



# 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](mailto:kcwaringa@yahoo.com))

Happy New Year everyone, hope you have a safe, healthy and prosperous year. The New Year brings a major change to our post; we now must pay our bartenders. The IRS had dictated that if a person has a set schedule and they get any compensation, even just tips, they are an employee, not a volunteer. A Post near Ocala got fined around \$25,000 for having volunteer bartenders instead of employees. This is going to put a major dent into our already stretched budget. But remember, just because we are paying them, they are still doing an outstanding job giving you great service, so please continue to tip them like you have in the past.

I'm writing this article on New Year's morning after learning that there was some confusion at the New Year's Eve party. I'll take the blame for not having someone in charge. I apologize and will ensure this doesn't happen again. On this same subject, you will notice that it's the same few people from each organization that do everything at the post events. The VFW has over 300 members and we're lucky to get 5 people to help with any event. Please come out and donate some of your time to help our post. I'm going to recommend to the House Committee that we will have one person designated to organize and be responsible for every event held at the post. This will apply to all our organizations that hold events. I also heard complaints about the price of tickets and having to bring food. I'm in a quandary about this. On one hand people keep saying we need better entertainment, which we did for this event. We went way out and hired the band we had New Year's Eve for \$950, which left nothing for food. We ended up only selling \$500 worth of tickets, so this was a big loss for the post. In future, do we get better bands that lose money but hopefully bring out more people, or stick with less expensive bands that hopefully will break even? This is an issue for the House and Entertainment committees to decide, but the post cannot afford to continue to lose money on events.

On a brighter note, we have a very full calendar for the month of January attached to this newsletter, so come out and help with those events, attend those events and, above all, have a good time at OUR POST.

**See you around the post. KEN**

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

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

At the reading of this, I hope each and every one had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our Auxiliary did make 100% by 12/27/13 with gift memberships to those we felt in need. We need just a few more memberships to make All-State. If you know anyone who would like to be a member whose veteran's military service records were burned in the fire at St. Louis please let me know. We are going to start "self financing" life memberships. If you have been considering a life membership, now may be the time to consider dividing the fee by six and pay it off as many months. LAUX membership fees are based on age, the older you are the less you pay (That's one good thing about getting older.). Toys for Tots and the Christmas party was really nice and if you didn't come you missed some good food and entertainment. The pre- Christmas dinner on the 22<sup>nd</sup> was a great success. We did run out of food and my apologies to anyone who came too late to eat. Our next Fish Fry is on January 17<sup>th</sup> and the next "Grow Our Post" event is on the 19<sup>th</sup>. This will most likely be a chicken tender sandwich and side dish. We will be having a wine and cheese tasting in March and at that time donations of wine or cheeses will be greatly appreciated with all proceeds going towards incoming VFW State Commander T. Wayne Markham's Homecoming expenses here at the post. **If you need a ride to meetings please let me know. 234-8918. Kitty Dye, President**





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

Welcome to a warm January at the beach. All our northern friends are finally back in town and settling in for a nice warm winter at the beach...Brrrr. Our calendars for the past several months have been replete with events. One thing that is lacking is volunteers to help put these events on and make each one a big success. Many people won't volunteer to help out unless they are asked directly; that's just human nature. Unfortunately, with over 700 members in the various organizations going out one-on-one to petition assistance is not really possible. We must ask at our meeting and through emails for the help necessary. Unfortunately, very few people attend the regular meetings, so our volunteers are obtained from a very small group of the leaders of the organization (who must help) and a select few. Now this situation is not unique to this VFW or Legion, but is a classic symptom of virtually all veteran and other tax exempt organizations, and probably won't be corrected here on the beach. Ok you ask, "Bill what is your point then?" My point is this; we will continue to get help from the small group of people who attend our monthly meeting. However, every event that the MAUX or the Legion puts on, I shall send out email asking for help. Please take this as a persona request from me to you for help, and by all means don't be afraid to respond. Ask questions such as "what kind of help", how long, can I cook, etc. Let me hear from you please, or we are going to have to cut back on events to give our small work group a break. Thanks in advance.

Now for the Piggy controversy: The MAUX and Legion have been serving some great meals. Many of which are pulled pork and other pork entrée's. I'm starting to get feedback such as "do they only have pigs in the South?? Have you ever heard of Chicken and Turkey...HA! Yes I get it, and all the comments, of course, were in jest and in very good humor. I appreciate the feedback. Stay with us, I have a supply of meat to use, but we got your message. Look for the MAUX Reggae Event in February. We plan to have a real Island menu of chicken entrees and many sides you will certainly enjoy. We'll have fliers out early with information and ticket prices.

***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))**

Happy New Year!! Here we are in the beginning of 2014, a new year to bring in new and existing events for our post. I want to "thank" everyone who came out and enjoyed Post 10555 and looking forward to seeing you in the months to come. Those of you who did not make it out this may be the year to come and enjoy Bingo, Fish Fry, Build-a-Burger, Pool Tournament and other events that are scheduled on the monthly calendar. Come out and enjoy a beverage with our bartender and make new friends or reconnect with old friends.

