

PALM VALLEY POST 233

THE AMERICAN LEGION OF FLORIDA, INC.

12 North Wilderness Trail
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
Telephone (904) 285-2484
www.palmvalleypost233.com



Hours:
Mon ~ Fri 1100 hrs to 2300 hrs
Sat 0900 hrs ~ at least 2100 hrs
Sun ~ 0900 to 2100 hrs

DECEMBER 2007

Commander's Corner

Our Broker in our Real Estate Office, Lorraine Meighan recently sent me an appropriate message regarding Veteran's Day. It's as follows: "Happy Veteran's Day – definition of a Veteran – Whether active duty, retired, National Guard or Reserve – is someone who, at one point in his or her life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America", for an amount of "UP TO AND INCLUDING MY LIFE". That is honor, and there are far too many people in this Country who choose to no longer understand it. – Author Unknown (Lorraine is a Veteran and was a military nurse).

The previous statement truly says it all about why we exist and our purpose here at Post #233, 560 Wilderness Trail in Palm Valley, Florida. We all need to give back to the Legion. Some volunteer to cook, clean, wait on other members or work inside and out to improve and beautify our facility. Some donate hard earned cash. GOD BLESS THOSE WHO DO BOTH. I want to thank all our volunteers.

My purpose today is to ask all Members to step forward and help your Post, however you see fit

I fully intended to include a before and after picture of the front of our building, since our renovations, painting and repairs are complete and we are so proud of the appearance of the Post. It truly looks fantastic and I want to personally Thank Ron Joy, Jim Durnal and Johnny Jones for their hard work involved in this project. We're now ready for the new roof. The cost of a color picture far outweighed the effectiveness at over \$300 to stuff 630 newsletters we distribute. However, it is time to ask for your support with regards to helping us cover the cost of the project and the financial well being of this Post going forward. I want to thank those, who have anticipated this need and have already stepped forward with their generous donations as follows: John Wagener, Eddie & Donna Floyd, Tommy Sandifer, Our Auxiliary, John Dewitt, Rod Garing, Wilford Lyon, Chuck & Angie Kees, Ron & Lorraine Joy, Jim & Dee Durnal, Rob Kearney, Jack Lynch, Lou Stacks, Johnny Jones, Jack Blessing and yours truly. If I missed anyone, please forgive me and I promise to mention you in our next article. We also accepted donations of \$430. during the Rod Stewart Show, which was very successful and enjoyable. Thank you Kim, Michelle and Betty for securing those donations with all your charm and etc!

Our goal for this fund drive is \$20,000 and we are close to \$5000 to date. A lighted Board will be installed in the Post with our current standing versus our goal of \$20,000. This is aggressive, but required to secure our financial future. I can also assure you, that we will be tightening our belt and finding areas, where we can reduce costs of operation and create future opportunities for income to once again help

Cont. page 3

From the Auxiliary

Unfortunately, our Chaplain, Cathy Corcoran has resigned. Cathy has been an active & valued member of our unit for many years and we will miss her. Therefore, we need a Chaplain whose duties are to open & close our meetings with a prayer and to send cards to our members when they are ill. This is a great opportunity for a new member to become involved in our unit. If you are interested, PLEASE let me know.

All those who attended the Halloween Party had a good time. Thank You Kim Lang and Karen Dubin for organizing it! Thanks also to the following restaurants for supporting our unit with gift certificates: Cheesecake Factory, Matthew's, Ruth's Chris, Chizu Japanese Steak House, and Harry's.

Our craft & bake sale went pretty well, with the help of the bartenders, we sold quite a bit of our baked goods inside also.

Congrats to all who are collecting & cutting coupons. Last month (Oct) we sent over \$5000.00 to our service persons in Egypt. For the month of November we sent \$11,033.48. Keep up the good work!!

The Auxiliary Wednesday Night Dinners are our main source of income – most of which is distributed to our community. Please consider cooking a Wednesday dinner. I'm desperate for new cooks with new ideas & recipes. You can team up with a friend or if you can do part of a dinner, let me know & I'll find you some help.

We are still collecting items for St. Gerrard's, a home for un-wed mothers in St. Augustine. Please bring an item for the babies or a personal item for the mothers to the Post & put it in the meeting room.

