

ATTENTION:
SAVC MEETING
Tuesday, October 20, 2026
8:00 Breakfast Host
Homefront Lending
Ross Sykes
Denton Drake
American Legion Post 88
2663 Halls Mill Rd., Mobile, AL



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!

Fellow Veterans! It is hard to believe that Fall is here and soon our porches will have little ghosts and goblins saying "trick or treat" as we celebrate Halloween! Hopefully, cooler weather will allow us to enjoy the great outdoors as we cheer on our favorite football teams to victory! We had a fantastic meeting in Washington County last month and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Crouch, the Mayor of Chatom, were outstanding hosts! If you had a chance to visit their Veterans Memorial you saw something really special. It is my plan to visit other counties in our council in the months ahead.

This month we will hear from Alexandria Karagas, the Chief Executive Director of the Alabama Veterans Resource Center. Alexandria's career includes impactful roles at the University of Alabama, where she developed policies for thousands of student veterans, led assessment and retention initiatives, and launched programs such as "Textbook for the Troops" and Bama Boot Camp. Her commitment to service extends beyond campus, with leadership in community partnerships, veterans committees, and nonprofit collaborations. Alexandria has organized major events like the South Georgia Women Veterans Symposium and Georgia's first military-affiliated HBCU conference, and she regularly presents at educational forums and military bases.

My wife and I had the opportunity to tour the famous battlegrounds of Normandy, France last month...to say it was an emotional experience is an understatement. We owe so much to the Greatest Generation...see you soon...stay safe and God Bless!

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After 16 months away, veteran residents of the **Command Sgt Maj Bennie G. Adkins State Veterans Home** have officially returned home. Residents returned on September 28 after temporarily residing at **Enterprise Health and Rehabilitation Center (EH&RC)** following the April 2025 roof fire.



Greetings!

It's Time to seek the Lord!
Read Hosea 10:12

"Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he comes and rains righteousness as upon you."

Time exists in three parts: the past, the present, and the future. So, what we did in the past brought us to our present, and what we do in the present carries us into our future. It is a continual process. No matter how we look at it, time waits on no one.

Today I encourage us, with everything that's in us, to use our time now to seek the Lord. We must break up all the fallow ground, which is when we allow our hearts to become hardened. This is ground that has been plowed up, and nothing was planted. The ground is unused and inactive, so it becomes hard and needs to be broken up again.

Now is a time to sow righteousness, reap in mercy, and allow God to rain down righteousness. Then we will have an amazing harvest.

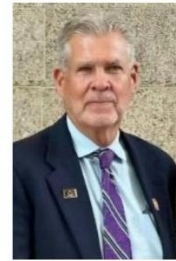
In JESUS' Name, Amen!

Pastor Lloyd Michael Austin
Chaplain, SAVC

SAVC Executive Board



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President



COL Phillip Quigley, USA (Ret)
Vice President



Fran Barber-Bruyn
Secretary



Tom Schwarz
USN Veteran
Treasurer



COL Robert Davidson
USA (Ret)
Vice President Operations



Beverly Moritz
VP Logistics



COL Louis Lartigue, Jr
USA (Ret)
Member at Large



Neil Bruyn
USAF Veteran
Equip. Coordinator

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 that functions 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.

OCTOBER GUEST SPEAKER**Alexandria Karagas****Executive Director of the Alabama Veterans
Resource Center**

Alex Karagas is the Executive Director of the Alabama Veterans Resource Center. Karagas, the new executive director, is a higher education leader with more than 13 years of experience serving military-affiliated students. She previously held roles at the University of Alabama supporting student veterans and launching targeted support programs, and most recently led military and adult education efforts at Albany State University.

The Alabama Veterans Resource Center (AVRC) serves as a comprehensive "one-stop shop" for veterans and their families. The flagship headquarters is located at 100 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104. It connects veterans statewide with resources for VA benefits, employment, housing, mental health, and education."

