



Emerald Coast VFW Post 10555 ALL-AMERICAN POST JOURNAL

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* Veterans of Foreign Wars
Emerald Coast Post 10555
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VFW Post 10555 News: Ken Waringa, Commander (kcwaringa@yahoo.com)

Greetings, another month gone by, time seems to be flying. One thing I want to bring up is tipping our bartenders. Since we started paying the bartenders their tips have fallen substantially. Tips are part of each bartender's hourly wage. I know in some countries wait staff and bartenders get paid like any other employee, but that is not the case in the United States. We pay substantially less than minimum wage and the tips are needed to bring them up to at least minimum wage. Besides that, our bartenders are the same folks that have been providing outstanding service for quite a while now, so please continue to take care of our bartenders. At the March Meeting we will be taking nominations for VFW Officers. The biggest change this year is the Surgeon and Judge Advocate positions are now appointed instead of elected. Please come out and volunteer for a post position. It's a shame that in a post with over 300 VFW members we can't get 20 people at a meeting. The February calendar is FULL. We have our Volunteer Appreciation Lunch, a Casino Day, Bingo, Valentine's Day and a bunch of other events so come out and support our post.

Scottish Night was Wonderful, THANK YOU! Ken



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

Well ladies, January was quite a month. We had Bunco on two Sunday afternoons. If you haven't played, it is really fun and very easy to learn. This has been a major fund raiser for the Auxiliary. Our monthly fish fry was a huge success, thanks in part to our winter visitors. I want to thank all who helped. Raheal, a winter visitor and former Commander Don helped sell tickets and as always, Bear, Dick, Al and Thomas were there and we could not get along without them. Our Sunday joint project with the Post did not do well so this is discontinued for the time being. We approved a new member at the last meeting. Our next fish fry is February 7 and we are catering a luncheon for the Red Hat Society February 21. Anyone wishing to help with these projects should contact me. In March we will be doing a Wine and Cheese tasting. Donations of wine or cheese will be greatly appreciated.

If you need a ride to meetings please call me at 234-8918.

Until next time, keep warm and be safe.

Kitty Dye, President





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

Welcome to a warm February at the beach. I cut and pasted that sentence from my newsletter article last month. Enough already! They even closed the bridge on the 29th. I feel for our poor friends from the north who traveled all this way to shiver on the beach. Oh well, wait a couple of days and it will be 70 degrees I assure you.

We had a great turn out for our "Lunch with Russ" event. Russ played to an appreciative full house once again. Thanks for the great entertainment Russ.

We had to discontinue the monthly breakfasts due to lack of interest. That's unfortunate, because we liked doing the breakfasts, but we can't do that if we don't have a reasonable return on our investment. I'm not sure how we get the folks to come out. Perhaps we'll try a lunch in the future, and see how that goes. We'll discuss that at our next meeting.

Another bomb last month was the last "grow our post" event. We had food for about 50 people, and had only about 8-10 people show up. Half of those were our northern friends. That doesn't speak highly of our 600 members. Folks you need to support at least some of these events if you expect to keep this post open. Enough said.

One bright spot of the month though was the visit to the SIMS Veterans Home. Hats off to the members who did a great job and of course the music provided. Well done!!

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

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

January was a busy month for the canteen and February hopes to be just as busy. It seems like yesterday that I was writing the newsletter for January and now I am putting words down for February! All the events for last month were a success and this month I expect the same which will include Friday and Saturday Bingo, come out and get your seat and enjoy the day with friends. The Fish Fry is back on schedule and the LAUX is doing a great job as they have in the past, ticket are needed to attend so please get them early from our bartender on duty. MAUX is also cooking up a storm, sorry they have cancelled the Saturday breakfast but will be smoking ribs and much more for all of us to enjoy.

The canteen is still serving sandwiches for your convenience; if hunger comes over you while you are enjoying a cold beverage. You might try Rumchata and Fireball to make "Cinnamon Toast Crunch" shots for something new and different. We will also have a bottle of Orange Vodka for members to try, it was requested.

All tips are appreciated for the bartenders – their service is still outstanding. Thank you all for coming out and I will be seeing you this month!!

Best Regards, Billie



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

In my last newsletter column, I updated everyone on the Post Supporters brick boards. We've received another brick request so we are getting closer to the five minimum requests needed to place an order. Please consider memorial bricks for family or comrades no longer with us. We've also discussed getting sample bricks posted in the Canteen to let people that have not been in the Hall to see what the bricks look like. Also, we've put a fresh supply of brick request forms in the Canteen and will ensure there are always some out there. I hope you will consider purchasing a brick to commemorate your own service or to honor a loved one.

