



AARON A. WEAVER CHAPTER 776



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

2023-24 Officers

Cdr: Richard Hunt
Sr. Vice Cdr: Bill Merryman
Jr. Vice Cdr: Gary Bain
Finance Off: Joe McClister
Judge Adv: John Carlson
Sgt-at-Arms: Robert Gibson
Trustee 2-yr: Will Korber
Trustee 1-yr: Leo Stockmaster
Adjutant: Curt Ebitz
Service Off: Joe McClister
Welfare Off: Mickey Hunt
Historian: Curt Ebitz
Chaplain: Troy Allen
Americanism Off: Chuck Kanehl

Chapter Activities

Completed

March 13. Chapter 776 members attending the Celebration of Life for Bonnie Korber, beloved wife of Chapter 776 Patriot Will Korber, were Cdr. Richard & Mickey Hunt, JoAnn Allen, Rick Allen, Sandy Cross, Curt Ebitz, Mickie Kanehl, Joe McClister & Annie Fair, Bill Merryman, Pat Michael, Shirley Platt and Linda Schlaudraff.

April 20. Patriot Dale Fair presented the MOPH JROTC Leadership Medal at the Central High School NJROTC awards ceremony.

April 21. The Chapter's Associate ladies held their monthly informal lunch gathering at SOCOS House of Eats in Homosassa. Enjoying the food and lively conversation were JoAnn Allen,

Sandy Cross, Mari-Elain Ebitz, Annie Fair, Mickey Hunt, Pat Michael, Shirley Platt, and Patty Stevenson. All Chapter ladies are invited. If interested contact Sandy Cross at 352-502-1641.

April 22. Patriot Carlos Marxuach presented the MOPH JROTC Leadership Medal at the South Sumter NJROTC awards ceremony.

April 28. Chapter Patriots and Associates supporting the Chapter's charitable partnership with the Citrus County Building Alliance (CCBA) at the annual fishing tournament "Captain's Meeting" in Old Homosassa were Ernest & Tammy Chainey, Sandy Cross, Bob Gibson, Dale Fair, Jerry Frease, Richard & Mickey Hunt, Joe McClister & Annie Fair, and Bill Merryman.

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Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 16, 2023, 1 p.m.

**Citrus County Building Alliance,
Lecanto**

Bimonthly Meeting

The Chapter's bimonthly meetings are held the third Tuesday of September, November, January, March, May and July at 1:00 p.m. at the Citrus County Building Alliance, 1196 S. Lecanto Highway (C.R. 491), Lecanto, 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 call Adjutant Ebitz at 382-3847 or e-mail him at info@citruspurpleheart.org.

Member News

A warm welcome is extended to Chapter 776's newest member Patriot **Christopher "Chris" Stevens**. A resident of Weeki Wachee in Hernando County, Chris is an Army veteran of the Global War on Terror, Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Well deserved congratulations to **Chapter 776 Patriots and Associates** on Chapter 776 being selected as the Department of Florida Chapter of the Year, and to **Curt Ebitz** as the Department of Florida Patriot of the Year, and **Troy Allen** as the Department of Florida Jonas Jacobson Volunteer of the Year.

Appreciative thanks to **Gary Marriage**, President/CEO Nature Coast Financial Advisors, for his generous, perennial support as the Purple Heart Sponsor (\$1,500) of the Citrus County Building Alliance Annual Family Fishing Tournament.

A crisp "Thank you salute" to Chapter 776 charter member and past commander **J.B. Haskins** who honored the Chapter as the installing officer for Chapter 776 officers for 2023-24. A Navy veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars, he is the recipient of two Silver Stars and three Purple Hearts.

Congratulations to Citrus High School senior **Evan Jones** as this year's recipient of the Chapter's \$1,500 endowed scholarship with the College of Central Florida (CF), Austin Edwards of Crystal River High School as the recipient of the Chapter's \$1,500 Sergeant Dennis J. Flanagan Memorial Scholarship, and

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2023 Annual Armed Forces Day Picnic

Chapter 776's annual Armed Forces Day picnic will be held 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Saturday, May 20 at the pavilion (next to the tennis courts) in Bicentennial Park, Crystal River. The park is located off of U.S. 19 behind the Crystal River Airport. The Chapter's scholarship recipients will attend; please come to greet and congratulate them. **Chapter 776 will provide BBQ chicken, pulled pork sandwiches, BBQ baked beans and beverages. Each lady is asked to bring a salad or dessert. If you plan to attend, indicate salad or dessert and reply to Adjutant Curt Ebitz no later than May 17 by email at info@citruspurpleheart.org or call 352-382-3847. Bring a folding chair because picnic table seating is limited.**

Chapter Activities continued

April 29-30. Chapter members who enjoyed a free fishing outing donated by generous boat captains participating in the CCBA annual fishing tournament were Ernest Chainey, Dale Fair, Jerry Frease, Robert Hummel, Richard Hunt, Joe McClister, and Bill Merryman.

May 3. Patriot Dale Fair presented the MOPH JROTC Leadership Medal at the Springstead High School AFJROTC awards ceremony.