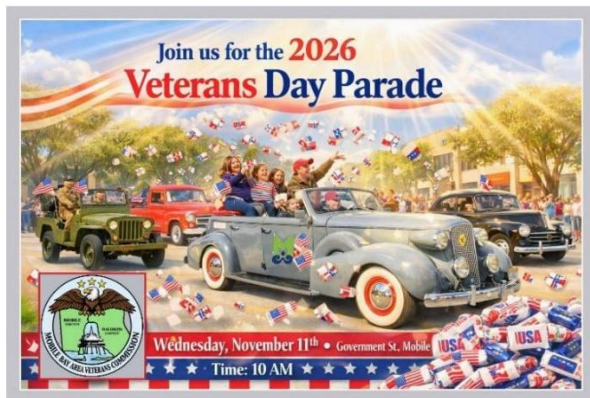
AVRC has centralized access to services for Alabama veterans, while also establishing active relationships with a total of 74 nonprofit organizations and governmental service providers at the state and federal levels. In the words of the center's executive director, it's a "one-stop shop," where veterans and their families can get answers to any question they have about benefits and resources available to them.

**VETERANS SPOTLIGHT**
Dr. Tonya Butler, US Army

Dr. Butler served as a Sergeant/E-5 in the U.S. Army in both the United States and Korea, with assignments in the prestigious U.S. Army Band as a Public Affairs NCO. Her impressive military background includes roles as an NBC NCO specializing in nuclear, biological, and chemical warfare, MFT NCO as a Master Fitness Trainer, and Platoon Sergeant. Her commendable service earned her several military awards, including the U.S. Army Good Conduct Medal, the United States Army Commendation Medal, the United States Army Achievement Medal, and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

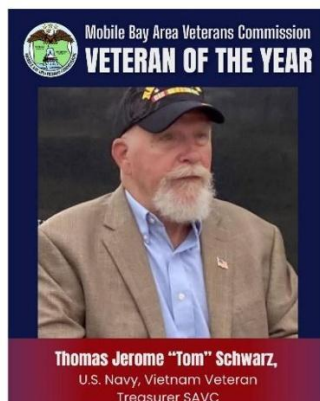
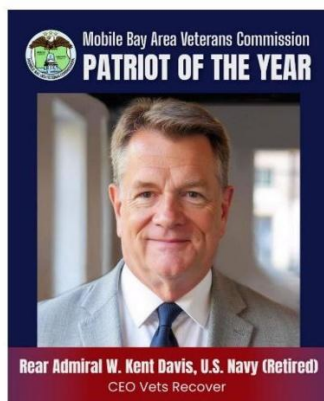
Beyond her military career, Dr. Butler is an active member of Veterans Service Organizations. She serves as the Public Affairs Officer for American Legion Post 199. Her commitment extends to instructing adaptive kayaking for injured and disabled veterans and coordinating the Gulf Coast Veterans Family Camp at Camp Grace. She is also a passionate advocate for recruiting more women veterans to American Legion Post 199 and establishing a mentorship program to inspire young girls to serve in the community and county.

Dr. Butler utilizes her expertise as a medical massage therapist to provide therapeutic services to veterans, focusing on pain management and alternative therapies to opioid use. Her work includes sound therapy to assist veterans dealing with PTSD, depression, and anxiety.



EXCITING NEWS - WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11, Veterans Day Parade, The Mayor has given permission to have throws during the Veterans Day Parade at 10:00 am on Government St, Downtown Mobile Veterans Day Parade throw regulations:

Keep them kid-friendly, safe, and patriot-oriented. Normal parade throws may include items such as stuffed animals, small toys, trinkets, candy, snack cakes, beads, cups, frisbees, and other similar items. Select and distribute all items thrown from parade units with public safety in mind to ensure a safe and enjoyable parade experience.



