivors



James F. Drake

James F. Drake: Mr. Drake enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1937 on his 18th birthday and had his basic training in the Panama Canal Zone where he was trained as a cook. His specialty was baking—cakes, pies, and cookies.

After being transferred to Barksdale Field, LA his unit was shipped out to Nichols Field, Manila, Philippines. He was promoted to Tech Sergeant, and while serving there his unit was

captured by the Japanese. His unit and thousands of American servicemen were subjected to beatings, torture, malnourishment, and then the horrendous Bataan Death March.

Mr. Drake has been active in veteran organizations and activities locally, and was prominent in his involvement in the "Welcome Home Desert Storm" celebration. Before failing health began to limit his mobility, he was an active member of the Purple Heart Association, Disabled Veterans, Ex-Prisoners of War, and the American Legion. Mr. Drake holds an honorary rank of Colonel at the 3rd Brigade, Alabama State Defense Force.

Mr. Drake's Medals and Awards include: American Ex-Prisoner of War, Purple Heart Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Philippine Defense Medal, South Pacific Campaign Medal, Air Force Meritorious Achievement Medal, Military Merit Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal, and Combat Infantry Badge. On 20 August 2000, Mr. Drake was inducted into the Alabama Military Hall of Honor at the Marion Institute, AL.

In 2007, Glenn wrote and published "Hell's Guest," a book recounting his experiences during World War II. He touched many lives with his confessions of forgiveness, which he credited to his later happiness in life gained through his strong Christian faith.



Glenn D. Frazier

Glenn D. Frazier: Mr. Frazier enlisted in the U. S Army, July 3, 1941 and was discharged July 16, 1945 after serving in the Philippine Islands with the 75th Ordinance Company in depot and supply services to the Philippine Army. While included in the massive surrender of U S Forces to the Japanese, he was subjected to repeated beatings, abuse and forced into the Bataan Death March. Those servicemen that stumbled or could not keep up were often shot or

stabbed with bayonets and left to die. He survived the march but was later subjected to slave labor in Japanese work camps.

Mr. Frazier has numerous military decorations and awards, to include the Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star, Purple Heart (4 awards), Presidential Citations from both US and Philippines, Prisoner of War Medal, Philippine Defense Medal, Liberation of the Philippines Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and the US Senate Medal of Freedom.

Subsequent to his Active service, Mr. Frazier served six years in the Army Reserve. He has served in several veterans organizations and in numerous capacities; currently serving as the Commander of the Mobile Chapter, American Ex-POWs. He is also the Public Affairs Officer for the 3rd Brigade, Alabama State Defense Force.

Photos provided courtesy of Mobile Register 2005 © All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.



Veterans Day Honors Luncheon tickets are now available. If you want to purchase a ticket at the SAVC table, cash or check (\$30), please contact

Tom Schwarz: Phone: 251-649-8459

Email: tschwarz6217@gmail.com



MOBILE BAY AREA VETERANS COMMISSION PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Steve Carey, Col USAF (Ret)

The **Mobile Bay Area Veterans Commission** is one of the benchmark organizations for all of our local Veterans. I'm fortunate to have Mayor Stimpson and Bradley Byrne on our Board of Trustees helping us connect with business leaders. The new name for the Commission aligns with our goals to support all Veteran organizations and events throughout the year. This name change is designed to appeal to a broader audience on both sides of the bay and help build awareness on behalf of all veteran organizations.

Honors Luncheon tickets are now available online:

[2025 Veterans Day Luncheon Events - Mobile Chamber](#)



WEBSITE:

vetscommission.com/home

FACEBOOK:

www.facebook.com/MobileBayVeterans/

Great News! Once again, Mobile has been selected as a regional site for the 2025 Veterans Day Commemoration National Veterans Day Event!



2025 Veterans Day Events

Tuesday November 11

FLAG RAISING CEREMONY | 7:00 AM

ANNUAL VETERANS DAY PARADE | 10:00 AM

VETERANS DAY LUNCHEON | 12:00 NOON

THE PARADE OF FLAGS | 3:00 PM

ANNUAL VETERANS DAY CONCERT | 7:00 – 9:00 PM





Dear Family, Friends, & Supporters!