As for the "Grow Our Post" poster, we've removed it from the Hall since the recent efforts to raise money for the effort have failed, to put it plainly. We will still track the funds for the effort and report its status at the General Membership meeting. We still have the chart and will re-post it should interest be revived.

See you at the Post! Rob

NOTES from the Adjutant, Tom Randall (AdjutantVFWPost10555@gmail.com)

- CONGRATULATIONS to Abigail Anderson, our Post/Auxiliary and District Patriot's Pen winner. Watch for an article in the News Herald about her success at the state level..
- While at the Mid-Winter Conference, our Adjutant was informed of an appointment to a department level committee for next year with T. Wayne Markham of Tom Glaze Memorial VFW Post 8205, Parker as our State Commander.
- Having heard bricks are taking too long, order forms are included with this Newsletter for your convenience. It is a very fitting way to commemorate family, friends or your own selves long after we have reported to the Supreme Commander. See the Quartermaster or the Adjutant for more information.
- The Military Welcome Center already has members of our units volunteering to help man the center at Northwest Florida Beaches Int'l Airport. They are always happy to have more names to put on the calendar. The Adjutant has more information. Shifts are four hours long, parking is free, the center closes at 8PM and it is easy. All you are asked to do is to seek out and greet military personnel on their way in or out of the airport. Get them a cup of Joe; a cold water or soft drink, offer the use of the computer, the TV or the sofa for a nap. One member of our post brings his MC Club's flags for each branch of service and stands by the gate when military arrives and stands at attention with their branch colors and a US Flag standing tall. It's part recon and part adjutant, there's a little paperwork and it takes a little legwork to I.D. our intrepid warriors. There is also can be a little bit of drama. One night a cab driver (NOT our friends at Veteran's Shuttle) had almost talked some USAF personnel into a very expensive ride to Tyndall. The Welcome Center volunteer, themselves a veteran, stepped in just in time to say "Hold on there, Tyndall provides free shuttle service for students." The G.I.s were invited to the center where they waited for Tyndall to send transport. Please consider giving four hours of your time and when you do, send the Adjutant an E-mail so we can report your volunteer hours.
- Last thought – *any* volunteer time you give to the community whether it is going to the hospital to visit a veteran, mowing the grass for a veteran's widow, going to the Boy Scouts and giving them a briefing about wilderness survival, all these kind of things we report to the state with miles travelled, money spent and a record of how many went. These are all tallied and the statistics used when the VFW goes to Congress and says "Look what we did to support our Veterans when you would not!"
- ***NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS IN PCB THAN THE EMERALD COAST VFW!***



SGT. BOWE BERGDAHL'S CAPTURE REMAINS A MYSTERY

BY MAX EHRENFREUND, PUBLISHED: JANUARY 15, 2014 *THE WASHINGTON POST*

The United States has obtained recent footage of Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, suggesting that the American soldier is still alive after four years in captivity, according to CNN. Bergdahl was captured in Afghanistan's Paktika province in 2009, and he is the only American being held prisoner in the Afghan conflict. He is believed to be somewhere in Pakistan.

CNN, citing an anonymous source in the military, reported that the "proof-of-life" video showed Bergdahl in declining health, and includes talk about events that occurred last month.

The Pentagon issued a brief statement through a spokeswoman in response to the report. "We cannot discuss all the details of our efforts, but there should be no doubt that on a daily basis - using our military, intelligence and diplomatic tools - we try to see Sergeant Bergdahl returned home safely," Commander Elissa Smith said.

The New York Times noted that the video "was not a propaganda release to local or foreign journalists, a communications technique used by insurgent groups in the past, making it likely that the military had seized the video in an operation of some type." The Associated Press reported that the footage "came to light several days ago." Both news organizations cited anonymous sources in the military.

Bergdahl had an unusual childhood and youth before his capture at the age of 23. He grew up in the small town of Hailey, Idaho, as Alexi Mostrous reported shortly after his capture (Editor's Note: in June 2009):

Bergdahl, who was educated at home, also has been, in turns, a ballet dancer, a fencer and a voracious reader. Friends say he always wanted to be "part of that warrior world," participating in reenactments of Renaissance sword-fights, being fascinated by weaponry, studying martial arts and working at the Sun Valley Gun Club.

