



Emerald Coast VFW Post 10555

ALL-AMERICAN POST JOURNAL

Volume 7, Issue 12

December 2013

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

www.vfwpost10555.com

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

DECEMBER CANTEEN ACTIVITIES

MONDAYS: Darts!

TUESDAYS: Billiards!

WEDNESDAYS: Big Al and Meat Raffles!

THURSDAYS: Cards! Ms. Cues!

FR/SAT: Food! Music? B-I-N-G-O!

MON 2nd: VOLS Meeting 4PM

TUES 3rd: FOOLS Meeting 4PM

FRI 6th: VFW Wings 5:30PM, B-I-N-G-O 6PM

SAT 7th: PEARL HARBOR DAY MAUX
Breakfast 8AM, Arts & Crafts Fair 8 AM
and LAUX B-I-N-G-O 1PM

Commemorative Ceremony 3:30PM

MON 9th: AMERICAN LEGION Officer
MTG 5:30 PM; Am. Legion Post MTG 6PM

TUES 10th: MEETINGS! Entertainment
Committee, 4:30 PM; VFW Officers;
5PM; House Committee 5:30PM

FRI 13th: LAUX Officer MTG, 2PM; VOLS
Build-a-Taco 5:30PM; VOLS B-I-N-G-O 6PM;

START OF LAKE CITY VISIT

SAT 14th: VOLS B-I-N-G-O, 1PM; Toys
for Tots Holiday Party 6PM Bring Food
and Gifts for Kiddies

SUN 15th: VFW Game Day 2:30PM; End
of Lake City Trip

MON 16th: MAUX Meeting, 6PM

TUES 17th: General Membership MTG,
6PM; VFW/LAUX Meetings follow

FRI 20th: VFW Build-a-Burger 5:30PM;
VFW B-I-N-G-O, 6-8 PM

SAT 21st: MAUX B-I-N-G-O 1PM

SUN 22nd: GROW OUR POST Turkey,
Ham and Fixins 12:30PM

WED 25th: CHRISTMAS Post Closed,
Thank You, Amen!

FRI 27th: Legion BBQ 5:30PM; Legion
B-I-N-G-O 6PM

SAT 28th: Legion BBQ 5:30PM; Legion
B-I-N-G-O 6PM

SUN 29th: LAUX BUNGO 2PM
6-8 PM

TUES 31st: NEW YEARS EVE BALL!
Music by Blackwater! 7PM to?! Thank
You, Good Bye 2013, Hello 2014!



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

Greetings, hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. Welcome to our Northern Guests, hope you enjoy your visit again this year. We're having some more issues at the post, another AC unit needs repair and our roof is leaking. The building is around 10 years old now and we're starting to have some maintenance issues.

If you haven't renewed your membership please do it NOW before the dues increase goes into effect 1 January. Our current dues are only \$23.00 a year, but after 1 January will rise to \$36.00. This is also a good time to think about a life membership. You can pay a life membership in installments or put it on your credit card if you want.

I'd also like to thank our Northern Guests for the great chair they gave me. I moved it to the back patio since I seem to be spending quite a bit of time out there cooking. We are always looking for volunteers to help with our events; it's normally the same few people doing everything. We have a lot going on at the post the next few months so come out and participate.

See you around the post. KEN

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

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

November is almost gone and Christmas is fast approaching. Our fish fry was a big success and I thank all who so graciously helped. A pre-Thanksgiving bake sale was held on the 23rd. We made nearly \$400.00.

The proceeds go to the Veterans Retirement Village. Toys for Tots and the Post Christmas Party are December 14th. The price of admission is an unwrapped gift or a \$5.00 donation. Donations of finger foods are appreciated. The party is from 6-9 p.m. and there will be a band. The Holiday Arts and Craft fair is December 7th from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tables are \$40.00. The Post is collecting comfort items for Lake City and there is a collection box in the bar. The "Support the Post" event in December is a Turkey dinner on the 22nd from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. The cost is a donation. The New Years Eve Party Band will be funded by all divisions of Post membership. This should be a very good band and it should be a very nice party. Donations of finger food are requested. The Post is trying to arrange accommodations at the LaQuinta Inn for those who don't want to drive home. If anyone has had any type of test or treatment of Cancer, please let me know. My e-mail is kdye8918@yahoo.com.

