



AMVETS Tallahassee Post 1776 Cyber Newsletter

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Commander's Corner.....

I hope we are all recovering from the holidays, and we didn't make too many New Year's resolutions that we won't be able to keep in 2023. But now with the holidays behind us we can focus on the work of our Post. We have at least two special events coming up: 1) Our Golf Tournament scheduled for April 24th at Golden Eagle and 2) The kick-off of our Military Heritage Trail Program.

The Golf Tournament brochure and flyer is at the printer and I have already received the final proofs that we are going to place on our website. The hard copies will come in a week or two after which we will be doing a major mailout to our sponsors and our players. The mailout will happen the first week or two of February and then it will be up to our membership to follow-up remembering this is our biggest and best funding raising effort of the year. We already have a collection of nice items for the silent auction, and we have enhanced the brochure to include much more detail describing the tournament itself. Stay tuned.

On the Military Heritage Trail program, we will be calling for our first "docent" meeting the hour before our membership meeting on February 2nd. This will be an organizational meeting and where we will decide on the next meeting to actually do a walk around (tour) the monument sites. Toney has done a lot of leg work on contacting groups that are anxious to participate. We know it is going to be a hit in the community. More to come here too.

On a what's happening front, check out our article on Lew Wilson's recent retirement dinner. There was a nice crowd including quite a number of dignitaries. Lew received a number of accolades from veteran dignitaries like Major General James "Hammer" Hartsell, USMC (Ret), executive director of the Florida Department of Veteran Affairs and Colonel. Bruce Host, USAF (Ret) and the founding Chairman of the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame. Major Haynes had a few words to say and several Legislators were on hand. A good time was had by all.

Need to close, Tony is waiting for my contributions so that he can get this newsletter out. And as always, thank you all for 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:*



Chaplain's Corner.....

Chaplain Eric Smith

This is an excerpt from President Roosevelt's D-Day Prayer. As we start 2023 this prayer seems as appropriate to our country today as it did in 1944 as we remember our military and their families.

"Almighty God...Lead [our troops] straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith. They will need Thy blessings...They will be sore tried, by night and by day, without rest--until the victory is won...They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home. Some will never return. Embrace these, Father, and receive them, Thy heroic servants, into Thy kingdom. And for us at home ... whose thoughts and prayers are ever with them--help us, Almighty God, to rededicate ourselves in renewed faith in Thee in this hour of great sacrifice...And let our hearts be stout, to wait out the long travail, to bear sorrows that may come, to impart our courage unto our [troops] wheresoever they may be...Lead us to the saving of our country, and with our sister Nations into a world unity that will spell a sure peace -- a peace invulnerable to the scheming's of unworthy men. And a peace that will let all of men live in freedom, reaping the just rewards of their honest toil.

Thy will be done, Almighty God. Amen."



*State Commander
Eddie Bullock*



Welcome to the Department of Florida Membership

If you are interested in becoming a member of Florida AMVETS, some of our eligibility requirements are listed below. Additional requirements for membership within AMVETS can be found on the National AMVETS website.

Eligibility: To be eligible for membership in AMVETS, you must have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, any time after Sept. 15, 1940. Additionally, unless still serving, your discharge must have been under honorable conditions. If you served as an American citizen in the armed forces of an allied nation, under honorable conditions, between Sept. 15, 1940 and May 8, 1975, you are also eligible, as are wartime members of the Merchant Marine. Proof of eligibility can take the form of a DD-214, an honorable discharge certificate or other appropriate document.

Dues: Annual dues are \$35 and life member dues are \$250. These dues fund, in part, the programs, services and representation AMVETS provides.

Farewell to Lew Wilson

Ex Dir Florida Veterans Foundation

(Article by Gordon Lightfoot)

If I can take a point of privilege, you don't have to look to far to find a good Marine heading up a veterans' organization or a public entity. Case in Point is Lew Wilson. Lew has been the Executive Director of the Florida Veterans Foundation (FVF) for several years now and decided to retire because as with a lot of veterans, Lew is in to his second or third retirement and wants to play some golf.

Lew is a member of our Marine Corps League, Arthur R. Meyer Detachment #472 and a member of our AM-VETS Tallahassee Post 1776. Outside of managing thousands of dollars of State grant funds used to provide assistance to veterans in need Lew has been the moving force in what is known as the Leatherneck Scramble Golf Tournament. Just this year Lew organized a "75th Anniversary of General Chuck Yeager Breaking the Sound Barrier" this past November 22nd and even had Mrs. Chuck Yeager as the Honorary Chairperson. Mrs. Yeager is the President of the General Chuck Yeager Foundation that supports aviation scholarships for women and children and advocates against hunger, human trafficking and homelessness. This year's tournament was a great success and as in the past few years Lew shared part of the proceeds with the other sponsoring entity the Marine Corps League. Veterans all around win from such fund-raising efforts.

Lew is retiring from the FVF the end of January and as luck would have it another Marine is taking over the helm! Raymond Miller, former Director of our Tallahassee National Cemetery will become the new Executive Director effective February 1, 2023. Raymond was recently honored by our Post and of course his article is in our December issue. We know Raymond will bring his years of federal service and executive experience to the FVF and continue its mission serving veterans throughout the State of Florida.

