



VFW RETIREMENT HOME

Patriot Beacon

November -
December 2009
Volume 5, Issue 5

VFW Home or Homes, Inc.

13005 N.E. 135th St. Fort McCoy, FL 32134
Phone: (352) 236-0823 Fax: (352) 236-2493
Website: www.vfwretirementhome.flvfw.org



Welcome New Residents

Joe Bressler
Charles Campbell

November Birthdays

Don Lee	23
Frankie G	26

VFW Retirement Home Hosts

Veterans Day Salute and Fall Bazaar

Saturday, November 7, 2009

9:00am to 3:00pm

Special Veterans Program 1:00pm

Special Musical Presentation by Spirit of God Singers

❖ Vets Visiting Vets "Open House" and more

Food and Beverages Available

Open to Public

Location: 13005 NE 135th St. Fort McCoy, FL 32134

For information call 352-236-0823



VFW Retirement Home Hosts 4th Annual

Christmas in Fort McCoy

"AN AMERICAN SOLDIER'S CHRISTMAS"

A Holiday Tribute to our Armed Forces

Friday, December 18, 2009

Program 7:00pm

Tree Lighting, Holiday Music

Salute to our Veterans

Candle Light Sing and more...

Open to the Public

13005 N.E. 135th St. Fort McCoy, FL

For more information call 236-0823



NOVEMBER 2009 EVENT CALENDAR

Monday, 2

VFW Post 12070 Meeting 7:00pm

Tuesday, 3

Ice Cream Social 2:00pm

Saturday, 7

Veterans Salute and Fall Bazaar

9:00am – 3:00pm

Veterans Salute 1:00pm in Pavilion

Sunday, 8

Marion County Veterans Park 6:30pm

Monday, 9

Advisory Council Meeting 2:00pm

Tuesday, 10

Ice Cream Social 2:00pm

Wednesday, 11

VETERANS DAY

VFW Home and Post 12070

Veterans Day Program – 11:00am

Friday, 13

Catholic Mass with Father George 10:00am

Friday, 13

Red Hot Hatters Visit Home– 11:00am

Tuesday, 17

Ice Cream Social 2:00pm

Wednesday, 18

Angels Talk – Fall Prevention 11:00am

Monday, 23

Advisory Council Meeting 2:00pm

Tuesday, 24

Senior Home Care Talk 11:00am

Getting through the Holidays Stress Free

Tuesday, 24

Ice Cream Social 2:00pm

Sponsor: First Baptist Church Salt Springs

Entertainment Chuck Tyler

Thursday, 25

THANKSGIVING DAY

Saturday, 28

Chambers Farm Family Pow Wow 11:00am

Catholic Communion Service at the Home

1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays at 10:00am

Message from the Director ~

Dear Residents and Staff,

The Holiday Season is already here, wow our 2nd Christmas together... We have come a long way since our first one and I would like to commend you all for your patience and support as we have moved forward to improving "your home"... We have a long way to go and maybe by early January the bulldozers and trucks will start the new wing honoring Women Veterans...

As the Holidays starts I would like to wish all of you a safe Holiday Season from all the staff here at the Home. I ask you to please participate in all the Christmas parties that are scheduled for you from different VFW Districts and organizations from around the State of Florida. These groups raise money year around in order to come here to Fort McCoy to see you. Please check the Holiday Visits schedule posted in front of Gera's office and come out and join them when they visit. Be the gracious hosts and hostesses to our guests as you have done in the past.

Finally, if you have an issue please see the staff in order for us to assist you in solving it... We as a staff are glad that you are here and we work for you, so please speak to us if you have a problem or need assistance! May God bless you all and please be nice to one another!

Feliz Navidad,

AL, Amy, Amanda, Alexis & Allison Lugo



Pictured above are Emmanuel Tormes, Special Assistant to Governor Charlie Crist who presented the VFW Home Director LTC Al Lugo a new State of Florida flag for his office on Tuesday, November 17th.

