



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



Capt Hal Pierce, Bill Allison, Sy Lichtenfeld, Spiritus Emeritus SAVC

LTC Lou Lartigue, President Spiritus Emeritus



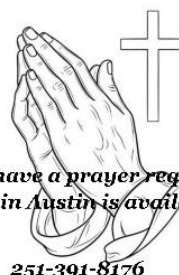
Fellow Veterans!

We had a fantastic turnout for the Vietnam Memorial Flag Raising Ceremony...if you were unable to attend, you really missed a moving speech by COL (Ret) Pat Downing. It was an honor to serve as the master of ceremonies for the many Vietnam Veterans in attendance. Spring has arrived, and the warmer weather will certainly be welcome by our Veterans community! We had a wonderful turnout at our last meeting, and I look forward to the same again this month. Gina Shaub gave a great presentation on home service options for our veterans... her company, Community Liaison for Right at Home, offers numerous opportunities for veterans in need of special services.

We have a special guest for our April meeting, so I hope we have a packed house! Bill Riales served as the co-anchor and digital journalist on WKRG Channel 5 Morning News for 25+ years before retiring last December. Bill began his career with News 5 in August 2000. He spent fourteen years at WEHT and WTVW in Evansville, Indiana, before moving to the Gulf Coast, lured by the warmer climate, the scenic beauty, the sailing, and the beach. He is married, has three grown children, and has a son, Jack, at home. He always enjoys cooking and heading to the beach. Bill and his family live in Daphne. A multi-award-winning broadcast journalist, Bill received an Emmy nomination for his documentary profiling the Honor Flight South Alabama program, which took World War Two Veterans to see their memorial in Washington, D.C. What many don't know is that Bill is also a veteran, having served in the Army National Guard...he is one of us! We look forward to having

him join us on 21 April at American Legion Post 88...as always, come hungry since breakfast will be served!

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



*If you have a prayer request,
Chaplain Austin is available:*

251-391-8176



Greetings!

It's don't faint, Read Luke 18:1

"And he spoke a parable unto this end that men ought to always pray and not faint."

Heavenly Father, we come before you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. We would like to thank you for the abundance of your goodness in our lives. Thank you for nothing that happens on this earth surprises you. Through prayer, we know that whatever you bring us to, you are able to carry us through. We understand that so many of our Veterans, and our families suffers from issues of life. So, we will always need prayer, but sometimes we need the pill too. So, we refuse to give up or stop praying. No matter how long it takes, our change is coming. It may have been meant for our harm, but GOD will use it to our good. Because our God is a God of justice, peace, hope, and love. In JESUS' Name, Amen!

In the Name of JESUS!
Pastor Lloyd Michael Austin,
Chaplain SAVC



SAVE THE DATE

APRIL MEETING

Tuesday, April 21, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.
Denton Drake American Legion Post 88,
2663 Halls Mill Rd., Mobile, AL

Breakfast \$5.00



GUEST SPEAKER

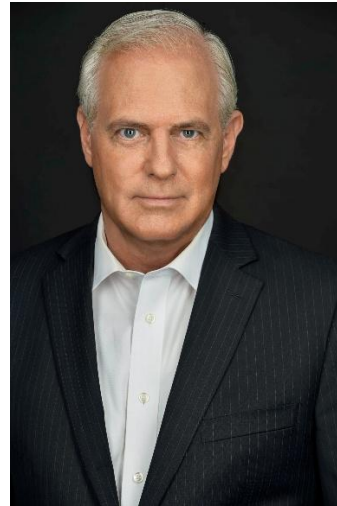
Bill Riales

Bill Riales is a military veteran who served ten years in the Mississippi Army National Guard. He joined WKRG News 5 in 2000, and in 2008, Honor Flight South Alabama chose WKRG as its television station of choice. Bill quickly became the voice of the Honor Flight. Honor Flight South Alabama completed nine flights to Washington, D.C., taking nearly a thousand World War II veterans to visit their memorial. Bill Riales was on eight of those flights. After the program ended in 2013, Bill produced a documentary profiling the Honor Flight South Alabama program and our “Greatest Generation” veterans. He received an Emmy Award nomination for that documentary.

In 2022, Bill started a project to honor military veterans and other community supporters. The “Serving Those Who Serve” program has recognized around forty local citizens, awarding them plaques for their service and interviewing them on Channel 5.

