



# **Emerald Coast VFW Post 10555**

## **ALL-AMERICAN POST JOURNAL**

**Volume 7, Issue 8**

**August 2013**

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)

**NEW Hours of Operation**  
1200-2100hrs/NOON to 9PM  
**EXCEPT SUNDAYS**  
Post Closes 1800 hrs/6PM

### **JULY CANTREEN ACTIVITIES**

**TUESDAYS:** Billiards!

**WEDNESDAYS:** Happy Hour All Day: BRING A FRIEND FROM 3-6PM

**THURSDAYS:** Cards! Ms. Cues!

**FRIDAYS:** Food! Music or Bingo!

**SATURDAYS:** Bingo!

**FRI 2<sup>nd</sup> - VFW Build-A-Burger**  
5:30-6:30PM

**SAT 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8-11AM MAUX**  
Breakfast; 11AM VFW District 17  
MTG Sherman Ave 1PM American  
Legion Bingo

**FRI 9<sup>th</sup> - 2PM LAUX Officer MTG**  
5:30-6:30PM LAUX Fish Fry  
w/music by Robin Raye 6-9PM

**SAT 10<sup>th</sup> - 1PM LAUX Bingo**

**SUN 11<sup>th</sup> - 2:30PM Pool**  
Tournament

**MON 12<sup>th</sup> - 5:30 PM AMERICAN**  
LEGION Officer MTG 6PM Post  
MTG

**TUES 13<sup>th</sup> - MEETINGS! 4:30 PM**  
Entertainment Committee; 5PM  
Post Officers; 5:30PM House  
Committee

**FRI 16<sup>th</sup> - VFW Wings 5:30-6:30PM**

**SAT 17<sup>th</sup> VFW Bingo 1PM**

**SUN 18<sup>th</sup> - 12:30-1:30PM SAVE-**  
OUR-POST Event Shrimp or  
Chicken Salad Days w/music by  
Jade-N-Jewel 1-4PM

**TUES 20<sup>th</sup> - 6 PM General**  
Membership MTG; VFW/LAUX  
Meetings follow

**FRI 23<sup>rd</sup> - 5:30-6:30PM Legion**  
BBQ; 6-8PM Legion Bingo

**SAT 24<sup>th</sup> - 1PM MAUX Bingo**

**SAT 31<sup>st</sup> - 1PM Legion Bingo**



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

Greetings, hope everyone is enjoying your summer. We are starting to see some new American Legion folks around the post, which is great. Last Friday we had Build-A-Burger and Bingo and the turnout was tremendous, now if we could only get a few more volunteers to help with the events. We have changed the Canteen hours on Sunday from noon to 6:00, but the bartender has the option to remain open later if there are folks in the post. We discussed closing on Sundays, but felt we would rather do something to bring more folks in, so Sunday afternoons in August we have something going on each afternoon. One Sunday we are going to have cards, so bring some partners and play your favorite card game. We will be having a pool tournament for a \$20.00 bar tab. Our Save Our Post event will be Chicken or Shrimp Salad sandwiches for lunch followed by entertainment. Our calendar has all the monthly events so come on out, meet some new folks, and enjoy your post.

**See you around the post. KEN WARINGA, Post Commander 10555**

PPS: We just had to replace one AC unit of the three in the building at a cost of \$1200.

[PS CLICK HERE FOR THE LATEST STATE BULLETIN](#)

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

Dear Sisters, the New Year begins. We approved one new sister, Christine Waringa and Gloria Turner won a life membership in the 7/4 drawing. While the weather was terrible, the July the 4<sup>th</sup> picnic went very well. The fish fry went well and I want to thank Bear and all the Post members who helped. You certainly make our life easier. The next fish fry is 8/9 at 5:30 p.m. with music by Robin Ray. Anyone wishing to help just please give me a call at 234-8918. Our joint event with the Post will be 8/18. We will be doing chicken salad or shrimp salad sandwiches with sides and maybe a surprise or two. We have Dick and Jane back in the Canteen. We are collecting school supplies for the beach schools for children who cannot afford them. It is time to start thinking about renewing your membership. Renewing early gets your name in a drawing for a life membership. **Until next time, Kitty Dye, President Ladies Auxiliary 10555**

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

Hello All, The summer sure is flying by, and so is the chance for all of the continuous (annual) members to renew their memberships by July 31 to be entered into a drawing for a Life Membership. The drawing will be held at the August general membership meeting and you must be present to win. There is no need to bring a receipt for your membership renewal payment, as I am keeping track of all who took advantage of this opportunity.