The Children's Christmas Party will be December 22nd from 2pm – 4pm. All our children, grandchildren & those in our community are invited. The party is for children 0 to 10 years old. Of course, Santa Claus will attend. Refreshments will be bountiful and there will be entertainment. A sign up sheet will be posted on the door of the Ladies Room. You MUST sign up the child by December 15th so that Santa has time to shop & wrap. We will be purchasing each child a toy and a stocking. So Please try to make sure that each child you sign up is able to attend. Also, if anyone would like to be part the entertainment or to donate refreshments, please let me know.

The Auxiliary will be hosting the Christmas Dinner at the Post this year. We are looking for help with bringing side dishes & desserts. Judy Nagel has donated 1 ham and we are hoping for a donation of a turkey or two. If you can help, let me know. All food can be dropped off a day or two ahead of time; we'll store it in the walk-in cooler.

This is the 3rd year the Auxiliary will be delivering Christmas Baskets to some home- bound, elderly folks. We are looking for items like hand lotion, books, stuffed toys, food, robes, calendars, or anything that might bring a smile to an

Cont. page 3

1st Vice

The Adjutant informs me that we are doing very well with our membership renewals; I just want to remind everyone that we are all recruiters for the Legion. Ask everyone you meet about joining our great organization.

The breakfast team of Bill Furr, Ben & Glen Ward, are more than happy to invite prospective breakfast cooking teams to join us on the 1st Sunday in December for demonstrations on how we do it. Currently, we have only two breakfast teams; Furr, Ward & Ward and the Dubin & Dubin.. we need four more teams so these teams can have a break. Step up to the "plate" and come join "**The Few, The Proud, The Sunday Morning Purveyor's of Breakfast**". As JFK would have said, "Ask not what your Legion can do for you, but Can I have a Sunday Morning Breakfast Team?" come join us, it's a lot of fun and your help is needed.

Support Our Post
Clen Ward
1st Vice

Adjutant

We are at 92% of our goal for 2007-2008 membership year. Early Bird renewals ended on Veteran's Day. Your card will expire on January 1, 2008. Canteen and voting privileges require a 2008 card after this date.

Our Post 400 transfers are coming in by the bundles for 2008. Anyone with questions on this programs see Clen Ward, Roy Havekost or Rodney Garring. All transfer cards for 2008 will be issued in January.

Have a Great Holiday Season, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

For God and Country
Ric Smith, Sr
Adjutant

S.A.L.

Greetings and Happy Holiday to all our members! I can't believe 2008 is almost here. I am looking forward to the coming year as many exciting events are in store for our Post.

On Nov 18th we held a kitchen renovations fund- raising event. Ron Joy, Van Martin and "crew" cooked their special smoked meats and everyone enjoyed the great sounds of **FLAT BLACK**. Thanks to all of you who volunteered your time and efforts to make it so successful- especially Paul Zito who worked his magic all afternoon in the kitchen. We raised more money to help complete the renovations, "Iron Mike" Callahan's life was celebrated, AND we donated all large amounts of extra food to a school for autistic children. These special kids experienced a "Palm Valley" style Thanksgiving dinner. Way to go Gang!

As I started in the November newsletter, the Post has an inventory of new U.S. flags (3'x 5' being the most popular size) for purchase. These are best quality outdoor flags as "Legion- Like" prices. We encourage you to place your worn flags in the "mail box" outside the front entrance and come inside and select your new flag. If you don't find the size or type of flag you require, please notify a bartender (or see me) and we will order it for you. If you have any other flagpole or flag requirements I will be happy to assist you.

On Wednesday nights I am at the Post to enjoy the always-fantastic dinner. After dinner, Chuck Kees and I host

Cont. page 4

2nd Vice

For many years, I've seen my predecessors at Post 233, 2nd Vice Commander use the column every month to issue urgent pleas for **Help** in the galley. **Need cooks** has always been the theme of the 2nd Vice's message. Well, "**Need Cooks**" is just **NOT** getting it done. I've never been able to understand how a Post with 376 + members relies on a hard -core group of approximately 20 members to facilitate the programs that generate the bulk of it's revenue. After several conversations with both old and new Legion members, it occurred to me where the root of the problem may be, and what may help resolve the situation. **(A)** Enliven the membership with information about what is involved. **(B)** Educate the membership to help defray negative perceptions.

With that said, here goes.....

