



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
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Capt. Hal Pierce, Bill Albreton, Sgt. Lichtenfeld, Spiritus Emeritus SAVC

LTC Lou La Roque, President Spiritus Emeritus



Fellow Veterans! What a fantastic month of May we had, celebrating both Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day! We also had a great meeting, hearing from Spanish Fort Mayor Brad Bass and the wonderful things he is doing to recognize veterans in Baldwin County. A special thanks to everyone who helped plan and execute our Armed Forces Day ceremony, as well as the touching tribute to our Gold Star Families. I cannot thank you enough for making these events so special, including our MRE Cookoff Contest! Congratulations to Col (Ret) Steve Carey and his Air Force Team for taking top honors once again!

Our June meeting is very important because you will be electing our board members, as required by our bylaws. Ballots will be handed out as you enter the meeting room at American Legion Post 88. Nominations were made at the last meeting. Please note that write-in candidates are allowed. I will be out of town for this meeting, and COL (Ret) Patrick Downing will host his final meeting, as he has announced his retirement from the SAVC Board. I am taking my granddaughter to Germany to visit the land of my birth and her mother's. She recently graduated from high school, and I want her to learn about her family's history!

Our guest speaker is Mr. Paul Miller, who has a compelling story of rebuilding his life after two major health issues. He served 16 years in the Army National Guard, including three overseas deployments, two in Iraq and a third primarily in Kuwait. In 2016, Paul was medically discharged after developing a rare neurological condition called transverse myelitis, which temporarily left him unable to walk and required extensive rehabilitation at UAB to regain mobility. About a year later, he was also diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, adding another major challenge during his transition into civilian life. After leaving the military, Paul faced the difficult process of rebuilding his life from the ground up. He developed Uncivilized Rebirth, a program designed to help individuals take control of their inner world, reclaim ownership of their identity, and move forward without being defined by painful experiences from their past. Today, Paul continues to develop the Uncivilized Rebirth program, focusing on helping veterans and others regain control over their thoughts, responses, and life direction. We look forward to having him join us on 16 June 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



Greetings!
It's the plumb-line.

Read Amos 7:7

"This is what he showed me: behold, the LORD was standing beside a wall made with a plumb-line, with a plumb-line in his hand."

"A plumb line is used to make sure something is straight and upright in a vertical position, such as a wall or our lives. The plumb line indicates whether the wall is leaning, crooked, tilted, or unstable. That's what the word of God does for us. In this scripture, the Lord was standing by the wall built with the plumb line. The Lord used the plumb line in his hand to make sure the wall was still straight. Every so often, we need to pull out the plumb line, which is the word of God, and make sure we are still straight and upright.

In Jesus' name, Amen!!

*Pastor Lloyd Michael Austin,
Chaplain SAVC*



SAVE THE DATE - JUNE MEETING

**Tuesday, JUNE 16, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.
Denton Drake American Legion Post 88,
2663 Halls Mill Rd., Mobile, AL**

**Breakfast Sponsored by Mediacom
Election of our board members, as
required by SAVC bylaws. Ballots will be
handed out as you enter the meeting
room at American Legion Post 88.**

NOMINATIONS:

President:



**Robert F Barrow
Vice President:**



Phillip Quigley, USA

Vice President Operations:



Robert Shawn Davidson, USA (2nd term)

New position VP Logistics:



Beverly Moritz



Neil Bryn, USAF

GUEST SPEAKER

Paul B. Miller



Paul B. Miller served 16 years in the Army National Guard, including three overseas deployments, two in Iraq and a third primarily in Kuwait. During his service, he worked in several roles, beginning as an 11B Infantryman, later reclassifying as a Combat Medic with 20th Special Forces Group, and eventually returning to the 167th Infantry, where he served as a Squad Leader.

In 2016, Paul was medically discharged after developing a rare neurological condition called transverse myelitis, which temporarily took away his ability to walk and required extensive rehabilitation at UAB to regain mobility. About a year later, he was also diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, adding another major challenge during his transition into civilian life.

After leaving the military, Paul faced the difficult task of rebuilding his life from the ground up. During this time, he began studying mindset, identity, and how people process difficult experiences in depth. Through that work, he developed Uncivilized Rebirth, a program designed to help individuals take control of their inner world, reclaim ownership of their identity, and move forward without being defined by painful experiences from their past.

Today, Paul continues developing the Uncivilized Rebirth program, focusing on helping veterans and others regain control of their thoughts, responses, and life direction.



The Waterfront Daphne. We're having fun raising money for **South Alabama Veterans Council**

BINGO!



Panini Pete & Frank Barrow



South Alabama Veterans Council

VETERANS SPOTLIGHT

Colonel Patrick H. "Pat" Downing, USA (Ret)



Pat Downing, a native of Mobile, AL, retired from the US Army in August 1996 as a Colonel after a thirty-six-year career.

