

PALM VALLEY POST 233 THE AMERICAN LEGION, INC.

560 North Wilderness Trail
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
904.285.2484
www.al233fl.org



MON ~ FRI: 1100 hrs to 2300 hrs
SAT: 0900 hrs ~ at least 2100 hrs
SUN: 0900 hrs to 2100 hrs

DECEMBER 2008

Commander's Corner

This past month was eventful and exciting. I would like to Thank Everyone who volunteered for the fund raising event for Melita, I am very proud of everyone who took part and worked so hard to make it happen. I think everything went very well and the first ever auction was a big Success, "Thanks Tex!!!" for doing a great job, everyone had a great time. I overheard a lot of people say they would like to "do it again". Because of everyone's generosity, the event raised over \$5,000.00.

On December 6th we will be hosting a brunch for our State Commander and State Auxiliary President. The event will take place at 12:00 noon at the Post and I would like to ask all Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members to attend and show your support for the Post. On the same day, there is a District Meeting at Post 129 at 4:00PM; later that same evening there will be a Commander's Welcoming Dinner at 7:00 PM, for reservations call Post 129.

Now we are looking forward to the Children's Christmas Party on December 20th. If you have a child or grandchild age 10 and under and would like them to participate there will be a sign-up sheet at the Post.

At this time I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!
God Bless all of you and our Troops, Don Mills, Commander Post #233

Auxiliary

First of all, I have a correction to my November newsletter. We sent not 30, but 45 heavy boxes to our warriors in Iraq. Thanks again to all who contributed. However, we are still collecting. This time we need food or small cash donations for our military families. The USO has a list of 400 families of soldiers (E5 or below) who have requested a Christmas Basket.

Thank you to Tina and Sylvia for a great time on the Halloween Party. The music, door prizes and costume contest made the entire evening fun.

Soon we will be delivering a Christmas Basket to 24 elderly folks who live alone in their homes. If you have something an older person would enjoy, please bring it to the Post. Also, if you have some extra fruit from your trees, we would appreciate that donation.

HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS!!! Our children's Christmas Party will be December 20th at 2:00 PM. Johnny & Arlene Jones will be our Mr. & Mrs. Claus and all the children and grandchildren are invited. A sign up sheet is on the woman's restroom door. Since each child on the list will receive a toy and a stocking, please confirm that the child will be able to attend. The sign up sheet will come down on Dec 15th.

It's time to initiate our Girl's State Program for 2009. We need a chairperson for this rewarding project. Please call me if you are interested. Also, I need some Wednesday Night cooks. Please help us, as these dinners are a major source of our income.

Wilber Burnett has requested our prayers for Lillian (Miss Lil). She has been an asset to our Post for many years and we need her back as soon as possible.

To sum up, we need coupons (we mailed \$10,000 worth last month), food (for military families), aluminum can pull-tabs (for Shriners Hospital in Tampa), Campbell soup labels (for Alden Road School), gifts & fruit (for baskets for elderly).

Our next meeting is Dec 11th and our 5th District president and the state president will be visiting our Post on Dec 6th at noon. I hope to see many of you at these two events.

May God bless our families and our Post and may he protect our troops, Ann Cook, Auxiliary President, 285-0579

MELITA DORAN GOLF BENEFIT

As "Capt" you know who says, never try to mention names when thanking people for helping out with a "Group Function", or surely you will leave someone important out. You folks who did all the work for the Melita Doran Benefit know who you are and this is a very special "THANKS" to each one of you. Every aspect of the Benefit was a huge success. I would, however, like to single out our very generous Hole Sponsors for the Golf Tournament, local, in-state and out-of-state. Your individual & most generous contributions were greatly appreciated. Thanks also to VFW Post 3270 for their support.

The Nov. 15 function raised about \$5,200 which brings our fund total very close to \$6,000. Monthly cash distributions are being made directly to Melita and we hope to assist her as much as possible each month, until she is able to return to work. Donations are still being accepted and if you are so inclined, send your check made out to American Legion Post 233, with "Melita Doran Fund" on the Memo line to "Melita Doran Fund", 351 N. Roscoe Blvd., Ponte Vedra, FL 32082. Again, thanks for your donations, participation, hard work and displaying the Spirit of Palm Valley Post 233.