Just a brief note to "Thank You" for your continued support of our 2025 National Queen Contest where we sold tickets to support our Chapter's Scholarship Fund. Sorry to let you know that none of the tickets you sold were the winning ticket. However, our Chapter Queen was Second Runner-Up in the competition

The winners were as follows:

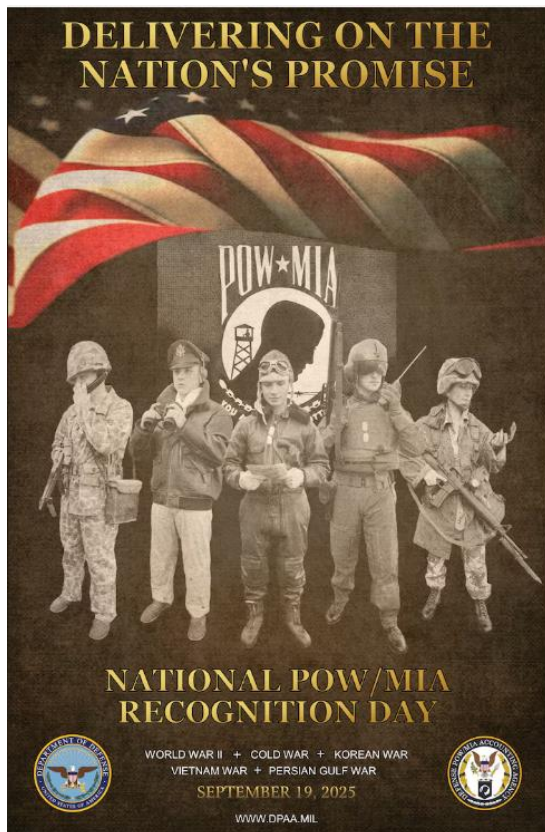
\$500.00 – Camp Lejeune NC, Chapter 10 – 3rd Place (Military Base)
 \$750.00 – Ken Rollock, New Jersey – Chapter 45 – 2nd Place
 \$2,000.00 – Cherry Point, NC – Chapter 36 – 1st Place (Military Base)
PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU ARE A WINNER because Mobile Chapter #33 awarded three (3) \$1,000.00 scholarships to three local graduating seniors this year. Thanks For A Job Well Done.

Friday, September 19, 2025 at 7 PM

POW/MIA Candlelight Ceremony

USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park

The South Alabama Veterans Council will hold a Candlelight Ceremony to honor and remember our military personnel who were missing in action and prisoners of war. The event will be held at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, located in Battleship Memorial Park. It is open to the public and admission is free.



Gentiva Hospice Hosts Coffee & Conversations for Veterans


On August 26, 2025, Program Coordinator Ismath Ferdous attended the Coffee & Conversations for Veterans event hosted by Gentiva Hospice at Spring Hill College Golf Course. The gathering provided a warm and welcoming space for veterans to connect, share stories, and explore valuable community resources. This monthly event fosters fellowship and support while highlighting programs available through the We Honor Veterans Program, a national initiative of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Gentiva Hospice hosts this event every last Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at Spring Hill College Golf Course. For more information, please contact Jackie at 251-478-9900 or 251-222-0551.



Hosted by: **Gentiva Hospice** as a part of our **We Honor Veterans Program**, a national program created by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)




John, Cynthia, Bryan
 The three Marine Amigos



VETERANS MEETING
 9.26.2025

GROUP'S GOALS & PURPOSE

1. REACH OUT TO A VETERAN WHO IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH VHA (VETERAN HEALTH ADMINISTRATION).
1. IMPLEMENT STANDARDIZED BASELINE MENTAL HEALTH SCREENINGS FOR EACH VETERAN TO ASSESS RISK AND GUIDE CARE PLANNING.
2. ENSURE EVERY VETERAN AND THEIR FAMILY RECEIVE INDIVIDUALIZED ASSISTANCE BASED ON SPECIFIC CHALLENGES AND NEEDS.
3. INCREASE AWARENESS OF AVAILABLE VA AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES.
4. BUILD A STRONG PEER SUPPORT NETWORK THAT FOSTERS CONNECTION AND BELONGING.
5. IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING FOR ALL GROUP MEMBERS.
6. OFFER AN OPEN FORUM FOR ALL VETERANS TO EXPRESS THEIR NEEDS AND PRIORITIES.

