



# AMVETS POST 1776 CYBER NEWSLETTER

Vol.2, No.7 • Published via Internet Bi-monthly from AMVETS Tallahassee Post 1776 • October, 2021

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Commander's Message..

### **Membership, Membership, Membership. . .**

If you have missed the past couple of meetings, you are missing a lot of great work some of our members are doing. Yes, we have already had a great year, getting the Patriot Tower up and running (singing) and a great dedication ceremony on July 8<sup>th</sup>. Almost 200 attendees with a great keynote by Major John Haynes, reminding us of patriotism and the fact that "...every day is Memorial Day at our National Cemeteries." And we had two of our National Leadership, Mr. J.P. Brown, Past Commander National AMVETS and Mr. Bill Kilgore our current President of National AMVETS Service Foundation. Again, a great ceremony. And by the way, the Tallahassee National Cemetery Director, Raymond Miller has started playing 3 to 4 songs per hour through our Tower on Saturday's and Sunday's. Take a minute and drive through and enjoy some very special music.

Again, on our meetings. Now that we have finished our major project in getting a Bell Tower to our Tallahassee National Cemetery, we are off on some other important missions, and we need all your input and help. Tony Minichiello inspired our Military Heritage Trail project, and he has been working hard lately meeting with representatives from youth groups, e.g., Boy Scouts and JRROTC reps that are quite interested in bringing their troops out to meet some veterans and visit our memorials throughout the Big Bend area. And for your information Tony has resigned from the Dale Mabry Airfield Museum and I am recommending our new member, Tom Carney (also Commander for the Air Force Association) to replace Tony on the Board. More on this later.

Membership, membership, membership . . . If you have attended a  
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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](http://www.amvets1776.org)

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meeting lately, you see that half of our membership is attending. That is a pretty good attendance record and I know that because I attend other vso groups and a 50% attendance is awesome. But, we can't rest on our laurels. We need to be looking for new members. I am hoping to put forth a campaign this fall to do just that. Maybe sit out front of Lowes or Publix soliciting members, maybe attending some of the TCC or FSU veteran membership meetings and ask that they join our group. I encourage all of you to think about bringing in a new member and or suggest some new initiatives we can take to bring in new members. We see veterans every day and sometimes they just need to be asked to join a very active veteran group.

Need wrap this up. Thank all of you for all you do everyday for veterans. And remember, we are a small Post doing big things.

*Semper Fi. , Gordon*

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Chaplain's Message....



## The Military Prayer

Lord, thank you that your ear is always attentive to our prayers. Hear our prayer for our military veterans today. Give us clear minds and peaceful hearts as you bless us for their service to us. May your divine love spread throughout our soul, saturating their whole being that they may be built up in your likeness. Strengthen us through your limitless mercy and grace. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, power, and strength be unto you our God forever and ever.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

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## MILITARY NEWS...



15 Sep 2021

Military.com | By [Stephen Losey](#)

The [Air Force](#) is moving forward with an amphibious, pontoon-equipped version of the [MC-130J Commando II](#) used by its special operators -- and hopes to be able to fly a prototype of the aircraft in less than a year and a half.

A U.S. Special Operations Command official said at a conference in May that the military was considering developing an amphibious MC-130, but that concerns about feasibility meant that the Air Force would take a hard look at the idea before proceeding.

But in a Tuesday press release, Air Force Special Operations Command outlined plans to go ahead with the [MC-130J Commando II Amphibious Capability](#), or MAC, program.

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# We Remember our Fallen Heroes

*From Post member David Wilson:*

Initially the idea came in 2019, when Jamie Meeks, David Wilson, and Claude Shipley toured Fort Benning Georgia with Col Danny McKnight of the "Blackhawk Down" incident. Col McKnight showed them locations from the film "We were Soldiers" and took them to the Fort Benning Cemetery where he showed them a grave of a man who died under his command in Somalia.

Colonel McKnight had left a small rock on the headstone. An idea was born; Wilson began studying men from Tallahassee who died in Vietnam. Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 96 began visiting their graves. They perform minor cleanup duties and perform a short service of respect and honor; it includes leaving the American Flag and a painted rock (called the hero rock, see below), in hopes that a loved one will find it and know that someone visited.

The hero's name is spoken, mentioning a little history about his service and death thanking him or her for their service and ending by saying "God Bless You, God Bless your family and God Bless America" Then a hand salute by veterans with civilians placing their hand over their heart. The tradition of leaving a rock at the grave goes back thousands of years. It is believed to be a Jewish tradition to protect graves from roaming animals. Today rocks are left to honor fallen heroes.

The group grew to include many new members including Major Haynes, Charles LeCroy, Buddy Perryman, Henry Lowery, and the Vietnam Veterans of America Big Bend Chapter 96. Research now encompasses North Florida from Washington to Hamilton Counties and S. Georgia from Decatur to Brooks County.

