



The Tidewater Post

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 4809 - Est. 1944
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www.vfw4809.org

Happy New Year 2010

Commander
 Fellow Comrades & Sisters,
HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope each and every one of you had a wonderful Holiday Season. Our Christmas Celebration with the Vets from the VA Hospital was wonderful. A special **"THANKS"** to the everyone for the covered dishes and

desserts; and the time and effort to get the gifts ready to give to our Vets.
 We had a wonderful time at our Post Christmas Party. Our New Year's Eve Party was fun for all who attended.
 Our Junior Girls took the Bears that they had been working on to CHKD. Girls, you have brought smiles to many of the young pa-

tients at CHKD, and tears to many of those who attended. Thanks for the work you do!
 There are a few Special Events in January: On the 8th is the *Post Dinner – hot turkey sandwiches*. On the 16th there is to be a *Vet's House Elvis* show in the big hall. And on the 29th, there will be *Chicken and Dumplings*. Check the calendar for times.

JANUARY, 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
DATES TO REMEMBER: 3: March of Dimes (1938) 17: Persian Gulf War Began (1991) 19: Antarctica discovered (1840) 24: California Gold discovery (1848) 25: 1st Olympic Winter Games (1924) 27: Signing of Vietnam Peace Accord (1973)					1 No Dinner HAPPY NEW YEAR	2 PWP Dance
3 9:00-11:00 MOCA BREAKFAST Maharlika	4 7:00 pm Ladies Aux Meeting PWP Mtg.	5 7:30 pm COOTIE SCRATCH	6 EPIPHANY	7 Remote Control Club	8 6:30-8:00 Post Dinner Hot Turkey Sandwiches PremiumBlend in Canteen	9 9:30-1:00 Distress Vets NARTU
10 9:00-11:00 MOCA BREAKFAST U.F.A.S.	11 7:30 PM POST MEETING MLK DAY COUNCIL	12 7:00 PM MOCA MEETING Pepper Lovers Club	13 Coin Club	14 Rifle Club Civic League	15 No Dinner Jo's Boys in Canteen WINTER	16 Sub Vets Vets House Fund-raiser ELVIS SHOW COUNCIL
17 MOC/MOCA Hospital Visit WINTER	 MLK DAY COUNCIL	19 CWA/RMC 7:00 pm B.O.D.	20 Post/Aux Hospital Visit	21 Alhambra	22	23 COIN SHOW Jr. Girls
24 9:30-1130 COOTIE BREAKFAST Jolly B's 31 Jolly B's	25 7:30 pm POST MEETING	26 AM Fleet Reserve	27 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> WEDNESDAY NITES: FREE Juke Box, POOL & Darts Cribbage \$5.00 Pizza </div>	28	29 6:30-8:00 Post Dinner CHICKEN & DUMPLINGS KARAOKE BIRTHDAY BASH	30

 Comrades: If you have NOT renewed your MEMBERSHIP for 2010, as of 31 December you are NOT A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING. PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW. The Post Membership stands at 87.00% as of 16 December. We still need 160 Members for 100%.

 For the past year I have asked to see more of our members at the Post Meetings. I will continue to ask each of you to attend at least one of our monthly meetings. We need your input on how to make our Post the best in the State.

On a positive note, it was nice to see many of our new younger members at our December Meeting. These are the Comrades who will be carrying on the VFW missions. Let's mentor them well.

During the 2nd Meeting of the month, we have been conducting the VFW Obligation and presenting the Cross of Malta to our new POST MEMBERS who are in attendance – meetings will start at 7:30.

The Volunteers of the Month are *Leonard & Donna Horsfall*.
"Together We Can"

... *Bill Holtzner*
 Commander
 (Cell) 757-297-0121
 col968@yahoo.com

Senior Vice-Commander

Comrades & Sisters,

Happy New Year! The start of another year is that time when many proclaim their "New Year's Resolutions". If you haven't chosen one yet, let me offer some suggestions: Support more of our Post's functions this year! Check the monthly newsletter and see what's planned, and come on out and join your fellow Comrades and Sisters.