May 4. Patriot Ernest Chainey presented the MOPH JROTC Leadership medal at the Lecanto High School AJROTC awards ceremony.

May 5. Cdr. Richard Hunt presented the MOPH JROTC Leadership medal at the Crystal River High School NJROTC awards ceremony.

May 5. Patriot Robert Hummel presented the MOPH JROTC Leadership medal at the Citrus High School AFJROTC awards ceremony.

May 5. Patriot Curt Ebitz presented the MOPH JROTC Leadership medal at the Brooksville High School AFJROTC awards ceremony.

May 10. Patriot Rob Coughlin presented the MOPH JROTC Leadership Medal at the Dunnellon High School AFJROTC awards ceremony.

May 11. Cdr. Hunt presented the Chapter 776 College of Central Florida Endowed Scholarship to Evan Jones at the Citrus High School Senior Awards Ceremony.

May 15. Cdr. Hunt presented the Chapter 776 Sergeant Dennis J. Flanagan Memorial Scholarship to Austin Edwards at the Crystal River High School Senior Awards Ceremony.

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Future

May 16, 1:00 p.m. Chapter 776 Bimonthly business meeting, CCBA, Lecanto.

May 20, 11:30 a.m. Annual Armed Forces Day picnic, Bicentennial Park Pavilion, Crystal River.

May 29, 10:00 a.m. Memorial Day Ceremony, Old Homosassa Veterans Memorial, Homosassa.

May 28, 8:30 a.m. Flags for the Fallen, Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell.



Chapter 776 Patriot Dale Fair presented the MOPH AFJROTC Medal for Leadership to Cadet Nilson Nicolosi during the Springstead HS JROTC Annual Awards Ceremony.

Member News Continued

Marleigh Miller, currently enrolled at Florida Gulf Coast University, as the recipient of a \$1,000 Special Scholarship Award.

A most appreciative thank you to the following Patriots who presented the MOPH JROTC leadership Medal to deserving cadets in Citrus, Hernando, Marion and Sumpter counties: **Ernest Chainey, Rob Coughlin, Curt Ebitz, Dale Fair, Robert Hummel, Richard Hunt and Carlos Marxuach.**

**From the Commander**

Patriots & Associates:

It is my sincere hope that this finds all of you happy and healthy. Aaron A. Weaver Chapter 776 has been very busy.

Our largest fundraiser has just successfully been completed with the Citrus County Building Alliance. Five of our members were hosted by professional Captain Susie Martin at no cost in this fishing tournament. Historically, we receive approximately five thousand dollars from the Alliance as a donation from this event.

We have been well represented at local high schools presenting MOPH leadership medals and certificates to deserving JROTC cadets.

A record high amount of money has been allocated for scholarships. Due to the generosity of the Allen Family and a private donation, \$6,000.00 has been awarded to a Nurse Practitioner after saving the life of one of our own.

As individuals, we have done many good things, which earned our Chapter the distinction of being selected as the Department of Florida Chapter of the Year for 2023-24. As a Team, we are the definition of outstanding.

Take care of yourselves and each other!

Respectfully,
Richard Hunt, Commander



Departed Patriot Edwin D. Abbott

Chapter 776 recently learned that Patriot Edwin Abbott of Dunnellon, Florida passed away on August 26, 2022 at the age of 83. A U.S. Navy Seal he was a combat wounded veteran of the Vietnam War and a SEAL Team 1 plank owner, as one of the Team's 60 original members. With the mission of conducting unconventional warfare, counter-guerrilla warfare, and clandestine operations, SEAL Team 1 had its first combat test in Vietnam. Fair winds and following seas.

Property Appraiser to speak at May 16 meeting

Cregg Dalton was elected as the 14th Citrus County Property Appraiser in November of 2020. In an effort to fulfill his promises to Citrus County, he spends his days educating the public on every possible exemption allowed by law. During the May 16 meeting, he will speak to disabled veteran exemptions and tax discounts to include: service connected disability exemption; combat related disability discount; service-connected total and permanent disability exemption. Chapter members and spouses are encouraged to attend to learn about property tax exemptions and discounts that could save you hundreds or thousands of dollars.



Newly elected Chapter 776 officers

Aaron A. Weaver Chapter 776 Military Order of the Purple Heart officers for 2023-24 were installed by Past Chapter 776 Commander J.B. Haskins during the Chapter's March meeting. *Left:* Associate Member Mickey Hunt, Welfare Officer; Robert Gibson, Sergeant at Arms; Gary Bain, Jr. Vice Commander; Bill Merryman, Sr. Vice Commander; Richard Hunt, Commander; Joe McClister, Finance Officer & Service Officer; Will Korber, 2-Year Trustee; Leo Stockmaster, 1-Year Trustee, Curt Ebitz, Adjutant & Historian, and J.B. Haskins, Installing Officer. *Not present:* Chuck Kanehl, Americanism Officer and Associate Member Troy Allen, Chaplain.



Chapter 776 members proudly "showed the flag" in support of the CCBA 28th Annual Family Fishing Tournament's Captains' Meeting.