

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 6

www.citruspurpleheart.org

November – December 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-yr: Glenn Beaulieu
- Trustee 2-yr: 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
- Surgeon: Roland Hannon

Bimonthly Meeting



The chapter's bi-monthly meetings are held the third Tuesday of September, November, January, March, May and July. The meeting time is 1:00 p.m. 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 a half mile south of S.R. 44. Any member desiring to place an item on the agenda should call 382-3847 or e-mail Adjutant Ebitz at info@citruspurpleheart.org.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 1:00 p.m.

Citrus County Builders Association, Lecanto.

Member News

A warm Chapter 776 welcome is extended to Army Afghanistan veteran **Mike Lobo** of Citrus Springs. Mike is a service officer with the Citrus County Veterans Service Office in Lecanto.



A well deserved OOH RAH to Chapter 776 Patriot **Richard Hunt** on being selected by the Florida Cabinet, comprised of Governor Scott, Attorney General Pam Bondi, Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis and Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam, for induction into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony is scheduled to take place at the Governor's Mansion in Tallahassee the last week of November. Patriot Hunt joins Patriot Ebitz who was inducted in 2015.

A sincere thank you is extended to Chapter 776 Honorary Member and Citrus County Tax Collector **Janice Warren** and her staff for initiating a special fundraising campaign in August that raised \$2,465.06 for the benefit of Chapter 776.

Associate Member **Savannah Weaver**, daughter of chapter namesake Aaron Weaver, was featured in the September 26 edition of the Citrus County Chronicle for her athletic prowess as a member of the Citrus High School varsity volleyball team. Her relentless drive, tenacious determination and talented athleticism have propelled her to leading the volleyball team in assists and kills.

A special Chapter 776 thank you is in order for the following Patriots who volunteered to participate in this year's Veterans **Members continued, page 2**

POW/MIA ceremony hosted by the Citrus County Sheriff Office in Inverness.

September 23. Chapter 776 presented a donation to the Nature Coast Young Marines at its 2d Annual "Burger Burn." Attending the presentation and enjoying the burgers were Cdr. Bud Allen, Rick Allen, Curt & Mari-Elain Ebitz, J.B. Haskins, Will Korber, Rob & Vikki Pietras and Mike Schlaudraff.

September 30. Chapter 776 Cdr. Bud Allen, Department Cdr. Richard Hunt and wife Mickey attended the 2d Annual Stay in Step Gala in Tampa to present, on behalf of the Chapter 776 & Department of Florida Patriots, the 2017 Chapter 776 Patriot of the Year Award and a Department of Florida Lifetime Achievement Award to Patriot Romy Camargo. Romy's wife Gabby was also presented the 2017 Chapter 776 and Department of Florida Associate Member awards.

October 7. Unit 776 hosted a "Gold Star" tea at the Tilted Teacup in Brooksville for the next of kin of local fallen heroes. Unit 776 Ladies attending were: Linda Schlaudraff, Pat **Comped continued, page 2**

Chapter Activities

Completed

September 15. Chapter 776 Sr. Vice Cdr. Chuck Kanehl, Sgt at Arms Rick Allen, Patriot Mike Schlaudraff and Unit 776 Ladies Micki Kanehl and Linda Schlaudraff represented the chapter at a



Chapter 776's exhibit earned a 2d Place plaque at the Veterans Appreciation Week Veterans Fair at the Crystal River Mall. *Left:* Patriots Will Korber, Curt Ebitz, Rick Allen and Joe McClister.

Completed continued

Michael, Mickey Hunt, Nancy Laska, Gail Nemesh, Vikki Pietras, Barbara Bradshaw, and Sandy Cross. Gold Star attendees were: Terri Gross, Keri Surber and Surber's mother.

October 14. Chapter 776's "Weenie Wagon" made its successful debut at the flea market sponsored by the Citrus County Veterans Coalition that's held at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Inverness. Working the debut were Cdr. Allen and Patriots Rick Allen, Richard Hunt, Will Korber, Mike Nemesh and Mike Schlaudraff. Unit 776 Ladies who also sold violas were Annie Fair, Sandy Cross, Mickey Hunt, Linda Schauldraff, Vikki Pietras, Nancy Laska and Gail Nemesh.

October 21. Unit 776 Ladies Carol Allen, Barbara Bradshaw, Annie Fair, Nancy Laska, Gail Nemesh, Vikki Pietras and Linda Schlaudraff participated in the "Diva Night" breast cancer awareness fundraiser sponsored by the Citrus County Chronicle.

October 23. Chapter 776 donated two 6' X 10' U.S. flags to the Key Training Center followed by flag raising ceremonies at the Key Training Center campuses in Lecanto and Inverness. Participating were Cdr. Bud Allen, Curt Ebitz, Chuck Kanehl, Joe McClister, Will & Bonnie Korber and Mike & Linda Schlaudraff.

