



## 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

*Capt. Dale Pierce, Bill Albreton, Sgt. Lichtenfeld, Spiritus Emeritus SAVC*

*LTC Lou Lastrique, President Spiritus Emeritus*



Fellow Veterans!

Once again, I want to thank everyone for a great turnout for our April meeting, where we had a wonderful trip down memory lane as former news journalist Bill Riales shared his experience working with the Honor Flight program that he helped facilitate in years past. As always, we appreciate our guest speaker and presented him with a nice award as a thank-you for his advocacy for veterans' issues over the years he spent with Channel 5 news! He received an original plank from the USS Alabama to have as a keepsake, as well as a Quilt of Valor for his service in the Army National Guard! Great job Bill!

As most of you know, we are hosting the Armed Forces Day celebration at Battleship Park on Saturday, 16 May, starting with a motorcycle ride led by the Patriot Guard. We will have numerous vendors on site with the official program starting at 8:30 a.m. Our guest speaker will be Brigadier General Mike Evans, Director for the Mobile County Emergency Management Agency and member of the Alabama Army National Guard. Following the indoor event, we will have a special air assault demonstration put on by the 20<sup>th</sup> Army Special Forces Group. We will also be hosting, for the second consecutive year, the MRE cookoff contest...it should be a lot of fun to watch and taste what our competitors cook up!

I am looking forward to our May meeting when we have the Mayor of Spanish Fort, Brad Bass, as our guest speaker. Brad is a longtime Baldwin County resident who has spent most of his 43 years in Spanish Fort. Brad has been married to Joanna for 17 years. He is a proud girl dad to their two daughters, Anna Katherine and Sadie. You may have seen him volunteering in the community as a coach for baseball, soccer, and basketball over the last 20+ years. He has spent the last 17 years of his career in healthcare marketing in the neurology biotech space. He has a long-standing passion for serving the Multiple Sclerosis patient advocacy community, both locally and nationally. As Mayor, he has been a strong advocate for veterans' issues and continues to promote patriotic events in Spanish Fort. We look forward to having him join us on 19 May 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



It's Honoring Memorial Day

Read 2 Peter 1:12

"Wherefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, though you already know them and have been established in the present truth." The truth we know will always bring us freedom. Being established in the truth, which is Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, will keep us free. We all need to be reminded of the truth from time to time to keep us grounded. As we honor this Memorial Day, it's a time to remember those who paid the ultimate price and made the greatest sacrifice, allowing us to celebrate our nation's 250th birthday. So many men and women have laid down their lives so we can enjoy the liberties we have. Even though we already know this, it's a friendly reminder of what it took and what it takes to maintain our level of freedom. Our freedom to worship, our freedom to pray, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom to vote, freedom to bear arms, and so many other freedoms we share in this great country of ours. However, Memorial Day is a time and space to remember those who have played such a vital part in our way of life. America, the land of the free and the home of the brave.

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



**SAVE THE DATE - MAY MEETING**

**Tuesday, MAY 19, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.  
Denton Drake American Legion Post 88,  
2663 Halls Mill Rd., Mobile, AL**

**Breakfast \$5.00**

**NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD POSITIONS  
VOTING WILL BE IN JUNE**



**GUEST SPEAKER**

**Spanish Fort Mayor Brad Bass**



Brad is a longtime Baldwin County resident who has spent most of his 43 years in Spanish Fort. Brad has been married to Joanna for 17 years. They met while working in the restaurant industry in college. He is a proud girl dad to their two daughters, Anna Katherine and Sadie. You may have seen him volunteering in the community as a coach for baseball, soccer, and basketball over the last 20+ years. The Bass family is actively involved in the PTA at Spanish Fort Elementary and are members of Spanish Fort United Methodist Church.

He has spent the last 17 years of his career in healthcare marketing in the neurology biotech space. He has a long-standing passion for serving the Multiple Sclerosis patient advocacy community, both locally and nationally.