Even if you missed the opportunity to get in the drawing, you will want to consider renewing your membership early since a dues increase of \$10 was approved at the National Convention in July. That means Post dues will likely rise to \$35 on 01 January 2014. That date is not set in stone yet, but it is looking likely. In addition, you may want to consider getting a Life Membership. That way, your dues are paid and you do not have to worry about increases or getting calls from our Membership Chairperson.

Enough about dues. The Save Our Post fundraising efforts are going well and we will continue to have events for this in the coming months. Check the thermometer graphic in the hall to see how much has been raised so far. In response to the many replies to the survey we sent out, we are trying new things at the Post, so check the calendar and come on out and enjoy them!

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





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

At the last Men's Auxiliary meeting the members decided to get a jump on the planning process by tentatively planning all major and reoccurring events through March of 2014. Here are some of the things we have planned for the post: Beginning in August, we will initiate a new breakfast menu with some smaller and different selections. We felt that not everyone wants to take on a very large breakfast early in the morning. Now you have more choices, such as a sausage and biscuit or pancakes with bacon. Remember, the breakfasts are served the first Saturday of every month, so put it on your "to do" list and come out anytime between 8-11 AM. Bloody Marys are available too.

This winter we shall begin a regular Wednesday lunch. The lunch will be served from 12-2PM. We are in the process of developing a menu, so you will have several selections. We will circulate the menu when we finish with it, but we hope to make it more than just burgers and brats.

The biggest event we are putting together is the First Senior Prom at our post. This will be a semi-formal gala affair. Guys will be required to wear a jacket and tie or a dress Military, VFW or Legion uniform. Ladies too will be required to sport "dress up" attire, but I will not detail your dress styles, Ladies; that would be a fatal mistake by any man. We also hope to have the event catered, so that no group will have to operate the kitchen. Keep an eye out for details on this one; it is going to be new, big and a lot of fun.

The other events we are planning are, "Country Saturday", "Caribbean Sunday", "Lunch with Russ" and "Cajun Saturday". I will provide more details on each of these at a later date as the events get closer, but watch for a full and fun fall and winter coming your way.

Also in August, the American Legion at our post will be sponsoring its first event. It will be a BBQ with sides and bingo on Friday Aug. 23rd. Come out and support our new American Legion Post located at our own VFW.

***See You Soon at the Post We Love! Bill McGrath, MAUX President, American Legion Post Commander***

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

Oh My! Is August here already? The summer has gone by so fast. So much rain and humidity. Hope you have been able to stop by the canteen for a cold one, if not please do so. It is cool inside it is not raining in there, the folks are friendly, and the beer is cold, and much more.

The Men's Auxiliary breakfast was a big hit in July and they will be having one the first Saturday of the month. August 3rd is the next one, the food is really great. You do not have to cook or clean, the MAUX does it all.

Breaking news: new Sunday hours are 12-6PM until further notice. Lots of events for Sunday afternoons during the month of August. Check your calendar online, in this newsletter or call 249-3025 for more information. Bingo, LAUX Fish Fry, Wednesday All Day Happy Hours, VFW Build-a-Burger, Legion Bingo, Cards and much more are still going on. All VFW, Auxiliary and American Legion members come on out and take advantage of our great Canteen activities.

***Remember that our bartenders are volunteers and your tips are greatly appreciated.***

***Hope to See You Soon. Billie Jones Canteen Manager***

**Wanted: A Post Service Officer ([Thomas\\_Randall@mediacombb.net](mailto:Thomas_Randall@mediacombb.net))**

Section 218 (a)(12) of the VFW Congressional Charter bylaws states that "The Post Service Officer shall assist members of the Post, their widows and orphans and other worthy cases brought to their attention in obtaining rightful entitlements from federal and state governments. The work of a Service Officer shall be performed in accordance with the instructions contained in the VFW Guide for Service Officers under the general supervision of the Department Service Officer. They shall perform such other duties as may be incident to the office and as may from time to time be required by the laws and usages of this organization or lawful orders from proper authority." Having quoted that, I have been trained for this position and can safely say that it requires a lot of patience when working on claims but has limitations in that VFW Service Officers may only advise and act as an advocate on behalf of the veteran or family in need. Wallace Stacy has been an excellent Post Service Officer but must step down. Won't you please consider stepping up to help your comrades in need?



## COLONEL GEORGE E. "BUD" DAY, MOH, USAF (ret.) (1925-2013)

MIAMI (AP) 28JULY 2013 - Retired Col. George "Bud" Day, a Medal of Honor recipient who spent 5½ years as a prisoner-of-war in Vietnam and was Arizona Sen. John McCain's cellmate, has died at the age of 88, his widow said Sunday. Day, one of the most highly decorated U.S. servicemen since Gen. Douglas MacArthur and later a tireless advocate for veterans' rights, died Saturday surrounded by family at his home in Shalimar, after a long illness, his wife, Doris Day said. "He would have died in my arms if I could have picked him up," she said.

