



# **Emerald Coast VFW Post 10555 ALL-AMERICAN POST JOURNAL**

WINNER OF 2ND PLACE AWARD, DEPARTMENT POST NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION AWARD 2014

**Volume 9, Issue 1**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR, Y'ALL!**

**January 2015**

Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Emerald Coast Post 10555  
17680 Ashley Drive  
Panama City Beach, FL 32413  
(850) 249-3025  
[www.vfwpost10555.com](http://www.vfwpost10555.com)



**VFW Post 10555 News: Ken Waringa, Commander ([kcwaringa@yahoo.com](mailto:kcwaringa@yahoo.com))**

Happy New Year everyone, and I hope you had a very Merry Christmas. As the New Year begins, we have some challenges ahead of us. The post has continuously lost money over the last few years and we need to come up with a way to stop this. We sent out surveys a couple years ago asking for input on ways to slow the losses. We had many very good suggestions that we tried, but none seemed to help. We started an American Legion Post to help bring in new people and that has helped. The Legion is still growing so we are seeing some new people in the post, which is good. We need to bring in about \$320 a day to break even. This time of year we have no problem, but in the summer months we just do not have enough business to break even. We have a beautiful post home, but it costs money to operate, electric utilities alone are normally well over \$1000 a month. Starting in January we are going to reevaluate our drink prices so do not be surprised if you see some price increases. We try to keep our prices as low as possible, but sometimes we just need to face the situation and raise them. On a brighter note, we have a calendar FULL of events for January. LOOK at our calendar and please come out and join us for an event and support your post. In addition, we are still trying to make All State this year, but we need people to renew their memberships. If you have not renewed yet please take the time to do it now. Last year we changed from ADT security to Westco, saving the post over \$2200 a year but the down side of that decision is that the key card system is propriety to ADT. We can no longer buy key cards. We are almost out, so if you do not have a key card you will just need to ring the bell and show your membership card to get in. A new key card system is expensive so for the time being we are just going to make do with our existing system. Please have patience, too, when standing at the door. The bartender may be tending to a customer and will be with you as soon as possible. **KEN WARINGA, Post Commander** [PS CLICK HERE FOR THE LATEST STATE BULLETIN](#)

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

Here is hoping that everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our Toys for Cops and Post Christmas Party went very well this year. We sent the Panama City Beach Police Department \$555.00 in donations and approximately \$500.00 in toys. We approved two members to the Auxiliary. We approved the money to purchase a gold brick for the wall in the hall to honor Carol MacDonald for her many years of service to the Ladies Auxiliary. On a sadder note, the Post lost a dear friend in Jim Booth. He was a very generous man and a proud supporter of this Post. The potluck did not have many participants, but we had a lot of good food. The next one is in January. If you have not attended one you have missed some good fun, camaraderie, and new friends. We learned that the State Auxiliary President, Louise Koser, will be here for our Wine and Cheese Party in March. At that time, we hope to raffle a toolbox full of tools. We are asking for donations of a tool from our members and any other Post member who would like to help us out. You can bring the tools to a meeting or call me and I will pick it up at the Post. We will be having a yard sale in March so be thinking about things to donate to that event...

**If you need a ride or would like to volunteer to help at any activity please call me at 850-234-8918!  
Kitty Dye, President**



**American Legion Update: Post 402 Commander Jim Bowers ([scootin1923@yahoo.com](mailto: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, Legionaries! 2014 was an awesome year at our Legion Post #402. Our membership has risen to over 100 % and is growing every day. Now that is 2015, we have a very busy January planned. Coming up are Legion Bingo on the 17<sup>th</sup> and Lunch with Russ Chandler on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Tickets for lunch will be on sale at the Canteen for \$7 to be served 12:30PM- 1:30PM and Russ on stage from 1-4. Come on out and bring in the New Year right. Next the Legion will host our great BBQ and Bingo on the 30<sup>th</sup>. We still have our Legion Bricks; long and short sleeve T-shirts; and new Post #402 Legion license plates for sale. Get yours today! Come on out and enjoy and support our post events you will not be disappointed! **Keep all of our Veterans in your hearts and always God Bless America !!! -Jim Bowers**

**Men's Auxiliary News for You: Robert Heil ([nitefly50@aol.com](mailto:nitefly50@aol.com))**

The members of the Men's Auxiliary extend wishes for a Very Happy New Year to all members of the Post. We were sad to end 2014 with the passing of Jim Booth and want to thank all who came out to the Post to remember him on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. In better news for 2014, John Wilson returned as our president and we are optimistic that we can revive our participation in the support of the Triple Nickel. I am waiting for our 2015 membership Roster from National HQ; when I have it I will be contacting the members of our paid roster to enlist more volunteers for the various duties required for upcoming events. To ensure a smooth transition we have passed the January 18<sup>th</sup> Lunch with Russ Chandler Event to the American Legion and we will pick up again on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully, we will be stronger and better than ever. This is our goal for 2015. We appreciate the support of all the organizations and their members who helped us survive in 2014.