Until next time, be kind to one another and say a prayer for our sisters that are ill or in need. **Until next time, Kitty**





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

The December calendar is replete with activities this year. Check It Out! Pick out an event or festivity and enjoy the experience of real friendship here on the beach. It's that time of year when all our close friends from the north return to us so there are many stories and smile to be had once again shared by folks who we look forward to seeing every winter.

Since there was no Thanksgiving Dinner at the post this year we've decided to do our own version of a Thanksgiving in December. This will be a post event sponsored by all our organizations with all proceeds going to the "Grow Our Post" account. Check the calendar for the date and time. This will be a wonderful opportunity for locals and guests to break bread and give thanks in honor of a holiday shared by all Americans and Canadians. Look for flyers at the post for more information as this event gets closer.

This month our American Legion Post will once again put on a Friday BBQ w/Bingo. We may soon change the menu a bit so you don't grow tired of pulled pork. We've already improved the menu by preparing different and interesting (we hope) sides for your dining pleasure (again, we sure hope so!). In October we made homemade Brunswick Stew and potato salad. In November we made country beans and bacon along with rice pilaf with a creamy wine sauce. I'll E-mail the finalized menu before each event. Even if you don't play B-I-N-G-O, come on out and have a delicious dinner that supports our fledgling Legion Post for the low price of five dollar (US).

This January we are planning a new gala event "The Commander's Ball". This semi-formal event will have a catered dinner, music and dancing. We'll have much more information about what we hope will become an annual tradition as the date approaches. Tickets will go on sale as soon as we determine the price based on the catered food bill. When we announce that tickets are available the limit will be two per person. Only 88 guests are possible due to seating at only the round tables. We really do expect a full house and a great evening of finer dining and camaraderie.

Until next month, Regards Bill

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

Guess who is coming to town our "Northern Friends!" Welcome back and we are thrilled to see all of them in our canteen and enjoying the events that are scheduled and can't wait till Big Al starts on Wednesday December 4 at 2p.m. Let the good times roll – they have started darts on Monday at 1p.m., come out and enjoy the game with them. The month of December is filled with scheduled events so check your calendar for dates and time of all that is going on at post 10555. There is one thing for sure you can always stop in the canteen and have a drink with your friends and make new ones.

I would like to thank all the "volunteer bartenders" for a great year and looking forward to 2014. We will be taking the "volunteer on duty" sign down as the bartenders will be employees, hourly as of January 1, 2014!! Gail, Reba, Esther, Mary, Jacii, Adrienne and a new face Cindy are eager to serve you and support the canteen. Of course tips are still very much appreciated. Hope to see you and always bring a friend in to enjoy the wonderful facility we have. Remember the canteen is now serving sandwiches for your hungry times – still have shirts, caps, and koozies for sale.

Please check your monthly calendar for all events and check the canteen for daily drink specials! Hope each one of you has a wonderful holiday season and "Merry Christmas" to all. See you around post 10555.

Sincerely, Billie



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AROUND THE POST

VFW 10555

VFW Post 10555 Quartermaster's Corner, Rob Smith (baltorob@comcast.net)

Hello Everyone,

I want to give an update on our "Grow Our Post" fundraising events. The Sunday lunches with entertainment were added to the calendar a few months back because we had so many requests for such events come back in the surveys we sent. The events did not do well at all, with one exception, the Low Country Boil on Veteran's Day weekend. What hurt us that day is that we hired a band to play and after everyone ate, they left. As a result, the band played to a nearly empty hall before we stopped them. So future Sunday lunches may not include entertainment as before.

Also, we just received the first order of bricks and installed them on the boards. They look very nice, even a lot nicer than the pictures of bricks from other places that we had posted. Hopefully people will see how nice they look and order a brick to honor a loved one, or to commemorate their own service. I'm sure going to get one!

The process to order a brick will change slightly too, in that the Post will provide a proof that the buyer can approve before it's sent to the brick maker. This should speed up the process to just a couple weeks. I do want to mention that we'll hold orders until we receive at least 6 bricks, the brick maker requested that we don't send orders until we have at least that many.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and has a very Merry Christmas and prosperous and Healthy New Year!

