



South Alabama Veterans Council

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

on the web - savic.net Facebook — [South Alabama Veterans Council](http://SouthAlabamaVeteransCouncil)

ZOOM meeting • 18 AUGUST • 1:00PM



If you want to participate in the monthly ZOOM meeting, send your email address to loulartigue@bellsouth.net

August is the eighth month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars, and the fifth of seven months to have a length of 31 days. It was originally named *Sextilis* in Latin because it was the sixth month in the original ten-month Roman calendar under Romulus in 753 BC, with March being the first month of the year. About 700 BC, it became the eighth month when January and February were added to the year before March by King Numa Pompilius, who also gave it 29 days. Julius Caesar added two days when he created the Julian calendar in 46 BC, giving it its modern length of 31 days. In 8 BC, it was renamed in honor of Augustus Caesar (63BC - AD14). According to a Senatus consultum quoted by Macrobius, he chose this month because it was the time of several of his great triumphs, including the conquest of Egypt.

The U.S. Coast Guard has long been the steward of the nation's maritime environment. For nearly 200 years it has been a vital component of the National Response System and homeland security mission. The National Strike Force minimizes the human and environmental impact of oil discharges, hazardous material releases, Weapons of Mass destruction (WMD) incidents, and other natural and man-made disasters. The National Strike Force remains Semper Paratus, "always ready," to expand and adapt its mission to ever-changing natural and man-made

threats to the nation and its environment. The National Strike Force remains "Ready Relevant and Responsive" for any hazard, any place.

4 August, 1790; Congress authorized Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton's proposal to build



ten cutters to protect the new nation's revenue. Alternately known as the *system of cutters*, *Revenue Service*, and *Revenue-Marine* this service would officially be named the *Revenue Cutter Service* in 1863. The cutters were placed under the control of the

Treasury Department. 4 AUG 1790 marks the officially recognized birthday of the Coast Guard.

The U.S. Coast Guard Museum, tucked away on the grounds of the picturesque U. S. Coast Guard Academy, is the public exhibition space for the Coast Guard Heritage Asset Collection. The Collection contains art and artifacts that span the two hundred and twenty-plus-year history of the United States' premier maritime service.

14 August 1945 VJ Day: On August 14, 1945, it was announced that Japan had surrendered unconditionally to the Allies, effectively ending World War II. Since then August 15, 1945, in Japan, and because of time zone differences, August 14, 1945, in America have been known as "Victory over Japan Day," or

Maybe its the people, not the cops, that need better training.



simply "V-J Day." The term has also been used for September 2, 1945, when Japan's formal surrender took place aboard the U.S.S. Missouri (BB-63), anchored in Tokyo Bay. Coming several months after the surrender of Nazi Germany, Japan's capitulation in the Pacific brought six years of hostilities to a final and highly anticipated close.

The Potsdam Declaration, or the Proclamation Defining Terms for Japanese Surrender, was a statement that called for the surrender of all Japanese armed forces during World War II.

On July 26, 1945, United States President Harry S. Truman, United Kingdom Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Chairman of China Chiang Kai-shek issued the document, which outlined the terms of surrender for the Empire of Japan, as agreed upon at the Potsdam Conference. The ultimatum stated that, if Japan did not surrender, it would face "prompt and utter destruction."

And there's this from Council President Lartigue: "In a Zoom meeting today (7/29), Pat Downing was nominated and elected as President of the Arlington South Foundation Board of Directors, replacing Art Oken. Art will remain on the Board representing the USAF Veteran in the State of Alabama. The Board is made-up of appointed members of Major VSOs in the State and several At-Large members to include representatives of local cities in the area (non-voting). The Foundation supports the Alabama Veterans Cemetery at Spanish Fort."

Once again CVMA has stepped up to help ... **Combat Vets Motorcycle Association** holds various fund-raising events throughout the year with the money going to help Veterans. The CVMA mission is to support and defend those who have defended their country and their freedoms. The focus of the CVMA is to help Veteran care facilities provide a warm meal, clothing, shelter, and guidance, or simply to say "thank you" and "welcome home." South Alabama Veterans Council has always tried to take care of Veterans in need. CVMA 28-6 gave the



SAVC "a generous grant to help us support our Veterans and Organizations" and efforts/activities that support the Veterans of South Alabama. It is appreciated and we will, of course, give a full accounting of these funds.

