



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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For More Information Contact:
Susan Rak-Blanchard
Director, Communications & Marketing
251.431.8641 / 251.421.4955 (cell)

Armed Forces Day Celebration Set for Tuesday, May 14

Maj. Gen. J. Gary Cooper, a highly decorated veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps who also served two U.S. presidents, will be the featured speaker at the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce's 2013 Armed Forces Day celebration.

The annual event is set for noon, Tuesday, May 14 at the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park pavilion, and pays tribute to the military including members of the Guard, Reserve and active duty personnel. Also recognized are outstanding ROTC students.

Cooper served under President Bill Clinton as Ambassador to Jamaica from 1994-1997 and as Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower, Reserve Affairs, Installations and Environment under President George H.W. Bush. On the state level, he was elected in 1974 to the Alabama House of Representatives and re-elected in 1978. He resigned to serve in the Governor's Cabinet as Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Human Resources.

A Louisiana native, Cooper graduated with a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Notre Dame and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He commanded a number of units during his active duty, spanning 12 years, making history in 1967 as the first black officer in the Marine Corps to lead an infantry company into combat. In Vietnam, he earned numerous awards and decorations including the Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and the Medal and Legion of Merit.

Lunch tickets are \$23 or a table of eight is \$184. Reservations are required and can be made until Thursday, May 9 by contacting Carolyn Hunt at 251.431.8621 or chunt@mobilechamber.com, or online at events.mobilechamber.com.

Event sponsors are: Airbus Military North America, Army Aviation Center Federal Credit Union, Austal USA, International Shipholding Corp., Shell Chemicals and SSAB.

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