As 2nd Vice, I am mandated by Legion chapter to administer the Post food service program which in turn helps drive the canteen operation, which is responsible for 95% of our revenue (other than donations). Specifically, my responsibilities address (4) programs:

(A) Friday Night Dinners: We need 12 "Captains", who lead the "Team" that works 4 times a year. A "Team" consists of a steak griller, expeditor, two servers and an order taker. Sixty (60) Prime New York Strip steaks are picked up from Terry's Country Store (Penman Road) by a Legion volunteer each Friday morning and delivered to the Post. The Post canteen staff prepares the salad, baked potatoes, rolls, etc in advance, leaving only steak prep and set up for the cooking team which arrives between 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM. The order taker takes orders at 6:30 PM sharp. The Result: The best 16 oz strip, baked potato, trimmings and salad in North Florida. Oh, I forgot.... a \$10.00 donation is required.

(B) Wednesday Night Specialty Dinners: Many, many "Thanks" to the ladies of the Auxiliary who showcase their culinary skills every other Wednesday, leaving approximately 25 Wednesday evenings annually to the general membership. The meals may be prepared at home or in the Post kitchen and personal "Specialties" are encouraged. The number of meals served range from the requested minimum of 40 to several events by some ambitious "Show Offs" going well over 100. The cooking team is entitled to up to \$200.00 reimbursement although many "Chefs" donate their food cost. The Result: Some of the best home cooking in North Florida. Oh, I forgot... a \$5.00 donation is required.

(C) Sunday Morning Breakfast: This popular program is an amazing deal, but typically is our largest manpower headache. While the entire menu is at the discretion of the "Cook", most popular breakfast items are available. From sausage gravy, bacon, sausage, omelets, French toast, potatoes, grits, etc. All food items are provided by the Post and orders are taken by the bartenders. A 3 person crew works best and breakfast is served from 9:00AM to 12:00 NOON. Oh, I forgot... A \$5.00 donation is required.

(D) Monday through Friday Lunch: Served 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM our crew of volunteers offer a moderately priced menu including burgers, dogs, sausage dogs, grilled cheese, and chicken sandwiches. If you've never enjoyed our famous "Palm Valley Burger", it's a shame. My personal thanks go out to our veteran lunch cooks. Charlie Walker - Monday, Dave Cook - Tuesday, Chuck Kees - Wednesday, Dick Salzarulo - Thursday, and Steve Hutchenson - Friday. Substitutes are always needed and encouraged. Oh, I forgot...a donation is required.

Cont. page 3

Commander, cont. from page 1

secure our financial future. The Members of this Post are a phenomenal group of People, especially working together towards the same goal or like the Indians used to say, " Lets get into the Tepee and shoot out". In fact, Lorraine & Ben Joy recently spruced-up the outside of our Post along with Ronnie & Sylvia Bass hand mowing around the Pavilion while Don & Judy Mills cut the grass on the North Forty. Thank you all you're the best.

We designated Bill Walker; Volunteer of the Week when he drove in from Adrian, Michigan arriving on Friday afternoon and inquiring where he could help. Two days later, Bill delivered Sunday Breakfast to the members and his picture appeared on the front door as VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK. Thank you Billy and welcome back.

The Veteran's Day Ceremony at Ponte Vedra Valley Cemetery was heartwarming with the Bag-pipers, Southern Cruiser's Riding Club, Rider-less Horse, and the Korean War Vet's Presentation. Also, our own Ric Smith gave a very nice talk and recognized those in attendance from the various wars and conflicts. The Cruiser's and others came back to our Post for a Luncheon and once again complimented us on such a pleasant atmosphere here, at 233 (your Post). Yes, we are all very proud. A special thank you to Arlene, Dee, Tayla, Paula, Ann and others, who prepared dishes of food for the Veteran's Day Luncheon.

All For Freedom
Jim Ross
Commander

Canteen Manager

As you read this the Thanksgiving Holiday has passed and we are well into the Christmas Season. The exterior facelift on our building has been completed and the halls have been decked. If you haven't seen the building improvements yet, you are in for a treat. After the construction phase, Lorraine Joy and Dan Wortman worked tirelessly for several days on the cosmetic details painting the fences and trim, clearing trash and debris and landscaping. The result is quite impressive. Now is the time to come into the Post, check out the improvements, enjoy the relaxed but festive atmosphere and share a Holiday toast with friends.

The Auxiliary will be preparing and serving Christmas Dinner on the 25th and as always, volunteers are needed. While many of us do have family plans, please remember that there are many who do not have that gift and will spend the Holiday with their Legion family. Volunteer to bring a covered dish or dessert and drop it off on your way to Grandma's.

While supplies last, we are offering drink specials on a number of call liquor brands and premium beers. Check the list on the bar and try something new at a greatly reduced price!

