

**SAVC MEETING
August 18, 2026
8:00 - Breakfast**

**Pay-as-you-go breakfast
\$5.00**



**South Alabama
Veterans Council**
An organization for all people, to serve all veterans.
A coalition of Veterans, Friends, and
Organizations working together to
further the cause of Veterans in
the South Alabama area

email: support@info.com
Website: SAVC.info

PRESIDENT

LTC Robert Frank Barrow USA (Ret)
251-423-0437

VICE PRESIDENT

COL Phillip Quigley, USA (Ret)
251-709-4942

SECRETARY/NEWSLETTER

Fran Barber-Bruyn
251-605-1290

TREASURER

Tom Schwarz, USN Veteran
251-649-8459

VICE PRESIDENT OPERATIONS

Robert Davidson, USA (Ret)
985-264-3471

VICE PRESIDENT LOGISTICS

Beverly Moritz
251-605-2621

MEMBER AT LARGE

COL Louis Lartigue, Jr. USA (Ret)
251-422-6686

CHAPLAIN

Lloyd Michael Austin, USA Veteran
251-391-8176

LIAISON OFFICER / MC

CDR Pete Riehm, USN (Retired)
251-442-4349

Spiritus Emeritus SAVC

Capt Hal Pierce
Bill Atkison
Sy Lichtenfeld

President Spiritus Emeritus

LTC Lou Lartigue, Sr

Emeritus

COL Patrick Downing

SAVC Meetings - 8:00 a.m.

3rd Tuesday monthly, Jan - Nov

Denton Drake American Legion Post 88

2663 Halls Mill Rd., Mobile, AL

Breakfast \$5.00



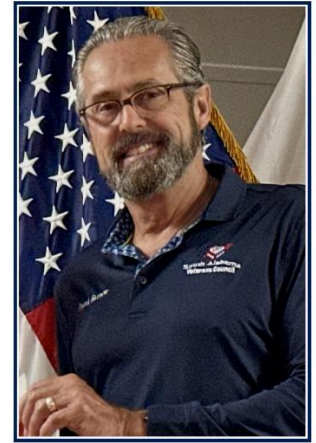
Mobile Bay Area Veterans Commission
P.O. Box 2187 | Mobile, AL 36652
vetsdaycommission@gmail.com

PRESIDENT

Col Steve Carey, USAF (Ret)
251-406-9799

PRESIDENTS CORNER

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



Fellow Veterans! We are halfway through summer, and so far we have not had to deal with a major hurricane! Let us pray that we get through the rest of the season without being hit by a serious storm. We had a great turnout for our July meeting, and I want to thank Lieutenant Colonel Todd Oliver for serving as our guest speaker. Please keep Rick Moritz in your prayers...as most of you know, Rick is the husband of our Vice President for Logistics, Beverly Moritz...he recently fell, resulting in a severe neck injury. I also ask that you pray for a quick recovery for the wife of Lou Lartigue...she fell and injured her hip. Our Board Member at Large, Lou Lartigue, Jr., informed me of this last month... she is a wonderful lady and will hopefully be on the mend soon. For those who attended, we had a fantastic Purple Heart Ceremony in Daphne on 7 August...the highlight of the ceremony was presenting the Purple Heart to the family of Private First-Class Joseph Chancery, whose remains were recently recovered...he was killed in action in the Korean War.

Our August guest speaker is Ms. Courtney Ralston, Sales Manager at Visit Mobile, who handles military reunions coming to our city. Born at Keesler AFB, Courtney is a third-generation military brat and a graduate of the University of South Alabama. Growing up in a military family, she has a deep appreciation for the sacrifices service members and their families make for our country and considers it an honor to help bring military reunions to Mobile and share our great city and its rich history and culture with as many people as possible. I had the pleasure of meeting with her last month... she is a strong advocate for veterans and hopes to encourage us to invite groups to Mobile for their reunion activities! I know you will be impressed with what she and her team have to offer!

Please mark your calendars now to join us in Chatom, Alabama, for our SAVC meeting on September 22nd... as you may recall, we are making an effort to reach out to our neighboring counties to show them we have not forgotten them. More details will be in our September newsletter. I look forward to seeing you at American Legion Post 88...as always, come hungry since breakfast will be served!



Greetings,

God forgives all and heals all.

Read Psalms 103:3

“Who forgives all our iniquities; who heals all our diseases.”