Pat joined the Army in August 1960 and served seven years as an enlisted soldier, including a tour with the Special Forces in Vietnam from 1965 to 1966. He finished his enlisted service as a Staff Sergeant. In 1967, Pat graduated from Infantry Officer Candidate School as a Distinguished Military Graduate. As an officer, he served in Germany, Vietnam (second tour), Panama, Alaska, Honduras, and several stateside posts. Over his career, Pat commanded units from platoon to brigade for more than ten years.

His military education includes the Special Forces School, Airborne, Ranger, and Pathfinder Schools, as well as the Infantry Officer Advanced Course and the Command and Staff College. Pat was inducted into the Officer Candidate Hall of Fame at Fort Benning, GA, in 2000.

Pat is a 1972 graduate of the University of Tampa with a BA in history. He holds a master's degree in management from Webster University in Kansas City, MO. He is also a graduate of the U.S. State Department's Foreign Service Institute. In 1988-1989, he served as a Senior Service College Fellow at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Among Pat's many military awards are the Defense Superior Service Medal; the Legion of Merit with three oak leaf clusters; the Bronze Star for valor with three oak leaf clusters; the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters; the Air Medal; the Good Conduct Medal; the

Master Parachutist Badge; the Expert Infantryman Badge; the Combat Infantryman Badge; the Combat Medical Badge; the Ranger Tab; the Pathfinder Badge; the Special Forces Tab; and other U.S. and foreign awards.

Pat began his second career at the University of South Alabama in August 1996. At the University, he served as Director of the Brookley and Springhill Campuses and as Director of the USA Transportation Department until his retirement in 2015.

Pat served nine years on the staff of the Alabama Banking School at the University of South Alabama. He also chaired the Mobile Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee, was President of the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission, and a past President of the South Alabama Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. A life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, he served twelve years on the State Board of Veteran Affairs and now is on the USS Alabama Battleship Commission. He coordinated and co-founded Honor Flight South Alabama, which made nine flights to Washington, DC, taking almost a thousand WWII veterans to visit their Memorial.

A special awards presentation by RDML Kent Davis, The Master Combat Infantryman Badge

While serving as a medic on a 12-man Special Forces A-Team during the Vietnam War in 1965-66, a young SSG Pat Downing earned the Army's Combat Medical Badge. In September 1968, First Lieutenant Pat Downing led a mechanized infantry company in the 2nd Battalion, 15th Infantry, 3rd Infantry Division, in Wildflecken, Germany. The division prepared for Expert Infantryman Badge testing, and Pat's battalion commander mandated all officers, including Pat who had the Combat Medical Badge, to take it, dismissing his badge as irrelevant.

The Expert Infantryman Badge (EIB) test was a challenging 5-day program that exhausted even top infantry soldiers. It included a 15-mile march in three hours, a day-and-night navigation course, a physical fitness score of 300 points, and expert-level firing with the M-14 rifle and .45 pistol.



Pat is retiring from the
South Alabama Veterans Council in June 2026

On Memorial Day, the Steel Across America Tour stopped at USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park, a historic monument honoring military valor. At the heart of our commemoration is Steel Across America, an unprecedented nationwide campaign that will transport an authentic World Trade Center steel beam to communities across the United States. From May through September 2026, this powerful symbol of reverence and resilience will visit landmark sites, sporting events, and town squares, creating moments of connection for those who lived through 9/11 and offering educational opportunities for those too young to remember. This journey represents more than remembrance—it's a bridge between generations and a reminder that the spirit of service embodied by Stephen Siller and so many others continue to inspire Americans today.



<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/18fkm3S3AM/>



The Mobile County Sheriff's Department Black Hats Honor Guard



World Trade Center steel presented to Battleship Park August 2012



The beam was presented to the Battleship by foundation representatives and retired New York City firefighters in remembrance of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"One hundred four Alabamians lost their lives in the line of duty because of the 9/11 events. It's a tribute to all lives lost."

The Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation was established in December 2001 in honor of Stephen Siller, Frank Siller's brother, an off-duty New York firefighter who, on Sept. 11, 2001, ran through the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel to the Twin Towers to help civilians. He was among the firefighters who lost their lives that day while responding to the terrorist attacks. The foundation has established the "In the Line of Duty" program, which pays tribute to the 343 New York firefighters who sacrificed their lives. The In the Name of Love program focuses on children in need who have lost one or both parents.

New York firefighters, both active and retired, have been closely connected to the Mobile community for years..



Fran Barber, with Siller Brothers, preparing to escort the steel to USS Alabama Battleship Park to be placed on display in the Medal of Honor Aircraft Pavilion

We were honored to have Mayor Brad Bass as the guest speaker for the May meeting. Col Barrow welcomed the new post 88 commander, Duane Cross, and presented a donation to the USS Alabama Battleship Park for Armed Forces Day, received by Ebb Counts.



Daphne Mayor Brad Bass also spoke at the Flag lowering ceremony on Memorial Day.