LUNCHEON:

Following the downtown parade, the Veterans Commission will host a luncheon at Fort Whiting. The program will begin at noon, with doors opening at 11:30. This year's featured speaker is RDML Kent Davis, CEO of Vets Recover and Patriot of the Year. Thomas Jerome "Tom" Schwarz, U.S. Navy, Treasurer of SAVC, will be honored as the local Veteran of the Year. Other special guests will include the DYW of the Year, Audrey Chen, and MISS University of Mobile, Autumn Jones, who will sing the National Anthem.

MOBILE BAY AREA VETERANS COMMISSION

ROTC AWARD WINNERS:



Battalion Commander
Cadet Lily Chewins



Cadet Lt Col
Benjamin Tootle

Presidents: Capt Hal Pierce Award Winners



Pete Blohme



Linda Tipp



Leslie Lerner

PARADE OF FLAGS:

The staff at the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park always plays a key role. Fourth-grade students from Mobile and Baldwin County schools will present the Parade of Flags. The Guest Speaker will be Audrey Chen, DYW of the Year.

California's Audrey Chen was named America's Distinguished Young Woman for 2026 during the 69th National Finals

Fun Facts about Audrey!

- Audrey wants to drive and because of her grandparents she began working on her driving permit to help keep them safe.
- She is most excited about experiencing college and a new environment. She grew up in Los Angeles and is moving to Fort Worth, Texas to attend college.
- When asked what her future boss, she said it is offbeat. She also loves to read and learn about different cultures and history.
- Little known fact about Audrey? She is a twin! She says her maternal twin counterparts are excited for her own self.
- When asked what happens her Audrey together with her Grandma.

Encino
\$38,000
University of
Notre Dame
International
Development Economist

CONCERT:

The final event of the day will be the 7:00 p.m. concert, featuring the Mobile Symphonic Pops band, at the Battleship Alabama's Aircraft Pavilion.

BOOTS TO BUSINESS | REBOOT

Thursday, October 15, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mobile Public Library will host an entrepreneurship training program on Thursday, Oct. 15, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Ben May Main Library. This program is designed to help veterans, active-duty military personnel, National Guard and Reserve members and military spouses explore business ownership and strengthen their entrepreneurial skills. Participants will learn the fundamentals of starting and growing a business, including developing a business concept, creating a business plan, identifying available resources and connecting with SBA programs and support services. This program is made possible by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and presented by the Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC). Attendance for this event is FREE; however, guests must register through the official Boots to Business program and reserve a seat with Mobile Public Library. For more information, go to <https://www.mobilepubliclibrary.org/event/boots-business-reboot-entrepreneurship-training-veterans-military-spouses-16389>.

GOLFING FOR A GREATER PURPOSE

Join American Legion Eastern Shore Post 199 on Thursday, October 15, 2026, at Quail Creek Golf Club for a great day of golf, fellowship, and community support. Our 1st Annual Golf Tournament brings together golfers, local businesses, veterans, and community supporters for a purposeful day on the course. Proceeds from the tournament will support Post 199's Veterans Programs and Building Fund, helping us continue our mission to serve veterans and strengthen our community. Can't Join Us on the Course? You Can Still Make an Impact!

Our Online Auction is now LIVE and open to everyone! Bid on a great selection of items and experiences generously donated by our community partners and supporters. You do not have to participate in the golf tournament to join the auction.

Bidding is open now and will close at 3:00 PM on Thursday, October 15, 2026 — tournament day. Browse the auction, place your bids, and check back often to stay on top of your favorite items.

[American Legion Post 199 Golf Tournament Auction](#)

Whether you golf, sponsor, donate, bid, or simply help spread the word, your support helps American Legion Eastern Shore Post 199 continue making a difference for those who have served our country. Tee it up. Bid it up. Support our Veterans.



SENIOR HEALTH & WELLNESS Expo

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2026
8:00 - 2:30 PM | USA STUDENT CENTER BALLROOM

Event is free and open to the public!

