



# 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

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CAPT HAL PIERCE, SPIRITUS AMERITUS SAVC

**NEXT SAVC MEETING - Tuesday- September 21, 2021 – 8:30 a.m. - Saucy Q**

1111 Government Blvd–Mobile AL

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



## Presidents Corner: Our Veterans and Friends,

I want to welcome everyone to our new newsletter and email address. We are trying to recover from the loss of our beloved Bill and his super organized email blast and newsletter. We may never be able to replace what Bill established over 15+ years, but we will march on.

Our SAVC Executive Board has offered the position of Secretary and Newsletter to Fran Barber-Bruyn and she has willingly accepted. Thanks Fran, you are a great supporter of our Veteran community and SAVC, and we welcome your support. We have also asked Christine Elser, who is also a great Veteran and SAVC supporter, to take-over management of our web page and she too has agreed, thanks Christine.

We are working to determine how we will distribute our newsletter. Bill and Cathy did such a great job with the automated and mailed newsletter, and we are working to make that happen again. We can make the automated newsletter happen, but we are trying to determine how to do the snail-mail version. At this time, we have decided not to continue the snail-mail

version, until we determine who may really need a hard-copy mail version of the new newsletter. We will poll our members to determine who really needs a mailed copy.

We can never duplicate Bill's newsletter humor, insight, military history, and local coverage, but we can continue to bring you news of our Council activities and the Veteran Community. I know Fran will follow in his footsteps and give us great coverage and is evidenced in this current great newsletter.

Once again, we will try to keep you updated on current veteran activities and events. To keep you informed, we will try to limit our emails to only those which we feel are necessary. We know no one likes their email mail-box to be blasted with trivia, so we will honor that and keep it to a minimum. Let us know how we are doing with our email.

In Support of our Vets,  
Lou Lartigue  
President 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/>







## Battleship Memorial Park:

Col Pat Downing reported on the strategic planning commission meeting at University of Ala.

Items on the agenda; replacing the teak deck. A two year process, with a \$5 million dollar expense.

Repair of the Cofferdam around the ship...the hull may be leaking.

Large maintenance building was damaged during Sally, it will be rebuilt.



## How can I get my DD214 or other service records?

Most federal, state and local veterans' benefits require proof of military service through an official discharge document, often called a DD-214 or one of its predecessors. You may request a free copy of your military service record through the National Archives at

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/>

To get copies of National Guard records, contact the Adjutant General's office at 334-213-7574.

That is usually the fastest method, ordering online. If the veteran is able to use [ebenefits.va.gov](http://ebenefits.va.gov) with an identity verified log in the DD214 can be obtained quicker.

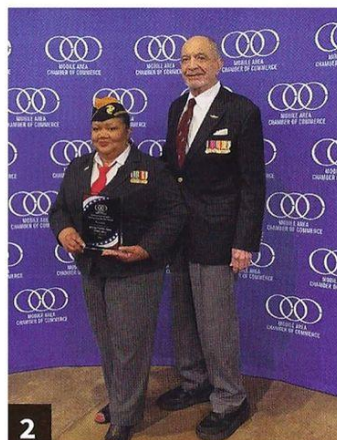
Ebenefits may not help if the veterans was discharged prior to 1990.

## Congratulations!!! Master Gunnery Sergeant Cynthia House

Congratulations to Master Gunnery Sergeant Cynthia LaRose House (Ret) for receiving the Mobile, Alabama Chamber of Council Major General Gary Cooper Outstanding Service Award! Cynthia has been an integral part of the Mobile Community and the Montford Point Marine Association for many years. Cynthia currently serves as the National Journal Director for the Montford Point Marine Association and with the creative assistance of our National Webmaster, retired Master Gunnery Sergeant Gilbert Taylor, they have put out a top notch National Journal for the Association for years. Cynthia also serves as the Vice President for our Mobile, Alabama Chapter. Congratulations Cynthia!