Don't forget that the Post is the best deal in town for lunch. Our daily volunteer cooks do a fabulous job and you just can't beat the quality or the price. Take a break from the shopping frenzy, check your stress at the door and enjoy a great lunch at a price that will leave you enough left over to keep shopping. Wednesday and Friday night dinners are also a great value with good food, live entertainment and friendly faces. On alternate Wednesdays you can test your skills at Trivia with Chuck and Tex or indulge your secret desire to be a star on Karaoke with Tex. Friday nights feature

Cont. page 4

Auxiliary, cont. from page 1

older persons face. Please call me if you have an idea or a contribution.

Miss Lil & her husband Wilber collect aluminum pull-tabs for the Shrine's Children's Burn unit Hospital in Tampa. Please save your tabs at home & deposit them in a basket in our restroom (the basket is located next to the coupon basket).

Georgia Barns will be decorating the Post for Christmas on November 23rd. anyone who would like to help, just show up around noon.

Our December membership meeting will include a cookie exchange. If you bring a dozen or two, you can take a dozen or two home (unless of course, we eat them all). Our next meeting is December 13th.

DON'T FORET: Coupons, pull tabs, cookies, items for St. Gerrard's & time sheets.

May God Bless our Post & our Unit
Ann Cook
President
285-0579



2nd Vice, cont

And there you have it. I still have a few more thoughts for those of you who are hesitant to get involved due to "Kitchen Fright".

- 1) Our membership is most appreciative of your efforts, and complaints just **DON'T** happen.
- 2) If 10 people will volunteer to cook **ONE (1)** Wednesday night meal **A YEAR**, our problems are over.
- 3) You **WILL NOT** be stranded alone! Both me and my deputy, Chuck Kees stand ready to **SUPPORT, TRAIN** and **HELP** you in any way.

Please get involved, and contact me or Chuck.

Bob Schroeter: Cel 904-635-5272
bobjaxbch@comcast.net

Chuck Kees: cell 904-923-0764
CkeesJr@aol.com
"NEED COOKS"!

For Post and Country
Bob Schroeter
2nd Vice

**From the 5th District Commander
of the American Legion**

When you are making out your Christmas list this year, please include the following:

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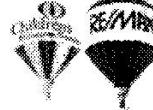


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Here's something Every American... Cont.

We in the United States, have all heard the song "Taps". It is the song that gives us the lumps in our throats and usually tears in our eyes. But, do you know the story behind the song? If not, I think you will be interested to find out about its humble beginnings. I have felt the chills while listening to "Taps" but never knew the story behind the song and I didn't know if you had either, so I thought I'd pass it along.

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.

During the night, Capt Ellicombe heard moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment.

When the Captain finally reaches his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breathe and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his son! The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status, and asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. His request was only partially granted. Out of respect for the father, they said they could give him only one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. The haunting melody we now know as "TAPS" was born.

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January 2008

Rick Kapeghian
January 2008

John Cheek
March 2008

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Gregory Patrizio
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Eddie & Donna Floyd
In memory of Mattie
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December Birthdays

1. Jack Hord
2. Don Mills
3. Amanda Trevino
5. John Wagener
12. Angie Russell
14. Carl Caminiti
15. Karen Oneill
16. Mike Wright
19. Susie White
22. Maggie Furr
26. Melita Doren
27. Marty Mally
29. Cathy Corcoran
31. Patty Mally
Mickey Williams

Palm Valley American Legion Post 233

Johnny Jones
Past Commander

(904) 285-2484

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Volunteer of the Month

Bill Walker



08/08

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MYQUES

08/08

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Canteen Manager, cont.

live music for your listening or dancing pleasure. At this time of year as we all see our bank balances go down and our stress levels skyrocket, the Post is by far your best bet to relieve both those problems and enjoy some Holiday spirit to boot.

As we go through the Holiday Season remember those less fortunate, the elderly and those who are away from their families defending our country. Also keep our ever-effervescent weekend bartender, Kathy Church, in your thoughts and prayers as she recovers from recent back surgery. Having been there and done that, I know it's no day at the beach, but something tells me it will take more than a surgeons knife to keep Kathy down for long!

As always, your comments of suggestions on how we can better serve you are welcome. See me at the Post or e-mail me at dianebeason@comcast.net.

Have a safe and happy Holiday!

For God and Country
Diane Beason
Canteen Manager

S.A.L., cont.

