



AMVETS Post 1776 Cyber Newsletter

Published via Internet Bi-Monthly from Tallahassee AMVETS Post 1776, Volume 3, No.2 November, 2022



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Commander's Corner.....

October found our small Post doing big things again. We have produced a final product to promote our Military Heritage Trail Program. We printed our Booklets to handout to youth when they tour our Veteran Monuments and we produced a companion "Tourist Brochure" that we can place throughout the community, at visitor centers and places of business

where folks can grab a copy and see on their own a wealth of Veteran Monuments in the Tallahassee area. Also, David Wilson has arranged a meeting with Superintendent Rocky Hanna for he, me and Tony Minichiello seeking Rocky's blessings on our program. We will be asking school aged youth throughout the school system, especially the JRROTC units to tour with us.

On a second note, we all know someone that has been affected by Hurricane Ian that passed through our State just a few weeks ago. Our local VFW Post 3308 took a truckload of supplies south to the Ft. Myers area to other VFW Posts in need and our Post 1776 just wrote a \$1,000.00 check to our AMVETS State Department Disaster Relief Fund. We have discovered several of our AMVETS Posts down south lost everything. And we are staying aware of what future needs will be and where we can help.

November is a busy month for veterans in Tallahassee. Vet Events Tally, a non-profit that has run our Veteran Day Parade for several years and is known to be one of the best Veteran Parades in the Country is planning for another Parade this November 11th, the day after the Marine Corps Birthday on November 10th. And for all you Marines in our AMVETS Post, the Marine Corps League Det. 472 will be having their Marine Corps Birthday Ball on November 12th. And lastly there will be an Induction ceremony on November 15th at the FSU Alumni Center for the 2022 Inductees for the Florida Veteran's Hall of Fame. For more information on any of these events, give me or Tony a call. Here's wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. And as always, thank you all for your continuing service to our Country, our County and our Post. *Semper Fi.*

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



Spotlight on a Veteran.....Henry Lowery.



Henry Lowery graduated from Carrabelle Hight School in 1967. And like so many young men from the sixties Henry joined the Marine Corps and headed off to Parris Island, South Carolina where he began a long and distinguished career in the United States Marine Corps rising to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 5, having worked his way up from a Private in the Marine Corps through all enlisted grades to a Master Sergeant and then on to become a Chief Warrant Officer in 1988.

Henry's resume is way too long to address here but his distinguished service in the Marine Corps, serving tours in Vietnam and in Southwest Asia and Kuwait and even going back to Parris Island to become a Drill Instructor was just a beginning for him. Henry retired from the Marine Corps in 2001 and has become a Marine's Marine serving veterans throughout the Big Bend area. Henry belongs to numerous veteran service organizations, that include the Marine Corps League, Detachment 472, AMVETS Post 1776, Military Officers Association of America, Vietnam Veterans of American Chapter 96, American Legion Post #13 and is most proud of his service as a leader for Honor Flight of Tallahassee and his service with the Big Bend Hospice Valor Team. He was also a founding member of the Support Committee for the Tallahassee National Cemetery where he served as their first Treasurer and help organized the Big Bend Honor Guard.

Again, Henry's resume is long and so are his honors. Henry has been a guest speaker for Veteran's Day and Memorial Day events and was the keynote speaker for the Marine Corps Birthday Ball held here in Tallahassee a couple of years ago. Henry was selected as the "Hometown Hero" for the Florida Capitol, Tallahassee Memorial Day Parade, and his awards during his service include a Distinguished Legion of Merit from the Commandant of the Marine Corps along with a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with 1 Star. When you see Henry in uniform with his chest full of ribbons and medals you will get a better sense of what he has accomplished and where he has been.

Henry serves veterans in need and works tirelessly through the many veteran service organizations he belongs to. And every one of these VSO's appreciates his work and volunteerism without which we would have a very big void. Henry gives of himself and inspires us all to give back, give back to our community, and our Country.

