



# 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



Lou Lartigue  
251-471-4322  
Council President

Pat Downing  
251-751-6619  
Council VP

Fran Barber  
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Secretary / NewsLetter  
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Treasurer / Chambless Fund

Pete Riehm  
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LNO/MC

SAVC e-mail: [support@savc.info](mailto:support@savc.info)

*Capt Hal Pierce, Bill Atkeison, Spiritus Emeritus SAVC*

**NEXT SAVC MEETING - Tuesday- January 17, 2023 – 8:30 a.m. - Saucy Q**

1111 Government St-Mobile AL

On the web – <http://www.savc.info> - Facebook — South Alabama Veterans Council



## Presidents Corner:

"The year 2022 is in the history books. It was a good year for SAVC.

We accomplished a lot: Planned and executed events such as Memorial and Veterans day activities, Armed Forces Day & Blue Star Salute, POW/MIA Candlelight Ceremony, conducted 12 monthly meetings and newsletters to over 400 members, participated in Veterans Seminars and meetings, etc.

We are looking forward to 2023 planning and participating in all the Veteran Annual Events, and bringing our Veteran's information and news to help improve their day-to-day life.

Due to the receipt of a very generous Grant, we are spreading the wealth throughout the year to deserving VSO and organizations that help our Veterans. Please join us at our monthly meetings and bring your ideas and help to your fellow Veterans.

Have a Happy Veteran's New Year.

Lou Lartigue, President USA LTC (Ret)  
South Alabama Veterans Council



## Chaplains Corner:

### Happy New Year!

Read Luke 5:38

"But new wine must be put into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

A certain satisfaction exists in closing the book on the old year and opening up a new book, on the new year. Our ever-creating God has extraordinary plans for each of us in the upcoming 365 days.

Jesus once shared a parable with the religious leaders. He pointed out that no one pours new wine into old wineskins; the wine would spill out and would be ruined. New wine requires new wineskins. Wineskins were goatskins sewn around the edges to create a watertight vessel. As new wine ferments, it emits gasses that cause the wineskin to expand. The old rigid wineskin could not withstand this process and would burst.

Can we withstand the new process? There will be new things coming up this year that will stretch and expand us. We will need a new attitude, and new patients to deal with them, so we don't burst.

Jesus' new teaching was so different from their old ways of thinking that it required a change of heart and a transformed mind. The new wine represents the Holy Ghost, it could not be contained in their ways of thinking, and living.

As we anticipate what God has for us in 2023, let's prepare our hearts, minds, and souls and open ourselves up to His possibilities. Listen for the truth that HE will whisper. Let's expand our capacity for the opportunities He will bring.

Get ready! God has great aspirations for us in 2023.

In Jesus' Name Amen!

Pastor Lloyd Michael Austin, Chaplain SAVC

**NOTICE! NOTICE! NOTICE!**

**ONLY 15 SPACES REMAINING**

**RSVP REQUIRED - By February 6, 2022**

**SAVC FEBRUARY MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, February 15 at 0900**

The SAVC has been invited to have our February meeting at the USCG-ATC base on **WEDNESDAY, February 15 at 0900.**

We will have a brief meeting, a tour of the base, and lunch at the Galley on the base.

**The meeting is limited to 40 people and is on a first-come basis,** if you plan to attend the Wednesday, February 15 meeting, please let Fran know now, spots are filling up fast!

**If you plan to attend the Wednesday, February 15 meeting at the USCG-ATC, Fran will need your full name, and if you have a military ID.**

**To RSVP email Fran:  
[photographybyfran@gmail.com](mailto:photographybyfran@gmail.com)**



Registration for the 2023 DAV & Auxiliary National Convention is now open! The event will take place on August 5-8, 2023, at Harrah's Resort Atlantic City. Join your fellow veterans for 4 days of education, camaraderie, fun, and fellowship! Learn more and register at

<http://dav.la/AtlanticCity23>

**Thanks in part to the hard work of DAV's legislative team, several important veteran bills passed the Senate on December 19.**

Click the individual links to learn about each bill and how it will improve the lives of veterans.

H.R. 7335 - Military Sexual Trauma Claims Coordination Act - <http://dav.la/39k>

H.R. 6961 - Dignity for MST Survivors Act - <http://dav.la/39o>

H.R. 8260 - Faster Payments to Veterans' Survivors Act of 2022 - <http://dav.la/39m>

H.R. 6604 - Veterans Eligible to Transfer School (VETS) Credit Act - <http://dav.la/39n>

S. 3388 - Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2021 (House vote needed) - <http://dav.la/39h>

To stay up to date on veteran legislation, sign up for alerts from the DAV Commander's Action Network – [davcan.org](http://davcan.org).



