



AMVETS Post 1776 Cyber Newsletter

Vol.2, No.1 • Published via Internet Quarterly from AMVETS Tallahassee Post 1776 • November, 2020

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Welcome to our November edition of our cyber newsletter. Although we are still in the middle of a pandemic, we have a lot to be thankful for as a Post. We celebrate this month, Veterans' Day. As you know we celebrate this day the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of every year. That was the day of the armistice of World War I, the "Great War". This was the day the actual cessation of the hostilities between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect. Seven months before the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28 1919.

Closer to home we can now celebrate that our National AMVETS National Service Foundation sent a letter granting us permission to sign the National Cemetery Administration's Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for our Bell Tower/Carillon Project. That MOA once signed by VA and they send us their Notice to Proceed, gives us the final authority to begin the construction and installation of our Bell Tower/Carillon. This five-year project has been a long time coming. I will let you know when I get the "Notice to Proceed". Everything is in place to begin the work shortly thereafter. It will still take a couple of months to build and install but we can begin planning our dedication ceremony which I believe will be pretty big event for all veterans in Tallahassee and the Big Bend area.

And one more celebration. Tony Minichiello and I have been working with representatives of the Dale Mabry WWII Aviation Museum. We as a Post, a couple of months ago, contributed \$250.00 to their fund-raising effort and we gave them a letter of support and endorsement for a grant they requested to begin their project of establishing a Museum honoring, primarily, Army Air Force veterans that trained here in Tallahassee for WWII. And, the best news is they have now granted Tony a place on their Board of Directors to represent Post 1776. He will be forming a team from the Post to lay a plan for fund raising. To my knowledge we are the first Veterans Service Organization in Tallahassee to gain such prominence on what will become

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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.

Continued from Page one...

a major veterans' memorial here in Tallahassee. Tony and his wife Linda were founding members of the Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum in Carrabelle, site of the old WWII Camp. Tony has a vast knowledge of Air Force history and a history of what was done in Carrabelle to draw upon for suggestions to get the museum up and running. He has entered into this agreement with the understanding that the Post will be involved with other projects for funding as well. Congratulations Tony.

I just want to end by saying a special thank you to Paul Rogerson and his wife's major contribution as well as Eric Smith's contribution that went along with our donation to the Marine Corps League's delivery of a truck load of food and other supplies to victims of hurricane Sally in Laura, Louisiana.

Thank you all for all you do everyday for veterans. And remember, *we are a small Post doing big things.*

Semper Fi., Gordon

A Brief History of Veterans Day

Veterans Day, formerly known as Armistice Day, was originally set as a U.S. legal holiday to honor the end of World War I, which officially took place on November 11, 1918. In legislation that was passed in 1938, November 11 was "dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be hereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day.'" As such, this new legal holiday honored World War I veterans.

In 1954, after having been through both World War II and the Korean War, the 83rd U.S. Congress -- at the urging of the veterans service organizations -- amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation on June 1, 1954, Nov. 11 became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

In 1968, the Uniforms Holiday Bill ensured three-day weekends for federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. Under this bill, Veterans Day was moved to the fourth Monday of October. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holiday on its original date. The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on Oct. 25, 1971.

Finally on September 20, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed a law which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of Nov. 11, beginning in 1978. Since then, the Veterans Day holiday has been observed on Nov. 11.

From Post Chaplain Eric Smith...

When I found this prayer, I felt it is appropriate to share as we honor Veterans Day 2020.

Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the men and women who serve our country now and in the past, and for the sacrifices their families make so that we can all enjoy the blessing of freedom. We praise you for calling them to help protect us, and for giving them the courage and ability to do their jobs well.

Guide their choices and their actions, Lord. Help them to see you working in their daily lives, whether in the field, at home, or abroad. Surround them with your mighty angels; protect them in your mercy; cover them with your grace. Guard their hearts while they are far from loved ones and bless them with moments to cherish when they are together.

Hold these families close, Lord. May they look to You for the strength and peace that only You can give.

Amen.

Chaplain Leonard Dodson, USN, was commissioned as a Navy Chaplain in 1950. He was ordained in Church of the Nazarene. He had many assignments throughout his 30 year Naval Career and was appointed as the force Chaplain for U.S. Naval Forces in Viet Nam, headquartered in Saigon. He was a member of American Legion Post 49 in Monticello, Florida. He was well respected by all who knew him. He will be interred with his wife Dorothy in Arlington Cemetery In the Chaplains Section.