 AI & SCAM PREVENTION How to spot and navigate modern digital threats	 NUTRITION Chef-led nutrition tips	 PLANNING Critical sessions on Elder Law and Hospice care	 WELLNESS SCREENINGS Basic preventative checks provided by the USA Stroke Center	 SPEAKING OPPORTUNITIES Welcoming any USA Health experts to speak at our panels.
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Parking & Shuttle:
Park at University Commons, 75 S. University Blvd., Suite 5000. A free shuttle will provide transportation to the Student Center.
For event information call (251)460-7200 or email usacontinuing@southalabama.edu

Our Sponsors

vipcare, PRIME, Asher, PERSONIC, SYNERGY HomeCare, SENIORS Blue Book, FOX, USA HEALTH, ST JOSEPH HOSPICE

Center for Continuing Education at the University of South Alabama
To learn more about our community classes visit southalabama.edu/cce

DATES TO REMEMBER



October MILITARY OBSERVANCES

★ Honoring Service, Sacrifice & American Strength ★

U.S. Navy (USN) Birthday
October 13
Celebrating the founding of the United States Navy

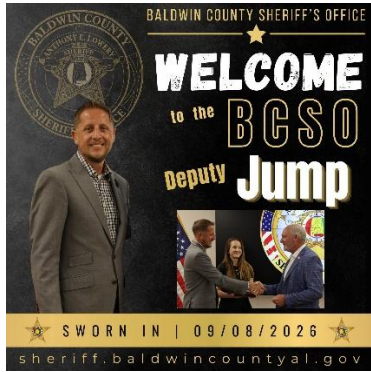
Military World Games
Next in 2027
International competition of military athletes from around the globe.

Day of the Deployed
October 26
Honoring our deployed troops and their families.

Navy Day
October 27
Saluting the men and women of the U.S. Navy.

Patrick Jump, Warrior Legacy Ranch,

We wish you a safe, successful career as you begin serving Baldwin County's citizens.



Cotton Creek Men's Golf Association

Gulf Shores, Alabama

Contact: Debbie Watts

(615) 445-5754

Debbie0407@comcast.net

Tee Up For The Troops

Veterans Day, November 11, 2026

Golf Scramble Benefiting Warrior Legacy Ranch

GULF SHORES, Alabama - The 3rd Annual Cotton Creek Men's Golf Association "Tee up for the Troops" charity golf scramble will be held at Craft Farms Golf Resort, 3840 Cotton Creek Circle, Gulf Shores, Alabama on Veterans Day, November 11, 2026.

All proceeds from this event will benefit Warrior Legacy Ranch located in Robertsdale, Alabama.

Warrior Legacy Ranch is a 501(c)(3) EIN 93-3996612 non-profit organization, providing veterans a place to reconnect with their unit members in a supportive environment, fostering camaraderie to prevent veteran suicide and to strengthen bonds between veterans and their communities.

www.Warriorlegacyranch.org

Information regarding sponsorships, donations and tournament details is available on our website: www.charitygolftoday.com/CCMGA2026

Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary- Shehan Pake Unit 7

This marks the 1st anniversary of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary- Shehan Pake Unit 7, along with Synergy Home Care, where they offer a continental-style breakfast to veterans and their families visiting the Mobile VA Clinic. DAV is there on the 4th Wednesday of each month as a token of Thanks to all veterans for their service.



CHATOM, AL SEPTEMBER MEETING



Thank you, Chatom Mayor Harold Crouch, and Belinda. Such a beautiful Venue, packed with over 100 patriots and Vendors from different areas of Mobile, Chatom, and Baldwin County. Over 100 attended the September 22 SAVC meeting. Admiral Kent Davis, from Milry, AL was the guest speaker. One SAVC grant was presented to IGY6 – Suicide Prevention Organization, received by Ross Clark.

