



# AMVETS Post 1776 Cyber Newsletter

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## In This Issue...



Commander's Message  
Page 1

.....Chaplain's Corner  
.....From the Adjutant  
Page 2

.....Finance Report  
Wreath's Across America  
Page 3

Honors for the Honor Guard  
Page 4

Our New Brochure  
Page 5

Monthly Calendar  
"Welcome Home"  
Page 6

Tips For Visiting Santa  
Page 7

Military Humor and  
Christmas Message for our  
Deployed. Page 8



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Here is wishing everyone a Happy Holiday Season. I am writing this just before our Thanksgiving Holiday and thinking ahead to ending this year with a lot of good will and prosperity for all. These past couple of years have been for the record book. We have some successes, e.g., the Patriot Tower

and some heavy losses, the passing of our friend and compatriot Randy Miller along with many other veterans that are now resting at our Tallahassee National Cemetery. We now have over 2,000 veterans interred at our National Cemetery. In their honor we are looking forward to the next event at the Tallahassee National Cemetery; Wreaths Across America led by our local Civil Air Patrol, that will dedicate and help lay the wreaths on all our veterans' gravesites on December 18<sup>th</sup>, a Saturday at noon. If you don't know already our Post voted the last meeting to contribute \$1,000.00 toward the purchase of almost a hundred wreaths to be sent to the Tallahassee National Cemetery. As of this writing I understand there are a few more donations needed in order to obtain all the wreaths that are needed. I am hopeful they will meet their goals as November 30<sup>th</sup> is the last day to order.

Well, we are making some progress in our Fall Recruitment Campaign. I have personally received commitments from three veterans to join and we picked up, just this week, the recruitment brochures Tony designed and sent to the printer. I am copying just the cover to give you an idea how we are going to approach our recruitment campaign. This brochure will contain a complete application with a lot of information about who we are and what we have accomplished this past year. And it does present just a little of what our plans are for the future, including more efforts to engage our youth in the Big Bend area along with a couple of other projects not quite ready for prime time although we are also now planning for our Spring Golf Tournament, I believe the date is April 4<sup>th</sup> so put that on your

*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)

Cont. from Pg. 1

calendar and come on out to our meetings where we are always looking for ways to provide a meaningful dialog with our community and our veterans. So come to our meetings and bring a friend and better yet, bring a friend veteran and have them join. As our membership grows, so does our local efforts to help veterans in the Big Bend area. And remember we are a small Post doing big things.

Again, Happy Holidays and I hope and pray these next couple of months finds you and your families well. If you need anything from the Post, please give us a call.

Semper Fi.,  
Gordon

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



Chaplain Eric Smith

Sometimes it's easier to think of the military troops who are deployed during this holiday season but not their families. This year, let's remember those families and lift them up in prayer to the One who can provide the comfort they need:

Dear Lord,

I'm praying for all those who have a loved one on duty and on deployment around the globe. I know this time of year can be a challenge, even if the deployment isn't necessarily in a war zone. Being separated from those we care about is always hard.

I'm asking that you give these families a special peace this holiday season. Give them lots of opportunities to spend time in communication with their loved ones—through whatever means available. Thank you for all the different ways we have now to communicate around the world. Make sure packages and letter arrive in a timely fashion. Keep the digital and telephone lines clear and free from static.

Fill the days with activities to take their minds from the emptiness they feel. Surround them with friends and family who understand their struggles and can support them in ways that provide just what they need. Put people in their lives to be Your hands and feet during this stressful holiday season. Remind them of the blessings that still surround them. Don't let them withdraw. Instead help them to take part in the joy of this season, Amen.

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## **From the Adjutant.....**



Normally I don't have a spot to write in this Newsletter. I am more concentrating on the layout, finding articles to include in that particular issue and then trying to "nudge" the Commander to submit his message for the issue.

