



South Alabama Veterans Council

an organization for all People, serving all Veterans

A coalition of Veterans, Friends and Organizations working to Benefit and Further the Cause of Veterans

Lou Lartigue
Council President

Pat Downing
Council VP

Fran Barber
Secretary / NewsLetter
Michael Austin, Chaplain
251-391-8176

Tom Schwarz
Treasurer/Chambless Fund

Pete Riehm
LNO/MC

SAVC e-mail: support@savc.info

CAPT HAL PIERCE, BILL ATKEISON, SPIRITUS AMERITUS SAVC

NEXT SAVC MEETING – Tuesday - January 18, 2022– 8:30 a.m. - Saucy Q BBQ

1111 Government Blvd–Mobile AL

On the Web: <http://www.savc.info>

Facebook: [South Alabama Veterans Council | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/SouthAlabamaVeteransCouncil)

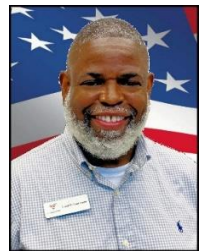


The Presidents Corner

We hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and are moving forward into this Christmas Season.

The SAVC has been busy in the past month. We made our end-of-the-year Grant Distribution to Veteran Support Organizations who continue to do a great job supporting our Veterans in South Alabama. Those Grants were made possible due to a Grant given to the SAVC by the local Chapter of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association. We represented the SAVC in all the Veterans Day activities and went on Scuttlebutt Radio on FM 106.5 and CH 10 to talk about Veteran activities and issues. We had our initial planning for the Armed Forces Day & Blue Star Salute on 6 December. We had a meeting on 10 November with Congressman Jerry Carl on local Veterans' needs and concerns. We attended a ceremony honoring the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the DAR House in Downtown Mobile. Thanks to Pat Downing, Tom Schwarz, and Fran Barber for keeping SAVC out-front and strong.

I want to wish you and all our Veterans a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. We also want to thank our soldiers, sailors and airmen around the world guarding the gates of freedom, especially those who are away from their family and homes.



Chaplains Corner

Good morning. It's think on these things;

Read Philippians 4:8

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of a good report; if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things.”

We really need to think about what we are thinking about. Our actions, feeling, emotions, moods, attitudes, and behaviors are formed in our thinking. If our actions are dishonest, it will be very difficult to think on what is honest. Why? Because what we think about is what we do, and what we do is what we think about. So let's change our thinking for the good!

Pastor Lloyd Michael Austin, Chaplain SAVC



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. The aim of this effort is to provide support to and increase awareness of Veteran Owned Businesses.

<https://alabamaveteransresourceguide.com/>



The Richards-DAR House Museum

Victorian Garden Restoration and commemoration Ceremony honoring The 100th Anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

256 N Joachim St., Mobile, AL

The Alabama Daughters of the American Revolution who manage the Richards-DAR House Museum in historic Mobile dedicated a beautiful Never Forget Marker on November 13 to honor the Centennial of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. President general Denise Doring VanBuren was presented a key to the city of Mobile during the ceremony.

Guest Speaker was Denise Doring VanBuren the 45th president general of the [National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution](#). The DAR, founded in 1890 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., is a nonprofit, nonpolitical women's volunteer organization that promotes American history and patriotism and emphasizes support for U.S. veterans. Membership is open to any woman 18 years or older who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution.

Follow VanBuren on FB:

[DAR President General | Facebook](#)



Special guest for the Historic event was Lt Chester Feagan, WWII Veteran; 1stSgt Willy Lewis, Honor Guard, USA; & NSDAR President-general Denise Doring VanBuren.

“The dedication ceremony was superb in every detail, and I was honored to share highlights of my recent tour of France to retrace the steps of those who returned our Unknown Soldier from the battlefields of World War I.”

-President general Denise Doring VanBuren



Patrice Donnelly, ASDAR; Sculptor Craigger Browne, and NSDAR President General, Denise Doring VanBuren



One of the De Tonti Square Historic District properties, the house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on February 7, 1972, after coming into the possession of the City of Mobile. Though still owned by the City, it has been lovingly and proudly operated and maintained by four Mobile DAR Chapters since 1973.