The **#PACTAct** is a historic new law that expands VA health care and benefits for veterans who were exposed to toxic fumes and other hazards while fighting for our country. Family members or dependents of deceased veterans may also qualify for various VA benefits. Visit [www.benefitsquestions.org](http://www.benefitsquestions.org) to get help filing a VA claim today.

**[#PACTAct](#) [#veterans](#) [#toxicexposure](#) [#DAV](#)**



### **The 100 Black Men of Greater Mobile Major General J. Gary Cooper Endowed scholarship**

The 100 Black Men of Greater Mobile Major General J. Gary Cooper Endowed Scholarship will be awarded annually to a full-time freshman or sophomore student at the University who has completed at least 15 hours of coursework with at least a 3.0 GPA. Pictured from left: USA Executive Vice President and Provost, Dr. Andi Kent; USA Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. André Green, also a member of 100 Black Men; 100 Black Men President, Juan Peasant; Mrs. Beverly Cooper; Major General J. Gary Cooper; USA President Jo Bonner; USA First Lady Janée Bonner; USA Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Michael Mitchell; USA Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations, Margaret Sullivan.

<https://giving.southalabama.edu/cooper>.

### **USA STUDENT VETS**

Enjoy the good sounds,  
In the break-room lounge.  
Can stimulate brains,  
With X-Box war games.

The older vets lend a hand,  
To reach out and understand.  
Modern warrior & lesson plan,  
Each generation defends our land.

*Joe De Cosmese*  
JOMAC - Poetry in Action

AFROTC DETACHMENT 014  
551 University Boulevard, AHS 147  
MOBILE, AL 36688  
Phone: 251-460-7211  
Email: [afrotc@southalabama.edu](mailto:afrotc@southalabama.edu)

ARMY ROTC The University of South  
Alabama Alpha Hall South  
551 University Blvd, Mobile, AL 36688  
Ph: (251) 460-6341 Fax: (251) 460-7311  
[armyrotc@southalabama.edu](mailto:armyrotc@southalabama.edu)

## **What is ROTC?**

### ***Experience the Camaraderie of ROTC***

When you become a part of Army ROTC, you're not just working toward a diploma, but an even brighter future as a leader alongside other motivated Cadets. But make no mistake, you're a student first. You'll have a college schedule like your fellow students, but you'll also receive classroom and field courses that will challenge and excite you. Beyond that, you can take part in events and activities with fellow Cadets that will make your college experience even better.

### ***Stand Out From The Rest***

See how interesting college can be when you're a part of Army ROTC. You'll be a college student first and foremost, just like the rest of the student body, but there's a key difference: you'll have even more opportunities to succeed.

These opportunities include Field Training Exercises (FTXs) in the spring and fall where Cadets build their teamwork and leadership skills. Cadets also participate in Physical Training (PT) regularly to keep up their strength and endurance.

In addition, each battalion has its own unique calendar of events and activities.

### ***Being a part of the Jaguar Battalion***

You'll be in the company of a diverse group of students with broad interests – people who were presidents of their student governments and other clubs, captains of varsity athletic teams, and members of the National Honor Society.

### ***Achieving Academic Excellence***

Although ROTC students are training to become Army officers, they are students first. A ten-to-one student to faculty ratio ensures that each student has a close relationship with the military science instructors. Students regularly confer with the ROTC faculty to ensure that they're taking the correct classes and that they are performing well in those classes.

### ***Time for Other Activities***

ROTC students are just like other students. The South Alabama Army ROTC program allows students to spend time on other activities offered by the university including Greek life, honors societies, language clubs, club sports, and even study abroad. The ROTC program only requires about 10 hours per week including training, classroom instruction, and PT.



**Saturday, May 20, 2023**

Join us in honoring Alabama's Military Service members, Veterans, and our Fallen Heroes.



**Memorial 5K Run/Walk  
& 1 Mile Fun Run  
For Alabama's Fallen Heroes  
Saturday - May 20, 2023 - 7:30 am  
Battleship Park**

**RUN REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN ON  
EVENTBRITE**

<https://bluestarsalutefallenheroes5k2023.eventbrite.com>

Scan the QR Code to register



*Lou Lartigue, Pres-SAVC; Pat Downing, VP-SAVC;  
Janet Cobb, Exec Director Battleship Memorial Park*

Through a generous donation to the South Alabama Veterans Council, the council was able to award a grant to BMP which will be used toward the replacement of the teak deck on the USS Alabama Battleship.

