



# Emerald Coast VFW Post 10555

## GREAT AMERICAN POST JOURNAL

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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)

NEW Hours of Operation  
1200-2100hrs/NOON to 9PM  
EXCEPT SUNDAYS  
1400-2200hrs/2-10PM

### MAY CANTEN ACTIVITIES

TUESDAYS: Billiards!  
WEDNESDAYS: Happy Hour All Day: BRING A FRIEND FROM 3-6PM  
THURSDAYS: Cards! Ms. Cues!  
FRIDAYS: Food! Music or Bingo!  
SATURDAYS: Bingo!  
SUNDAYS: Post Open 2PM: Evening Jam Sessions! 7PM!  
WED 1<sup>st</sup> - **LOYALTY DAY** Flag Ceremony 4PM  
THURS 2<sup>nd</sup> THRU SAT 4<sup>th</sup>: MAUX Breakfast 8-11AM (Thunder Beach Weekend)  
FRI 3<sup>rd</sup> - LAUX Officer MTG  
FRI 10<sup>th</sup> LAUX Fish Fry 5:30PM  
SAT 11<sup>th</sup> NO BINGO & District 17 Meeting Port Saint Joe Post 11AM EST/10AM CST (One Hour ahead of us)  
SUN 12<sup>th</sup> - **MOTHER'S DAY** Dinner 4-6PM, Mothers We Trust, All others Pay Cash (\$8)  
MON 13<sup>th</sup> - 4:30 PM Entertainment Committee/Post Cadre Meeting Follows 5:30PM  
TUES 14<sup>th</sup> - 5 PM House Committee MTG; 6PM Optimist Club Meeting  
MON 20<sup>th</sup> - MAUX Meeting  
TUES 21<sup>st</sup> - 6 PM General Membership with VFW/LAUX Meeting to follow  
FRI 24<sup>th</sup> - 5PM Pool Tournament  
SAT 25<sup>th</sup> - 8AM-NOON; Buddy Poppy Drive (Post/MAUX at NEW PCB WalMart, LAUX at Winn Dixie)  
MON 27<sup>th</sup> - 3PM **MEMORIAL DAY** Picnic VFW/LAUX/MAUX/Legion



## COMMANDER'S CALL



First of all, I would like to thank all those who have supported me in the past three years as Commander. I look forward to working with the new Officers in the coming year. We have another great infrastructure in place for next year. Let's continue helping them to help us and the Veteran.

We have an announcement. We have voted on establishing an American Legion Post at our location. This is something that will bring additional foot traffic and much needed help to keeping our post open. You will be receiving a letter stating the state of the Post and a survey that we would like for you to return.

Ken is still working diligently to get the final word on our BP claim, but we can't depend on that outcome for our future.

At our next meeting, Past District Commander Thomas Randall will induct next year's cadre: Commander-Ken Waringa, Senior Vice-Tracey Lopez, Junior Vice-Rob Lopez, Quartermaster-Rob Smith, Judge-Anna Miner, Chaplain-Larry Striblin, and 3rd year-Trustee Don Buchanan. As you can see, we have another solid cast of Officers. We do need someone to step up for the Post Surgeon. Please review the requirements and be at the next meeting or provide me a letter if you can't be at the meeting.

We are collecting for our next visit to Lake City. If you have any travel toiletries, lap blankets, donations or hard back books we would gladly accept them. The Ladies Auxiliary has the Dick and Jane display up to help in our efforts. With your help and generosity it will be another very rewarding trip in July.

See you at the meeting. I hope that I will see you at the Triple Nickel before then!

**DON BUCHANAN**, Post Commander [bdon520@knology.net](mailto:bdon520@knology.net)  
[PS CLICK HERE FOR THE LATEST STATE BULLETIN](#)



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**Ladies Auxiliary Status: Kitty Dye, President ([KDYE8918@YAHOO.COM](mailto:KDYE8918@YAHOO.COM))**