Every Veterans Day, the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission hosts a parade through downtown Mobile. As it passes in front of the Chamber of Commerce, a narrator explains each marching unit, and for the past ten years, Bill has volunteered to be that narrator. He brings the same boundless initiative, versatility, and enthusiasm to this role that he demonstrates in all veteran programs he supports with unwavering loyalty.

He lives on the eastern shore of Mobile Bay with his wife, photographer Toni Riales, and computer whiz, tech guru. He and his wife are proud parents of three grown children



It's normal in this sleepy town nestled up close to the Mississippi River in the Delta; the land that is the birthplace of the blues. They serve iced tea and beer in mason jars. The Friday lunch special at the Plantation Inn is sometimes fried frog legs. What isn't normal is what began to unravel the town in the days after Henry Cotton died. Henry kept a secret for more than a decade; long after high school and his college years. He knew there was a dark side to life in the Delta that most people only gossiped about. He knew it had to come out.



Investigative Reporter Noah Sky is taking on one of his biggest assignments ever; a multi-national corporation that is not the best corporate citizen. And it's taking its toll. He's drinking more, smoking more, and is almost addicted to prescription pain pills. His wife is divorcing him. His new girlfriend is an old girlfriend and she's right in the middle of his investigation. His target is a new industry in town with deadly secrets that need to be exposed. Shady characters plot to put an end to Sky and keep hidden the information he's uncovered.



**South Alabama Veterans Council
VETERANS SPOTLIGHT**

OPERATION EAGLE CLAW
*“God bless those who had
The guts to try!!!”*



On April 24, 1980, an ill-fated military operation to rescue the 52 American hostages held in Tehran ends with eight U.S. servicemen dead and no hostages rescued.

With the [Iran Hostage Crisis](#) stretching into its sixth month and all diplomatic appeals to the Iranian government ending in failure, President [Jimmy Carter](#) ordered the military mission as a last-ditch attempt to save the hostages. During the operation, three of eight helicopters failed, crippling the crucial airborne plans. The mission was then canceled at the staging area in Iran, but during the withdrawal, one of the retreating helicopters collided with one of six C-130 transport planes, killing eight service members and injuring five. The next day, a somber Jimmy Carter held a press conference, taking full responsibility for the tragedy. The hostages were not released for another 270 days.

On November 4, 1979, the crisis began when militant Iranian students, outraged that the U.S. government had allowed the ousted shah of Iran to travel to the U.S. for medical treatment, seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran. The Ayatollah Khomeini, Iran’s political and religious leader, took over the hostage situation and agreed to release non-U.S. captives and female and minority Americans, citing these groups as among the people oppressed by the U.S. government. The remaining 52 captives remained at the mercy of the Ayatollah for the next 14 months.

President Carter was unable to diplomatically resolve the crisis, and the April 1980 hostage attempt ended in disaster. Three months later, the former shah died of cancer in Egypt, but the crisis continued. In November, Carter lost the presidential election to Republican [Ronald Reagan](#), and soon after, with the assistance of Algerian intermediaries, successful negotiations began between the United States and Iran. On the day of Reagan’s inauguration, January 20, 1981, the United States freed almost \$8 billion in frozen Iranian assets, and the 52 hostages were released after 444 days. The next day, Jimmy Carter flew to West Germany to greet the Americans on their way home.



This stained-glass window is the centerpiece of a memorial at the entrance of the Hurlburt Field Chapel honoring fallen members of the 1st Special Operations Wing. In the window are eight diamonds representing the eight military members who died in **Operation Eagle Claw, April 24, 1980.**

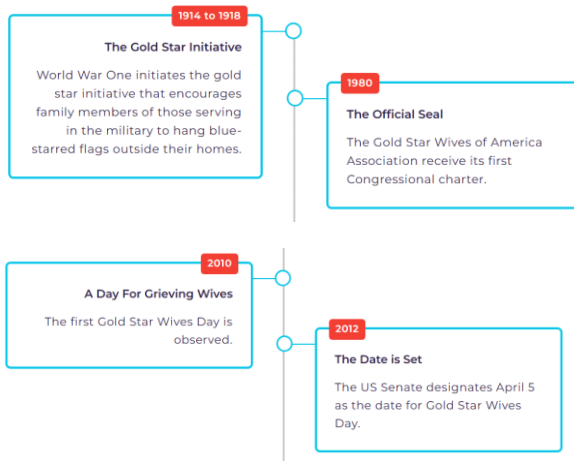
There are world changing events throughout history.

Operation Eagle Claw was one of them.

This single event caused America to wake up
and create a Special Operations Force second to none.

