



AMVETS Post 1776 Cyber Newsletter

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Commander's Corner.....

I am sure we are all glad to see our weather turn into a beautiful fall. We dodged a bullet a couple of months ago with possibilities of a hurricane. And I know we all look forward to some cooler weather.

Just a couple of events coming up. Henry Lowery, our Judge Advocate and Commander Dennis Baker have both been selected to be awarded a Florida Veteran Hall of Fame award at an induction ceremony on November 14, 2023.

For you Marines there is the Marine Corps Ball on November 3rd this year. It will be a joint effort with the Navy ROTC at FAMU and the Ball will be held at Doak Campbell Stadium in their Hospitality dining room. There is no pay at the door so if this newsletter gets to you in time, please give me a call, we need a head count as soon as possible.

Please look for a couple of photos and a brief story about our new Memorial in front of the Leon County Red Cross just around the corner from our National Guard Armory. It is a beam from the World Trade Center that Michael Terhurne has been trying to find a home for several years now. I believe it will become one of the most visited memorials in town once people find it. It truly is a memorial all about September 11th with detailed panels describing all the events of that day.

And last but not least don't forget we have one of the best Veteran's Day Parades in the country. It will be on November 10th this year due to two big football games on Saturday November 11th.

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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.

I am hoping we can find a vehicle/float that we can use to put our AMVETS Post in the parade, maybe next year. 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

Chaplains Corner.....

Eric Smith, Chaplain Post 1776



PRAYER FOR AUTUMN DAYS

God of the seasons, there is a time for everything: there is a time for dying and a time for rising. We need courage to enter the transformation process.

God of autumn, the trees are saying goodbye to their green, letting go of what has been. We, too, have our moments of surrender, with all their insecurity and risk. Help us to let go when we need to do so.

God of fallen leaves lying in colored patterns on the ground, our lives have their own patterns. As we see the patterns of our own growth, may we learn from them.

God of misty days and harvest moon nights, there is always the dimension of mystery and wonder in our lives. We always need to recognize your power-filled presence. May we gain strength from this.

God of harvest wagons and fields of ripened grain, many gifts of growth lie within the season of our surrender. We must wait for harvest in faith and hope. Grant us patience when we do not see the blessings.

God of geese going south for another season, your wisdom enables us to know what needs to be left behind and what needs to be carried into the future. We yearn for insight and vision.

God of flowers touched with frost and windows wearing white designs, may your love keep our hearts from growing cold in the empty seasons.

God of life, you believe in us, you enrich us, you entrust us with the freedom to choose life. For all this, we are grateful..... *from Beliefnet.*

AMVETS

(American Veterans)

Is the nation's most inclusive Congressionally-chartered veterans service organization, representing the interests of 20 million veterans. AMVETS is open to and fighting for all who honorably served in the United States military, including the Reserve and Guard. With more than 250,00 members nationwide, we are veterans serving veterans.



Spotlight on Michael Terhune

Article by Gordon Lightfoot

(Note: This article is simply inspired by a brief visit to this 9/11 Memorial without the benefit of interviewing Michael Terhune on his beautiful memorial to 9/11.)

I am always amazed when I find a veteran that has a purpose greater than himself/herself. Michael Terhune is a former navy corpsman that had a passion to bring forth his vision for a 9/11 memorial to Tallahassee. Michael is a local firefighter and member of our VFW Post 3308 and helps to maintain the VFW Cemetery south of town.

Michael has spent almost 10 years bringing his vision to fruition and now we have a memorial located in front of the Red Cross Center down the street from our National Guard Armory that I believe is one of the most remarkable and memorable monuments in the Big Bend area. And I do have to mention there is another private 9/11 Project on Centerville Road. I am not sure that one is veteran inspired but it too is worth a visit. And to add a veteran's touch Michael added a soldier's cross commemorating veterans we have lost during a period since the Vietnam War in general terms considered a period called War on Terror. Michael incorporates this plaque identifying all those we have lost in Leon County to this War on Terror essentially the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

The WTXL Tallahassee a local TV station did a story on Michael's project as did the Tallahassee Democrat upon the dedication just last month on September 11, 2023. Michael received support for his project from Team Guardian, Inc. and the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross and other donors to create this beautiful memorial. I missed the dedication ceremony, but I understand there was a great turnout with some notable keynote addresses.

We all know the City of Tallahassee and Leon County contribute to nearly all our veteran events from the Veterans' Day Parade and Breakfast to supporting veterans financially through grants or other forms of direct support. This project of Michael's is just another example of what cooperation from our local governments, private sector, our non-profit sector and one inspiration from a veteran can do for our community, thank you MichUR HISTORYael for your vision, your dedication and inspiration for this Memorial. We should not forget the sacrifices our firefighters, our police and our veterans make every day for all of us.

PRESERVING OUR HISTORY... NEVER FORGET!