## Mobile, AL Chapter 33 member wins the Chamber of Commerce General Gary Cooper Outstanding Service Award



**CELEBRATING THE MILITARY** The Chamber held its annual Military Appreciation Luncheon earlier this year at the USS ALABAMA Battleship Aircraft Pavilion. With many COVID protocols still in place, the event returned to an in-person experience and more than 200 people attended. Awards were presented by the Chamber and military organizations in recognition of distinguished JROTC cadets. The Chamber presented the Gen. Gary Cooper Outstanding Service Award to U.S. Marine Corps Master Gunnery Sergeant Cynthia House (Ret.). Ms. House is also the National Montford Point Marine Association, Inc., Mobile, AL Chapter 33 Vice President. This announcement has also been posted in the August 2021 edition of the BusinessView Magazine.

## And to add to that honor!! Veteran of the Year 2021.

The Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission named Master Gunnery Sergeant Cynthia House Veteran of the Year 2021. CONGRATULATIONS!

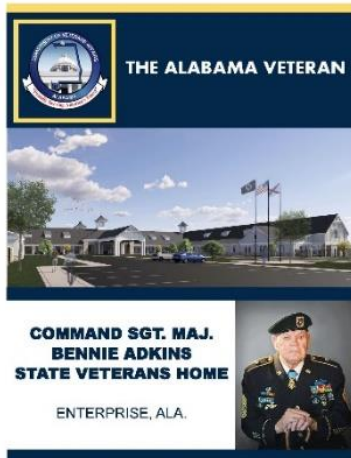
## The National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics estimates 377,310 veterans living in Alabama.

Total:	413,618
Wartime Veterans	317,414
Gulf War	155,717
Vietnam Era	133,636
Korean Conflict	32,892
World War II	12,842
Peacetime	96,205
Female	42,704
Male	370,915

For more in-depth figures, including county-by-county breakdowns, visit the NCVAS website:

[https://www.va.gov/vetdata/veteran\\_population.asp](https://www.va.gov/vetdata/veteran_population.asp)

## Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs – Bob Horton Lt. Col., USA/ARNG (Ret.) Assistant Commissioner - Outreach and Engagement: **Veterans’ home named in honor of Command Sgt. Maj. Bennie Adkins**



The site of the new state Veterans home named in honor of Command Sgt. Maj. Bennie Adkins will be on 108 acres off Highway 51 just north of Yancey Parker Industrial Park in Enterprise. The facility will be approximately 182,000 square feet and house 175 residents. Once in full operation, it is expected to provide jobs for more than 200 people.



WILLIAMS BLACKSTOCK ARCHITECTS  
A NEW VETERANS HOME  
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA



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## Arlington South:



Report from Tony Ross, cemetery Director the number of Veterans interred since 2010:

2302 veterans

494 spouses

15 dependents

They will be conducting a land survey the first week in October, the first step in the raise and realignment process of headstones.

### Eligibility

Eligibility for interment follows the National Cemetery Administration regulations: [www.cem.va.gov/cebm/burial\\_benefits/eligible.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/cebm/burial_benefits/eligible.asp).

Eligible veterans must have:

- an Other than Dishonorable discharge; and
- a sufficient number of years of service for the time period served and clear discharge documentation of the service period.

National Guard and Reserve service members are eligible if they served 20 years and are eligible for retirement benefits or served on active duty other than for training.

Spouses require service documentation of the veteran as well as a copy of the marriage certificate.

Residency requirement for burial at the Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort must meet one of the following:

- Legal resident of Alabama at the time of death;
- Legal resident of Alabama at the time of entry into the Armed Forces; or
- Legal resident of Alabama for a period of 10 years. The period does not have to be consecutive.

Acceptable documentation for the residency requirement includes death certificates, DD-214, official federal, state or municipal documents indicating your Alabama residence and an Alabama drivers license.

### Interment Benefit

The Interment Benefit administered at the Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort includes:

- 30-minute Committal Service
- Grave Plot
- Vault for Casket Interments
- Excavating and Finishing of the Grave
- Headstone and Inscription
- Perpetual Care

### Types of Interment Offered

Casket Interments include:

- Ground plot for standard interments
- Oversize ground plots for oversize caskets and disinterments from other cemeteries

Cremains Interments include:

- 3x4 foot ground plot
- Columbarium Wall for above ground interment
- Memorial Wall and Garden for scattering

### Interment Cost

The veteran will receive the above listed interment benefits at no cost. There is a fee of \$375.00 for spouses and eligible dependents. The interment fee is due at the time of scheduling an interment.