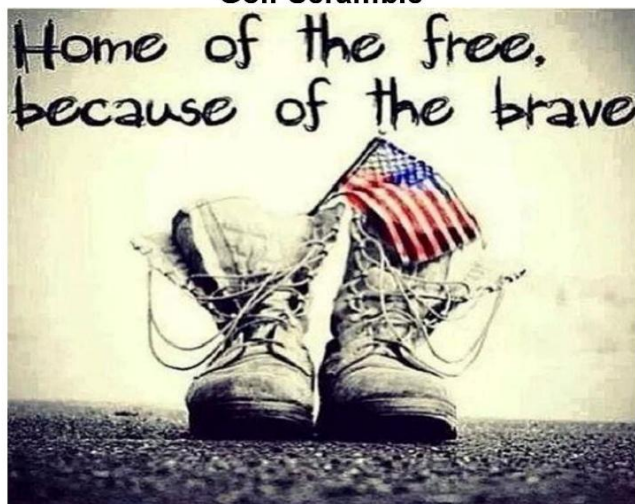
ALABAMA CAREER CENTER
10AM-12PM
 515 SPRINGHILL PLAZA COURT,
 MOBILE, AL, 36608


 CONTACT: ISMATH FERDOUS
 ISMATH.JIM@SAAHEC.ORG


 PLEASE SCAN TO RSVP

2nd Annual CCMGA

Tee up for the Troops Golf Scramble



Craft Farms Golf Resort - Cotton Creek Course

3840 Cotton Creek Circle, Gulf Shores, Alabama 36542
 Veteran's Day November 11th, 2025 - 9AM Shotgun Start
 \$600 per team entry fee
 Breakfast and Lunch Included



Tournament proceeds support:

Warrior Legacy Ranch*

Men's and Women's Team Prizes: 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place - Long Drive, Closest to Pin and Door Prizes
 Contacts for reservations and information:

Keith Roberson, b.keith.roberson@gmail.com Ph: 256.652.4875
 Faye Roberson, faye.roberson@icloud.com Ph: 334.507.9334

* 501 (3) (c) EIN 93-3996612

AMERICAN LEGION DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION

American Legion District #33 Contact Information

Service Officer	Leon McCampbell	leonmaccampbell1@gmail.com	251-447-5549
District Sgt at Arms	Bill Ward	brie-dee49@yahoo.com	251-421-9150
Judge Advocate	JD Daniels	daniels142@comcast.net	251-454-2483
Sons Commander	Paul Woodyard	Pbwoodyard@att.net	251-753-4944
Aux President	Sharon Bunton	Aladistrict33@yahoo.com	817-296-0984

American Legion District #33 Contact Information

Post #	County	Name	Position	Email	Phone#
3	Mobile	Waynee Simon	Commander	wayne@simon.us	251-591-3417
44	Baldwin	Ira Allen	Commander	post44cdr@gmail.com	251-78-3818
48	Baldwin	James Willis	Commander	bamainca@live.com	251-300-7207
48	Baldwin	Jeannie Sibis	Adjutant	mscheerful@cheerful.com	251-256-8218
76	Mobile	Henrietta Davis	Commander	hjdavis@bellsouth.net	251-401-3542
88	Mobile	Gary Hensley	Commander	towboater2000@yahoo.com	251-510-5098
99	Baldwin	Van Hubbard	Commander	vanhubbard67@gmail.com	251-979-0338
99	Baldwin	Pauline Madden	Adjutant	paulinemadden25@yahoo.com	251-716-0124
153	Mobile	Jason Heatwole	Commander	heatwole78@gmail.com	251-325-9707
164	Mobile	Rickey Reed	Commander	rrecon74@gmail.com	251-709-0022
164		Clara Childers	Adjutant	wcc751@gmail.com	601-525-6397
199	Baldwin	Dale Taylor	Commander	Commanderpost0199@gmail.com	678-595-6756
250	Mobile	Eli Crawford	Commander	elichamp2000@yahoo.com	251-518-9033
395	Mobile	Ken Nichols	Commander	ken.nichols2022@gmail.com	561-906-6469
District Commander		Van Hubbard		vanhubbard67@Gmail.com	251-979-0338
Vice Commander		Henrietta Davis		hjdavis@bellsouth.net	251-401-3542
DEC					
Mobile Co CO		Jason Heatwole		heatwole78@gmail.com	251-325-9707
Baldwin Co CO		Daniel Bates		sapperdan@hotmail.com	931-624-7155
District Finn Officer		Jim Jeffries		jeffries.j@att.net	334-312-6198
Finn Committee		Donna Stacy		stacey36542@gmail.com	678-557-5879
Finn Committee		Ricky Reed		rrecon74@gmail.com	251-709-0022
Adjutant		Ron Dickerson		amer.legion.post99@gmail.com	757-773-0808
Chaplin		Gene Weir		weirsaved2017@att.net	251-591-0896

Created 29 July 2025, Page 1|2



South Alabama Veterans Council And
 Veterans Commission
 Wishing Chester a Happy 100th Birthday

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.