Newsworthy Notes:

Kudos and Thank You to our friends and partners below who have been involved in some way the past few months.

Patriots Day 9-11 Event (See article pg 4)
POW/MIA Remembrance Day
Whistling Tom
AMVETS 1208 and VFW Post & LA 10208
Ice Cream Social Sponsor
First Baptist Church Salt Springs
Entertainment Chuck Tyler VFW Post 3349
American Legion Post 210 Auxiliary
Home Respiratory Solutions Presentation
VFW Post & Auxiliary 10137 Bushnell
VFW Post 8191 LA District 8
Dan Lago & American Indian Assoc (Orlando)
Father George of Our Lady of the Springs
Catholic Church
Di Lemon Music Director St Joe's Mission Church
Christ the King Catholic Church
John and Mary Connelly
Girl Scout Troop 570
Oktoberfest - Dagmar and the Wienerschnitzels
Wally & Karen Klinka
Dr. Ernest Walden Audiologist
Yulette Christie - Marion County Health Dept.
Joe Fricks, Helen Martin, Jean Kafer
Elaine Van Meter, Charles Hayman, Georgeanne Shore
Jan Dill, Ruth Gilliland, Buch Boucher
Ocala Chapter M.I. Hummel Club
Dept of FL VFW Ladies Auxiliary
VFW Post 12070

Thank you to EVERYONE (too many to list) who was a friend, partner, sponsor, contributor or a volunteer to the Veterans Home in 2009, and want you to know we are appreciative of your support and for all you do for our Veterans !

Have a blessed and joyous Holiday Season! We look forward to your involvement with the Home in 2010!

Gera Judge

Fund Development/Community Relations

Thanksgiving Blessing

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food, For love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson



VFW Home Residents and staff enjoyed a great visit, camaraderie, fried chicken dinner hosted by the **AMVETS 1208 at VFW Post 10208** on Sunday, Sept 27th.

Thank you to Ben Robbins and fellow **AMVETS** members, along with **VFW Post 10208** Commander Jim Beeler and Post and Auxiliary members for a great afternoon and the genuine hospitality.



On Saturday, September 26th the Home had some special visitors from the **American Legion Auxiliary Post 210 Ocala**, who brought with them a patriotic cake and ice cream. In addition, they entertained the residents with an array of patriotic and gospel tunes. We thoroughly enjoyed their visit, treats and camaraderie.

We look forward to their next visit!

Residents and Staff attended the 2nd Relief fundraiser held at **VFW Post 10137 Bushnell**. The event is the 2nd annual fundraiser that raises money for the Home's residents and staff in need.

A great time was had by all and included a tasty chicken dinner cooked and served by Post volunteers. As always, their hospitality has no bounds when it comes to the Veterans Home.

We would like to thank all who were involved that day, former Home Director Bob Sprute, who initiated the special fundraiser event, Jerry Diaz Commander and members of Post 10137, along with members of VFW District 7.



Das Vas Gut! The Home's residents and guests had an opportunity to take part in a unique **Oktoberfest** presented on Sunday, October 18th. Our entertainment was provided by **Dagmar and the Wienerschnitzels**.

Other characters in the fun, comical program were the snow white doves, hooting owls, marching ants, talking rats, muddy pigs and more. **Danke to the wonderful cast and crew who participated that afternoon, as we certainly enjoyed the laughter and singing, as well as look forward to next year's Oktoberfest!**

Pictured are waitress Augustine (staff Gera Judge) Gustav (Peter Gilbert) his wife Groinhilda (Shirley) and the Maestro Fritz.





On behalf of the VFW Retirement Home in Fort McCoy, the residents and our staff, we would like to extend a note of appreciation to local first responders, groups and individuals who donated their time, as well as to those who participated and attended our **September 11, 2009 Tribute to First Responders** in the Home's pavilion.

