



# AMVETS Post 1776 Cyber Newsletter

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## Commander's Corner.....

I sure hope all of you are enjoying your summer but most importantly that you are staying safe and not spending too much time in some of our 100-degree weather. Those outside home projects can wait till fall. I do think Tallahassee is a lot better off than some of our Southwestern states where they are seeing heat in excess of 110 degrees. On a more positive note, I was able to attend via zoom the meeting of the Florida Veteran Hall of Fame council meeting in their deliberations for 2023 Florida Veteran Hall of Fame nominees. It was a fairly long meeting as the council received 39 applications. The council members had already studied the packages received and selected 20 applications for consideration. Then they opened the meeting for the public for comments on any of the 20 selected. There was some discussion on how many to select to send to the Governor and Cabinet for final approval. They settled on sending all 20 selected applicants on to the Governor's office for final approval for induction with the formal dinner ceremony now scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup>. The reason why I am going on about this event is that we now have two (2) more of our members selected to represent Tallahassee and our AMVETS Post 1776. Commander Dennis Baker and CWO 5 Henry Lowery, both members of our Post, make a total of eight (8) of our members, out of our small Post of just over 40 members, that have been honored by the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame. Both Commander Baker and Henry are quite deserving, and I am hoping we have a great showing of our members at the induction ceremony dinner they will be having in November. I will be sure to send out a reminder with particulars for the dinner and ceremony soon. As always, thank you all for all you do for veterans and 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](http://www.amvets1776.org).

## *Our Hometown Hero is..... on the wall!*

Henry Lowery doesn't let anything get in his way. Born in Carrabelle, Florida, he was bussed to school in nearby Apalachicola until his high school years. He faced adversity at a new high school, but after he and his brothers excelled in baseball and football and the school started winning games, the discrimination stopped.

Upon graduation and against his father's wishes, Henry became a Marine. He honorably served his country with two tours in Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Beirut, Lebanon, and Grenada.

While stationed in Parris Island as a drill instructor, Henry met his future wife, Mona Lisa, who worked in the mailroom. When Henry asked for her number, she declined. She didn't want to date a soldier. Henry persisted and eventually Mona Lisa agreed to a date. They married in 1972 and have two children, six grandchildren, and a beautiful great granddaughter.

Henry trained hundreds of Marines for combat during his years at Quantico, Virginia, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and 29 Palms, California. He was personally invested in their success and more importantly, in their survival. Henry says helping other soldiers and veterans "gives me peace and I feel like I've done something good for an American. I sleep better at night."

After 33 years of active duty, Chief Warrant Officer Lowery was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps. He returned to his hometown of Carrabelle and was tasked by the Sheriff to help organize the Camp Gordon Johnston WW II Museum. Six months later, he moved to Tallahassee, training workers on machinery and in construction for his family's business, Lowery Masonry & Construction, Co.

Henry felt compelled to continue helping local veterans. He volunteers his time at the Tallahassee National Cemetery, the American Legion, the local chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America, and many local and national organizations.

In March 2015, Henry became a founding member of the Big Bend Hospice Valor Team. The Valor Team is a group of volunteer veterans who honor veterans at the end of life by recognizing their service to their country with a moving service that includes their family members. Henry is always the first volunteer to show up for the 40+ ceremonies performed each year. Henry states, "Veterans don't need to leave this earth without the respect they deserve."

CWO-5 Lowery will continue to honor and assist veterans for the rest of his life. When asked what would he like young people to know about veterans, Henry says he'd "like young people to know that veterans risked their lives for you to have the freedom to live your life."

Henry has lived a full life of service to his country, to his family, and to veterans. He has satisfied fulfilling all the dreams on his bucket list and now looks forward to watching his granddaughter graduate from Maclay. His next goal is to help her pursue her dream of becoming an astronaut.

Henry is the recipient of over 25 awards and honors but he'll tell you that the secret to living a full life is to put others first, to be prepared, train for the unexpected and to honor veterans. It's not surprising that Henry's motto is "Always faithful." Semper Paratus!

By Lisa Baggett



Henry played sports at Carrabelle High School.

Today with wife Mona Lisa

## We can all breath easier....



**Commander Lightfoot visited Major Haynes at TOC.**

It was a frustrating experience when local hero Major John Haynes entered the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville to have his pacemaker checked.

The Nurse erred in setting the numbers then left when her shift ended leaving with the wrong setting and Major Haynes in a serious health situation.

Ever the Marine and demonstrating his toughness, he made it back to Tallahassee and, after a week in the new TOC rehab center he is now recovered.

And of course as soon as he checked out he went straight to Mission Barbeque for lunch!



