



AMVETS Post 1776 Cyber Newsletter

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Commander's Corner.....

Just a short note for this issue. We have all been busy attending services and honoring some of our comrades these past couple of months. Some of us attended a WWII veterans service this past month and with its significance you will find an article in this issue

on SSgt Woods. And perhaps the next significant event was the retirement of Raymond Miller, former Director of our Tallahassee National Cemetery. You will find our tribute to Raymond in this issue as well.

Our September meeting was well attended, and our membership report shows that we now have 43 members. Doesn't sound like a big number but the quality of our membership is outstanding. Most veterans joining our Post want to get involved and we have plenty to do. Our Military Heritage Trail program is off and running. We are distributing our Program Booklet and its companion brochure at various veteran meetings asking for veterans to sign up as docents (veteran teachers) for when we start our tours. With a docent list that we can call on we will be contacting youth groups to go on our tour of the major military monuments throughout Tallahassee and the Big Bend. Once we begin these tours we believe schools, ROTCs, Churches, Boy and Girl Scouts groups will be knocking on our doors. We know there is a need for our youth to learn some military history and how best but to stand with our monuments and tell the story's that only veterans can tell. Thank you all for your continuing service to our Country, our County and our Post.

Semper Fi, Gordon

AMVETS National was chartered in 1947 and the Tallahassee AMVETS Post 1776 was chartered in July 2009. AMVETS Post 1776 meets on the first Thursday of the month at American Legion Post 13, 229 Lake Ella Drive Tallahassee, Florida 32303. We invite honorably discharged veterans, including Guard and Reserve, from all branches to join us. We are a small Post doing big things for the veterans in the Tallahassee area. *For more information please visit us at:*

www.amvets1776.org.

Biography for Gordon Lightfoot.....

Gordon Lightfoot was raised in Palatka, Florida graduating from Palatka High School in 1964. Gordon joined the Marine Corps right after High School. He was a Marine Sergeant serving in Vietnam 1967-1968, serving in the I Corps area of Vietnam with Echo and Golf Companies of the 2nd Battalion 3rd Marines. Prior to Vietnam, Gordon clerked at the FMFPAC, under General Kulak at Camp Smith, Oahu, Hawaii for almost two years. After leaving the Marine Corps in 1968, he used the GI Bill to go to school and got a degree in Science Education, teaching High School in Cocoa, Florida for 5 years before he left teaching and worked in the field of Labor Relations, moving to Tallahassee, Florida in 1980. For most of his career he has worked as a worker advocate writing and directing Federal, State and Local grants funding employment and training programs serving the unemployed, underemployed and minority populations throughout Florida. Gordon went back to school and received his Master's in Public Administration from FSU in 2000, going to work for the Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, rising to contracts supervisor, managing Vocational Rehabilitation contractors for most of his working career at the Department of Education, retiring in 2013.



Gordon retired from DOE in 2013, he also retired from teaching as an adjunct professor at Barry University teaching there for the 10 years, teaching human resources in the public sector and labor relations. In 2011, Gordon co-authored a book, "Pot Liquor Baby to one of the Chosin Few" chronicling the life of a friend and a former Marine, Charles W. Anderson, that fought in the Korean War's battle at the Chosin Reservoir.

Gordon is a life member and Post Service Officer of VFW Post 3308; currently Adjutant and life member for the MCL Detachment 472; a member of American Legion Post #13 and is the Commander and life member of AMVETS Post 1776. He was the founding Chair of the Support Committee for the Tallahassee National Cemetery and in that capacity, Gordon was appointed to the Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans' Advisory Committee on Cemeteries and Memorials charged with providing advice to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on matters concerning the administration and operation of the National Cemetery Administration and burial benefit programs. Gordon served four years on that Committee.

Gordon loves to fish and has a home woodworking shop where he enjoys working on projects for the family. Gordon is married to his wife Lucia of 53 years this September with two children and five grandchildren. More recently Gordon was nominated by Major John Haynes for the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame. Gordon was one of ten nominations from around the State that were approved for the class of 2022 by the Governor and Cabinet at their meeting on August 23, 2022.