Partial information from the Monticello News and Monticello United Methodist Church

In Memory of Chaplain Leonard Dodson USN



May 1, 1923 ♦ September 29, 2020

Monticello, Florida

Internment in Chaplain Section,
Arlington National Cemetery, Washington D.C.

The road not taken

Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth.

I then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same.

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I...
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.



A Story of Leadership and Sacrifice

By Jon Shebel

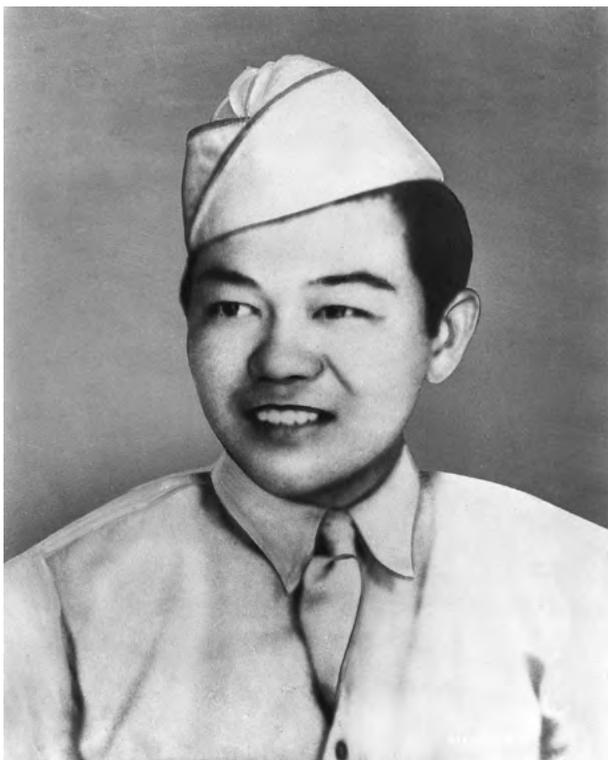
The COC of 3rd Force Recon Company was operating at full throttle at Dong Ha, Viet Nam supporting ten recon patrols operating behind enemy lines along the DMZ in Viet Nam in December of 1967 on the afternoon that 2nd Lt. Terry Graves, USMC, walked in and asked to join the Company. Force Recon normally does not accept 2nd Lt.'s right out of the Officers Basic School with no experience but there was "something special about Graves". The Company S-3, a Plank Owner of the Company and a senior Captain who had been the Operations Officer since the Company had first arrived in Viet Nam, talked with Graves for about an hour, left Graves sitting in the COC and went to see the CO and recommended that the Company bring Graves aboard as a Platoon Commander, even though he had no Fleet experience. The rest is Marine Corps history!

Several months later on 16 February 1968 during the height of the Tet Offensive, Graves was Patrol Leader of Team Box Score, a 6-man Force Recon Team operating just South of the DMZ. The Team ambushed an NVA patrol that turned out to be the lead element of two Companies of NVA. The fight went on for several hours as Graves skillfully called in artillery and air while moving the Team to high ground where they could be lifted out by helicopters in an emergency extract. Graves was wounded during the fight but refused medical treatment and continued to lead the Team. Choppers arrived on the scene and one swooped into the landing zone under very heavy enemy fire to extract the Team which scrambled aboard the chopper with several other patrol members also now wounded. As the chopper was about to lift off, Graves realized one of his Marines was still on the ground and wounded. Graves jumped from the chopper and waved it off to stay with his wounded Marine on the ground and continue the fight with the NVA who were closing in.

A second helicopter made another heroic landing and picked up Graves and the Marines still on the ground with him. As the chopper lifted off it was hit by a barrage of enemy fire and crashed with all aboard but one killed. Lt. Graves was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic actions on that day. See the internet for all the details of the heroic actions of Lt. Graves, his Marines and the helicopter pilots and crews during this action. But the story is much bigger! It is the story of the Marine Corps training its Officers and NCO's not only to be leaders, but to recognize those who may not have as much experience as others, but who carry themselves in such a way that they project the image of leadership. 2nd Lt. Terry Graves was such a Marine. And, for even more about Marine heroes, search the internet for Colonel Rich Higgins, USMC, who was Lt. Graves best friend and classmate in college. Further, look up Lt. Colonel Robin Higgins, USMC, the former Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs and the wife of Colonel Higgins. Where do we find such men and women? In this case, in the NROTC unit at Miami of Ohio in 1967.