October 24. Cdr. Allen visited with Chapter 776 Patriot Harold Layman and Unit 776 Lady Anita Haskins at Diamond Ridge Health & Rehabilitation.

October 25. Adjutant Ebitz visited with Chapter 776 Patriot Harold Layman and Unit 776 Lady Anita Haskins at Diamond Ridge Health & Rehabilitation.

November 4. Sgt at Arms Rick Allen and Patriots Curt Ebitz, Will Korber and Joe McClister manned the chapter's exhibit at the Veterans Appreciation Week's annual Veterans Fair at the Crystal River Mall. The chapter's exhibit earned a 2d Place plaque.

November 4. Cdr. Bud Allen was the master of ceremonies for the Homosassa Veterans Memorial ceremony honoring veterans. Also attending were Zig & Nancy Laska, Mike & Linda Schlaudraff, Joann Allen and Troy Allen.

November 4. Chapter 776 Patriots & Ladies turned out 21 strong to support the Veterans Appreciation Week's Military Ball sponsored by the Marine Corps League SSG Ted Archambault Det. 819. Attending were Bud & JoAnn Allen, Rick & Carol Allen, Clifford Benjamin, John & Rita Carlson, Sandy Cross, Curt & Mari-Elain Ebitz, Sue Guard, J.B. & Anita Haskins, Richard & Mickey Hunt, Zig & Nancy Laska, Mike & Linda Schlaudraff and Tony & Karen Skrapits. Proud Supporter Nicole Gaudette and husband, Bobby, also attended. Patriot Ebitz was the guest of honor and keynote speaker.

Future

November 21, 1:00 p.m. Chapter 776 bimonthly meeting, Citrus County Builders Association.

December 7, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Annual Pearl Harbor Dinner and Holiday Social, Southern Woods Country Club, Homosassa (off of C.R. 480 near Sugarmill Woods).

Members

Appreciation Week Veterans in the Classroom program: **Cdr. Bud Allen; Rick Allen; Chris Boreland; John Carlson; Curt Ebitz; Richard Hunt, Chuck Kanehl; Jon Mills; Mark Riden; Mike Schlaudraff; and Andy Viola.**

Well deserved thanks to Chapter 776 Sgt at Arms **Rick Allen** for his dedication, skill and hard work the past few months in readying the chapter's "weenie wagon" for its successful debut in October as a fundraising tool.

Well deserved kudos to **Carol Allen** for her initiative and creativity in guiding the making of Unit 776's "Phoenix Rising" bra entry dedicated to the women of the U.S. Armed Forces for the Citrus County Chronicle's breast cancer awareness Diva Night contest.

Charter Member and WWII veteran **Harold Layman** fell the first weekend of October and was hospitalized at Citrus Memorial Hospital to mend two compression fractures of his back. He is now undergoing rehab at Diamond Ridge Health & Rehabilitation Center in Lecanto.

Unit 776 Lady **Anita Haskins**, wife of Chapter 776 charter member and past chapter commander JB Haskins, is also at Diamond Ridge Health & Rehabilitation Center in Lecanto and is making excellent progress.

Chapter 776 Associate Member & Unit 776 Treasurer **Mari-Elain Ebitz** was diagnosed with breast cancer in August and had lumpectomy surgery the last week of September. She is now undergoing a seven week radiation treatment, followed by hormone replacement therapy for five years. She can be reached at 382-3847.

Patriot **Rob Pietras**, husband of Unit 776 President Vikki Pietras, had back surgery at the VA Medical Center in Gainesville on October 31, followed by resident physical therapy at Life Care. He returned home on November 11 and can be reached at 249-1080.

Past Chapter 776 Cdr. **Ray Michael** has been keeping a low profile due to equilibrium problems that have curtailed his activities and chapter involvement.

Unit 776 Lady **Sue Guard**, wife of Departed Patriot Don Guard, has returned to our ranks from her annual summer sojourn in Indiana. Regretfully, Sue says this will be her last winter with us since the travel is becoming too much for her. Her local phone number is 628-4196, if you would like to welcome her back.

Unit 776 Lady **Mickey Hunt** had a successful second ablation surgery for irregular heart beat on Nov 8 at RMC Bayonet Point. She was released on Nov 9, is recovering at home and can be reached at 407-721-5052.

From Commander Richard "Bud" Allen

Patriots,

We are wrapping up our busiest time of year with Veterans Appreciation Week's Veterans Day parade, Veterans in the Classroom, Military Ball and many other activities. For those who lent a helping hand and attended the activities a hearty thank you for supporting our community and fellow veterans who have worked hard to honor the selfless service and sacrifice of our veterans.

Your commander was the Master of Ceremonies for the Homosassa Veterans Memorial annual tribute and granddaughter Eve sang the National Anthem and "Some Gave ALL". The Veterans Fair was also the same day from 10 a.m. -2 p.m. Chapter 776 had a great turnout for the Military Ball at the West Citrus Elks lodge with Patriot Ebitz the guest of honor and keynote speaker. Once again, thanks to the artistic ability of Carol Allen and the hard work of Rick Allen, the chapter participated in the Veterans Day parade with its award winning float. Special thanks are extended to Jr. Vice Cdr. Chris Boreland for spreading the word about the Veterans Appreciation Week activities with his timely Facebook postings.