Read her full article:

Never Forget Garden Blooms in Historic Mobile
Written by: Denise Doring VanBuren, President General
November 17, 2021

[Never Forget Garden Blooms in Historic Mobile | Today's DAR](#)



Cheryl Barrow - Col. Frank Barrow - Sandra Rackard



Col. Frank Barrow, 1st Sgt Willie Lewis, LTC Bill May

What it means to have the Never Forget Memorial Garden here in Mobile at the DAR House...

Having visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery, I remain in awe of the sacrifices so many have made for this great nation! Having the new beautifully carved memorial here in Mobile helps remind us that there are those who gave all defense of freedom...not only their lives, but their identity as well!

My mind wandered this weekend as we paid tribute to those we honor...what did the mothers' of all of those whose remains were never identified feel? They never had closure...they never had the chance to say goodbye and that they loved their sons whose whereabouts remains a mystery. We can only pray that they take some solace knowing that perhaps it is their son is interned in the crypts beneath the memorial. We must also never forget those families whose sons remain unaccounted for as Missing in Action or Prisoners of War who never returned.

As I said, I am in awe of the sacrifices so many have made for America...I am proud to have served my country as a Soldier...more importantly, I am grateful that I am able to grow old and be a grandfather...this would not be possible if it were not for the bravery of those who have gone before me. God Bless these men and women...God Bless the families who lost their sons and daughters or continue to care for those severely wounded. We must NEVER FORGET!

Robert F. Barrow
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army Retired
Director of Army Instruction
Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Program



The Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission

The Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission was organized in 1986 with the purpose of energizing the area's Veterans Day commemoration. The organizers were Admiral J. Lloyd "Doc" Abbot, USN (Ret.), Admiral Bill Stewart, USCG (Ret.), Captain Hal Pierce, USN (Ret.) and Lieutenant Colonel Vince Schiavoni, USAF (Ret.). The Mayor of Mobile was invited to be Chairman of the Commission and other distinguished military officers and civilians of the area were also invited to be part of the Commission. The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce CEO was also invited be on the board and the Chamber was involved with it from the very beginning. Their plan was to have a Veterans Day parade through downtown Mobile and to have an Honors Luncheon where a Patriot of the Year would be recognized. That recognition was to be the highlight of the Veterans Day observance. Today, the award is presented at the luncheon where a nationally recognized patriot is honored.

Since 1997, a Veteran of the Year is selected and also recognized at the Honors Luncheon. The Veterans Day Observance now includes the Parade of Flags ceremony in the afternoon and a patriotic concert in the evening presented by the Mobile Pops Orchestra, both at the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park Medal of Honor Pavilion.

Since 2001, at the Patriot Dinner, on the evening before Veterans Day, the Commission has recognized one or more Mobile Bay Area citizens who have supported our veterans and veteran causes by presenting them with the President's Award. This year the name of that award was changed to the Captain Hal Pierce Memorial Award.

Patrick Downing
Colonel, US Army Retired
Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission
(Vice President Patriot/Veteran Selection)



Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission

Captain Hal Pierce Achievement Award

Formerly know as the President's Award, it now honors Hal Pierce, who was a driving force in supporting the military and veterans in the Mobile Bay area.

The award is presented to deserving members of the community for their direct impact on the successful operation of the Veterans Day activities. This year, the Commission honors two individuals to receive this recognition.



The 2021 recipients of the Captain Hal Pierce Achievement Award are Fran Barber-Bruyn, and Julius Powell.

Capt. Hal's daughter, Jinnie Pierce presented the awards at the Patriots dinner Wednesday, November 10, 2021.