Jim Linesberry, RTFL-11

GOLD STAR SPOUSES DAY TIMELINE



Gold Star Spouses Day is observed annually on April 5. We honor and grieve with the families of lost or wounded military service members. Often known as Gold Star Wives Day, **this day now includes all family members, male or female, who have lost loved ones through military service.** This day lets these affected families know that we remember their sacrifice and honor their loss. Remembrance ceremonies are held, and there are “remember the fallen” road races in their honor.

History of Gold Star Spouses Day

Thousands of men and women dedicate their lives to serving the country daily. This also means there are thousands of families that have members enlisted in the military. Imagine saying goodbye to a loved one with no certainty of their return. This is what military families have to go through every time their loved one is called for duty. Wives, husbands, brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters of our fearless service heroes are left behind.

The Gold Star initiative began during World War I, when families hung service flags with blue stars representing each family member serving in the military. If the family member or members in question died, the stars would be replaced by gold stars as a public display of the price the family has paid for freedom. By 1945, the Golden Star Wives Association had been established, with First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt among its founding members. Shortly after, the government approved the Golden Star Lapel Button, which was presented to the spouses and families of those who had lost a loved one through military service.

In 1929, a law was passed that offered compensation for mothers and wives of those killed in combat, and by 1936, National Gold Star Mother’s Day was designated

to be observed on the Last Sunday in September. This title was eventually amended to Gold Star Mothers and Families Day by President Barack Obama. The first Gold Star Wives’ Day was observed in 2010, and eventually, the title was changed to the more inclusive Gold Star Spouse Day.

WHY GOLD STAR SPOUSES DAY IS IMPORTANT

It’s a recognition holiday

This day recognizes the fearless sacrifices of military service members and their families. When things like the death of a loved one occur, it is easy to question what it was all for. This day provides that recognition to Gold Star Families.

1. It’s a Memorial Day

On this day, we remember our fallen soldiers and heroes of battle. It serves as a memorial day for the nation as a whole. It is also another chance for affected family members to grieve their loss.

2. It provides comfort

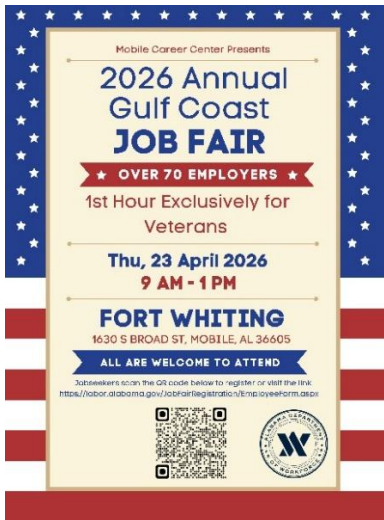
The most important people on this day are the Gold Star Families who have lost their loved ones. Gold Star Spouses Day provides a sense of comfort to affected family members. It helps them feel less alone and lets them know we remember their sacrifice and grieve with them. It’s important to note that there are **two distinct pins** the Military may issue:

1. **Gold Star Lapel Button** – For those whose loved one died in a combat zone, under hostile conditions, or during an act of terrorism.
2. **Next of Kin Lapel Button** – For Families of Service Members who died while serving on active duty, but **not as a result of hostile action.**

Types of Gold Star Lapel Buttons



nationaltoday.com/gold-star-spouses-day/



The 2026 Annual Gulf Coast Job Fair at Fort Whiting Armory on April 23rd from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM will feature up to 70 employers and is a great opportunity to connect with talented job seekers in the community.

If you'd like to participate, register using the link below: [Alabama Department of Workforce](https://www.alabamadepartmentofworkforce.com). When registering, include any special requirements for your booth. If you have any questions, reach out to:

Rob Stratton
Local Veteran Employment Representative (LVER)

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE

o: 251-461-4456 | c: 334-868-2210
robert.stratton@workforce.alabama.gov
515 Springhill Plaza Ct, Mobile, AL 36608

workforce.alabama.gov



POLL WORKERS APPLICATION

Once an application is received, the name is passed to the inspector of the applicant's voting precinct for consideration.

The election dates this year are May 19th, June 16th (if required), and November 3rd. There will be a 1.5- to 2-hr training session at Riverview Plaza the week of April 27th.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call.

<https://mobilealef.precinctcentral.com/TED/ElectionForcePortal/Launchpad.aspx>

[Poll Worker Application](#)

VETERANS Q&A FORUM

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Warrior Legacy Ranch and the Gulf Coast Veterans' Community Center are proud to host a Veterans Q&A Forum, providing veterans, military families, and community members the chance to hear directly from candidates running for Alabama's 1st Congressional District and the United States Senate.