Thank you, Henry for your Service . . .



Marine Commandant General Al Grey Stops by to visit Henry upon his acceptance to Marine Gunner Course.



President Ronald Reagan thanks Henry and others after accompanying him on his mission to Granada.



Letter from AMVETS Department of Florida Service Foundation, Inc. Acknowledges Post 1776 for it's contribution.



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October 16, 2022

Gordon Lightfoot, Commander
R. Paul Rogerson, Finance Officer
AMVETS Tallahassee Post 1776
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AMVETS Post 1776 Membership,

Thank you all for your most generous donation of \$1,000.00 to the Disaster Relief Fund. We all know that Florida has its share of hurricanes and other disasters. Hurricane Ian came on land damaging our AMVETS Post facilities in North Fort Myers, North Port, Arcadia, just to mention a few. AMVETS Post 312 was destroyed with the Post Commander advising that the building has been condemned.

It is still too early to determine the number of applications for assistance we will receive. The Board Members of the Service Foundation are reviewing the application for assistance so that we can take quick, responsible, and decisive action with our Disaster Relief Fund providing financial assistance.

Thank you for having fund raisers and recognizing the value of the Disaster Relief Fund. We are also recommending that Posts establish an annual fund raiser for the Disaster Relief Fund. Please address this with your membership, we need your continued support.

Yours in Service,

PDC Larry Arnett, President
AMVETS (American Veterans)
Department of Florida
Service Foundation

Tallahassee AMVETS Post 1776 Calendar of Events, November, 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|-----------|--|-----------|---|---|--|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 Post meeting at Lake Ella 1830 hrs | 4 | 5 |
| 6 Daylight Saving Time ends | 7 | 8  Be sure to Vote Today! Many fought and died for your right to Vote! | 9 | 10  |  | 12 Marine Corps Birthday Ball |
| 13 | 14 | 15 <i>Ceremony for the 2022 Inductees for the Florida Veteran Hall of Fame</i> | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | <i>Thanksgiving</i> 24  | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |



November 10th



PENTAGON.....

Hershel "Woody" Williams, the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from World War II, died Wednesday at a hospital in Huntington, West Virginia. He was 98. The Marine Corps veteran received the nation's highest military award for valor for his actions in the Battle of Iwo Jima. The battle took the lives of 7,000 Marines and was one of the bloodiest of the war.

"Today, America lost not just a valiant Marine and a Medal of Honor recipient, but an important link to our nation's fight against tyranny in the Second World War," Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin said. "I hope every American will pause to reflect on his service and that of an entire generation that sacrificed so much to defend the cause of freedom and democracy."

On February 23, 1945, Williams, then a 21-year-old Marine corporal and flamethrower operator, single-handedly destroyed multiple Japanese pillboxes and other gun emplacements at great danger to himself. According to his citation, on one occasion, he "daringly mounted a pillbox to insert the nozzle of his flamethrower through the air vent, killing the occupants, and silencing the gun; on another he grimly charged enemy riflemen who attempted to stop him with bayonets and destroyed them with a burst of flame from his weapon." His actions came on the same day as the iconic flag raising at Mount Suribachi, an image captured by an Associated Press reporter that has become a symbol of American military resilience during the war.

Williams was the last of the 473 American service members who received a Medal of Honor in World War II. His death was announced by the Woody Williams Foundation, a nonprofit organization that serves Gold Star military families. The cause was not immediately available. The National Medal of Honor Museum tweeted Wednesday that "Woody exemplified a life of service through his bravery during the Battle of Iwo Jima, as an advocate for veterans & through the Woody Williams Foundation serving Gold Star Families."



Chaplain's Corner.....