Spotlight on a Veteran....



Pfc. Sadao Munemori was the only Japanese recipient of the Medal of Honor whose wartime recommendation for the Medal of Honor was originally approved. An additional 22 Asian Americans would be awarded the top medal in 1995 after a review of their actions.

(U.S. Army)

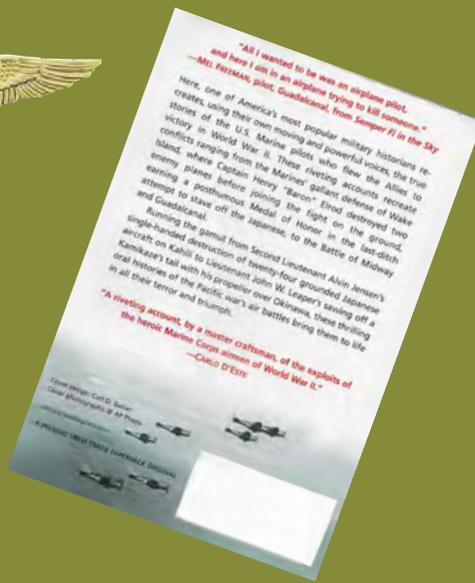
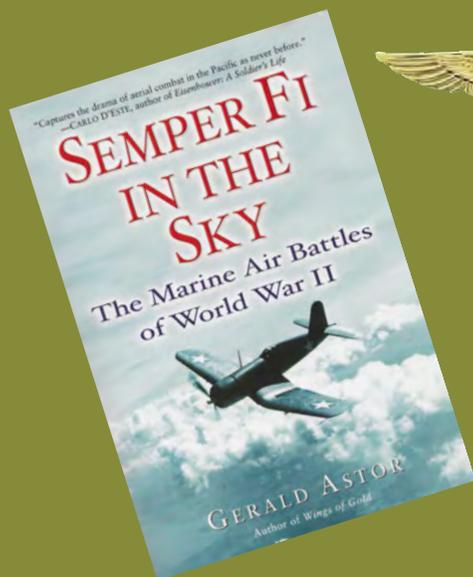
Munemori took over as squad leader, but twice ran through enemy fire on his own to get close to machine gun nests and destroy them with grenades. While making his way back from the second nest, enemy machine gun fire and grenades rained down around him.

He was still uninjured as he approached the shell crater that he and his men were using as cover, but an enemy grenade bounced off of his helmet and into the hole. Munemori dove onto the grenade and his body absorbed the blast. The other soldiers in the crater were still injured, but survived thanks to Munemori's sacrifice.

He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in early 1946, and was the only recipient whose recommendation during the war was approved. During a review of Distinguished Service Cross and Navy Cross awards in 1995, 22 other Asian Americans medal recipients were recommended for an upgrade to the Medal of Honor for actions in world War II. Three of these upgrades were awarded to members of the 100th Battalion for their role in rescuing the "Lost Battalion" in France.

A history of USMC Aviation beginnings

A cronology of the growth and battles of the USMC Air arm, Their battles not only with the Japanese but also with the U.S. Navy Air arm. From their beginnings in WWII through the battles against the Sandinista rebels in Central America the Marine air arm grew into an intrical part to Marine operations. A great, and informative, read that will put the reader not only in the cockpit but also in the back room drama as the Air Arm of the Corps is born.





Program Report Post 1776, Tallahassee

FROM: Gordon Lightfoot, Commander AMVETS Post 1776

SUBJ: Re Program Report

DATE: October 26, 2020

For the record AMVETS Post 1776 started recording hardcopy minutes from our May 2019 meeting, which the new Commander instigated upon election as Post Commander. Please find below in chronological order a brief description of program activities for 8 months for FY 2019 and to date only 5 meeting months due to pandemic in FY 2020.