Thank you, Raymond,

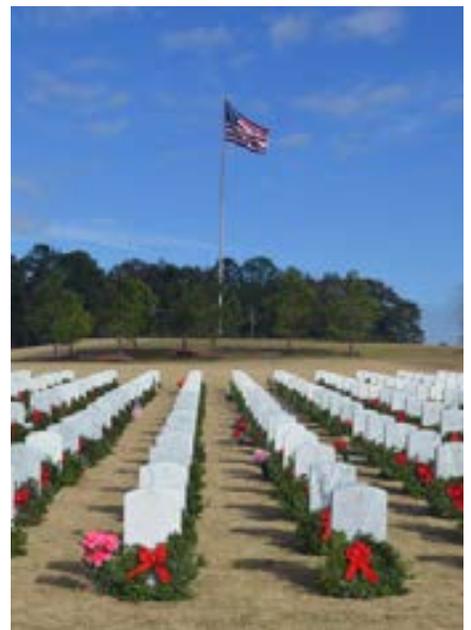
It was sometime in early 2015 that Ben Bradwell our County Service Officer gave me a call and said you need to come to the office and meet our new National Cemetery Director. Raymond Miller was fairly new in town and he and Ben went out to the property on Highway 27 SE of town and looked at the vacant farmland that was to become our Tallahassee National Cemetery. Construction had already begun. And we dedicated the Tallahassee National Cemetery in a Ceremony on May 22, 2015.

My first meeting with Raymond was consequential. One of the first things he said to me was that he would like to set up an Advisory Board for the Cemetery. That conversation led to a meeting of veterans and other community leaders, a packed meeting of almost 25 attendees. From there we met in a trailer on the property and formed a "Support Committee" and I was voted on to become the founding Chairman of that Committee. Marianne Trussell took over a couple of years later and still provides leadership with almost 100 folks on her email list. And they are a 501(c)(3) with one two primary committees representing a Beautification Committee and the Big Bend Honor Guard. Both of these committees have had a profound effect on the Tallahassee National Cemetery.

Raymond for over seven years now has provided leadership and administration of what has turned out to be one of the most beautiful National Cemetery's in the country. Raymond early on nominated me and Marianne to sit on the National Cemetery Administration Advisory Committee and we both served for four years giving us an opportunity to visit other National Cemeteries across the country. And in my travels over the past few years, I always take an opportunity to visit other National Cemeteries when I can. There are over 150 National Cemeteries and 9 of them are in Florida. They are all worthwhile to visit.

Raymond has had what he calls a personal relationship with our Cemetery and with our community of veterans throughout the Big Bend Area. He has traveled extensively throughout the Big Bend educating our community on the benefits of the National Cemetery for our veterans, a no cost service to our veterans with care in perpetuity. And for our connection, Raymond has worked with me and AMVETS diligently for over five years supporting our efforts to build and install a Patriot Bell Tower and Carillon at the Tallahassee National Cemetery. Our small Post raised over \$75,000.00 and we dedicated our Tower on July 8, 2021.

At our Commanders meeting, held this past Wednesday eleven members of our Post 1776 attended as we presented Raymond with a framed Certificate of our Appreciation for his support and dedication to our efforts to place this Tower and for his untiring efforts to create a beautiful resting place for our veterans, their spouses and their dependent children. THANK YOU, RAYMOND, ...





Welcome Home SSgt William Wood! Submitted by Gordon Lightfoot

A lot of veterans in the Big Bend have been attending more funerals than we want to attend at the Tallahassee National Cemetery. But some are different. On August 1, 2022, you might have been fortunate enough to witness one more special and inspirational burial. It was a burial of a World War II hero brought home from Romania where the Army provided full military honors. SSgt William Wood was shot down during a bombing mission over Ploiesti, Romania. The full story of the mission and the role SSgt Woods played is captured in an article by Ms. Marina Brown in a special to the Tallahassee Democrat on July 17, 2022.

Woods burial took place on the day, 79 years from the day his “Liberator B24 (“Hell Wench”) was shot down in a mission to destroy Romanian oil refineries – refineries from which the Germans pumped fuel for the tanks that were overrunning Europe.” Ms. Brown’s article goes on to cover the complete story of the repatriation of Wood’s remains involving, “dozens of devoted, usually veteran, military men and women, who treat the reuniting of a fallen military brother with their families much like they would a living comrade coming home.” And at the end of Ms. Brown’s article, in a tribute to the remaining family members of SSgt Wood, Fred and Joan Barton, the last words of the article reflect on his homecoming, “They feel grateful that they are here to see William Wood’s homecoming – a lifetime between now and the time he left – but now a time for them to say, “welcome home.”

The service at the Tallahassee National Cemetery was probably one of the largest we have had, and no less in the rain. Gladly some were able to squeeze under the committal shelter. As Bevis’ antique hearse drove up with the flag draped casket, the Army’s Honor Guard detail, stood at full attention in the rain. The United State Army Honor Guard from Ft. Stewart, Georgia conducted the Honors with several dignitaries, Major Michael Hornback Chaplain, Florida Army National Guard was the officiating clergy with Major General James S. Hartsell, USMC (RET) presenting Woods flag to the family with Congressman Neal Dunn, MD, United States Army (RET) presenting the family with just a couple of Woods ten medals, the Purple Heart and his Distinguished Flying Cross.