Also attached below are two photos of our 23 July 2021 visit to the grave of Jack Allen Peacock of Quincy FL, he is buried in the Hillcrest Cemetery in Quincy. He was with the 101st Airborne Division. Charles LeCroy and Henry Lowery are in the photos and two photos from our 2019 visit to the grave of Fred Earl Bailey, USAF Pilot, *His daughter is placing the rock on his grave. At the bottom is a photo of our group at his grave.*



# VIETNAM BRACELET STORY IN NOW AT THE VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL AT THE STATE CAPITOL IN TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA



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1. Joe West talks about the journey to secure this event. 2 Leon High School JROTC Marine Corps honor guard under command of Gunnery Sgt USMC (ret.). 3. The Black Granite stone which tells the history of the Bracelet. 4. 1st Lt. Steve Winn (USA retired) emphasizes a point about our fallen heroes. 5. Banner stood outside the event. 6. Chiles High School Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Anna Marie Friars, Sang the National Anthem.



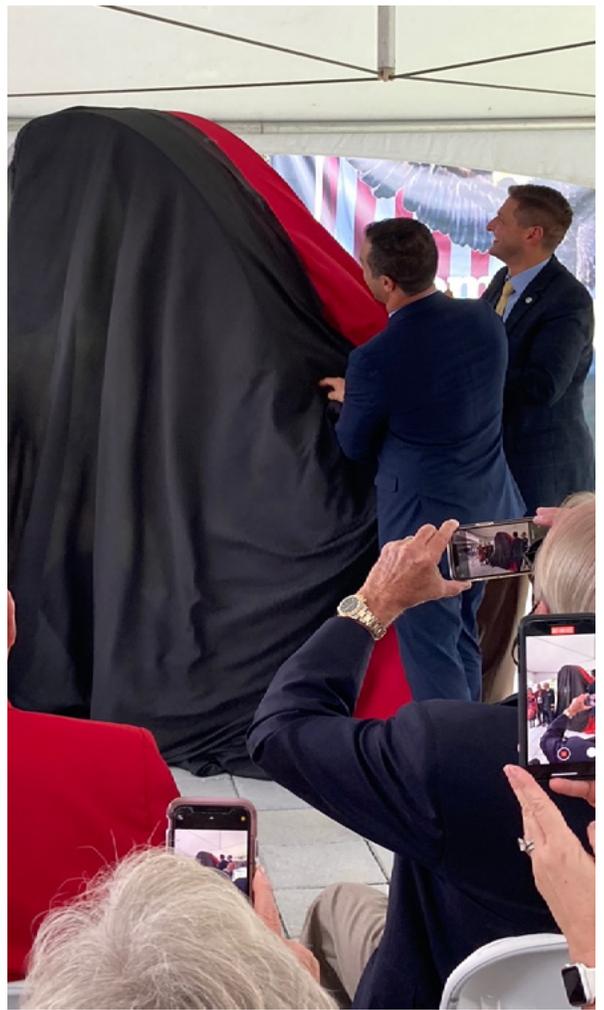
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1. CWO Henry Lowery, USMC (Ret) Called everyone to attention for the singing of our National Anthem. 2. Katie Kaplan welcomed all to the event.3. Joe West and Raymond Miller, Tallahassee National Cememtry Director, share stories. 4. Visitors await beginning of the event. 5. Rep. Mike Giallombardo, left, and Sen. Danny Burgess prepare to do the unveiling. 6. Both inspect the workmanship of the Bracelet.



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## WAR HISTORY ON LINE

### SUMMITTED BY JOHN FOLSOM Commander Emeritus, Tallahassee AMVETS Post 1776

1. In 1943 a German U-Boat visited Newfoundland and Labrador in Canada and established the only German military operation on North American soil during the war. The operation was just a small weather station, but, in conjunction with other monitoring systems was massively important to Germany's military effectiveness in Europe. The station was planted by a U-Boat crew in a position they believed would prevent its discovery. Turns out they were right, as the station would not be found until 1977, 32 years later.

2. **Puff the Magic Dragon** wasn't just a popular song by Peter Paul and Mary in the 1960s but was also the nickname for the Douglas AC-47 Spooky, the predecessor to the Lockheed AC-130. The AC-47 Spooky was a repurposed cargo plane with modifications that became the first fixed-wing gunship used in Southeast Asia. The AC-47 Spooky got its nickname Puff the Magic Dragon from the glowing red emissions that Lit Up the Sky while the plane was in use.

The predecessor for the AC Spooky was the two-engine cargo plane the C-47 "Gooney Bird" which was used extensively by the allies during the second World War. The C-47 was first brought to Vietnam in November of 1961 but was primarily used as a transport and cargo ship for the Americans.



AC47 "Spooky"

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### WWII's Oldest Veteran's Birthday!

Join us in wishing a Happy 112th Birthday to our ally and oldest living WWII veteran Lawrence Brookes.

Lawrence served in the predominantly African-American 91st Engineering Battalion of the US Army between 1940 - 1945. He rose to private first class after being deployed.

He was first drafted in 1940 - at a time when all men had to register for Selective Service until 45 - and participated in the famous 1941 Louisiana Manoeuvres war games, which were used to test and evaluate the Army in the months before the US entering WWII. After returning from the war,

he had to face the challenges of Jim Crow laws in Louisiana. He also survived Hurricane Katrina in 2005, in which he lost his wife.



*Happy Birthday, Lawrence. Thank you for your service!*