



Emerald Coast VFW Post 10555 ALL-AMERICAN POST JOURNAL

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GO VFW, STAY VFW!

March 2015

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



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

I cannot believe it is March already. Our Northern guests will be heading home soon. I wish you all safe travels and look forward to seeing you in the fall. As I am sure everyone knows, our bartenders are paid employees of our Post. We are required by a Florida State Law enacted on 1 January 2015 (and of which we were informed on 28 January) to pay them \$5.03 an hour in direct wages. Their tips contribute to their earnings but if those earnings do not average out to \$8.05, the new legal minimum wage, the employer (The Post) must make up the difference. This is non-negotiable. I have heard people say they are not tipping the bartenders because they are now paid employees. This is a close-minded, unfair point of view. Tips are part of their wage. If you go to a restaurant you tip servers 15% or more for good service and courtesy, why would you consider our bartenders any less deserving of tips? Those servers earn the same minimum direct wage, \$5.03, as our bartenders. Our bartenders provide us great service and courtesy and are very loyal to us. They rarely turn down request to work at events and the ones that don't provide what we expect of our employees are asked to depart. PLEASE, please be sure to tip them and show your appreciation for the service they provide. We have a majority vote to pay them \$5.05. Enough Said. Speaking of our Canteen, it will close April 19th for annual spring-cleaning. Please put it on your calendar and come out and give us a hand. We do this once a year to clean the places that don't normally get done. We will have a number of tasks to do that day, but we need people to get this done. Even if you can only come for a couple hours, every little bit helps. The same goes for any event you see on the calendar. If you just pick one event a month to pitch in and help at, we'd appreciate your assistance. For instance, one comrade always washes dishes for the LAVFW at their Friday Fish Fry. Nasty but necessary job. Kitty Dye always feeds him a big chicken dinner. Everybody's happy and the dishes, pots and pans are done for the next event.

Hope to See you At The Triple Nickel KEN WARINGA [PS CLICK HERE FOR THE LATEST STATE BULLETIN](#)

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

Hello Ladies, February was a short but busy month at the Post. We did well at the Fish Fry and we are anticipating a good turnout at Bike Night. Our Wine and Cheese Tasting is March 7th from 3:30 to 5:30 PM with music until about 6 PM. Our State President, Louise Koser, will be here. A suggested \$7 donation is requested. All proceeds will go toward the President's Special Project. We still need donations of wine and cheese and we are raffling off a toolbox in March. The tickets (NTE 120) are \$5 and you do not have to be present to win. If you have not renewed your annual membership now is the time to do it as we are on our way to All State and need just 12 members to complete all qualifications. If you know of a member that is ill or having difficulties, please let me know. I forgot in my last newsletter that our Sister Margaret Randall is out of rehab and doing well after knee surgery. OH! Stop by and look at our Auxiliary Room as the back wall is now painted blue and it really looks nice. I want to thank Jason Pieper for volunteering to paint the room. We are planning a yard sale in April so when doing your spring-cleaning please remember us.

Until next time, be safe and, 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)



Hello fellow Legionnaires! We have had an *awesome* start in this new year. We approved sending a student to Boys State this year in Tallahassee, FL. Our membership has grown to a 130 % with awards from the State Commander for our accomplishments. In addition, on another good note, we have red Legion Post 402 shirts on sale at the post to honor our deployed solders for R.E.D. Shirt Fridays. Get yours today! Do not forget to order commemorative bricks to honor your military service or that of a fellow Legionnaire or family member. We still have license plates for sale also wear and show your support of your Post #402. Upcoming events include B-I-N-G-O March 21st 27th, Legion Bike Night with Nashville recording artist and producer Neil James with our great BBQ platters from 5:30-9 PM. As you can see, there is a lot to do at our Post. I look forward to seeing you all there. If you are on the road, keep the rubberside down and the sunnyside up and always God Bless America.
Commander Jim Bowers.

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

The Ides of March are upon us and the canteen will have two changes on March 1st. The first change will be a price increase on a number of drinks that we serve due to increasing price of the alcohol and beer. This has not been done for many years and at the beginning of each year the vendors increase their price to us and we are also charged for each delivery. The second change is the bartenders will get a hourly increase of \$.05, this is a requirement that has to be followed by law. As an employee of the post and the post's canteen manager I appreciate all the support each and everyone has given to the post and hope it will continue with these changes.

