

## DON'T FORGET!

There are a couple of important events coming up over the next few months that I urge everyone to attend or participate in or to at least think about with a little extra degree of somberness.

As I write this editorial our annual Memorial Day Program at the Atmore Memorial Monument on May 25, 2026, weighs heavy on my mind because it is one of my primary responsibilities as Commander of Atmore's VFW Post 7016 to organize and present this program. Our local VFW sponsors the event jointly with Atmore's American Legion Post 90 on the last Monday in May each year.

Memorial Day is sometimes confused with Veteran's Day. Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States for mourning the U. S. military personnel who died while serving in any branch of the United States Armed Forces. It is observed on the **last Monday of May each year**. It is a day of mourning, of contemplation, of appreciation for those who gave their lives in the service of their country.

Veteran's Day is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11<sup>th</sup> for honoring **ALL** military veterans of the United States Armed Forces. Veteran's Day, originally called Armistice Day, represents the end of major hostilities of World War I at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month of 1918.

The VFW Post 7016 and American Legion Post 90 celebrated Veterans Day in 2025 on the Saturday before November 11 to accommodate greater attendance by veterans and all the citizens of Atmore. We presented local music entertainment and patriotic speeches from the stage at Boxcar Willy's City Park by local musicians who volunteered their time. The event was sponsored by David's Catfish House, who delivered delicious meals, enough for everyone. It was a marvelous festive event, but was sparsely attended. On the following Tuesday, November 11, 2026, VFW Post 7016 and its VFW Auxiliary hosted a free breakfast for veterans at Nett's Café in Atmore. Thirty-four veterans accepted our invitation. The VFW Auxiliary hosts this free breakfast every year.

Our Memorial Day program has been held every year since 2011 and is regularly attended by a faithful few (since it is a federal holiday, most of Atmore's citizenry are preparing to head out to the malls for all the good sales specials). Chairs are put out on the grass on the east side of our beautiful Monument by Atmore Fire Department personnel. VFW and American Legion members work hard to provide a lovely ceremony, which features our National Anthem, the raising of Old Glory, the Hanging of the Wreath, the reading of the names of the fallen, and a Keynote Address by a distinguished veteran. It is a worthwhile program that deserves greater attendance than it usually gets. I hope Atmore citizens will make a stronger effort this year to show their support for veterans by attending both these lovely events.

Now, there is another important event coming up in Atmore that represents all the freedoms we enjoy in this great big wonderful country of ours: VOTING DAY! Unfortunately, most of us do not have the interest and do not take the time to research actual voting statistics, but I tell you with confidence that the number of eligible voters WHO DO NOT VOTE, especially in mid-term elections and primary elections, is enough to make a patriot cry. In Escambia County, Alabama, less than 20% of eligible voters actually vote and less

than half of those who are eligible to vote actually register to vote. More time is spent by campaign workers getting people out to vote than is spent trying to persuade voters how to vote.

As long as I am opining, may I go a step further by opining that this is a pathetic performance of good citizenship. Elections are often won or lost, not because more people favor one side over the other, but because so many people don't show up to vote at all. Even in these modern and socially-sensitive times, we read in the news about thousands of people being slaughtered in the streets by their government for protesting against their government. Could that happen here? I think yes. I hope each and every one of us who is eligible to vote registers to vote and goes to the polls and votes. It is important!

**Alabama Primaries take place on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Runoffs, if necessary, will be held on June 19<sup>th</sup>. The General Election will be held on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.** Let us exercise the freedom for which so many veterans have fought and died. EVERY ELECTION IS IMPORTANT!

*Lloyd Albritton is a U. S. Marine Corps veteran who served overseas in the Vietnam War. He is the Commander of Atmore's VFW Post 7016. Veterans interested in joining the VFW or the VFW Auxiliary may call or text Lloyd at (850)281-3233 or email him at [cmd@vfw7016.org](mailto:cmd@vfw7016.org) for more information. Visit our Post website at [www.vfw7016.org](http://www.vfw7016.org) to join, make a donation or purchase a ticket in our fantastic raffle.*