**See You at the Triple Nickel! Robert Heil, Member, Entertainment Committee & Treasurer, MAVFW P.S.** Any unpaid members who wish to pay their dues to me rather than send them to Kansas City, you may do so and I can process them on-line for faster processing. Make any checks to the Men's Auxiliary Post 10555 Any unpaid members who wish to pay their dues to me rather than send them to Kansas City, you may do so and I can process them on-line for faster processing. Make any checks to "Men's Auxiliary Post 10555".

**A Message from Post Manager: Billie Jones ([vfw10555@knology.net](mailto:vfw10555@knology.net))**

Happy New Year!!! Time has just flown by and it is time for another newsletter and a new year. December was a very busy month and January will be. The calendar is full of events for everyone to select as they see fit. Our "Northern" friends are here in full force and enjoying the post as they always have in the past. Big Al & Gang are going strong on Wednesdays, come out and enjoy the music and dancing. Tickets for the LAVFW Fish Fry and Karaoke January 9 will be on sale at the canteen – remember to get them early, as we are not holding tickets this year.

BINGO thru out the month is also a very well attended event – come out and win some money with callers Don, Ken, Mary and others. If you are not the lucky one to win, enjoy a cold beverage of your choice and try again. Two special events this month one is "Lunch with Russ Chandler" and "Scottish/Celtic Evening." Check your calendar for dates and time, tickets will be on sale for these events and will go fast.

Please remember to enter and exit the post thru the front door only. All vendors must gain access to the hall via the bartender on duty. No members should allow vendors access to the hall via the back door or the side door. Your cooperation is appreciated.

**Thank to everyone for a GREAT 2014 so let's have a FANTASTIC 2015!!!- Billie Jones Post Manager**



**VFW Post 10555 Quartermaster's Corner, Rob Smith ([robsmith127@gmail.com](mailto:robsmith127@gmail.com))**

Happy New Year Everyone!

The holidays are here and so are our Northern Guests and events at the Post are in full swing. With the close of the year, it is a good time to reflect on the year gone by and think about the upcoming year. This year was a good year for the Post, as we were able to expand our income-generating activities with selling beer at the Harley Davidson shop. We still need to look at how we can generate more revenue as the cost of operations just keeps rising. We have made some great strides in trimming expenses and changing to more cost-effective vendors, but there is still work to do. The Post officers and House committee will be discussing ways we can do better.

One way you could help is to purchase a commemorative brick for the Post Supporters wall in the back hall. It is a great way to commemorate your own service or that of a loved one. Speaking of loved ones, the happiness around the holidays was tempered a good bit when we learned that we lost a great friend to the Post, Jim Booth. He was a huge longtime supporter of the Post and we all will miss him greatly.

***See you at the Post! Rob Smith, Quartermaster***

**MEMBERSHIP COUNTS**

**ON DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>, OUR VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST CONSISTED OF THIS BREAKDOWN:**

- 🇺🇸 ONE NEW LEGACY LIFE MEMBER, OUR FIRST
- 🇺🇸 176 LIFE MEMBERS INCLUDING FOUR NEW THIS YEAR AND ONE READY TO UPGRADE:
  - 🇺🇸 ROB LOPEZ
  - 🇺🇸 TRACEY LOPEZ
  - 🇺🇸 ROB SMITH
  - 🇺🇸 DON MAYER
  - 🇺🇸 RICK HASKILL (PENDING)
- 🇺🇸 73 CONTINUOUS ANNUAL MEMBERS
- 🇺🇸 SIX NEW ANNUAL MEMBERS, TWO ON DECK
  - 🇺🇸 TIMOTHY AKERS, PCB
  - 🇺🇸 MANNY ALTAMIRANO, PCB
  - 🇺🇸 PAM HOWELL, PCB
  - 🇺🇸 ROBERT HUTCHISON, PCB
  - 🇺🇸 JOHN KITTLER, PCB
  - 🇺🇸 JAMES MINER, PCB
  - 🇺🇸 TOM SPENCER, PC (PENDING)
  - 🇺🇸 JOSEPH KORDESICH, GIBSONIA, PA & PCB (PENDING)
- 🇺🇸 76 UNPAID/EXPIRED MEMBERS (CALL 850-703-7636 FOR ASSISTANCE)
- 🇺🇸 SIX DECEASED MEMBERS (LEST WE FORGET)
  - 🇺🇸 MICHAEL ALEXANDER, PCB
  - 🇺🇸 HAROLD DAVIS, PCB
  - 🇺🇸 PHILLIP HUNT, PCB
  - 🇺🇸 ARTHUR KARIE-FENTON, PCB
  - 🇺🇸 ENRIQUE RIVERA, PCB
  - 🇺🇸 DAVID TAINSH, PCB

