

# Military Order of the Purple Heart

## AARON A. WEAVER CHAPTER 776



### CHAPTER PURPOSE

To preserve the proud legacy of the Purple Heart Medal.

VOL 14, ISSUE 5

www.citruspurpleheart.org

September-October 2017

### 2017-18 Officers

- Cdr:** Richard "Bud" Allen
- Sr. Vice Cdr:** Chuck Kanehl
- Jr. Vice Cdr:** Chris Boreland
- Adjutant:** Curt Ebitz
- Finance Off:** Joe McClister
- Judge Adv:** Frank Hayes
- Exec Cmte man:** Ray Michael
- Alt Cmte man:** Mike Schlaudraff
- Sgt-at-Arms:** Rick Allen
- Trustee 3-yrs:** Glenn Beaulieu
- Trustee 2-yrs:** Andy Viola
- Trustee 1-yr:** Zig Laska
- Service Off:** Joe McClister
- Welfare Off:** Gary Bain
- Historian:** Curt Ebitz
- Chaplain:** Mike Nemesh
- Americanism Off:** William Korber



### Bimonthly Meeting

#### Next Meeting

Tuesday, Sept 19, 1:00 p.m.

Citrus County Builders Association, Lecanto.

The Chapter's bimonthly meetings are held the third Tuesday of September, November, January, March, May and July at the Citrus County Builders Association, 1196 S. Lecanto Highway (C.R. 491), Lecanto, which is located on the west side of S. Lecanto Highway approximately 1/2 mile south of S.R. 44. Any member desiring to place an item on the agenda should e-mail Adjutant Ebitz at [info@citruspurpleheart.org](mailto:info@citruspurpleheart.org) or call 382-3847.

### Member News



A double whammy of crime hit Patriot **Lee Helscel** in July when he was a victim of identity theft and a home invasion. The identity thief made a cash advance of \$2,500 using his USAA credit card. Patriot Helscel recommends a credit monitoring company for protection. Later in the month, he was awoken during the early morning hours by noises in the kitchen. Upon investigating, he confronted an intruder. Patriot Helscel was armed and the intruder fled only to be apprehended by Hernando County deputies.

Crime also impacted Charter Member **A.E. Swanson** when he received notification from police officials that his 60-year-old middle son was brutally beaten to death by a recently released convict during an early morning robbery attempt at the Opa-locka store that he worked at in Miami-Dade County. The attacker was later apprehended. The Patriots and Ladies of Chapter 776 extend their heartfelt condolences to Patriot Swanson on the tragic loss of his son.

After having surgery in late June to remove a suspicious looking tumor in his nasal passage, Patriot **Al Golfieri** received the terrific news that the tumor was benign.

Patriot **Carl Marlo** had a serious stroke on July 17 while vacationing near New Orleans and is now undergoing recovery and rehabilitation. During the month of July, Patriot **Mike King** was hospitalized at the VA Medical Center in Gainesville for five days with pneumonia. It was great to see him at the Purple Heart anniversary breakfast.

World War II and Korean War Marine Corps veterans Patriot **John Auble** and Patriot **Dick Dow** relocated to Bucyrus, OH and Auburn, MA, respectively, to be close to family members.

*See Member, page 2*

### Chapter Activities Completed

**July 1.** Chapter 776 Cdr. Bud Allen represented the chapter at the inaugural opening of the Citrus County YMCA's Veterans Obstacle Course.

**July 25.** The Citrus County Board of County Commissioners presented a Proclamation to Chapter 776 designating August 7 as Purple Heart Recognition Day in Citrus County. Chapter 776 Patriots accepting the proclamation on behalf of all Purple Heart recipients were Cdr. Bud Allen, Rick Allen, Curt Ebitz, Richard Hunt, Chuck Kanehl, Joe McClister, Ray Michael, Ralph McClure, Mike Schlaudraff and Josh White. Also attending in support were Unit 776 Ladies Ann Fair, Sandy Cross, Mickey Hunt, and Linda Schlaudraff, as well as Proud Supporter Nicole Gaudette and Citrus County Veterans Service Officer Kimberly Stibbs-Menster.



Chapter 776 Cdr. Bud Allen presented Citrus County Tax Collector & Chapter 776 Honorary Member Janice Warrant a plaque designating the Citrus County Tax Collector Office as a "Purple Heart Tax Collector Office."

