



Emerald Coast VFW Post 10555 ALL-AMERICAN POST JOURNAL

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GO VFW, STAY VFW!

February 2015

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Emerald Coast Post 10555
17680 Ashley Drive
Panama City Beach, FL 32413
(850) 249-3025
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VFW Post 10555 News: Ken Waringa, Commander (kcwaringa@yahoo.com)

Happy February! The post is in full swing as is normal this time of the year. Check the February calendar, it is full and March is looking much the same. As I said last month, the last time we did a full in-depth comparison of costs versus profit for our bar stock beverages was 2012, so a review is long overdue. Billie Jones, our Post Manager, monitors prices, but it is the House Committee's job to do a full evaluation and they are doing it this month. Billie is the one that said we needed to review prices, so that is what is currently happening. The last time we raised prices we did an across the board increase. This time we have the data to raise only the drinks that need to be raised. For example: Yellow Tail Chardonnay wine costs the post \$14 to buy a bottle that we are selling for \$2.50 a glass. Out of a 1.5 liter bottle we figured that we sell 6 eight ounce glasses so \$1 is the net return on that bottle. This definitely needs to be raised, probably to \$4.00 a glass. I happen to drink this wine and I have purchased it at Shoney's for \$5.49 a glass (Happy Hour price) and at Longhorn Steakhouse for \$6.50 a glass. This particular wine was underpriced from the beginning so the price for a glass will go up. Unfortunately for me, two of my favorite drinks at the post, Johnny Walker Red Label and the Yellow Tail Chardonnay are going up in price. With our prices rising, we still claim that we are providing you, our priority customers, discount pricing. You may or may not know that the State of Florida requires retail businesses to buy liquor from wholesale distributors. They set the prices we must pay. In most cases, as an individual, I can go to Winn Dixie, Carousel or Wal-Mart and buy the same item cheaper than the post can buy it from the distributor. We do not have the volume these other stores, or most bars on the beach, have so we can't get the liquor at the same competitive prices. Complying with state ATC laws leaves no alternative options. On a brighter note our Voice of Democracy winner won the District 17 award AND 2nd Place in the Department of Florida Contest! **WAY TO GO Grayson Campbell!**

KEN WARINGA, Post Commander [PS CLICK HERE FOR THE LATEST STATE BULLETIN](#)

VFW Ladies Auxiliary Status: Kitty Dye, President (kdye8918@yahoo.com)

January was not as busy as some of the months and February is jam-packed. Our officers just went to Mid-Winter Conference and were so proud when Grayson Campbell was awarded 2nd Place in the State Voice of Democracy Contest. At the last meeting we added three members, two reinstates and one new. Our fabulous Fish Fry is on the 3rd Friday, February 20th. Next month is a Wine and Cheese Party on March 7th in honor of our Department President Louise Koser who will be in attendance. Donations of wine and cheese are needed. For all attending a suggested donation of \$7 is requested. At that event we will hold a Tool Box Raffle for which we need donations of tools valued @ about \$10 requested to fill the box. Leave your donations in kind at the Post in a bag with my name on it. Looking forward to April, we are holding a Yard Sale so if you are thinking about downsizing or cleaning cabinets you may want to save some things for the sale. Many of you know by now that my husband Jerry fell and broke his hip. He is in rehab and I am out quite a bit so if you need me or information about the LAVFW and its events. I can be reached by phone. Leave a message or use my cell (850-814-5364). **Until next time, be safe and watch your step. As Always, if you need a ride to a meeting please call me at 850-234-8918! KITTY DYE**





American Legion Update: Post 402 Commander Jim Bowers (scootin1923@yahoo.com)



Jim Bowers, American Legion Post Commander and Jack Johnson, American Legion Post Treasurer (and VFW Post 10555 House Committee Member) prep for yet another successful American Legion BBQ & B-I-N-G-O Event.

