

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (ADVA) Commissioner's Goals
Quarterly Meeting of State Board of Veterans Affairs July 2023**

Goal #1: Complete conversion of Dependent Scholarship Program to online e-application system

- Late summer 2023
 - Explore expansion to state veterans home application system
-

Goal #2: Complete Cemetery Expansion Project

- December 2023
-

Goal #3: Complete the Command Sgt. Maj. Bennie G. Adkins State Veterans Home

- Summer 2024
-

Goal #4: Improve professional development of entire ADVA staff

- Expand role of new Quality Assurance and Training office
 - Solve recurrent maintenance staff issues at state cemetery
 - Continue to recruit, train, and retain the best qualified people throughout ADVA (including the next annual training conference and resilience programs for all ADVA employees)
 - Support state veterans home contractor in hiring and retention of its employees
-

Goal #5: Continue progress on long-term veterans well-being program

- "Alabama's Challenge" town halls and fairs
 - AlaVetNet revitalizations
 - Operation Resilience
 - Operation We Remember
-

Goal #6: Step up personal advocacy role as Commissioner

- Alabama Code Section 31-5-7:
 - “(b) It shall be the duty of the state commissioner to: . . .
 - (4) Cooperate and negotiate with the federal government, all national, state and local governmental, or private agencies for securing additional services or benefits for veterans, their families, and dependents who are residents of the State of Alabama.”
- Forcefully address sensitive issues such as veterans mental health and past toxic exposures (including Fort McClellan)
- Effectively use Veterans Assistance Fund