Dear Sisters, we finally set a record at the last Fish Fry! We actually sold out of everything! A really great night. The Low Country Boil that we shared with the Post was a great success not to mention most delicious. The jam session was really good so if you haven't been to one yet you really should try it out. Another Fish Fry is scheduled for May the 10<sup>th</sup> with music by Suede Nash. If you haven't heard him before you won't believe how much he sounds like Neil Diamond. The Ladies' Auxiliary will be distributing Buddy Poppies at the Winn Dixie Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to a Picnic event with the Post and our Men's Auxiliary on Memorial Day afternoon. We held elections at our last regular meeting. Your line officers remain the same with the exception of our Conductress who will be Gloria Turner. Installations will be made after the next State Convention in June. Hoping to see You at the next meeting, I remain *Sincerely Yours, Kitty*

**The Right Arm with the Right Stuff: Post SVC: Tracey Lopez ([TRACEYT35@MSN.COM](mailto:TRACEYT35@MSN.COM))**

Another successful VFW year is ending and we have high hopes for next year. As of the writing of this newsletter, our post has reached 103.88% membership membership. That means compared to June 2012 when we had 283 members, to date we have 294 members in good standing. That breaks down to 163 Life Members and 131 Annual Members (26 new/8 reinstated/97 renewed ("continuous"). National asked us to meet an 85% retention goal for annual memberships and we have done very well to have 80.95% retention. There is always room for more members and recruiting. District 17 is at 100.70% and state is at 99.53%! Once again, May is going to be a very busy month and I hope to see all of you for all of the great events we are going to have. Remember our "Bring a Friend to the Post" on Sundays and Wednesdays. Please come support our new Commander and the rest of your elected officers as we do our best to recover financially while doing our best to look out for each other. *See You Soon! Tracey.*

**Quartermaster and Incoming! Post Commander: Ken Waringa ([KCWARINGA@YAHOO.COM](mailto:KCWARINGA@YAHOO.COM))**

GREETINGS, Greetings, hope everyone is doing well. As most have heard, an American Legion post is going to share our post home. The details are still in the works, but they will have the same usage of the facilities as our auxiliaries do. They will also have to go through the house committee for any events they wish to hold on the premises. Bottom line is we need more people using the facilities in order to pay the bills. Another change coming up is that I am going to be moving up to Commander and Rob Smith is going to be taking over the Quartermaster duties. I want to thank Don for all the hard work he has put into the post for the last few years, first as Quartermaster then as an All-State Post Commander. Don is moving to the three-year trustee position. Remember we have "bring a friend" and happy hour on Wednesdays and "bring a friend" and jam sessions on Sunday, so come out and support your post.. *See you around the post! Ken*



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**Surgeon-elect Thomas Randall, ([THOMAS\\_RANDALL@MEDIACOMBB.NET](mailto:THOMAS_RANDALL@MEDIACOMBB.NET))**

This morning, after just returning from yet another "working vacation" out on the Gulf of Mexico (If I told what I do out there I'd have to kill you.), I sat here at my desk typing May's newsletter. My phone rang and I heard about a veteran in the hospital, that GI is not well and happens to be my Father. Dad was a one time and done Specialist 5 in the US Army Finance Corps stationed at Giessen Army Depot, FRG 1957-59 and is a man with only a very few hospital visits in his adult life so my concern and worry are granted and rightly so. As I prepare a plan to go and visit him "up north" where the snowbirds go another thought comes to mind – How many of our Triple Nickel sisters and brothers are ill, infirmed or in the hospital? I am sure they, too, could use a visit, a phone call a card signed by all just to say we are here, we've got your six/ your back/ we are here for you. As your new Surgeon, I pledge to work with Post Chaplain and our Auxiliaries and the new Legion Post to ensure that every sick, infirmed or hospitalized comrade hears from us that we're here for them. I go out to sea, it won't be easy for me to cover everything so I need your help. Call me at 850-703-7636 and let me know who is sick, how sick and what the Post can do to help. A message or text works or fax me at [tr1957nyc@hpeprint.com](mailto:tr1957nyc@hpeprint.com). **Let No One in Bay County Do More for Veterans than the Triple Nickel! Sincere Aloha from Tom out at Tyndall**



## A Message from Post Manager: Billie Jones ([POST10555@KNOLOGY.NET](mailto:POST10555@KNOLOGY.NET))

"April Showers Bring May Flowers" and with them a full calendar of events for our Post and Canteen! April brought with it new musicians for our Sunday Jam sessions and they will return in May. Come in and check out the great music, dance the night away with plenty of room and camaraderie for all!