**July 29.** Chapter 76 Sr. Vice Cdr. Chuck Kanehl represented the chapter at the Mission United "hot dog" fundraiser.

**August 5.** Over 100 Chapter 776 Patriots, ladies and guests attended a delicious sit down breakfast hosted by the West Citrus Elks, Lodge No. 2693 in Homosassa commemorating the 235th anniversary of the Purple Heart. During the breakfast program, the Citrus County Builders Association presented the chapter a check for \$3,217.71 from its fishing tournament proceeds. Also, Citrus County Tax Collector Janice Warren and members of her staff were recognized for their successful

*See Completed, page 3*

### Veterans Appreciation Week

This year marks Citrus County's 25th Annual Veterans Appreciation Week. Chapter 776 Patriots are especially encouraged to participate in the Veterans in the Classroom program and Veterans Day Parade, as well as attend the Military Ball, Massing of the Colors, Inverness Primary School & Cornerstone Baptist veterans appreciation programs. **Chapter members are requested to contact Adj. Ebitz at 352-382-3847 or [info@citruspurpleheart.org](mailto:info@citruspurpleheart.org), if they plan to participate in the Veterans in the Classroom and/or attend the Military Ball to reserve a Purple Heart table.**

Free Veterans Appreciation Concert, Citrus Springs Community Center, **Oct 28**, 2:30 p.m.; Cornerstone Baptist Church, Inverness, **Oct 29**, 2:30 p.m.

Veterans in the Classroom, Citrus County public and private schools, **Oct 30-Nov 10**.

Veterans Social, American Legion Post 155, Crystal River, **Nov 3**, 5-6:30 p.m., \$7 at door.

Veterans Fair, Citrus County Auditorium, Inverness, **Nov 4**, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Military Ball, West Citrus Elks, Homosassa, **Nov 4**, 5:30 p.m., \$40.

Veterans Appreciation Program & Ice Cream Social, Cornerstone Baptist Church, Inverness, **Nov 5**, 6 p.m., uniforms encouraged.

Veterans Program, Inverness Primary School, **Nov 9**, 2 p.m., uniforms encouraged.

Marine Corps Ball, Citrus Hills Country Club, Hernando, **Nov 10**, 6 p.m., \$45.

Veterans Day Parade, Inverness, **Nov 11**, 10 a.m. Lineup begins 8:30 a.m. at Citrus High School parking area located off of Highland Blvd

Memorial Service, Old County Courthouse Heritage Museum, Inverness, **Nov 11**, after parade

Massing of the Colors Ceremony, First Baptist Church, Inverness, **Nov 12**, 3 p.m.



Wade Sabourin, founding president and CEO of Heartstrings for Heroes, presented

a guitar to Chapter 776 Jr. Vice Commander Christopher Boreland who is a Marine Corps veteran of Iraq. Sabourin, a

### Member

Warm congratulations to WWII veteran Patriot **Harold Layman** who celebrates his 92nd birthday in September.

Patriot **John Foley**, who has terminal cancer, is doing better than expected. His cancer is progressing slower than doctors anticipated and he is free of any pain. Being the fighter that he is, John is looking forward to his 91st birthday in October.

Unit 776 Lady **Sue Guard**, who spends her summer in Leesburg, Indiana, says she is looking forward to her return to Citrus County o/a the third week of October.

### From Commander "Bud" Allen

Patriots,

Patriots, if you were not aware, I had a two month respite as your commander. Although Patriot Richard Hunt was elected as our chapter commander for 2017-18, he was also elected as the Department of Florida Commander at the state convention in June. Given his duties and schedule as Department Commander, Patriot Hunt resigned as Chapter 776 Commander. Sr. Vice Commander Mike Nemesh was also elected the Department Sr. Vice Commander and he too resigned his position as Chapter 776 Sr. Vice Commander due to Department duties.

The Chapter held a special election June 27 to elect a new commander and Jr. Vice Cdr. I was reelected to be Cdr. Jr. Vice Chuck Kanehl, under Chapter bylaws, moved to Sr. Vice Cdr. Patriot Chris Boreland was elected as Jr. Vice Cdr. Your Cdr. was also elected to be Finance Officer for the Dept. of FL and reappointed to the Chief of Staff position. Thanks for your support and understanding.