Head table Top row:
Col Steve Carey (Ret USAF)
MGySgt Cynthia House (Ret USMC) Veteran of the Year
Lt Matthew Schilling, USCG Command Chaplin

Bottom row:
Lt Gen Dave Fadok (Ret USAF)
Honorable Bradley Byrne, Patriot of the Year
Mayor of Mobile, Sandy Stimpson

MOBILE BAY AREA VETERAN OF THE YEAR

Master Gunnery Sergeant
Cynthia L. House, USMC (Ret)



A native of Mobile, Cynthia House was a 1971 graduate of Bishop Toelen Catholic High School for Girls. After a year at Dillard University, Cynthia joined the United States Marine Corps on a bet with her older brother who said "we're still in Vietnam, women can't make it in the military, ESPECIALLY the Marine Corps."

Following boot camp at Parris Island, SC, Cynthia was sent to her Military Occupational Training at Camp Montford Point outside Camp Lejeune, NC and reported to

as Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, GA. Challenging the administrative assignments typically given to women, Cynthia was transferred to the warehousing area where she would track and report on equipment being returned from areas of conflict.

Next assigned to Direct Support Stock Control, Camp Snodgrass D. Butler in Okinawa, Japan, she became a member of the Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical (NBC) decontamination team, training personnel on NBC Warfare. She also assumed Sergeant of the Guard duties for detained females who could not be held in the male brig. While attached to Camp Butler, Cynthia had temporary duty assignments to Taipei, Taiwan and Seoul, Korea.

Cynthia returned to Woman Marine Company, Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, CA. Completing Marine Corps Career Planning School, she was assigned as Headquarters and Service Battalion Career Planner. Following that assignment, she became acting staff non-commissioned in charge of Direct Support Stock Control. During this assignment, she was twice nominated for Marine of the Year, runner up Miss Toys for Tots contest, and a member of the Marine

Corps' Historical uniform and flag pageant.

Cynthia EAS'd to continue her education, joined the reserves, then returned to active duty to 4th Marine Aircraft Wing in New Orleans, where she was assigned to the Commanding General's inspection team to prepare Reserve units for Inspector General inspections and Mobilization Operational Readiness Deployment. In support of Desert Shield/Desert Storm she was part of the team established to create USMC units. She transferred to Marine Air Station Cherry Point as the Reserve Support Unit Supply Chief and continued working with Reservists from around the country.

Completing the US Navy formal school for the communications security she was later assigned to Marine Forces Reserve New Orleans, LA as the Commanding General's primary advisor on matters concerning the security, handling and management of classified material and equipment.

Taking advantage of the educational extension centers aboard military bases, Cynthia earned her BBA in accounting from Northwood University. In 1998 Cynthia retired as a Master Gunnery Sergeant. Among her awards are the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal w/one star, and the Good Conduct medal w/4 stars.

Since her retirement, MGySgt House has been affiliated with numerous civic and veteran organizations. She is the National Journal Director for the National Montford Point Marine Association and Vice President of Mobile's Chapter 33. She is also active in the Foster L. Harrington Detachment of the Marine Corps League, American Legion, Women Marine Association, South Alabama Veterans Council, and the Mobile Bay Area Veterans



Day Commission where since 2015 she has served as the Vice President, Honors Luncheon and also conducts the Gold Star portion of Alabama's Annual Blue Star Salute. She received her Quilt of Valor in November 2016. MGySgt House was also the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce's 2021 recipient of the J. Gary Cooper Community Service Award.

Veteran of the Year – MGySgt Cynthia House



Awards at Patriot Dinner Nov 10, 2021
Julius Powell-Jinnie Pierce-Fran Barber-Steve Carey
Bradley Byrne-Cynthia House-Todd Oliver-Pete Riehm

PATRIOT OF THE YEAR

Honorable Bradley R. Byrne

Bradley R. Byrne served as the U.S. Representative for Alabama's First Congressional District from 2014 to 2021. His service included membership on the Armed Services Committee, where he was an advocate for strengthening America's defense, especially in shipbuilding and the creation of the new Space Force. As part of this committee he served on the subcommittees on Strategic Forces, and Seapower and Projection Forces. These assignments permitted him to be a strong advocate for Gulf shipyards including full funding of the Independence-class littoral combat ships (LCS) constructed at Austal. He was also a member of the Committee on Education and Labor and was appointed by two Speakers to the prestigious Rules Committee.