The program's theme "Remember, Reflect and Reunite" proved to be a truly moving tribute to our first responders. The heroism and courageous efforts of our first responders, fire-rescue, EMTs, police, our military and many citizens, who stepped up to the plate met the challenge of saving lives, rescuing the injured and cleaning up after the September 11, 2001 tragedy will never be forgotten, but live on in American history.

We extend a thank you to the following for assuring that this year's event was another outstanding community driven tribute: Heather Danenhowe, Marion County Public Information Manager, along with the Home's Director Al Lugo who did a great job co-emceeding the event, our Keynote Speaker LTC John Edsall U.S. Navy (R) Director of Aerospace and Military Science Director at Francis Marion Military Academy, Marion County Sheriff's Office and Marion County Fire Rescue, Jerry Howard of Clay Electric Co-op, Marion County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard, Marion County Veterans Service Office, Marion County Sheriff's Office Pipe Band, Marion County Sheriff's Office Swat Unit, Rolling Thunder Chapter 3, Marion County Composite Squadron Civil Air Patrol Cadet Unit FL 361, Lt Dennis Chesser - Marion County Sheriff's Office, Pastor Eric Gervais, First Baptist Church Salt Springs, vocalist Steffanie Renae, Di Lemon and Spirit of God Singers, Vince and Valerie Elston, Boy Scout Troop # 563, Girl Scout Troop 570, Rachel and Crystal Gordon, Stephen Pelc and Courtney Scroggins videographers from Lake Weir High School, Peter and Shirley Gilbert, Ben Robbins, Bugler Calvin Batts Marion County Sheriff's Office, Kenneth E. Doncaster VFW Post 12070, photographer Home Resident James Donovan, volunteers and VFW Home staff and event planning committee.

In addition, we would like to thank our event sponsors, Don Cribbs and Publix Super Market # 061, Phyllis Maske and Golden Flake Snack Foods, Randy German and Sysco Foods, Sheri Britt and BB&T Bank, Jim Baxley and Seabreeze Seafood and Distributors, along with VFW Post 12070, who contributed towards the complimentary food and beverages, served that evening.

Gera Judge
Events Coordinator/Community Relations

Staff Scribbles and More...

LeeAnna's Kitchen Korner

First, I would like to **welcome all our new residents** and remind you that if you have ideas or questions regarding kitchen and menu concerns, please see me to discuss.

Next, we can never say enough thank you's and at this time I would like to extend a special thank you on behalf of the Home to Wally and Karen Klinka for their continuous efforts in bringing the Home many types of food donations from various businesses and organizations in the community. In addition, thank you Jim Campbell donation of plastic cups and Bob and Carolyn Riggs for the donation of coffee mugs for the dining room.

Thank you to all our contributors and friends of the Home for their support this past year, as we are very grateful for all you do for us.

Flu Season Alert: Scratchy throat, fever, upset tummy, etc - if you are not feeling well, please report it to a Home staff and let us know what your symptoms are, as there is a new 2009 flu strain, H1N1, that has caused a lot of medical/health issues throughout the country and around the world in the young and among chronically ill seniors. **Our main goal is to keep you healthy, safe and happy.**

The Holidays are fast approaching and it is the only time of year that we put out a TIP box for residents who feel they would like to reward the Kitchen, Maintenance, Housekeeping and Transportation personnel. If you prefer to contribute to a particular staff member during this time, it is your prerogative. There will be two boxes set-up in the dining room during the month of December if you would like to contribute. The funds are split equally among the staff, excluding head staff.

Enjoy the spirit, love and joy of Thanksgiving and Christmas and please relax, don't stress and enjoy the Holidays making new memories with your family here at the Home.

LeeAnne Rabida
Kitchen Supervisor

GRATITUDE: Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow. ~ Melody Beattie

Maintenance Dept. Update

Dear Residents,

We are working on the west wing windows at this time and will be finishing painting the outside of the building by the holidays.

