



AMVETS Post 1776 Cyber Newsletter

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Put on your Calendar July 8, 2021 – 11:00 a.m.

Well, in April we did not have a date for our Patriot Tower & Carillon Dedication Ceremony. Now almost two months later we have a date. Just last week the National Cemetery Administration, Veterans Administration (NCA/VA) decided to open our National Cemeteries during the Memorial during the Memorial Day weekend. And what a weekend we had at the Tallahassee National Cemetery (TNC). Raymond Miller asked if we could program the Carillon to play music throughout the weekend and thanks to our very own Finance Officer, Paul Rogerson, aka teckie, Paul was able to program three songs per hour, Saturday afternoon, all day Sunday and all-day Monday. Raymond Miller said he thought the TNC had a thousand visitors Monday, Memorial Day. And when our Tower started to play a religious, a military or a patriotic song, everyone stopped to hear it play. We should all be proud; our Patriot Bell Tower and Carillon is fast becoming a focal point of the Cemetery.

As mentioned above, we now have a date. In fact, all donors to our Tower Project will be receiving a Certificate of Appreciation and a cover letter inviting them to our Dedication Ceremony on July 8, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. Now the hard work begins. We will be sending out formal invitations to these same donors and to a number of National, State and Local dignitaries. We have a program to put together, and we have some logistical work to do, e.g., ordering a tent, setting up chairs, arranging for water and we have already secured, through Culley's Funeral Home, golf carts and drivers for our event. And we are close to the final landscaping. Henry and I have been setting posts, putting up a chain fence and leveling pea rock around the base of the Tower. All of this to accommodate a large piece of granite that will have a bronze plaque commemorating the dedication of the Tower to the Tallahassee National Cemetery. I have been told we might have this stone along with our inside "Wall of Honor" plaque available for an unveiling by

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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

.....Commander's corner Continued

the Dedication Ceremony. Remember, we are a Small Post doing Big Things...

And one final point, I want to thank you our members attending our May membership meeting voting to follow up on our promise from the Golf Tournament. Tony Minichiello the Chair of the Tournament was adamant from the beginning that our Golf Tournament is all about Veterans Helping Veterans and this year our Post came through. We voted to disburse almost \$5,000.00 of our Golf Tournament proceeds to several veteran service organizations that have special programs serving our community and especially our veterans. Tony will provide more on this extraordinary gesture of benevolence in another section of this news release.

Hope this month finds you and your families well. If you need anything from the Post, please give us a call.

Semper Fi., Gordon

Preparing the base of the Belltower



First the grass has to be removed



Next plastic is placed over the area where grass was removed This will stop future grass from growing there.



Commander Lightfoot and Post 1776 Judge Advocate Henry Lowery spread the gravel evenly in the border area.



Proud of their work (note the ground lights) but the cameraman leaned a little.



Next they frame in the area and place the posts and Chains.



Next the gravel is brought in.



The gravel and posts are now in.

A Memorial Day display on Hwy 27 in Colquitt, Georgia says it all.



Crosses placed for those Colquitt servicemen who lost their lives overseas while defending America. Each cross has a name and the conflict in which he was killed. The ones I viewed were WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam. I'm certain there are more names that are not shown.



Eric Smith

Chaplain's Corner.....

Lord the day's commotion is finally over, —at least, we hope it is. The meeting is ending, the building is getting quiet and empty, my schedule blank. Even the night sky outside looks less crowded now, everything is erased from view except a dusting of starlight.

In this quiet moment, we ask you to refresh our vision of who You are and who we are called to be. We don't want to expend our energy running on the world's hamster wheel, going nowhere for no reason. We want to serve our fellowman and make sure that we are living in accordance with what we as military veterans want for our life and for our comrades both those currently serving and those retired.

Amen

Finance Officer Report.....