After the flag presentation a local bagpiper played “Amazing Grace”. As usual we all left the service full of pride and respect for another fallen hero. Some of the following photos came from the Tallahassee Democrat article, a couple others were taken at the service.





Chaplain's Corner...

Tallahassee AMVETS Poast 1776
Chaplain Eric Smith

A Prayer for America's Future.....

Make us a great nation, yes. But more than that, make us good, Lord, with a heartbeat that wants every person of every creed and color to know Your love, Your goodness, and your worth. Make us wise as serpents, but gentle as doves. Turn our fears to faith, as we look to You and You alone for the future of our country. Give us God-confidence that no matter what happens, we will believe You are not only in control, but that You know exactly what is needed to accomplish Your purpose. Help us not to second-guess Your moves, but to move at Your command, always without hesitation.

Forgive us for wanting our own way and making our own paths—often the ones paved with least resistance. Forgive us for fence-walking, or for ignoring completely the truths that can so easily set us free. Deliver us from mindless quarrels and destinations that lead us nowhere, but away from You. Free us from divisiveness, and melt our hardened hearts to love, not hate, and to heal, not debate. Amen

[Rebecca Barlow Jordan](#)

Golf Tournament Report.....

The golf committee had its second meeting. The brochure was discussed, and several updates in pricing and pictures were suggested.

Thinking about making the Gold sponsorship \$1000.00, the Silver sponsorship \$500.00, and the Bronze \$250.00. Also under consideration is the idea of enticing each of our members to solicit at least one sponsor or go back and reclaim one of **their** previous sponsors. We want to improve the tournament each and every year. Please remember all our suggestions have to be voted on by the membership. The next meeting date has not yet been set. If you have any suggestions you may contact our Commander Gordon Lightfoot, 1st Vice Commander Tom Carny, 2nd Vice Commander Ray House, or John Folsom.

*Yours in Service,....John Folsom
Florida Veterans Hall of Fame
Chaplain/2nd District
American Legion
Department of Florida*



William Merrill Corry Jr. Medal of Honor

Corry was born at Quincy, Florida. Admitted to the Naval Academy in June 1906, he graduated in 1910 and spent the next five years serving in the battleship USS Kansas. In mid-1915, Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Corry began instruction in aviation at Pensacola, Florida, and was designated Naval Aviator #23 in March 1916. He had flying positions with the armored cruiser USS Washington between November 1916 and May 1917, then was an officer on the armored cruiser USS North Carolina.

In August 1917, Lieutenant Corry began World War I service in France, where he commanded Naval Air Stations at Le Croisic and Brest during 1918 and early 1919. He was promoted to lieutenant commander in July 1918 and received Navy Cross for his service with Northern Bombing Group. Corry remained in France for the rest of 1919 and the first half of 1920, involved in removing U.S. Naval Aviation forces from Europe as part of the post-war demobilization.

In mid-1920, Lieutenant Commander Corry was assigned as aviation aide to the Commander-in-Chief, Atlantic Fleet, stationed on the Fleet's flagship, USS Pennsylvania. On October 2, 1920, he was a passenger on a flight from Long Island, New York. The airplane crashed near Hartford, Connecticut. Though thrown clear of the wreckage, the injured Corry ran back to pull the pilot free of the flaming aircraft. Fatally burned during this rescue, William M. Corry died at Hartford on October 6. He posthumously received the Medal of Honor for his heroism.

He is buried in Eastern Cemetery, Quincy, Florida. *Submitted by John Folsom*

A forgotten Soldier is found and remembered... By David Wilson

William Lowe “Billy” Maddox played football, Basketball, Baseball and ran track as well as playing on the tennis team at Leon High School in the early 1940’s. He was described in the newspaper as possibly the best athlete ever to play at Leon High School.