Our God is an awesome God!
The only true and living God. He is so gracious that He forgives all iniquities. He is so wonderful that He can heal all our diseases. One of the best revelations I ever received from God was the simple fact that He just wants to save us, heal us, deliver us, and forgive us of our sins. In order for these things to take place in our lives, we must trust and believe. Trust and believe.

In Jesus' Name, Amen!

Pastor Lloyd Michael Austin,
Chaplain SAVC



Korean War Soldier Returns Home After More Than 75 Years

PFC Joseph D Chancery

Chancery Family to Receive Purple Heart During Purple Heart Salute, Friday August 7, Daphne Civic Center, Daphne, AL



SAVC Executive Board



Robert F Barrow USA (Ret)
President



Phillip Quigley USA (Ret)
Vice President



Robert Davidson, USA (Ret)
Vice President Operations



Beverly Moritz
Vice President Logistics



Fran Barber-Bruyn
Secretary



Tom Schwarz
Treasurer



Louis Lartigue, Jr
Member at Large

SAVC BEGINNINGS

Founded by a group of Veterans in 1998. The first meeting was held at the Denton-Drake American Legion Post 88. SAVC was designed to serve as a clearinghouse of information for various Veterans' groups across Mobile, Baldwin, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Monroe, and Washington counties.

The SAVC is a coalition of Veterans Organizations, supporters, and friends, working together to advance the cause of Veterans and their families throughout the South Alabama region. SAVC is an apolitical organization functioning as a think tank or incubator, generating ideas on how Veterans Support Organizations (VSOs) and the community can recognize the contributions of Veterans and their families.

Anyone interested in supporting the SAVC mission is encouraged to join the Council. SAVC has grown and matured into a respected group of Veterans and friends who confidently advocate with our local, state, and federal government representatives. SAVC is an apolitical organization; the council does not endorse candidates, but it encourages a well-informed public to vote. SAVC serves as a think tank or incubator, generating ideas on how Veterans Support Organizations (VSOs) and the community can acknowledge the contributions of Veterans and their families.



South Alabama Veterans Council

VETERANS SPOTLIGHT

**Dr. Andrew Del Gaudio, National Senior
Vice Commander
Military Order Purple Heart**



Dr. Andrew Del Gaudio has a scrapbook of his more than 26 years as a Marine. In it are articles, pictures, and funeral notices. Too many funeral notices.

Del Gaudio was leading a rifle company that was ambushed in Ramadi, Iraq, in 2006. Five were killed.

“It’s important to me to honor their legacy and honor their memory,” Del Gaudio said. “That’s how I keep them alive in my heart.”

“We have that gene in us to continue to serve,” he said.

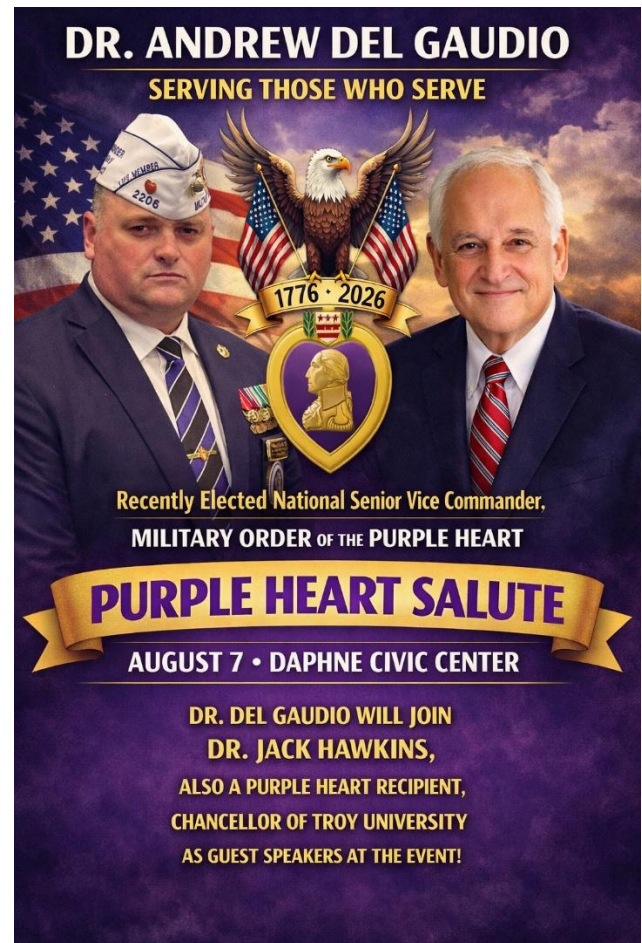
Del Gaudio was injured and received a Purple Heart, which is awarded to those killed or injured in combat. He was elected National Senior Vice Commander this month at the National Military Order of the Purple Heart Convention held in New Bern, NC. The MOPH is the only group solely for combat-wounded vets.