March calendar is full again with events to attend, tickets will be on sale for the LAVFW Fish Fry and St. Patrick's Day Bash at the bar. We will not be holding tickets for these events – so when they are available please come out and purchase them and have a cold beverage of your choice. All events are on our calendar for your reading pleasure.

Hope to see you and your smiling faces at Post and Canteen 10555! - **Billie Jones Post Manager**

VFW RELEASES INITIAL REPORT ON THE VETERANS CHOICE PROGRAM

VFW RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD IMPROVE DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE OPTIONS FOR VETERANS

WASHINGTON, D.C 3 March 2015 — The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. will deliver to Congress this week its initial report on the implementation of the new Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Choice Program. The report is based on a survey of more than 2,500 VFW members over the first three months of the Veterans Choice Program, which VA launched on November 5, 2014.

"It is important that veterans have the opportunity to make informed health care decisions that best fit their own individual circumstances," said VFW National Commander John W. Stroud, who's in Washington along with more than 500 VFW advocates to deliver the report to every member of Congress as part of this week's VFW National Legislative Conference. "The Veterans Choice Program is an ambitious initiative that is supposed to offer more options to veterans who need it, which is why the VFW has an obligation to keep our pulse on the veterans' community to ensure the program works."

The VFW survey identified problems among many veterans who believed they were eligible for the Choice Program due to their geographic distance from a VA facility. For those who have waited 30 or more days for an appointment, the VFW also identified communication and training problems that may have precluded veterans from being properly informed of their non-VA care options.

The VFW is now working closely with VA and the third party administrators responsible for the implementation of the Choice Program.

The VFW's report includes six specific recommendations to improve the delivery of health care options for veterans, as well as a detailed analysis of participation, wait-time standards, geographic eligibility, and non-VA care issues that must be addressed to ensure this important program succeeds in increasing access to health care for America's veterans. Read the VFW report [here](#).

In an ongoing effort to hold the VA accountable for the proper implementation of this program, and to provide direct customer feedback, the VFW has now launched a second Veterans Choice Program survey, which is available via www.vfw.org/VAWatch.

VFW Post 10555 Quartermaster's Two Cents: Rob Smith (robsmith127@gmail.com)

WOW! This year has really started off quickly, already its March and the first signs of spring are in the air. Unfortunately, it also means we will start to say goodbye to our Northern Guests as they prepare to head home. It is always good to see them visit and enjoy themselves at the Post, and we will be sorry to see them go. I hope they all have safe travels home and we will be looking forward to their return in the fall. As the Commander explained at the February General Membership Meeting, drink prices will be going up on selected drinks on March 1st. I am also asking our continuous members who have not yet renewed their memberships for 2015 to please do so at your earliest convenience. If there is a reason why you are not renewing, please contact one of the Post officers (especially Senior Vice Commander/ Membership Chair Tom "the Chief Canoe Paddler" Randall). Hopefully we can win you back if you have decided to stay away. After all, we are the largest Veterans Service Organization at the Beach!

I also want to remind folks about our brick boards in the hall. It's a great way to commemorate your own service or the service of a loved one. Brick forms are available in the canteen, where the calendars are.

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

Boots on the Ground At SSG Chester C Sims State Veterans Home on February 21st



Chaplain Larry Striblin



Surgeon Jimmy Phelps Meets Woody and the Peckers

SVC Tom Randall



Surgeon Jimmy Phelps



Post Commander Ken Waringa Visits the Troops



Clifford Chester Sims

Date of birth: June 18, 1942
 Date of death: February 21, 1968
 Location: Hue, Republic of South Vietnam
 Burial location: FT Barrancas National Cemetery, Pensacola, Florida
 Place of Birth: Port St. Joe, Florida
 Home of record: Jacksonville Florida
 Status: KIA
 Named in his honor, August 2003: SSG Clifford Chester Sims State Veterans home


AWARDS AND CITATIONS

Silver Star; Purple Heart; Medal of Honor
 Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War



