



Emerald Coast VFW Post 10555 ALL-AMERICAN POST JOURNAL

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

December 2014

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Emerald Coast Post 10555
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Panama City Beach, FL 32413
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VFW Post 10555 News: Ken Waringa, Commander (kcwaringa@yahoo.com)

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to All! We have a lot going on at the post this month so check the calendar. Christmas Eve the post closes at 7PM and Christmas Day it opens 12 noon to 6PM for a pot luck meal at 3PM; please sign up at the post so we know how much ham and turkey is needed. Then stand by for our New Year's Eve Gala with music by Martino & Tirado. Party favors and champagne is ordered, so get your tickets soon (\$15 for a single person and \$25 for couples). New Year's Eve the Post closes at 7PM to all but the limited ticket holders. 100 tickets go on sale December 1st; they are first come first served. We are also raffling a bottle of Johnny Walker Blue Label Scotch. This normally sells for over \$200 a bottle, so get your tickets for only \$10.00 a chance.

Volunteers needed (I'm not talking about our Northern Friends) from within. We have numerous events at the post and it's the same few people that seem to do everything for all the organizations. We have many new members now. If there is an event at the post that you enjoy in particular, well, give up a bit of your time to help and lend a hand. We know not everyone can do all the events, but if you can help at 1 or 2 it will make a difference. If you can't stand to work in the kitchen, there's ticket selling and grilling and prep and setup to do for every event. Anything you can do will be very much appreciated. One good thing I'm seeing a lot more of recently is all the organizations pitching in to help the other organizations with an event. We are one post with 5 organizations (VFW, LAUX, MAUX, Legion, and Northern Friends) that use the post. No matter who is hosting the event, if you can lend a hand please do so SOON! We have a GREAT Post because we have GREAT members – YOU!

Please Come out and support our post. KEN WARINGA [PS CLICK HERE FOR THE LATEST STATE BULLETIN](#)

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

If you overslept, you may have missed fall and now it seems winter may have already come and gone. At the end of October District President Jennie Freeman, Mary Kilzer, Carol MacDonald, and I went to Fall Round Up. Jenny's poster on Prostate Cancer (on display at the post) won Honorable Mention. We also learned that the National VFW will be presenting a resolution at the National Convention regarding gender neutrality. This will most likely pass. In short what this means is that in the foreseeable future there will be one VFW and one Auxiliary. All applicants to the Auxiliary will have to meet the same eligibility criteria. This is not merging the Men's Auxiliary with the Ladies Auxiliary. National VFW does not sanction Men's Auxiliaries as they are not chartered, they are simply operated at the discretion of the Post. They have no obligations other than to their parent Posts.

As for us, We are now nearly at 90% membership AND 100% reported. We accepted the application of one new member at the last meeting. The November Fish Fry was a great success. We took in nearly \$300 in donations at the Bake Sale and I want to thank all who brought in donations. We now have our own Facebook page, Ladies Auxiliary to Post 10555. This is open to the public. We are also now chairing the combined Post, Legion and Men's Auxiliary Christmas Party on Saturday, December 7, 2014 from 4 PM- 7PM at the Post. Admission is by donation, either an unwrapped gift for a child or \$5 at the door. Finger foods will be provided by LAVFW. We will be delivering American Flags to PCB's elementary and middle schools. We have restarted Bunco one Sunday a month and the next one will at 2PM on December 28th. It is \$10 to play and the proceeds go to the LAVFW General Operating Fund. We will be selling tickets for a collection of tools to be given away in February. We are asking for donations \$10.00 or so range or perhaps friends could go together to purchase a more expensive tool.

If you need a ride or would like to volunteer to help at any activity please call me at 850-234-8918 and Have Yourself a Happy Holiday Season!





American Legion Update: Post 402 Commander Jim Bowers (scootin1923@yahoo.com)

Greetings fellow Legionaries it has been a very busy November. First and foremost, I would like to thank all our members that have made our membership of 102% a huge success. When I went to the fall State Conference our Post #402 received the Golden Eagle award and a certificate for our accomplishments. Bravo Zulu to all who did the work necessary to make this award possible. Coming up, We have our great BBQ and B-I-N-G-O December 5th at 5:30 PM and Saturday the 13th we have B-I-N-G-O and hot dogs starting at 1 PM. Please attend. December is the month of the Holidays and travels so be safe in all you do and rejoice. When considering gifts for yourself or your friends at the Post, why not consider American Legion Post 402 T-shirts (long or short sleeve) or a commemorative brick? It looks like Mother Nature has put an early cold spell on us so keep warm and help keep all of our Veterans by doing the same in our hearts. So until next month, Keep the Sunny Side Up and the Rubber Side Down and Always God Bless America!!! **Jim Bowers, American Legion Post Commander**

Men's Auxiliary News For You: Robert Heil (nitefly50@aol.com)

does well and is a great entertainer. We will have Martino & Tirado for New Year's Eve this year, which should set a good mood for the occasion. If you are a member of the Men's Auxiliary and would like to help out with any upcoming functions (big or small), contact me at the email address listed. The more help we can get, the more we can help the Post. I was particularly sad to hear that Gordy Cobbett had passed. He was my winter neighbor for many years. 2015 Dues for Men's Auxiliary members are due Dec. 31. Send them in with the statement or pay them to me to save a stamp and I can process them on line. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all from the Men's Auxiliary.

