



# Emerald Coast VFW Post 10555 ALL-AMERICAN POST JOURNAL

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

We are definitely getting into quieter times again at the post as evidenced by our April calendar. At the April membership meeting we will have election of our officers to run the Post for the 2014/2015 year. We opened nominations in March and nominations remain open until the elections in April. There are some key positions that must be filled that we don't have a volunteer for yet. We need an Adjutant, Surgeon, Judge Advocate, and Service Officer. These positions are appointed by the Commander and must be filled to complete our report of elections to National. If interested in helping us out by filling one of these positions please see me for an explanation of the duties of each position.

I want to talk about flag etiquette a bit. The United States "Flag Code" as found in Title 4 of the United States Code and the section of Title 36 which designates the Star-Spangled Banner as the national anthem and provides instructions on how to display the flag during its rendition. The "Flag Code" includes instruction and rules on such topics as the pledge of allegiance, display and use of the flag by civilians, time and occasions for display, position and manner of display, and how to show respect for the flag. U.S. flag goes to its own right. When on separate flag poles, flags of other nations are flown at same height. At the Post, when the flag is lowered to half mast, the POW, State and Canadian flags shall be lowered first. The US flag shall then be brought down to just above the yard arm. If should go mid way on the yard arm, but it gets tangled so we fly it just above the yard arm. If you come in to the Post and see it being flown incorrectly, fix it. You don't need to ask someone, just fix it. This is your post and our post is just one small part of the premier veteran's service organization in this country. We must fly our flag correctly. If you have any questions please see me.

**See You Around OUR POST! Ken**

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

Well ladies, Spring is upon us. Our March Fish Fry went smoothly thanks to all the good help. Sandy from the post helped with the cooking and there was lots of good help in the kitchen. At the last meeting, we initiated 4 new sisters and we received reports that we gave 104 flag pins and 23 certificates for proper national flag displays to local PCB businesses who display the flag properly. Mary Kilzer, Carol MacDonald, Jane Brewer and Jenny Freeman received Certificates of Appreciation from me for their selfless service to the LAUX this past year. Our membership has exceeded Medallion level and hopefully we will make All State this year but we also lost 2 sisters, Mia Moody and Ginger Kitner. I will soon be picking up the art work for the Ladies Auxiliary "Young Patriotic Art Contest". Laura Buchanan, Russo and his wife Leeann have agreed to judge it. First Prize is a lap top computer. In other news, we are currently in the process of changing banks to Innovations Federal Credit Union as we feel that our money will earn more than it is now. In the near future our Ladies Auxiliary will be providing lunch at the NSA Panama City "Liberty Locker" for single service men and women attending Dive School on base Sunday, May 12th. These single young people are not allowed to leave base while they are enrolled in school, they really appreciated the visit I made with the Post last month. Please let me know if you can attend. Oh, and Carol MacDonald wants to "retire" from calling Emerald Coast Bingo. Anyone wishing to help (it pays \$5.00 per hour, too) can contact me for information.

I want to remind everyone that T. Wayne Markham will be the new VFW State Commander. He is from Bay County and is holding his Homecoming here in Panama City Beach and the Post will need help with various things. The Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting a light lunch after the Homecoming golf tournament.

**Need a ride to meetings? Please call me at 234-8918. Until next time, stay dry and be safe. Kitty**





**VFW Men's Auxiliary and American Legion Update: Bill McGrath, President/Commander  
([billmcgrath6@yahoo.com](mailto:billmcgrath6@yahoo.com))**

They are called Snowbirds, Northerners, winter guests and more. I personally prefer to call them Friends. IT has been a great winter here in PCB and I wish my Friends a safe journey home. We look forward to your return as you make our short, mild winters a delight.

This month of April our MAUX will conduct elections once again and you don't have to be present to be nominated but you DO need to be present to decline. You can always contact one of the officers and decline in advance. I invite you to the next meeting to participate in the process of choosing new leadership to guide our organization through the coming year. After serving as an MAUX officer for seven years, I shall not accept any nomination to serve in a leadership position in our MAUX organization. I will, however, assist in the transition and training of any new officers who accept a nomination for President or any other MAUX officer's position. I will remain firm in my commitment to support the MAUX in all the good that it does as an Auxiliary unit of the VFW.