However, there are some points of interest that I would like to mention here. Whatever differences, as individuals, we have in politics, religion, race or standing in our communities there is one common and undeniable bond that we share; we are all brothers and sisters in a group that separates us from the majority of the people out there in "regular" society. Some of us have seen the dark side of humanity, others at a much more humane level *but we all served in some capacity!*

For that reason whenever I see a veteran at Walmart or anywhere else I always give a nod as a means of respect and pride for our small community. I also have that sense of pride knowing that, no matter how small, I am a member of this community. Can we all say Amen?

## ***Finance Officer's Report.....***



### **Stay Healthy!**

This year was another difficult year for most of us, trying to stay sane and avoid depression has been difficult. We lost a fellow member of AMVETS this last year (to COVID) but as of today I have lost more friends/veterans due to the COVID epidemic and heart attacks.

I know there is much information being published in the news both for and against COVID inoculations. The saddest news I have seen at least three times was individuals refusing to get inoculated and then

came down with the COVID virus and some later died!!! As a child I lived through the breakout of Polio, but I do not recall people refusing to get the Polio vaccine shot and Polio is not prevalent now. I realize getting the COVID vaccine is an individual decision, but it affects all of us – not only spreading the virus but the loss of dear friends.

Heart disease is also a killer and like COVID it does not care about your age ethnic background or whether you are a male or female. I have lost two veteran friends to heart disease! One of these veterans was instrumental in developing the unclassified and classified European email system via two different web networks. It later was also used to deliver defense messages. He was a great technical talent and asset to the government; however, work was more important to him than his health and early this year he had a heart attack and was MEDEVAC to his home in the United States where three months later died of heart complications. The other younger (late 50s) veteran was a heavy smoker and died in his sleep.

Why am I bringing my personal feeling to you is simple -- I am 75 years old and realize my time is near to depart this world, but I do enjoy life, family, and friends my wife and all the little things in life (hobbies, fixing things, traveling). I will not dictate what you should do but I want my friends, veterans, and family to enjoy life as much as I do. That means all of you need primarily take care of yourself and be concerned about our world and live life like you did in your younger days. Be grateful for every day!!!

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## **Fellow Veterans:**

Fellow Veterans:

Each year in December, the Wreaths Across America program places Wreaths on graves at National Cemeteries across our great nation. They also place a Wreath at each of the 50 State Capitols. This is called the "State House Ceremony." The Wreath is a larger version of the ones placed at National Cemeteries.

Please invite veterans, wives, neighbors and others to our "State House Ceremony" event this year at the Florida State Capitol. It will take place in the Capitol Courtyard between the Old Capitol and the New Capitol. It will begin at 11AM on Monday 6 December. We expect to conclude around 12 noon.

Each year we select a theme for the program, in past years, we have honored Veterans of WW2, of Korea, of Vietnam and of the Global War on Terrorism plus we have honored Gold Star Families, Female Veterans, Military Chaplains, and others.

medical professionals (nurses, etc) for their service during the pandemic.

*Continued on Page 5*

## Honors for the Honor Guard

If you attended the early breakfast, put on by the American Legion Post #13 at their Hall on Lake Ella on Veterans' Day you not only had a great breakfast but enjoyed the Honors bestowed on our own Big Bend Honor Guard. If you didn't attend, you missed a lot of camaraderie. And the American Legion Post #13 deserves a big thank you. I don't know how many years they have been offering this great breakfast, but Val Frailey and his Post do a superb job. They even have local dignitaries serving the veterans as they sidestep through the breakfast line.

There were probably hundreds of veterans attending getting ready for the Parade put on by Vets Inc. I am sorry I didn't get to attend the parade as I heard it was one of the best yet. A shout out to Joe West, not just for this Veterans' Day Parade but his commitment and diligence for putting this parade on for several years. I think few people know the genesis of today's Veterans Day Parade. Several years ago, the City cancelled the Veterans Parade due to rain. This upset a lot of veterans and especially Joe. From there Joe created Vets Inc., and a new Veterans Day Parade took off. I know this because I drove my M38A1 Jeep for four years. And today our Parade is known to be one of the best in the Nation. Kudo's to Joe.