A Tribute to Clemon Alexander

Article by Gordon Lightfoot

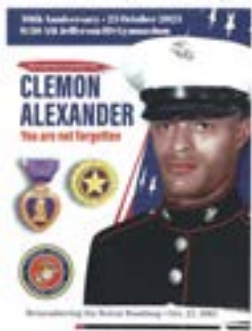
On October 23, 1983, nearly 250 people including 219 Marines were killed at a Marine compound in Beirut, Lebanon. One of those fallen was Marine Clemon Alexander, a former star athlete from Jefferson County High School. Clemon joined the USMC and was on a peacekeeping mission to Beirut when in the early morning hours of October 23, 1983, he was asleep in his bunk when a suicide bomber drove a truck underneath the four-story building housing the U.S. Marine barracks and detonated 12, 000 pounds of TNT. The explosion reduced the building to rubble killing Clemon and 219 other Marines, 18 sailors, and three soldiers.

On October 23, 2023, I was able, along with over 30 other veterans from Big Bend to attend a moving Tribute for Clemon Alexander. In attendance was Clemon's mother and several other family members and a host of dignitaries. School Superintendent Pons emceed the Tribute with honors given to Ms. Alexandar from Senator Scots office, Senator Rubio's office and from Steve Murry, presenting a flag and gift from the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs. And one of our very own, a Marine that was in Grenada when the bombing went off was the Keynote speaker. Henry Lowery, our Judge Advocate, shared his experience of being sent to Beirut with his battalion to secure the area. Henry was asked and did a great job of Keynoting the Tribute to Clemon. Henry shared his profound love of the Marine Corps and all Marines serving in time of War and throughout the world and even today where our Marines are on call to serve wherever they are needed. Sometimes we are sent as a peacekeeping force and sometimes we are on sent as an expeditionary force like we are doing now with a force being deployed to the middle east just in case we are needed in the latest conflict between Israel and Hamas of Palestine.

Not only did Henry play a key role in this tribute but David Wilson help put the program together working with several other veteran service organizations like American Legion Post 49 in Monticello through Ed their commander and another AMVETS member Tony Minichiello.

We should all be proud we have such dedicated veterans in Big Bend to step up and serve our community and our country whenever and wherever we are needed, during peacetime or war.

Thank you, Henry, David, Tony and others that made this Tribute so special, including that special Jefferson County HS JrROTC unit that performed for us.



1. Clemon Alexander flyer promoted the event. 2. Henry, Michelle Milligan and Steve Wynn spoke at the event. 3 "Tony" Minichiello and David Wilson supplied the wreath. 4. Family and Dignitaries, 5. JROTC.





Raymond Madison Wright 1937-2023

Long-time member of Tallahassee AMVETS Post 1776 Ray enjoyed volunteering with several Tallahassee-based organizations including the American Red Cross, FL Dept. of Elder Affairs, Tallahassee VA Clinic and the Disabled American Veterans, Tallahassee Chapter 5 where he served as a Veterans Service Officer and Treasurer. Ray worked on the annual “Veterans helping Veterans” golf tournament helping raise money for veteran causes. Ray married his lovely wife Irmgard K. Wright on August 16, 1958, in Zweibrucken, Germany while serving in the United States Air Force. A good man, veteran, parent and husband. Rest in peace.



there was a large contingent of Ray’s friends and relatives at the internment including two of his sons.



Members of Tallahassee AMVETS Post 1776 and American Legion Post 13 Commander were present. Left to right: Paul Rogerson, “Tony” Minichiello, Gordon Lightfoot, Tom Carney, Henry Lowery, American Legion Post 13 Commander Barry Walker and David Wilson.

Sad news!! VeteventsTally, the organization responsible for the Veterans Day Parade each year in Tallahassee recently announced that three C-130’s would perform a “flyover” at the 2023 Parade. Katie Kaplan of WCTV, Channel 6 had spent hours on the process to secure the flyover. A meeting was held with the pilot in charge, (he is married to a Tallahassee girl) and he agreed to circle Tallahassee National Cemetery for a “photo op.”

Sadly, on 25 October, Katie received notification that the flyover for the parade was cancelled due to “real world training events.” Hopefully, next year!!



USAF C-130’s will not be available for a flyover at this years Parade.



The Big Bend Honor Guard

The Big Bend Honor Guard formed back in 2015. When the Tallahassee National cemetery opened, the BBHG was ready to start serving the veteran community. To date we have performed over 1060 services. I say we because I also serve as a chaplain on the honor guard when needed. When requested the veterans' military branch of service will perform the folding of the flag and taps, On specific occasions they will include the firing detail. If requested the BBHG will do the firing detail for a service complimenting the military.

The BBHG is prepared to do the complete service if needed or requested. Not only do we fold the flag, play taps, and provide a firing detail, we have been called upon to be pall bearers as well as conducting the chaplain service. To be a member of this dedicated team of individuals you first have to be a member of a veteran service organization, referred to as a VSO. The VFW (Veteran of foreign wars), American Legion, AMVETS, Marine Corps League and etc. will satisfy that requirement for you.

Our honor guard performs a "final salute" ceremony quarterly. When a veteran is laid to rest with-out a service, and yes for different reasons it does happen, then the BBHG holds a special service to ensure all veterans receive the honors they deserve.

Written and submitted by John Folsom
Chaplain VFW
Post 3308