This forum is designed to elevate the voices of those who have served. Candidates will have the opportunity to answer questions on issues impacting veterans, military families, and the broader Gulf Coast community.

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Spanish Fort Civic Center

Campaign Tables Open: 5:00 PM

Veterans Q&A Forum Begins: 6:00 PM

Admission is FREE, but space is limited to 250 attendees, so advance registration is required. Register here:

<https://www.zeffy.com/.../veterans-qanda-forum-1st..>

Special Giveaway:

One lucky attendee will win a Gift Certificate for a Gulf Coast Experience Helicopter Tour for up to 3 passengers, generously provided by Lost Bay Helicopters.

This is a nonpartisan community event focused on ensuring that veterans' voices are heard by those seeking to represent us in Washington. Bring your family. Bring your battle buddies. Let's show that the veteran community is engaged, informed, and paying attention.

Reserve your seat today and be part of the conversation



Vietnam War Veterans Memorial Day March 29, 2026

SAVC Hosted a Celebration on March 28 with a Flag Raising at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Battleship Memorial Park

This past Saturday morning, once again, the SAVC came through with a wonderful ceremony recognizing Vietnam Veterans living and dead, and it was my honor to participate in it.

I want to thank everyone involved who made it happen. Unfortunately, the day went almost unnoticed in South Alabama and across the country. I didn't hear any mention of our ceremony on local TV stations, nor any coverage of the day on national news. The boat show at Battleship Park, the Azalea Trail Run, and the Cajun Cook-Off at Cathedral Square received local headlines. However, the communists in Vietnam didn't let the day go uncelebrated. They marked it. Once again, America was at the mall. I hope the South Alabama Veterans Council continues to honor the day, even after all of us Vietnam veterans are gone.

Warm Regards, Pat Downing, Col USA (Ret)



APRIL MILITARY DATES TO REMEMBER

- Apr 5** **Gold Star Spouses Day** Military Observation
Honors surviving spouses of fallen service members
- Apr 9** **National Former POW Recognition Day** Military Observation
Honors former prisoners of war
- Apr 14** **Air Force Reserve Birthday** Military Observation
Anniversary of the Air Force Reserve establishment
- Apr 23** **Army Reserve Birthday** Military Observation
Anniversary of the Army Reserve establishment
- Apr 30** **National Military Brats Day** Military Observation
Recognizes children of military personnel



Great SAVC meeting March 17, 2026 - Guest Speakers Gina Shoub, Right at Home; Julian Stephens, SNASY; QOV, Joyce and Lind presented a quilt to CW4 Don Payne, US Army, and Frances Dauster donated to the Armed Forces Day Event on May 16.



MOBILE BAY AREA VETERANS COMMISSION PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Steve Carey, Col USAF (Ret)

Steve spoke to the 5th - and 6th-grade students during the Career Day at Silverhill Elementary School. This year, Silverhill held a CAREER DAY on Friday, March 13th, in the gym.



107/250 AMERICAN LEGION BIRTHDAY CHALLENGE CELEBRATION

Hosted by the Veterans Commission, South Alabama Veterans Council, and Honorary Host USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park.



The Mobile County Sheriff's Office, Black Hats Honor Guard, opened the celebration by presenting the Colors. Country music singer Zachary Thomas Diedrich led the National Anthem, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Battleship Crewmates, and invocation was given by Lloyd Michael Austin, Chaplain, South Alabama Veterans Council. P L Wilson Detachment Marine Corps League, under the direction of CDR Tom Claxton, presented the Folding of the Flag Ceremony. Troop Leader Joe Buschell's American Boy Scouts Troop 87 of Daphne performed the POW/MIA Remembrance Table Ceremony. Teresa Taylor, on behalf of Congressmen Barry Morre, presented the Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition to District 33 Director Van Hubbard, and Spanish Fort Mayor Brad Bass presented the Proclamation for the Anniversary of the United States and the Anniversary of The American Legion. District 33 Director, Van Hubbard, guest speaker, spoke about the American Legion's commitment to embracing physical activity, supporting mental health, and serving its communities.



CDR Hubbard, Teresa Taylor, Kristina Helmes, Steve Carey, Mayor Bass



Certificates of appreciation were given to Carla Biniiecki, CDR Fields, and CDR Hubbard.