A Mobile native, Bradley Byrne is a graduate of UMS-Wright Preparatory School and graduated *magna cum laude* from Duke University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Public Policy Studies prior to attending the University of Alabama School of Law. Upon graduation, he was a private practice attorney for fifteen years before beginning his more than two decades of public service where he was elected to Alabama State Board of Education. He continued to serve our state as a member of the Alabama State Senate from 2002 to 2006 representing District 32 in Baldwin County. In 2007 he was appointed as the Chancellor of Alabama's two-year college system. In that role, Bradley dedicated the next two years to cleaning up rampant corruption and reforming the mission and processes, substantially increasing Alabama's educational standards and accountability measures.

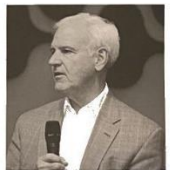
Byrne then returned to the practice of law until 2013 when, in a special election, he received 71% of the votes and began his

national service representing Alabama's First Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives. He continued to ably serve the citizens of southwest Alabama and our nation, being reelected three times.

Of great importance to area veterans was Byrne's tireless efforts which led to the construction of the veterans outpatient clinic in Tillman's Corner near the I-10 exit. The 65,000-square-foot facility began seeing patients on March 25, 2019. A week before, with about 400 people in attendance – most of whom were military veterans – a celebration took place to welcome a clinic viewed as "one that our veterans deserve." At the opening ceremony Representative Byrne remarked that "These people are worth every bit of it in giving them a state-of-the-art facility so they can get the health care they deserve when they need it." The clinic serves approximately 19,000 of the over 54,000 area military veterans.

In recognition of his service Bradley Byrne has received numerous honors including the U.S. Navy Distinguished Public Service Award, Alabama Civil Justice Reform Committee Leadership Award, and Thurgood Marshall College Fund Award. Since leaving public office, Bradley Byrne returned full time to Baldwin County and joined the law firm of Adams and Reese, LLP where he is a special counsel focusing on the intersection of business and government.

Throughout his legal career, Bradley has litigated hundreds of civil cases across the Southeast, usually representing businesses or their owners, especially in labor and employment disputes.



Patriot of the Year Honorable Bradley R. Byrne

Veterans Day 2001

Col Patrick Downing was cleaning out his office and came across this letter to the editor written in 2001.

Thought you might find it interesting.

Veterans Day is a federal holiday

By PATRICK H. DOWNING
Special to the Register

In Donald C. Brinkman's letter to the editor, in the Oct. 25 edition of the Register ("Move vets' parade so more can attend"), he made several suggestions, which are appreciated very much, and some of which I will comment on.

First, the Veterans Day parade is being held in Mobile on Monday, Nov. 12, because that is the federally recognized holiday. The legal public holiday for Veterans Day is actually on Sunday, Nov. 11. This is based on Executive Order 11582, dated Feb. 11, 1971.

If Veterans Day would happen to fall on Saturday, the federally recognized holiday would be on Friday, and the parade would be held on Friday. I believe this is the way it is for most federal holidays. The one event that will be held on Sunday, the 11th, is the president's own USMC Band concert at the Civic Center at 3 p.m. This concert is being co-sponsored by the Register and the City of Mobile's Veterans Day Commission, and has already

been publicized by the Register.

Historically, the city of Mobile celebrates Veterans Day on the same day as the rest of the country, and Monday is the holiday. Of course, it is not a holiday for everyone. But it is a holiday for most federal, city and county employees and for many businesses, organizations and institutions that choose to so honor our veterans by giving their employees the day off.

For those businesses, organizations, and institutions that do not recognize Veterans Day as a holiday, I encourage them to allow their employees time off to attend the parade downtown at 10 a.m., and also the luncheon at noon, at the Convention Center.

Regarding bands, we invited all school bands in Mobile County to participate in the parade and thus far five bands have indicated that they will march. Each year, we also invite about 100 military, veterans and civic organizations to participate in the parade. Usually 60 to 70 organizations participate. We welcome organizations' support of the parade.