All funeral costs such as transportation, preparation of remains, purchase of the casket or urn, and all other funeral home services prior to the remains being brought to the Cemetery are the responsibility of the decedent and their family.

### Scheduling an Interment

Committal services are conducted Monday through Friday with five time slots available each day. All services are held at the committal shelter. The cemetery does not offer graveside services.

The funeral home of your choice will contact the cemetery office to schedule interments. If the decedent is not pre-registered, bring a copy of the veteran's discharge documents to the funeral home. The funeral home will forward them to the cemetery office.

### Pre-Registration

The pre-registration process allows veterans, spouses and their eligible dependents to establish eligibility for interment benefits in advance. Pre-registration is intended to simplify and assist the next of kin at the time of death. There is no cost or obligation.

Pre-registration forms are available at the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs website:

[www.va.alabama.gov/veterans-memorial-cemetery](http://www.va.alabama.gov/veterans-memorial-cemetery)

Or contact the cemetery directly at:

(251) 625-1338

(251) 626-7183

Fax: (251) 626-9204

Email: [cemetery@va.alabama.gov](mailto:cemetery@va.alabama.gov)

For questions or more information, call or stop by the cemetery administration building during normal office hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

## HONOR GUARD RECOGNITION PROGRAM



The Alabama Honor Guard Recognition Program recognizes Alabama residents who perform military honors across the state. Applicants must have completed at least 25 honor guard/color guard related ceremonies, such as:

Folding/Presenting the Flag, Playing of Taps, Rifle Detail, Flag-bearing Color Guard, Pallbearers

Applicants must be nominated for the award by their parent organization. For more information, contact the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs headquarters at (334) 242-5077.





### **Baldwin County Armed Forces Honor Guard –**

The number of ceremonies performed on each day of the week as of August 2021.

Monday 25, Tuesday 9, Wednesday 23, Thursday 9, Friday 41, Saturday 10, Sunday 2.

Their missions include; Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort 93 times, 76% of all ceremonies so far this year. All of this with a crew of 22 active members! It is truly an honor to participate in the ceremonies for our fallen fellow veterans. The U.S. Armed Forces Honor Guard of Baldwin County relies on volunteers and would love to have your help. For more information email [USAFHGBaldwinCountyAl@gmail.com](mailto:USAFHGBaldwinCountyAl@gmail.com) or call Judy at (251) 545-6578. BCHG

### **Shared from Facebook:**

*Imagine being born in 1900. When you are 14 years old World War I begins and ends when you are 18, with 22 million dead.*

*Shortly after the world pandemic, a flu called "Spanish " came along killing 50 million people.*

*You got out alive and free, and you are 20 years old.*

*Then at the age of 29 you survive the global economic crisis that started with the collapse of the New York Stock Exchange causing inflation, unemployment and hunger.*

*Nazis come to power at your age of 33. You are 39 when World War II begins and it ends when you are 45. During the Holocaust (Shoah), 6 million Jews die. There will be a total of more than 60 million dead.*

*When you are 52 the Korean War begins. When you are 64, the Vietnam War begins and ends when you are 75.*

*A baby born in 1985 believes his grandparents have no idea how hard life is, nor do they understand that they survived several wars and disasters.*

*A boy born in 1995 and 25 today believes that it's the end of the world when his Amazon package takes*

*more than three days to arrive, or if he doesn't exceed 15 likes for his posted photo on Facebook or Instagram.*

*In 2020, many of us live in comfort, have access to various sources of entertainment at home and often have more than needed, but people complain about everything. They have electricity, a cell phone, food, hot water, and a roof over their heads.*

*None of this existed, but humanity survived much more serious circumstances and never lost the joy of life.*

Maybe it's time to be less selfish, stop whining and crying and appreciate the comforts paid for by the ultimate sacrifice of many...(author unknown)

### **SAVE THE DATE:**



Friday - September 17, at 1830

**POW/MIA Remembrance Candlelight Ceremony,** Battleship Memorial Park at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. POW/MIA families are invited to attend as honored guest. There will be a reading of the POW/MIA Missing Man Remembrance Table in honor of those MIA "You Are Not Forgotten". Candles will be provided.



