



Emerald Coast VFW Post 10555 ALL-AMERICAN POST JOURNAL

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

This year seems to be flying by. This month we had the election of officers and it looks like you're stuck with me being Commander another year. I really appreciate all the support I've gotten this last year and look forward to another great year. We are still looking for an Adjutant. This is an appointed position so if you are interested please let me know. This job involves taking the minutes at the House Committee and General Membership meetings. As most of you know, a year ago it looked like the post was headed into some severe financial difficulties. We started a Save our Post campaign that was a huge success, raising almost \$30,000. This past winter was the best we've had in years. Now we come into the slow months for the post. We need everyone's support to keep our post moving forward, so come out and enjoy some of our events. We'll be having our annual Mother's Day lunch on May 11th. Moms from the post eat free and all others are \$10.00. Both kinds of tickets are available at the Canteen. Please get your tickets in advance so we know how much food to prepare. We are also planning a Memorial Day picnic with music. We had a great turn out last year and hope to have the same again this year.

See You Around OUR POST! Ken

P.S. Next year's Cadre includes Tom Randall as Senior-Vice Commander; Anna Miner as Junior Vice Commander; Larry Striblin as Chaplain; and Al Gauthreaux as Third Year Trustee. Appointed positions include Tracey Lopez as Post Service Officer; Anna Miner (?) as Judge Advocate; Charter Member Jimmy Phelps as Surgeon. Tom Randall has accepted two appointments from the incoming State Commander T. Wayne Markham: State Life/Legacy Life Membership Chairman and Deputy Director for Membership, Northern Region.

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

April was election of officers month. Your officers remain basically the same with some additions: Mary Striblin as Patriotic Instructor; Margaret Randall as Guard; Kathy Johnson as a Trustee; and Jackie Foreman as our Historian. In June we will be starting our membership renewal drive. I know it is early but this is vital to the continued effort to maintain membership by the Department of Florida. You may want to consider a Life Membership as we are now self financing for a 6 month period with no interest. You can contact Treasurer Mary Kilzer if you are interested. We took dinner to the Liberty Locker on the Naval Base for the single service men and women stationed there and as always it was fun. We are going to SSG Clarence Sims State Veterans Home with the Post and Men's Auxiliary on Saturday, May 17th. Anyone who wants can come along. If you like bingo, we are looking for people to work shifts at the Emerald Coast Bingo Parlor. We work Fridays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. We will be continuing the monthly Friday Fish Fries during the summer and help is always appreciated.

Need a ride to meetings? Please call me at 234-8918. Until next time, stay dry and be safe. Kitty



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

After six years as president of the VFW Men's Auxiliary, I'll be moving aside for a new leader. John Wilson was elected president at our April meeting. I want to thank John and the other officers who volunteered their service to our organization. I hope every one of our members will provide the support our new officers will require. Once John gets settled in his new home here, I'll spend as much time as he needs to go over all the details of his new position. Once again, thanks to those who stepped up to keep our Men's Auxiliary an important part of the VFW family.

The American Legion also had elections this month. Jim Bowers was elected Commander of our Legion Post 402. Congratulations Jim, and thanks for stepping up to take over this important position.

For the Legion, we continue to do our Friday BBQ (aka Pulled Pork) one Friday a month, and will continue as long as there are folks turning out for the Friday Bingo. The dinner is a bargain at \$5.00. You get a great pork sandwich with a homemade side and chips. When time permits, I'll try to add a desert or a unique side just to keep your interest.

Just one more thing, if you haven't purchased a memorial brick consider doing that this month. These memorial boards are being used by VFW and American Legion for much needed fund raising. Try to lend a hand by purchasing a brick. The forms are next to the bulletin board. The bricks are \$50, \$100 and \$200 dollars.

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

**JUST TWO OF
APRIL'S EVENTS:
YOUTH AWARDS
AND THE
WARRIOR BEACH
RETREAT PARADE**



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

May is here, spring has sprung and *your* canteen is open for business and that means we want see you! We open at 12 noon each day and the bartenders are waiting eagerly to serve you with a smile and a cold beverage. May 1 thru May 3 is Thunder Beach Weekend and the MAUX is serving their great breakfast each morning for your convenience 8 AM – 9:30 AM, a real bargain price for \$6.00. Saturday May 3 there will be a Yard Sale 8 AM – 12 noon. Come join and enjoy breakfast, shop, and then bingo at 1 PM.

Please check the May calendar for all the events that have been scheduled and come out to support your Post during this month and all summer. You as a member of one of our four veterans service organizations keep this Post open and running so do your best to stop in and see us.

Thank you and Best Regards, Billie



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

Hello All!

Our May will start out with a bang, with Thunder Beach going on here in PCB, we have several events at the Post. They include a great MAUX breakfast Thursday through Saturday, and our ever popular Yard Sale that Saturday as well. We are looking for donations of items for the yard sale, and if you'd rather sell your stuff yourself, we'll have tables to rent for \$10, \$15 if you want electricity supplied to the table. Either way, come on out and enjoy the festivities!