Breakfast is going to be served by the Men's Auxiliary in conjunction with Thunder Beach May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> from 0800-1100 hours (8 to 11AM). The Ladies' Auxiliary is having yet another great Fish Fry complete with entertainment May 10<sup>th</sup>, be sure to get tickets early as they will sell out. Other canteen events include Bingo, Wings, Build-a-Burger, Tacos, a Mother's Day Dinner and all day Wednesday Happy Hour. There is also a Memorial Day Picnic planned. If you are unable to attend any of these scheduled events you are always welcome to stop and have a cold refreshing beverage of your choice as you visit with old friends and new.

I would like to personally thank everyone that came out in April for the Post Field Day – it was a huge success with cleaning inside and outside and all around the property. I also give thanks to the bartenders for their continued hard work-please remember they are volunteers. See you soon around the Triple Nickel!

**BEST REGARDS, BILLIE JONES**

## THIS COULD BE THE NEW "EMERALD COAST POST TEAM"!



## The Buddy Poppy Story

On Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup> the Post is planning to distribute Buddy Poppies at the new PCB Wal-Mart and the Ladies' Auxiliary is doing the same at the Winn-Dixie from 8-12 AM. Distribute? Not sell? That is correct; Buddy Poppies are always distributed, that is to say, given to the public, to commemorate the lost, to remember the fallen. There is no more poignant representation of the price of freedom, of the sacrifices made on a battlefield than the imagery of the 1914 poem "In Flanders Fields" by LTC John Alexander Macrae (1872-1918) who fought and died in the First World War. Those red poppies we distribute represent those flowers in Flanders Fields and the donations we accept from the public are mandated by national bylaws to be credited to Post Relief Funds to ensure that *all* funds go directly to supporting veterans relief.



From the National VFW homepage, "The VFW conducted its first poppy distribution before Memorial Day in 1922, becoming the first veterans' organization to organize a nationwide distribution. The poppy soon was adopted as the official memorial flower of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

It was during the 1923 encampment that the VFW decided that VFW Buddy Poppies be assembled by disabled and needy veterans who would be paid for their work to provide them with some form of financial assistance. The plan was formally adopted during the VFW's 1923 encampment. The next year, disabled veterans at the Buddy Poppy factory in Pittsburgh assembled VFW Buddy Poppies. The designation "Buddy Poppy" was adopted at that time.

In February 1924, the VFW registered the name "Buddy Poppy" with the U.S. Patent Office. A certificate was issued on May 20, 1924, granting the VFW all trademark rights in the name of Buddy under the classification of artificial flowers. The VFW has made that trademark a guarantee that all poppies bearing that name and the VFW label are genuine products of the work of disabled and needy veterans. No other organization, firm or individual can legally use the name "Buddy" Poppy. Today, VFW Buddy Poppies are still assembled by disabled and needy veterans in VA Hospitals."

The minimal assessment (cost of Buddy Poppies) to VFW units provides compensation to the veterans who assemble the poppies, provides financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans' rehabilitation and service programs and partially supports the VFW National Home for orphans and widows of our nation's veterans." **Contact Don Buchanan 850-624-6336 to sign up TODAY!**

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**VFW NATIONAL HQ LOYALTY DAY MESSAGE FOR 2013**

Originally known as "Americanization Day" in 1921 and enacted into public law by congress in 1958, Loyalty Day has become a permanent fixture on this great nation's calendar. It is a day established to counteract the May 1<sup>st</sup> celebrations of the Communist Party in the US and honor all merit that encompasses this free nation.

Though the Communist Party threat has greatly subsided over the years, Loyalty Day has continued to be a day worth recognizing to reaffirm the American principles of Freedom and Democracy.

As we meet here today, we must keep in the forefront of our minds, our most patriotic of citizens and our most honorable and courageous Americans...those who have fought, and those who are fighting today to maintain our liberty and way of life. It is crucial to the American way that it remains a priority to distinguish all of our service members who sacrifice so much to protect our democracy and self-governed values, and the very ideals upon which this nation was founded.

The ideas and values that this nation was founded upon, continue to thrive due to the sacrifices that our military makes, preserving and maintaining this nation's strength.

It is our obligation to ensure comfort and aid is given to those who give so much of themselves to keep us safe. it's our obligation to fully demonstrate our commitment to them and to prove that America stands behind them, eternally indebted to them for their service. It is the least we can do.

