AMVETS Post 1776 Cyber Newsletter

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Commander's Corner.....

As most of you know we publish this newsletter bi-monthly. Our last newsletter promoted our d13th Annual Golf Tournament and now I can say it was a resounding success. It was held April 24th and although it drizzled a little and turned cold, we had twenty teams signed up that played through it all. We had a great luncheon, silent auction and raffle. And, on our May 4th monthly meeting we installed our 2023 officers and appointed staff. At this meeting we took advantage of the profits from our tournament we voted to donate over $3,000.00 to veterans and veteran service organizations.

Also, in April there were other significant events. I was privileged to attend and present AMVETS certificates to cadets at both the FAMU Navy ROTC ceremony as well as the FSU Army and Air Force ROTC ceremony. On April 20th we attended the unveiling of the Marine Corps League (Marine Corps) monument at the Tallahassee National Ceremony and just this week there were multiple ceremonies memorializing our fallen heroes, one at the Tallahassee National Cemetery on May 28th, and at our VFW Cemetery on May 29th. As well as the annual American Legion Memorial Day ceremony at Oakland Cemetery. And as noted in a special spotlight to David Wilson, in this issue, there were other dedications memorializing some local heroes at Oakland and at the Greenwood Cemeteries.

What is significant about all these events is that our members were apart of nearly all of these events, from Henry Lowery emceeing the Memorial

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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.

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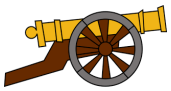
Day event at the Tallahassee National Cemetery to David Wilson keynoting the American Legion ceremony at Oakland Cemetery. John Folsom represented the American Legion at both the university ROTC ceremonies and John continues to work with our local high school JRROTC presenting American Legion and AMVETS certificates.

Also, congrats to Henry for receiving a Senior Center award at their annual awards ceremony and to Butch Topicz for his National Shipmate award.

And finally, Tom Carney our 1st Vice along with David Wilson have submitted a package to the National Cemetery Administration for an Air Force Monument at the Tallahassee National Cemetery and I am the point person for a package submitted to the NCA for a VFW District 2 monument. We are all anxiously waiting for approvals.

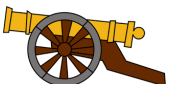
As always, thank you all for all you do for veterans and your continuing service to our Country, our County and our Post.

Semper Fi.....Gordon



Let The Battle Begin

Submitted by John Folsom, Commander Emeritus



We have all thought at one time or the other that instead of going to war just let the president of one country fight the president of the other country for all the marbles. With a few minor adjustments that is what happened in 1351.

The Combat of the Thirty (or Combat des Trente) was an odd episode in the Breton War of Succession that took place on March 26, 1351 AD. Fought at a pre-arranged battlefield in Brittany, the encounter pitched two groups consisting of 30 champions and knights against each other, with one side representing the King of France, and the other side representing the King of England. The challenged was originally issued forth by Jean de Beaumanoir, a captain under the French banner. As befitting of knights, both the French and English fought for a long stretch of time – so much so that even a crowd gathered to watch the bloody contest.

These spectators were even served refreshments, while the knights fought on gallantly. And after several hours of fighting – which caused deaths of four French and two English knights, the participants called for a time-out. During this short time, the warriors were given medical attention and food. And after the contest was resumed, the English leader Bemborough was wounded and then killed by his French counterpart. At this critical juncture, the English men decided to form a tight, defensive formation that blunted various French attacks. Finally, a squire named Guillaume de Montauban mounted his horse and charged at the English lines. This desperate move shattered the enemy will; and with seven of their champions being gravely injured, the English finally surrendered. So the French 'team' emerged victorious in the macabre contest, with the final tally corresponding to 9 deaths on the English side and 6 deaths on the French. The remaining prisoners were supposedly well treated and released on payment of a small ransom.

The winning teams from our Annual **"Veterans helping Veterans"** Golf Tournament.

1st place winning team "Sauce Masters"

"Runner up" team from Bevis Funeral Home

On Monday, April 24, 2022 AMVETS Post 1776 sponsored their 13th Annual Golf Tournament at Golden Eagle Golf and Country Club with the theme, "Veterans Helping Veterans." Twenty teams showed up to play for 1st and 2nd place trophies. There were over 30 sponsors advertising on the golf fairways with raffles and a silent auction and a luncheon provided for all teams. It was a beautiful day for golfing and a good time was had by all.