See you at the Post! Rob

VFW Post News from the Adjutant, Tom Randall (Adjutant VFWPost10555@gmail.com)

I spent literally hours building a new post roster that now resides on a PC that belongs to the post and that will be in the custody of the present and future Adjutant. Comrade Quartermaster Rob Smith is going to supply me with updates when members join or transfer out but the data I have is incomplete. This means that anytime anyone needs any admin support, for instance when our Comrade SVC Tracey Lopez was asked to send letters out to all annual members reminding them to pay dues soonest to avoid the increase 1 January, someone is going to be overlooked due to inconsistent data. To fix that the Adjutant is going to now be the "Go to Guy/Gal" for POC information for Comrades' phone numbers, E-mails or addresses.

And now, for the bottom line. The POC information for all 329 VFW membership records I maintain stinks, stinks, stinks. The source of our data is the National VFW HQ. That database itself has many undeliverable addresses and fewer than 50% have phone numbers. This is because we as members of this upstanding Veterans Service Organization have not provided or updated our information to National. How is the Post Service Officer going to be able to call you and help you with your VA claim if he or she cannot call you? How can the Post Surgeon call your significant other and ask if there is anything the post can do to help our comrade in the hospital if no phone number is on file? How can the Post Commander call and congratulate you on some award or happy news if he or she has no phone number? They cannot at this time. Information must flow, and as Adjutant I am the Chief Information Officer.

I am requesting that every comrade spend 5 minutes on the phone with me (850-703-7636) to check what I have on file (I will carry a hard copy with me) OR follow these instructions to go online to VFW National and set up an online account. Once you do this you can change your address, pay annual dues online, upgrade to Life Member online, find your membership benefits (PLEASE use them), you can even do this as a member of the Men's Auxiliary.

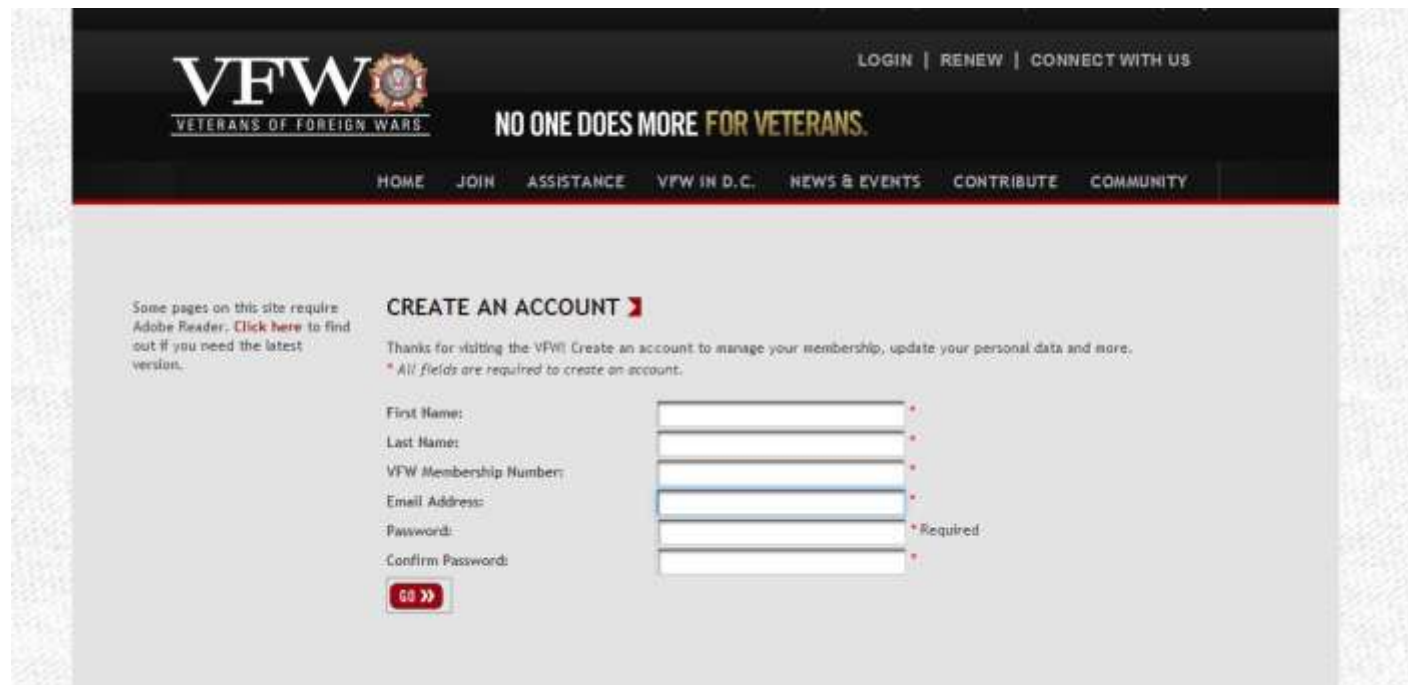
Here goes: First, go here: [LOGIN](https://vfw.org/Login.aspx) (or <https://vfw.org/Login.aspx>). Second, select "[Create an account](https://vfw.org/oms/CreateAccount.aspx)" or <https://vfw.org/oms/CreateAccount.aspx>