SAVC GRANT REQUESTS

The South Alabama Veterans Council offers small grants, typically \$300–\$500, to qualified Veterans Service Organizations that support Veterans in South Alabama. Eligible VSOs must be recognized as 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) organizations and provide a brief request outlining their program, impact, and service to local Veterans. Selected organizations may be invited to an SAVC meeting to share their mission and examples of program success.

If you meet these qualifications and wish to apply for a grant, visit the SAVC website, savc.info complete the Grant Application, and submit your application to the SAVC council via email: support@info.com

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

lmittip143@bellsouth.net

QOV Mobile Joyce Reed 251-634-0256

lsubookworm@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

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

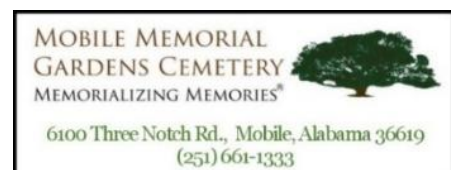
NG ALARNG (USA) c-334- 451-5021 /o- 251-288-6460

Brandi Sisk - Family Readiness Specialist

brandi.p.sisk.civ@army.mi

**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.



PP HOSPITALITY GROUP

Publix.

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





LTC Frank Barrow, President, SAVC,
Cori Gibson, Mgr. Waterfront Restaurant, Daphne, AL

SAVC presented a Certificate to Waterfront Restaurant for their dedication to Veterans, and on Monday, September 28, our table won BINGO BIG, for Quilts of Valor.



Proceeds from The Waterfront Daphne Monday Charity Bingo nights directly benefit a rotating monthly local organization or non-profit in Baldwin and Mobile counties.

The Waterfront Daphne Charity Bingo Details

Event Name: Charity Bingo Night

Time: Mondays starting at 6:00 PM (Happy Hour typically runs from 2:00 PM to close)

Location: The Waterfront Daphne (Daphne, Alabama)

Cost / Buy-In: Nominal fee per card (such as \$1 per play) going straight to the designated cause.



SAVC MINUTES 9/22/2026

The SAVC September 22 Meeting was held at the Chatom Community Center, 233 Dixie Youth Drive, Chatom, AL, with 100 in attendance from Mobile, Baldwin, and Washington Counties.

President LTC Frank Barrow called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Chaplain Lloyd Michael Austin gave the invocation, and Col Phil Quigley led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Barrow welcomed everyone; over 20 first-time visitors were introduced. He introduced and thanked Chatom Mayor Harold Crouch and his wife, Belinda, for using the beautiful venue.

The mayor thanked everyone for the organized, professional setup of the meeting and welcomed everyone to visit the Veterans Memorial in Chatom.

Admiral Kent Davis, Mobile Bay Area Patriot of the Year 2026, guest speaker, provided a PowerPoint and spoke about the 9-11 event and suicide prevention.

Barrow introduced Tom Schwarz, the Mobile Bay Area Veteran of the Year 2026. Korean War Veteran Robert Rigsby and Vietnam Veterans were introduced, as well as Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and the Global War on Terror. Individuals running for various elected positions were introduced and welcomed.

Secretary Fran Barber thanked the Mayor and his wife for their hospitality, and Beverly and Lou for helping the vendors set up.

Treasurer Tom Schwarz and the Waterfront Restaurant presented \$4,000.00 from the Bay Bash. SAVC donates to various organizations to support Veterans.

Col Patrick Downing reported on the Alabama State Veterans Cemetery.

VSO reported on their events. A drawing was held for the door prizes the Mayor provided.

Eighteen vendors from Mobile, Baldwin, and Washington counties were present.

Belinda Crouch and Fran Barber shared the same birthday, and the group sang happy birthday to them.

Lunch was pay-as-you-go and covered by a \$5.00 fee, hat collection, and a donation from the Town of Chatom to cover the balance due for the sack lunches. Coca-Cola provided the drinks. Secretary, Fran Barber-Bruyn 9/22/2026