In March of 2025, Brad was appointed to the Spanish Fort Cooperative Improvement District committee. This committee oversees and makes decisions for improvements to both the Eastern Shore Center and the Spanish Fort Town Center

**Congratulations to Zoey Smith,  
Cadet Colonel, Daphne High School  
Junior ROTC Program**



The sky holds no limits for a local high school senior; Zoey Smith is taking her ambitions to new heights.

Zoey is a senior at Daphne High School and a Cadet Colonel in the school's Air Force Junior ROTC program. , has been selected for one of the nation's most prestigious institutions, the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. She plans to major in aeronautical engineering.

The appointment is a highly competitive honor that reflects years of academic achievement, leadership, and service. Smith currently holds the top cadet rank in the JROTC program at Daphne High.

Zoey is a private pilot, an artist, and an animal lover. She is passionate about everything she sets out to do, including her work. On weekends, you might find her serving others at Waffle House.

Zoey's long-term plan is to pursue a career in commercial aviation. On her journey, she plans to major in Aerospace Engineering at the Air Force Academy while working toward her goal of becoming an Air Force officer and pilot.



**South Alabama Veterans Council**  
**VETERANS SPOTLIGHT**  
**Col Steve Carey, USAF (Ret)**

Mobile, Ala. (wkrg) Serving those who Served partial interview:

Retired Air Force pilot Steve Carey certainly had the motivation to join the military as a young man. You might say he grew up in it. “In fact, we had 99 years of uninterrupted service, starting with my grandfather in World War I, who flew aerial observation aircraft. And then my father, who was a fighter pilot in World War II and Korea — he straddled both wars. But I have multiple uncles who were either in World War II, Korea, or Vietnam,” said Carey.

That level of service doesn’t come without its tragedies, as one of Carey’s uncles was shot down during the Korean War: “My name is Steve Desmond Carey, and my uncle, James Desmond, was flying a version of this airplane, an f-86 in Korea, was shot down and initially declared ‘missing in action, and eventually declared KIA, killed in action,” Carey said. “wonderful man, and sadly, he left behind his young bride and a brand-new baby that he never got to see.”

Carey said his family still hopes his uncle’s remains may one day be found. As for his own service, Carey flew the F-15 fighter jet — this very one in fact, that is now on display at Battleship Park.

During his 30-year career, he saw combat duty during the Gulf War in Iraq. “Our missions typically were for air superiority,” said Carey. “We would fly out in front of all of the other aircraft, and we would kind of clear the skies.” Many of those missions typically took place at night — and at 30 to 40 thousand feet, where threats from the ground were minimal, but not to be taken for granted.

After retiring from the air force, Carey launched his own business on the Gulf Coast with Certa-Pro Painters. But he is also staying busy as head of the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Commission—the organization that presents the Veteran and Patriot of

the Year awards—and as the organizer of the Mobile Veterans Day parade.

Just a few examples of Steve’s accomplishments

Colonel USAF

- F-15 and F16 Fighter Pilot, Combat seasoned
- 58th Fighter Squadron Commander
- 16th Air Force Director of Operations and Intelligence (Southern Europe and North Africa)
- Commandant College of Aerospace Doctrine, Research and Education (CADRE)
- Vice Commander Air Force Doctrine Center



Col Steve Carey, USAF (Ret), President of the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Commission, for receiving the Prestigious Maj Gen J Gary Cooper Outstanding Service Award at the Annual Military Affairs Luncheon, Mobile, AL, held at USS Alabama Battleship Park, Mobile, AL

The General Gary Cooper Outstanding Service Award is presented to a current or former service member who exemplifies achievement, courage, excellence and humility.

**Significance of the Award**

- **Honors a Trailblazer:** The award is named after MG J. Gary Cooper, a trailblazing U.S. Marine Corps officer who was the first Black Marine to lead an infantry company into combat in Vietnam and later became a high-ranking official.
- **Embodied Values:** It recognizes recipients who mirror the values of the late Major General: achievement, courage, excellence, and humility.
- **Leadership and Service:** It honors those who make an impact beyond their military careers, particularly through community leadership and advocacy.