AMVETS Accomplishments and Goals

It has been exciting and enjoyable being part of an organization that has accomplished an inspiring goal for all veterans. It took awhile but with the help of many donations, AMVETS provided a Bell Tower to the Tallahassee National Cemetery (TNC). If you visited the TNC during the Memorial weekend there were over a thousand visitors who were awed and enjoyed the music that was played from the bell tower. This is AMVETS goal not only to inspire but to provide aid and support for the veterans who have served their country honorably. This brings me to the question "Where do we go from here after this major accomplishment?"

Paul Rogerson

I would like to dwell a little on financial stability. Right now, AMVETS Tallahassee Post 1776 is in great shape monetarily; however, the money is dwindling fast, and fewer donations are coming in. The Golf tournament was a great success, and we were able to use the money to help other VSOs with their respective projects! This action was another outstanding AMVETS success.

Now we need to look to the future and set our new purpose immediately. As small as our membership is this could be challenging but we have already proved our Commander's motto "Small organization doing Big Things!"

AMVETS needs a new goal to commit and initiate! AMVETS leaders are requesting the membership to bring to the table any concepts, ideas, suggestions, and goals. As a veteran and armed forces member we each have had our share of issues. I have had many frustrations dealing with the Veterans Administration (VA) until moving to Tallahassee. What this show me was the level of commitment that varies in each VA office. I want AMVETS Tallahassee Post 1776 to be thought of the same as Tallahassee's VA caring operation.

With the Bell Tower a completed goal, and we have financial stability we must take every opportunity to create another doable objective. I have only mentioned this ongoing opportunity in hopes of members could brainstorm and collect ideas. I look forward to this challenge and any other opportunities in this endeavor. We as a team need to be motivated to support our veterans!!

Adjutant's Report.....



Surprise! A funny thing happened on my way to ending my term as Adjutant. No one volunteered to fill the vacancy. So, for the time being, I agreed to continue until someone comes forward to accept this position.

In the meantime we had a successful, enjoyable golf tournament and were able to make donations to the entities we had targeted. With this tournament now established as an annual event, it should be a source of income we can put to good use for helping veterans.

As for this newsletter, we always welcome articles or ideas to keep it interesting. I'm sure many of you have something to share.

Anthony Minichiello

Military Humor.....



FUNNIEST MILITARY JOKES

ARMY SAYS "HOOOOOAH!"
 MARINES SAY "OOOOORAH!"
 NAVY AND CG SAY "HOOOOOYAH!"
 AIR FORCE SAYS "OKEY DOKEY?"

The Editor claims no responsibility for this humor. That is if you are offended by thier showing as they were sent in. If, however, you find them humorous, as intended, then he selected them himself....



"Let's try this one more time, soldier - where's the other shoe?!"



Military.com | *By Hope Hodge Seck*

14 Jun 2021

An investigation into a horrific 2020 helicopter crash that killed seven troops, five of them U.S. soldiers, appears to indicate that a mechanical problem with the aircraft's stabilator preceded the disaster.

A heavily redacted investigation report, released to Military.com through a public records request, obscures many key details about the non-combat crash, its aftermath and actions the Army took in its wake. But it does describe warning signs that something had gone wrong, and the traumatic dive and impact that followed.

The crash occurred on Nov. 12, 2020, in the vicinity of Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, while a group of service members from an international coalition was conducting a routine training flight on a Sikorsky UH-60L Black Hawk. The troops aboard were supporting the Multinational Force and Observers, a group composed of 13 nations that has worked since 1981 to monitor the 1978 peace agreement between Israel and Egypt on the Sinai Peninsula.

Things You Didn't Know About Lt. Dan From 'Forrest Gump'

Gary Sinise read Lewis Puller Jr.'s "Fortunate Son" to prepare for the role.

Lewis Pullman, Jr. won a Pulitzer Prize for his Vietnam War memoir "Fortunate Son."

It's been more than a quarter of a century since the debut of the 1994 classic "Forrest Gump," but the film seems even more popular now than when it topped the box office and swept the Hollywood awards shows. "Forrest Gump" movie won a slew of Oscars, including Best Picture, and gave us the beloved character of Vietnam veteran Lt. Dan Taylor.