Saturday - September 18, 2021

**National POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony to be held at Alabama State Capitol MONTGOMERY** - A ceremony to commemorate National POW/MIA Recognition Day will be held on the South Lawn of the Alabama State Capitol at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 18.

The ceremony will honor and remember the brave men and women who endured the hardships as Prisoners of War, the Missing in Action who are still unaccounted for, and pay special recognition to their families who bore the cost of war.

U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Richard Landolt (retired) will give the keynote address. Landolt served as Director of Operations and Cyber at U.S. Africa Command and as commander of the Amphibious Force for the 7th Fleet (Task Force 76) in Okinawa, Japan. He also served in the Pentagon as Director, International Engagement on the Navy staff. The ceremony will include the raising of the POW/MIA Flag, feature patriotic music, a wreath laying ceremony, and the playing of Taps.

The day's events will begin at 10:30 a.m. with a motorcycle POW/MIA Honor Ride to the State Capitol. **Traditionally held on the third Friday in September, the ceremony was moved to Saturday to accommodate and encourage public attendance.**



October 23, 2021

### Horses 4 Heroes – Dice Run

Supporting Equine Therapy Group, Stapleton, Al  
Equine Therapy Group is dedicated to providing excellence in equine therapeutic activities for veterans, youth, and families.



### Flags of Glory

**November 07, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.**

Flags of Glory is a Veterans Day Tribute honoring all military Veterans and active duty personnel during the week of Veterans Day which is November 11. It is a week-long drive-through display of more than 250 American Flags, each available for sponsorship in honor of a Veteran or service member. The event includes an opening ceremony that includes pageantry, speaking, and music.



**Thursday, November 11, 2021**

**Veterans Day Parade** – Gates open 0730, submit your application, more information forthcoming.

To register your Organization for participation in the 2021 parade, please complete the attached registration form and return it no later than **October 15, 2021.**

If you have questions please email Pete Riehm or Teresa Taylor at [vetsdaycommission@gmail.com](mailto:vetsdaycommission@gmail.com).

### Veterans Day Parade Entry Form:

**PARADE ENTRY FORM**  
**Veterans Day**  
**Thursday, November 11, 2021**  
**Gates open 0730; arrive no later than 0845**

Parade entries for (or organization name) \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in Veteran's Day Parade, November 11, 2021.

Please type or print clearly as this information is used to introduce your parade entry.

- Name of Unit: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Commander/Director/Leader: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Size of Unit: \_\_\_\_\_
- Type of Unit: ☐ Military  
☐ VSO  
☐ Civic  
☐ Band  
☐ Other (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_
- Float (describe theme and size): \_\_\_\_\_
- Rolling Stock, Vehicles or Other > Limit 5 (explain): \_\_\_\_\_
- Historical Information, Awards, etc: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual designated as point of contact for the parade from your organization:  
 TYPE/PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 SIGNATURE/POSITION: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE:(OFFICE) \_\_\_\_\_ (CELL) \_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE: Return this form with the pertinent information not later than **October 15<sup>th</sup>**, so plans can be completed in a timely manner. If you have any questions, please contact Pete Riehm or Teresa Taylor by e-mail at [vetsdaycommission@gmail.com](mailto:vetsdaycommission@gmail.com). Please return this form via email(preferred) to [vetsdaycommission@gmail.com](mailto:vetsdaycommission@gmail.com) or mail to:*

Parade Chairman  
 Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission  
 P.O. Box 321  
 Daphne, AL 36526



### Lest We Forget Heroes Respond First

9-11 Remembrance Ceremony at Mobile Memorial Gardens at the Garden of Heroes was held on September 9<sup>th</sup> to pay tribute to all First Responders by remembering the dramatic example of selfless sacrifice made by their brothers and sisters on September 11, 2001.



### Fallen Heroes Memorial 9/11

The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Service of 9/11 Keynote speaker was Major Brad Israel. The event was held outside at the Fallen Hero Memorial located on the grounds of Battleship Memorial Park.