**Mobile Bay Area Veterans Commission**

Margaret Coley, VP Education, Veterans Commission, attended the Military Appreciation Luncheon, her comments:



Commander Mark Fields ,Executive Director of the USS Alabama Memorial Park and guest speaker Lt. General David S. Fadok

The 139th Annual Mobile Chamber Military Appreciation Luncheon was wonderful ... the special Speaker Lt. General David S. Fadok spoke words of appreciation for our military community and shared words of wisdom about leadership. Col. Steve Carey received the prestigious Gary Cooper Award...well deserved. There were other wonderful recognitions among them were ... recognition of the District Teachers of the Year from Mobile and Baldwin Counties. This spoke volumes as these teachers and their fellow teachers are the heart beat of our leaders of tomorrow . Special thanks to the Mobile Chamber for their continued support of the military men and women ...and their families. It was a very good day.



**Air and Space Force Association Teachers of the Year - The Air & Space Force Association recognized educators for their commitment to aerospace education and student development:**

- Jennifer Asberry – Mobile County Elementary (Council Traditional School)
- Dr. Chelsea Tanous – Mobile County High (Davidson High School)
- Elizabeth Von Hofe – Baldwin County Elementary (Spanish Fort Elementary)
- **Emily Hudson** – Baldwin County High (Spanish Fort High School)

**ROTC and JROTC Awards – Presented by Mobile Area Association of Realtors at the Military Appreciation Luncheon**

- **University of South Alabama Air Force ROTC Cadet of the Year**

Cadet Travis Greene



**Mobile County JROTC Cadets Recognized:**

- Baker High School – Cadet Riddick Crow
- Blount High School – Cadet VaShawnte McCants
- Bryant High School – Cadet Trinity Marie Moore
- Chickasaw High School – Cadet Ariel Mayegill
- Citronelle High School – Cadet Jayden Yates
- Davidson High School – Cadet Dominic Bringhurst
- LeFlore High School – Cadet Angel Nicole Chambers
- Montgomery High School – Cadet Joseph Smith
- Murphy High School – Cadet Chrislin Seals
- B.C. Rain High School – Cadet Nevaeh Gonsalves
- Saraland High School – Cadet Mason Pinkstaff
- Satsuma High School – Cadet Noah Boyington
- Theodore High School – Cadet Oscar Hill
- Vigor High School – Cadet Carlton Cannon
- Williamson High School – Cadet Zamara Hudson

The 2026 Annual Gulf Coast Job Fair at Fort Whiting Armory featured up to 70 employers . Mayor Cheriogotis welcomed everyone to the event.



Rob Stratton, Mayor Cheriogotis, VP Robert Davidson SAVC, LTC Thomas JROTC, Fran Secretary SAVC

**Rob Stratton**, Local Veteran Employment Representative (LVER) -

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

[workforce.alabama.gov](http://workforce.alabama.gov)



# ARMED FORCES DAY CELEBRATION

Third Saturday in May



Honoring Those Who Serve - Those Who Have Served  
Those Who Have Fallen  
RECOGNITION OF GOLD STAR FAMILIES

Information about the Armed Forces Day Celebration can be found on the website:

[savic.info/events](http://savic.info/events)



## VSO EXPO

To reserve a booth in the Pavilion email:

[armedforcesdaysavc@gmail.com](mailto:armedforcesdaysavc@gmail.com)



11:00 A.M.