State	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	Div	RS	City	State	N/R LM	Prior Annual	Retention
10	10555	17	177	6	0	75	258	296	87.16%	3	PCB	FL	0	120	65.00%	

**36 RENEWALS OR A COMBINATION OF RENEWALS AND NEW MEMBERS ARE NEEDED. NOW! WHOM WILL YOU INVITE?**

***GO VFW-STAY VFW!!! THOMAS RANDALL, LEGACY LIFE MEMBER, SVC, AND MEMBERSHIP CHAIR***



## HOLIDAYS BRING EXTRA STRESS FOR VETERANS

MAKE THE CONNECTION AIMS TO PROVIDE VETERANS NEEDED SUPPORT December 11, 2014

*"You can't internalize this forever. You gotta find that link with somebody or some group or something that'll make you let it go, that'll help you let it go."* – Don, Vietnam War veteran

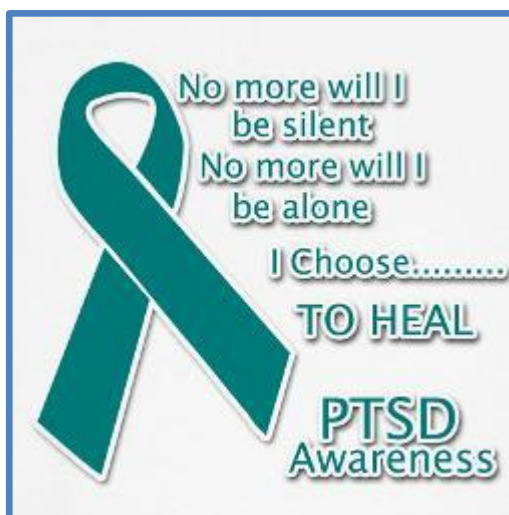
When Don returned home from Vietnam, he brought horrific memories from the war back with him. To make matters more difficult, some of his peers looked down on his service. Don busied himself at home to avoid situations that might evoke feelings that he wanted to bury. After 9/11, many bad memories came flooding back, and his behavior and quality of life started to change. Don decided to seek assistance, but had never talked to a mental health professional before and wasn't sure what to expect. His U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) doctor provided him with concrete steps to manage his symptoms and start the healing process. Each visit to his psychiatrist helped Don feel better, and his wife noticed improvement right away. Now Don tells his story hoping it will encourage other veterans to reach out for support.

The Make the Connection campaign features stories of resilience and recovery like Don's - from veterans of every age, experience, and service era. The Make the Connection website ([MakeTheConnection.net](http://MakeTheConnection.net)), is a one-stop resource where veterans and their families and friends can privately explore topics including health, wellness, and common challenges.


[MakeTheConnection.net](http://MakeTheConnection.net) features hundreds of videos of veterans talking openly about their personal experiences with mental health treatment, recovery, and paths to leading healthier, happier lives. These real stories encourage other veterans to seek help and take the first step toward recovery.

In addition to finding support at [MakeTheConnection.net](http://MakeTheConnection.net), you can also connect with care through a mental health professional or staff members in your community and at your local VA Medical Center or Vet Center by using the resource locator on the site. Don made the connection, and so can you.

The success of this effort relies on the support of those dedicated to serving our nation's veterans. Visit [MakeTheConnection.net](http://MakeTheConnection.net) today to discover more about how this resource can positively impact the lives of those in the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) community.



