

# Emerald Coast VFW Post 10555 ALL-AMERICAN POST JOURNAL

Volume 8, Issue 5

May 2014

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))

Another month gone by and summer is upon us. I'd like to thank everyone that helped make Memorial Day Picnic such an outstanding success. We had a great day and a great turn out. If you didn't attend you missed a truly outstanding event. We had a number of Junior Miss Bay County participants and a Cub Scout pack honor guard assisted in our Flag Retirement Ceremony. We are planning another big picnic event on the Independence Day so watch for more details as we get closer to the date. Tom Randall, our new Senior Vice Commander, will be your host. We also had an outstanding Buddy Poppy Distribution Event at the Wal-Mart at Pier Park. The public donated over \$900 in 4 hours for our Relief Fund. When we do the Buddy Poppy distribution before Veterans Day we are going to try to have an all day event so we'll be looking for more volunteers and doing it in shifts. We'll have more information closer to the time. We need help for our various events, if you can lend a hand please come out and help. On June 7th were going to be doing some repairs around the post starting at 0900. The primary purpose is the roof, but we also have some other things to take care of, so come out and give us a hand. The VFW State Convention is June 19 - 22 after which our new slate of officers will be taking charge and I hope you will give them the same support you've given us this past year. I am honored and proud to serve as Commander for another year and I am fully aware that there is room for improvement.

Congratulations to our Ladies Auxiliary for making All State, great job ladies. If you notice the deceased and life member boards missing it is because we are getting new boards that will be more space efficient. Be patient, they will return shortly. If you see we are out of Red's Apple Ale, it's not our fault. The distributor is having problems getting this in. It's turned out more popular than the brewer thought and they are having trouble producing enough to keep up with demand. Be patient, as soon as the distributor gets more in we'll have it again. Concerned about Canteen Hours? I formed a committee to look at the Post Canteen hours and the amount of income generated during those hours. In the summer months some nights are very slow, so there may be a change in canteen hours after the committee reviews the business and reports to the house committee. **Come out and support our post.**

**KEN WARINGA, Post Commander 10555** [PS CLICK HERE FOR THE LATEST STATE BULLETIN](#)

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

I am writing this article on Memorial Day morning, and I had to stop and think for a while. I read the local paper each day with special attention the Squall Line, with all its silly likes and dislikes, and all its complaints. I am just so glad that I live in a nation where we can voice our likes, dislikes and complaints to the public no matter how inane or farfetched they are. For that, I would like to thank all those great men and women who fought and died for our freedom, regardless of how so many think so little of it or squander it. Freedom is not free and we should treasure it and protect it, and continue to fight for it.

The Ladies Auxiliary approved two new sisters at the last meeting. We installed the new or not so new officers. We will not be having our regular Friday Fish Fry in June in favor of a Father's Day Dinner of ham, green beans, new potatoes, rolls, mixed berry cobbler and ice cream. Dads eat free, all others are \$10.00. Tickets will be available at the canteen. I have received notice that the Auxiliary made All State. My thanks to all that worked so hard to get us there. I did have a family emergency this week and wish to thank the Post and the Auxiliary for relieving me of a great deal of stress so I could attend to things at home.

***Need a ride to meetings? Please call me at 234-8918. Until next time, Stay Safe and Cool, Kitty***





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

I was just reading over some of my old MAUX newsletter submissions as far back as 2008. One common theme appears to surface over and over – lack of attendance at our monthly meetings on the third Monday of every month. I noted on several occasions that after only three “no quorum” meetings we are subject to losing our charter and folding the unit. Over the years, we’ve gotten two such meetings in a row on a number of times. Unfortunately, the repetitiveness is far too frequent and once again in the month of May we had “no quorum present”. That is unfortunate. Here’s my theory as to why members don’t attend meetings: they might get asked to volunteer for something or do something to help the organization. Look, without a successful meeting we can’t schedule any events. Think about it – when is the last time the MAUX sponsored a major event with food, music and/or entertainment? It has been a while, hasn’t it?

I’ve lamented and complained; I have cajoled members about poor participation for the past six years. I am now stepping down and turning over the MAUX to John Wilson. John is taking over with some very visionary ideas and creative plans to try to rejuvenate the MAUX. He is going to need your active support for MAUX events (set up, cooking, cleaning, 50/50, B-I-N-G-O calling, etc.) and participation in meetings.