## MRE COOK-OFF

### CONTEST WITH:

Veterans Service Organizations  
National Guard  
And Reserve Units  
Open to Everyone

### JUDGING BY:

Local Chefs

To register for the MRE Cookoff email: [afidms.savc@gmail.com](mailto:afidms.savc@gmail.com)



Honoring Those Who Serve  
Those Who Have Served and  
Those Who Have Fallen

*Acknowledging the  
bravery and sacrifice  
of military members,  
fostering unity among  
military branches,  
connecting citizens with a  
the military, and showing  
gratitude and support  
for the military.*

The event is free and open to the public; Battleship parking is \$5.00



## ARMED FORCES DAY CELEBRATION

MAY 16, 2026

USS ALABAMA BATTLESHIP MEMORIAL PARK

8:30 a.m.

EXPO

VSOs & Vendors

Armed Forces Day Ceremony

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Gold Star Ceremony

10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Military equipment on display

MRE Cook-off

Contest

11:00 a.m.

## ARMED FORCES DAY

Battleship Memorial Park

May 16, 2026



## MRE COOK-OFF CONTEST

Open to the Public

Veterans Service Organizations - National Guard And Reserve Units  
Veteran Supporters, Culinary Classes, Chefs, and many more

### JUDGING BY:

Local Chefs

2703 Battleship Pkwy, Mobile, AL 36602

Hosted by

South Alabama Veterans Council & Battleship Memorial Park



18th Annual

## Memorial Day Flag Relay



Remember 2 remember

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 Losley

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) 649-0430/act, 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, 5th District, South Alabama Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, & South Alabama Veterans Council

Jerry Peters is now available to provide TBI screenings at no cost to our veterans.  
**Jerry Peters, TBI Veteran PEER Mentor**  
**South Alabama, ADRS Consultant**  
**Cell: (334) 392-0860**  
**TBI Helpline: 1-888-879-4706**

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services and the University of South Alabama invites you to a  
**Ribbon Cutting for**



**May 19, 2026 | 1:00 PM**  
 501 Aubrey Green Drive  
 Mobile, AL 36608

Come celebrate the opening of the Mobile office for TBI Centers of Alabama, a program of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services in partnership with the University of South Alabama.

RSVP to [tbiinformation@rehab.alabama.gov](mailto:tbiinformation@rehab.alabama.gov) or call 334-293-7044.



**Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency Report - Our Missing**

NAME	UNIT	BRANCH	GRADE	STATUS	DATE OF DEATH
CHANCEY, JOSEPH D.	57TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION	ARMY	PRIVATE FIRST CLASS	MISSING	NOV 28 1950

The DPAA has located Joseph D. Chancery - his remains will be interred in August, more details to follow. Joseph D Chancery was serving his country during the Korean War when he gave his all in the line of duty. He had enlisted in the United States Army. Chancery had the rank of Private First Class. His military occupation or specialty was Field Artillery Cannoneer. Service number assignment was 14319138. Attached to Battery A, 57th Field Artillery Battalion, 7th Infantry Division. According to our records Alabama was his home or enlistment state. During his service in the Korean War, Army Private First Class Chancery experienced a traumatic event which ultimately resulted in loss of life on 28 November 1950. Recorded circumstances attributed to: KIA - Killed in Action. Incident location: North Korea.

25

Monday, May 25, 2026 at 7 AM - 7:30 AM

**FLAG LOWERING CEREMONY BATTLESHIP MEMORIAL PARK VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL**

Monday, May 25, 2026 at 8 AM

**Memorial Day Ceremony**

Mobile National Cemetery 1202 Virginia St Mobile AL

- The South Alabama Veterans' Council (SAVC) also announces the annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the National Cemetery, 1202 Virginia Street, Mobile, AL. The brief ceremony begins at 8:30 AM, Monday, May 25, 2026.
- Spanish Fort Alabama State Veterans Cemetery, May 23: Boy Scouts placing flags;
- Spanish Fort Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony, May 25, 11:00 a.m. Guest Speaker, Mayor Brad Bass.