There is a new service project underway at the post headed by VFW Senior Vice-Commander Tracey Lopez and initiated by Deb and David Tainsh. This project supports "Liberty Locker", a unique place on base at NSA Panama City where single service men and women can go and relax after hard training days at the Dive School. Dive School does not allow them to leave the base. The units of our post and other Veterans Service Organizations are taking turns and once a month on a given Sunday we are providing lunch and camaraderie to these military students while they watch a movie and mingle. We recently approved the purchase of a new crock pot to carry food to the base as did the VFW whose first attempt to serve the troops in March went very well indeed. In April the LAUX will do their usual cooking magic and then in May the American Legion will probably provide their special pulled pork. Yes, they can cook other things but they choose not to – they like to smoke *anything!* Ever had smoked possum? Yum! Anyway, check the calendar and if you are available on one of these Liberty Locker Sundays come and lend your valued assistance and meet and greet these military neighbors at the NSA. All the organizations will appreciate your help – don't hesitate to "cross the lines" and come out to support whomever is hosting the troops.

As far as the American Legion goes, we continue to do our Friday BBQ (a.k.a. Pulled Pork) once a month, and will continue as long as there are folks turning out for the pork and the B-I-N-G-O. It is still a bargain at \$5 for a great pork sandwich with a homemade side and chips. When time permits, I'll personally try to add a dessert or a unique side dish just to keep your interest. Just one more thing, the Legion, too, has elections this month of April so try to make it to our monthly meeting and vote your conscience.

***Until next time, come out, enjoy and lend a hand, Regards Bill McGrath***

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

Spring has sprung and our Northern Friends have returned home – well most of them!! I would like to extend a "thank you" for all the good times to everyone who attended and helped with the functions during the winter months. It was a grand time for VFW 10555 and looking forward to next time! The April calendar is still filled with Friday night Bingo with wings, build a burger or barbeque which is a bargain for all. Also the LAUX will have a Fish Fry and Karaoke for entertainment. Please check the calendar or call for dates, time, and price. Cards will be played on Thursday evening – come out and try your luck. Men's Pool on Tuesday and Ms. Cues on Thursday are available come and enjoy the fun.

Sunday hours are 12 noon till 6pm. Post 10555 will be closed Sunday April 6 for field day and will reopen Monday for business – please make note of this date. We are looking for members to lend a "helping hand" on field day which will begin at 9 AM.

Looking forward to seeing you at our canteen and remember to please tip your bartender on duty. Reba, Esther, Gail, Cindy, Jacii and Christina (who works Sundays) are willing to serve all of you. Please respect them as they are the ones in charge while on duty.

Enjoy spring and may all your flowers bloom!! Best Regards, Billie



**VFW Post 10555 Quartermaster's Corner, Rob Smith ([baltorob@comcast.net](mailto:baltorob@comcast.net))**

Hello All! With the coming of April and its Spring Breakers is the eventuality of our Northern guests wrapping up their visits and heading back home. It has been a very good winter season with our guests! We very much enjoyed having them visit our Post and looking forward to their return in the fall. A special thanks to Bev and her officers on the Volunteer Committee, it has been a pleasure working with them.

There has been a little uptick in the Memorial Brick orders; I just sent in an order for nine more and hopefully by the time you are reading this newsletter, those bricks will be on display in the hall.

A note on the pull tab machine: It has been seeing very heavy play recently and at times, a column may get stuck. Please do not ask the bartender to call me to come fix it, there are other columns to play and I'll be in to fix the problem the following day. As always, the Post thanks you for playing!

***See you at the Post when I return from Baltimore! Rob***

**Words of Guidance from our Chaplain, Larry Striblin ([paparedman@yahoo.com](mailto:paparedman@yahoo.com))**

I am proud to continue to serve as your Chaplain and I hope to always be your Chaplain. In the past two years we have witnessed a lot of old friends leaving and new friends arriving, but no departures have hurt worse than the deaths of fellow comrades at the Post. Many of them helped start this post and get it moved over to PCB. I thought it only proper to list them here so we might remember them and not forget their service and sacrifice for the post and our nation:

Louise Vanglever; Joseph Reese; Mike Kabaci; Richard Meadows; Emmit Jones; George Coreluseuski; Howard Johnson; Ellis Fernandez; Dick Behler; Nestor Bendza; Albert Howell; Bud DeRemer; David Pugh; Ronald Gerjets; George White; Maris Atchison; Leo Smith; Linn Howick; Kenneth Reinholz and Past Post Commanders Ray Seale and Bill McDonald.