For God & Country, Johnny Jones

From the Adjutant

I just wanted to say THANK YOU to everyone who renewed their membership by the early bird cut off date 11-11-08. We are going to end up with about 274 members (70%) that will be offered a free dinner for their early bird sign up. Keep watching for more information on this as plans evolve. With such a large number we will probably ask for RSVP's of some type so we can plan accordingly.

So, we have about 20% of our members who have not renewed, that's 78 members. Please renew your membership as soon as you can, after the first of the year we again be asking everyone who comes into the Post to show their 2009 membership card. It will help us a lot if you will renew now. As always if you need help with membership dues, let me know, I may be able to help with that.

Welcome to our new members and transfers from other locations. I'd like to meet all of you so please come in the Post as often as you can, get involved if you want to. There is always a place for you to help.

Next month I will try to list all the new additions to our post. We have a great post and I do expect to see great things happen here. After all it's the only place in the world where you can get a Palm Valley Burger.

For Post and Country, Ray Williams, Adjutant

Note from Kathy Church-Auxiliary Membership Chairperson & Christmas News

Thanks to all Auxiliary Members who have paid their dues. We are now at 75%. There are still a few members that sent in \$15.00 and need to send an additional \$5.00 because of the increase in dues. Sorry for the confusion. We welcome new members and encourage current members to invite new members to join. Please come join us at our monthly meeting, the 2nd THU of every month at 7:00 p.m.

On another note, again this year the Auxiliary is hosting the Post Christmas Luncheon. I had so much fun last year that this year I will be coming in early again on Christmas morning to get things started. There will be a sign-up sheet for anyone who would like to bring in a dish or volunteer your time. Any assistance is greatly appreciated!

Kathy Church, Auxiliary Membership Chairperson, 219.3035 or bartenderpost233@yahoo.com

December 2008

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p></p> <p>7 *Breakfast 9-12</p> <p>MEMBERSHIP DRIVE</p>	<p>1 * Lunch: 11-1:30</p> <p>Support Our Troops!</p>	<p>2 * Lunch: 11-1:30</p> <p>God Bless Americal!</p> <p></p>	<p>3 * Lunch: 11-1:30</p> <p>* House Cmte: 5:30</p> <p>* Dinner: 6:30-8:00</p> <p>* Trivia w/Patty O' 8:00-10:00</p> <p></p>	<p>4 * Lunch: 11-1:30</p> <p>* E Cmte: 6:00</p> <p>* Legionnaires: 7:00</p> <p></p>	<p>5 * Lunch: 11-1:30</p> <p>* Steak Night & Entertainment</p> <p>MEMBERSHIP DRIVE</p>	<p>6 **State CDR & State AUX Pres Brunch @ Post 233 @ 12:00</p> <p>**District Meeting @ Post 129 @ 4:00</p> <p>Pearl Harbor Day</p>
<p>14 *Breakfast 9-12</p> <p>VOUNTEER TO COOK!</p>	<p>8 * Lunch: 11-1:30</p> <p>God Bless Americal!</p> <p></p>	<p>9 * Lunch: 11-1:30</p> <p></p>	<p>10 * Lunch: 11-1:30</p> <p>* Dinner: 6:30-8:00</p> <p>* Karaoke w/Tex 8:00-10:00</p> <p></p>	<p>11 * Lunch: 11-1:30</p> <p>* Auxiliary: 7:00</p> <p></p>	<p>12 * Lunch: 11-1:30</p> <p>* Steak Night & Entertainment</p> <p>Support Our Troops!</p>	<p>13 </p>
<p>21 *Breakfast 9-12</p> <p></p>	<p>15 * Lunch: 11-1:30</p> <p>Support Our Troops!</p>	<p>16 * Lunch: 11-1:30</p> <p></p>	<p>17 * Lunch: 11-1:30</p> <p>* Dinner: 6:30-8:00</p> <p>* Trivia w/Patty O' 8:00-10:00</p> <p></p>	<p>18 * Lunch: 11-1:30</p> <p>* S.A.L.: 6:00</p> <p></p>	<p>19 * Lunch: 11-1:30</p> <p>* Steak Night & Entertainment</p> <p>God Bless Americal!</p>	<p>20 Childrens Christmas Party 2:00</p> <p></p>
<p>28 *Breakfast 9-12</p> <p>God Bless Americal!</p>	<p>22 * Lunch: 11-1:30</p> <p>VOUNTEER TO COOK!</p> <p></p>	<p>23 * Lunch: 11-1:30</p> <p>God Bless Americal!</p>	<p>24 </p> <p>Christmas 'Eve!</p> <p><small>NO Lunch, Dinner or Karaoke</small></p>	<p>25 CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON!</p> <p></p>	<p>26 * Lunch: 11-1:30</p> <p>* NO Steak Night</p> <p>VOUNTEER TO COOK!</p>	<p>27 God Bless Americal!</p> <p></p>
<p>29 * Lunch: 11-1:30</p> <p>MEMBERSHIP DRIVE</p>	<p>30 * Lunch: 11-1:30</p> <p>VOUNTEER TO COOK!</p>	<p>31 </p> <p><small>NO Lunch, Dinner or Trivia</small></p>	<p>25 CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON!</p> <p></p>	<p>26 * Lunch: 11-1:30</p> <p>* NO Steak Night</p> <p>VOUNTEER TO COOK!</p>	<p>27 God Bless Americal!</p> <p></p>	<p>28 *Breakfast 9-12</p> <p>God Bless Americal!</p>