**MAY 8 AT BUSHY CREEK CLAYS, PERDIDO, AL TO REGISTER CALL: 251-709-6274**



Carry The Load's Memorial May campaign features hundreds of events across the country that allow Americans the opportunity to honor the sacrifices made by our nation's heroes to preserve our freedom. FOX10 will be partnering with Carry The Load for two of these events in our communities at Battleship Park on May 20th and at Veteran's Park in Pensacola on May 21st.

We will share the stories of our local heroes and their families, raise awareness of the true meaning of Memorial Day, and come together to show our appreciation for those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. We'd love for you and your organization to join us at the events. For more information, please call Paula Redd at (251)434-1093. Ed Liberatori Multimedia Sales Manager WALA Mobile/Pensacola Co-founder Clint Bruce shares the story behind Carry The Load. Who are you carrying?

<https://youtu.be/3ck3IKfdNAU?si=W-ES1MLH3KFb9zG>

**25**  
 Monday, May 25, 2026 at 7 AM - 7:30 AM  
**FLAG LOWERING CEREMONY BATTLESHIP MEMORIAL PARK VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL**  
 Monday, May 25, 2026 at 8 AM  
**Memorial Day Ceremony**  
 Mobile National Cemetery 1202 Virginia St Mobile AL

- The South Alabama Veterans' Council (SAVC) also announces the annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the National Cemetery, 1202 Virginia Street, Mobile, AL. The brief ceremony begins at 8:30 AM, Monday, May 25, 2026.
- Spanish Fort Alabama State Veterans Cemetery, May 23: Boy Scouts placing flags;
- Spanish Fort Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony, May 25, 11:00 a.m. Guest Speaker, Mayor Brad Bass.



- 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, Col Barrow presented a grant to Endel Lee for the Memorial Day Relay, Bill Riales was presented a quilt by The Quilts of Valor, and Col Barrow presented a plaque to Bill in appreciation for his dedication to serving those who served.

**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](http://www/savc.info)



Central Alabama Veterans Collaborative (CAVC) [www.facebook.com/AlabamaCAVC/](http://www.facebook.com/AlabamaCAVC/)



North Alabama Veterans & Fraternal Organizations Coalition (NAVFOC) [www.navfoc.com](http://www.navfoc.com)



River Region Veterans Coalition – Central Alabama in and near Montgomery, AL RRVC

[www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61574462792355](http://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



PP HOSPITALITY GROUP

**Publix.**

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

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



**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Alabama Department of Workforce**

Keith C Battle Jr - 251-461-4447

[keith.battle@workforce.alabama.gov](mailto: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](mailto:sharonbunton@yahoo.com)

Sissy: [sissycunningham69@gmail.com](mailto:sissycunningham69@gmail.com)

**Creola Veterans Park** - Visit the new veterans park

[mbrown@cityofcreola.org](mailto: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](mailto:Holly.Jordan@gentivahs.com)  
[jwoodwardbarnett@gentivahs.com](mailto:jwoodwardbarnett@gentivahs.com)

**Memorial Day Flag Relay:** Endel Lee Memorial Day -  
 'Remember to Remember' flag relay  
 251-649-1430 [endellee@yahoo.com](mailto:endellee@yahoo.com)

**MOPH Chapter 2206,** Andrew Del Gaudio  
[godfatherdel@hotmail.com](mailto:godfatherdel@hotmail.com)

**One on One Senior Care**  
 Independent Sitters / CAN's  
[independentcare@yahoo.com](mailto:independentcare@yahoo.com)  
 251-209-0151 / 251-767-2963

**QOV Baldwin County** – 251-459-3282  
[lmtipp143@bellsouth.net](mailto:lmtipp143@bellsouth.net)

**QOV Mobile** Joyce Reed 251-634-0256  
[lsubookworm@hotmail.com](mailto:lsubookworm@hotmail.com)

**RH Home Care & Transport Services LLC**  
[rhhomeworktransporterservicesllc@gmail.com](mailto:rhhomeworktransporterservicesllc@gmail.com)

