



AMVETS Tallahassee Post 1776 Cyber Newsletter

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Commander's Corner

Happy New Year to all. Now that we have survived the holidays let's enjoy the rest of winter. We know Jan and February are cold months, but we can sure hunker down and look forward to spring and of course right around the corner is our Fifteenth Annual Golf Tournament at Golden Eagle Golf and Country Club. We had our first planning meeting at our last Post meeting, and it looks like we will be up and running in the next couple of weeks. Stay tuned, we will be putting out notices and save April 28th, the day of the tournament. And by the way, we had a great turnout for our New Years dinner at Glory Days Grill. This will hopefully become an annual event with our Post sponsoring the dinner for our members and their spouses.

November gave us a Marine Corps Ball jointly sponsored by the NROTC at FAMU and our MCL Det. 472. We remembered not just the Marine Corps Birthday but the Navy's Birthday as well. The Cadets under the leadership of Colonel Benjamin Ringvelski did another outstanding job, a lot of pomp and circumstance with a memorable keynote by Michael Terhune a corpsman honoring Marines.

We also had another outstanding Veterans Day Parade, one of the best in the Country. And then on December 16th we dedicated our newest addition to the Tallahassee National Cemetery, sponsored by District 2 of State of Florida VFW. **(Continued on Page 2)**

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 American Legion Post 13, 229 Lake Ella Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32303. We invite honorably discharge veterans, including Guards and Reserve, from all branches to Join us. We are a small post doing big things

www.amvets1776.org

(Commander's Corner Continued from page 1)

See short article in this edition, highlighting our very own John Folsom, Chaplain for VFW Post 3308.

On December 14th, we attended a Wreaths Across America event at the Tallahassee National Cemetery. We now have over 3,000 veterans interred in our National Cemetery and the crowd for the event surely exceeded 1,000 with a lot of family members helping to lay wreaths on their loved one's gravesites.

And in the middle of all this our Post joined hands with our member Lew Wilson to collect blankets and other items for Veterans in need. See short article on this year's event submitted by Lew. This is the third year Lew has put together this event and it is well received.

As always, thank you all for all you do for veterans and your continuing service to our Country, our County and our Post.

Semper Fi

Gordon

Chaplains Corner

Eric Smith, Chaplain AMVETS Post 1776

New Year Prayer 2025

As we embark on this year, may our family bonds grow stronger, our love deepens, and our moments together become cherished memories. May joy, unity, and happiness reign within our family circle throughout the year ahead.

Lord, this is a good time to bring before you all the burdens, regrets, and mistakes of the past year. We recognize that we may have held onto these things too long, and they have hindered our growth and joy. We ask for forgiveness in any way we may have fallen short and for the strength to forgive ourselves and others.

And Lord, thank You for new beginnings. This is an incredible day with a fresh year's potential stretched out before us. We want to be faithful this year in every opportunity. We pray this in Your Name.

Amen.



AMVETS Tallahassee Post 1776 Participates in 3rd Annual Blankets for Veterans Drive (Article contributed by Lew Wilson)

While the weather is having its normal highs and lows this year, there are still days where the biting cold breaks through the bones with a chilling effect, and our local Veterans, while housed or in the woods, require much needed help to keep warm during the season. This year was the third annual blanket drive co-sponsored by AMVETS Tallahassee Post 1776 and Lew Wilson (USMC and retired President and CEO of Florida Veteran Foundation) with significant help from these partners: Danielle and Tom Galvin, Paul Rogerson, finance officer AMVETS Tallahassee Post 1776; Todd Powers the 4th Quarter Bar and Grille and WCTV. Again, our community came together to help support those Veterans who are in need.



Delivering much needed Supplies

On Thursday, December 19th, Lew Wilson, and Gordon Lightfoot from AMVETS Post 1776 delivered 108 blankets, seventy-two pairs of socks, several jackets, hoodies, and dental supplies for distribution to our local Veterans that primarily reside at our Vets Village and Homefront facilities.

The event was made possible by a Tallahassee community that treasures our Veterans and always turns out when the call to action arrives. The three Veteran communities, including Veterans Village, Homefront and Balkin Apartments, were deeply appreciative of all the warmth and support provided. Our sincere thanks to everyone who donated and supported these efforts to help our Veterans have a warm and comfortable Christmas season to bring in the new year.



**AMVETS Post 1776
Providing Supplies
to Veterans**

VFW Florida District 2 Monument Dedication Ceremony

December 16, 2024
(Article by Gordon Lightfoot)



On December 16, 2024, VFW Florida District 2 dedicated its monument to the Tallahassee National Cemetery. It sits on the Memorial Walkway in its northeast corner. The concept for this monument came to the district 2 commanders of seven VFW Posts in the Big Bend area a little over six years ago. The concept proposal was submitted to the National Cemetery Administration two years ago.

VFW Post 3308 became the administrative entity that developed the proposal and followed through raising funds and working with Madison

Marble in Madison, Florida to create a granite monument engraved with each Post named along with an inscription that reads: "The Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts of the Big Bend dedicate this monument to the brave men and women who served our great nation and rest now in these hallowed grounds, November 2024"

The dedication ceremony and unveiling of the monument was well attended by the seven District Posts including representatives from the State VFW office. But what captured the moment from my perspective was the invocation given by VFW Post 3308 Chaplain and Commander Emeritus of AMVETS Tallahassee Post 1776 John Folsom. John has worn many hats in the veteran community over a number of years. He is past commander of American Legion Post 13 and has been an inductee of the Florida Veteran Hall of Fame since 2017. And if you don't know John you are missing out on knowing a veteran that is a prolific writer about our veteran heritage and can mesmerize you with his oratory skills, but he has done double duty for years in his other passion, that of bringing cheer to kids as Santa. **(Continued on next Page)**

VFW Florida District 2 Monument Dedication Ceremony December 16, 2024 (Continued)

His stories about his work as Santa and talking to these young children will bring tears to your eyes.



**John Folsom AKA
"Santa"**

Back to his invocation. After the ceremony I asked John if he had a copy of his invocation and of course he did. I ask if he would mind me sharing it and after reading it, I think the best way to share is to just reprint it as I am going to do.

VFW Dedication Prayer - Our Supreme Commander:

"This ground has been consecrated by the love of each veteran buried here. Each has met the challenge that we find in scripture, Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Each veteran buried here is equal to all his comrades. No veteran finds a higher rank in the grave. In scripture we are reminded: For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

Our most Heavenly Father, to whom all the glory is given, the current and future veterans laid to rest here have a common brotherhood. Some have walked the fields that were anointed with blood, some taken to the skies and perhaps felt closer to you, and yet others have followed the winds and the currents of the seas. These veterans have defended our country, our constitution, and our way of life. We now come to you, dear Lord, to ask for your blessings. Bless this ground so our comrades may have the peace they have earned. Bless this ground so that the visitors will honor their passing and know that these comrades are protected by your love. This monument that we dedicate here today is not only a tribute to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, but dear God it is an altar to you, for you being present with us today. As we listen to our speaker today may his message be an inspiration for all of us. A message that causes us to continue our devotion to God and Country and to remember those that not only died for their country, but those that continued the battle. They have fought a good fight, they have finished the course, they have kept the faith. Our Holy Father, we pray in your Name, Amen."

Thank you, John, for a prayer that does justice for all veterans laid to rest here at our Tallahassee National Cemetery.



John Folsom