www.al233fl.org * Support Our Troops * 285.2484

Friday Steaks: \$12.00/\$14.00 ~ Wednesday Dinner: \$7.00/\$9.00 ~ Sunday Breakfast: \$5.00 ~ Member/Non-Member Donation

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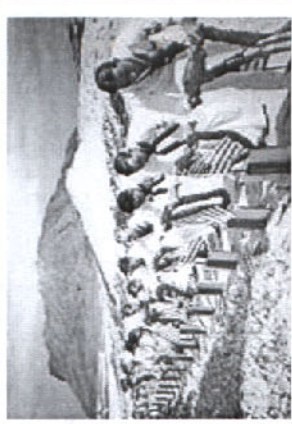
More Supporters

Rag Root & Bama' Girl
August 2009

Charlie & Linda Walker
November 2009

Buddy Linton
October 2010

Tony Kulper
September 2009



"... the day that shall live in infamy..."

FDR, 07DEC1941

We Remember Pearl Harbor

**ANOTHER
COUNTRY
FREE**

Once again,
COURTESY OF
**THE
UNITED
STATES
OF
AMERICA**



France
Germany
Norway
Finland
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Panama
Serbia
Croatia
Bulgaria
Netherlands
Luxembourg
Czechoslovakia
Afghanistan
Denmark
Kuwait
Egypt



December Birthdays

- 1st-Jack Hord & Valerie Galvin
- 2nd-Don Mills
- 3rd-Amanda Trevine
- 5th-John Wagener
- 12th-Angie Russell, Karen Dubin & Alma Height
- 13th-Jaime Ross
- 14th-Carl Caminiti
- 15th-Karen Oneil
- 16th-Mike Wright
- 19th-Susie White & Kelli Crews
- 22nd-Maggie Furr
- 24th-Julita Wilson
- 26th-Melita Doran
- 27th-Marty Mally
- 29th-Cathy Corcoran
- 30th-Jim Smolen
- 31st-Patti Mally & Mickey White

Canteen Manager

As you read this Thanksgiving will be behind us and Christmas is barreling toward us at an alarming rate of speed. Perhaps now is a good time to slow down and take stock of the many blessings we have and reflect on why we are all American Legion members. It's not just for the inexpensive libations, food and entertainment. It's about something far more valuable than that. It's about the comradeships of fellow veterans and family members of veterans and the good we can do as a group to help those in our extended Legion family as well as our community. When our group splinters everyone suffers. This is where the term "trickle down effect" applies. Volunteerism, donations, the Post as a whole, its membership and its employees all suffer and I don't believe that's what anyone really intends. So guys, during the holiday season of good will, let's spread some. Now's the time to check your ego at the door and remember why you are here in the first place.

Spreading good and helping our own, Exhibit A, was the Golf Tournament and Benefit Fish Fry for Melita Doran. The golfers did their thing and had a great time, the food was fabulous (and plentiful), the entertainment was top notch and a grand time was had by all. Best of all, we raised a considerable sum that we all sincerely hope will help to ease the pain and stress that Melita and her family are facing. As we all listened to Melita's lovely voice as she sang, a collective prayer went up for her health as well as her strength to continue singing. Thank You everyone!