We have made a few more changes to the entrance and soon will be landscaping and perhaps adding some additional concrete, please be careful as we are improving the entrance to "your home"

If there is anything that you need done in your rooms please come to the maintenance office and fill out a work order, that way we can track it and ensure the work is completed and logged! Also do not forget to turn in your **Transportation Request** as soon as possible~ Thank you!

From your friendly
Maintenance/Transportation/Housekeeping Dept.

Message from the Front Office:

To all Residents:

The Holidays are just around the corner and if you need any special assistance with greeting cards, wrapping gifts for family or other, please feel free to call me to discuss at ext 221.

We are currently working on setting-up another Senior Expo sometime in January that will include contacts who will be available to assist you with your pre-needs (attorney, crematory and funeral home), along with bank representatives and Veterans Services.

I would like to wish each of you a blessed and safe Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday and look forward to serving you in the New Year.

Sheila Newcome

Secretary/Resident Coordinator

A Christmas Wish

**God give you blessings at Christmas time;
Stars for your darkness, sun for your day,
Light on the path as you search for the Way,
And a mountain to climb.
God grant you courage this coming year,
Fruit for your striving, friends if you roam,
Joy in your labor, love in your home,
And a summit to clear.**

~ Myra Scovel

VFW HOME BULLETIN BOARD

DECEMBER 2009 EVENT CALENDAR



Tuesday, 1

Ice Cream Social 2:00pm

Entertainment Golden Troopers

Saturday, 5

VFW Post 5625 Chiefland Visit 1:00pm

Sunday, 6

Dallon Kraus Eagle Scout Banquet 2:00pm

Monday, 7

Pearl Harbor Day Anniversary

VFW Post 12070 Meeting 7:00pm

Tuesday, 8

Ice Cream Social 2:00pm

Holiday Visit by the D.A.R. & Red Hot Hatters

Friday, 11

Catholic Mass with Father George 10:00am

Saturday, 12

VFW District 13 Visit 1:00pm

Sunday, 13

Eagles Nest Mobile Home Park Visit 2:00pm

St. Joe's Spirit of God Carolers 3:00pm

Monday, 14

Advisory Council Meeting 2:00pm

Tuesday, 15

Ice Cream Social 2:00pm

Friday, 18

Christmas in Fort McCoy

Program 7:00pm

Saturday, 19

Silver Springs Shores Elks Lodge 2730 12:00pm

Tuesday, 22

Ice Cream Social 2:00pm

Sponsor: First Baptist Church Salt Springs

Entertainment Chuck Tyler

Friday, 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, 28

Advisory Council Meeting 2:00pm

Catholic Communion Service at the Home

1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays at 10:00am

The Holiday Visits noted above are Christmas Parties for the Residents. Please be sure to visit with our guests during that time, as they are very generous to you and to the Home all year long!

December Birthdays

Paul Palmquist 4

Ed Mitchell 16

Yesterday, December 7, 1941: "No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory."

"With confidence in our armed forces - with the unbounding determination of our people - we will gain the inevitable triumph - so help us God."

~ Excerpts from Pearl Harbor Speech by F.D.R.

VFW Retirement Home Advisory Council

Attention Residents:

The Training Sessions between Fire Marshall, Jim Donovan and newly appointed Assistant Marshalls will begin soon.

There was a consensus among Council members and Residents that the items submitted to the Director are being addressed and things are going up hill.

Compliments, complaints, suggestions, ideas, etc. need to be put in writing, signed and turned in to a Council Representative. You are welcome to attend the Meeting to engage in the discussion.

The Advisory Council Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 2:00pm and is **open to all residents** to attend.

Hobart Love Chairman

I would like to give thanks to resident Doug Priddy for volunteering to assist me in picking up our litter around the Home and grounds during his daily walks.

Resident Ed Mitchell "Buttman"

	<p>Wayne E. Carrigan</p> <p>CANDIDATE FOR STATE SURGEON</p> <p>H. 352-490-4190 C. 352-949-1167 scarrigan@bellsouth.net</p>
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