Monies raised by our tournament will be used to support our Post's contributions to a number of veteran programs in the Tallahassee area. We have contributed in the past to the Big Bend Honor Flights; American Legion Baseball; Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. and other Veteran service organizations throughout the Big Bend Area.

The winning teams (see below photos) were as follows: 1st Place winners were "Sauce Masters" with players, not in order: Paul Manske, Rick Pearce, Rick Zweydorf and Roger Edmonds. The Runners Up were the "Bevis Hackers" with players not in order: Todd Wahlquist, Evan Wahlquist, Cory Van Wageman and Lane Sirmans. Presenting the

We want to send a special thank you to Richard Duley with the Disabled Veterans of American chapter here in Tallahassee and Nell Hewitt with the American Legion's Post #13, Auxiliary, here in Tallahassee along with other folks that came to help with the registration tables and oversee the golf course where we put all the Sponsor signs. We had over 30 prominent sponsors this year. Business interest in our Golf tournament grows every year.

We also want to take a moment to thank John Folsom and Ray House, former Commanders of Post 1776, for their initiatives over 13 years ago when they started this golf tournament. John and Ray still contribute to the success of our Tournament every year.

Honoring our Forgotten Heroes..

The crew who found and preserved this Hero!

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATIO
AN INDEPENDENT NON-PROFIT AEROSPACE ORGANIZ
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA • CHAPTER 419

Tony,

Here is a writeup about the Headstones that were placed in Greenwood Cemetery on 19 May 2023. The Rickards HS ARMY JROTC Unit performed Color Guard duties. A Buglers from Rickards played "TAPS."

We recently found three military headstones that had been broken. With help from many, three replacement headstones were ordered, received and on 6 May 2023, they were placed at the head of the graves for:

- Henry Nettles-World War 1 Veteran
- Pink T Holt-World War 1 Veteran
- Jesse G Bowman-World War 2 Veteran

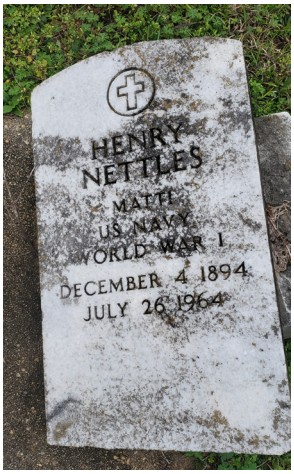
As you are an integral part of our Veteran Community, you know our veterans are doing amazing things in Tallahassee. On 6 May 2023 at 9AM, the following veterans showed up and helped place the headstones appropriately.

- Raymond Miller-USMC Veteran
- Henry Lowery-USMC Veteran
- Lee Norris-US ARMY Veteran
- Eric Smith-US NAVY Veteran
- Tom Carney-USAF Veteran
- Mark Lowe-USAF Veteran and
- David Wilson USAF Veteran

None of the veterans who helped install the new headstones knew any of the deceased veterans. They only knew that three deceased veterans needed new Military Headstones and they showed up ready to work.

On 19 May, AMVETS Commander Gordon Lightfoot led the ceremony for the new headstone dedication for Henry Nettles. Contact has been made with his daughter who currently lives in New York and photos were sent.

David Wilson



Condition of Nettles headstone when found.

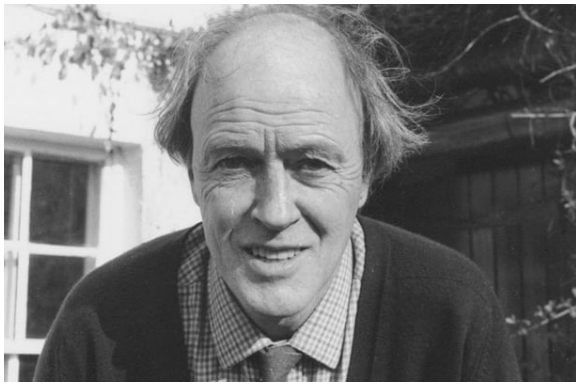
Nettles headstone after reconditioning.