The National Cemetery on Virginia St., Mobile, AL, held a brief ceremony due to threatening weather. Commissioner Connie Hudson introduced the guest speaker, Joshua McKee, a Green Beret, father of five, and a disabled veteran. His message: "Memorial Day is heavy for those of us who wore the uniform because we know the names, remember the faces, and carry them with us. Today, take a moment to honor the fallen and the Gold Star families who live with that loss every single day."



Boy Scout Troop 5087 performed the Flag Folding Ceremony, Guest Speaker Mayor Brad Bass, Laying of the Wreath, Military Order of the Purple Heart Commander Sgt. Bill Bergman, USA, and taps by Wade Butterworth, Spanish Fort High School.



Placing of the flags May 23, 2026 volunteers



Memorial Day 2026
JD Crowe and Dr. Barry Lee Booth
Alabama State Veterans Cemetery, Spanish Fort.

Saluting Our Nation's Purple Heart Recipients

Honoring Alabama's Fallen Heroes

Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of Our Great Nation

August 7, 2026

Daphne Civic Center, 2603 US Hwy 98, Daphne, AL 36526



5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Purple Heart Ceremony:
6:00 pm – 7 pm

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr.
Chancellor of Troy University
Patron of the year 2023

Dr. Andrew Del Gaudio
Military Order Purple Heart
Department of Alabama Cooperator

HONORED GUEST



Alabama Fallen Heroes
Daphne Boy Scout Troop 87
Daphne High School JROTC
Zachary Thomas Dietrich

HOSTS



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

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



South Alabama Veterans Council

www/savc.info



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



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



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

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

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

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OUT OF THE DEEP
GULF COAST VETERANS SERVICE
A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

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.comSissy: 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: 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 – 251-459-3282lm Tipp143@bellsouth.net**QOV Mobile Joyce Reed** 251-634-0256lsubookworm@hotmail.com**RH Home Care & Transport Services LLC**rhhomeworktransportservicesllc@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

jerrytbimmentor@outlook.com**Vets Recover, Chaplain Lloyd Austin**info@vetsrecover.org 251- 405-3677Website: vetsrecover.org**Vietnam Veterans of America - Meeting**4th Tuesday at Café Acadiana in Silverhill, ALarleenronnie1967@gmail.com

NG ALARNG (USA) c-334- 451-5021 / o- 251-288-6460

Brandi Sisk - Family Readiness Specialist

brandi.p.sisk.civ@army.mi**SAVC Meeting Minutes May 19, 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 59 in attendance. The location was the American Legion Post 88.

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

Special presentation to Col Pat Downing, Master Combat Infantry Badge. RDML Kent Davis did the presentation.

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

5. **Treasurer – Grant** presented to Ebb Counts, (\$1000.00) for BMP for use of the Medal of Honor Pavilion on Armed Forces Day, and \$300.00 for purchase of an indoor POW/MIA Flag. Post 88 CDR DuWayne Cross, \$300.00 for use of Post 88 for meetings. The hat is passed to help pay for breakfast and admin expenses.

Nominations for the June election of officers:

Bylaws are posted on the website.

Vice President: Phil Quigley**Vice President of Operations:** Robert S. Davidson**Vice President Logistics** (New position): Beverly Moritz and Neil Bruyn**President:** Robert F Barrow (2nd term)**6. Introduction of Guest Speaker –Mayor Brad Bass, Spanish Fort**

7. **Navy & Veteran News,** Pat Downing reported for Pete Riehm, flag raising at Vietnam Veterans Memorial 0700; Memorial Day Ceremony at Magnolia Cemetery, 8:30 a.m., Joshua McKee 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 State Veterans Cemetery:** No report

10. **USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park:** Ebb Counts reported on upcoming events.

11. **Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs:** No report

12. **VMRT:** Fran no report

13. **J Gary Cooper, MPM Chapter 33:** Col Barrow presented a coin to Cynthia. Cynthia House – Reported on MPM Scholarship and Congressional Gold Medal ceremony

14. **Alabama Chapter 92nd Buffalo Soldiers:** No report

15. **Topics of Interest:** Phil Quigley reported on the PH Day Ceremony. Vets Recover, John Kilpatrick, retired after over 40 years of service with the US Army, also reported on the Golf Tournament to raise money for Veterans. David Blair reported on the opening of the TBI office at the University of South Alabama, the ribbon-cutting on 5/19, and the hiring of 25 peer mentors.

Tonya Evans, Post 88, Flag replacement for worn flags. Carol Martin reported on the Vets Connect meeting. Onrie Brown reported on his efforts to get a VA Hospital in Mobile. Ed Liberatori, Multimedia Sales Manager, WALA, Mobile/Pensacola, reported on Carry the Load. RDML Reported on the Flag Relay on Memorial Day. Dale Taylor, CDR Post 199, gave an update on post activities.

Sharon Bunton reported on the Alabama Poppy Project that will be on display at the Battleship Memorial Day.

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