A helping hand is always welcomed as is your presence! Participate in one of the Buddy Poppy events by helping at one of the collection sites; or make a monetary donation to the Buddy Poppy program.

If your Annual Membership has expired, or it is getting close, renew now! If you know of a Comrade who has let his or her membership lapse, contact them and encourage them to renew. If you are not a Life Member, please consider becoming one. Fees are as follows and can be paid through a 12- or 24-month payment plan:

Here are the Life Membership Fees:
 Up to age 30 . \$423 1-40 410
 41-50 375 51-60 335
 61-70 290 71-80 225
 81 & over 170

January was named after the Roman two-faced god, Janus (*God of the doorway*) who had one face that looked toward the future, and one face that looked toward the past. It is, on average, the coldest month of the year within most of the Northern Hemisphere, and the warmest month of the year within most of the southern Hemisphere.

... *Bob Clinebell*

Home: 424-5141

Work: 437-4900

rclinebell@cox.net

Junior Vice Commander

Fellow Comrades ;& Sisters,

Welcome to 2010! Let us hope that this year will bring our nation better prosperity and stability so that we may continue to share in the great things our great country has to offer.

This month marks several important events in our military history:

* On January 16, 1991, a United States-led coalition of thirty-four nations launched Operation Desert Storm against Iraqi forces with the objective of liberating the State of Kuwait. On February 26, 1991, the coalition would successfully return control of Kuwait to its people after

defeating the Iraqi forces.

* On January 23, 1968, the USS PUEBLO (AGER-2) was attacked and captured by North Korean naval forces in the Sea of Japan. The incident resulted in the death of Fireman Apprentice Duane Hodges of Creswell, Oregon. He would later be awarded, posthumously, the silver Star for his actions during the attack.

The USS PUEBLO crew, commanded by CDR Lloyd M. Bucher, USN, would be captured and held in captivity for eleven months. They would be released across the "Bridge of No Return" on December 28, 1968. During their captivity, CDR Bucher and many crew members were tortured and mistreated. Upon their release, many were injured and malnourished.

Later, CDR Bucher and the ship's officers and crew would appear before a Navy Court of Inquiry which recommended CDR Bucher's Court Martial. Secretary of the Navy, John H. Chafee, would reject the recommendation citing the suffering already experienced by the ordeal of his captivity. CDR Bucher died on January 28, 1004 in San Diego, California at the age of 76.

The USS PUEBLO is still a commissioned vessel of the United States Navy. It is the fourth oldest commissioned ship after the USS CONSTITUTION (Old Ironsides), the USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65) and the USS CLEVELAND (LPD-7).

The ship is held by North Korea on the Taedong River, Pyongyang, as a tourist attraction. Let this be a reminder of the many unsung sacrifices many of our veterans and current active service members have endured, and even today continue to endure for our country.

Hope you all have a great 2010!

... *Juan R. Gonzalez*
 gonzalez.juan.r@att.net

Chaplain

Comrades & Sisters,

We had one Comrade who passed away:
Edwin B. West.

Sick Comrades are: *Steve Lasseter* (surgery); *Doc Brunner*, *Darryl Moyers*, *Gordon Dodson, Jr.*; and *Bob Lucier.*

Sick Sisters are: *Sue Eckley*; *Donna Fearn*; *Patty "Poo" Baines*; *Theresa Dodson*; and *Brenda Twisdale*, whose father passed away.

Let's keep all of these Comrades and Sisters in your prayers for a quick recovery.

Also, keep all of our Comrades and Sisters who are in harm's way in our hearts and prayers.

God Bless, and keep everyone safe.

Leonard F. Horsfall

Ladies Auxiliary

Dear Sisters & Conrades,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Ladies, I want to thank you for all your love and support during the Holidays! To those of you who helped get everything accomplished, a *GREAT BIG HUG!*

Our Children truly enjoyed their Christmas party and the Balloon Lady was a huge success! Santa, thank you for putting smiles on all our faces!