Last year we gave grants to 120 individuals and Veteran Service Organizations. "CVMA trusts us to vet these organizations," said Lartigue. And we do. Anytime someone asks us for money we do our best to verify their story and their need.



This from Pat Downing:

I am sad to report that Commander Robert Edington (Retired, USNR) passed away yesterday (July 26). He was one of the driving forces that brought the USS Ala-bama to Mobile and he served on the USS Alabama Battleship Commission for many years. I spoke with



his wife Pat this morning and she said he passed without pain and it was like he just went to sleep. He hung in there to the very end and even when his health was fail-ing he still insisted on attending the Battleship Commission meetings. He loved the USS Alabama and the Park. His passing marks

the end of an era for Battleship Memorial Park and he will be greatly missed by us all. — Patrick

Veterans Day, November 11, falls on Wednesday this year. Pat Downing announced that we have hopes of celebrating Veterans Day as usual. Kathryn Patricia "Kay" Hire (born August 26, 1959, in Mobile, Alabama) is a former NASA astronaut and Captain in the U.S. Navy Reserve who has flown aboard two Space Shuttle missions. Hire retired after a 30-year career on February 28, 2019.

If all goes well and we get out from under this virus thingie Captain Hire will be our Patriot of the Year. In case you missed it last month, here's what you need to know to help select the Veteran of the Year:

MOBILE BAY AREA VETERAN OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

Veteran of the Year nominations for the 2021 Veteran of the Year will be accepted by the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission, **from July 15 to August 15, 2020.**

Award Criteria:

1. Must be a resident of the Mobile Bay Area, which includes Mobile and Baldwin Counties of Alabama.

ALL OUR KNOWLEDGE HAS ITS ORIGINS IN OUR PERCEPTIONS—LEONARDO DA VINCI



2. Must be a living veteran of one of the five armed forces of the United States, including Reserve and National Guard, or the United States Merchant Marine.
3. Must have demonstrated outstanding patriotism, leadership and selfless service and as a volunteer in community or civic service.
4. May be awarded for a single act or for continuous service.
5. May not be a previous recipient of the Mobile Bay Veteran of the Year Award.
6. A DD-214 or other proof of service must be submitted with the nomination.

The award will be presented at the Honors Luncheon on Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11, 2020.

The nomination will be valid for three years. Nominations should be mailed to:

Col. Steve Carey,
Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission
P.O. Box 321
Daphne, AL 36526-0321

The Veteran selected will be announced by Memorial Day weekend. And I, your honored scribe, will give up the title to a more deserving Veteran. "One small hiccup, here. the president of the Veterans day Commission is running for the office of Mayor of Daphne." If elected, Steve will step down and "the person stepping up will be Pete Riehm," said Downing.

"The Veterans Cemetery in Spanish Fort was dedicated December 7, 2012. As of July 1, 2020, we had a total of 2,309 interments with 1,903 Veterans, 406 dependents. Cemetery director Tony Ross reports 3,269 people have preregistered. We encourage people to preregister because at this sad and difficult time this takes some of the burden off the family," stated Downing.

Tony has a good group of folks working the cemetery and "all turf areas are mowed, trimmed, and edged once a week." When necessary, the grass is mowed more often. Grass loves sun-shine, warm soil, and rain which we have in abundance at certain times of the year. During the early part of the pandemic, Tony and Joe carried the load; the other employees returned to work March 16. Masks and social distancing are enforced at the cemetery. Repairs have been made to the irrigations system; several spray heads were replaced. Some of the

decoders, the control units which turn on spray heads in certain areas at certain times, will need to be replaced and bids are being taken from several companies for this job which will cost about \$3,000.

"The pre-application for a ten-year expansion of the cemetery has been made to the grants program of the National Cemetery Administration and has been pre-accepted by the grants program; the final acceptance could be made "sometime this month."

Due to the latest directive from Governor Ivey there are now signs at the entrance to the cemetery:

"Masks Required."