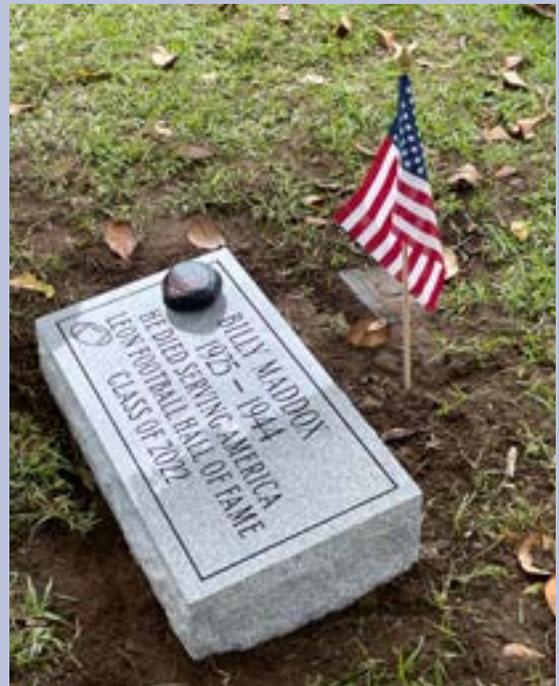
Billy was the middle brother of three. James R “Bobby” Maddox was the oldest and Jack was the youngest. Their mother passed away in April, 1943. Bobby joined the US ARMY in March 1943. Billy graduated from Leon High in June, 1944, joined the Army in July, 1944. He had returned to Tallahassee on Saturday, October 7 to visit family and friends. He was returning to Camp Blanding on Sunday, the 8th of October 1944, he was helping to change a tire on the side of the road when he was struck by a passing car. He received massive head Injuries and was taken to the Camp Blanding hospital where he died two days later on Tuesday, October 10th. His older brother Bobby was killed in action in Europe one day earlier on October 9, 1944. The family did not receive word of Bobby’s death until several weeks later. Bobby is buried in the American Cemetery in Epinol France. The Maddox father and remaining son moved away from Tallahassee shortly afterward.

Billy was laid to rest in Oakland Cemetery. There was no Military, or any other, headstone ordered for him. He has rested in Oakland Cemetery in an unmarked grave since October 1944. This October would have been 78 years! A request for a Military Headstone has met with little success. Evidently his records were destroyed in the 1973 fire at the National Archives in St Louis Missouri and there are no records on him to be found.

Tallahassee FL AMVETS Post 1776 purchased a memorial marker to be placed on Billy’s grave. On September 8, 2022, seventy-seven years and 11 months from the day of his injuries, Tallahassee AMVETS Post 1776 Commander Gordon Lightfoot, Tom Carney, Henry Lowery, Mike Slagle, David Wilson and other veterans placed a headstone at Billy’s gravesite. Attending this ceremony was Billy’s niece, Sarah, daughter of Jack and her husband who drove down from Rhode Island at David’s invitation. Also on September 8, 2022, Billy Maddox was inducted into the Leon HS Football Hall of Fame.

“A SOLDIER ONLY DIES IF THEY ARE FORGOTTEN, AND WE NO LONGER HEAR THEIR NAME.”

Billy Maddox now has a headstone and thanks to AMVETS POST 1776, he is NOT FORGOTTEN.



Tallahassee AMVETS Post 1776 Calendar of Events, October, 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6 Meeting 1830 -2000 Hrs Post 13	7	8
9	10 Columbus Day 	11	12	13  Happy Birthday!	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Navy Day!	28	29
30	31 					

IN-COUNTRY



THE 1,000-YARD MEETS THE TWO-YARD STARE!



basen ©2012



BROADSIDE.NET



Butch Topicz's article re: Honor Flight and Whiskey Tasting event:

Saturday November 12, 2022, the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, Chapter 2012 will host their second annual Freedom and Firewater Whiskey Tasting event to raise funds for Honor Flight Tallahassee and local veterans in need.

Honor Flight is an annual event where aging combat veterans are hosted to a day of events in Washington D.C. honoring them and the sacrifices they made in defense of our nation. For many of these veterans it is the first time they have seen the monuments erected in their honor in Washington D.C. All expenses for the veterans are covered by the Honor Flight program.

Last summer the CVMA were able to raise enough from local donors, along with matching funds from our national office to send 15 fellow veterans to Washington D.C.

The Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, Chapter 20-12, is based in the Capital City area and lives by its motto of Veterans Helping Veterans. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit that raises money for veteran service organizations and local veterans in need.

Freedom and Firewater is to be held at the Garden at Township at 619 South Woodward Avenue, in College Town from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Individual tickets are \$50.00 a piece and can be purchased at www.fredoman-firewater.com. Your ticket includes a multiple heavy hors d'oeuvres and whiskey from multiple different distilleries from across the country. Any questions please call James Mosteller at 850-727-3712.

Or email at James@JamesMosteller.com

Tallahassee AMVETS Post 1776

Join our Post. A small Post doing big things!

Serving the Big Bend area with the following:

Veteran assistance

Support of Tallahassee Honor Flight

Supporting the D.A.V.

Support of area VSO's

Supporting the Tallahassee National Cemetery

Youth programs showing Military History

Attend our Meetings, first Thursday each month at

Post 13, Lake Ella. Call (850) 322-6924