FY 2019	Activity:	approx. member hours:	funds donated:	funds raised:
1.	Bell Tower/Carillon Project started 2015	May thru Dec 5 principal officers avg 5 hrs./wk. X 32 Week's equal 800 member hours		Approx. \$33,000.00 in FY 2019
2.	Commander attended AMVETS State Department Convention. June 16, 2019	24 hours Jun 14-16, 2019		
3.	Bought and sold Challenge Coins for Bell Tower	Ongoing activity since July		
4.	Created Website with Cyber Newsletter	Ongoing activity since July Cost approx. \$280 per annum Approx. 300 member hours		
5.	Donation to Tallahassee Honor Flight		\$500.00	
6.	Veterans Day Breakfast Raffle and Challenge Coin sales	5 members X 5 hours Total 25 member hours		Approx. \$700.00

FY 2020	Activity:	approx. member hours:	funds donated	funds raised:
1.	Donation to Dale Mabry WWII Museum Fund		\$250.00	
2.	Donation to MCL Hurricane Sally Victims	10 hours	\$800.00	
3.	Donation to Support Committee For Tallahassee Natl Cemetery		\$250	(for chairs for events)
4.	For January thru October 2020 additional funds raised for Bell Tower 2020.....			\$25,000.00
approx. 5 principal officers avg 2 hrs./wk. X 36 wks To date, Bell Tower Project equal member hours of 36 in final phase, waiting for NCA/VA. " Notice to Proceed"				

Answers to questions on page 9

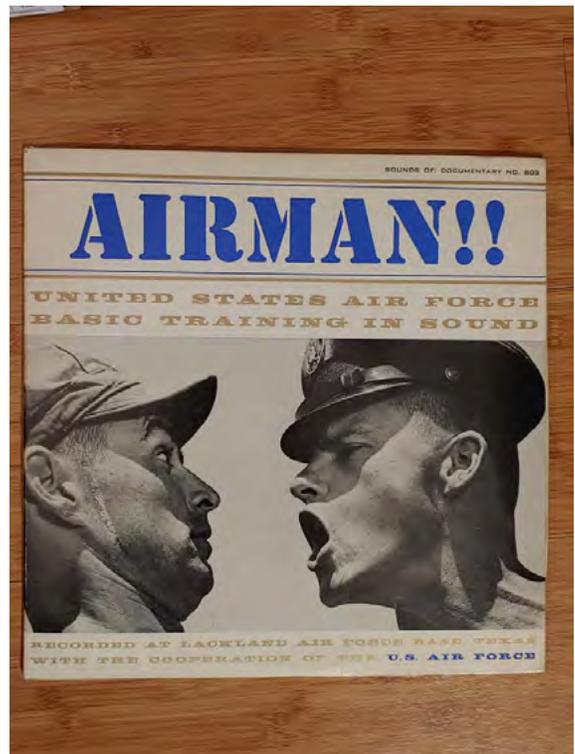
1. California (1.8 Million), Texas, (1.7 Million) and Florida (1.6 Million)
 2. The tomb of the unknown soldier
 3. 1984, 4. The soldier was identified his body removed and then reinturned with an indentifying marker.
 5. 2 million

REMININCENING WITH A LITTLE MILITARY HUMOR...