See You at the Triple Nickel! Robert Heil, Member, Entertainment Committee and Treasurer, MAVFW

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

Well here we are again at the end of another year and the newsletter for December is due – where has the all the time gone!! I would like to thank everyone who has supported Post 10555 throughout this year and there is still time to come out and enjoy a busy month of events. Our Northern friends are back and Mondays will be busy with darts starting at 1 PM and also on Thursday evenings at 6 PM, cards will also start at 6 PM. Bingo is also a great event for everyone, come out and try your luck on Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons.

LAVFW Fish Fry is Friday December 12 with Karaoke until 9 PM. Get your tickets early for this event as the bar will no longer hold tickets for members. Wednesday December 10 "Big Al" is back for a grand time of music, dancing, meat raffle and meeting of your friends.

As for Christmas Day the Post will be open hours 12 PM to 6 PM and a Christmas Pot Luck Meal will be served at 3 PM. Jacii and her husband Frank will be in charge again this year, more details will be posted at 10555. Sign up and bring your favorite dish. New Year's Eve Gala will be on Wednesday December 31, tickets will be available at the canteen starting December 1st. This will be a closed party and to stay you must have a ticket, party will start at 7 PM.

Please check the monthly calendar for all the events going on at Post 10555. Come out and enjoy a cold beverage and meeting of friends.

Have a safe and fun filled month. Merry Christmas to all - Billie Jones Canteen Manager



VFW Post 10555 Quartermaster's Corner, Rob Smith (robfsmith127@gmail.com)

Hello Everyone!

By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will have come and gone and we'll be in the midst of the holiday season. I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving! Now that our Northern Guests are arriving and visiting our Post, I wanted to remind everyone that if a certain row in the pull tab machine empties, or jams, please do not ask the bartender to call me to come fix it. They will let me know and I will usually be in the next day to remedy the situation. As for membership, I am glad to see our members respond to Senior Vice Tom's great letter asking those expired memberships to renew. Several have stepped up so far and one even decided to purchase a Life Membership. I hope our current members continue to renew their annual memberships now, that is to say before December 30th as our stated Membership Goal is to reach 100% strength by December 30. Thanks everyone and Merry Christmas!!!

See you at the Post! Rob Smith, Quartermaster and new Life Member, Thank You!

VFW NATIONAL COMMANDER PUTS POSTS ON NOTICE

THE FOLLOWING IS A MESSAGE FROM VFW NATIONAL COMMANDER JOHN W. STROUD

NOVEMBER 06, 2014

I am extremely disturbed by the recurring reports from the field as well as the media's portrayal of the VFW as an organization that is comprised of old and out of touch veterans who would rather drink in a dimly lit canteen than open their doors to our younger veterans. The VFW's mission is far too important; our objectives and causes for which we work far too critical; and the current situation of the veteran population far too dire to let the negativity of a few divide us and dilute our efforts. We must empower the younger veterans to be forces of change within our organization while lending them the institutional knowledge to be effective leaders for future generations of veterans.

The fact remains that the stereotypical, dingy, dark and smoke filled VFW Post and canteen do exist, but they have no benefit to our organization, provide no aid to our mission nor to the veterans we strive to help and serve. These Posts are in the minority of our organization, but in order to shift the paradigm we must challenge every member to hold their Post accountable. It's time for our membership to be emboldened into action and to push their Posts to strive for the high ideals that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was founded upon.

Accordingly, I am charging my current Department VFW Commanders to be advocates of change and to challenge the officers of the subordinate units within their command to be more than officers — challenge them to be leaders cognizant of the current challenges today's veterans face. To do this, our VFW Posts must change their operational tactics to better reflect the modern crises younger veterans are facing on their new "battlefield" — the homefront.