Commander Lightfoot uncovers the restored headstone for WWI veteran Henry Nettles, U.S. Army.

Visitors , JROTC color guard and crew members hand salute as "Taps" is played by a member of the JROTC from Rickards H.S.

He Spied on the United States!

Submitted by John Folsom



Roald Dahl

Roald Dahl: The best-selling children's author who spied on the United States. Before he became famous for penning such books as "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and "James and the Giant Peach," Dahl was part of a British spy ring in Washington, D.C. The Welsh-born Dahl joined the Royal Air Force in 1939 and trained as a fighter pilot. He flew a number of combat missions before injuries he suffered during a crash-landing in the North African desert ended his military flying career. In 1942, Dahl was appointed assistant air attaché at the British embassy in Washington, where he was recruited to join a spy network called the British Security Coordination (BSC). The group, whose members included future James Bond creator Ian Fleming, was tasked with planting propaganda and carrying out other covert activities designed to persuade a reluctant United States to join the war against Germany; after Pearl Harbor and the nation's entrance into the conflict, BSC operatives continued to clandestinely promote British interests in the U.S. while also working to undermine remaining isolationist attitudes in American politics and society. In his role as an undercover agent, the tall, dashing Dahl gathered intelligence about the U.S. political scene by befriending the capital's movers and shakers, including politicians, journalists, corporate tycoons, socialites and even first lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

Chaplain's Corner...

By Chaplain Eric Smith

Heavenly Father, thank you that you defend your people with your mighty hand. Please hear my prayer as I lift up our military and veterans before you now. They work tirelessly to defend our country. Bless and protect them Lord and use their work for the good of our nation and your glory. May they know your presence with them at this time. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with them always.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Spotlight on David Wilson

(Article by Gordon Lightfoot)

One of my favorite quips is “We Are a Small Post doing Big things!”. But I should always add, we do big things because we have members that take on challenges where their passions take them, all in supporting our AMVETS goal of our other slogan, “Veterans Helping Veterans.” All this to say that David Wilson personifies what our small Post is all about.

David has only been with our Post for a couple of years, but his passions precede his membership. David is a member of the Florida Veteran Hall of Fame (class of 2021) a member of the Air Force Association Bud West Chapter, Vietnam Veterans Chapter 96, the American Legion Post 68 in Madison and is an associate member of the Marine Corps League, Arthur R. Meyer Jr., Detachment 472. But just being a member of all these veteran service organizations is not what his passion is.

David, after attending a Wreaths Across America event in 2020 discovered a need to place wreaths on veteran’s gravesite in other public and private cemeteries. In collaboration with the Vietnam Veterans of American Chapter 96, David was able to raise some funds for additional Wreaths to place on selective Fallen Heroes in these other cemeteries throughout our Big Bend Area. David started his journey cataloging and putting together a team to visit these relatively unknown veteran gravesites. David started off with his grandsons and other elementary, middle and high school students and just this past year alone has expanded his team of helpers to include some other local and notable Veterans, e.g., Major John Haynes USMC (Ret); Henry Lowery USMC (Ret); Fred Ingley USMC (Ret); Tom Carney, Air Force, and the list goes on.

Not only is he finding these fallen heroes, but he is doing research to know their story, there are at least 60 so far. And at each gravesite visit he and his team does some clean up, places a small painted stone on the gravestone and further honors each veteran with a salute and calling out the veteran’s name for everyone to know that veteran is not forgotten. Without going into the many stories David has collected, he actually has begun a book that chronicles each of the veteran graves he has found, I want to share his most recent accomplishment.

A couple of months ago David came to our Post asking for some help. By the end of the meeting, we all voted to purchase a granite headstone for a Veteran named Billy Maddox that was without a headstone for over 70 years. We had a small service and with David’s research we were fortunate to have a niece of Billy’s come all the way from Rhode Island to witness our small ceremony. It was quite an emotional event. But that was not enough for David.

