

The Canopy

North Central Florida All Airborne Chapter

Issue 1 / Volume 33 / January 2025

2024 Holiday Party

The NCFAAC chapter holiday party was held December 14th.



Photo by Ron Dahlgren

Directory & Chapter Calendar

	Chapter Officers	
Chairman	Tony Alger	(719) 310-8951
Vice Chairman	Gary Blasczienski	(757) 602-9164
Treasurer	Heath Davenport	(571) 641-9057
Secretary	Rich Troop	(610) 823-7505
Service Officer	Joyce Damon	(352) 208-4963
Recruiting / Villages	Tony Alger	(719) 310-8951
Recruiting / Ocala	Tig Blackman	(352) 591-4752
Canopy Editor	Ron Dahlgren	(407) 577-1746

Upcoming Events

Saturday, Dec 14th, 1200 hrs VFW Post 8083 Chapter Christmas Party! 12666 US-441

Belleview, FL 34420

From The Editor

Hello troops! It's another Super Slim Holiday Edition as The Canopy gives a reprieve to its staff for the holidays.



Remarks complete.

Airborne! All The Way!

Ron Dahlgren

Editor, The Canopy

https://www.the-canopy.org

Chairman's Message

THANK YOU to all that helped with the preparations and decoration of the Christmas Party. A big thank you to Joyce Damon, Linda Hall and Hope Alger for the preparation of the dining area and baskets and raffle donations. Galen Mitchell, Thurston Helms and Gary Blaszienski donated items for our final fundraising efforts also. I'm sure I may have missed a couple of people. Some of us came early to decorate and set up the dining room. It was a huge mission but we accomplished it. We had 36 people attending this year and also 6 JROTC Cadets from West Port High School in Ocala. The color guard added a nice touch to our ceremonies, so things went along very smoothly. Dan Marrin, our Honorary Member and Army veteran, provided our entertainment with contemporary and Christmas songs. We thank you for all you do during the year for us and other groups of veterans. Dale Noble WWII veteran attended our celebrations and he's a walking talking history link to the Battle of the Bulge and Bastogne. What a treat. The VFW had great food with the main dishes enough for 2-3 people! They certainly made sure we



weren't going home hungry. The dessert table was full of goodies as always. Rich Troop was our Trooper of the Year. His efforts for our extremely successful fundraising in November certainly warranted this award. Airborne! We also gave the VFW Commander Russ Weston, an annual donation for use of their facilities during our meetings and events. Enjoy the pictures of the Christmas Party. I'm looking forward to the New Year and as always, I'd like to see you on the manifest January 11 at 1300 hours.

Airborne!

10 Most Rece	nt Canopy Boosters - Thank you for your sup	port!	
Galen Mitchell	Jerry & Robby Brust		
Heath Davenport	Christopher Adams		
Nick Harty	Regis Rossa		
Darla & Jay Tatman	John Kinney		
Howard Northrup	Arthur Tate		
	Our 2025 Booster Goal is \$500		
Start	50%	Complete!	

2024 Holiday Party

December 14th, VFW Post 8083 - The chapter held its annual holiday party at the usual location. As a change this year, we had the meal catered by the VFW staff. In previous years, we would bring in food from outside. I can say the VFW catering was great. My entree was large enough to yield four servings! Many chapter members and their spouses brought sides or desserts to add to the spread. We held a fundraiser auction as well as a 50/50 raffle. Recognitions were given to Rich Troop, Heath Davenport, Joyce Damon, Gary Blasczienski, and Linda Hall.

For more details, see Tony's detailed Chairman's Message on page 3. For now, enjoy the pictures!

Photos below provided by Tony Alger. Clockwise from top-right: The assembled group; Chairman Tony Alger presents Rich Troop with the 2024 Trooper of the Year award; Chairman Tony Alger presents the VFW Commander with a donation from the NCFAAC; Chairman Alger presents a certificate of appreciation to the West Port JROTC; Members enjoy the food; The West Port JROTC Color Guard posts the colors.













Photos below from Ron Dahlgren. Clockwise from top-right: Chairman Alger preparing Rich Troop to receive his reward; the assembled crowd; Chairman Alger speaks to the character of the people being recognized; Chairman Alger attempts to get the awardees dressed in a line; Chairman Alger presents the VFW Commander with a donation from the NCFAAC.



















Photos by Ron Dahlgren. Clockwise from top-right: Tickets are drawn for the auction by Cass Dahlgren; Hope guides Cass to the next drawing; The POW-MIA table and assembled crowd; Another view of the same.

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Being a booster helps cover the production and publication costs of The Canopy. We list the 10 most recent boosters in each issue. To become a booster, send a check for \$25 (or more!) payable to:

The Canopy Box 1324 Minneola, FL 34755-1324



Ft. Benning, GA, airborne graduation November 2001. Photo provided by Ron Dahlgren.

THE CANOPY

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