

ARMED FORCES DAY 2026 - SATURDAY MAY 16

ARMED FORCES DAY



Honoring Those Who Serve Those Who Have Served and Those Who Have Fallen

Acknowledging the Bravery and sacrifice of military members, fostering unity among military branches, connecting citizens with a the military, and showing gratitude and support for the military.

The event is free and open to the public. Battleship parking is \$5.00



**Saturday, May 16, 2026
10:00 a.m.**

Gold Star Families Ceremony

The term originated during World War I, when families displayed gold stars over blue stars on service flags to indicate that a loved one had died.

The term "Gold Star" honors the sacrifice of the fallen and recognizes the needs of their families. It is used to describe immediate family members, such as parents, siblings, spouses, and children. It is also used to describe families who have

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



ARMED FORCES DAY CELEBRATION

MAY 16, 2026

USS ALABAMA BATTLESHIP MEMORIAL PARK

8:30 a.m.

EXPO

VSOs & Vendors

Armed Forces Day Ceremony

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Gold Star Ceremony

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Military equipment on display

MRE Cook-off Contest

11:00 a.m.

VSO EXPO

VSO - EXPO

BOOTHS ARE FREE TO VSO's

- Table and chairs provided by Battleship Memorial Park
- Space is limited – make your reservations now @ armedforcesdaySAVC@gmail.com

2703 Battleship Pkwy, Mobile, AL 36602

Hosted by South Alabama Veterans Council & Battleship Memorial Park

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



VSO EXPO

To reserve a booth in the Pavillion

email:

armedforcesdaysavc@gmail.com



11:00 A.M.

MRE COOK-OFF

CONTEST WITH:

**Veterans Service Organizations
National Guard
And Reserve Units
Open to Everyone**

JUDGING BY:

Local Chefs

To register for the MRE Cookoff

email:

afdmre.savc@gmail.com



MEALS READY TO EAT

MRE CONTEST

11:00 a.m.

The MRE Cook-off will be held outside, where teams from local VSOs

**National Guard Reserve Units,
Anyone can compete.**

JUDGING BY

Local Chefs

lost a loved one in any type of military service, including combat, peacekeeping, and other operations.

Contact:

**Master Gunnery Sergeant
Cynthia House**
clhouse@comcast.net
251-401-0203

MREs are used in combat and training situations when normal food service is not available. MREs are also distributed to civilians during natural disasters and wars.

MREs are the main operational food ration for the United States Armed Forces



HONORARY JUDGE AND HOST
Elbert Wingfield, USMC
Saucy Q BBQ
MEALS READY TO EAT
MRE CONTEST
11:00 a.m.



Judging:
Chef Pete Blohme
Operating partner and co-owner of PP
Hospitality Group
MEALS READY TO EAT
MRE CONTEST
11:00 a.m.



Judging:
Chef Nick DiMario
Operating partner and co-owner of PP
Hospitality Group
MEALS READY TO EAT
MRE CONTEST
11:00 a.m.



Judging:
Chef Frankie Little
Roosters
MEALS READY TO EAT
MRE CONTEST
11:00 a.m.



Judging:
TBD
MEALS READY TO EAT
MRE CONTEST
11:00 a.m.



Judging:
Chef Tony Sawyer
Bob's Downtown Diner
MEALS READY TO EAT
MRE CONTEST
11:00 a.m.