## John Folsom Delevers....



**John Folsom presents certificate to Samantha Jessee**

On June 8th, 2023 I went to the Lake Jackson branch of Talquin Electric Inc. to present a certificate of appreciation for their contributions, not for being a new sponsor, but rather for being a sponsor who has been with us from the start, 13 years.

I felt especially proud in presenting Samantha Jessee, pictured, with this certificate because I know how their sponsorship has helped us achieve the goals we have set for ourselves.

Not pictured was Sabrina Johnson, she scheduled the date for this event, and between the two ladies, they made me feel quite welcome.

Once again Post 1776 says **Thank You.**

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

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Commanders meeting 1000-1100 hrs Post 13	<b>3</b> Post meeting 1830 = 1930 hrs Lake Ella	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Purple Heart Day	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> MCL meeing 1200 hours Lake Ella	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

## *Chaplain's Corner.....*

Post 1776 Chaplain Eric Smith



Mighty God, thank you that you can satisfy our every desire and need. Hear our prayer of thanks for veterans who have made great sacrifices on our behalf. We ask that you bless us and meet our needs. We pray you will give us peace when we suffer from past trauma. We acknowledge the debt of gratitude that we are owed for the freedom of our country. Lord, bless us and make your face shine on us. Turn your face towards all of us and give us peace.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

## Another supporter is recognized...



John presents the Law Firm Fonville, Lewis, Messer and McConaughay with certificate of appreciation for their donation.

It is indeed a pleasure to be able to recognize a sponsor of the AMVETS Post 1776 annual golf tournament.

Fonville, Lewis, Messer, and McConaughay were among the elite of our sponsors this year. I was sure that they were appreciative of our acknowledgement. However my desire was to have them be appreciative of the way in which we expend the funds we raise. First and foremost is to help veterans and their families. We also provide peripherally to the veteran assistance in general. Examples thus being donating to other VSO's helping with their veteran projects, We are involved in educating our youth on the values of Americanism.

In short it is the golfers and sponsors that allow us to be in the forefront of assisting the veteran community. Because of their support our post is eternally grateful.

Yours in Service,  
John Folsom

## A tribute to our post's contribution to Veteran's well-being and causes!

By John Folsom

Each year when we do our golf tournament, we seem to stress the idea of soliciting new sponsors. No doubt in order to grow that is what we need to do. Part of the enjoyment I receive at the end of a tournament is reminding our sponsors they are the ones that made it all possible for us to help and assist needy veterans. Our scope has expanded to include remembering the family and loved ones of deceased veterans.

Our AMVETS Post 1776 donated a Bell Tower and Carillon to the Tallahassee National Cemetery, Several of our members give honors to Veterans who died in combat from our area, They will not be forgotten. Several of our members serve on the Big Bend Honor Guard at the Tallahassee National Cemetery. A couple of us serve as Chaplains as well.



# Happy Birthday Charles LeCroy

(Article by Gordon Lightfoot)

Charles LeCroy is a long-time member of AMVETS Post 1776 and a former Commander of American Legion Sauls Bridges Post 13. Charles is a Florida Veterans Hall of Fame inductee, class of 2015, and was a Chief Master Sergeant with the United States Air Force. Charles turned 94 in July and he had a Birthday bash/toast to beat all birthday parties. I stopped counting at 75 in attendance. And as usual Charles was at his best shaking hands and swapping stories with all his friends and family. And when Charles shakes your hand, he has a grip on you and you know it. He's a talker and he wants to spend time with you one on one.

One of his Keynote Speakers, Cdr Dennis Baker spoke on behalf of Major John Haynes, who couldn't attend the party and after several other longtime veteran friends spoke, there was a gift from the "Quilts of Valor" commander Gail Whitis. Gail's organization literally makes quilts and presents to selected Veterans as a thank you for their service and for warmth and comfort. Gail's organizations solicit nominees through her national organization that award of a quilt that is then given by the local office. Please see photo of their presentation to Charles below.

Of the numerous speakers one of the most special was of Charles wife Juanita that gave a slide presentation of their special time together over their long marriage, showing them on fishing and camping trips and other family outings. The crowd got a kick out of some of their adventures.

Happy Birthday Charles from your comrades at AMVETS and the rest of the veteran community throughout the Big Bend. Charles we all wish you well and looking forward to that 100th Birthday bash.



1. The birthday bash for Charles at Post 13 was a great success for a true veteran who has given so much for the Post. 2. Buddy Perryman winces as Charles grasps and shakes his hand. 3. Dennis Baker sings the praises of Charles with a poster of Charles' grand-daughter celebrating her graduation from Annapolis Naval Academy. 4. David Wilson (L) joins in for a photo op with his good friend Charles while both Charles' wife and Gene Walters look on.