On July 25, several chapter and auxiliary members attended the Board of County Commissioners meeting to receive its proclamation designating August 7 as Purple Heart Day in Citrus County. On August 5, the West Citrus Elks held their annual Purple Heart breakfast for Purple Heart recipients, Gold Star families and their guests. It was a terrific gathering with Gold Star families, state and county dignitaries, members of Purple Heart entities, and supporters attending.

The Elks did a tremendous job serving and feeding over 100 guests with special thanks to fellow members Frank and Carol Hayes for their organizational efforts. We had special presentations for Romy and Gaby Camargo recognizing them as Chapter 776 Patriot and Volunteer of the Year, respectively, for their efforts in helping spinal cord injury patients. Regrettably, they were unable to attend due to prior travel plans. Linda Schlaudraff was also recognized for her selection as the Associate Member of the Year for both Chapter 776 and the Department of Florida.

The Citrus County Builders Association (CCBA) made a donation of over \$3000 from a share of its fishing tournament proceeds this year to the chapter. The partnership with CCBA started about 6 years ago and has been a true financial benefit to the chapter. One of my favorite highlights of the program was our granddaughter Eve singing "Some Gave All" to the delight of all! If you missed the great breakfast and terrific program, you missed a good one---so don't miss next year's celebration!

On Purple Heart day, Aug. 7, chapter members attended the welcoming of two new designees in Citrus County to our growing family of Purple Heart entities. The Citrus County Tax Collector Office became the first Purple Heart Tax Collector Office in the state for its unending support of our chapter and veterans. It has raised in excess of \$100,000 in support of our principal charity, the Citrus County Veterans Foundation, which supports veterans and their families in difficult financial times.

Later on August 7, we welcomed the Citrus County Chronicle as the first Purple Heart Newspaper in the state. The Chronicle has supported our chapter and veteran service organizations with free ads and news stories letting the community know of our goings on and other newsworthy endeavors. They have provided additional support by sponsoring many veterans' activities and events. Our list of designees and firsts in the county and state is to be admired and appreciated. Thank you all and welcome aboard!

Granddaughter Eve Allen represented us again in song at the opening meeting for the Citrus County School Board. Thank you Eve!! The Crystal River city council presented a proclamation on August 14 honoring Purple Heart recipients.

Our next chapter bimonthly meeting is September 19, 1:00 p.m. at the CCBA building on C.R. 491 in Lecanto. Please make every effort to attend! Always moving forward, CMDR "Bud"

professional musician, founded Heartstrings for Heroes to help combat wounded veterans recover from the physical and psychological trauma of combat through music therapy.

### Raffle Tickets

Each year, Chapter 776 sells raffle tickets for the Homosassa Civic Club's annual Arts, Crafts & Seafood Festival in Old Homosassa. This year's festival is Nov. 11 & 12. Pkg 1 Mastercard (\$600 value); Pkg 2 Disney World (four One Day Park Hopper tickets); Pkg 3 Golf (free golf at 5 local courses); Pkg 4, Dad (oil change, fishing accessories, gift cards, car cleaning kit); Pkg 5 Mom (jewelry, day spa card, manicure & pedicure, gift cards); Pkg 6 (guided Homosassa River fishing trip, accessories, rod & reel, fish cleaning table. For every \$2 ticket sold, the chapter receives \$1. **If each Patriot purchases or sells just 10 \$2 tickets, the chapter would net over \$1,200.** Please contact Cdr. Allen at [budsterfd@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:budsterfd@tampabay.rr.com) or 352-270-8436 for tickets. Tickets will also be available at the chapter's September 19 bimonthly meeting.



Chapter 776 Patriots salute as the National Colors and Purple Heart flag are raised to conclude the ceremony designating the Citrus County Chronicle as a "Purple Heart Newspaper."

The Citrus County Board of County Commissioners presented Chapter 776 with a proclamation designating August 7 as Purple Heart Day in Citrus County, Florida in commemoration of the 235th anniversary of the Purple Heart medal and in honor of all Purple Heart recipients.



### Completed

May & June fundraising campaign that raised \$6,609.82 for the Citrus County Veterans Foundation. Fallen Hero family members present were Nancy Weaver, Savannah Weaver, Keri Surber and Ray Cubero.