Our truckload of food was delivered to the Vets House and they were so appreciative. I cannot tell you how proud I am of our Comrades and Sisters who made this event possible! It truly warmed my heart, as I hope it did yours, to be able to help this much deserving cause.

This month is fairly quiet and *WE WILL NOT HAVE A STEAK DINNER IN JANUARY*, as the first Friday is New year's Day.

Don't forget about the Winter Council in Williamsburg, January 15-18. If you have never been, please try to attend. It's a school of instruction and we learn so much at this type of meeting.

Ladies, I am so excited to announce that we made our 100% in MEMBERSHIP!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!! However, please know that just because we made it, we do not need to stop! Every member counts when the VFW goes to Capitol Hill and lobbies for our Vets and their rights. The more members we have, the more votes we have. So please, if you know of anyone who is eligible, sign them up! Let's support our Vets every way we can.

If you are sick, or if you know of someone who needs our support, please do not hesitate to call our Chaplain, *Judy Lasseter*, or myself, and let us know. We want to help but we can't if we don't hear from you.

Think about Life Membership. It's the best way to go!

Life Membership rates are as follows:
(Attained Age as of December 31 of the year applying:

Thru 20 \$220	21-25 210
26-30 200	31-35 190
36-40 185	41-45 175
46-50 170	51-55 160
56-60 150	61-65 140
66-70 130	71-75 115
76-80 95	81-85 75
86-90 60	91 & over 50

Keep your calendar handy for any important dates I have not mentioned.

Come out and join us when you can.

Let us never lose sight of our mission in taking care of our Veterans and their families.

Remember, "Together We Can"

... *Liz Wilson*

Auxiliary President

<mailto:glokline@cox.net>

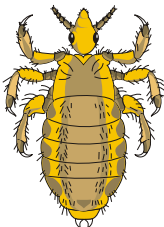
Seam Squirrel

Listen Cooties,

Thanks to all of you who helped with the Vets' Christmas Party at the VA Hospital. It was a great success and everyone had a lousy time.

The Grand Commander thanks Pup Tent #2 for their help toward the \$5,000 food donation that he presented to the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan at their annual Christmas Party.

To all continuous member Cooties: If you haven't paid your 2010 Dues yet, you need to get them paid ASAP. Contact *Gordon Dodson* and make arrangements to pay your Dues and pick up your new membership card.



Starting in February, our Cootie Breakfast will be held on the LAST Sunday of each month. Reminders of this change will be posted on the marquee in the Canteen and the Bulletin Board in the Post lobby. The time will remain the same: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

We are starting a new year and I need your help in coming up with some ideas for fund-raisers. We need to build up our funds to continue our programs for the Vets.

Please check out the calendar on the front page; there's bound to be something there to interest you.

Please continue to remember our Servicemen and women serving at home and abroad in your daily prayers.

I look forward to seeing you at the Scratch on January 5 and our Breakfast on January 24.

May God Bless You; and God Bless America!

L.O.T.C.S.

... *Don Scholten*

M.O.C.A.

Dear Sisters,

I hope everyone had a safe and Happy Holiday.

We will be cancelling our Steak Dinner this month – it's the Winter Council Meeting. The rest of our schedule is the same.

Let's keep up the good work this year. Let's work together; no one person can do it all.

Remember to *Keep them Smiling in Beds of White.*

Sincerely,

... *Patty Baines*

M.O.C.A. President

<mailto:co1968@yayoo.com>

Junior Girls

Hello Everyone,

The Junior Girls had a very busy month and accomplished a lot. They completed the Build-A-Bear Project for CHKD – some good artists in this group.

Three Girls attended the VA Hospital Christmas Party and helped Santa out with the gifts and got a few Hospital hours in.

The Girls have one thing this month, and that's the Coin Show. Girls need to be at the Post by 10:00 a.m. for this. I also want to have a brief Meeting on this day. More info will be sent as the time gets closer.