**Right at Home Caregivers**  
 In-home Care & Assistance  
**Gina Shoub:** [gina@rahsouth.com](mailto:gina@rahsouth.com)  
 251-459-2556 / 251-459-8671

**SACMOAA Phil Gabriel** - [contactdxd@aol.com](mailto:contactdxd@aol.com)

**Synergy Home Care**  
**Georgianna Catrino:**  
[georgiannacatrino@synergyhomecare.com](mailto:georgiannacatrino@synergyhomecare.com)

**TBI Veteran PEER Mentor**  
 Jerry Peters  
 ADRS Consultant for South Alabama  
[jerrytbimmentor@outlook.com](mailto:jerrytbimmentor@outlook.com)

**Vets Recover,** Chaplain Lloyd Austin  
[info@vetsrecover.org](mailto:info@vetsrecover.org) 251-405-3677  
**Website:** [vetsrecover.org](http://vetsrecover.org)

**Vietnam Veterans of America - Meeting**  
 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at Café Acadiana in Silverhill, AL  
[arleenronnie1967@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:brandi.p.sisk.civ@army.mi)



### **SAVC Meeting Minutes April 21, 2026**

Publix provided pastries, breakfast prepared by Post 88 Aux chefs, Sophie McGill and Tonya Evans Woolf

**1. Welcome and Call to Order:** President Frank Barrow, LTC USA (Ret), called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., with 57 in attendance. The location was the American Legion Post 88.

**2. Opening Prayer & Pledge:** Chaplain Lloyd Austin, Pledge Pat Downing.

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

**4. Newsletter & Minutes:** Fran Barber-Bruyn, Secretary –January minutes are in the February newsletter, special section for Chaplain Austin available 24/7 for prayer requests.

**5. Treasurer – Grant** presented to Endel Lee, Flags Across America, event on Memorial Day

**6. Introduction of Guest Speaker – Bill Riales,** Retired Morning Host, WKRG. Bill was presented with an SAVC coin and a QOV by Joyce Reed.

**7. Navy & Veteran News,** Pat Downing reported for Pete Riehm, flag raising at Vietnam Veterans Memorial 0700, Memorial Day Ceremony at Magnolia Cemetery, 8:00 a.m., Mayor Cheriogotis guest speaker; Spanish Fort Veterans Cemetery at 11:00 a.m. Mayor Brad Bass guest speaker.

**8. Current Veterans Activities and AL News:** Jim Jeffries – no report. Keep him in your prayers.

**9. AL Veterans Cemetery Foundation:** Joe Buschell reported on the Cemetery 4966 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. Placing of flags by Boy Scouts and the public on 5/23 at 10 am

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

**11. Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs -**

**12. VMRT: Fran** no report

**13. J Gary Cooper, MPM Chapter 33:** Cynthia House – no report.

**14. Alabama Chapter 92nd Buffalo Soldiers:** Eddie Irby, reported on March 31, Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans ceremony, Saraland Civic Center.

**15. Topics of Interest:** Jerry Peters reported on the TBI office opening at the University of South Alabama, ribbon cutting on 5/19, and hiring 25 peer mentors. Tonya Evans, Post 88, Flag replacement for worn flags. Military Affairs Luncheon 4/28. Job Fair 4/23 at Ft Whiting, Dale Taylor Post 199 Shoot at Bushy Creek on May 8, contact number 251-709-6274, Joe Dec reported on USCG AUX, DAV over 80 no membership fee. Linda Tipp, recycling of military uniforms – Pat referred her to Shay McLain at the Battleship. John Kilpatrick reported on the Golf Tournament to raise money for Veterans, Vets Recover – Kent Davis reported on Wiregrass Honor Flight, organized by Travis Parker, Phil Quigley reported on the American Legion birthday celebration on March 15, and the upcoming Purple Heart Event in August. Jackie Barnett reported on Vet Connect at Spring Hill Golf Café. Col Barrow reported on the meeting in Chatom in September, location and time to be decided.

**16. Good of the Order**

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