



# AARON A. WEAVER CHAPTER 776



**Chapter Purpose - To preserve the proud legacy of the Purple Heart**

## 2020-21 Officers

**Cdr: Richard Hunt**  
**Sr. Vice Cdr: Andy Viola**  
**Jr. Vice Cdr: Rob Coughlin**  
**Finance Off: Joe McClister**  
**Judge Adv: Bill Merryman**  
**Sgt-at-Arms: Richard "Bud" Allen**  
**Trustee 2-yr: Leo Stockmaster**  
**Trustee 1-yr: Zig Laska**  
**Adjutant: Curt Ebitz**  
**Service Off: Joe McClister**  
**Welfare Off: Richard "Bud" Allen**  
**Historian: Curt Ebitz**  
**Chaplain: Fred Daniels**  
**Americanism Off: William Korber**

## Chapter Activities

### Completed

None due to coronavirus restrictions.

### Future

**July 21, 1:00 p.m.** Chapter 776 bimonthly meeting (Tentative).

**August 8, 9:00 a.m.** Annual Purple Heart Anniversary Breakfast, hosted by W. Citrus Elks, Homosassa (Tentative).

**Next Meeting**  
**May 19 meeting is**  
**CANCELLED.**

**Next tentatively scheduled**  
**meeting is**  
**Tuesday, July 21, 1 p.m.**  
**Citrus County Building Alliance**  
**1196 S Lecanto Hwy.**  
**Lecanto, FL 34461**

### Bimonthly Meeting

The chapter's bimonthly meetings are held the third Tuesday of September, November, January, March, May and July. The meeting location is at the Citrus County Building Alliance, 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 well earned departing salute for a job well done is extended to outgoing Chapter 776 Commander **Richard "Bud" Allen**. Bud set a record for being at the Chapter's leadership helm for eight consecutive years.

When Sr. Vice Commander Paul Bell died unexpectedly a month after assuming command, Bud volunteered to stay at the helm. When Sr. Vice Commander Richard Hunt was elected Department of Florida Commander making him ineligible to serve as the Chapter commander, Bud once again continued to navigate the Chapter forward.

During his tenure as commander, the Chapter prospered financially, its stature within our community reached new heights, and it became the "go to" Chapter of the Department of Florida.

Epitomizing the credo of "lead by example," Bud was always the first to step forward to assure that every endeavor of the Chapter was an unqualified success. His dedicated leadership and selfless commitment to serving our Chapter and its members, as well as the Order and our community, earned him the distinctive honor of being selected twice during his tenure as the Chapter 776, Department of Florida and Region IV Patriot of the Year. A dedicated Patriot, Bud is continuing to serve our Chapter as the Sergeant-at-Arms and Welfare Officer.

*See Member continued page 2*

## IMPORTANT NOTICES

The Chapter 776 Annual Armed Forces Day Picnic scheduled for Saturday, **May 16** is CANCELLED due to coronavirus precautions.

The Chapter 776 bimonthly meeting scheduled for **May 19** is CANCELLED due to coronavirus precautions.

The **April 24-26** Citrus County Building Alliance Annual Family Fishing Tournament has been RESCHEDULED for **June 26-28**.

The next Chapter 776 bimonthly meeting is TENTATIVELY PLANNED for **July 21** contingent on the coronavirus precautions.

The Annual Purple Heart Anniversary Breakfast, hosted by W. Citrus Elks, Homosassa, is still scheduled for **August 8** contingent on allowable dining guidelines.

**Member News continued**

It is reported with regret that the Unit 776 Auxiliary, which has been a cornerstone of our Chapter's success, was dissolved by a vote of its members at its March 17 meeting. Founded in 2012 by Pat Michael, age, health, and old blood needing transfusion were the primary reasons for the Unit's dissolution. Auxiliary members voted to donate the Unit's unused funds of \$7,115.47 to the Chapter. Ladies--thank you for your selfless support these past eight years and your generous donation.

Living proof that "you can't keep a good man down" is Patriot **Andy Viola**. Andy was hospitalized in mid-March at the VA Medical Center in Gainesville with low kidney function. Even though it is now necessary for him to undergo dialysis several times per week, Andy answered the call to serve as the Chapter's Sr. Vice Commander.

During Vietnam's Tet Offensive, Americanism Officer **Will Korber** was shot in the head during the Battle of Hue. His miraculous survival was followed by 7 ½ years as a patient at the Bethesda Naval Hospital where he underwent scores of surgeries and years of rehabilitation. Recently diagnosed with bladder and lung cancer, he had bladder surgery in February and lung surgery in April at the VA Medical Center in Gainesville. A strong-willed Marine and a man of faith, doctors are optimistic that he will persevere as he did over half a century ago.

**Sue Guard**, wife of Departed Patriot Don Guard, fell at her home in Indiana severely bruising several ribs and hip. A painful, but fortunately not life threatening injury. After a brief hospitalization, Sue was initially under the watchful care of her daughter, Kathy, but is now back in her own home recovering.

Congratulations to **Connor Bishop**, this year's recipient of the Chapter's \$1,000 endowed scholarship with the College of Central Florida. An Eagle Scout, Connor is a graduating senior at Citrus High School. In addition to excelling academically with a weighted 4.127 GPA, he has excelled in sports as the team

captain for both the school's football and baseball teams.

**From the Commander**

Patriots and Family of Aaron A Weaver Chapter 776,

We are in the middle of unheard of trying times. Never in our history have we had to face and overcome obstacles such as we currently live with. That said, we are survivors. Improvise, adapt and overcome. We are a family, a very unique one at that. Together, we can and will get through this.

I have a limited supply of reusable custom made face masks available free to any of our Family who may not have protection. Give me a call and I will drop them off.

Diagnosed with Stage 1 Lung Cancer, Will Korber recently had surgery at the VA Medical Center in Gainesville. Surgery went well and he is now recovering at home eager to return to the "front lines."

Any of our members who need help, please reach out. We will do what we can to assist. Most importantly, please know that you are not alone.

I very much look forward to the World returning to something close to normal for us. When it appears we can get together again in a safe manner, a time and place will be sent to all. In the meantime, please stay in touch with each other by phone and/or email or such social media as works for you.

Yours in Patriotism,  
Richard Hunt, Commander  
Cell: 407-579-6190

Associate Member **Savannah Weaver**, daughter of Fallen Hero CWO Aaron A. Weaver, continues to garner honors. Savannah not only will graduate from Citrus High School "Summa Cum Laude," but was also named to the All-County Volleyball Team and All-County Soccer Team. She will continue her studies at Florida State University. Way to Go Savannah. We are all proud of you!

**From the Auxiliary President**

Dear Members of Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary Unit 776,

By now you should have all received the minutes from our last meeting in March. At that meeting, we decided it is time to dissolve our Unit. We were finding it difficult to get a quorum to the meetings and we were having low attendance at our activities.

Many of us are Associate Members with Chapter 776. We will continue to support our Chapter and their activities. We will be sure you are aware of the meeting dates and activities of Chapter 776.

You are welcome to come to all of the Chapter's meetings and activities and we would love to have you as an Associate Member, if you are not already.

According to our National President, Cheryl Perez, The Membership Development Program (MDP) will send out the official closing letter to Unit members. As per the bylaws, if 10 members want to keep the Unit open, then it can stay open. However, that "yes vote" needs 10 members to commit to holding office and taking responsibility for the Unit.

Thank you to all our members who have worked so hard to make us a terrific Unit. Please keep in touch as we love to hear from our Purple Heart Family.

Sandy Cross  
President, Unit 776