S RECOVER HEALTH FAIR 2026



Healing Ground Veteran Music Retreat

Sign up for the Healing Ground Veteran Music Retreat for free guitar lessons. Hurry, as spots are limited, and we are carefully selecting participants to ensure the best experience for everyone.



EXCLUSIVELY FOR VETERANS IN ALABAMA

Vets Recover and Challenge America partner to offer a free virtual music retreat for Veteran Mental and Emotional Well-being.

We are currently looking for Veterans to participate. Contact for more information: Kim Clark kac@vetsrecover.org (251) 405-3677



This program is funded in part by Norfolk Southern and the Thriving Communities Grant



Veterans becoming cowboys: Grand Bay couple trains vets to start cattle operations



Transitioning from military service to civilian life can be both exciting and challenging. For many veterans, this shift involves adjusting to new routines, norms, and expectations. We strive to help make this transition smoother. jeremy@ecpal.biz



18th Annual Memorial Day Flag Relay



Monday May 25, 2026

Volunteers Needed

- Flag Carriers (run or jog -- 1 mile leg) with a U.S. Flag or Military Services Flag
- Section Captains (organize participants)
- Safety Monitors (lead & follow vehicles)

3 Central Gulf Coast Region Routes

- From west Mobile to USS Alabama
- From the "T" in Gulf Shores, Hwy 59 N to Foley
- From Foley, Hwy 59 N to Loxley

All runners must be medically fit to enter this event and run entirely at their own risk.

Starters' Ceremony: 0645-0700am, then relay

West Mobile's Starter Site: 9055 Tanner Williams Rd.
(Park next to Pierce Creek Cemetery)

For more information or to register for participation, contact a local Resource Partner at (251) 649-1430/cell, or like the Facebook pages: Memorial Day Flag Relay Mobile, AL OR Baldwin Co.

NO FUNDS are solicited or accepted in support of this event!

EVENT HOSTS: Cross the Divide, Vets Recover, South Alabama Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, & South Alabama Veterans Council



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.



OUT OF THE DEEP

GULF COAST VETERANS SERVICE

A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

MOBILE MEMORIAL GARDENS CEMETERY

MEMORIALIZING MEMORIES®



6100 Three Notch Rd., Mobile, Alabama 36619
(251) 661-1333



sunpaws
pet services:



**GARDBERG &
KEMMERLY &**
Attorneys at Law



PP HOSPITALITY GROUP

Publix®

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

AIRWIND™

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



SPECIAL NEEDS ASSISTANCE STATION FOR YOU

SNASY (Special Needs Assistance Station For You) is a non-profit organization providing specialized, accessible experiences and support, notably during Mardi Gras in Mobile, AL. They offer tailored amenities like ADA-accessible bathroom trailers, climate-controlled tents, and secure viewing areas for families with special needs.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Alabama Department of Workforce

Keith C Battle Jr - 251-461-4447
keith.battle@workforce.alabama.gov

American Legion District 33 Auxiliary President Sharon Bunton 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: sissycunningham69@gmail.com

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

Fleet & Family Support Center
Assisting Retirees, Spouses, and Families
Building 625, 151 Ellyson Ave
NAS Pensacola, FL 32508 (850-452-5622)

Gentiva Hospice
Vet Connect Meeting at Springhill College Golf Course, & Gentiva Hospice Ceremon.
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

One on One Senior Care
Independent Sitters / CAN's
independentcare@yahoo.com
251-209-0151 / 251-767-2963

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

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

RH HomeCare & Transport Services LLC
rhhomecaretransportservicesllc@gmail.com

Right at Home Caregivers
In-home Care & Assistance
Gina Shoub: gina@rahsouth.com
251-459-2556 / 251-459-8671

SACMOAA Phil Gabriel - contactdxd@aol.com

Synergy Home Care
Georgianna Catrino:
georgiannacatrino@synergyhomecare.com

TBI Veteran PEER Mentor
Jerry Peters
ADRS Consultant for South Alabama
jerrytbmentor@outlook.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

NG ALARNG (USA) c-334- 451-5021 / o- 251-288-6460
Brandi Sisk - Family Readiness Specialist
brandi.p.sisk.civ@army.mi



Three Exciting Regionals - 1 Final State Championship - The Yellowhammer Veterans Cup Classic will be played across multiple dates and sites throughout Alabama. Events will be played along the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. For 2026, play will begin with the regional rounds commencing with the South Regional round on September 26th, 2026, and will conclude during the State Championship Round to be played over 2 days from November 7th and 8th, 2026.