Hello again fellow Legionnaires! We have had an awesome beginning to a new year in January at Post #402 with our membership at a 120% and growing. The Russ Chandler luncheon was a huge success thanks to all of the volunteers that made this possible. In February we have our great BBQ and Bingo at 5:30pm on Friday the 13th, a good day to try your luck. On Valentine's Day we have Legion Bingo starting at 12 PM - That will get your day started right, Good Luck. We still have our Legion Bricks for the wall for sell at the canteen also have t-shirts, long and short sleeve and Post #402 license plates for sell too. Get yours today to show off your Post here in Panama City Beach. Hope to see you all there at our events until then **Keep all of our Veterans in your hearts and always God Bless America !!! - Jim Bowers**

Men's Auxiliary Struggles to Carry On, The Editor Has a Suggestion

The membership of the Men's Auxiliary continues to struggle. They want to revive and continue their active participation in the support of the Post but it has been difficult. It is time for all of our Veterans of Foreign Wars Comrades to consider inviting male relatives, husbands, fathers, sons, brothers, to join the MAVFW. Most welcome would be those living here on the beach that might be interested enough to come to meetings and help with events like the February 8th Lunch with Russ Chandler Event. Hopefully, they will achieve their goal to be stronger and better than ever in 2015. That takes membership and membership counts.

Contact Robert Heil, Treasurer, for more information about Membership in the Men's Auxiliary

Sec. 1302 — Eligibility.

Membership in the Men's Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars shall be limited to husbands, widowers, fathers, grandfathers, sons, grandsons, brothers and half brothers who attained that status prior to age sixteen (16) of persons who were or are eligible for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Members must not be less than sixteen (16) years old.

Persons eligible for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall not be eligible for membership in the Men's Auxiliary.

A Message from Our Post Manager: Billie Jones (vfw10555@knology.net)

Another month has gone by and it's time for a newsletter!! January was a good month and the February calendar is full with exciting events. Lunch with Russ Chandler is on Sunday February 8th so please get your tickets and enjoy a great meal and entertainment – this will be his last performance at post 10555 this winter. Big Valentines dinner and dance is being planned for Saturday the 14th and it will be fantastic again this year. LAVFW "Fish Fry" has been moved this month only to the 3rd Friday, February 20, tickets will be on sale at the bar so come out and enjoy a good meal and try your singing out with karaoke.

Bike Night is back on Friday February 27 with food prepared by the LAVFW and entertainment by Neal James. This event is not only for bikers but for all members of the VFW and American Legion. Food will be served 5:30-7:30 pm – no tickets are needed for the event. Speaking of "bikes" the American Legion Unity Ride is Sunday the 22nd with food and music 3-6pm. All members are invited to join.

New for this month is a "Prime Rib Dinner" with karaoke on Saturday the 28th. Dinner will be served 5-6 pm and karaoke 6-9 pm. Please check your monthly calendar for all events and times. You can also contact use at 249-3025 for information. The canteen is open for business at 12 noon and we hope to see you soon. Remember to tip your bartenders for their service.

HAPPY FEBRUARY TO ALL! - Billie Jones Post Manager

VFW Post 10555 Quartermaster's Corner, Rob Smith (robfsmith127@gmail.com)

Greetings All,

Our winter season is in full swing, its great to see our Northern Guests enjoying our Post and all the events we've have put on so far, and what is coming up this month and next. I would like to ask that all the VFW members that have let their memberships expire at the end of December to renew ASAP. You can either mail in your payment with the notice you receive in the mail or just stop by the post and give your renewal payment in an envelope with your name on it to the bartender. They will make sure I get it and you will receive your card in the mail shortly after. If there is a reason why you aren't renewing, please let either Tom Randall (850-703-7636) or myself know and we'll try to make it right.

I will be out of town for the first two weeks of February; it is a trip for work. The Post Commander will be helping out in my absence so please be patient if a row in the pull tab machine is jammed or empty, it will get fixed. Also, please do not ask the bartender to call him or me if a row is jammed; there are other rows to play.

See you around the Post when I return! Rob Smith, Quartermaster

Our Voice of Democracy Essay Contest Winner Wins at District and Places Second at State!