**While the ship undergoes construction, visitors will still have access to the deck.**

Deck repairs for the battleship **USS Alabama** are well underway. The repairs are part of the five-stage Teak Deck Replacement Project for the legendary ship, repairs that haven't taken place since World War II.

**The repairs are slated to be completed in 2024 and have an \$8.5 million budget**

#### **Lecture On Teak Deck Replacement**

Past USS Alabama Battleship Commission Chairman Bill Tunnell will discuss the teak deck replacement underway aboard the USS Alabama. Learn about the process, the efforts made to keep the historic integrity of the ship's deck, and the technology used.

The lecture will be held in the Wardroom and is free for visitors to attend. Included in the day's admission.

**Dates: February 9, 2023**

**Location: Battleship Memorial Park**

**Address: 2703 Battleship Pkwy., Mobile, AL**

**Phone: (251) 433-2703**

**Time: 11:00 AM**

**Price: Included in the day's admission. Seniors 55+ - \$15.00 Veterans - \$15.00 Ages 12-55 - \$18.00 Ages 6-11 - \$6.00 Ages 5 & Under - FREE**

The USS Alabama was built in 1940 and served in World War II with a crew of 2,500 Americans. After three years, it was decommissioned and moved to the Alabama coast. In 1965, the battleship became the anchor attraction of a Veterans Memorial Park in Mobile.

Today, Battleship Memorial Park is a popular tourist destination that attracts visitors with tours of the ship, an aircraft pavilion, park memorials, tours of tanks and artillery, and more. You can even plan an overnight stay on the ship and sleep in the bunks that real sailors used. Plus, Mobile's USS Alabama is the state's best attraction according to Far & Wide.

GULF COAST VETERANS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

## WHOLE HEALTH AND RECOVERY RESOURCE FAIR

### MOBILE VA CLINIC

Please join us for both VA and community resources that will promote healthy living focused on your overall well-being. Find out ways to take full advantage of your VA medical benefits!

Wednesday, January 11, 2023  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Mobile VA Clinic  
4444 Demetropolis Rd  
Mobile, AL 36619



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System

## GROCERY LIST

Cooking Healthy Really Matters,  
Make nutrition-rich food platters.  
A fresh veggie and fruit solution,  
To cholesterol artery pollution.

A healthy body will find,  
Economical Peace of mind.  
Every meal a nutritional treat,  
Simpler delicious things to eat.

The bay area food bank shows how,  
To choose only the good foods now.  
Recipes for economical selections,  
Cooking tips for easy preparations.

*Joe the Colman*  
JOMAC - Poetry in Action

**BALDWIN COUNTY  
VETERANS  
Job Expo**

**SPONSORSHIP  
OPPORTUNITY**




January 18, 2023  
9am - 1pm

JOHN F. RHODES  
CIVIC CENTER  
BAY MINETTE, AL

Open to both Veteran &  
Non-Veteran Job Seekers

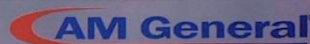
SPONSORSHIPS  
AVAILABLE  
AT \$250 EACH

- Advertising
- Promotion
- Visibility
- Support

CONTACT US TODAY!

 kristina@northbaldwinchamber.com  251.937.5665 ext.1

## HUMVEE MAKER ANNOUNCES NEW GIFT TO FOUNDATION



The history of AM General parallels the history of the U.S. Army. The South Bend, Indiana company received its first Army wagon contract during the Civil War. Ever since, AM General has been making some of the military's most iconic vehicles, including the latest iteration, the Humvee.

"The Humvee is the latest in a lineage of transportation that has enabled the Army to be a force that's on the move and brings its fight to the enemy," said Jim Cannon, President and CEO of AM General. "There is no greater symbol of strength than an American Humvee on the battlefield, and no greater symbol of comfort than a column of Humvees riding in to provide support after a crisis."

Before this year, AM General had already donated more than \$2.5 million to the Foundation, inspired by the Vehicle Demonstration Track in the Warriors' Plaza and Field, which will open in 2023. This year, they added \$1 million to their commitment, in recognition of the Museum's Humvee display. The combined gifts make AM General part of the Foundation's Five-Star Circles of Distinction.

