



# AMVETS Post 1776 Cyber Newsletter

Published Bi-Monthly for the membership and others ● Vol. 3, No.4 April 2023



## ***In This Issue***

- Page One...**  
Commander's  
Message
- Page Two...**  
Vietnam war 50th  
Anniversary
- Page Three...**  
Honor Flight for  
Veterans
- Page Four...**  
Taps: Ben Balding  
And...  
From the Archives
- Page Five...**  
April Calendar  
and  
Chaplains Prayer
- Page Six...**  
Two American Heroes
- Page Seven...**  
John Folsom Presents
- Page Eight...**  
Cold War; An Article  
submitted by  
John Folsom



## ***Commander's Corner.....***

I hope this finds all our members, your families and friends well this Easter. April is another busy month for all of us but I do hope we can all find some time to enjoy this spring weather and all the blessings we share as veterans.

March 29<sup>th</sup> brought us a well-attended Vietnam War Commemoration Ceremony and I was privileged to be able to emcee the event and to introduce a friend and former employer that gave a moving talk on his experiences as one of the commanders of 3d Force Recon that was a special operations unit that spent most of their time in and around the DMZ of Vietnam. Ironically, Captain Jon Shebel, USMC was engaged with that Recon Battalion during the time I was in Vietnam, my tour running 1967-68.

Marianne Trussell, chair of the Support Committee for the Tallahassee National Cemetery conveyed to me that she had numerous veterans telling her Jon's presentation was excellent and brought memories of Vietnam home again to them. For the record this was the Eighth Ceremony out of ten that we will have. We have had a low turnout these past couple of years due to COVID but this year our event was fairly well attended. I want us all to do our part in promoting the last two Ceremonies these next two years bringing a much needed "Welcome Home" Vietnam Veterans to our Big Bend Area.

On another front, I am hoping this newsletter gets to you early April, we all need to be aware of and support our upcoming "Veterans Helping

*Continued on Page 2*

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](http://www.amvets1776.org).

Veterans" Golf Tournament at Golden Eagle. This is our Thirteenth (13<sup>th</sup>) Annual Golf Tournament and it has been a tremendous fund raiser for us every year. It allows us to measurably and substantially give back to our community of veterans, both individually and corporately. We have donated thousands of dollars to worthy veterans and veteran causes since we started our tournament and this year we hope to do even more.

At our meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup> we will be finalizing all the plans. Paul has already sent out letters of invitation to sponsors and players and just this past weekend we have followed up with an email invitation to over 100 previous sponsors and players. We need your help promoting by calling on friendly sponsors and golfers you know. Our tournament is fun, we have a great luncheon, and we will be having a great silent auction with some nice items to purchase on a competitive bid.

As always, thank you all for your continuing service to our Country, our County and our Post.

*Semper Fi and Aim High!.....Gordon*

---

## **Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration**

### **Tallahassee National Cemetary**

### **March 29, 2023**



Gordon Lightfoot

Gordon Lightfoot welcomes everyone to this event. After his introduction he has guest speaker Jon Shebel come to the Podium and speak.

Jon gave a brief background on how he got

got to be in "Country" and the missions his unit performed. He acknowledged the difficulties of operating a mission when you have two groups giving orders: The Generals in the field and Washington polititions. In his civilian capacity Jon was the president of Associated Industries of Florida.



Jon Shebel speaks of his service in Viet nam





*Contact: Gordon Lightfoot or Tom Napier*

*Telephone: 850-322-6924 or 850-385-9084*

*Email: [Dutchlight@embarqmail.com](mailto:Dutchlight@embarqmail.com)*

[Rotag1@comcast.net](mailto:Rotag1@comcast.net)

## **For Immediate Release**

**March 1, 2023**

### **Honor Flight for Veterans to Washington D.C.**

If you are a Veteran of WWII or Korea or Vietnam this is a trip you have to make. April 29, 2023 is the date you need to put on your calendar and then you need to call Tom Napier or Gordon Lightfoot and start the application process to get onboard. Honor Flights from Tallahassee have been a very special event for many years now in Tallahassee serving hundreds of Veterans throughout the Big Bend Area. Veterans fly free and Guardians (folks that want to make the trip and help some of our older veterans, will cost only \$500.00 and you get to see and visit all that the Veterans get to experience.)

The Flight this year starts with a 5:00 AM check-in and breakfast at the Tallahassee Flightline terminal. The Flight will depart at 7:00 AM and you will arrive in Washington at 9:00 AM. The rest of the day you will be given a bus tour of the War Memorials, e.g., WWII Memorial; Korean Memorial; Vietnam; Lincoln Memorial; Iwo Jima Memorial and then head on out to Arlington National Cemetery. You will also get to visit the Tomb of the Unknowns, then visit the Air Force Memorial. After some photos at the various memorials, you will be given a lunch on the bus and after a full day you will arrive back at the (BWI) Airport for a 7:30 departure homebound. You will arrive back in Tallahassee and welcomed home by family and friends around 9:40 PM.