On August 7, the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Commission and the South Alabama Veterans Council will host the Purple Heart Salute at the Daphne Civic Center to honor those who have received the distinction.

“It will be an opportunity to bring the community together, to bring awareness to what it is that our Purple Heart veterans have done,” Del Gaudio said.

The event is being held in conjunction with the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Commission and the South Alabama Veterans Council.

The Mobile Bay Area Veterans Commission and the South Alabama Veterans Council cordially invite you to join us in honoring America’s Veterans at a special ceremony recognizing our Purple Heart Recipients on Friday, August 7, 2026



Purple Heart Reception by Invitation Only

RSVP: 251-605-1290

VetsDayCommission@gmail.com

Purple Heart Recipients Special Meet and Greet

Reception Host Rear Admiral W. Kent Davis,
USN (Retired)

Major General Michael Sumrall, USA
(Retired) and

Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., Chancellor of
Troy University

A Purple Heart and Bronze Star veteran
Mobile Bay Area Patriot of the Year 2025

SOUTH ALABAMA VETERANS COUNCIL AUGUST GUEST SPEAKER

Courtney Ralston



Courtney Ralston is a Sales Manager for Visit Mobile, handling Military Reunions that are coming to our city.

Born on Keesler AFB, Courtney is a third-generation military brat and a University of South Alabama graduate. Growing up in a military family, she has a deep appreciation for the sacrifices service members and their families make for our country and considers it an honor to help bring military reunions to Mobile and to share our great city and its rich history and culture with as many people as possible.



Col Pat Downing, Col Barrow presenting SAVC retirement plaque – but he isn't leaving! Congratulations.

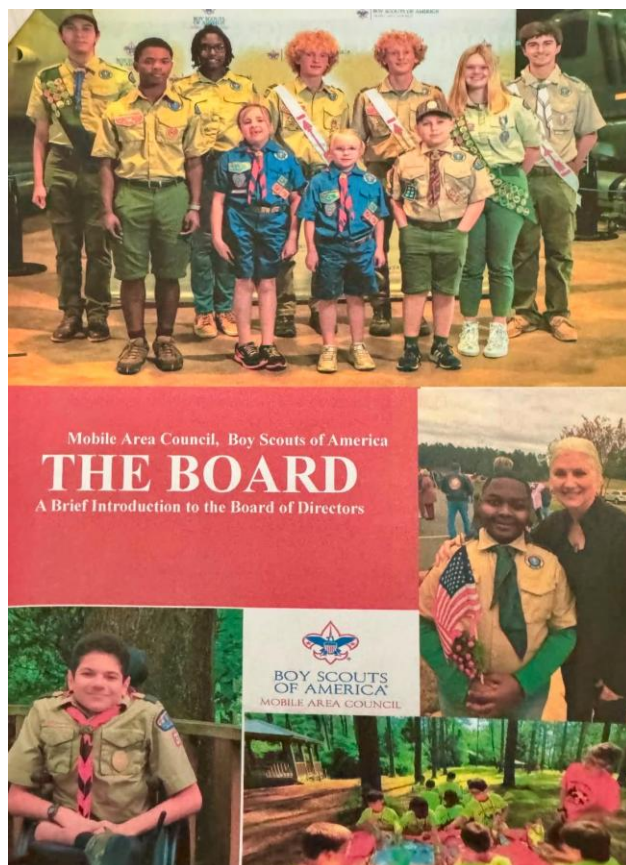


Campbell's Caring Hands

Pictured is the cover of the current Mobile Area Council, Boy Scouts of America magazine.