Since the last meeting, several of our members attended the Young Marines Burger Burn fundraiser and we provided them with a donation of \$150 to support their good works. Department of Florida Cdr. Richard Hunt and his wife Mickey joined with me in attending Stay in Step Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitative Center fundraiser in Tampa. During the formal attire gala, we had the opportunity to present Romy Camargo with the Chapter 776 Patriot of the Year Award and a Lifetime Achievement Award on behalf

Commander continued on page 4.

Attending the POW/MIA ceremony hosted by the Citrus County Sheriff's Office were. *Left:* Mike Schlaudraff, Chuck Kanehl, Micki Kanehl and Rick Allen.



Unit 776 Ladies turned out in force to support its "Phoenix Rising" bra entry for the Citrus County Chronicle breast cancer awareness Diva Night fundraiser. *Left kneeling:* Unit president Vikki Pietras, Ann Fair. *Left standing:* Nancy Laska, Pat Michael, Dept. of Florida Auxiliary President Gail Smith, Barbara Bradshaw, Carol Allen (bra designer) and Linda Schlaudraff.



Chapter 776 Sr. Vice Cdr. Chuck Kanehl got a well deserved thumbs up from Forest Ridge Elementary School students for his Veterans in the Classroom presentation.



This year's Gold Star Tea at the Tilted Teacup was attended by Gold Star mothers; Terri Gross and Kerri Surber, along with Surber's mother. Unit 776 Ladies were from *back left* Barbara Bradshaw, Gail Nemesh, Pat Michael, Linda Schlaudraff, Mickey Hunt, Sandy Cross, Nancy Laska and Vikki Pietras.



Chef Richard, a.k.a. Patriot Richard Hunt, prepared the hot dogs for the debut of the chapter's "weenie wagon" at the monthly flea market sponsored by the Citrus County Veterans Coalition.



At the 2d Annual Stay in Step Gala in Tampa, Department of Florida Cdr. Richard Hunt & Chapter 776 Cdr. Bud Allen presented the Department of Florida Lifetime Achievement and Chapter 776 Patriot of the Year awards to Patriot Romy Camargo and the Department of Florida and Chapter 776 Associate Member of the Year awards to Gabby Camargo.



It was great to see JB and Anita Haskins at this year's Military Ball.

Commander continued

of all Florida Patriots. We also presented Romy’s wife, Gaby, with the Chapter 776 and Department of Florida Associate Member of the Year awards. Both were overwhelmed with emotion as they were honored before their many friends, peers and strong supporters.

We debuted the Chapter 776 weenie wagon at the Citrus County Veterans Coalition flea market and were very successful thanks to the stalwart members (you know who you are) that help regularly for making these endeavors a success! Any Patriot that would like to participate or assist in these activities, please let us know as we can always use more help!

Other upcoming events include our Pearl Harbor Dinner & Holiday Social on December 7 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Southern Woods Country Club. We will have a buffet dinner that last year received raves from all in attendance. We also will have an auction of donated items including baked goods from our always helpful and supportive ladies and many other goodies. Each year, we have a blast, raise a little money and have a few chuckles with our banter! Bring your better half, grandkids and staunch supporters to enjoy the fellowship of chapter members and their ladies.

Our next meeting will be November 21 at 1p.m. at the CCBA building on C.R.491 in Lecanto. Please attend and see what you and your chapter can do to make things better for our fellow vets.

Thank you for all you do in keeping us moving forward as Florida’s premier chapter!

Always moving forward.
CMDR “Bud”



Pearl Harbor Dinner & Holiday Social



By unanimous request, Chapter 776’s annual Pearl Harbor dinner and holiday social will be held Thursday, **December 7, 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.** at the Southern Woods Golf Club, Homosassa (Sugarmill Woods) located at 1501 Corkwood Blvd., Homosassa, FL 34446 off of County Road 480. In keeping with chapter tradition, WW II veterans will be the honored guests. Dress is “dress up” casual or Purple Heart blazer & tie.

The dinner will be a buffet style and include sliced prime rib w/gravy, chicken marsala, roasted red potatoes, rice pilaf, fresh green beans, tossed salad, rolls, assorted pies/cakes, coffee, tea and soft drinks. A bar will be available for the credit card purchase of alcoholic beverages.

Cost of meal to include tax and gratuity is \$25.00 per person.

Please return the coupon below with your check made payable to “Chapter 776 MOPH” and must be received no later than November 29.

Mail to: Curt Ebitz, 89 Douglas St., Homosassa, Florida 34446.



Name: _____

Guest’s Name _____

Total amount of check: \$ _____

Check number: _____

Mail to: Curt Ebitz, 89 Douglas St., Homosassa, FL 34446