With nearly all modern Soldiers having experience with the Humvee, Cannon says it is fitting that the vehicle have its place in the Museum. Contributing towards the Museum's campaign is also just the latest symbol of AM General's culture of support for those who serve. "Our company likes to say, 'We R.I.D.E. with Sergeant Smith,'" explained Cannon, using a moniker to represent every Soldier and an acronym standing for Responsive, Integrity, Dynamic, and Excellence. "Thinking of 'Sergeant Smith' makes our work personal. It reminds us of the individual service members who count on us."



For many AM General employees, the work is already personal. A wall in one of their factories lists the hundreds of employees who have served. Cannon's name is among them. "I left high school early to join the Army at 17. I saw good leadership for the first time. In fact, everything I learned about leadership, I learned in the Army."

Cannon says he hopes the Museum will give Americans a greater connection to their Army. "The Army is at its greatest when it recruits from the entire nation, not just from Army families. This Museum will hopefully give Americans that firsthand experience with the Army and maybe even encourage them to serve."







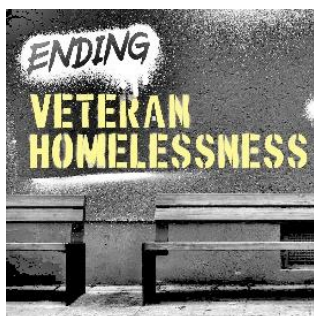
## **Military History Anniversaries 1 thru 31 January**

Events in History over the next 30-day period that had U.S. military involvement or impacted in some way on U.S military operations or American interests

<http://www.veteransresources.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Military-History-Anniversaries-0101-thru-0131.pdf>

### **Important Military Dates - January**

- 1/16 Desert Storm (Persian Gulf) Began (1991)
- 1/27 Vietnam War Cease Fire (1973)
- 1/31 Panama Campaign Ended (1990)



## **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs December 26 at 1:32 PM**

**S1EP8: 2022 Year in Review with  
Executive Director Monica Diaz**

“2022 was a year that challenged us to do more. To think differently. To look more intentionally into the mission.”

On the Ending Veteran Homelessness podcast, we chat with VHA Homeless Programs Office Executive Director Monica Diaz about this year’s major initiatives that helped Veterans experiencing homelessness and housing instability, and how relentlessness is critical to the work we do.

<https://bit.ly/3jwCXPR>

### **#EndVeteranHomelessness**

The 2022 Point-in-Time Count for Veterans paints an accurate picture of how our renewed efforts to end Veteran homelessness are working—reflecting the 11% decrease in the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness from 2020.

## **Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs**

The Alabama G.I. Dependent Scholarship Program provides assistance with tuition, books, and instructional fees for dependents who qualify. Learn more about the program

here: <https://va.alabama.gov/dependents-scholarship/>

As you age, you may experience depression, anxiety, or distressing memories related to military service, as well as stress related to health concerns. VA has many programs to support older Veterans and their families and caregivers. Learn more:

<https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/older-veterans/index.asp>

VA has many programs to support older Veterans and their families and caregivers. Veterans may access online resources and integrated mental health services across healthcare programs. VA also provides a range of specialized geriatric services for Veterans and families to help them cope with complex medical, cognitive, and mental health conditions in later life.

After returning from combat in Vietnam, Tim had nightmares and flashbacks and didn’t feel like himself. Discover how Tim began a mental health journey at VA, receiving treatment that made his memories of the war a much smaller and more manageable part of his life.

[View More Stories On Make the Connection](#)

## **First DAV Shark Tank awards veterans-turned-entrepreneurs**



Marine Corps Capt. Jonathan Kuniholm took first place and \$1,500 for his innovative, custom prosthetic ecosystem that better meets the needs of amputees. Kuniholm lost part of his right arm in combat in Iraq and has since been on a journey to develop a more comfortable, practical prosthesis and socket. He founded StumpworX and developed such a product using performance textiles and modern manufacturing. Now he’s on a mission to deliver his technology to those who need it.

Posted On Dec 15, 2022, By Elizabeth Depompei

[First DAV Shark Tank awards veterans-turned-entrepreneurs - DAV](#)



## KARE-IN-HOME HOSPICE



Want to know how you can help?

### Be a Hospice Volunteer

If you are looking to make a difference in people's lives, consider being a hospice volunteer. By giving your time and sharing your talents you will leave a lasting impression on a patient and family, who are facing a life limiting illness.