***WE HONOR THE DEAD BY SERVING THE LIVING, WE ARE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS!***

**Candidate for Senior Vice Commander, VFW Post 10555, Thomas Randall ([StalwartWarrior@hotmail.com](mailto:StalwartWarrior@hotmail.com))**

I have faithfully served every post I belonged to along the journey that my life has become. I chose Emerald Coast knowing that eventually I would serve as a post officer again when needed. This next year I am asking for your support as our Senior Vice Commander of the post and district. It is my belief that the commanders of both need to have an SVC ready to step in and represent them in their absence as well as remain well-versed in the by-laws and resolutions of our organization, ready to advise the Commander in all matters VFW. I am uniquely qualified to do so. I am an immediate past Post and District Commander; I served on every type of committee at the post and district level. Next year I have an appointment to the State Membership Committee as its Deputy Director for the Northern Region. This opportunity will give me the chance to try to "walk the walk" after all my talk about how the VFW is more than what it appears to be, that we should not be strong arm recruiting to meet membership goals. We should be focused on retention of present members and in order to retain current members our house has to be in order and by that I mean financially accountable, I mean involved in the veteran and military community around it and I mean providing the programs and events that the post and its auxiliary units enjoy participating in. This post of ours has a canteen, something I am not quite used to and it is only the second post I belonged to that had a canteen, the last being Gaylord Dillingham Post 4951 in Honolulu. The majority of my VFW service was for 15 years in a small post (78 members when I joined it and 120 when I left). By doing right and staying involved in the community we had All State honors most of the time and All-American honors twice but we struggled financially. For instance, our General Fund was often empty and we reluctantly accepted cash donations to that fund from the Disabled American Veterans chapter whose chapter building we shared. That was embarrassing but necessary, and by necessary I mean all that matters is the Good of the Order and the continued ability to do right by our membership, do right by veterans and their families and to do right by our military and their families.

I willingly accepted the nomination for Senior Vice Commander with the intention of working harder to operate a post we can all be proud of, a post we can all enjoy and a post that continue to excel at doing more FOR VETERANS than any other VSO on the beach. This message approved by the Committee to Elect Tom Randall SVC.



**A TRIBUTE TO OUR VIETNAM VETERANS AT EMERALD COAST POST: AN EXCERPT FROM THE PROLOGUE OF  
WE WERE SOLDIERS ONCE...AND YOUNG**

**NEW YORK: RANDOM HOUSE, ©1992 BY LTG HAL MOORE US ARMY (RET.) AND JOSEPH GALLOWAY**

"This story is about time and memories. The time was 1965, a different kind of year, a watershed year when one era was ending in America and another was beginning. We felt it then in the many ways our lives changed so suddenly, so dramatically, and looking back on it from a quarter century gone we are left in no doubt. It was the year America decided to directly intervene in the Byzantine affairs of obscure and distant Vietnam. It was the year we went to war. In the broad, traditional sense, that "we" that went to war was all of us, all Americans, though in truth at that time the larger majority had little knowledge of, less interest in, and no great concern with what was beginning so far away.

So this story is about the smaller, more tightly focused "we" of that sentence, the first American combat troops, who boarded World War II era troopships, sailed to that little-known place, and fought the first major battle of a conflict that would drag on for ten long years and come as near to destroying America as it did to destroying Vietnam.

The Ia Drang campaign was to the Vietnam War what the terrible Spanish Civil War of the 1930's was to World War II: a dress rehearsal; the place where new tactics, techniques and weapons were tested, perfected, and validated. In the Ia Drang, both sides claimed victory and both sides drew lessons, some of them dangerously deceptive, which echoed and resonated throughout the bloody decade of bloody fighting and bitter sacrifice that was to come.

This story is about what we did, what we saw, what we suffered in a 34-day campaign in the Ia Drang Valley of the Central Highlands of South Vietnam in November 1965, when we were young and confident and patriotic and yet our countrymen knew little and cared less about our sacrifices.