In my last column, I wrote about the uptick in brick orders; those bricks have arrived and are on display in the back hall. The membership voted to purchase a brick for outgoing Volunteer President Bev Sandeson and luckily it arrived before she headed back home for the summer. Now that the board is getting more bricks, we hope that others will see them and want to commemorate the service of a loved one or their own service. The brick forms are available in the canteen, next to the Post bulletin board.

Words of Guidance from our Chaplain, Larry Striblin (paparedman@yahoo.com)

This year we had a different kind of observance of a date to remember and that was a Holocaust Day of Remembrance. Our Post Commander Ken Waringa said some fitting words but there is no one who can adequately quantify the sheer terror that those of the Jewish faith dealt with during the years before and during World War II. If you get a chance to visit the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. it will leave you with a greater appreciation for the loss and suffering heaped upon Europe by the Nazi regime in Germany. Our Adjutant, Tom Randall, went to the Museum some time ago and what he still recalls was the main point of the museum and the Days of Remembrance that we now observe is this: That there is still hope, hope that the life stories of Holocaust survivors and the remembrance of those who lost their lives will serve to remind us of the constant need to be vigilant and to confront hatred whenever and wherever it occurs.

WE HONOR THE DEAD BY SERVING THE LIVING, WE ARE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS!

From the Desk of the Judge Advocate, Anna Miner (annaminer@hotmail.com)

Our Post Commander just had to issue a letter of discipline to a post comrade in good standing because of an incident in the Canteen. In point of fact, bodily harm was threatened to other members of the post and auxiliary and that is just unacceptable. The House Committee convened, concurred with the 30-day suspension of canteen privileges and the Commander issued a letter to the individual. How unfortunate that we have to take such actions. We are a band of brothers and sisters united by a common bond of service. We don't like excluding *anyone* from the post where we accept all who accept us for what we are. I am reposting a cut and paste excerpt of the 2014 VFW of the US Congressional Charter, By-Laws, and Manual of Procedure and Ritual, to wit:

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was incorporated by the Congress of the United States on 28 MAY 1936 to be a "national association of men who as soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen served this Nation in wars, campaigns, and expedition on foreign soil or in hostile waters..." To be sure, the reference to gender is dated and the National Bylaws and Resolutions Committee is working to change that language but WE are committed to the following purposes found in Section 230102 of our Congressional Charter:

"The purposes of the corporation are fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, and educational, and are:

- 1) to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members;
- 2) to assist worthy comrades;
- 3) to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans;
- 4) to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America, and fidelity to its constitution and laws;
- 5) to foster true patriotism;
- 6) to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; and
- 7) to preserve and defend the United States from all enemies."

Best Regards, See You at the Yard Sale! Anna Miner



President Ronald Reagan's 1986 Memorial Day Speech at Arlington National Cemetery

Today is the day we put aside to remember fallen heroes and to pray that no heroes will ever have to die for us again. It's a day of thanks for the valor of others, a day to remember the splendor of America and those of her children who rest in this cemetery and others. It's a day to be with the family and remember.

I was thinking this morning that across the country children and their parents will be going to the town parade and the young ones will sit on the sidewalks and wave their flags as the band goes by. Later, maybe, they'll have a cookout or a day at the beach. And that's good, because today is a day to be with the family and to remember.

Arlington, this place of so many memories, is a fitting place for some remembering. So many wonderful men and women rest here, men and women who led colorful, vivid, and passionate lives. There are the greats of the military: Bull Halsey and the Admirals Leahy, father and son; Black Jack Pershing; and the GI's general, Omar Bradley. Great men all, military men. But there are others here known for other things.

Here in Arlington rests a sharecropper's son who became a hero to a lonely people. Joe Louis came from nowhere, but he knew how to fight. And he galvanized a nation in the days after Pearl Harbor when he put on the uniform of his country and said, "I know we'll win because we're on God's side." Audie Murphy is here, Audie Murphy of the wild, wild courage. For what else would you call it when a man bounds to the top of a disabled tank, stops an enemy advance, saves lives, and rallies his men, and all of it single-handedly. When he radioed for artillery support and was asked how close the enemy was to his position, he said, "Wait a minute and I'll let you speak to them." [Laughter]

Michael Smith is here, and Dick Scobee, both of the space shuttle Challenger. Their courage wasn't wild, but thoughtful, the mature and measured courage of career professionals who took prudent risks for great reward—in their case, to advance the sum total of knowledge in the world. They're only the latest to rest here; they join other great explorers with names like Grissom and Chaffee.