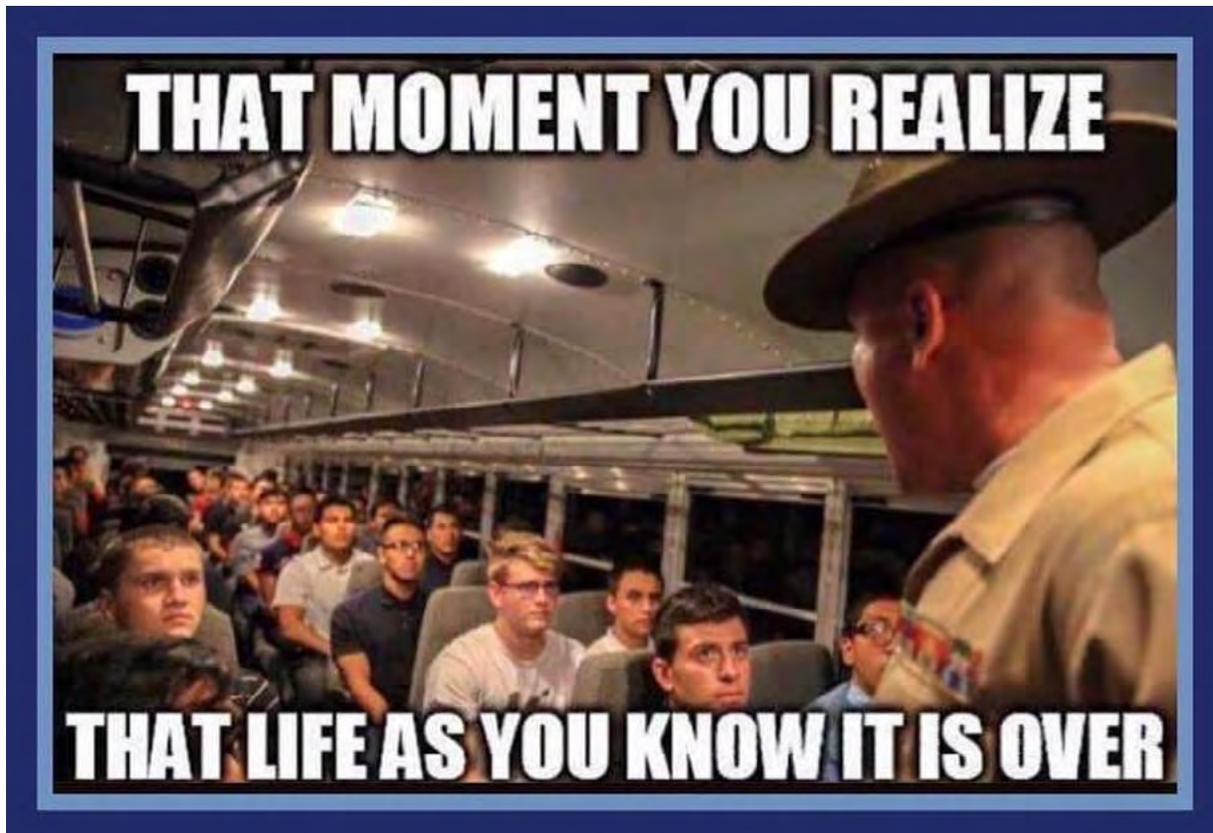


To stay sharp, the Gunny would hit the shouting range.

Try and stay invisible, make no eye contact.....



And he has Garlic Breath....



Mother, what the Hell have I done.....????

The WWI Origins of the Poppy as a Remembrance Symbol

The Remembrance Day symbolism of the poppy started with a poem written by a World War I brigade surgeon who was struck by the sight of the red flowers growing on a ravaged battlefield.. Sarah Pruitt



From 1914 to 1918, World War I took a greater human toll than any previous conflict, with some 8.5 million soldiers dead of battlefield injuries or disease. The Great War, as it was then known, also ravaged the landscape of Western Europe, where most of the fiercest fighting took place. From the devastated landscape of the battlefields, the red poppy would grow and, thanks to a famous poem, become a powerful symbol of remembrance. Across northern France and Flanders (northern Belgium), the brutal clashes between Allied and Central Powers soldiers tore up fields and forests, tearing up trees and plants and wreaking havoc on the soil beneath. But in the warm early spring of 1915, bright red flowers began peeking through the battle-scarred land: *Papaver rhoeas*, known variously as the Flanders poppy, corn poppy, red poppy and corn rose. As Chris McNab, author of “The Book of the Poppy,” wrote in an excerpt published in the *Independent*, the brilliantly colored flower is actually classified as a weed, which makes sense given its tenacious nature.

Col. John McCrae



Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a Canadian who served as a brigade surgeon for an Allied artillery unit, spotted a cluster of poppies that spring, shortly after the Second Battle of Ypres. McCrae tended to the wounded and got a firsthand look at the carnage of that clash, in which the Germans unleashed lethal chlorine gas for the first time in the war.

Some 87,000 Allied soldiers were killed, wounded or went missing in the battle (as well as 37,000 on the German side); a friend of McCrae’s, Lieutenant Alexis Helmer, was among the dead. Struck by the sight of bright red blooms on broken ground, McCrae wrote a poem, “In Flanders Field,” in which he channeled the voice of the fallen soldiers buried under those hardy poppies. Published in *Punch* magazine in late 1915, the poem would be used at countless memorial ceremonies, and became one of the most famous works of art to emerge from the Great War. Its fame had spread far and wide by the time McCrae himself died, from pneumonia and meningitis, in January 1918.

Across the Atlantic, a woman named Moina Michael read “In Flanders Field” in the pages of *Ladies’ Home Journal* that November, just two days before the armistice. A professor at the University of Georgia at the time the war broke out, Michael had taken a leave of absence to volunteer at the New York headquarters of the Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA), which trained and sponsored workers overseas. Inspired by McCrae’s verses, Michael wrote her own poem in response, which she called “We Shall Keep Faith.”