For those members and Posts who would rather serve themselves than the countless veterans who are in need, remind them that this organization exists for the benefit of all veterans rather than those of an entitled few. I want to make it clear that I will willingly provide my complete support to any of my Department Commanders who move to shut down any Post, or remove from our leadership rolls, anyone that is not committed to the goals of the organization. They simply don't belong here. The need is too great for a dynamic and modern VFW that can continue to advocate and respond unhesitatingly to the needs of all veterans in the 21st century and beyond. To do less, would be an unconscionable betrayal of our responsibilities as Americans and as veterans. **JOHN W. STROUD, VFW NATIONAL COMMANDER**



NEW VFW CHARTER REFLECTS TODAY'S MILITARY

VFW THANKFUL FOR UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FROM CONGRESS

November 21, 2014

WASHINGTON - The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is thanking the 113th Congress for their unanimous support this week to approve a change to the VFW's congressional charter that was signed 78 years ago by President Franklin D. Roosevelt when the military was comprised almost entirely of men.

The update consists of two wording changes — replacing men with veterans, and widows with surviving spouses — and was supported by two companion bills, S. 2782 and H.R. 5441, which were introduced by Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and House VA Committee Chairman Jeff Miller (R-Fla.), respectively.


The change was prompted by VFW Resolution 301 that was passed in July by delegates attending the 115th VFW National Convention in St. Louis.

"We didn't change our congressional charter to be politically correct," said VFW National Commander John W. Stroud, "we changed it because being an eligible service member or veteran is what's important to our great organization, not one's gender, and changing widows to surviving spouses is more representative of today's military. The VFW thanks the Senate and House VA Committee chairmen for their sponsorships, and Congress for their unanimous support."

The bill now heads to the president for his signature.



"Just days after a massive assault by Viet Cong forces, American soldiers at Hill 875 near Dakto decorate a small Christmas tree." (Editor's Note: The Battle for Dakto took place 3-22 November 1967, Hill 875 and the 2/503 and 4/503 of the 173rd Airborne Division were under siege from 19-23 November)

DECEMBER 2014						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	R.E.D. FRIDAYS	SATURDAY
WINTER HOURS: Sun. 12-6 PM Mon. 12-9 PM Tues. 12-9 PM Wed. 12-9 PM Thur. 12-9 PM Fri. 12-9 PM Sat. 12-9 PM	1 Darts 1 PM Volunteer Meeting 3 PM Legion Officer Mtg. 5:30 PM Legion Mtg. 6 PM	2 Men's Pool 1-5 PM	3 Big AI 2-5 PM Meat Raffle 2 PM	4 Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM Darts 6 PM	5 Legion Barbecue 5:30 to 6:30 Legion Bingo 6 - 8	6 VOL BINGO 1 PM
7 Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony 4 PM Christmas Party Music 4 - 7 PM Bring a New Unwrapped Gift	8 Darts 1 PM	9 Men's Pool 1-5 Entertainment Com. Mtg. 4:30 PM Officer Mtg. 5 PM House Committee Mtg. 5:30 PM	10 Big AI 2-5 PM Meat Raffle 2 PM	11 Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM Darts 6 PM	12 LAUX Officer Mtg. 2 PM LAUX Fish Fry \$9.00 5:30 - 6:30 PM Karaoke 6 - 9 PM	13 Legion BINGO 1 PM
14 Pool Tournament 8 Ball 2 PM \$2.00 to play Win \$20 Bar Tab	15 Darts 1 PM MAUX Meeting 3 PM	16 Men's Pool 1-5 PM Gen. Membership & LAUX Mtg. 6 PM	17 Big AI 2-5 PM Meat Raffle 2 PM	18 Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM Darts 6 PM	19 VFW Wings \$5.00 5:30 - 6:30 VFW Bingo 6 - 8	20 VFW BINGO 1 PM
21 Pot Luck Food 2 - 3 Karaoke 3 - 6	22 Darts 1 PM	23 Men's Pool 1-5 PM	24 Big AI 2-5 PM Meat Raffle 2 PM	25 Christmas Post Open 12 - 6 Pot Luck at 3	26 VOL Food \$5.00 5:30 - 6:30 VOL Bingo 6 - 8	27 MAUX BINGO 1 PM
28 Bunco 2 PM	29 Darts 1 PM	30 Men's Pool 1-5 PM	31 New Year's Eve Gala 7-12:30 Tickets at the Canteen	Sign up for this calendar by email at vfw10555@knology.net	WHERE TO FIND US 17680 Ashley Dr Panama City Beach, FL 32413 (850) 249-3025	LIKE US ON FACEBOOK 

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 Post Manager, Billie Jones, at the Post 850-249-3025. **When all else fails, JUST STOP BY! PLEASE!**

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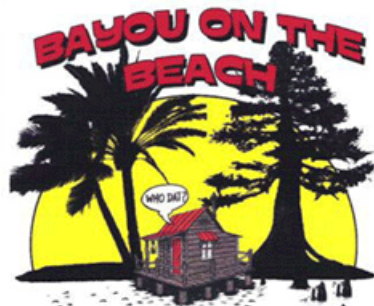
SATURDAY: 10 AM-2 PM

SUNDAY: CLOSED BY APPOINTMENT

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