As it is my habit and my preference to do so, I Wish You All a Mele Kalikimaka with Sincere Aloha.

– Thomas "Kimo" Randall, Post Adjutant, Post Surgeon (Will trade Surgeon for Service Officer)

PS Let me know if you want this newsletter E-mailed or snail mailed to you...Copies also available at the post.

VFW ACCOUNT SIGN IN (<https://vfw.org/oms/CreateAccount.aspx>)



The screenshot shows the VFW website's 'CREATE AN ACCOUNT' page. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the VFW logo, the tagline 'NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.', and links for LOGIN, RENEW, and CONNECT WITH US. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with links for HOME, JOIN, ASSISTANCE, VFW IN D.C., NEWS & EVENTS, CONTRIBUTE, and COMMUNITY. The main content area has a heading 'CREATE AN ACCOUNT' with a right-pointing arrow. A note on the left mentions that some pages require Adobe Reader and provides a link to find the latest version. The main text says 'Thanks for visiting the VFW! Create an account to manage your membership, update your personal data and more.' and includes a note that all fields are required. The form fields are: First Name, Last Name, VFW Membership Number, Email Address, Password (marked as required), and Confirm Password. A 'GO' button with a right-pointing arrow is at the bottom left of the form.

A HOLIDAY APPEAL ON BEHALF OF THE VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN

"At this festive season of the year, Mr. Scrooge," said the gentleman, taking up a pen, it is more than usually desirable that we should make some slight provision for the Poor and destitute, who suffer greatly at the present time." SCROOGE, by Sir Charles Dickens

Please consider a gift to the VFW National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, MI this holiday season, thank you very much. Contact Thomas Randall 850-703-7636 for information.





The Official Site of
VETERANS of FOREIGN WARS
of the UNITED STATES



WISHING YOU ALL THE BLESSINGS OF THE SEASON

Emerald Coast VFW Post 10555;

VFW sends our warmest Christmas greetings to you!

May the New Year bring health and happiness to you and your family.

During this festive season, we hope you'll take a moment to remember our troops deployed around the world and their loved ones.

Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers this Christmas and every day of the year.

Merry Christmas!



Forward this card to your family and friends and encourage them to keep our troops in their thoughts and prayers as they celebrate this holiday season.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO
SOLDIERS EVERYWHERE
WHO CAN'T BE WITH
THEIR FAMILIES**



AND ALL SAILORS, AIRMEN, MARINES AND COASTGUARDSMEN & WOMEN!



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We Cater Too!

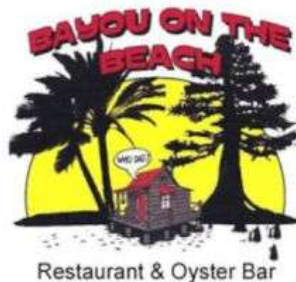
Early Dinner * Dinner * Po-Boys
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Hours of Operation:
MONDAY-FRIDAY: 9 AM-5:30 PM
SATURDAY: 10 AM-2 PM

**DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THESE VFW BENEFITS?
(CALL POST FOR MORE INFO)**

A VFW MEMBERSHIP CAN SAVE YOU \$\$\$\$ WITH:

- [SAT/ACT COLLEGE TEST PREPARATION](#)
- [TRAVEL SERVICES \(ASK FOR PAM RUSSELL\)](#)
- [FINANCIAL SERVICES](#)
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