People attending funerals at the cemetery are required to mask before entering the cemetery. Folks who come to visit a single grave are not required to mask. "The good news is," Commissioner Kent Davis said, "committal services resumed about two weeks ago." Even though the Honor Guards have to practice 'social distancing.' "We're in full business," Davis stated, "with burials, interments of all types, committal series, Honor Guards from both the military Honor Guard teams and the independent teams." The original projections and predictions for the cemetery were very low. "The demand for the cemetery has gone up and up and up." This means the plans for phase-2 construction should be moved up. "Word has gotten out that the cemetery is a dignified and respectful final resting place," said Davis.

this report from Pat Downing:

Battleship Park reopened for business in June. So far, according to Director Janet Cobb, attendance is down 51% compared to last year. Of course, visitors (and staff) are required to have face covering. All employees have been retained by the Park through the pandemic.

Attorneys are still talking about the aircraft Jimmy Buffett wants to 'loan' to the Park but it looks like it will happen. The Coast Guard has offered a C-130 to the Park but there is no word on that at this time.

The American Legion Dept of Alabama annual convention has been cancelled stated Past Department Commander Jim Jeffries, "as has the Marine Corps League and the VFW with theirs." Many Posts around the state have reopened and all are encouraged to practice 'social distancing.' Dancing is a "close contact sport" and Posts have been asked to not hold dances.

Many of the Posts and organizations around the State are conferencing by ZOOM. "We've all decided,"

If you answer the phone with "Hello, you're on the air!" ... most telemarketers will quickly hang up.



said Jeffries, "after this pandemic passes, ZOOM will become the new normal because we've found it to be quite effective." As an example, Jim reminded us when he held regional and state offices with the American Legion he spent considerable time traveling to Montgomery (a 2-3 hour drive each way) for a meeting which lasted an hour or an hour and a half. "We're getting just as much done via the ZOOM process; it's certainly more time-effective and it's efficient." There will be times that face-to-face meetings are necessary but most business will be conducted by computer.

The Department's Fall Leadership Conference scheduled for September has been cancelled; the Mid-Winter Conference in January is still on the calendar. For now,

American Legion Post 222, "Glenn D. Frazier," is open for business without a canteen or dance floor. Glenn (December 1, 1924 – September 15, 2018) survived the Bataan Death March, and, more importantly, he survived several Japanese prison camps. The author of the book "HELL'S GUEST," Glenn was also one of the founders of the South Alabama Veterans Council. The Post opened with 15 members (the minimum required) and has since expanded to 33 members.

The POW-MIA ceremony on the capital lawn in Montgomery is scheduled for the Saturday after the Third Friday in September, which is national POW-MIA Recognition Day. Due to various complicating factors this will be a virtual ceremony. The guest speaker will be RADM Kent Davis, USN (ret), Commissioner, Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs; Sy Lichtenfeld, WWII Army Vet, ExPOW, will make a few remarks; Rolling Thunder Alabama Chapter 2, Huntsville, will be the host organization.

American Legion Post 250:

Funerals: 88 (2020, to date)

Color Guard: 14

"As far as keeping this up, how can we not? These funerals are paid for with service to our country by the fallen Veterans. They are a sacred obligation that compels us to do so! They are an honor that fills our souls with joy, yet at the same time sadness."

Plans for Flags of Glory are on-going. No decision at this time whether we can do it in-person or virtual. Similar to the way we did the Memorial Day Ceremony. Streamed live on Facebook. Or some such. We'll let you know. Flags of Glory is, of course, the

lead-in event to Veterans Day week. The opening ceremony is held the Sunday before Veteran Day and the 250-Flag display is open to public viewing until Saturday after Veterans Day.

Bryan Battaglia has the distinction of being in the Third Infantry Hall of Fame.

OK, so are several other worthy individuals. But the other individuals are members of the US Army — Battaglia is a US Marine.

Jim Jeffries shared this bit of knowledge with us but I feel there is a little more to it. As head scribe of this NewsLetter I will gather more details and bring them to you next month.

After this little bit of trivia Jim shared part of this little ditty, supposedly a fight song from the Third Infantry ...