Lt. Dan also changed actor Gary Sinise's life. His performance as a wounded warrior connected him to real-life veterans, and Sinise has become one of the highest-profile supporters of military and veteran causes. His rock combo The Lt. Dan Band has entertained troops around the world, and the Gary Sinise Foundation provides valuable services to men and women all over the country.

You think being a Marine is tough? Imagine going to boot camp when your name is Lewis Puller Jr. Then imagine the challenges you face after being severely injured by a booby trap bomb during your service in Vietnam.

Even though Puller lost both legs, his left hand and nearly all the fingers on his right hand, he was able to serve as a lawyer for the Department of Veterans Affairs and share his experiences in a Pulitzer Prize-winning memoir in 1992.

Puller faced many of the demons that afflict Lt. Dan, and Sinise used the book as research for his performance. Unfortunately, Chesty's son wasn't able to survive his own challenges and took his life in May 1994, less than two months before the movie opened.



AMVETS Tallahassee Post 1776
P.O. Box 16225, Tallahassee, FL 32317

**Thanks to Our Sponsors, volunteers and golfers who
participated in our 2021
“Veterans Helping Veterans” Golf Tournament**

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B.J's Restaurant
Duke Energy
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Bevis Funeral Home
Carpenters Construction
Sports Clips
R.T. Electric, LLC
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American Legion Post 49 Monticello
American Legion Post 13 Tallahassee
Pauls Pest Control
Carrabba's Italian Restaurant
Southern Capital
American Commerce Bank
L&B Enterprises, LLC
Centennial Bank
Publix Supermarkets
Savron Construction
Golden Eagles Golf and Country Club
Al's Community Services
Mission BBQ
Tallahassee Ford - Lincoln

Individuals:

John Oeschger, local businessman
Sal Martocci, retired
Jim Waddel Inovia, LLC
Craig Tshetter, author “15 minutes ago”
Steve Winn, Governmental Consultant Big Bend Chapter 96, V,V,A.
Col. Tom Bowermeister, USAF, Retired
Gordon Lightfoot, Commander AMVETS Post 1776
Anthony Minichiello, Adjutant AMVETS Post 1776
Raymond Wright, retired

And all the golfers and volunteers who participated and served!



Because of your support and participation.... AMVETS Tallahassee Post 1776 presents checks to five local Veteran Service Organizations

Photo 1. Commander Lightfoot looks on as Adjutant Anthony “Tony” Minichiello presents a check to Val Fraily, Post 13 American Legion for \$500.00 for its support of American Legion youth baseball. **Photo 2.** Richard Duly, Commander of Chapter five Tallahassee D.A.V. located at the Sergeant Ernest “Boots” Thomas V.A. Clinic, receives a \$2000.00 Check from Adjutant Minichiello for their outstanding work in providing free, professional assistance to veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services earned through military service and provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other agencies of government. **Photo 3.** Thomas Napier, Vice Chair of Honor Flight Tallahassee accept a check for \$1000.00 from Minichiello to help in their effort to re-open Honor Flights for WWII and Korean War Veterans. **Photo 4.** L toR: AMVETS Post 1776 Henry Lowery, Vietnam Veterans of America Big Bend Chapter 96 President Joe West accepts check for \$1000.00 from Minichiello as Cecil Taylor, Procot for Post 1776 looks on. Chapter 96 has a strong reputation for assisting veterans in need. **Not Shown:** The Air Force Association Col. H.M. “Bud” West, Chapter 419, received a check for \$500.00 for their AFROTC recognition. The check was Presented to AFA and Post 1176 member John Schmidt. There will be further donations made through-out the year as this is our reason for hosting the “Veterans helping “Veterans” Golf Tournaments. Post 1776 is Looking forward to 2022 and our 9th Golf Tournament!



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