If an organization would like to participate they

Your Word

, so the parade will roll Nov. 12

Historically, the city of Mobile celebrates Veterans Day on the same day as the rest of the country, and Monday is the holiday.

can contact Shelly Mattingly at the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce at 431-8612 for an application. Shelly can also provide information about other Veterans Day activities. We do ask that any marching unit be appropriate for the occasion and show respect and support for veterans, e.g., no clowns, clown cars, protest floats, etc. These may be appropriate for other parades, but not for our Veterans Day parade.

Police and fireman and their vehicles will be participating in the parade. Incidentally, the Mobile Fire Department will display a large American Flag (30 foot by 50 foot) suspended between two ladder trucks in front of the Mobile Convention Center.

There are no speeches at the parade, but at the Honors Luncheon at noon and at the Freedoms Foundation Ceremony at USS Alabama Battleship Park at 3 p.m., there will be speeches. The LST 325 crew will be honored at the luncheon as the 2001 Patriots of the Year, and John M. Tyson Sr. will be honored as the Mobile Bay Area Veteran of the Year.

At the battleship ceremony, Medal of Honor recipient USMC, Major General (Retired) David Livingston, an Auburn graduate, will be honored. The final event that evening will be a patriotic concert by the Mobile Pops orchestra at 7 p.m.

I agree with Mr. Brinkman. Let's all show how much we love our veterans, and love America, by coming out and participating as Mobile celebrates Veterans Day on Monday, Nov. 12.

Retired Col. Patrick H. Downing (USA) is the president of the Veterans Day Planning Commission. The Register welcomes submissions for "Your Word" on topics of general interest. Essays should contain about 650 words and be mailed to: "Your Word," P.O. Box 2488, Mobile, Ala. 36652.

History of Veterans Day

Veterans Day, formerly known as Armistice Day, was originally set as a U.S. legal holiday to honor the end of World War I, which officially took place on November 11, 1918. In legislation that was passed in 1938, November 11 was "dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be hereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day.'" As such, this new legal holiday honored World War I veterans

In 1954, after having been through both [World War II](#) and [the Korean War](#), the 83rd U.S. Congress -- at the urging of the veterans service organizations -- amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation on June 1, 1954, Nov. 11 became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

In 1968, the Uniforms Holiday Bill ensured three-day weekends for federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. Under this bill, Veterans Day was moved to the fourth Monday of October. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holiday on its original date. The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on Oct. 25, 1971.

Finally on September 20, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed a law which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of Nov. 11, beginning in 1978. Since then, the Veterans Day holiday has been observed on Nov. 11.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
From the
Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission

Flag Raising Ceremony Veterans Day Vietnam Veterans Memorial





Flags of Glory Veterans Supporter of the Year was awarded to Julius Powell



Julius Powell, Pete Riehm, Lou Lartigue



Sherri Deakle, Fran Barber, Neil Bruyn with Bill Atkeison

The 2021 Flags of Glory Service Award was presented to Veterans Memorial Recovery Team for their dedication to restoring Historic Oaklawn Memorial Cemetery. Special tribute to Bill Atkeison, President of VMRT. Bill passed away August 9, 2021. R.I.P., VMRT continuing his mission at Oaklawn.

Oaklawn cemetery is recognized as having a large concentration of Veteran burials from WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and Gulf War, beginning in the early 1930's. There are warriors from all branches of the military buried at Oaklawn. Buffalo Soldiers, some from the Red Ball Express who served under Patton, Tuskegee Airmen, young men who were killed in Vietnam, and whose names are on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Also buried here are Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Silver Star Recipients. Veterans Memorial Recovery Team's mission is to locate, identify, document, clean and place an American flag by each Soldier, Sailor, Marine, Coast Guardsman, Airman, and Merchant Marine, in recognition of their service to the community and nation. Present count is 950+ Veterans and over 10,500 other burials, with less than 50% having been documented.

The team works at the cemetery on Thursdays from 8:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. If you would like to volunteer contact Fran at 251-605-1290.