AIRWIND™
creative inc.
tad@airwind.com • 251-454-4875

Veterans Helping Veterans

THIRD ANNUAL Car Show & Jeep Bash On the Bay

Location

Battleship Memorial Park

2703 Battleship Parkway Mobile, AL 36602

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

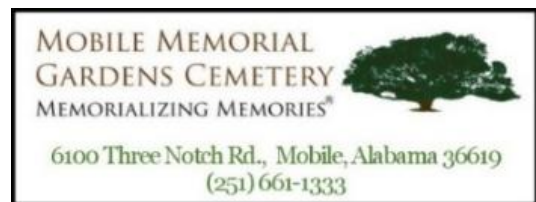
Sponsor:
P L Wilson Detachment 447 Marine Corps League

Co-Sponsors:





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



GARDBERG & KEMMERLY
Attorneys at Law



PP HOSPITALITY GROUP

Publix.

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



TITLE SPONSOR

\$25,000

- EVENT NAMING RIGHTS: "Veterans Endowment Fund Invitational presented by "Your Company Name"
- Premier logo placement on signage, marketing, and media
- Featured logo / link on website and social media
- Speaking opportunity at Event Day (Post Playing Round)
- Solicit 146 Players Entered into Veterans Endowment Fund Invitational
- Invitation to attend Tee Off Event evening prior to Tournament
- 20 tickets to attend

TEE OFF EVENT SPONSOR

\$12,500

- Title Sponsor at the VEF Invitational Tee Off Event the Night Before the Golf Tournament
- Example "Welcome to the Veterans Endowment Fund Invitational Tee Off Event presented by "Your Company Name"
- Premier Logo Placement on all signage marketing and social media for the Tee Off Event before the Golf Tournament
- Logo / Link Featured on Tournament Website
- Logo present at all tables during Tee Off Event/ Player Gifts for Tee Off Event
- Eight (8) Players Entered into VEF Invitational Golf Tournament
- 14 Invitations for sponsor and guests to attend Tee Off Event

PRESENTING PARTNER

\$10,000

- Logo on event materials and signage, and social media
- Direct recognition at Tee Off Event evening prior to Tournament
- Two (2) Foursome entered into Veterans Endowment Fund Invitational
- Invitation to attend Tee Off Event evening prior to Tournament
- 10 tickets to attend
- Player "Swag / Thank You Gifts"

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

7am: Registration Opens
Magnolia Grove
9am: Shotgun Start
Magnolia Grove
2pm: Prizes
Magnolia Grove

MORE INFO & REGISTRATION:

Make checks payable to:
"Veterans Endowment Fund"

P.O. BOX 708, MOBILE, AL 36601
VEF@vetsrecover.org

OTHER REGISTRATION OPTIONS

- Lunch Sponsor - \$7,500**
 - Golf team entry (4 players)
 - Logo placement at lunch stations and in program
 - Recognition on website and social media
- Player Swag / Gift Sponsor - \$7,500**
 - 1 Foursome (4 players)
 - Banner placement at a location on the course
 - Logo on website, signage, and printed materials
 - Recognition during awards ceremony
- Patriot Sponsor - \$6,000**
 - Logo on beverage carts
 - Recognition in program and social media
- Eagle Sponsor - \$3,000**
 - Branded signage at the driving range
 - Recognition in program and website
- Veteran Team Sponsor - \$1,250**
 - Sponsor a team of 4 veterans to play
 - Recognition in program, signage, and social media
- Hole-In-One Contest - \$2,500**
 - Chance to win MGZ Zip X3 High Performance Electric Golf Cart
 - 1,000,000 / 50/50 Single Shot Give Away - \$2,500
 - At the climax of the Veterans Endowment Fund Invitational One Player will be selected to take a single shot for a \$1,000,000.00 (50/50) Give Away
- Hole-In-One Contest \$10,000 - \$1,750**
 - Branded signage at one hole
 - Recognition in program



October 10th
ADVA 80TH Anniversary
Montgomery, AL

Veterans Day Luncheon
Registration Deadline November 4
Tickets now available online
vetscommission.com/honors-luncheon-link

November 7, 7 am
Veterans Endowment Fund
Golf Charity Tournament
Magnolia Grove

November 11, 9 am
Tee Up For The Troops
Craft Farms Golf Resort
Warrior Legacy Ranch

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
lm Tipp143@bellsouth.net

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

Right at Home Caregivers
Gina Shoub: gina@rahsouth.com

DATES TO REMEMBER:

September 13, 7 am – 2 pm
Vets Helping Vets
3rd Annual Car Show
Battleship Memorial Park