David, in doing his research was in communication with VA’s National Cemetery Administration that oversees over 150 of our National Cemeteries. David wanted to know why or how Billy Maddox’s grave did not have an official NCA gravestone. The story gets complicated but only due to David’s perseverance did we just this week, on Memorial Day, unveil a new NCA/VA gravestone. But that still was not enough, we had over 30 dignitaries in attendance, including Billy’s niece. The attendees included the historian and archivist from Trinity Methodist Church that found letters from Billy and his brother Bobby (that was killed in action in France the day before Billy passed away). And two other dignitaries attended the ceremony; we had a Ms. Lyons a PhD from the University of Central Florida that oversees an NCA Legacy grant from Washington and a representative from France that is familiar with Billy’s brother’s memorial in France. The testimonies and accolades were all moving, the story of these two brothers is finally being told and, in the end, here are two veterans that have not been forgotten but instead will be remembered in many more hearts today thanks to David Wilson. Billie’s and his brother’s story will no doubt be in the book David is working on. Thank you, David, for your passion that is fast becoming a mission for our small Post doing big things.

Tallahassee AMVETS Post 1776
Tallahassee, Florida. Calendar of Events, June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 *Post 1776 Meeting 1830 hrs.*	2	3
4 Battle of Midway (1942)	5 *VFW Meeting, 1900 hrs.*	6 D-Day (1944)	7 **Commanders Meeting 1000 Hrs. Post 13**	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 **Flag Day**	15 *Marine Corps Meeting 12 noon*	16	17
18 **Fathers Day**	19 *Juneteenth*	20	21	22 G.I. Bill signed 1944	23	24
25 Start of Korean War, 1950	26	27	28	29	30	31

John Folsom presents:
Phillips Book of Great Thoughts
Funny Sayings
by Bob Phillips

Deceit: Let no man deceive you with vain words. Ephesians 5:6
Decision: If I had to sum up in one word what makes a good manager, I'd say decisiveness. Lee Iacocca
Deeds: No need of words; trust deeds: Ovid (ok I looked it up, he was a roman poet in the time of Augustus)
Defeat: We have fought this fight as long and as well as we know how. We have been defeated. For us as a christian people, there is now but one course to pursue. We must accept the situation. Robert E Lee
Delegate: No man is able to do of himself all things. Homer
Democracy: What men value most in the world is not rights, but privileges. H.L.Mencken Nearly all able Americans drive, it is a privilege. Only 50% or so of registered voters vote: That is a right. If we were to make voting a privilege, maybe we could get nearly all Americans to vote.

"They" say lightning doesn't striketwice. Well, I don't know. It happened again!!

By David Wilson

Several years back Vietnam Veterans of America Big Bend Chapter 96 partnered with the Leon County School system to recognize our Vietnam Vets in conjunction with "National Vietnam War Veterans Day." The "National Vietnam War Veterans Day" is 29 March as established by Congress in 2017. Our vets go to each of the five high schools and throw out the ceremonial first pitch at their Baseball/Softball games. Men for baseball and women for softball.

On Friday, 31 March, our group was at Lincoln HS for their baseball game with Gainesville Buchholz. Our Vietnam Veterans were introduced to the crowd, the National Anthem was played and Henry Lowery threw out the first pitch. After we left the field and were standing behind the dugout, a lady walked up. Our eyes met and I could see that she had tears in her eyes. She thanked our veterans, hugged their necks and said she and her family was on one of the last boats to leave Vietnam in 1975. Soon, there were no dry eyes among us. It was quite an emotional moment! Her son plays on the Buchholz JV baseball team.

On Tuesday, 4 April, we were again at Lincoln, this time for the softball game versus Maclay. Once again, as we came off the field a lady came up with tears in her eyes, hugged us and thanked us. And as before, there were no dry eyes in our group. She was Vietnamese and she left in 1972 as it was heating up for the South Vietnamese. Her daughter was born around that time, her husband wanted the daughter to be American so she was flown to Clark Field in the Philippines for the birth of the child. She spoke of how good the American soldiers were and that she was the only female in the hospital when her daughter was born. She said her daughter was crying and she was trying to quiet her as she didn't want her interrupting the soldiers sleep as they were recovering in the hospital from wounds received during the war. She said one man came in on crutches as he had lost a leg and she was fearful that he would be mad because the baby was crying. Instead, he asked her could he look at her baby daughter, which she allowed him to do. She could not brag enough on how good the American soldiers were and how thankful she was for the opportunity to come to America.

Both ladies were very thankful to be Americans and to live in and raise their families in America!