Congratulations to Col. Steve Carey, President of The Mobile Bay Area Veterans Commission. Steve has been elected to serve on the Mobile Area Council Boy Scouts of America. There is a story behind each photo ...the one with the familiar face ...has a story of devotion and honor for our veterans resting at the Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort From the very first placement of Flag Wreaths in 201 the scouts lead the way placing Flag Wreaths at each head stone on Family Wreath Day. Today, the tradition continues. **Joseph Buschell**, Director of our beloved cemetery, is the heart behind the engagement of the scout troops, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts. ...forever grateful for his presence in his position.

Families are aware that their veteran is not forgotten and their loved one has his/her name read out loud each time a flag placement event takes place. Thank you to each scout and each leader for your unwavering support and love for our veterans and their families



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.



PP HOSPITALITY GROUP



Publix®

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



U.S. Coast Guard Aviation Training Center

July 22 at 1:36 PM · ⚙️

Last week, Aviation Training Center Mobile held its official Change of Command ceremony, marking an important transition in leadership.

“Fair winds and following seas to CAPT Lugo on your retirement! Thank you for your outstanding service, dedicated leadership, and lasting impact on the ATC Mobile family. We wish you every success and happiness in this well-earned next chapter.

We are also proud to officially welcome CAPT Matsuoka as ATC Mobile's new Commanding Officer. We look forward to your leadership as we continue our mission of excellence and preparing the next generation of Coast Guard aviators. Congratulations, and welcome home!” USCG FB Page



SAVC Meeting Minutes July 21, 2026

Publix provided pastries, and breakfast was prepared by Post 88 AUX chefs, Sophie McGill and Paulette Flynn. Devoted Health Plan, Brandon McFarland, hosted breakfast for everyone.

1. Welcome and Call to Order: President Frank Barrow, COL USA (Ret), called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., with 60 in attendance. The location was the American Legion Post 88.

2. Opening Prayer & Pledge: Chaplain Michael Austin. Pledge: VP Phil Quigley. Barrow welcomed guests and presented Col Downing with a plaque in appreciation for his dedication to SAVC. Campbell Caring Hands reported on their trip to Senior Nationals, Golf Tournament in October.

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

5. Treasurer – Grant to Battleship for 2 statues.

6. Barrow introduced Guest Speaker Todd Oliver, President SACMOAA

7. Navy & Veteran News: No report SAVC rename mobile VA Clinic after Jeremiah Denton, USN Fighter Pilot POW

For almost 8 years.

8. Current Veterans Activities and AL News: Jim Jeffries – gave Jim's report; keep Jim in your prayers.

9. AL State Veterans Cemetery: Joe Buschell.

Reported on the progress of the new Veterans cemetery in North Alabama, 5089 internments in Spanish Fort Cemetery.

10. USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park:

Genavese Harris, BMP reported on 4th of July celebration presented by City of Mobile.

11. Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs: No report

12. VMRT: Fran Vets Recover did an awesome job last Thursday.

13. J Gary Cooper, MPM Chapter 33: Reported on fundraising and recent convention.

14. Alabama Chapter 92nd Buffalo Soldiers: No report

15. Topics of Interest: Phil Quigley reported on the Purple Heart Salute on August 7. Proclamation from the City of Daphne, Mayor LeJeune. Amy Walker, founder/owner of Medicare Salute and Treasurer of the River Region Veterans Coalition, reported on her business and work with RRVC. John Jo Dec, Coast Guard birthday on August 4, wreath-laying at BMP. Dale Taylor, CDR Post 199, Vets Recover Veteran Support Group, golf tournament on Oct 15 at Quale Creek. Adml Davis, Vets Recover – Wounded Warrior Foundation, reported on the comedy show benefit next Friday, 7/31, and the golf tournament, with new CEO Phil Quigley. Chief Jason Lewis, USN (Ret), thanked everyone for their support. Lacesia Chestnut, Army Veteran, reported on Hamana, Natl sponsor VFW Theodore Post. Teresa Taylor, advocate for Veterans Rep Barry Moore. Jeremy Clark, Vets to Cowboys, reported on the open house. Austin Sidwell, vote on August 11. Jermaine Payne, Commander, State of Al MCL. Lorenzo Rogers, Supv Mobile VA Office, gave report. Jackie Barnett reported on Vets Connect. Sissy Cunningham, Alabama Hospice Care, at VA Clinic District 33 AUX first Tuesday every month. Devoted, Brandon contracted with Vets Recover.

16. Good of the Order: (A-5 Board meeting)

17. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Fran Barber, Secretary