Chaplain Eric Smith

Heavenly Father, we bring before You all who are victims of hurricane Ian. We ask that You pour out hope on all those who have gone through this trauma. May they know that You are their shelter and their stronghold in this time of distress. This storm has been ruthless, and we ask that You restore what has been lost and set them in a place of safety. Provide them with all that they need right now and show us how we can best minister to their needs. You have saved our area from perishing in this storm by calming wind and waves on Your command, please now keep us safe and sound during the hurricane season. Father, all the elements of nature obey your command. We thank you for calming this hurricane that threaten us. *Grant this through our Lord, Amen.*



Submitted by
John Folsom

Tokio Rose....

1949 – American-born Iva Toguri D'Aquino, convicted of being Japanese wartime broadcaster Tokyo Rose, was sentenced in San Francisco to 10 years in prison and fined \$10,000. Iva Toguri was an American stranded in Japan at the outbreak of World War II. She was forced to broadcast propaganda to the Allied troops for Japan. In these radio programs, she taunted the troops and played music from home. She took the name Orphan Ann on the program, Zero Hour. "Tokyo Rose" is a myth: Iva Toguri, like other

women who also broadcast Japanese propaganda to Allied troops, was never referred to as Rose or Tokyo Rose. It was a name given by the Allies to the various female Japanese broadcasters. But it has been used since the war primarily to refer to Iva Toguri D'Aquino. After the war, she was convicted of treason and imprisoned, released early for good behavior. She maintained her innocence, asserting that she had not said the words used to convict her, and that she had remained a loyal American. Though forced to broadcast to the troops, she claimed that she, with the help of American POWs assigned to the radio broadcasts, made herself and her words purposefully ridiculous. She had refused to give up her American citizenship, despite pressure and even punishment from the Japanese who forced her into the broadcasting role. In the 1970s a public campaign brought to light the testimony of the POWs who worked with her and supported her story. The testimony of the witnesses against her was questioned. Eventually she was pardoned by President Gerald Ford. After her imprisonment she returned to Chicago where her family owned a store. She continued to work at the store into her eighties.



Where is the Memorial for Post-Vietnam Veteran Casualties?

Almost four years ago Tony Minichiello our AMVETS Adjutant at the time brought an idea to me about developing a program for our youth in the Big Bend area.

It was widely known then and now that our youth, especially in the 13- to 17-year-old age groups are not very well versed on our military nor history of veteran sacrifices since our early World Wars. Tony thought our AMVETS Post 1776 could develop a program and provide a tour of our local Veteran monuments in the Big Bend area. Our Schools, JRROTC, Church youth groups, Boy and Girl Scouts would all benefit from field trips so to speak that would introduce them to these monuments and to veterans (docents) that would be present to answer questions about the monuments they visit. Tony and I pursued this project and now have a complete syllabus, a booklet that we will distribute to the youth, and we are currently working on a docent list for veterans that will be available to speak at the monuments on our tour. The tour would currently visit the Vietnam Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, the WWII memorial, and our Tallahassee National Cemetery. A secondary tour would include a trip, a visit to Franklin County where there are two other significant memorials, the WWII Museum in Carrabelle and the 3 Soldiers Park in Apalachicola and therein lies the problem.

We forgot a couple of memorials. There is a “Boots Thomas” memorial in Monticello, and we just discovered a fairly new Memorial for “Post-Vietnam Veteran Casualties”, right downtown Tallahassee. The Boots Thomas Memorial is a fairly well-known memorial, but we did originally think it was too far from Tallahassee to include in our more localized memorials. But the other memorial for Post-Vietnam Casualties is only a block or two down the street from our Vietnam Memorial on South Gadsden Street.

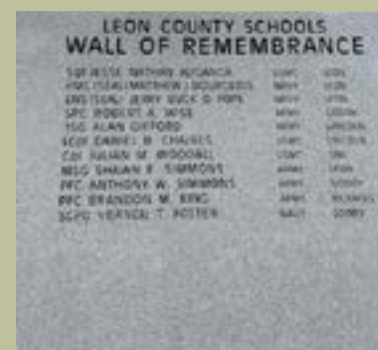
This memorial actually fills in quite a void. There are no independent memorials/monuments for our Persian Gulf War veterans or for the War on Terrorism veterans that served in Iraq or Afghanistan after the Persian Gulf War. This memorial, dedicated by the School Board of Leon County emphatically states, “Leon County Schools’ Wall of Remembrance honors former students whose lives were lost in a hostile act or environment while actively serving in the U.S. Armed Forces post-Vietnam War. Dedicated on May 23, 2013. ...”