Kare-In-Home Hospice invites you to use your gifts as a volunteer to help local families.

We Honor Veterans also provides tiered recognition to organizations, known as Partners, that demonstrate a systematic commitment to improving care for veterans. There are five levels that partners can achieve in the program. We are currently at Level 3. VFW Post 4328 has partnered with our organization and through that partnership, we have begun to develop a Veteran-to-Veteran volunteer program. We currently have three members of the post who are volunteers and are looking to recruit more and do more. Veteran volunteers can do things like listen, share experiences, build wheelchair ramps, participate in pinning and recognition ceremonies, and more. My most recent experience in helping a veteran's family collaborate with multiple branches of service to provide a proper military funeral exceeded my expectations. I would love the opportunity to share some ideas and thoughts on how we could come together and help veterans on a larger scale.

Shelley Robinson  
Volunteer Coordinator  
**Kare-In Home Hospice**  
(251)283-1952

## HELPING TO OVERCOME 2023 Georgia Aquarium Dates

Dates for 2023 Trips to the Georgia Aquarium are now live! Please visit our website to sign up today!

- Feb 1st - Shark Cage Dive & Whale Shark Dive
- May 10th - Shark Cage Dive & Whale Shark Dive
- Aug 9th - Shark Cage Dive & Whale Shark Dive
- Nov 11th - Shark Cage Dive & Whale Shark Dive

Reminder: ONLY Veterans of the US Armed Forces are allowed to participate in the "in water" portion of this event.

- Please only sign up for ONE event at this time to allow others to experience this amazing trip.
- Each veteran is allowed two (2) guests

Sign up today!



### What is Helping 2 Overcome?

Helping 2 Overcome (H2O) is an **Adventure Based Peer Support Program** that is part of Veterans Recovery Resources CCBHC. Through adventure-based programs and events it is the goal of the Helping 2 Overcome program to promote recovery and healing from mental health illness, substance abuse, and other unseen wounds.

Fighting together to combat Isolation, Depression, Anxiety while building a community of support and healing.

[vrr-h2oprogram.org](http://vrr-h2oprogram.org)





In partnership with the SAVC and Scuttlebutt Radio Network, we are creating a Veteran Owned Business List. Please register if you are a VOB or an organization helping veterans/military and share with other Veteran business owners. This effort aims to provide support to and increase awareness of Veteran Owned Businesses.

<https://alabamaveteransresourceguide.com/>

### Alabama driver's license up for renewal soon?

Effective May 3, 2023, a STAR ID (or multiple forms of ID) will be required for domestic air travel or to enter military bases and regulated federal buildings. Read more at

<https://www.alea.gov/dps/driver-license/star-id>.

### COLLEGE IS EXPENSIVE

DID YOU KNOW ADVA HAS A PROGRAM THAT HELPS WITH EDUCATION COSTS FOR DEPENDENTS?



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ALABAMA G.I. DEPENDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM BY CLICKING THE LINK ABOVE

### 988 is the new Suicide Prevention Hotline



# 988

**Suicide and Crisis Lifeline**

**THESE THREE DIGITS COULD SAVE A LIFE**

THE HOLIDAYS CAN BE A TOUGH TIME FOR SOME PEOPLE. PLEASE CALL, TEXT, OR CHAT ONLINE IF YOU NEED TO SPEAK WITH SOMEONE.

[Veterans for Hope | Alabama's Challenge for Preventing Veteran Suicide \(vetsforhope.com\)](https://vetsforhope.com)



**ALABAMA'S CHALLENGE  
FOR PREVENTING SUICIDE  
AMONG SERVICE MEMBERS,  
VETERANS, AND THEIR FAMILIES**

**THE VETERAN'S CRISIS LINE IS**

**1-800-273-5255 THEN PRESS 1.**



**Veterans Recovery Resources**

**Committed to Veterans Like You 251-405-3677**

Stringent training, deployments, frequent moves, and, for some, combat, put unique stresses on our Veterans and their families. Our team of health professionals created a unique approach that speaks to a unique set of mental wellness challenges.

**MOBILE MEMORIAL  
GARDENS CEMETERY**  
MEMORIALIZING MEMORIES®



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



**Saucy Q Bar B Que**

**Happy New Year**  
**2023**

1111 Government St – Mobile AL  
SAVE THE DATE– January 17

SAVC meeting -Our meeting starts at 0830 a.m., but we like to gather earlier for breakfast or coffee and just talk about Veterans Stuff and what is going on. – Lou