On January 24th at John C. Gainous Memorial VFW Post 10069 in Port Saint Joe, District Youth Activities Chairman Craig Chaffee presented our Post and Ladies Auxiliary's Voice of Democracy (VOD) Essay winner Grayson Campbell, the award for District 17. Our VOD Chairman, Don Buchanan, who just happens to be our District Commander, was very pleased that Grayson, a Junior at Covenant Christian School, Panama City, moved up to the Department level contest. He and his mother were present at the State Mid Winter Conference where Thomas Randall, Post Senior Vice Commander, and Kitty Dye, President of the Ladies Auxiliary, were present when Grayson was awarded 2nd Place for the Department of Florida at the Youth Recognition Banquet on Saturday evening, January 31st.



DISTRICT 17 COMMANDER DON BUCHANAN, DISTRICT YOUTH ACTIVITIES CHAIR CRAIG CHAFFEE, GRAYSON CAMPBELL, AND DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA SENIOR VICE COMMANDER AMBER PUTNAM ALL SHARE A LAUGH WHILE POSING FOR PHOTOS AT THE DISTRICT MEETING PRESENTATION OF GRAYSON'S DISTRICT 17 VOD AWARD. (PHOTO BY SVC THOMAS RANDALL)



POST SENIOR VICE COMMANDER TOM RANDALL, DISTRICT LAVFW PRESIDENT JENNY FREEMAN, LAVFW 10555 PRESIDENT KITTY DYE, VFW DISTRICT 17 COMMANDER DON BUCHANAN, DISTRICT YOUTH ACTIVITIES CHAIR CRAIG CHAFFEE, ALL SHARE IN GRAYSON'S WELL-DESERVED AWARD. (PHOTO BY MARY KILZER, LAVFW 10555 TREASURER).

THE VFW SALUTES AMERICA'S GULF WAR VETERANS

THE GULF WAR SERVED AS A MODEL MILITARY OPERATION

January 16, 2015

January 17 marks 24 years since the official commencement of the Persian Gulf War. With this important conflict falling in time between the war in Vietnam and those of Iraq and Afghanistan, unfortunately its veterans are sometimes forgotten.

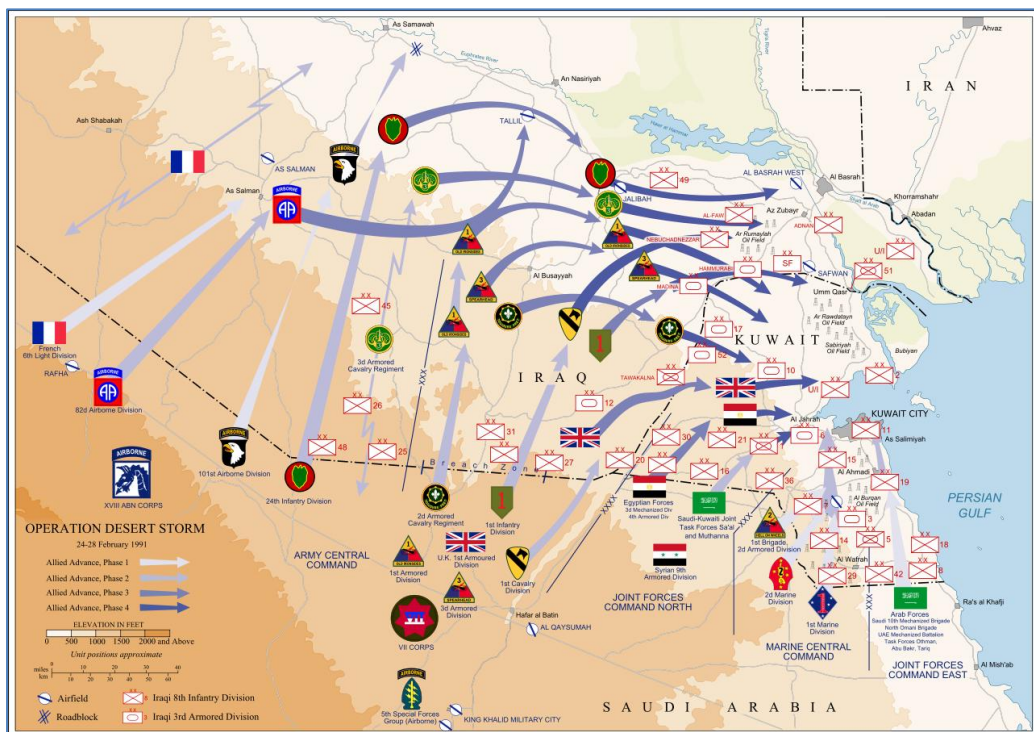
But the VFW remembers, and it takes this opportunity to salute the service and sacrifice of the brave Americans who drove Saddam Hussein's military forces from Kuwait.

