# AMVETS Tallahassee Post 1776 Cyber Newsletter

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## *Commander's Corner*

It has been a hot summer. Looking forward to fall and our 3rd Annual Turkey Shoot in November. More details to follow. Not a whole lot going on right now but the American Legion Post 13 had a great 4th of July celebration down on Lake Ella.

You will find in this edition a couple of articles, one regarding a "Finale Salute" at the Tallahassee National Cemetery and one on a publication of a children's book by one of our members.

Fall will bring on many activities, including the 25th celebration observance of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, which is scheduled to be held at the Tallahassee National Cemetery on Saturday, September 12th.

We were fortunate this year to be able to distribute a little over $5,000.00 to our usual veteran programs including the Tallahassee Veterans Legal Collaborative; FI Cares Inc. a veterans' access builder; Family Promise of the Big Bend a veteran homeless coalition and a donation to the Fleet Reserve Association Branch 34 towards their new Navy Memorial project for the Tallahassee National Cemetery. All that and we are maintaining a healthy budget for this coming year.

As always, thank you all for all you do for veterans and your continuing service for 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 the first Thursday of the month at the Elks Lodge at 276 North Magnolia Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32301, across from the Ford Dealership. We invite honorably discharged veterans, including Guards and Reserve, from all branches to Join us. We are a small Post doing Big things!

**Check out our website at: www.amvets1776.org**

# *Chaplain's Corner*

**Chaplain Earnest Reed**
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850-509-4062

***"And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."* (John 14:13-14)**

O God, in our hearts, we name those who are facing illness and pain. We join our prayers with the prayers of all who love them. Give them renewed comfort and courage. Strengthen in them the healing powers You have placed within us all. Guide the hands and hearts of those who are entrusted with their care. May the knowledge of Your love and ours give added hope to them and to their dear ones. May they find even greater strength because our prayers are linked with theirs. Amen..

**A Special Note:** Thank you Chaplain Reed for your continuing prayers for our veterans within our Post and beyond. We know you like a lot of us spread your time with other veteran organizations and contribute substantially to all our health and well being.

Although we don't mention our membership by name we do have from time to time members that might have special needs for a prayer that might not meet a sickness threshold but none-the-less need prayer to be lifted up.

Right after our meeting last week I got a call from our Provost Cecil Taylor. He was involved in a hit and run on the way to our meeting that seriously damaged his car but he is okay. Cecil is truly a valued member of our Post and we extend our prayers and a helping hand if he needs anything. His hit and run culprit has not been found at this writing.

Which brings to mind, our Post receives numerous calls from the community wanting to gift us with household items. AMVETS National maintains local Posts with thrift stores throughout the Country and people looking to donate to veterans, because of this national Program, think we have a thrift store too. We do not, but I take the calls anyway and in just these past couple of months, we have received an expensive medical bed, a power chair, two wheel chairs and a medical scooter among other items for veterans in need. I shared a story last issue about Past Post Commander Ray House receiving a medical scooter. And we have been able to pass all these items on to veterans in need. We do this because we don't have a storage unit for items like these but we clearly want to be able to share these items, that are usually in great shape. We will be discussing this issue and developing a policy on just how to accept and then distribute these gifts. Stay tuned, Commander Lightfoot

# A Final Salute

(Article by Gordon Lightfoot)

Marianne Trussell, the Chair of the Support Committee for the Tallahassee National Cemetery has been an ardent supporter of their quarterly "Final Salute" for veterans that did not originally receive Honors when interred at the Tallahassee National Cemetery.

Final Salutes at the Tallahassee National Cemetery may represent one or more deceased veterans at one service. There are usually veterans from several of the local veteran service organizations (VSOs) present to honor the veterans and the service itself will conduct a service that includes a folding of the flag, an honor guard rifle salute and taps with a prayer given by a chaplain of one of the veteran service organizations. Some of these final salutes are more well attended than others but as Marianne will attest they all should receive the utmost respect and attendance from our local veterans.

Part of the difficulty of attendance is the usual time of the service at 3 pm, which is during working hours for a lot of local veterans and then of course the difficulty of reaching out to the community and advising them of when and what time the service will be. Although a big effort is to use existing VSO email lists, it is not necessarily the most productive communication tool.

A recent notification appeared on Social Media (possibly Facebook) for a service for two unclaimed veterans. The two veterans were identified as US Marine Corps veteran Gleen Dorsey and US Army veteran Mark Roy. These two veterans were unclaimed for some unknown reason, but they were afforded a proper burial at a National Cemetery since they were both identified as veterans. Glenn Dorsey served during the Vietnam era and Mark Roy enlisted in the Army in 1977—several years after Vietnam.

What was extraordinary with this service held on Monday July 13, 2026, was essentially three things: 1) there were three honor guards present: the Support Committee's Honor Guard; the Leon County Sheriff's Honor Guard and the Tallahassee Police Department's Honor Guard; 2) the attendance was quite unusual; this author counted in excess of 75 people attending, including the Patriot Guard, who attended with their standing flag tributes; and 3) the prayer given by Eric Smith who has served in various capacities as a member of the Support Committee's Honor Guard as well as a former Chaplain ofor both the American Legion Post #13 and AMVETS Tallahassee Post 1776. To close, the best we can share about the need to recognize our veterans in such difficult times is that we need to be respectful and make every effort we can to remember these veterans. Eric Smiths' prayer I believe captures the essence of these final salutes. I want to share Chaplain Smith's prayer—along with some photos of the event—with you.