But I digress, the focus of the breakfast was to honor the Big Bend Honor Guard. Just today in trying to help schedule a service for a Marine Dad of a friend of mine I found out this next week the Honor Guard will be performing their 800<sup>th</sup> service. There are just a few over 2,000 veterans interred at our Tallahassee National Cemetery, but this number is unbelievable for a bunch of veteran volunteers. And you have to know, most of the 150 plus National Cemeteries in the country, our Cemetery is unique to have its own Honor Guard.

An interesting note is their order of service. I was asked today by my friend what is the procedure for the service. I have attended numerous services, but I had to call Jim Geuin, the scheduler for the Honor Guard asking him to explain the order of service to me. And for anyone that wants to receive "Honors" at the Tallahassee National Cemetery, you can call on the Branch of Service, e.g., the Marines at their base in Albany, Georgia and ask that a couple of Marines provide Honors, or you can ask, through Jim or even the Funeral Home you are working with to provide the Honors. Honors through our Big Bend Honor Guard consists of a volley of a 21-gun salute, TAPS and presentation of a flag to the family. If you haven't attended one of the services, it truly is a moving experience. After the Honors, the family then has the option to have the Honor Guard Chaplain offer a prayer and or the family can speak and offer a eulogy for the veteran being interred.

Once again, I digress. Please see below a photo I took at the breakfast. Chuck Howell received from Raymond Miller a framed Proclamation from the Leon County Commission, honoring the Big Bend Honor for there service to the Tallahassee National Cemetery. This being one of several much-deserved Honors they have received.



**New Brochure is dedicated to recruiting New Members!**



This is our new recruiting brochure. This is your tool to help bring new members to our Post. Keep it handy at all times as you never know where you might meet another veteran. Read it, learn it and use it. Remember, we're counting on you to bring in new AMVET Members.

*Wreaths across America, Continued from page 3*

As this is the 20th anniversary of "9-11" we are honoring our fire, medical and law first responders plus we will honor medical professionals (nurses, etc) for their service during the pandemic.

Superintendent Hanna provides five school busses, one for each high school. We expect about 200 HS students from our local Leon County schools, The Combined Color Guard for the Leon County Schools Junior ROTC units will provide Color Guard duties, the Chiles Choir will sing the National Anthem and another Patriotic song, two buglers from Lincoln HS will play "Echo Taps." The Leon County Sheriff's Office will perform Honor Guard duties with "three rifle volleys." Dr Ed Moore will be our keynote speaker and he will speak on "9-11" and the "pandemic" and how they have changed our lives. We will be finished by noon in order to get students back to their schools so that they can catch the busses home.

The Governor and First Lady, Leon County Sheriff McNeil, Tallahassee Police Chief Revell, Fire Chief Gaines and EMS Chief Abrams as well as leaders of Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and Capitol Regional Medical Center have been invited. Gold Star Family members will attend and represent 10 of our fallen heroes. They will be introduced representing their American hero and loved one. Families of three fallen first responders have indicated they will attend and represent fallen heroes. They will represent two deceased Tallahassee Police Department officers and one officer from the Leon County Sheriff's Office.

VISITOR PARKING IN THE CAPITOL AREA IS LIMITED TO EITHER METERED STREET SPACES OR DESIGNATED LOTS. THE CITY OF TALLAHASSEE MANAGES TWO PARKING GARAGES (FOR PAY) (KLEMAN PLAZA AND EAST-SIDE PARKING GARAGE). KLEMAN PLAZA IS AN UNDERGROUND GARAGE LOCATED NORTHWEST OF THE CAPITOL. ENTRANCES ARE LOCATED ON DUVAL STREET AND BRONOUGH STREET. THE EASTSIDE PARKING GARAGE IS LOCATED ON CALHOUN STREET, AND THE ENTRANCE IS ON CALHOUN STREET. ADDITIONALLY, THERE IS FREE PARKING BEHIND THE BLOXHAM BUILDING ON CALHOUN STREET. THIS IS LEON COUNTY SCHOOLS PROPERTY AND THEY HAVE GIVEN PERMISSION TO PARK THERE.