The Gulf War served as a model military operation. America's service members accomplished their mission on schedule, and without fail. Despite the war's relatively short duration, each of its veterans played an integral role in shaping a truly historical event.

Approximately 695,000 servicemen and women served in the Kuwait theater leading up to and during the war. It left 467 wounded and claimed the lives of another 374. Though victory was expeditiously achieved, it did not come without great cost.

In addition to the lives lost and visible injuries sustained, many service members returned home with mysterious illnesses later termed "Gulf War Syndrome." Its lasting effects constitute the war's enduring legacy.

Like their predecessors, veterans of the Gulf War have left their mark in history and we are all indebted to them for their selfless service. Today, and every day, the VFW salutes all of America's Gulf War Veterans.



FEBRUARY 2015						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	RED FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Vol Meeting 3 PM Darts 1 PM Legion Officer Mtg. 5:30 PM Legion Mtg. 6 PM	3 Men's Pool 1-5 PM	4 Big AI 2-5 PM Meat Raffle 2 PM	5 Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM Darts 6 PM	6 Bocce Ball 11:30 VFW Wings \$5.00 5:30 - 6:30 PM VFW Bingo 6-8 PM	7 VOL Bingo 1 PM
8 Lunch with Russ Chandler Lunch 12:30 - 1:30 Russ 1 - 4	9 Darts 1 PM	10 Men's Pool 1-5 PM Entertainment Com. Mtg. 4:30 PM Officer Mtg. 5 PM House Committee Mtg. 5:30 PM	11 Big AI 2-5 PM Meat Raffle 2 PM	12 Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM Darts 6 PM	13 Bocce Ball 11:30 Legion Barbecue 5:30 - 6:30 Legion Bingo 6-8	14 Legion Bingo 1 PM Valentines Day Dinner 5 - 6 Dance 6 - 9
15 Bunco 2 PM Pool Tournament 8 Ball 2 PM \$2.00 to play Win \$20 Bar Tab	16 Presidents Day Darts 1 PM MAUX Meeting 3 PM	17 Men's Pool 5 PM Gen. Membership & LAUX Mtg. 6 PM	18 Big AI 2-5 PM Meat Raffle 2 PM	19 Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM Darts 6 PM	20 Bocce Ball 11:30 LAUX Officer Mtg. 2 PM LAUX Fish Fry \$9.00 5:30 - 6:30 PM Karaoke 6 - 9 PM	21 VFW Bingo 1 PM SIMMs Visit 2PM
22 Unity Ride Food & Music 3 - 6	23 Darts 1 PM	24 Men's Pool 5 PM	25 Big AI 2-5 PM Meat Raffle 2 PM	26 Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM Darts 6 PM	27 Bocce Ball 11:30 Bike Night LAUX Food 5:30 - 7:30 Entertainment	28 LAUX Bingo 1:00 Prime Rib Dinner 5 - 6 \$10.00 Karaoke 6 - 9
		Sign up for this calendar by email at vfw10555@knology.net		WHERE TO FIND US 17680 Ashley Dr Panama City Beach, FL 32413 (850) 249-3025	Remember Everyone Deployed Friday, wear red to support our troops	LIKE US ON FACEBOOK 

EDITOR'S NOTE: This Calendar of Post/AUX/Legion events is painstakingly developed at the House Committee Meeting every second Tuesday of the month. EVERY member of our units in good standing is welcome to attend that or any other committee meeting and EVERY member of our units in good standing is welcome to reserve the hall (Fees are charged for private parties, that is to say any event not open to all). For hall fees/reservations, contact the Post Manager, Billie Jones, at the Post 850-249-3025. **When all else fails, JUST STOP BY! PLEASE!**

**REMEMBER
EVERYONE
DEPLOYED**





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