***Make the Connection is an initiative run by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.***

JANUARY 2015						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	R.E.D. FRIDAYS	SATURDAY
Remember Everyone Deployed Friday, wear red to support our troops	Sign up for this calendar by email at <a href="mailto:vfw10555@knology.net">vfw10555@knology.net</a>	<b>WHERE TO FIND US</b> 17680 Ashley Dr Panama City Beach, FL 32413 (850) 249-3025	LIKE US ON FACEBOOK 	1 New Years Day Post Open 12 - 6 Ms. Cues 2 PM	2 Bocce Ball 11:30 Legion Barbecue 5:30 - 6:30 Bingo 6 - 8	3 LAUX Bingo 1 PM
4	5 Darts 1 PM Vol Meeting 3 PM Legion Officer Mtg. 5:30 PM Legion Mtg. 6 PM	6 Men's Pool 1-5 PM	7 Big AI 2-5 PM Meat Raffle 2 PM Little Black Dress Skit	8 Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM Darts 7 PM	9 Bocce Ball 11:30 LAUX Officer Mtg. 2 PM LAUX Fish Fry \$9.00 5:30 - 6:30 PM Karaoke 6 - 9 PM	10 VOL Bingo 1 PM
11 Pool Tournament 8 Ball 2 PM \$2.00 to play Win \$20 Bar Tab Bunco 2 PM	12 Darts 1 PM	13 Men's Pool 1-5 PM Entertainment Com. Mtg. 4:30 PM Officer Mtg. 5 PM House Committee Mtg. 5:30 PM	14 Big AI 2-5 PM Meat Raffle 2 PM	15 Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM Darts 7 PM	16 Bocce Ball 11:30 VFW Build-a-Burger 5:30 - 6:30 Bingo 6 - 8	17 Legion Bingo 1 PM
18 Lunch with Russ Chandler Lunch 12:30 - 1:30 Russ 1 - 4	19 Darts 1 PM MAUX Meeting 3 PM	20 Men's Pool 1-5 PM Gen. Membership & LAUX Mtg. 6 PM	21 Big AI 2-5 PM Meat Raffle 2 PM	22 Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM Darts 7 PM	23 Bocce Ball 11:30 VOL Tacos \$5.00 5:30 - 6:30 VOL Bingo 6 - 8	24 VFW Bingo 1 PM Scottish/Celtic Evening 6 - 12
25 Pot Luck Food 2 - 3 Karaoke 3 - 6	26 Darts 1 PM	27 Vietnam Peace Accord Ceremony 4 PM Men's Pool 1-5 PM	28 Big AI 2-5 PM Meat Raffle 2 PM	29 Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM Darts 7 PM	30 Bocce Ball 11:30 Legion Barbecue 5:30 - 6:30 Bingo 6 - 8	31 MAUX Bingo 1 PM

**STATE VFW MIDWINTER CONFERENCE**

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!







**Salty Sue's**  
SEAFOOD · STEAK · BBQ · LOUNGE

17501 PANAMA CITY BEACH PKY., PANAMA CITY BEACH, FL 32413  
PH. 850.234.8485 OPEN 11 AM; 7 DAYS A WEEK



Lincoln-Hyundai-Mitsubishi-Ford  
Dodge-Chrysler-Jeep

**THOMAS A. SPENCER**  
Sales Representative

641 W. 15th Street (850) 785-1591  
Panama City, FL 32401 Fax: (850) 215-7726  
800-553-0892 Cell: (850) 624-4230

**Low Price Auto, Inc.**  
(850) 769-7988 or (850) 832-5000 Cell

Proudly Serving Bay County Since 1998  
Easy In House Financing on MOST VEHICLES!!!

Low Price Auto, Inc. located in Panama City, FL is a locally owned and operated buy here pay here car lot. We have been financing vehicles to good folks in Bay County for well over 13 years. We strive to treat our customers with courtesy and respect from the initial sale to handing over the title when the vehicle is paid for. By handling your auto loan in house we are able to overcome any past credit issue that has prevented you from purchasing the car, truck, or SUV you desire. If you have a steady job, the proper down payment and have been in the area for over a year, **YOU'RE APPROVED!** Give us a chance to earn your business, you will be glad you did!

Hours of Operation:  
MONDAY-FRIDAY: 9 AM-5:30 PM  
SATURDAY: 10 AM-2 PM  
SUNDAY: CLOSED/BY APPOINTMENT

Email: [lowpriceauto@aol.com](mailto:lowpriceauto@aol.com)



2805 W. 15th Street, Panama City, FL 32401



**itb**  
intothebluepcb.com

Tony Banks  
c: (850) 890-2377  
o: (850) 588-7376  
tony@intothebluepcb.com

4032 Thomas Drive, Suite C  
Panama City Beach, FL 32408

**Jeannie's**  
**ONE STOP DINER**

14664 Front Beach Road  
Panama City Beach, FL  
850-230-4342



**BAYOU ON THE BEACH**  
Restaurant & Oyster Bar

We are located at:  
11115 Hutchinson Blvd  
Panama City Beach, FL  
32407

For To Go Orders or  
Hook & Cook  
Reservations,  
Call us at:  
(850) 249-3478  
We are open Tuesday  
through Saturday for  
Lunch and Dinner.



**Military Welcome Center**  
Northwest Beaches Int'l Airport

850.265.1270  
10200 Resota Beach Rd.  
Panama City, FL 32409

Carol E. Hertz  
Volunteer Coordinator  
carolhertz@bellsouth.net

**THESE ADS ARE PUBLISHED IN CONSIDERATION OF A \$150 DONATION TO THE POST AND WILL RUN JAN-JAN...DONATIONS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED AT ANY TIME. CONTACT THOMAS RANDALL, EDITOR 850-703-7636**