Lew's farewell was at Momo's Pizza and there was a nice crowd and of course well attended by veterans and State officials. General Hartsell spoke and Colonel Bruce Host founding chairman of the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame presented Lew with a nice plaque from the Florida Hall of Fame Society. Paul Kimbel stood in for Commander Dennis Baker Chairman of the Florida Veterans Foundation and did a great job of emceeing the event. Lew received numerous accolades from dignitaries that have worked with him over the years including a close friend Major John Haynes. I was able to give Lew a Certificate of Appreciation from the Marine Corps League, but a couple of the featured Legislators presented Lew with a Florida State Flag and a United States Flag both having flown over the State Capitol in recent days. Lew took a nice box of stuff from his dinner and emotions at times were high.

We wish Lew well in his next adventures and hope he will put some of his expertise and high energy to what we call the veteran volunteer community. As a matter of fact we have some projects here at AMVETS that we can use him on, e.g., our 13th Annual Golf Tournament coming up. Hey Lew!!!
Semper Fi Lew, take a nice break and get back to work, veterans need you.



Freinds and relatives gathered for memories and well wishing for Lew in his next job.
Left: Major Haynes and General Hartsell.
Right: Lew Wilson and Col. Bruce Host.



February 2023 Calendar for Tallahassee AMVETS Post 1776

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Commanders Meeting 1000 hrs VFW Meeting in evening	2 Post meeting 1830-1930 hrs. Lake Ella	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Lincoln' Birthday	13	14 Valentines Day	15	16 MCL Meeting Detachment 472 at Noon	17	18
19	20 Washington's Birthday observed	21 Ash Wednesday	22	 1st Flag on Iwo Jima. 1945	24	25
26	27	28				



Everyone - Do Better!
The proceeds from the 13th Annual Veterans Helping Veterans Golf Tournament will go to support the following:
- National Honor Flight
- Veterans in Action and related efforts
- Family Support and other programs
- Family Support and other programs
- and much more.
With your participation at the tournament you are helping veterans who have sacrificed through their service.
MAJORSAL 8000174 Post 1776
AMVETS VOLUNTEERS
BELIEVE IN OUR COUNTRY
No admission charge for the event. Proceeds go to help our brother and sister veterans in need.
8500 9th Ave SE, Tallahassee, FL 32309

Time the Line Challenge Hole 9
Objective: Reward Straight Drive
Place your ball within 1 foot of one of the multiple tees placed in the fairway.
Hole in One - \$1000
Par - \$250
Sponsor: AMVETS Post 1776

AMVETS
VETERANS HELPING VETERANS GOLF TOURNAMENT
Open to the public
MONDAY APRIL 24, 2023
GOLDEN ENGLIS GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Coming Soon!
Our 13th Annual "Veterans helping Veterans" Golf Tournament.

Want more information?
Contact: Gordon Lightfoot
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AMVETS Post 1776 participated heavily in the 2022 Wreaths Across America events.

AMVETS Post 1776 participated heavily in the 2022 Wreaths Across America events with a \$600.00 donation. AMVETS 1776 Members Charles LeCroy, Henry Lowery, Major John Haynes, Eric Smith, Buddy Perryman, and David Wilson all participated in laying Wreaths on graves of those who died serving America as well as military veterans of all services. At each grave, an American Flag and a Wreath were placed. The veterans name was spoken aloud. Additionally a "RING THE BELL" ceremony was performed for each man. Davids group Went above and beyond in honoring veterans in other private and public cemeteries in the Big Bend area.

THESE HEROES ARE NOT FORGOTTEN!!



Major John Haynes and Henry Lowery, both retired from the USMC, render a salute of respect and honor for Arthur Lee Andrews. Andrews is the only man from Wakulla County to die in combat during the Vietnam War. He was KIA while heroically attempting to rescue his wounded brothers. He is buried in the Buckhorn Cemetery near Sopchoppy.

Charles LeCroy and Buddy Perryman, both USAF Veterans pay respects to Bill Gray Fain. Charles salutes and Buddy "Rings the Bell" in remembrance of Bill Fain.

Fain is MIA off the coast of Korea.

He is Memorialized in the "OLD CITY" Cemetery in Tallahassee.

His family owned the Fain Drug store that was on the SW corner of College Avenue and Monroe Street in Tallahassee.



AMVETS member Eric Smith, US NAVY Veteran places a flag at the grave of Tallahassee native, Anthony Simmons, KIA, Afghanistan. He also placed a Wreath on the grave. Simmons is buried in the Roselawn Cemetery.

AMVETS member Eric Smith, US NAVY Veteran, renders a salute of respect and honor to Hollis Gregory Miller, KIA, Vietnam. Smith previously placed an American Flag and Wreath. Miller was KIA while on a rescue mission for a downed helicopter crew. He is buried in Roselawn Cemetery.



Jacob Hallock, 16, grandson of AMVET member David Wilson places a US Flag at the grave of SCPO Vernon Foster, killed 17 May 1987. Foster served on the USS Starke when it was hit by an Exocet missile fired from an Iraqi plane in the Persian Gulf. Jacob had previously placed the Wreath on the grave.

Major John Haynes at the BOOTS THOMAS Memorial in Monticello. He previously placed the Wreath and Placed the Flag after this photo. He later placed a FLAG and Wreath at Boots Thomas grave in the Roseland Cemetery in Monticello. Boots Thomas participated in the "first flag raising" on Mt Suribachi and later died on Iwo Jima during WW2 as the result of a Japanese sniper.

After placing a Flag, a Wreath and “Ringing the Bell,” AMVET Members Major Haynes, Charles LeCroy, and Henry Lowery along with friends and relatives of Cliff Millender of Carrabelle FL render a salute of respect and honor. Robert Cliff Millender, KIA in Vietnam was killed when a mine detonated as he and his unit returned from a mission.

He is buried in Carrabelle FL in the Evergreen Cemetery.