Flags of Glory Special Tribute to Capt. Hal Pierce, pictured, his daughter Jennifer with family



The Flags of Glory Ceremony Guest Speaker, Janet L. Cobb, MG (USA Retired) Executive Director, USS Alabama Battleship Commission and Battleship Memorial Park, Mobile, Al.



The 2021 State of Alabama Governors Annual Alabama Veteran of the Year Award was presented to Rick Moritz of the Department of Alabama Disabled American Veterans.

To join the DAV it's as easy as calling 251-478-5080. [You can also go online to DAV.org](http://DAV.org). They even offer free claim assistance and you don't need to be a member for that, just a veteran.

[DAV : Disabled American Veterans Charity - FIND, DONATE, JOIN and VOLUNTEER to HELP Disabled American Veterans](http://DAV.org)

Fairhope Veteran of the Year

Doug Mansmann USMC
member American Legion Post 199



Willie Dunning, III dressed in his Scottish attire with the Theodore JROTC at the Flags of Glory Ceremony. Willie keeps us up to date on Veteran Service Organizations events via emails.

The Mobile Marine Corps League celebrated 246 years of Marine Corps history and tradition at the Mobile Marine Birthday Ball on November 20th.



Bubba Jackson, 93, was the oldest Marine at the ball. Jackson served in China during WWII and Korea, and was at Chosen Reservoir.



Ring of Hope

through the Hope Angel Tree has been blessed to be able to put smiles on the faces of many children at Christmas over the years. Through the generosity of many...including The South Alabama Veterans Council...again this year over 350 children will have some of their Christmas wishes come true. Additional partners include St Pauls Episcopal School, Faith Academy, Causey Middle School, Baker Baseball Varsity and Junior Varsity teams, and Winn Dixie. Ring of Hope also is sponsoring 50 veterans at William F Green Veterans Home in Bay Minette. This is the 12th year of being able to put smiles on veteran's faces at Christmas as they live out their sunset years. Many of the veterans at Green Veterans Home have few to no visitors.

Ring of Hope is on a mission to make their days brighter. Ring of Hope is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, all donations are tax deductible, donations can be made through:

Ring of Hope
% Margaret Coley
3250 Sky Terra Drive
Mobile, Alabama 36618

P L Wilson & Montford Pt Marines Presenting the 246th birthday cake



Tom Claxton & Cynthia House – MCL Commandant
Johnny Baker and P L Wilson Detachment Commandant
Tom Claxton led the Birthday Ball in the Marine Corps hymn



Carl files bill to increase health care options

for outside care. A bill to increase health care flexibility for veterans which would remove unnecessary red tape for veterans seeking outside care, has been introduced by Congressman Jerry Carl, R-Alabama. The Veterans Health Care Flexibility Act would allow veterans more flexibility in seeking health care outside the Veterans Community Care Program, according to Carl. Veterans are limited in the outside care they are able to receive because of six criteria veterans must meet to receive community care.

In most cases, **Veterans must receive approval from VA** before receiving care from a community provider to avoid being billed for the care. VA staff members generally make all eligibility determinations for community care.

Carl hosted a roundtable with some of south Alabama’s veterans to learn about different ways he can serve them in Congress.” The veterans made it clear to Carl that it is past time to reform the VA health care system by giving veterans more control over the health care they are eligible to receive.”

A Veteran’s eligibility for community care depends on his/her individual health care needs or circumstances.

The six criteria that veterans seeking outside care must meet include, if a veteran requires a service not available at a VA hospital, if a veteran lives outside the U.S, and if it’s in the veteran’s best interest to seek outside medical care, [according to the VA](#).

[Community Care - Community Care \(va.gov\)](#)

December Dates to Remember

December 1, 2021 – Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary) Birthday

December 7, 2021 – Pearl Harbor Day – Called “A day which will live in infamy” by Franklin D. Roosevelt on December 7, 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor

December 13, 2021 – National Guard Birthday

December 18, 2021 – National Wreaths Across America
An annual laying of wreaths at Veterans cemeteries across the nation

December 24, 2021 - Christmas Eve

December 25, 2021 Christmas Day

December 28, 2021 – Anniversary of the Army Chaplain Assistant/Religious Affairs Specialist

December 31, 2021 – New Year’s Eve



Lou Lartigue with Leigh Ann Johnson. Congratulations on her recent retirement.

