

MEMORIAL DAY, 10:00-11:00 AM, MAY 25, 2026

Opening Remarks.....Lloyd Albritton
VFW Commander
Dave Graham
American Legion Cmdr
Jenny Hutto
VFW Aux. Dept. President
Invocation.....AL Senator Greg Albritton
Welcome.....Honorable Shawn Lassiter
Atmore Mayor
National Anthem.....Terry Kelly
Pledge of Allegiance.....Led by
Intro. Of Keynote Speaker.....Lloyd Albritton
Keynote Speaker.....James C. Odom
Special Music Presentation....Terry Kelly
Placing of Wreath.....Lloyd Albritton
Dave Graham
Memorial Roll Call..... Harold Madison
Ronnie Albritton
Joel Macaffe
David Gradia
Bell Ringer.....Paul Chason
Fire Team Salute.....Steve Reynolds & Team
Sounding of TAPS.....Jerry Gehman
Closing Remarks.....Lloyd Albritton
Benediction.....David Michael Todd, Ret. USA

Thank You!

We extend thanks to all those who have participated and assisted with the presentation of this Memorial Program, i.e., City of Atmore Fire Department staff who have set up the chairs and provided drinking water and facilities, VFW and American Legion staff for their planning and set-up labors, Mr. Alan Sharpless for assisting with our sound system setup, and every other individual who has participated and added so much to our memorial service.

MEMORIAL DAY, originally known as Decoration Day, is one of the federal holidays in the United States for honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. It is observed on the last Monday of May each year. Memorial Day is also considered the unofficial beginning of summer in the United States.

It is a day for visiting cemeteries and memorials to mourn the military personnel who died in the line of duty. Volunteers will place American flags on the graves of those military personnel in national and some local cemeteries. Others, such as family and friends, will also lay flowers and grieve over the graves of those who died while serving in the US military.

The first national observance of Memorial Day occurred on May 30, 1868. Then known as Decoration Day and observed on May 30, the holiday was proclaimed by Commander in Chief John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic to honor the Union soldiers who had died in the American Civil War. This national observance followed many local observances which were inaugurated between the end of the Civil War and Logan's declaration. Many cities and people have claimed to be the first to observe it, however, the National Cemetery Administration, a division of the Department of Veterans Affairs, credits Mary Ann Williams with originating the idea of "strewing the graves of Civil War soldiers, Union and Confederate, with flowers.

Official recognition as a holiday spread among the states, beginning with New York in 1873. By 1890, every state had adopted it. The world wars turned it into a day of remembrance for all members of the U.S. military who fought and died in service. In 1968, Congress changed its observance to the last Monday in May, and in 1971 standardized its name as "Memorial Day".

James C. “Jamie” Odom. Jamie is a native of Escambia County, Alabama. He currently resides in his home community of Little Rock, Alabama.

Jamie began a career in construction in 1976 as an ironworker apprentice. During his career he worked as a Journeyman Ironworker, Pipefitter, Boilermaker, Structural and Pipe Welder and in management on projects from refineries and paper mills to auto factories, such as Hyundai and Mercedes and the Civic Center in Pensacola, Florida. He is certified as a “Welding Inspector” by the American Welding Society

Jamie enlisted in the Navy Reserves in 1981 and was assigned to the SEABEES as an E-4 Steelworker. During his time in the Navy Reserves, he and other SEABEES and members of the community built the playground at Huxford Elementary School which continues to be used by students to this day. He was also the Officer-in-Charge of the SEABEES unit in Gulfport, Mississippi which built the Korean War Memorial located at Battleship Memorial Park in Mobile, Alabama. He was promoted to the rank of Chief Petty Officer in 1999, became a Master Chief Petty Officer in 2007, and retired from the Navy in 2017. While serving in the Navy Reserves, Jamie was mobilized in 2005 and deployed to Iraq where he served as the Senior Enlisted Advisor at locations in Al Asad, Ramadi, Al Taqaddum and Hadithah Dam. Jamie remained on Active Duty from 2005 to 2007, during which time he also served as the Military Liaison with the New Orleans Area Housing Office providing housing and shelter for individuals recovering from the effects of Hurricane Katrina. He was mobilized the second time from 2010 to 2017 as a Senior Enlisted Advisor assisting with mobilization of Navy Reservists to fight the War on Terror.

In 2017, Jamie accepted a position with the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs as an Assistant Veteran’s Service Officer and became the Supervisor at their Mobile, Alabama VA Office until he fully retired in 2020.

MEMORIAL DAY

Atmore, Alabama

May 26. 2026