Another war story, you say? Not exactly, for on the more important levels this is a love story, told in our own words and by our own actions. We were the children of the 1950s and we went where we were sent because we loved our country. We were draftees, most of us, but we were proud of the opportunity to serve that country just as our fathers had done in World War II and our older brothers in Korea. We were members of an elite, experimental combat division trained in the new art of airmobile warfare at the behest of President John F. Kennedy.

Just before we shipped out to Vietnam the Army handed us the colors of the historic First Cavalry Division and we all proudly sewed on the big black and yellow shoulder patches with the horsehead silhouette. We went to war because our country asked us to go, because our new president, Lyndon B. Johnson, ordered us to go, but more importantly because we saw it as our duty to go. That is one kind of love.

Another and far more transcendent love came to us unbidden on the battlefields, as it does on every battlefield in every war man has ever fought. We discovered that in that depressing, hellish place, where death was our constant companion, that we loved each other. We killed for each other, we died for each other, and we wept for each other. An in time we came to love each other as brothers. In battle our world shrank to the man on the left and the man on the right and the enemy all around. We held each other's lives in our hands and we learned to share our fears, our hopes, our dreams as readily as we shared what little else good came our way."





APRIL						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>LIKE US ON FACEBOOK</b> 	Sign up for this calendar by email at <a href="mailto:vfw10555@knology.net">vfw10555@knology.net</a>	<b>1 April Fool's Day</b> Men's Pool 1-5 PM FOOLS 5 PM	<b>2</b> Bring a Friend to the Post 3-6 PM	<b>3</b> Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM	<b>4</b> VFW Wings \$5.00 5:30 - 6:30 PM VFW Bingo 6 - 8 PM	<b>5</b> MAUX Bingo 1 PM
<b>6</b> POST CLOSED FOR FIELD DAY Field Day begins at 9 AM	<b>7</b> Legion Officer Mtg. 5:30 PM Legion Mtg. 6 PM	<b>8</b> Men's Pool 1-5 PM Entertainment Com. Mtg. 4:30 PM Officer Mtg. 5 PM House Committee Mtg. 5:30 PM	<b>9</b> Bring a Friend to the Post 3-6 PM	<b>10</b> Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM	<b>11</b> LAUX Officer Mtg. 2 PM LAUX Fish Fry \$9.00 5:30-6:30 PM Jade N Jewel 6-9 PM	<b>12</b> Legion Bingo 1 PM
<b>13</b> Pool Tournament 1 PM LAUX NSA Liberty Locker Dinner 2:30 PM	<b>14</b> MAUX Meeting 3 PM	<b>15</b> Men's Pool 1-5 PM Gen. Membership & LAUX Mtg. 6 PM	<b>16</b> Bring a Friend to the Post 3-6 PM	<b>17</b> Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM	<b>18 Good Friday</b> VFW Build-a-burger or Fish Sandwich w/fries \$5.00 5:30 - 6:30 PM VFW Bingo 6-8 PM	<b>19</b> LAUX Bingo 1 PM
<b>20</b> Easter	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Men's Pool 1-5 PM	<b>23</b> Bring a Friend to the Post 3-6 PM	<b>24</b> Ms. Cues 2 PM Warrior Salute First Baptist Church 5-45 PM Cards 6 PM	<b>25</b> Legion Bar-b-que \$5.00 5:30 - 6:30 PM Legion Bingo 6-8 PM	<b>26</b> VFW Bingo 1 PM
<b>27</b> Bunco 2 PM	<b>28</b> Holocaust Remembrance Day Remembrance 4 PM	<b>29</b> Men's Pool 1-5 PM	<b>30</b> Bring a Friend to the Post 3-6 PM		<b>WHERE TO FIND US</b> 17580 Ashley Dr Panama City Beach, FL 32413 (850) 249-3025	
<b>THUNDER BEACH 30 April - 3 May - MAUX Breakfast 8-9:30 AM, \$6.00</b>						

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 Canteen Manager, Billie Jones, at the Post 850-249-3025.

**It's About Time For THE Semi-Annual VFW Post 10555 YARD SALE, scheduled for 3 May 2014.**

**Let's get the word out for contributions!! This is a great fundraiser for the post, it also gets you into the Spring Cleaning mode, and we know you have "STUFF" you want to donate! For Information Contact Anna Miner**





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