Day received the Medal of Honor for escaping his captors for 10 days after the aircraft he was piloting was shot down over North Vietnam. In all, he earned more than 70 medals during service in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. He was an enlisted Marine serving in the Pacific during World War II and an Air Force pilot in the Korean and Vietnam wars.

In Vietnam, he was McCain's cellmate at one camp known as the Plantation and later in the infamous Hanoi Hilton, where he was often the highest-ranking captive. During his imprisonment, the once-muscular, 5-foot-9 (1.75-meter) Day was hung by his arms for days, tearing them from their sockets. He was freed in 1973 — a skeletal figure of the once dashing fighter pilot. His hands and arms never functioned properly again.

"As awful as it sounds, no one could say we did not do well. (Being a POW) was a major issue in my life and one that I am extremely proud of. I was just living day to day," he said in a 2008 interview with The Associated Press. "One really bad cold and I would have been dead."

In a statement Sunday, McCain called Day a great patriot and said he owed his life to the man. "He was the bravest man I ever knew, and his fierce resistance and resolute leadership set the example for us in prison of how to return home with honor," McCain said.

Born Feb. 24, 1925, in Sioux City, Iowa, where the airport is named for him, Day joined the Marines in 1942 while still in high school. He returned home, graduated from law school and passed the bar exam in 1949. He entered the Iowa National Guard in 1950 and attended flight school. He was called to active duty in the Air Force the next year and did two tours as a bomber pilot in the Korean War.

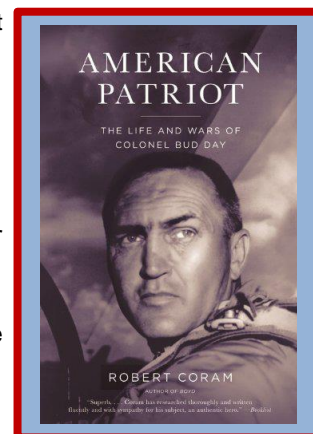
In Vietnam, Day was shot down over North Vietnam on Aug. 26, 1967. He bailed out, but the landing broke his knee and his right arm and left him temporarily blinded in one eye. In the spring of 1968, Day's North Vietnamese captors opened his cell door and brought in McCain, who was wearing a full body cast and was nearly dead. McCain had been in isolation for seven weeks and could not wash or feed himself, Day wrote in "Return With Honor," his 1989 autobiography. "We were the first Americans he had talked to. We were delighted to have him, and he was more than elated to see us," Day wrote. They helped nurse McCain.

After the war and his release, Day retired to the Florida Panhandle in 1977 and practiced law, becoming a crusader for veterans' health care benefits in the courts and in Congress. "People would stop us in the airports and all over, and we had no idea who they were, and they would say, 'Thank you, you saved my husband's life,' or, 'You saved my wife's life,'" Doris Day said. The couple celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary in May.

Day was active in McCain's failed 2000 and 2008 Republican presidential bids and in 2004 campaigned against fellow Vietnam veteran John Kerry. Day called Kerry, the Democratic presidential nominee, a turncoat who lied to Congress in 1971 about alleged war atrocities. "I draw a direct comparison to General Benedict Arnold of the Revolutionary War to Lt. John Kerry," Day said in 2004. "Both went off to war, fought, and then turned against their country." Day retired from the Air Force at the rank of colonel, never attaining his general's star. He said he believed he wasn't promoted further because he "told it like it was." "When I returned from prison, there was a huge amount of the Air Force leadership that were not combat-oriented. They were quasi-political managers," he said.

Campaigning for McCain in his 2008 presidential bid, Day drew comparisons between the lessons of Vietnam and the dangers of an early pullout from Iraq. "They cut off funding to the South Vietnamese Army and we ended up being defeated, and that's really very relevant to what's happening right now," Day said. Day worked throughout his life, accepting an appointment to head the 35-employee Okaloosa County Public Defender's Office in 2009 at the age of 83 after the Panhandle circuit's newly elected public defender asked him to take the job as a personal favor. A veteran of World War Two, the Korean conflict and the Vietnam War. He was held as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam for six years, sharing a cell with a young Navy pilot named John McCain. McCain would go on to become a U.S. Senator and Presidential Candidate.

Day was awarded the military's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor. "All veterans know bud day. Especially those that were in the Vietnam War as he is an inspiration to all of us" said Houston. After his release, Day continued serving his country, until his retirement in 1977. He was, and still is the air force's most decorated officer. Col. Day may have retired, but he didn't rest. He earned a law degree, and championed healthcare for veterans and their dependents.





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