Because our materials are already printed, we will offer inserts for these two memorials and try to work both of them in our tours based on need and feasibility. In our next printing, hopefully within the year, we will make our Program Booklet and Guide more complete. And, within our first year of touring we might find additional important veteran and military memorials to add.

So far our project is receiving accolades, we just need to start the bookings. For more information contact Gordon Lightfoot at 850-322-6924 or Tony Minichiello at 850-528-2125.



Ernest Ivy “Boots” Thomas Memorial Plaza, Monticello Florida.



The walkway to the Wall of Remeberance at the old Bloxum School at 727 South Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, contains the names of fallen Heroes from Middle East Conflict.

Did you Know?

Did you Know?

If you are a veteran in need of some legal counsel, from a bunch of attorneys that give of their time at no cost to the veterans then you need to know who Dan Hendrickson is and something of what he runs called the Tallahassee Veteran Legal Collaborative. But for brevity and clarify I want you to hear about the TLVC directly from Dan in his story below.

Every Thursday afternoon, 3-5 pm, the American Legion Hall at Lake Ella, hosts thirty to fifty intense people-Veterans, volunteers, legal professionals and agency staffers, all working to find solutions to area Veterans' legal and related problems.

[The Tallahassee Veterans Legal Collaborative](#) (TVLC), which pulls together these walk-in legal clinics, is a non-profit, 501 (c) (3) organization, with an eleven-person board of directors and several additional principals who show up, week after week.

TVLC evolved several years ago now out of the North Florida Homeless and At Risk Veterans Stand Down (2013-). The Legal Program from the Stand Down expanded from one weekend per year to a year-round legal service for Veterans and helped establish the Leon County FL Veterans Treatment Court and the TVLC Veterans Legal Clinic. In 2018-19, TVLC sponsored the annual Stand Downs for two record-breaking years, building into an experienced organization with scores of allied organizations and agencies and hundreds of repeat volunteers.

Until COVID, our Collaborative met monthly for three and a half years, including the base of twenty organizations and agencies. TVLC has also helped build an informal network of Veterans of all ages who volunteer at community service sites, including food banks, clothes closets, etc. Many have themselves been assisted through the TVLC Legal Clinics, the Veteran Stand Downs or even the Leon County Veterans Treatment Court. Veterans often function as mentors to other Veterans and are a critical core of active volunteers who help recruit for and facilitate special events.

The role of veteran mentors, or peer specialists, is widely recognized as a key ingredient in the multi-disciplinary service work such as specialty courts and veterans' clinics, as TVLC and similar programs help individual Veterans achieve recovery and purpose, through a variety of treatments and support systems. (The Veterans Court could use additional Veteran Mentors, if you are interested!)

TVLC's success is attributed to its extensive volunteer network, including pro bono attorneys who volunteer throughout the year at TVLC clinics and help Veterans through direct referrals. Our legal team of volunteers and a modest staff of part-timers work together weekly to provide services, alongside other local agencies and non-profits on a regular basis.

Further, we monitor and assist with placement of Veterans who are carrying out court-ordered community service in lieu of court fines, and we directly help scores of veterans reinstate their driver's licenses, clearing obstacles from courts and agencies all over the country. We raise funds for and administer a Driver's License Fund specifically for the statutory and often prohibitory administrative fines which pile up in the DMV "holds" blocking reinstatements. Often a Veteran has had no valid Driver's License for years, or even decades.

Our volunteer board and officers lead the Collaborative in carrying out TVLC's mission. Contact us at www.tvlc.legal or PO Box 11091, Tallahassee 32302 or call 850-815-7686.