I Wouldn't Give A Bean
To Be A Fancy Pants Marine
I'd Rather Be A
Dog Face Soldier Like I Am

I Wouldn't Trade My Old OD's
For All The Navy's Dungarees
For I'm The Walking Pride
Of Uncle Sam

On Army Posters That I Read
It Says "Be All That You Can"
So They're Tearing Me Down
To Build Me Over Again

I'm Just A Dog Face Soldier
With A Rifle On My Shoulder
And I Eat Raw Meat
For Breakfast E'V'RY Day

So Feed Me Ammunition
Keep Me In Third Division
Your Dog Face Soldier's A-Okay

Some good news from Adm Davis and the ADVA. "We continue to reopen Veteran Service Offices around the State. We have opened five offices this year; the most recent in Southeast Alabama in Henry County. We are in discussion right now with Washington County to open an office in Chatom." The county offices were closed in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Appeals and Review Offices are still in temporary quarters in the basement of the American Legion headquarters in Montgomery. Only virtual hearings are being held at this time. Hopefully, it

If rioters come to your area, please remember, don't be a litterbug. Pick up your brass.



won't be much longer until they move back into the federal VA facility in Montgomery.

Commissioner Davis and Assistant Commissioner Bob Horton have been in talks with the City of Dothan, AL, through Mayor Mark Saliba. They are interested in forming an organization for communication among the veteran service organizations in the Wiregrass Area. Using SAVC and the [Central Alabama Veterans Collaborative](#) (CAVC, headed by Brian Crawford) in Birmingham as examples, Davis and Horton planted some ideas which will grow into something to benefit the Veterans in Southeast Alabama. And Montgomery may soon get into the act. "Surprisingly, there has never been a collaborative effort among the veteran service organizations around Montgomery." Selma has also contacted them about doing something for the Veterans in the west-central part of the State. "You guys have served as a good example that we're using for the benefit of groups getting together in a discussion like this, in a partnership."

With John Kilpatrick and [Veterans Recovery Resources](#) (VRR), ADVA is involved in three suicide efforts:

First, The [State Task Force on Veteran Suicide](#) has been somewhat stymied by the CoVid-19 situation. The next step for them was to be a live townhall meeting but the decision was made to do a series of virtual town halls.

Second, The Governor's Challenge sponsored by the federal VA and Health and Human Services (HHS) Substance Abuse and Mental Health offices. There are some unique issues in Alabama. The death rate of Veteran suicide by firearm is well above the national average. There has been much discussion but no tangible action has emerged.

Third, Just kicking off is a program from the White House called 'The Prevents Program.' "The President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide" seeks to change the culture surrounding mental health and suicide prevention through enhanced community integration, prioritized research activities, and implementation strategies that emphasize improved overall health and well-being."

Davis hopes to "harmonize the State Task Force with the Governor's Challenge. There's much more to come on the issue of Veterans suicide."

For many years Baker Allen served as a liaison for Veterans Affairs in the governor's office. He left the office and "we're just now getting his replacement.

Her name is Annabelle Roth. I've met with her several times and we're off to a good start."

Sy Lichtenfeld stepped down from the State Board of Veteran Affairs. His replacement is a Vietnam



Keith Lewis
photo from internet

Veteran, [former POW](#), USAF Colonel Chaplain Keith Lewis. He was shot down: October 5, 1972 and released: March 29, 1973. After his release, [Keith Lewis](#) became an Air Force Chaplain. He retired in 1993 from the United States Air Force as a Colonel. He and his wife Pat reside in Alabama.

Our State Veterans Homes are continuing the fight against covid-19. Even though the Homes are on lock-down and visitation has been stopped, there are still occasional outbreaks. The staff still go out - they go home, they go shopping, etc and even though they are screened when returning to the Home, there are instances where an asymptomatic staff members bring the virus in. "This fight is not over," said Davis. "this is something we have to do every single day. We're working with Alabama Department of Public Health, the Federal VA, and CDC trying to stay ahead of it." More testing is available now as well as better guidelines from CDC so the situation has gotten much better.

I wondered, one day, 'who was Maxwell and why is the Air Base named Maxwell'? I looked it up:

Lt. William C. Maxwell was born on Nov. 9, 1892, in Natchez, Alabama, an unincorporated community in Monroe County a little west of Beatrice.