We had a great Christmas Party at the *Golden Corral*.

Things are a little slow right now; but will be picking up soon. Hope all had a wonderful Holiday Season.

Sincerely,

... *Margaret Leaver*

495-8261

Advisor

From the Canteen
Comrades & Ladies,

Canteen Hours

Mon thru Thurs - 2:00 - 10:00 pm

Fri & Sat - :10:00 am - 2:00 am

Sun & Hol - 10:00 am - 10:00 pm

We will have *FREE* Pool, Juke Box and Darts, \$5.00 Pizza will also be available on Wednesday Nights.

Premium Blend will be in the Canteen on the 8th; *Jo's Boys* will be in the Canteen on the 15th; and our Karaoke Birthday Bash for November, December and January will be on the 29th.

Don't forget the Vets' House Elvis Fund-raiser on the 16th.

In the Bar, we now have Cheeseburgers in addition to our Hot Dogs and Pizza.

There are a few lockers available at \$5.00 per year. Locker Dues are due July 1st.

Help! Help! Remember we are not a bank; please try to keep your checks and big bills (100s & 50s) to a minimum; we have an ATM machine for your convenience.

We are being overwhelmed with members' bottles and have ran out of room. Some members have 3, 4 and even 5 bottles – this is *NOT* acceptable. We will start dating bottles and any bottle left over 60 days will be disposed of. There are still lockers available @\$5.00/year.

Looking forward to your patronage,

... *Phil & Bill*

CANCER UPDATE

ATTENTION ALL MEN

The Miss VFW Pageant will be on Saturday, February 13th. Are you ready to sign up? Don't be shy. Become our next crowned 2010 Miss VFW. The sign-up sheet is posted in the hall and contestants need to register y January 20th.

You will need a pretty dress and a stage name for your sash.

Tickets will be sold at the door for \$15.00 – all proceeds benefit cancer. There will be light refreshments. Time: 7:00 p.m. till

DON'T MISS THIS EVENT!

Hope to see you ALL there. Get ready for fun, fun and more fun. Any questions, please call Georgette at 715-0202.

... *Georgette Dausey*
Cancer Chairperson

Veterans Information
Widows Win SBP Lawsuit
Some will be owed refunds.

DoD announced Oct. 22 it will not appeal the August 2009 ruling of the U.S. Court of Appeals in the case of three widows who sued the government to keep both their VA survivor benefits and their military Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities.

At issue is a 2004 law that restored Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payments to veterans' surviving spouses who remarry after their 57th birthday. Before the law change, survivors lost DIC upon remarriage at any age.

In July 2007, three widows filed a lawsuit claiming the unique wording of the 2004 law entitled widows who remarry after age 57 to receive both SBP annuities from DoD and DIC payments from the VA without any offset between the two.

DoD lawyers argued it was a flawed interpretation, saying the 2004 law's language barring offset for any other

"veteran's benefit" didn't apply to SBP, because SBP is a DoD benefit, not a VA benefit. After the U.S. Court of Federal Claims ruled in favor of the widows, the government filed an appeal.

But the U.S. Court of Appeals rejected the government's appeal, and the Pentagon's decision not to appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court ends the discussion.

DoD has issued guidance to the services and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) to identify SBP annuitants eligible for DIC who remarried after their 57th birthday. Qualifying survivors will be eligible to receive both payments in full, retroactive to Jan. 1, 2004, of the date of their remarriage, whichever is later.

Payments will be reduced by the amount of any previous SBP premium refund and by the amount of any Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance payments the survivor might have received.

DFAS will send letters to all of the affected survivors with an accounting of

the refunds and deductions. Survivors do not need to apply for the payment.

Although the number of survivors affected is relatively small, this decision gives us yet another equity argument to change the law for all remaining SBP/DIC widows.

It simply doesn't make sense to have two separate standards in the law, one that allows payment of full SBP and DIC for survivors who remarry after age 57 and another that forces a dollar-for-dollar offset between the two benefits for all others.



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