Call Tom or Gordon now for more information.

## Taps.....



**Ben Darrel Balding, 84, of Tallahassee, Florida, passed away March 1, 2023. He was born in West Salem, Illinois on October 18, 1938.**

Ben served in the U.S. Navy from 1957-1962 after graduating from Edwards County High School in Albion, Illinois in 1956. He then later graduated from Florida State University in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mass Communication. He retired from the Florida Department of Transportation in January of 1995 after a 33-year career. He married Regina

(Sammons) on November 20, 1971 at Trinity United Methodist Church in Tallahassee, Florida. Ben was a member of the local Elks Lodge where he would often go to watch FSU football games. He will mostly be remembered for his jokes and the laughter he created as he was usually the life of the party.

Ben is survived by his wife of 51 years, Regina Sammons Balding; his son, John Christopher Balding (Magda); his daughter, Erika Balding DeRose; and two grandchildren, Kristopher Balding and Evan DeRose; his brothers, Gale (Sherry) Balding, Danny (Mollie) Balding, John (Stella) Balding; and several nieces and nephews who will miss him dearly.

Ben was preceded in death by his father, Medford Harold Balding; his mother, Vernice Genelle (Knust) Balding; his younger brother, Loy Balding; and his older brother, Max Balding.

In keeping with his wishes, he will be laid to rest in West Salem, Illinois later this year. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to AMVETS National Service Foundation at <https://amvetsnsf.org/>.

A ceremony with Military Honors were held on Friday, March 31, 2023, at 12pm at the Tallahassee National Cemetery.

Expressions of sympathy may be shared at [www.CulleysMeadowWood.com](http://www.CulleysMeadowWood.com) for the Balding family.

---

## From The Archives.....



### **JACKLYN "JACK" LUCAS**

Jacklyn "Jack" Lucas was born on February 14, 1928, in Plymouth, North Carolina. Lucas was always big for his age, and after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, he was desperate to serve his country. While most 14-year-old boys contributed to the war effort through scrap drives and air raid drills, the audacious Lucas forged his mother's signature so he could join the Marines. When the Marine Corps realized its mistake a year later, Lucas was relegated to driving a truck in Hawaii. Although Lucas was lucky not to have been immediately discharged, he was not willing to sit out the war in safety. Instead, he stowed away aboard the USS Deuel, a transport ship bound for Iwo Jima. Officers of the 26th Marines, unaware of the young Marine's age, allowed Lucas to join their unit when they discovered him aboard the ship. Jack celebrated his 17th birthday at sea on February 14, 1945.

On the afternoon of February 19, Lucas landed on the Japanese-held island of Iwo Jima as a rifleman with the 1st Battalion, 26th Marines, 5th Marine Division. On Lucas' second day in combat, two Japanese grenades fell into the trench he was sharing with three fellow Marines. Lucas was in the process of clearing a jam in his rifle and was the only one to notice the grenades. He yelled "grenade!" and pushed a fellow Marine out of the way. Lucas then threw himself on one grenade and pulled the other grenade underneath his body, pushing the small black cylinder as far into the black volcanic soil as he could. Seconds later, one of the grenades exploded,

*Continued on page seven*

# Tallahassee AMVETS Post 1776 Calendar of Events, April, 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>  Palm Sunday	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Commanders Call, 1000 hrs Post 13, Am. Leg. Hall, lake Ella. VFW Post 3308 Mtg 1900 hrs	<b>6</b> Post 1776 Meeting at Post 13. 1830-1930 hrs.  <i>Persion Gulf War Ends</i>	<b>7</b>  Good Friday	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>  Easter	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  <i>Air Force Reserve Birthday</i>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> MCL Meeting 1200 Hrs, Am Leg Hall Lake Ella	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> <i>Army Reserve Birthday</i>	<b>24</b> AMVETS GOLF TOURNAMENT GOLDEN EAGLE COUNTRY CLUB. Tee off time: 0900	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>						

## Chaplain's Corner...

By Chaplain Eric Smith



*Heavenly Father, thank you that you defend your people with your mighty hand. Please hear my prayer as I lift up our military and veterans before you now. They work tirelessly to defend our country. Bless and protect them Lord and use their work for the good of our nation and your glory. May they know your presence with them at this time. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with them always.*

*Amen.*



## ***JACKLYN “ JACK “ LUCAS ....Continued from page four***

sending more than 250 pieces of shrapnel into Lucas, and causing grievous wounds throughout his body. Lucas was thrown into the air and landed on his back. Lucas' comrades were sure he was dead and left the trench to continue their assault. Meanwhile, Lucas, who did not lose consciousness, could not make a sound and struggled to breathe. A Marine who happened to pass by saw Lucas and called for a Navy Corpsman. The Corpsman who came to Lucas' aid not only treated his wounds, but also shot and killed another enemy soldier preparing to throw a grenade at the pair.