Walt Femling, a family friend and the sheriff of Blaine County, said Bergdahl loved to hear about a trip Femling had taken to Alaska as a young man. "I had gone up there at exactly his age, and he was interested to know what it was like," said Femling, who owns an apartment that Bergdahl rented. "What jobs you could get up there. Logging, fishing. He was an adventurer, I suppose. Always wanted to try new things."

Before enlisting in June last year, Bergdahl had succumbed to "valley fever," what the young locals call the desire to leave Idaho and explore. Bergdahl sailed around the Caribbean, worked on an Alaskan trawler and traveled across Europe. He once rode his bicycle from San Francisco to Santa Barbara, Calif.

He even considered joining the French Foreign Legion, friends said. "He really wanted to travel the world," Clayton said. "He's a strong presence, very interesting, very diverse," said Sue Martin, the owner of the coffee shop Zaney's, where Bergdahl worked for about two years. "He did take a lot of pressure for being a young man in ballet. . . . Everybody was joking with him continually about it, until the picture came out in the local paper and he was surrounded by beautiful young women, and then it became clear why Bowe went to every practice." He was the prince when the Sun Valley Ballet School put on "The Little Mermaid."


Bergdahl's capture is particularly poignant for Martin, whose son, Zane, died in a motorcycle accident six months before Bergdahl started at her shop. "I was suddenly aware that Bowe was there helping me," she said. "He shoveled pathways or swept snow off my car. That's something my son would do. It wasn't spoken, but I appreciated it."

A handwritten note on a yellow sheet of paper in Zaney's bore testimony to Bergdahl's passion for sword-fighting and medieval reenactments. "Dear Bowe, always a knight searching for what is good and true and right in the world," the note reads. "May your sword be sharp and strong to overpower fear."

Bergdahl was assigned to the 1st of the 501st Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, based at Fort Richardson, Alaska. During his unit's normal deployment rotation to Afghanistan, he went missing on June 30, 2009, near the town of Yahya Khel in the Paktika Province, which is in the south-east of Afghanistan, right on the border to Pakistan. The area in which Bergdahl was captured is right next to Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas.





FEBRUARY						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>LIKE US ON FACEBOOK</p>			<p>WHERE TO FIND US</p> <p>17680 Ashley Dr Panama City Beach, FL 32413 (850) 249-3025</p>			<p>1</p> <p>MAUX Bingo 1 PM</p>
<p>2</p> <p>3 Darts 1-3 PM Volunteer Mtg. 3 PM Legion Officer Mtg. 5:30 PM Legion Mtg. 6 PM</p>		<p>4</p> <p>Men's Pool 1-5 PM FOOLS 5 PM</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Big AI 2-5 PM Legion Meat Raffle 2 PM</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM Darts 6:30 PM</p>	<p>7 LAUX Officer Mtg. 2 PM LAUX Fish Fry \$9.00 5:30-6:30 PM Hurricane Harold 6-9 PM</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Legion Bingo 1 PM</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Volunteer Appreciation Day 12:30-1:30 PM Suede Nash 1-4 PM</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Darts 1-3 PM</p>	<p>11 Men's Pool 1-5 PM Entertainment Com. Mtg. 4:30 PM Officer Mtg. 5 PM House Committee Mtg. 5:30 PM</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Big AI 2-5 PM LAUX Meat Raffle 2 PM</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM Darts 6:30 PM</p>	<p>14 Valentine's Day VOLS Dinner 5-6 PM Catered by Carraba's \$12.00 5-6 PM Mouse Trap 6-9 PM</p>	<p>15</p> <p>LAUX Bingo 1 PM</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Casino Day 1-4 PM</p>	<p>17 President's Day Darts 1-3 PM MAUX Mtg. 3 PM</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Men's Pool 1-5 PM Gen. Membership & LAUX Mtg. 6 PM</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Big AI 2-5 PM VOLS Meat Raffle 2 PM</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM Darts 6:30 PM</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Legion Light Dinner \$5.00 5:30 - 6:30 PM Legion Bingo 6-8 PM</p>	<p>22 VOL Bingo 1 PM</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Pool Tournament 1 PM</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Darts 1-3 PM</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Men's Pool 1-5 PM</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Big AI 2-5 PM VFW Meat Raffle 2 PM</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM Darts 6:30 PM</p>	<p>28</p> <p>VFW Build-a-burger w/tries \$5.00 5:30 - 6:30 PM VFW Bingo 6-8 PM</p>	<p>Sign up for this calendar by email at vfw10555@knology. net</p>



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