"Team Trivia" (the best trivia show in the area!) and on alternating Wednesday, I host a Karaoke show. If you have not participated in these fun events yet you should make plans to be there. We are entertaining and "educational". Check your newsletter calendar for the next show.

REMEMBER THOSE LOST AND HARMED WHILE SERVING THEIR COUNTRY, AND THOSE PRESENTLY SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES.

There are approximately 30 members that have not paid their SAL membership dues. Please come by the Post with your check (or mail it in) A.S.A.P. We also want to have everyone's e-mail address so when you get a chance, please send Steve Willis a quick note to pvpost233@bellsouth.net.

If any of you have any questions or suggestions regarding Post issues, my phone number is 904-233-0976 and my email is flagman49@yahoo.com.

Wishing you a safe and Happy Holiday Season!

For God and Country
Jeff "Tex" Ward
Commander – S.A.L.



Service Officer

As your Post Service Officer I will help you understand the many benefits for Veteran's available from the Veteran's Administration and the State of Florida, and help you file claims for these benefits. Among these benefits are:

- Health Care at VA facilities
- Compensation for service connected disabilities
- Pension for Disabled Veteran's and their dependants

- Burial Benefits
- Education Benefits
- Home Loan Guarentee
- Life Insurance
- VA Nursing Home and ? Care

Are you in receipt of retired pay from the military, have a service related disability and have waived a portion of your retired pay to receive VA disability payments? You may be eligible for Combat Related Special Compensation. It is designed to restore lost retired pay.

If you have any questions about benefits, call me at 285-5118

Maury Lazenby
Service Officer

Here is something every American should know, but most don't until they read this. We in the United States, have all heard the song "Taps". It is the song that gives us the lumps in our throats and usually tears in our eyes. But, do you know the story behind the song? If not, I think you will be interested to find out about its humble beginnings. I have felt the chills while listening to "Taps" but never knew the story behind the song and I didn't know if you had either, so I thought I'd pass it along.

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cont. page 6



Palm Valley American Legion



December 2007 Events



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Breakfast 9:00-12:00 Cooking Bill Furr, Glen & Ben Ward	2 Lunch 11-1:30 SUPPORT OUR TROOPS	3 Lunch 11-1:30	4 Lunch 11-1:30 Dinner 6:30-8:00pm Rita cooking Bartenders stew Trivia w/ Tex	5 Lunch 11-1:30	6 Lunch 11-1:30 Executive Board Meeting Legionnaires meeting 7PM	7 8 5PM -until Monthly Birthday Celebrate your birthday at the Post
Breakfast 9:00-12:00 Cooking Mike & Karen Dubin	9 Lunch 11-1:30	10 Lunch 11-1:30 GOD BLESS AMERICA	11 Lunch 11-1:30 Dinner 6:30-8:00pm Legion Need cooks Karaoke/Chuck & Tex	12 Lunch 11-1:30 Dinner 6:30-8:00pm Legion Need cooks	13 Lunch 11-1:30 Legionnaires meeting 7PM	14 15 Need Cooks Steak Night 6:30-8:30pm ENTERTAINMENT Austin Williams
Breakfast 9:00-12:00 Need breakfast cooks	16 Lunch 11-1:30 WELCOME ALL LEGIONNAIRES	17 Lunch 11-1:30	18 Lunch 11-1:30 Dinner 6:30-8:00pm Crystal & Friends cooking Trivia w/ Tex	19 Lunch 11-1:30 Karaoke/Chuck & Tex	20 Lunch 11-1:30 Aux Meeting 7 PM	21 22 Lunch 11-1:30 Steak Night 6:30-8:30pm Need Cooks ENTERTAINMENT Wayne Saunders Kid's Christmas Party 2pm - 4pm Santa will be here
Breakfast 9:00-12:00 Need breakfast cooks	23 Lunch 11-1:30	24 Merry Christmas Christmas luncheon	25 Lunch 11-1:30 No Dinner	26 Lunch 11-1:30 Sal Meeting 7:00pm	27 Lunch 11-1:30 Steak Night 6:30-8:30pm Need Cooks ENTERTAINMENT Doyle Primm	28 29
Breakfast 9:00-12:00 Need breakfast cooks	30 Lunch 11-1:30 New year Eve Limited Hours	31 January Happy New year	1 Karaoke/Chuck & Tex			
\$5.00 Donation for Sunday's Big Breakfast						
\$5.00 Donation for Wednesday Dinner						
\$10.00 Donation for a great Steak Dinner & entertainment on Fri.						