Enter Into Any of 3 Exciting Regional Qualifiers
Entry Fee: \$275 per player. A discount is available when registering 2 or 4 golfers at one time

Your entry fee includes:
Day-of-event green and cart fees
Range balls
Player gift
Player breakfast and lunch
Entry into all on-course contests during the day
Regional Entry Fee Does Not Cover Entry Fee into State Final Round
All proceeds benefit the Veterans Endowment Fund, which exists solely to provide funding for Veterans, First Responders and their Families unable to pay for programs at **Vets Recover**

SAVC Meeting Minutes March 17, 2026

Publix provided pastries and a remembrance cake for Lou Lartigue, Past President SAVC.

1. Welcome and Call to Order: President Frank Barrow, LTC USA (Ret), called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., with 49 in attendance. The location was the American Legion Post 88.

2. Opening Prayer & Pledge: Chaplain Lloyd Austin.

Col Barrow thanked the new chefs, Sophie McGill and Tonya Evans Woolf. Introduces new guest.

4. Newsletter & Minutes: Fran Barber-Bruyn, Secretary –January minutes are in the February newsletter.

5. Treasurer – Grant presented to Julian Stephens, SNASY \$300.00. American Legion Post won \$100.00 SAVC donation. Frances Dauster donated to Armed Forces Day.

SAVC flags will be housed and on display at Post 88.

6. Introduction of Guest Speaker - Gina Shoub, Community Liaison, Right at Home, Teresa Taylor, veterans representative for Congressman Moore, offered support for veterans.

Julian Stephens – Special Needs Assistance Stations for You - shared information about the organization.

7. Navy & Veteran News, Pete Riehm, USS Mercy is gone, Memorial Day May 25. Guest Speaker needed.

Spanish Fort Memorial Program at 11:00, Flag Raising at 0700.

8. Current Veterans Activities and AL News: Jim Jeffries is out. Keep him in your prayers.

9. AL Veterans Cemetery Foundation: Joe Buschell reported on the Cemetery 4910 interred, expanding with a second committal shelter, another cremation section, and Cathy Miller, USAF, now Director. North Alabama cemetery purchased, and received a grant to start construction. Pre-registration in progress. Memorial Walk, more green space, and build an amphitheater for special events.

10. USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park: Genavese Harris reported upcoming veterans' events.

11. Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs -

12. VMRT: Fran invited everyone to join Vets Recover on Thursday as they clean their area.

13. J Gary Cooper, MPM Chapter 33: Cynthia House reported on chapter events, and scholarship applications are open until March 31 for Mobile County. MPM party for the 103-year-old, Mr. Moore. VA provides certificates for veterans 100-year-old.

MPM Dr Avahart will be guest speaker at the 3/31 Vietnam Veterans event, Saraland, AL

14. Alabama Chapter 92nd Buffalo Soldiers: Eddie Irby, March 31, Saraland Civic Center, to recognize all Vietnam Veterans.

15. Topics of Interest: Phil Gabriel reported on MOAA, Vets Recover – Kent Davis reported on Health Fair 3/28, the Golf Tournament, Nationwide: lost 320 to suicide in the past 2 weeks. John Joe Dec, DAV looking for home, possibly at USA. USCG, free inspection at the boat show. Thanks to Publix for the pastries. POST 199, Dale reported on events at the post. Allen McDaniel reported that Oak Street Health at Post 88. Joyce and Linda presented a Quilt of Valor to Don Payne.

16. Good of the Order

17. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.
Fran Barber, Secretary



Join Us For Our First
COMMUNITY CLEANUP
For **EASTER**
Help to beautify the cemetery for family visits on Easter
RSVP: bit.ly/eastercleanup

 	<p>GOOD FRIDAY & SATURDAY APR 3 + APR 4, 2026 9AM - 11AM</p> <hr/> <p>HISTORIC OAKLAWN MEMORIAL CEMETERY 1800 HOLT ROAD, MOBILE (ENTRANCE AT YUKERS & HOLT RD)</p>	<p>SCAN TO RSVP</p>  <p>Click here to RSVP or just show up—every hand helps!</p>
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****PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BRING YOUR FAVORITE TOOLS ESPECIALLY MOWERS & STRING TRIMMERS****
We will also have equipment from Keep Mobile Beautiful available:
(2) Lawnmowers, Loppers, Pruners, (2) String Trimmers
Dress appropriately and safely for uneven terrain.
Street parking only. Snacks & water will be provided.
simonrubyshamp.org
Ana Wright | (312) 860-0258 | ana@simonrubyshamp.org