The American Legion, Post 402 is growing. Jim Bowers is taking command with enthusiasm. Did you notice the new American Legion signs on Griffin BLVD or the Back Beach Road? Well, Jim went to PCB City Hall and convinced officials there that they needed to support Veterans more and that they could start with allowing us to add a sign for the American Legion near the entrances to our post. He succeeded and they even put up a new sign for the VFW. Perhaps when we grow a little wealthier we can add a big sign out in front of the post to proclaim our presence. That may take a while, we are as poor as poor can be but we are gaining revenue at every monthly BBQ/BINGO and strength in numbers at every meeting. If you know anyone who is eligible for the legion, let them know what a great Legion Post we have right here on the beach in residence with the VFW!

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

*Eligibility Requirements for American Legion Membership: If you are currently on active duty, serving the United States honorably, anywhere in the world, or have served honorably during any of the following eligible war eras, we invite you to become a member of The American Legion. National Guard and Reservists having been federally activated (including basic training) during these same war eras also meet the eligibility requirements. They are: Aug. 2, 1990 to today (Gulf War / War On Terrorism); Dec. 20, 1989 to Jan. 31, 1990 (Panama); Aug. 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984 (Lebanon / Grenada); Feb. 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975 (Vietnam War); June 25, 1950 to Jan. 31, 1955 (Korean War); Dec. 7, 1941 to Dec. 31, 1946 (World War II); April 6, 1917 to Nov. 11, 1918*

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

Hello members!! Summer is here and as usual, our canteen business is slower, if you can, make an extra effort to stop by and enjoy a cold beverage. We are a private club, the support for the canteen by the members is very important. It is the support of you members that make the canteen viable. So come out and enjoy our great facility, great prices, and fellowship.

Please remember the canteen is not the place to discuss post business. Monthly calendars are available for events which will have dates and times for your convince. Also, our hall is for rental and the price very reasonable! Call for prices.

Hope to see you soon. Oh, almost forgot, we have a new blender so the bartenders can make your favorite frozen drink. This would be very refreshing on these hot and humid days.

**Best Regards. Billie Jones Canteen Manager**

**2014-15 Election/Appointment Results at the VFW (vfwpost10555@knology.net )**

**Post 10555 Officers**

Commander: Ken Waringa  
 Senior Vice Commander/Adjutant: Thomas Randall  
 Junior Vice Commander/Judge Advocate: Anna Miner  
 Quartermaster: Robert Smith  
 1<sup>st</sup> year Trustee: Meyrle Pepler  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Trustee: Past Commander PC Don Buchanan  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Trustee : Al Geauthraux  
 Chaplain: Larry Striblin

Surgeon: Jimmy Phelps

Post Service Officer: Tracey Lopez

Officer of the Day: Mike Gillian

**District 17 Officers**

Commander: Don Buchanan

Junior Vice Commander: Thomas Randall

**Department of Florida**

Life Membership Chair: Thomas Randall

Deputy Director, Membership Northern Region: Thomas Randall



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

The current fiscal year for the Post is coming to an end at the end of June, and for the first time in a few years, (barring some unforeseen occurrence) we will have recorded a net profit for the year. Like the Post Commander stated at the May general membership meeting, this turnaround is largely due to the Save/Grow Our Post functions like the Yard Sales and the generosity of our members and guests in participating in these functions. We are very grateful that so many have stepped up and pitched in when we asked, thank you very much!

But we aren't stopping at this point; we'll continue to hold yard sales in conjunction with the VERY popular MAUX breakfasts during Thunder Beach. The last one was phenomenal in the turnout we experienced. Friday night bingo nights are proving to be popular and quite fun for those that come out and enjoy the simple meal (wings, burgers, or pulled pork) before the games begin.

One last note, if you like to play the pull tab machine and a column gets jammed or you empty the column, do not ask the bartender to call me to come and fix or fill it. There are other columns to play and I will be in (most likely) the next day to fix the problem. **Thanks and enjoy the summer! Rob**

**VFW WANTS REAL-LIFE VA HEALTHCARE STORIES VA-ENROLLED VETS ENCOURAGED TO CALL 1-800-VFW-1899**

MAY 09, 2014 WASHINGTON, D.C. - THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES WANTS TO KNOW IF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FACILITIES ARE PROPERLY SERVING AMERICA'S VETERANS.