*I look forward to seeing you. I may be reached at the number below if there are additional questions.*

David Wilson (850) 510-3536



# Amvets Tallahassee Post 1776, Tallahassee Florida Military Calendar, December, 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <i>Meeting at Post 13 1830 hrs.</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		

## The Program Agenda said “Welcome Home”

And then it said, “The POW-MIA Vietnam Veterans Bracelet Memorial, You are not forgotten.” If you didn’t attend the dedication ceremony sponsored by the Big Bend Chapter #96 Vietnam Veterans of America Vietnam Veterans Post 96 on September 17<sup>th</sup>, you missed a very special and emotional ceremony. I just wanted to send this note to everyone that if you haven’t had a chance to visit the Vietnam Memorial with it’s new addition of the “Bracelet” you need to take a few minutes to stop by and take a look. I did and took a couple of pictures to add to my veteran’s photo album that is getting pretty big now. So now we have two new memorials added to our growing list of monuments to veterans in the Big Bend area; Joe West’s Bracelet (and yes I call it Joe West’s Bracelet because he has spent several years bringing this beautiful Bracelet to Tallahassee) and of course the new Bell Tower that AMVETS brought to our Tallahassee National Cemetery. Both are relatively new and both significant memorials to veterans. The short trip to see both will be well worth your while.



# Tips for visiting Santa

by Santa himself

**F**irst, if you are going to the mall to visit Santa, go early in the season. No lines, very little if any waiting, plus you generally have more time for your Santa visit.

Don't frighten your child. You want the best picture possible. If you get a really good Santa, like me, allow him to work his magic. This was the second tip.

**T**hirdly, is your child a baby in diapers? Do not hand Santa a soiled child. You might very well get a good picture or may get embarrassed if Santa has to instruct you to reconsider your visit at this time. The other kids don't want to visit a smelly Santa.

**F**ourthly, Santa is supposed to remain in caricature. If the parents come in arguing, the child may not enjoy their visit. **WAIT**, don't spoil the visit for everybody. I had an experience one time where this mother was intent on her baby visiting Santa. After placing the baby with me, the grandmother who was following behind her proceeded in snatching up the baby while yelling "I told you she would not want to visit Santa". There were more kids in line, I wonder what they thought. **F**ifth on my list, animal night. Dogs, cats, birds, turtles, lizards, and a whole list of other critters. Santa needs to have the best of the best when it comes to helpers to get that "perfect picture". If your pet decides it can't wait, then you should be prepared to clean the mess, the hazard of pet ownership. The most dogs I held at one time was five.

**T**eenagers are a different breed. So for our sixth tip, trust me. I was there when their parents weren't. When a teenager comes in with the parent you hear "I'm too big to see Santa". Put two or more teenagers together without grownup influence and they are rushing to see who can get in line first. Then they start asking "well that is between them and Santa. The tip? give them a chance on their own, you might get that picture yet.

**S**anta's hands should be visible at all times. A good tip for number seven.

**N**umber eight, the best tip of all. Santa is planning on visiting Post 13 on December 22. If you are a member, your membership card is dated 2021, and have kids or grandkids think about letting them have their visit with Santa. Santa is scheduled to arrive at 3:00 pm and his reindeer will carry him away at 8:00 pm. You may bring your own camera.

**This event is open to AMVET members.**

*Reindeer will be hidden on the roof!.*

John Folsom

Chaplain/2nd District

Adjutant Post 13, American Legion

Department of Florida

# Military Humor.....



You NEVER want this to happen to you!

