

MARCH

# Newsletter

## Welcome!

It's always an exciting time to be a veteran in Alabama, as new and innovative programs and services continue to emerge across our state each month. Recently, ADVA had the opportunity to attend the NASDVA Midwinter Conference, where we collaborated with leaders from across the country and brought back new ideas that will directly benefit our veterans. We remain committed to expanding access, strengthening partnerships, and finding new ways to better serve those who have served. In this issue, you'll find updates and opportunities designed to support veterans and their families in meaningful ways. Thank you for your service and for allowing us the privilege to serve you.



A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Jeff Newton". The signature is fluid and cursive.

*Commissioner, Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs*



## > In this edition.

**NASDVA Conference  
AVRC Opening  
Statewide Service  
Announcements  
and more**





## 2026 NASDVA Midwinter Conference

Commissioner Jeff Newton and members of the ADVA leadership team were in Washington, D.C. in February at the 2026 National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA) Midwinter Conference. This is an annual event that provides an opportunity to learn and discuss the latest federal updates and information from USDVA Secretary Doug Collins and his team and network and collaborate with counterparts from other states. Commissioner Newton also visited Capitol Hill to meet with Senator Tommy Tuberville, Congressman Dale Strong, and the staff of Senator Katie Britt. The NASDVA Midwinter Conference remains a chance to reflect on the great work taking place and also look forward to using what is learned to further amplify the programs and services for Alabama's 400,000 veterans.





## A Signature Moment

On March 19, Governor Kay Ivey officially signed House Joint Resolution 88, expressing support for the establishment of a state veterans cemetery in North Alabama. HJR 88 reaffirms Alabama's commitment to honoring and supporting those who have served our nation and recognizes the sacrifices of Alabama's veterans. ADVA is proud to stand alongside our state's leaders and veterans community in ensuring every veteran is seen, supported, and celebrated.



2026 Military Appreciation Day at the Alabama State Legislature brought together state leaders, service members, and advocates to recognize the contributions of Alabama's military community. ADVA Commissioner Jeff Newton was invited by the Alabama Military Stability Foundation to participate and highlight the importance of continued support for service members, veterans, and their families across the state.

# NOW OPEN

## Alabama Veterans Resource Center



The Montgomery County Veterans Service Office has a new home -- joining the new Alabama Veterans Resource Center at 100 Dexter Avenue in downtown Montgomery. Following a ribbon cutting in February, the office is now open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To learn more and find hours of all 64 Veterans Service Offices, visit [va.alabama.gov/serviceofficer](https://va.alabama.gov/serviceofficer).



## Progress Continues in Enterprise

Commissioner Jeff Newton visited Enterprise recently for an update on renovations at the Command Sgt Maj Bennie G. Adkins State Veterans Home. The project remains on schedule to welcome resident veterans back to the home in Fall 2026!

# TOGETHER IN SERVICE



Jackson County Veterans Service Officer Kevin Holcomb recently attended a veterans fair at Northeast Alabama Community College and talked to students about veteran benefits, including educational opportunities and the Alabama G.I. Dependent Scholarship program.



Marion County Veterans Service Officer Marlon Holloway, Jr. was the guest presenter at the monthly VA Tuscaloosa Medical Center's Home Base Primary Care (HBPC) meeting in February in Hamilton. The HBPC has worked closely with homebound veterans over the last four years to ensure they are doing everything to assist the veterans and dependents. Mr. Holloway took the opportunity to brief on compensation, pension, and death benefits.



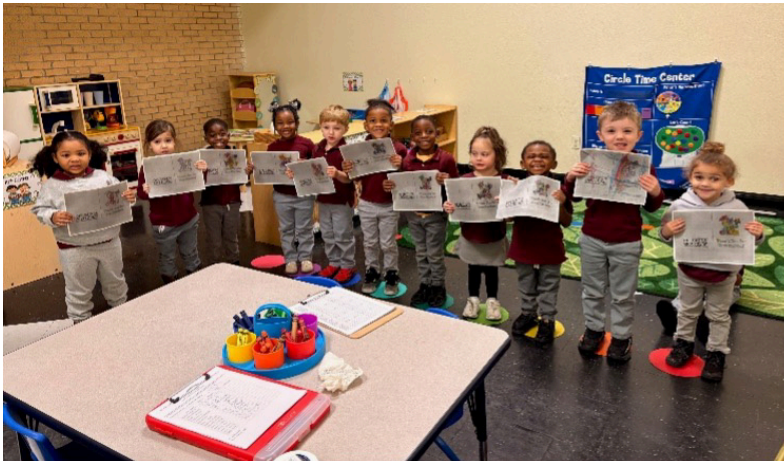
Marengo County Veterans Service Officer Sandra Wright recently presented Marengo County Commissioners with certificates of appreciation after securing two veterans parking spaces and a standalone color copier at our Veterans Service Office.

## Honoring Service, Building Community

# OPERATION GRATITUDE

**Our Mobile County  
Veterans Service Office had  
the sweetest Valentine's  
Day surprise!**

We teamed up with Breitling Elementary School and Lighthouse Academy of Excellence #2 to take part in Operation Gratitude — and the results were incredible! Thanks to Mobile County Administrative Support Assistant Heather Jordan, we were able to hand out more than 200 handmade Valentine's Day cards to Veterans who stopped by the office. The smiles said it all. A simple card. A few kind words. And a reminder to our veterans that they are seen, appreciated, and loved by the next generation. Big thanks to these students and teachers for helping us make the day extra special!



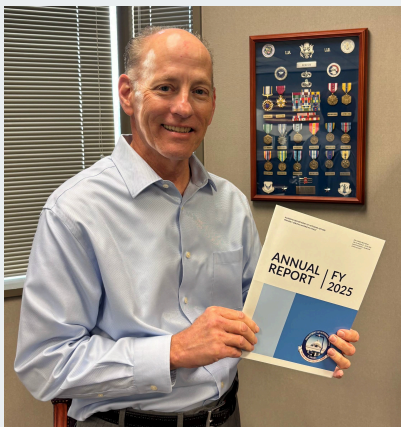
# THANK YOU!

A special thank you to the Pea River Historical Museum for its generous donation to the activities fund of the CSM Bennie G. Adkins State Veterans Home. The check was presented by the Enterprise Mayor William E. Cooper, the Pea River Historical and Genealogical Society, and members of the veterans community. We are so grateful for the continued support of our veterans!



## NOW AVAILABLE: ADVA FY2025 ANNUAL REPORT

We are proud to share our 2025 Annual Report, highlighting the work being done across the state to serve Alabama's veterans and their families. From expanding services to strengthening partnerships and supporting veterans in every county, this report reflects the impact of our team and the communities we serve. Take a look at the report to see how ADVA continues its mission of serving those who served at [va.alabama.gov/annual-reports](https://va.alabama.gov/annual-reports).



## Pre-Register Today at the State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort

Pre-registration is free and allows a veteran and their spouse to establish, in advance, their eligibility for burial at the Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort.

Eligibility for interment in the Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort follows National Cemetery Administration eligibility requirements. National Guard and Reserve service members, as well as veteran spouses and dependent children who meet certain criteria, may be eligible.

VISIT [VA.ALABAMA.GOV/VETERANS-MEMORIAL-CEMETERY](https://va.alabama.gov/veterans-memorial-cemetery) TODAY