Stretcher bearers then carried Lucas to the beach, where he waited until nightfall to be evacuated to a hospital ship offshore. There he underwent the first of a series of 26 operations to remove some of the shrapnel from his torso, arm, and face. Lucas made a surprising recovery but underwent prolonged physical therapy to regain the use of his arm. Nearly eight months after Lucas' heroic act, President Harry S. Truman presented Lucas with the Congressional Medal of Honor on October 5, 1945. Lucas was one of 27 servicemen to eventually be awarded the nation's highest decoration for bravery during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Incredibly, Lucas survived several other traumatic events after the war that rivalled his exploits as a Marine. After Lucas tried his hand at business for a time, he joined the Army in 1961 and trained as a paratrooper. On one training jump, both of his parachutes malfunctioned, sending him plummeting to earth. Miraculously, he survived the fall. Lucas credited his survival to a last minute roll and his stocky build. Lucas also escaped a fire that destroyed his home and an attempt by his then-wife to have him murdered. In light of these unbelievable escapes, Lucas fittingly titled his memoir Indestructible. Jack Lucas, the youngest Medal of Honor recipient since the Civil War, died on June 5, 2008, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

---

***John Folsom presents  
Phillips Book of Great Thoughts  
Funny Sayings  
by Bob Phillips  
Children:***

**There's one thing about children-----they don't go around showing pictures of their grandparents.**

**If there is anything that makes a child thirstier than going to bed is knowing that their parents have gone to bed also.**

**I have two wonderful children----- two out of five isn't bad.**

**According to mom, my kid brother was sent from heaven----- they must like it quite up there.**

**Christianity:**

**Christian: One who believes that the New Testament is a divinely inspired book admirably suited to the spiritual needs----- of his neighbor.**

**Congress:**

**The ran him for congress. It was the best way to get him out of town.**

**Yon can lead a man to congress, but you can't make him think.**

**Congress is where a man gets up to speak, says nothing, nobody listens, --- and then everybody disagrees.**

**Conscience:**

**Conscience is the inner voice that tells you the IRS might audit your return.**

**Contract:**

**Remember, in every contract the big print giveth and the small print taketh away.**

**Conversation:**

**The less men think the more they talk.**

**If you can't say anything good about anybody-----sit down beside me.**

# COLD WAR

Multimillionaire and financier Bernard Baruch, in a speech given during the unveiling of his portrait in the South Carolina House of Representatives, coins the term “Cold War” to describe relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. The phrase stuck, and for over 40 years it was a mainstay in the language of American diplomacy.

Baruch had served as an advisor to presidents on economic and foreign policy issues since the days of Woodrow Wilson. In 1919, he was one of the U.S. advisers at the Paris Peace Conference that ended World War I. During the 1930s, he frequently advised Franklin D. Roosevelt and members of Congress on international finance and issues of neutrality. After World War II, he remained a trusted adviser to the new administration of Harry S. Truman.

His speech in April 1947, however, was given in a completely different context. A portrait of the native South Carolinian was to be hung in the state’s House of Representatives, and Baruch was invited for its unveiling. Most guests expected that he would give a brief talk, but Baruch instead launched into a scorching attack on the industrial labor problems in the country. It was only through “unity” between labor and management, he declared, that the United States could hope to play its role as the major force by which “the world can renew itself physically or spiritually.”

He called for longer workweeks, no-strike pledges from unions, and no-layoff pledges from management. It was imperative that American business and industry pull itself together, Baruch warned. “Let us not be deceived—we are today in the midst of a cold war. Our enemies are to be found abroad and at home. Let us never forget this: Our unrest is the heart of their success. The peace of the world is the hope and the goal of our political system; it is the despair and defeat of those who stand against us. We can depend only on ourselves.” The term “Cold War” was instantly embraced by American newspapers and magazines as an apt description of the situation between the United States and the Soviet Union: a war without fighting or bloodshed, but a battle nonetheless. *Article submitted by John Folsom*



Bring your clubs and get ready for a fun day of golf, prizes, great food and fellowship . This is YOUR PROGRAM and as AMVETS we support our fellow veterans through our money raising programs. So, we’ll see you on April 24 at Golden Eagle Golf and Country Club. So..*Hooyah, Hoorah and Oorah!*

