

RECOGNITION FOR DOTHAN



"Where to Retire" magazine recently named Dothan one of the top places to retire in the nation. Proximity to Fort Rucker and Dothan's appreciation of veterans were among the factors that contributed to the ranking.

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City honored as retirement place for veterans

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Dothan's proximity to Fort Rucker and its many amenities have earned it recognition in a

national magazine for people planning their retirements.

The May/June edition of *Where to Retire* magazine named Dothan one of its top eight places in the nation to

retire for military veterans. A news release from the magazine cites a few factors in its selection, including the state's tax structure, nearby Fort Rucker and Dothan's military history.

"They go the extra mile to make retired veterans feel at home," editor Annette Fuller said. "In addition to military

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installations, the cities boast numerous amenities that are attractive to all retirees, including civilians. Dothan has a rich military history and plentiful outdoor options. Plus, Alabama doesn't tax military retirement pay."

Matt Parker, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce president, said recreation opportunities separate Dothan from cities of similar sizes.

"You've got facilities for things like soccer, biking and tennis plus access to outdoor activities like fishing," he said. "We have a lot of places to get fit with the growth in private enterprises."

Parker said Dothan's leaders continue to invest in infrastructure, including housing. Combined with recreation and retail opportunities, Dothan shines as a good place for anyone to live, he said.

The magazine also named Dothan one of its eight best places to retire based on the cost of liv-

ing in 2005, according to a WTVY report. Parker said that remains a major draw for anyone seeking to retire soon.

"We're always in the top 30 in metro areas in the United States (in cost-of-living factors)," he said. "The other areas that might be lower don't have the infrastructure that Dothan does."

The magazine said people continue to increasingly retire in the Southeast. Nearby Columbus, Georgia, and Jacksonville, Florida, also earned a spot on its list.