

ARTICLE FOR EMORY L. BENNETT STATE VETERANS' NURSING HOME

The Flagler County Detachment #876 Marine Corps League started visiting the Emory L. Bennett State Veterans' Nursing Home shortly after they opened in 1994. There was a need at the time for specialty television sets and the Detachment had a collection drive to raise money to buy television sets for the residents.

The Detachment started having first Saturday of the month in person visits and would bring chips, dips, sugar free deserts, deviled eggs, food platters to the home. Around 1997 we held Christmas parties for the residents giving the men shaving accessories and the ladies toiletries. This changed in 2000 when each resident was asked what they would want for Christmas and the Detachment would find members and non-members to buy those gifts. The gifts would be collected and supplemented with sugar free chocolates, socks and gift cards and delivered to the residents at a Christmas party or their rooms. The parties ran until 2006 but the monthly visits with food continued until COVID stopped us from visiting in April 2020. In February 2021 the Detachment decided to have pizza delivered from Mama Mia Pizza in Ormond Beach along with garlic knots and salad to the residents. The Detachment continued this until March 2022 when it will deliver food similar to what they used to bring: chicken, cheese chunks, salads, chips, diet soda, sugar-free desserts and olives.

The Detachment hopes in the very near future we will be able to return in person to visit with the residents and resume the camaraderie it has had in the past.

The Members of the Flagler County Detachment #876 Marine Corps League
February 26, 2022