Also I would like to "thank" all the bartenders for a great 2013 and hope 2014 will be even greater. Please continue to tip your bartenders for their service.

Hope to see you soon at our post; our hours of operation are NOON to 9PM except SUNDAYS we are closed at 6PM.

**Have a safe and healthy 2014!**

**Billie**



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

Hello Everyone,

Greetings!

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and is enjoying the brand new year!

Now that winter has set in, we are seeing more of our Northern visitors arrive and it's great to see them enjoying our Post and all the events that are planned!

I wanted to update everyone on the Post Supporters brick boards that are now installed behind the stage in the hall. We've installed the first batch of bricks and they look really great. I have two more orders to be sent to the brick maker, and the brick maker asks that we send in an order when it reaches six or more. So for the people who have placed orders, rest assured your brick will be made as soon as I get more orders. Several people have said they wanted to order a brick, well, now is your chance!

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

NOTES from the Adjutant, Tom Randall [AdjutantVFWPost10555@gmail.com](mailto:AdjutantVFWPost10555@gmail.com)

- CONGRATULATIONS to **Jimmy Hunt** of the VFW Post who won a VFW Life Membership in the Department of Florida Life Membership Drawing for the month of November.
- Thank You, **Al Gauthreaux**, for stepping up to serve on the House Committee.
- Saturday January 11<sup>th</sup> we are visiting the SSG Clifford Chester Sims State Veterans Home on Tram Road in Springfield. Two members of the post reside there, Past Adjutant Ken Algar and Lucius Elwell. All we need you to do is come and visit the Veterans while we serve them cake and ice cream with music provided by Robert Heil of the Men's Aux and our Entertainment Committee Chairman.
- [Searching for the DoD Budget Bottom Line](#)
- [Gains in Military Pay and Benefits Stalled in 2013](#)
- [VA Health Care Meets ACA Rules](#)
- [Protect Your Family in 2014: Less than \\$1 a Day](#)
- [TRICARE Debuts Pharmacy Calculator](#)
- [Deployment Tips: Support for Stressed Spouses](#)
- [Navy 2014 CSADD Topics](#)
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- [Navy Testing for Synthetic Marijuana](#)
- [NORAD's 'Track Santa' Sets Record](#)
- [AF Enlisted Retention Board Set for June](#)
- [New Navy Self-Service NRTC](#)
- [AF Sets 2014 Tour Lengths for Turkey](#)
- [Register for the 2014 AF Marathon](#)
- [The AF Year in Photographs](#)
- [Top Navy Photos of 2013](#)

## VFW LEGISLATIVE ALERT: HELP US CONTINUE TO FIGHT TO REMOVE COLA PENALTY

**VFW IS WORKING WITH MEMBERS IN BOTH THE HOUSE AND SENATE TO FIND A BIPARTISAN SOLUTION**

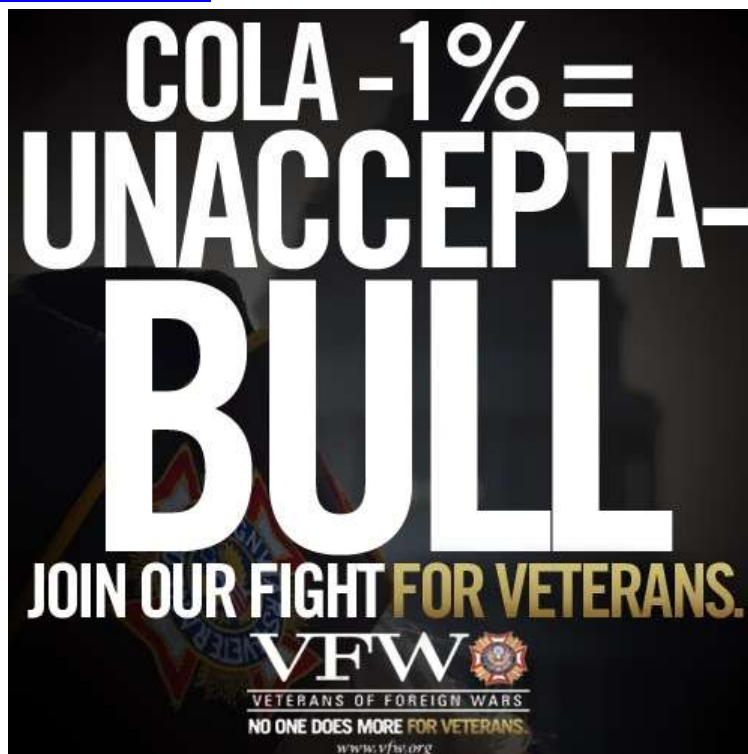
December 19, 2013

**Background:** Congress passed a budget deal that includes a provision that penalizes working age military retirees younger than 62 by cutting a full one percent from future cost of living adjustments (COLA). VFW calculates that a Gunnery Sergeant or Sergeant First Class (E-7) with 20 years of service would lose more than \$80,000 in income by age 62. This also unfairly punishes those who have been medically retired as a result of their wounds defending our nation. This is totally unacceptable and will have a devastating impact on retirement benefits for retirees and survivors and jeopardizes the future value of military career benefits, while also adversely affecting recruitment, retention and our national security.