Leigh Ann worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs, Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System, 2007 – 2021.



Mobile Baykeepers AmeriCorps – members cleaned up a section of Historic Oaklawn Cemetery during their annual day of service for Veterans Day. Oaklawn is the historic resting place for thousands of the areas military Veterans, including Tuskegee Airmen, Buffalo Soldiers. They worked through the rain to honor those who have served our country.



Foley resident Michael Hinkle, a veteran who started a podcast for other military veterans is being honored with several national awards.

Upon retiring five years ago, after 31 years in the Navy, Hinkle, a Newtown, WV native, and his former commanding officer formed a company, SkillMil, which helps veterans find meaningful employment and for some, find a sense of purpose again.

SkillMil's mission is to make the process of identifying, qualifying, and matching veterans with civilian job opportunities easier and faster. Our SaaS includes HR technology, recruiting or headhunting for employers, and career assistance for transitioning service members, spouses, and veterans.

Find out more about Hinkle, and his Podcast:
[Diapers & Deployments | The SkillMil Podcast](#)



The Battleship 12K (Total Event Participants: 2674) A patriotic run to honor those who have served, was started in 2015 as a way to pay tribute to those heroes who defend our freedom. Many Veterans have not received the heroes welcome that those returning from WWII received, and it was with this in mind that the event was created. Whether someone deployed to combat or only served a brief time, every man and woman who has put on the uniform to keep our Country free deserves to be thanked.

From the patriotic opening ceremonies and National Anthem, to the spirit on the course, and finishing at Battleship Memorial Park next to the USS Alabama, runners and walkers will experience a sense of patriotism rarely felt at an event. Upon entering the park for the homestretch runners are greeted with children handing them small American flags to finish their 12K (7.65 miles) journey. Civilians, Active Military, and Veterans can be heard cheering on finishers while “Thank you for your service” echoes around the finish line.

(It is noted the battleship pictured on the medallion is not BB60.) [Battleship 12K](#)



**VETERANS RECOVERY
RESOURCES**

The primary purpose of Veterans Recovery Resources is to provide therapy and treatment options for Veterans in crisis.

<http://www.vetsrecover.org/>

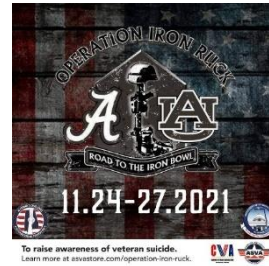
Together, let's end their war...

251-404-3677 Talk to a peer support specialist - 24/7



 **Operation ReConnect**

WINNER Wednesday.... Jesse B from Oklahoma has picked up his new “We The People” Jeep! It was an absolute honor and pleasure to meet this Patriotic American and his son 🇺🇸 Combined, they have more than 37 years of service to our great country! (59 years of service including daughter-in-law who is currently serving)It is SELFLESS people who make America possible. 🇺🇸



Operation Iron Ruck Governor Kay Ivey on Monday offered her support to Operation Iron Ruck (OIR), an effort by student veterans at The University of Alabama and Auburn University to bring awareness to veteran suicide

Operation Iron Ruck recently became a partner of Alabama’s Challenge for Preventing Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families. The suicide prevention campaign is comprised of the Governor’s Office, the Alabama Legislature, several state departments, including the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs, Alabama Department of Mental Health, Alabama Department of Public Health, Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, the Alabama National Guard and numerous nonprofits.




CVMA – Combat Veterans, SixPak and Hallow received a Quilt of Valor Recently

To cover a Veteran with a **Quilt of Valor** contact:

Joyce Reed - 251-454-1466 e-mail:

lsubookwrm@hotmail.com

**MOBILE MEMORIAL
GARDENS CEMETERY**
MEMORIALIZING MEMORIES[®]



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

A Veteran Supporting Organization