As always, Christmas dinner will be served at noon on Christmas Day. There is a sign up sheet on the ladies room door. Please check it out, see what dishes are still needed and volunteer to bring your holiday specialty. We are the only local Post open on Christmas and we traditionally feed quite a crowd. If you have family plans, count your blessings there because there are many that don't. Christmas Dinner at Post 233 with all the trimmings is a treat for so many so please do your part to help even if you can't stay. If you don't cook, volunteer to help keep the food moving and the dishes washed are most welcome. The Auxiliary is in charge on this one and President Ann Cook would love to hear from you and sign you up.

While we're on the subject of volunteers, please give the ones we have a break. The following is a real order on a recent Friday night. One steak, half medium half medium rare, 3 salads with 3 different dressings, and 2 potatoes with 2 different toppings, served promptly at 7:15. (All for one low donation of \$15.00 which is the regular \$12.00 plus \$3.00 split plate charge) Huh? It gets better. That was just one of not just a couple but seven orders that night that went above and beyond the realm of reasonable. Come on folks, those nice people in the kitchen are not food service professionals and we are not in a full service restaurant. They are gracious VOLUNTEERS doing the very best they can to accommodate you but there is a limit. If your order is the one that causes a normally mild mannered nice person to snap, your name will be on the board to cook the following week. Fair enough? Also, if you are not on the evening's cook team, that sign on the kitchen door that says "volunteer cooks only" means you. Compliments to the chef are most appreciated but please hold those as well as other business you'd like to discuss until the volunteers have finished their job and have time to chat. Violators will be given an apron and shown to the nearest sink of dirty dishes. Complaints should be submitted in writing and deposited in the big green box in the parking lot.

This Holiday Season, let's all give our heartfelt thanks for our blessings, our Post, our volunteers, our elected Officers and various committee members who do so much for very little recognition of the good kind. The current economy is pinching all of us but good will, kindness, understanding, an open mind and the gift of a little bit of your time all cost nothing but are worth so much more.

On behalf of my very dedicated staff, and myself we wish you all a safe and Happy Holiday and look forward to seeing and serving you and yours.

For God & Country, Diane Beason, Canteen Manager & your Bartenders: Rita, Anita, Beth, Deb, Michelle & Allyson

Unsung Heroes of Our Post

There are many Unsung Heroes in every walk of life that volunteer their time, talent and finances in their own unique way. I would like to express my gratitude to Bill Lee! For over a decade, Bill Lee has been & still is printing our newsletter, Each & Every Month, at times with a circulation of approximately 700 copies—all at his cost!! Furthermore, for years Bill Lee has supplied the Post with thousands & thousands of pads for our steak night & breakfast tickets indicating the menu selection, as well as, our Trivia answer pads - again, all at his cost!! Thank you Bill Lee for your continued assistance throughout these many years with your unique style of volunteering & donating to your Post!

For God & Country, Patty O'Callahan, postnewsletter@aol.com

OFFICERS

LEGIONNAIRE OFFICERS

Commander: Don Mills
1st Vice: Clen Ward
2nd Vice: Pete Mischler
Adjutant: Ray Williams
Finance Officer: Steve Hutchinson
Chaplain: Bob Nagel
Sergeant-at-Arms: Rick Kapeghian
Historian: Ron Garing

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dave Jordon Roy Havekost
Chuck Kees Jim Watley
Brian Mickley

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Executive: Don Mills
House: TBA
Landscape: TBA
Building: TBA

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President: Ann Cook
1st Vice: Sylvia Bass
2nd Vice: Barbara Turley
Treasurer: Judy Nagel
Secretary: Paula Buckley
Chaplain: Rita Connelly
Sergeant-at-Arms: Judy Mills

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Lillian Burnett
Angie Kees
Valerie Galvin

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION OFFICERS

Commander: Jeff "Tex" Ward
1st Vice: Fred Henderson
2nd Vice: Van Martin
Adjutant: Steve Willis
Sergeant-at-Arms: John Paperelli
Chaplain: Gerry Murray



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