"RECENT ALLEGATIONS ABOUT IMPROPER CARE IN ARIZONA, COLORADO, TEXAS AND ELSEWHERE HAVE MADE IT DIFFICULT TO SEPARATE TRUTH FROM CONJECTURE," SAID VFW NATIONAL COMMANDER WILLIAM A. THIEN, WHO IS REINTRODUCING A TOLL-FREE NUMBER FOR VA-ENROLLED VETERANS TO EXPRESS THEIR OWN PERSONAL ACCOUNTS. THE NUMBER IS 1-800-VFW-1899.

"VETERANS DIE EVERY DAY, BUT VETERANS DYING DUE TO WRONG DIAGNOSES, UNSTERILIZED EQUIPMENT OR WHILE AWAITING TREATMENT IS A FAILURE OF LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND OUT IN THE FIELD," SAID THIEN, A VIETNAM VETERAN FROM GEORGETOWN, IND. "BECAUSE TIMELY ACCESS IS KEY TO A QUALITY AND RESPONSIVE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM, WE NEED TO HEAR REAL LIFE STORIES, GOOD OR BAD, NOT HEARSAY. ONLY THEN CAN WE HOLD VA OFFICIALS PROPERLY ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS OR INACTIONS." THE TOLL-FREE NUMBER, MANAGED BY VFW'S NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE, WAS ROLLED OUT IN 1996 AS THE VA WAS TRANSFORMING FROM PRIMARILY A HOSPITAL-BASED SYSTEM INTO AN INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE SYSTEM THAT NOW INCLUDES 820 OUTPATIENT CLINICS THAT SERVE VETERANS CLOSER TO WHERE THEY ACTUALLY RESIDE.

"THE VFW HELPED TO CREATE THE VA BACK IN 1930, AND OVER THE YEARS WE HAVE WORKED HARD WITH EVERY ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS TO INCREASE THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES IT PROVIDES TO AMERICA'S WOUNDED, ILL AND INJURED VETERANS AND THEIR SURVIVORS," SAID THE VFW NATIONAL COMMANDER. "WE WILL NOT LET THE VA FAIL."

**MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: 'VA'S FIRST PRIORITY IS TO GET ALL VETERANS OFF WAITING LISTS' June 03, 2014**

Not all Veterans are getting the timely access to the healthcare that they have earned. Systemic problems in scheduling processes have been exacerbated by leadership failures and ethical lapses. I will use all available authority to swiftly and decisively address issues of willful misconduct or mismanagement.

VA's first priority is to get all Veterans off waiting lists and into clinics while we address the underlying issues that have been impeding Veterans' access to healthcare. The President has made clear that this is his expectation.

Even as we implement these immediate actions, we will work with Veterans Service Organizations, members of Congress, academia, public and private organizations, and with all other agencies and institutions that can help us move forward.

We will also continue to depend on the faithful service of VA employees and leaders who place the interests of Veterans above their own, those who serve Veterans with dignity, compassion, and dedication, and who live by VA's core values: Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, and Excellence.

Finally, as we accelerate our access to care, we will not lose sight of the fact that the quality of VA healthcare remains strong. Ten years of external validations have consistently shown that, on average, Veterans who use VA healthcare rate our hospitals and clinics as high or higher in customer satisfaction than patients give most of the Nation's private sector hospitals.

On behalf of all Veterans, I express my appreciation to Secretary Shinseki for his leadership of VA. For decades to come, Veterans will benefit from the transformation begun in the past five years.

Thank you for your support and dedication to Veterans and our mission to serve them. Sloan D. Gibson Acting Secretary



### **ABOUT FISHER HOUSE**

The Fisher House™ program is a unique private-public partnership that supports America's military in their time of need. The program recognizes the special sacrifices of our men and women in uniform and the hardships of military service by meeting a humanitarian need beyond that normally provided by the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs.

Because members of the military and their families are stationed worldwide and must often travel great distances for specialized medical care, Fisher House™ Foundation donates "comfort homes," built on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers. These homes enable family members to be close to a loved one at the most stressful time - during the hospitalization for an unexpected illness, disease, or injury.

There is at least one Fisher House™ at every major military medical center to assist families in need and to ensure that they are provided with the comforts of home in a supportive environment. Fisher House of the Emerald Coast is located on Eglin Air Force Base in Northwest Florida.

Annually, the Fisher House™ program serves more than 10,000 families, and have made available nearly 2.5 million days of lodging to family members since the program originated in 1990. By law, there is no charge for any family to stay at a Fisher House operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs; and Fisher House Foundation uses donations to reimburse the individual Fisher Houses operated by the Army, Navy, and Air Force. No family pays to stay at any Fisher House!