As a sign of this faith, and a remembrance of the sacrifices of Flanders Field, Michael vowed to always wear a red poppy; she found an initial batch of fabric blooms for herself and her colleagues at a department store. After the war ended, she returned to the university town of Athens, and came up with the idea of making and selling red silk poppies to raise money to support returning veterans.



Anna Guérin

Michael’s campaign to create a national symbol for remembrance—a poppy in the colors of the Allied nations’ flags entwined around a victory torch—didn’t get very far at first. But in mid-1920, she managed to get Georgia’s branch of the American Legion, a veteran’s group, to adopt the poppy (minus the torch) as its symbol. Soon after that, the National American Legion voted to use the poppy as the official U.S. national emblem of

From {age 8.....

remembrance when its members convened in Cleveland in September 1920.

On the opposite side of the Atlantic, a Frenchwoman named Anna Guérin had championed the symbolic power of the red poppy from the beginning. Invited to the American Legion convention to speak about her idea for an “Inter-Allied Poppy Day,” Madame Guérin helped convince the Legion members to adopt the poppy as their symbol, and to join her by celebrating National Poppy Day in the United States the following May.

Back in France, Guérin organized French women, children and veterans to make and sell artificial poppies as a way to fund the restoration of war-torn France. As Heather Johnson argues on her [website](#) devoted to Madame Guérin’s work, the Frenchwoman may have been the single most significant figure in spreading the symbol of the Remembrance poppy through the British Commonwealth countries and other Allied nations.

Within a year, Guérin brought her campaign to England, where in November 1921 the newly founded (Royal) British Legion held its first-ever “Poppy Appeal,” which sold millions of the silk flowers and raised over £106,000 (a hefty sum at the time) to go towards finding employment and housing for Great War veterans. The following year, Major George Howson set up the Poppy Factory in Richmond, England, in which disabled servicemen were employed to make the fabric and paper blooms.

Other nations soon followed suit in adopting the poppy as their official symbol of remembrance. Today, nearly a century after World War I ended, millions of people in the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Belgium, Australia and New Zealand don the red flowers every November 11 (known as Remembrance Day or Armistice Day) to commemorate the anniversary of the 1918 armistice. According to McNab, the Poppy Factory (now located in Richmond, England and Edinburgh, Scotland) is still the center of poppy production, churning out as many as 45 million poppies made of various materials each year.

In the United States, the tradition has developed a little differently. Americans don’t typically wear poppies on November 11 ([Veterans Day](#)), which honors all living veterans. Instead, they wear the symbolic red flower on Memorial Day—the last Monday in May—to commemorate the sacrifice of so many men and women who have given their lives fighting for their country.

“In Flanders Fields” by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
 Between the crosses, row on row,
 That mark our place; and in the sky
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly
 Scarce heard amid the guns below.
 We are the Dead. Short days ago
 We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
 Loved and were loved, and now we lie
 In Flanders fields.
 Take up our quarrel with the foe:
 To you from failing hands we throw
 The torch; be yours to hold it high.
 If ye break faith with us who die
 We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
 In Flanders fields.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF VETERANS DAY!

1. NAME THE THREE STATES WITH THE MOST VETERANS LIVING IN THEM
2. THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT CEREMONY FOR VETERANS DAY IS CENTERED AROUND WHAT?
3. IN 1972 CONGRESS PROVIDED FOR INTERNMENT OF AN UNKNOWN SOLDIER FROM VIETNAM BUT WHAT YEAR WAS THE FIRST UNIDENTIFIED SOLDIER FROM VIETNAM INTERRED?
4. WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT PARTICULAR GRAVE?
5. HOW MANY VETERANS IN AMERICA ARE WOMEN?

Answers on page six

Meet the Officers of Post 1776, Tallahassee.....



Commander Gordon Lightfoot
(not the singer).



Rob Aguilera
1st Vice



Henry Lowery
Judge Advocate



Eric Smith
Chaplain



Anthony "Tony" Minichiello
Adjutant



Ray House
2nd Vice



John Folsom
Commander Emeritus



Paul Rogerson
Finance Officer

Missing photo
Cecil Taylor,
Provost