In 1917, he joined the U.S. Army Air Corp while he was an ROTC student at the University of Alabama. He was commissioned in April 1918 and eventually assigned to the 3rd Aero Squadron in The Philippines. On Aug. 12, 1920, his DH-4 bi-plane suffered engine failure. Attempting to land his plane in a sugarcane field and to avoid a group of nearby school children he diverted his plane and collided with a sugarcane tree, which had a flagpole behind it. He was killed instantly. On the recommendation of his commanding officer, Major Roy C. Brown, the Montgomery Air Intermediate Depot in his home state was renamed Maxwell Field on Nov. 8, 1922. Today Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama is an important and critical component of the U.S. Air Force and is the home to the Air Force ROTC program.

If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them.



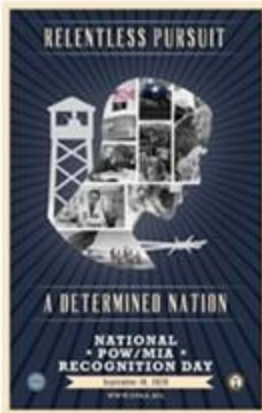
and now, this from JoMac:

WITH TRUST WITHIN

Impoverished widow accepts her plight
Sets the example for us with her mite
Giving her all with her trust in him
He replaces this gift again and again.
As her sacrifice pleases Him, so too His
Saving Graces are for us to avoid all sin.

Joe McCormack

JoMac- Faith Fully alive



UPDATE: July 21, 2020

National League of Families

AMERICANS UNACCOUNTED FOR: The number missing (POW/MIA) and otherwise unaccounted-for (KIA/BNR) from the Vietnam War is now **1,586**. In a July 14th release, **DPAA** announced that 1st Lt. **Alva R. Krogman**, USAF, KIA/BNR, was accounted for on July 7th. 1st Lt. Krogman was flying an O1-F Birdog aircraft on a visual reconnaissance mission over Savannakhet Province, Laos, on January 17, 1967, when his aircraft was hit and went down. Search and Rescue (SAR) operations were initiated immediately, but were shut down within a few hours after one of the SAR aircraft was also shot down. In February of this year, a US team of unexploded ordnance removal

specialists initially recovered remains while clearing the site in preparation for an April joint recovery mission. This is the first identification of a previously unaccounted-for Vietnam War Veteran to be announced since July 26, 2019.

Today, more than 72,000 Americans remain unaccounted for from WWII; More than 7,800 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War.; 126 service members remain unaccounted for from the Cold War; 6 Americans remain unaccounted for in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Operation Deep Dive is a nationwide study of community factors in Veteran suicide. A collaborative effort of **University of Alabama** and **America's Warrior Partnership**. Nick Faidor, **University of South Alabama (USA)** and John Kilpatrick of **WSR**, are conducting studies in Mobile, Baldwin, Escambia, and Monroe Counties in Alabama to identify local causes of Veteran suicide. "Community factors" means, said Faidor, "things that are outside of the Veteran." Such as mental health problems, combat trauma, anything that causes excess stress. We're collecting retrospective data such as death records to learn how the veteran died and we're looking at the community to determine why the Veteran died.

John and Nick are interested in interviewing family and friends of Veterans who died of suicide in the past two years in the four counties. If you know someone who has died or someone who has lost a family member to Veteran suicide, ask if they would be willing to participate in an interview. John said, "Everything I've learned about suicide, everything I know about veteran suicide, I'm convinced that each community has to solve the problem." Suicide does not happen overnight - it happens over time and every suicide can be prevented. The keys are; education, looking for signs and symptoms, knowing what to do, and access to care.

Most of the media contact and the press releases are handled by America's Warrior Partnership but it would be good if we could get some local media coverage of local problems.

The **VIA Center**, 1717 Dauphin St in Mobile has had an adult day care program for about 25 years. The program is open to those 50 years and older. The Via Center is a VA Community Care Network provider. This is VA's direct link with community providers to ensure Veterans receive timely, high-quality care call 251.478.3311 or email info@viamobile.org

contact Veterans Recovery Resources at 866-648-7334