Oliver Wendell Holmes is here, the great jurist and fighter for the right. A poet searching for an image of true majesty could not rest until he seized on "Holmes dissenting in a sordid age." Young Holmes served in the Civil War. He might have been thinking of the crosses and stars of Arlington when he wrote: "At the grave of a hero we end, not with sorrow at the inevitable loss, but with the contagion of his courage; and with a kind of desperate joy we go back to the fight."

All of these men were different, but they shared this in common: They loved America very much. There was nothing they wouldn't do for her. And they loved with the sureness of the young. It's hard not to think of the young in a place like this, for it's the young who do the fighting and dying when a peace fails and a war begins. Not far from here is the statue of the three servicemen—the three fighting boys of Vietnam. It, too, has majesty and more. Perhaps you've seen it—three rough boys walking together, looking ahead with a steady gaze. There's something wounded about them, a kind of resigned toughness. But there's an unexpected tenderness, too. At first you don't really notice, but then you see it. The three are touching each other, as if they're supporting each other, helping each other on.

I know that many veterans of Vietnam will gather today, some of them perhaps by the wall. And they're still helping each other on. They were quite a group, the boys of Vietnam—boys who fought a terrible and vicious war without enough support from home, boys who were dodging bullets while we debated the efficacy of the battle. It was often our poor who fought in that war; it was the unpampered boys of the working class who picked up the rifles and went on the march. They learned not to rely on us; they learned to rely on each other. And they were special in another way: They chose to be faithful. They chose to reject the fashionable skepticism of their time. They chose to believe and answer the call of duty. They had the wild, wild courage of youth. They seized certainty from the heart of an ambivalent age; they stood for something.

And we owe them something, those boys. We owe them first a promise: That just as they did not forget their missing comrades, neither, ever, will we. And there are other promises. We must always remember that peace is a fragile thing that needs constant vigilance. We owe them a promise to look at the world with a steady gaze and, perhaps, a resigned toughness, knowing that we have adversaries in the world and challenges and the only way to meet them and maintain the peace is by staying strong.

That, of course, is the lesson of this century, a lesson learned in the Sudetenland, in Poland, in Hungary, in Czechoslovakia, in Cambodia. If we really care about peace, we must stay strong. If we really care about peace, we must, through our strength, demonstrate our unwillingness to accept an ending of the peace. We must be strong enough to create peace where it does not exist and strong enough to protect it where it does. That's the lesson of this century and, I think, of this day. And that's all I wanted to say. The rest of my contribution is to leave this great place to its peace, a peace it has earned.

Thank all of you, and God bless you, and have a day full of memories.



MAY						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK 	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		1 Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM	2 NO BINGO	3 Yard Sale 8AM-12PM Legion Bingo 1 PM Combat Veterans's Motorcycle Assoc. Dice Run
			THUNDER BEACH 1 - 3 May - MAUX Breakfast 6-9:30 AM, \$6.00			
4 Pool Tournament 8 Ball 2 PM \$2.00 to play Win \$20 Bar Tab	5 Cinco de Mayo Legion Officer Mtg. 5:30 PM Legion Mtg. 6 PM	6 FOOLS 5 PM Men's Pool 1-5 PM	7 Bring a Friend to the Post 3-6 PM	8 Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM	9 LAUX Officer Mtg. 2 PM LAUX Fish Fry \$9.00 5:30-6:30 PM Jade-N-Jewel 6-9 PM	10 District Mtg. Port St. Joe 11 AM EDT MAUX Bingo 1 PM
11 Mother's Day VFW Luch 1-2 PM \$10 Mothers Eat Free	12	13 Men's Pool 1-5 PM Entertainment Com. Mtg. 4:30 PM Officer Mtg. 5 PM House Committee Mtg. 5:30 PM	14 Bring a Friend to the Post 3-6 PM	15 Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM	16 VFW Meet New Members Night Build-a-burger w/fries \$5.00 5:30 - 6:30 PM VFW Bingo 6-8 PM	17 Armed Forces Day Sims Visit w/British Car Club 1 PM LAUX Bingo 1 PM Patches Pub Party Bus Stop 4:30 PM
18 American Legion NSA Liberty Locker Dinner 2:30 PM	19 MAUX Meeting 3 PM	20 Men's Pool 1-5 PM Gen. Membership & LAUX Mtg. 6 PM	21 Bring a Friend to the Post 3-6 PM	22 Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM	23 Legion Bar-b-que \$5.00 5:30 - 6:30 PM Legion Bingo 6-8 PM	24 VFW Poppys at Walmart 8 AM -12 PM VFW Bingo 1 PM
25 Bunco 2 PM	26 Memorial Day Flag Retirement 3 PM VFW/Legion/LAUX/MAUX Picnic \$3.00 3:30-5:30 PM w/Skeen Machine 3:30-6:30 PM	27 Men's Pool 1-5 PM	28 Bring a Friend to the Post 3-6 PM	29 Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM	30 VFW Wings \$5.00 5:30 - 6:30 PM VFW Bingo 6 - 8 PM	31 Legion Bingo 1 PM

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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