



# VFW 10555 GREAT AMERICAN POST JOURNAL

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December 2011

**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)

**Hours of Operation**  
12 Noon to 9 PM  
7 DAYS A WEEK

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### Don Buchanan, Commander

Wally Stacy, Senior Vice Commander

Rob Lopez, Junior Vice Commander

Ray Seale - Adjutant

Ken Waringa, Quartermaster

Meyrel Peppler, Judge Advocate

Tommy Welch, Chaplain

Jim Phelps, Surgeon

Bill McDonald, Trustee 3 yr.

Rob Smith, Trustee 2yr.

Ken Gregory, Trustee 1yr.

Tracey Lopez, Service Officer

Wally Stacy, Membership Chairman

Rob Lopez, House Committee Chairman

Walter Rainey, Canteen/Post Manager

## COMMANDER'S CALL



Our Sunday jam session is a hit! We have gotten a few new members and transfers. I hope this continues. We need members! We are at 82% and need to be at 100% by December to be guaranteed All-State. I know we can do it if all get motivated and re-new now instead of waiting until January. We can't do it without you!!

As many of you know, we have made a few changes. We call bingo in the back hall. It will only be communicated to the canteen if we have less than 5 out there watching college football. We have a new Quartermaster and Third year Trustee. Thanks Ken and Mac for stepping up. The Hall doors shall remain shut to help preclude smoke in the hall area. It also helps with the electric bill. We keep the hall temperature set differently when not occupied.

I would like to get as many members to attend the Gold Star family's event at the Pier Park Veterans memorial ceremony on the 4th of December at 0900.

Do something positive for the Post and the Veteran!!

Hope everyone has a wonderful and safe holiday season. See you at the meeting. Hopefully before then! If not, have a Happy New Year!

Don



happy   
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## Quartermaster Corner — Ken Waringa

The holidays are upon us - time sure seems to fly by. As most probably know, I've taken over the Quartermaster job again. Tracey Lopez has graciously agreed to be my assistant. As most have noticed, we had to raise drink prices last month. We haven't raised prices in over three years, but our expenses have been steadily rising so we didn't have any choice. However, you still get the best deal on the beach at your VFW Post. As always this time of year, we

have a full calendar. We are having a children's Christmas Party on 12/11/11. Please sign your kids up in advance so we have an idea how many to expect. I'm also looking for volunteers to help the day of the event and to provide those sugar loaded goodies the kids so enjoy. Come on out and support your Post.

Ken



## Ladies Auxiliary News - Jenny Freeman, President

Once again I want to THANK EVERYONE helping with our November Chicken & Fish Fry. Thanks to all that came to enjoy the great home cooked food. Without your support, we would not be able to make the money to provide to our Veterans. This is everyone's reason for belonging to the VFW and the affiliated auxiliaries. We had GREAT SUCCESS at our bake sale last month and bested last year's sales by more than \$100.00. Thanks to all who gave of their time and those who purchased the goodies. I had Carol send the money off right away as this was a fund-raiser for Veterans & Family Support. I received an email from State that the program was under budget for the Operation Uplink Program for Christmas. This program helps to provide veterans in the hospital & troops serving overseas the ability to connect with their loved ones without cost to them. We all love to be able to speak to our loved ones during the holidays.

We will not have a Fish Fry for December. The next one

will be January 13th. We will be having a silent auction that same night and we ask all that own a business or know of anyone who might donate goods or gift certificates to please get in touch. Flyers will be posted so you'll know and who to contact for donations.

This month, December 3rd, we are joining the MAUX in sponsoring the Toys for Tots. We're having great food and are asking for a \$5.00 donation or an unwrapped toy. All proceeds will be donated to local kids before Christmas.

December 17th we are having a spaghetti dinner as another fund-raiser for Veterans & Family Support. Under this umbrella is: Unmet Needs, Operation Uplink, VFW National Home for Children, VFW Retirement Home, Ft. McCoy, FL and scholarship programs.

I hope to see you at our events & have a wonderful Christmas!

Jenny Freeman



## Men's Auxiliary Memo - Bill McGrath, President

Merry to Christmas to all! Our northern friends are beginning to arrive. May I welcome each of you back. I always look forward to your arrival with your smiling faces and good cheer that you carry with you. Come hungry, too. We serve breakfast every Wednesday from 7-10am and this month, Karen and friends will be serving breakfast on Sunday, December 18th from 8-11am. Karen's omelets are the best on the beach.

This year the Men's Auxiliary has done very well. We've signed up many new members. However, going over the roster, I find about 40 members have not renewed their dues. Please handle that before the first of the year. We want you to stay with us and we also need your money.

I also found that many of our new members are not getting the newsletter. Hopefully, you are now reading this in the newsletter as I sent our November roster to the publisher and I've been assured that they would do a comparison to their current mailing list and add anyone who is missing. So, if this is your first newsletter, welcome aboard! While I've got your attention, let me remind you to send me your email address if you have one. I send out timely information via email all year, so be sure to send

your address to me if you haven't already done so (billmcgrath6@yahoo.com).

Let me jump ahead of December and tell you about a couple of events the MAUX will be bringing to the Post this winter. First, we shall once again have our Caribbean Sunday with an island lunch and steel band. This year we auditioned the band at a recent buffet and they were really good; you will certainly enjoy this new entertainment. Hopefully, I can get Bear to do his Caribbean Chicken once again along with the other unique island food. Get your tickets early. This will sell out.

One more event and this is a new project: "German Fest". This is an extension of our Oktoberfest we have in the fall. It was so much fun, we decided to do it again, but obviously, we can't call it Oktoberfest, hence "German Fest". We'll serve a German lunch along with a free keg of German beer, German pretzels, a German Band and a whole lot of fun. Don't miss this one, it's really a fun Sunday!

Until next time,

Bill McGrath



## Musings from the House Committee...

Greetings from the House Committee! As Christmas and the end of the year are closing in, I want to send my personal thanks to the General Membership, Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries for a great year! I feel the entertainment committee has done an exceptional job and I look forward to working with you in the coming year! As I stated last year, we have done a good job at getting new membership, but we can all do more in this area. I have new VFW 10555 flyers and I can send them out or print them out for

anyone who will take some time to hand them out.

Wishing all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Rob



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## A Message From ..... Post Manager - Walter Rainey

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! With Thanks-giving behind us and Christmas just around the corner, this year is soon to be just a memory. We have many exciting things going on for the month of December. Please stop by and spread some holiday cheer with all of your friends here at the Post. It is hard to believe that this year is almost at an end.

We will be offering up some very **Merry** drink specials this holiday. If any of you have not stopped in for the jam session, please try to come by. It's on Sundays from 6-9pm and is a lot of fun.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.







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### Important Dates To Remember

3rd - 1-4pm - Toys for Tots w/Suede Nash & food  
\$5/donation or unwrapped toy  
5th - 3pm - Volunteer Meeting  
11th - 1-3pm - Children's Christmas Party  
12th - 4:30pm - Entertainment Committee Meeting  
5:30pm - VFW Officers Meeting  
13th - 5pm - House Committee Meeting  
17th - 5-6:30pm - Spaghetti Dinner \$7.00  
6-9pm - Post Christmas Party w/Riptide  
18th - 8-11am - Volunteer Breakfast  
19th - 6pm - MAUX Meeting  
20th - 6pm - Gen. Membership & LAUX Meetings  
25th - MERRY CHRISTMAS! POST CLOSED!  
31st - 8pm till? - VFW New Years Ball w/  
Southbound - \$15.00  
Wednesdays: 2-5pm-Tropic AI Band & meat raffle



**mike frimet**

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