**August 5.** The "Heartstrings for Heroes" program presented Jr. Vice Cdr. Chris Boreland with a beautifully crafted, autographed guitar. Cdr. Bud Allen and Adjutant Curt Ebitz were in attendance.

**August 7.** The Citrus County Tax Collector Office was designated as the first "Purple Heart Tax Collector Office" in the state and nation in recognition of its longstanding support of Chapter 776 and local veterans. Attending the ceremony were Cdr. Bud Allen, Rick Allen, Curt Ebitz, Chuck & Mickie Kanehl, Will & Bonnie Korber, Zig Laska, Joe McClister & Annie Fair, Ray Michael, Mike Schlaudraff and Andy Viola.

**August 7.** The Citrus County Chronicle was designated as the first "Purple Heart Newspaper" in Florida in recognition of its longstanding support of Chapter 776 and local veterans. In attendance were Cdr. Bud Allen, Rick Allen, Curt Ebitz, Chuck & Mickie Kanehl, Will & Bonnie Korber, Zig Laska, Ray Michael, Mike Schlaudraff and Andy Viola.

**August 14.** Cdr. Bud Allen, Rick Allen, Joe McClister & Annie Fair accepted a proclamation commemorating the anniversary of the Purple Heart and all Purple Heart recipients from the City of Crystal River during a city council meeting.

**August 5.** Eve Allen, granddaughter of Cdr. Bud Allen, opened up the Citrus County School Board's inaugural meeting for the new school year with the chapter's signature song, "Some Gave All." Cdr. Allen, Rick Allen and Stacey Allen were in attendance.

**August 5.** Chapter 776 joined with the Citrus County Veterans Foundation during the PH breakfast to recognize the Citrus County Tax Collect Office's top three fundraisers for the May & June campaign for the benefit of the Foundation, which is the chapter's principal charity.

**August 26.** Chapter Patriots and Unit Ladies turned out in force with "Purple Power" to welcome returning service members during an Operation Welcome Home event. Attending the event were Cdr. Bud & JoAnn Allen, Rick Allen, Sandy Cross, J.B. Haskins, Frank & Carol Hayes, Richard & Mickey Hunt, Chuck & Mickie Kanehl, Will & Bonnie Korber, Zig & Nancy Laska, Joe McClister & Annie Fair, and Mike & Linda Schlaudraff.

### Future

**September 15, 9:00 a.m.** POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony, Citrus County Sheriff's Office, Inverness.

**September 19, 1:00 p.m.** Chapter 776 bimonthly meeting, Citrus County Builders Association, Lecanto.

**September 23, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.** Nature Coast Young Marines 2nd Annual Burger Burn, VFW Post 4252, Hernando.

**October 28 - November 12.** Veterans Appreciation Week (See details page 2).

**December 7, 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.** Chapter 776 Pearl Harbor Dinner & Christmas Social, Southern Woods Country Club.

Purple Heart 235th Anniversary Breakfast — Hosted by West Citrus Elks Lodge #2693



The Citrus County Builders Association (CCBA) presented a check in the amount of \$3,217.71 from a share of the 22nd Annual Family Fishing Tournament to Chapter 776 during Purple Heart breakfast.



Will & Bonnie Korber

Keri Surber and Ray Cubero, mother and step father of Fallen Hero Sgt. Robert A. Surber, U.S. Army.



Cdr. Allen presented Chapter 776 ballpoint pens to the West Citrus Elks breakfast volunteers in appreciation of their generous support.



Rob Pietras and Unit 776 President Vikki Pietras



Citrus County Tax Collector & Chapter 776 Honorary Member Janice Warrant with staff members Robin Mecler and Kathryn Freeman, two of the top three fundraisers.

Linda Schlaudraff was presented plaques at the breakfast in recognition of her selection as both the Chapter 776 Associate member of the Year and the Department of Florida Associate Member of the Year. *Left:* Chapter 776 Cdr. Allen, Linda, and Dept. of Florida Cdr. Richard Hunt.



During the Purple Heart breakfast, Associate Member Fred Daniels donated to Chapter 776 an exquisite brass ceremonial bell he personally cast in honor of his father, a Navy veteran. Fred also crafted the stand and a carrying case for the bell. Our heartfelt thanks for this heirloom addition to the chapter.