In addition to constructing new houses, Fisher House™ Foundation continues to support existing Fisher Houses™ and help individual military families in need. Families and friends of patients at any of the military's hospitals can now receive up-to-the-minute reports on a loved one by going to the patient's own customized web page, thanks to new services provided through CaringBridge. The National Fisher House Foundation is also proud to administer and sponsor Scholarships for Military Children, the Hero Miles program, and co-sponsor the Newman's Own Award.

For more information on the Fisher House™ Foundation, refer to their website at: [www.fisherhouse.org](http://www.fisherhouse.org)

### **FISHER HOUSE OF THE EMERALD COAST**

Fisher House of the Emerald Coast is located on Eglin Air Force Base in Northwest Florida and provides a "home away from home" so that our military families can be together during treatment for serious illness or physical/occupational therapy. The House is within steps of the Eglin Air Force Base Hospital and Veteran's Clinic. Now more than ever, we owe these brave men and women, and their families our gratitude.



P.O. Box 2007

Eglin Air Force Base, Florida 32542

For More Information About Volunteering or what we do: Please Call:

Kim Henderson, Executive Director at 850-259-4956

JUNE						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Legion Officer Mtg. 5:30 PM Legion Mtg. 6 PM	3 FOOLS 5 PM Men's Pool 1-5 PM	4 Presentation "Growing Roses" 1 PM Bring a Friend to the Post 3-6 PM	5 Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM	6 <b>D-Day</b> Flag Ceremony 4 PM D-Day Movie & Pizza Night 4:30 PM	7 Roof Repair Working Party 9 AM (Weather Dependent) Legion Bingo 1 PM
8 Pool Tournament 8 Ball 2 PM \$2.00 to play Win \$20 Bar Tab	9	10 Men's Pool 1-5 PM Entertainment Com. Mtg. 4:30 PM Officer Mtg. 5 PM House Committee Mtg. 5:30 PM	11 Bring a Friend to the Post 3-6 PM	12 Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM	13 LAUX Officer Mtg. 2 PM VFW Build-a-burger w/fries \$5.00 5:30 - 6:30 PM VFW Bingo 6-8 PM	14 <b>U.S. Army's Birthday Flag Day</b> VFW BINGO 1 PM Flag Retirement Ceremony 3:30 PM
15 <b>Father's Day</b> LAUX Lunch 1-2 PM \$10 Fathers Eat Free	16 MAUX Meeting 3 PM	17 Men's Pool 1-5 PM Gen. Membership & LAUX Mtg. 6 PM	18 Bring a Friend to the Post 3-6 PM	19 Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM	20 Legion Bar-b-que \$5.00 5:30 - 6:30 PM Legion Bingo 6-8 PM	21 Alternate Roof Repair Working Party 9 AM (Weather Dependent) MAUX BINGO 1 PM
VFW State Convention 19-22 June 2014						
22	23	24 Men's Pool 1-5 PM	25 Bring a Friend to the Post 3-6 PM	26 Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM	27 VFW Wings \$5.00 5:30 - 6:30 PM VFW Bingo 6-8 PM	28 Hall Rental NO Bingo
29 Bunco 2 PM	30	Sign up for this calendar by email at <a href="mailto:vfw10555@knology.net">vfw10555@knology.net</a>		<b>WHERE TO FIND US</b> 17680 Ashley Dr Panama City Beach, FL 32413 (850) 249-3025		<b>LIKE US ON FACEBOOK</b> 

EDITOR'S NOTE: This Calendar of Post/AUX/Legion events is painstakingly developed at the House Committee Meeting every second Tuesday of the month. EVERY member of our units in good standing is welcome to attend that or any other committee meeting and EVERY member of our units in good standing is welcome to reserve the hall (Fees are charged for private parties, that is to say any event not open to all). For hall fees/reservations, contact the Canteen Manager, Billie Jones, at the Post 850-249-3025.





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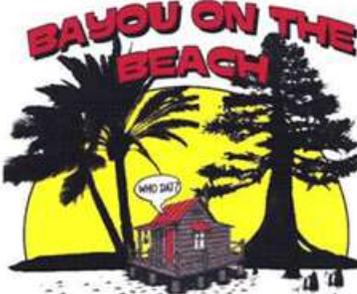
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