The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pride in presenting the Medal of Honor (Posthumously) to Staff Sergeant Clifford Chester Sims (ASN: 14780953), United States Army, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a squad leader with Company D, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy aggressor forces at Hue, Republic of Vietnam, on 21 February 1968. Company D was assaulting a heavily fortified enemy position concealed within a dense wooded area when it encountered strong enemy defensive fire. Once within the wood line, Staff Sergeant Sims led his squad in a furious attack against an enemy force which had pinned down the 1st Platoon and threatened to overrun it. His skillful leadership provided the platoon with freedom of movement and enabled it to regain the initiative. Staff Sergeant Sims was then ordered to move his squad to a position where he could provide covering fire for the company command group and to link up with the 3d Platoon, which was under heavy enemy pressure. After moving no more than 30 meters Staff Sergeant Sims noticed that a brick structure in which ammunition was stocked was on fire. Realizing the danger, Staff Sergeant Sims took immediate action to move his squad from this position. Though in the process of leaving the area two members of his squad were injured by the subsequent explosion of the ammunition, Staff Sergeant Sims' prompt actions undoubtedly prevented more serious casualties from occurring. While continuing through the dense woods amidst heavy enemy fire, Staff Sergeant Sims and his squad were approaching a bunker when they heard the unmistakable noise of a concealed booby trap being triggered immediately to their front. Staff Sergeant Sims warned his comrades of the danger and unhesitatingly hurled himself upon the device as it exploded, taking the full impact of the blast. In so protecting his fellow soldiers, he willingly sacrificed his life. Staff Sergeant Sims' extraordinary heroism at the cost of his life is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself and the United States Army.

General Orders: Department of the Army, General Orders No. 83 (December 12, 1969)
Action Date: 21-Feb-68
Service: Army
Rank: Staff Sergeant
Company: Company D
Battalion: 2nd Battalion (Airborne)
Regiment: 501st Infantry Regiment
Division: 101st Airborne Division

March 2015						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	R.E.D. FRIDAYS	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 7 PM	6 Bocce Ball 11:30 VOL Food \$5.00 5:30 - 6:30 PM VOL Bingo 6-8 PM	7 LAUX Bingo 1 PM LAUX Wine & Cheese 3:30 - 5:30 Music by Jesse Jones 3:30 - 6:30
8 Pool Tournament 8 Ball 2 PM \$2.00 to play Win \$20 Bar Tab	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 7 PM	13 Bocce Ball 11:30 LAUX Officer Mtg. 2 PM LAUX Fish Fry \$9.00 5:30 - 6:30 PM Karaoke 6 - 9 PM	14 VOL BINGO 1 PM Volunteer Appreciation Meal - 5 to 6 Open to All, but please sign up. Entertainment 5-8
15	16 Darts 1 PM MAUX Meeting 6 PM	17 St. Patrick's Day Food 5-6 Brian Cairnes 6-9	18 Big AI 1-4 Meat Raffle Gen. Membership & LAUX Mtg. 6 PM	19 Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM Darts 7 PM	20 Bocce Ball 11:30 VFW Wings 5:30 - 6:30 Bingo 6 - 8	21 Legion BINGO 1 PM
22 Pot Luck Food 2-3 Karaoke 3-6	23	24 Men's Pool 1-5 PM	25 Bring a Friend to the Post 3-6 PM	26 Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM	27 Bike Night Legion Barbecue 5:30 - 7:30 Entertainment	28 VFW Bingo 1 PM CASINO EVENING Games, Food & Fun Games 5 - 8 Auction 8 - 9
29 Bunco 2 PM	30	31 Men's Pool 1-5 PM		WHERE TO FIND US 17680 Ashley Dr Panama City Beach, FL 32413 (850) 249-3025	Sign up for this calendar by email at vfw10555@knology.net	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!**





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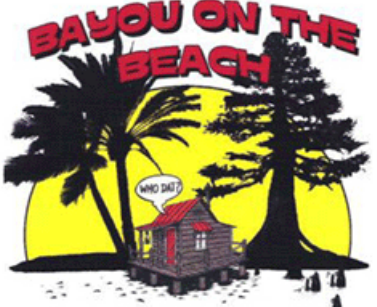
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