September 19, 7 pm
POW/MIA Candlelight Ceremony
Battleship Memorial Park

September 20, 11 am
POW/MIA Ceremony
Montgomery State Capital

September 26, 10 am – 12 noon
GROUPS GOALS AND PURPOSE
Veterans Meeting, Alabama Career Center
515 Springhill Plaza Court, Mobile 35508

Sunday, October 12
NAVY 250th Birthday Celebration
Battleship Memorial Park

Veterans Day Parade
Registration Deadline October 15
vetscommission.com/2025-parade-registration
QUESTIONS: Contact Fran
VetsDayCommission@gmail.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

National Suicide Prevention Month	Entire Month of September
National Service Dog Month	Entire Month of September
Labor Day	First Monday of September (Sept. 9, 2025)
V-J Day (Victory over Japan)	September 2
Patriot Day	September 11
Constitution Week	September 17 -23
Hispanic Heritage Month	September 15 – October 15
Air Force (USAF) Birthday	September 18
Office of the Sec. of Defense Birthday	September 18
Air National Guard Birthday	September 18
National POW/MIA Recognition Day	Third Friday in September (September 19, 2025)
Rosh Hashanah	September 22 – September 24, 2025
Gold Star Mother's Day	Last Sunday in September (September 28, 2025)
VFW Day	September 29
Warrior Games	TBD, (Colorado Springs in 2025)

SAVC Minutes August 19, 2025

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

1. Welcome and Call to Order: Pat Downing, COL USA (Ret), called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., with 65 in attendance. The location was American Legion Post 88.
2. Opening Prayer & Pledge – Dr Charles Dent offered the opening prayer.
3. Pledge - Jim Jeffries led the pledge.
4. Welcome and introduction of new attendees – Pat Downing welcomed new attendees and introduced the guest speaker, Michael “Mike” Evans, Director of the Mobile County Emergency Management Agency, ADML Kent Davis, Jerry Carl, David Blair, Jeff Newton, John Kilpatrick, Endel Lee, Bryan Battaglia, and others.
5. Newsletter & Minutes, Fran Barber-Bruyn, Secretary - The July meeting minutes were included in the newsletter. The minutes were approved as read. Thanks to Judy and Sophie for breakfast.
6. Treasury – Grant presentations included a check for \$500.00 presented to Equine Therapy and Out of the Deep. Veteran Emergency transportation to MD Anderson for Bromley; unfortunately, he passed away.
7. Introduction of Guest Speaker by Pat Downing.
8. Navy & Veterans News - Pete Riehm, Parade registration in the mail, deadline Oct 15. USNS

Mercy tours in November. Oct 13, NAVY 250th Birthday Sunday, October 12, on Battleship.

9. Current Veterans Activities and AL News: Jim Jeffries, VSO, all are functioning. VVA meets on the 4th Tuesday; the chapter pays for the life membership of new members. Last Man Standing, once the chapter closes, their money will go to the Alabama State Veterans Cemetery Foundation in Spanish Fort. The Alabama POW/MIA event is scheduled for September 20 in Montgomery; American Legion Riders will hold a POW/MIA ceremony at all American Legion posts in Alabama prior to the POW/MIA Ceremony in Montgomery.

10. AL Veterans Cemetery Foundation – Dir Joe Buschell, 4622 internments, 28 Guard and Reserve units. Grass-cutting robots are working now. The Wreaths Across America program is being considered.

11. USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park - Genavese Harris reported upcoming veterans events.

12. Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs – Jeff Newton, Oct 10, 80th anniversary, 350 / table. Reported on the mission of ADVA. Oct 1, reclassified VSO and a pay increase; their services are free. Newton reported on other benefits of the ADVA.

13. VMRT: Vets Recover and the Montford Point Marines continue cleaning their areas.

14. Alabama Chapter 92nd Buffalo Soldiers – Reported on Purple Heart Program, and future program, Salute to PGR Dec 17.

15. Topics of Interest—John Kilpatrick reported on Vets Recover. Effective August 1st, he will step down as CEO of VR, and ADML Davis will assume the role of new CEO. ADML reported on events in the Montgomery area. Cynthia reminded everyone to register for the Honors luncheon on Veterans Day. LTC Thomas reported on the JROTC/LOTC Cadets. Pablo Perez reported on the American Legion Bicycle run to Tampa.

16. Good of the Order – The next meeting will be at Denton Drake American Legion Post 88 on Halls Mill Rd, Mobile, AL, on September 19, 2025. Charles Dent reported Montford Point Marine, Nov 8, 60th Anniversary, Chapter renamed the MG J Gary Cooper MPM #33. VR fundraiser at Magnolia Grove.

17. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Fran Barber, Secretary