VFW POST 3904 NEWS YOU CAN USE

STEWART-WENDELL DISPATCH

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3 DECEMBER 2022

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN WINNERS

This year's contest was incredible! We received over 114 Patriot's Pen entries and 32 Voice of Democracy (VOD) entries. Special thanks go out to all the students, teachers and parents who made this possible.

The Patriot's Pen essay written upon the theme "My Pledge to Our Veterans" showed the care and support our 6-8 graders give to the veterans they encounter every day.

A great big congratulations go out to our winners:

1st place-Avi Singleterry

2nd place-Ty Blankenship

3rd place-Lauren Holden

Masters Singleterry and Blankenship had their entries sent on to the District Competition where Master Blankenship placed third.

The VOD contest was intense. This year's theme of "Why is the Veteran Important" brought many thoughts and feelings to the forefront as evidenced by each audio essay.

We had a tie for first place!

Congratulations to our winners:

1st place-Benjamin Herrera

1st place-Alejandro Ruiz, Jr

3rd place-Madison Avery

4th place-Jamie Birch

Mr Herrea and Mr Ruiz had their audio essays forward to the District Competition where Mr Ruiz placed third. Mr Herrera placed first and will be going on to the State Competition where he has a chance to win a $10,000 scholarship!

The members of VFW Post 3904 thank everyone who made this exciting competition possible.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA—DECEMBER 17, 2022

We at Post 3904 would like to have everyone young and old come have Breakfast with Santa on December 17, 2022 9am-noon. Breakfast is all you can eat pancakes, scrambled eggs and sausage with coffee, tea, juice and water to drink.

Tickets are $7 for children 10 and younger and $10 for anyone 13 or older. Tickets are available at the Post. You can also meet up with us at Tropical Christmas or Christmas in the District to purchase tickets. Go to our event on Facebook to purchase by credit card. All tickets sold via the event page will be at the Post for your to pick up at the event.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Tropical Christmas*
- *Christmas in the District*
- *GUN RAFFLE*
- *Friends of Post 3904?*

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VISIT OUR BOOTH AT TROPICAL CHRISTMAS IN ROCKPORT

Where better to celebrate Christmas than on the waterfront in Rockport, TX?

Hosted by the City of Rockport Parks and Leisure Department, the Tropical Christmas Festival is in its 18th year and is a favorite of the local community and all who attend.

There are performances going on from 10-4. Vendors will be out from 10-6. There is going to be a SNOW slide area 10-5. Santa and Mrs Claus will be at the Festival from 12-3.

The Beach will be open free to the public starting at 4PM to get your spot for the illuminated parade starting at 6 along with he LED Night Kites show.

Post 3904 will be on the Festival Grounds with the rest of the vendors. We will have tickets for our gun raffle, small Christmas tree raffle, Breakfast with Santa and the Post Commander may make some bake goods for sale. We will also have t-shirts, hats, coins, pins and ceramic poppies for sale. Please come out and support us and enjoy some entertainment and Christmas Cheer!

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA—DECEMBER 17

In 1992, The Worcester Wreath Company found themselves with a surplus wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season. The Worcesters saw a way to honor the veterans laid to rest in the Arlington National Cemetery. This was the beginning of what was to become Wreaths Across America.

In 2005, a picture of the wreaths on the graves in Arlington went viral and people and companies came from everywhere to help, bring this to cemeteries close to them, etc.

Wreaths Across America, in its current form, started in 2008. Wreaths are sent to state and national cemeteries across the world.

Rockport does not have a veterans cemetery, but the local Daughters of the American Revolution hold a ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park here in Rockport. This year's ceremony will be on December 17, 2022, at 11am.

The Coastal Bend State Veterans Cemetery Ceremony followed by the laying of wreaths will be December 17,2022, at 11am.

JOIN US AT CHRISTMAS IN THE DISTRICT DECEMBER 10 4-8PM

Another great event in Rockport at Christmas time and Post 3904 will be there with our locally acclaimed Burger Burn. We will have burgers and hotdogs, chips, drinks and all the condiments.

We will be selling gun raffle tickets, small Christmas tree raffle tickets, tickets for Breakfast with Santa to be held on December 17 9-noon. We will also have T-shirts, hats, coins, pins and ceramic poppies for purchase.

We will be located in the Oh My! Parking lots behind the big Adirondack chairs across from the new Art Center.

There are tons of things to do on Austin Street during this event. Check out www.rockportchristmasinthedistrict.com for more information.

Friends of Post 3904?

The Friends of Post 3904 is being created as an organization to help the Post with both renovation efforts and operations afterward. The Friends would also help the Post to help veterans and the community.

Do you have a skill that might help? Can you clean up? Do you have anything in between?

The only eligibility requirement for Friends of Post 3904 is that you can breath and can be available to help once in a while.

Did you know Post 3904's goal is to be the community center this town desperately needs? Would you like to be a part of it? Could you bring a class or event for the community to enjoy? Could you provide some time to help support a class or event?

The Friends of Post 3904 is for everyone! You toddler running around may help someone smile. Your skill at playing dominos may create a group of domino player that meet at the Post. Your joy of crocheting may create a group to make lap robes for veterans in nursing homes.

Folks—the sky is the limit. The VFW is very strong on camaraderie no matter who. Please consider joining us to make our vision come true.