The VFW is now working with members in both the House and Senate to find a bipartisan solution that will replace this unacceptable provision. We are urging all of our members and advocates to contact their legislators and demand they find a solution that doesn't balance the budget on the backs of our military retirees.


**Action Needed:** Call, email and schedule appointments with your legislators today. Tell them this should be the first priority when they return to Washington after the New Year, and that the solution cannot penalize veterans, military retirees, or jeopardize the future value of military career benefits. Asking those who have given the most to shoulder the burden of reducing government spending is unacceptable. **Take Action!** To locate your member in their DC or district office, click here:

<http://capwiz.com/vfw/dbq/officials/>







| JANUARY   |  |   |  |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| SUNDAY  | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY  |
| <b>LIKE US ON FACEBOOK</b><br> | <b>WHERE TO FIND US</b><br>17680 Ashley Dr<br>Panama City Beach,<br>FL 32413<br>(850) 249-3025 |   | <b>1 HAPPY NEW YEAR</b><br>North/South<br>Celebration & Big<br>AI 2 - 5 PM<br>Legion Meat Raffle | <b>2</b><br>Ms. Cues 2 PM<br>Cards 6 PM<br>Darts 6:30 PM  | <b>3</b><br>VFW Wings<br>\$5.00<br>5:30 - 6:30 PM<br>VFW Bingo 6-8PM   | <b>4</b><br>LAX Bingo<br>1 PM   |
| <b>5</b><br>LAUX Bunco<br>2 PM  | <b>6</b> Darts 1-3 PM<br>Volunteer Mtg.<br>4 PM  | <b>7</b><br>Men's Pool<br>1-5 PM<br><b>FOOLS</b><br>5PM   | <b>8</b><br>Big AI 2-5 PM<br>LAUX Meat Raffle<br>2 PM  | <b>9</b><br>Ms. Cues 2 PM<br>Cards 6 PM<br>Darts 6:30 PM  | <b>10</b> LAUX Officer Mtg.<br>2 PM<br>VOLS Build-a-Taco<br>\$5.00<br>5:30 - 6:30 PM<br>VOLS Bingo<br>6-8 PM | <b>11</b><br>Lunch with Russ<br>Lunch 1230<br>Russ 1 to 4<br>No Bingo<br>Vist to Sims<br>Nursing Home                       |
| <b>12</b><br>Pool<br>Tournament<br>8 Ball<br>2:30 - 5:30 PM<br>\$2.00 to play<br>Win \$20 bar tab                 | <b>13</b><br>Darts 1-3 PM  | <b>14</b> Men's Pool<br>1-5 PM<br>Entertainment Com.<br>Mtg. 4:30 PM<br>Officer Mtg. 5 PM<br>House Committee<br>Mtg. 5 PM | <b>15</b><br>Big AI 2-5 PM<br>VOL Meat Raffle  | <b>16</b><br>Ms. Cues 2 PM<br>Cards 6 PM<br>Darts 6:30 PM | <b>17</b><br>LAUX<br>Fish Fry<br>\$9.00<br>6-7:30 PM<br>Jade & Jewel Karoke<br>6-9 PM                        | <b>18</b><br>VOLS Bingo<br>1 PM   |
| <b>19</b><br>Grow Our Post<br>Event - Fried<br>Chicken<br>Sandwiches<br>with side<br>12:30-1:30PM                 | <b>20</b> Dr. Martin<br>Luther King, Jr.<br>Day<br>Darts<br>1-3 PM<br>MAUX Mtg.<br>6 PM        | <b>21</b><br>Men's Pool<br>1-5 PM<br>Gen. Membership &<br>LAUX Mtg.<br>6 PM   | <b>22</b><br>Big AI 2-5 PM<br>VFW Meat Raffle<br>2 PM  | <b>23</b><br>Ms. Cues 2 PM<br>Cards 6 PM<br>Darts 6:30 PM | <b>24</b><br>Legion Bar-b-que, &<br>sides \$5.00<br>5:30 - 6:30 PM<br>Legion Bingo<br>6-8 PM                 | <b>25</b> VFW Bingo<br>1 PM<br>VFW Scottish<br>Evening w/Panama<br>City Pipes & Drums<br>& a DJ & Finger<br>Foods 6 PM \$10 |
| <b>26</b><br>LAUX Bunco<br>2 PM   | <b>27</b><br>Darts<br>1-3 PM   | <b>28</b><br>Men's Pool<br>1-5 PM   | <b>29</b><br>Big AI 2-5 PM<br>MAUX Meat Raffle<br>2 PM   | <b>30</b><br>Ms. Cues 2 PM<br>Cards 6 PM<br>Darts 6:30 PM | <b>31</b><br>VFW<br>Build-a-burger w/fries<br>\$5.00<br>5:30 - 6:30 PM<br>VFW Bingo 6-8 PM                   | Sign up for this<br>calendar by email<br>at<br>vfw10555@knology.<br>net   |



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