**Closing Prayer at Honors Ceremony for Glenn Charles Dorsey and Mark David Roy**

**Tallahassee National Cemetery- July 13, 2026**

By Honor Guard Chaplain Eric Smith

Our Supreme Commander, there are not any comrades whose value is less than their brothers. Each person we are honoring today is not done so because of their rank. It is an honor they earned by their commitment to serve their country. We have gathered here to recognize US Marine Corp veteran Glenn Dorsey and US Army veteran Mark Roy's military service. **Continued on page 4**

**Continued from page 3**

As it is sad with the passing of comrades, we rejoice in the ability to offer final honors and our respect.

We pray that Your mercy and justice have made right their human failings and faults. Now that You have called Glenn and Mark home, they are free from the pains of this earth. Their passing reminds each of us of the frailty of our own bodies and that someday we will join them in Your presence.

Father, the soul of our departed comrades rest in Your Hands. May the joy of everlasting life be theirs according to Your promise. We have now offered final honors and a tribute, to ensure that all our comrades are remembered.

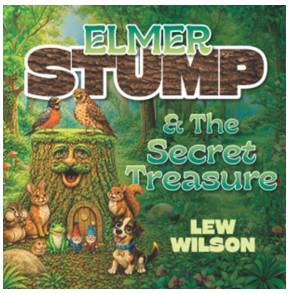
Our Heavenly Father, today we ask for Your blessings, ---- grant them the comfort and peace that only You can provide.

Father, in Your name we pray, AMEN

## On Elmer Stump

(Article by Gordon Lightfoot)

It is not often we get to honor one of our members because of some special personal accomplishment. Lew Wilson a long-time member of our Post has recently published his first children's book, "**Elmer Stump and the Secret Treasure**".




After a quick read it does capture your curiosity and for a young child its message is heartfelt and meaningful. Lew has been working on this work for several years and I know he has some other books in the pipeline. We sure do wish him success with his new publishing efforts.

I know a lot of us have children and grandkids and I am blessed to now have a couple of great grandkids myself. I just purchased mine and gave it to my first great grandchild and can't wait to read it to her. I am copying the link to Amazon and providing a QRC for you if you want to purchase one.

You can order yours at: **https://www.amazon.com/dp/BOH9FLYL6h** or you can scan this QRC:

Take a look at this cute book and give Lew some feedback. We just might have another Hemingway in our midst. Good luck Lew, keep up the good work.

## Ladder Safety for Us Old Guys

By Gordon Lightfoot

Well, I have to say, my wife told me so! Stay off ladders and roofs. Of course, I have always been active, building things as a hobby and keeping up the homestead. A ladder has always been part of the work life. But when you turn eighty and even before for some reason you become a little less careful, I guess, in part because you have climbed ladders and even been on roof tops doing odd jobs for a long time.

But then the inevitable happens. I just needed to put a nail in my next to last piece of tin on a small roof I was working on for an extension to my workshop. I was using an 8' step ladder and I was on the top rung with my body extended through the roof. I had to stretch a little and the next thing I knew, I kicked the ladder out from under me and down I went. Three cracked ribs, a cracked vertebrae, a gash in my head and other bruises and an overnight stay at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital was the result of that careless act. I am okay, but I know it could have been a lot worse. And for all this and the fact I did several years' working on grants with OSHA on construction safety I feel compelled to cite what OSHA says about ladder safety. And for all you hard heads out there take a moment and listen to your wife or another friendly face and pay attention. At our late age there is surely a younger friend or family member or just hiring out that job that needs to get done. On the trip to the hospital, I discovered that an eighty-year-old falling from a ladder incident is high priority. In fact, one of the younger doctors said to me he didn't think he was ever going to get on a ladder due to the conditions of old men he has seen, just like me, that have taken the fall.

Here ya go! **OSHA Standard 1910.23 Subpart D** is the standard that dictates all about ladder safety. For brevity's sake here is a fairly quick synopsis:

OSHA ladder safety rules require maintaining a 3-point contact, keeping extension ladder tops 3 feet above the landing, and inspecting ladders before each use. For safe Climbing and Positioning; 1) 3-point contact: Always keep two hands and a foot, or two feet and a hand, touching the ladder; 2) Face the Rungs: Always face the ladder when going up or down; 3) Center your body: Keep your belt buckle inside the side rails and do not overreach; 4) 3-foot extension: Extension ladders must reach at least 3 feet above the upper landing surface; 5) 4-to-1 rule: Place the ladder base 1 foot away from the wall for every 4 feet of height to the point where the ladder rests; 6) No top step: Never stand on the top step or cap of a stepladder; 7) No hand-carrying tools: Never carry heavy or awkward items while climbing, use a utility belt or pull tools up with a rope line; 8) No unlocked spreaders: Never use a stepladder with its middle spreaders unlocked or half-closed; 9) No slippery surface use: Never climb ladder covered in ice, grease, oil, or wet substances.

From just this very brief summation of the Standard, I apparently broke about half of the rules. Pay attention, stay safe, we all want to live to be a 100! See my culprit below.

**Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 34 has submitted a proposal to the National Cemetery Administration to construct and place a "Navy Memorial" at the Tallahassee National Cemetery. The package is in Washington D.C. for review. We are currently asking for donations for this approximate $26,000.00 project. If you wish to contribute or need more information please contact Gordon Lightfoot for a brochure or fill out the below information sheet and mail a check to below address. Thank you in advance for your considerations.**

**Fleet Reserve Assn Branch 34**

**5013 Centennial Oak Circle**

**Tallahassee, Florida 32327**

**(Please make checks payable to: Fleet Reserve Assn. Branch 34)**

**Name: _____ Address: _____**

**City: _____ State/Zip: _____**

**Phone: _____ Email: _____**

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# AMVETS 3rd ANNUAL TURKEY SHOOT

# SAVE THE DATE: November 7, 2026

# More information soon

# AMVETS Tallahassee Post 1776

## August 2026

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