If interested, please email 3904commander@gmail.com

Deadline Approaching for Overseas Military Mail

The U.S. Postal Service is preparing for the holiday season as many families spend holidays apart due to military service. In order to ensure overseas packages are delivered before Dec. 25, it has provided the following deadlines: Dec. 9 for all Air/Army Post Office (APO), Fleet Post Office (FPO) and Diplomatic Post Office (DPO) addresses with AE zip codes using Priority Mail and First-Class Mail; and Dec. 16 for APO/FPO/DPO addresses using USPS Priority Mail Express (excluding zip 093). The Postal Service offers a free "military care kit," which consists of the items most often requested by military families. For more details on holiday shipping deadlines, please visit www.usps.com/holiday/holiday-shipping-dates.htm.

75th Year for USMC Toys for Tots

How can anyone resist a Marine asking for toys for tots?

The mission of the marine Toys for Tots Program is to collect new unwrapped toys and distribute those toys to less fortunate children at Christmas. Simple!

The Mission of the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation is to assist the USMC in providing a tangible sign of hope to economically disadvantaged children at Christmas.

A simple program which brings joy to hundreds of thousands of children.

Started in 1947 by US Marine Reserve Major Bill Hendricks with the collection of 5,000 toys in Los Angeles, CA. The Toys for Tots Program gives 18 million toys to 7 million less fortunate children on average every year.

There are many ways to donate. Please visit www.toysfortots.org/donate/Default.aspx for ways to help this very worthwhile cause.

VFW Post 3904

December 2022

November '22						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

January '23						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February '23						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Tropical Christmas 9am-4pm at Festival Grounds
4	5	6	7 VPR - Pearl Harbor Day	8	9 Painting with Aubrey	10 Christmas in the District Oh My! Parking Lot Burgers and stuff 4pm-8pm
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Breakfast with Santa 9-noon
18 Hanukkah begins	19 Post meeting 1900	20	21 Dec. Solstice (GMT)	22	23	24 Christmas Eve
25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa begins	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve
		Notes Storefront Closed December 23 through 26 for Christmas Storefront Closed December 30 through Janary 2 for New Year's				

ASK THE COMMANDER

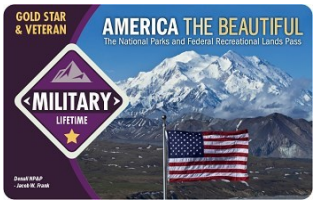
Every month, I will answer questions about topics relevant to the VFW, the Post, Post happenings and veteran related topics. If you would like to ask a question and have it answered here, please me your question to 3904Commander@gmail.com.

Q: I heard about the lifetime veterans pass for federal parks, refuges, etc. I am a veteran and want more information.

A: Great question!

With the passage of the VFW-supported Alexander Lofgren Veterans in Parks (VIP) Act that passed into law December 2022 as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022, veterans and gold star families are eligible for free entrance to all National Parks, Wildlife Refuges and more.

In Texas, there are many places to get a pass. The closet are the Aransas Wildlife Refuge and the Padre Island National Shoreline. More information is available at https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm. General information on the Departments participating in the program, please visit https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/veterans-and-gold-star-families-free-access.htm



VFW POST 3904
ANNUAL GUN RAFFLE

Ruger American Predator W/ Vortex Scope 6.5 Creedmoor 16953

- Equipped with a factory-installed Vortex® Crossfire II® riflescope with the Dead-Hold BDC reticle mounted on one-piece Picatinny scope base.
- Also includes: one magazine; sling swivel studs.

Tickets: $20 each
Drawing will be held Jan 22, 2023
Must be 21 or older and be able to pass a background check to purchase a ticket
Tickets may be purchased in person, online, or scan the QR Code to buy.

ROCK ISLAND ARMORY M1911-A1 GI PARKERIZED 10MM 5" BARREL 8-ROUNDS CAMO VZ G10 GRIPS

The Rock Island Armory M1911-A1 GI is perfect for self defense. This 1911 is chambered in 10mm, has a 5-inch barrel, and comes with one 8-round magazine. With a Parkerized finish, it features fixed GI style sights and has Mil-Spec Camo VZ G10 grips.

STEWART-WENDELL POST
3904 VETERANS OF FOREIGN
WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

PO Box 184
Rockport, TX 78381

Email: vfw.post.3904@gmail.com

WE ARE ON THE WEB!
WWW.VFWPOST3904.COM

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

The purposes of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States are 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 surviving spouses and orphans;
4. To maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States and fidelity to its Constitution and laws;
5. To foster true patriotism;
6. To maintain and extend the instructions of American freedom; and
7. To preserve and defend the United States from all enemies.

From: Congressional Charter - Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United Stated. Incorporated on May 28, 1936 and last amended on December 4, 2014

Department of Defense Report on Suicide in the Military

On Oct 20, 2022, the Department of Defense (DOD) released it Annual Report on Suicide in the Military for Calendar Year 2021 (CY21). While the overall number of suicides for service members and dependents remained with the national averages when taking into account age and sex, one suicide is one too many!

In CY21, 519 active duty, reservists and national guard members committed suicide with 70% of these being suicide by firearm. Also in CY20, 133 spouses and 69 dependents committed suicide with 60% and 55% respectively being suicide by firearm. (Dependent and spouse suicide data lags by one year due to collecting reports from civilian sources).

DOD implemented three programs during CY21 to combat suicide: Foster a supportive Environment for Service Members and Families, Address Stigma as a Barrier to Seeking Self-Help and Promoting a Culture of Lethal Means Safety. While the overall number of suicides for service members dropped from the CY20 number of 584, it is yet to be determine how effective this program will be in the future.

While one suicide is one too many, the DOD and its components are working to provide resources and training to assist those who need help.

If you are contemplating suicide or know someone who is thinking about it, please call 988 for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. If you are a veteran calling, please press 1 for the Veterans' Crisis Line.

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE
1-800-273-TALK (8255)

988

Please press "1" for the Veterans Crisis Hotline

There is always someone willing to talk to you!