## Salute to Service – Operation ReConnect



### The 1st Annual 'Salute to Service'

event was held at The Wharf in Orange Beach, AL on 9/11. It was designed with the purpose to CONNECT Americans that have served with Patriotic supporters and local resources, benefiting Veterans and/or their families. The Patriotic Event featured a Variety of Resources for Former and Current Service Members, a Beach Cruise (Motorcycles & Jeeps), antique & Custom Car Display, Kids Fun Zone with Activities, Musical Entertainment Sponsor Area and More! Their definition of service extends beyond those who wear the uniform including the entire support system.

THE CAUSE - Operation ReConnect was founded in 2015 with one simplistic Mission:

“To provide the ‘GIFT OF TIME’ to the men, women and their families who have dealt with an overseas Combat Deployment.”

They execute their mission by providing Post 9/11 Combat Veterans and their families with a full 7-NIGHTS OF UNINTERRUPTED time together in a resort environment, typically located in Coastal Alabama or Northwest Florida.



**Veterans  
Crisis Line**  
1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

Suicide is a national public health issue that affects all Americans. The health and well-being of our nation's veterans is our highest priority.

Veterans in crisis and their loved ones can call, text, or chat to connect with caring VA responders at the free and confidential Veterans Crisis Line, even if you're not registered with VA or enrolled in VA health care. Responders are specially trained and experienced in helping veterans of all ages and circumstances to deal with any immediate crisis.



VETERANS RECOVERY  
RESOURCES

## Veterans Recovery Resources

VRR Mission: To accelerate a veteran, first responder, and family member mental well-being by removing barriers to care and providing a unique recovery program for veterans, first responders, and families suffering from substance-abuse, posttraumatic stress and other mental health issues.

**Veteran Recovery Resources is a wellness center for military veterans as well as first responders on the Gulf Coast. They're located at 1156 Spring Hill Avenue in Mobile.**

If you need to talk. If you need someone to listen. [#VetsRecover](#) is here for you. We are local. We are in the heart of the city of Mobile. Call us: (866) 648-7334.



Our Mission:

Helping 2 Overcome is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to assisting our military veterans and their families to lead healthy, productive lives.

Even One A Day Is To Many

**Helping 2 Overcome** set forth to aid our veterans suffering from PTSD and other injuries to not only begin to heal through scuba diving but also to build a healing unit. By working with veterans and their families we not only give the veteran an outlet for their pain and trauma but we create the chance for the family to do so together right alongside each other. Understanding that one of the major issues facing our veterans that suffer from PTSD is isolation and the thought they can beat this alone we take this mindset on head first. Building a supportive unit so they don't have to do it alone.

(Information obtained from H2O web site)

<https://www.helping2overcome.org/healingwaters>



### "2021 Lest We Forget"

Honoring our First Responders program at Mobile Memorial Gardens was held on Sep. 9

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**South Alabama Veterans Council meets 0830, third Tuesday at**  
 Saucy Q BBQ, 1111 Government Street, Mobile, AL Come early for breakfast!

Info: 251-433-7427  
 E-mail: [support@savc.info](mailto:support@savc.info)

#### **Covid-19 delays?**

Contact your post and/or squadron for updates and/or changes!



**American Legion district 33 - September, 2021- meetings of interest**

District 33: meets the third Sunday at 1430

**All of the district 33 posts are meeting!**  
**Scheduled to meet!**

#### **American Legion Posts:**

Post 3:	contact Joe Connick	251-510-1942	
Post 44:	meets	251-948-6119	
	6781 Gulf Shores Parkway, Gulf Shores, AL		
Post 48:	meets	251-961-1245	e-mail <a href="mailto:legionpost48@aol.com">legionpost48@aol.com</a>
Post 76:	meets first Tuesday	251-473-5765	
	1918 Duval Street, Mobile, AL		
Post 88:	meets second Wednesday	251-473-5748	
	Post 88 2663 Hall Mill Road, Mobile, AL		
Post 99:	meets first Thursday at 1830	251-649-7734	Amer Legion & Auxiliary
	2101 South McKenzie St, Foley, AL		
Post 153:	meets	251-456-2944	
Post 164:	meets	251-866-7234	
Post 188:	meets	251-937-0950	
	804 U.S. Highway 31, Bay Minette, AL		
Post 199:	meets	251-928-9132	
	700 South Mobile Street, Fairhope, AL		
Post 222:	meets first Thurs at 1830	251-649-7734	
	1 Golf Terrace, Daphne, AL		
Post 250:	meets	251-973-1116	
	10950 Dauphin Island Park Way, Mobile, AL		



**At Ease: Meets the first Tuesday at 0730**



#### **Disabled American veteran:**

DAV chapter 7	meets second Tuesday at 1700	251-767-9477
	Meets At Goodwill Industries on Schillinger Road at Cottage Hill at 1700	
DAV chapter 35	meets	
	Meets In Saraland, AL	
DAV chapter 45	meets first Tuesday at 0900----- meeting	251-239-8026
	Meets At the Loxley Civic Center, 4198 Municipal Drive, Loxley, AL	



#### **Veterans of foreign war:**

VFW post 49:	meets first Sunday at 1530-----meeting	
	2528 Government Blvd, Mobile, AL	251-471-9438
VFW post 4328	meets first Tuesday at 1900-----meeting	
	3354 Hamilton Blvd, Theodore, AL	251-443-8265
VFW post 5658:	meets	251-986-8201
	24230 Us-98, Elberta, AL, 36530	
VFW post 5660	950 Nichols Ave, Fairhope, AL 36532	251-928-8259
VFW post 7320:	meets first Monday at 1900-----meeting	
	244 Telegraph Road-Saraland, AL	251-679-1188

#### **Marine Corps League:**



**Jesse Andrews, Jr Detachment:** meets third Tuesday at 1830-----meeting  
 At Don Carlos Restaurant, 29669 Highway 181, Daphne, AL



**Foster L. Harrington Detachment:** Meets at 1030, 3rd Saturday  
 Kraver's Seafood Restaurant, corner of Cottage Hill Rd & Leroy Stevens Rd



**P. L. Wilson detachment:** Meets first Thursday at 1700 American legion post 88  
 2663 Halls Mill Road, Mobile, AL



**Montford Point Marines #33, Mobile, AL**



**Vietnam Veterans of America -** Meeting fourth Tuesday, Jan - Oct 251-747-6796  
 Meetings delayed until further notice - VVA Joe Birindelli Chapter 864, P.O. Box 2535, Robertsdale, AL  
 VVOA #701 (Mobile County) Disbanded in 2021

## **SEPTEMBER DATES OF INTEREST:**

### **September - National Service Dog Month**

September is National Service Dog month.

### **September 6, 2021 - Labor Day**

### **September 11, 2021 - Patriot Day**

Patriot Day is an annual observance on September 11 to remember those who were injured or died during the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001.

### **September 17, 2021 - POW/MIA Recognition Day**

A time set aside to remember those who were prisoners of war (POW) and those who are missing in action (MIA), as well as their families.

### **September 18, 2021 - Air Force Birthday**

### **September 26, 2021 - Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day**

A day set aside to honor the families of our nation's fallen service members.

## **SAVC September meeting Speaker:**

Jerry Gardner

September Blacksmithing & Knife Making Classes - Now Available!!!

They have finally officially launched our new Non-Profit "Forging A Difference"! The mission of "Forging A Difference" is to use Blacksmithing and Knifemaking to serve the Active Duty, Veteran, Law Enforcement and First Responder communities and others.

The Blacksmith Experience | (412) 926-2253 | 25520 Austin Road, Daphne, AL |

[www.theblacksmithexperience.com](http://www.theblacksmithexperience.com)



## **Historic Naval Ships Association**

BMP is excited to host the Historic Naval Ships Association 2021 Conference in Mobile! The conference opens on Wednesday, September 22 and continues until Saturday, September 25. Educational seminars, networking, great food and a Second Line to the Perdido Queen for a Mardi Gras Cruise are all planned. We can't wait. If you are interested in attending, visit <https://hnsa.org> for info. We'd love to have you!