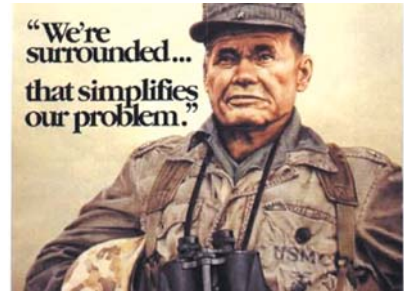




VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 1503

DEC 22



General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller

14631 MINNIEVILLE ROAD • DALE CITY, VIRGINIA 22193 • 703.670.4124
vfw1503.org

CANTEEN HOURS: Mon 12 PM - 11 PM • Tues 12 PM - 12 AM • Wed 12 PM - 11 PM
Thur 12 PM - 12 AM • Fri 12 PM - 12:30 AM • Sat 9 AM - 12:30 AM • Sun 9 AM - 7 PM

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Team,

Greetings and Salutations, winter is finally upon us, and it whooshes in what I believe will be a frosty winter. But enough about that, let's talk about all the events that have transpired in the last month. And let me tell you it's been a lot.

We kicked off November with the Military Order of the Cootie/Auxiliary (MOC/MOCA) Tomb Trek on 5-6 November and followed that with attendance at Veterans Day Services at Quantico on 11 November. The very next day we began our Buddy Poppy drive to raise funds for the Veterans Relief Fund while entertaining the community service of Masonic Diversity Lodge 330 and their annual tribute to Veterans. Later that evening, the Marine Corps Ball commenced as we applauded and were spellbound by the richness and candor of our guest speaker.

The MOC/MOCA gathered for their 87th Annual National Tomb Trek on 5-6 November, at the Sheraton in Arlington, VA, led by our Seam Squirrel, Robert "Check" Adamczyk, and Grand MOC Ben Guinan to conduct meetings and plan for the coming year. But more importantly, they laid wreaths at the Gen John J. Pershing, and SGT Younger gravesites symbolizing the Meuse-Argonne Offensive (September 26 to November 11, 1918) that helped conclude World War I, which involved some 1.2 million Americans and was the deadliest military campaign in history resulting in more than 26,000 Americans killed and over 120,000 wounded. Before they wrapped up the weekend the Supreme Commander and Presidents would lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. You see, the Cooties, like you, are all about the care of our veterans. One of our favorite slogans is "Keep 'em Smilin in Beds of White". Check out the MOC/MOCA corner for more details.

Our Veterans Day commemoration on 11 November at Quantico was held but abbreviated due to inclement weather. I attended along with our Post Adjutant Randy Coker and Senior Vice/Grand MOC Ben Guinan. It was my first appearance at this ceremony, and it did not disappoint. I'd have to say the most riveting part of the ceremony was given by 98 year old Colonel Frank W. Harris III, USMC (Ret) who gave the most eloquent rendition of a toast to the flag. Our current Lt. Governor,



POST OFFICERS

- Post Commander . . . . . Bernie Carter
Senior Vice . . . . . Ben Guinan
Junior Vice . . . . . Star Martinez
Quartermaster . . . . . Carl Richardson
Judge Advocate . . . . . Robert Adamczyk
Surgeon . . . . . Charles Marlowe
Chaplain . . . . . Ed Bennett
3 Year Trustee . . . . . Tim Brown
2 Year Trustee . . . . . John Dodge
1 Year Trustee . . . . . Tom Gimble
Adjutant . . . . . Randy Coker
Service Officer . . . . . Raymond Bailey
House Committee Chair . . . . . Lionel Ward
Past Commander . . . . . Tom Levitt

the Honorable Winsome Earle-Sears also graced the ceremony with her presence and words, altogether an inspiring event and if you can in the future, please attend. It will be worth your while.

A hearty thanks to Masonic Diversity Lodge 330, who come rain or shine to give thanks to veterans each Veterans Day weekend. For more than 12 years they've served up some of the best burgers, hotdogs, and fries along with good music and plenty of camaraderie. As we closed out the afternoon and exchanged gifts and pleasantries, we all reflected on why we formed these organizations and how important they are in continuing to support the needs of our members.

On the evening of 12 November, we commemorated and celebrated the Marine Corps' 247th Birthday. Post Adjutant, Randy Coker, who held a key role in planning the event, emceed as well. The celebration went off exceedingly well with all its Marine pomp and circumstance. I could tell there were tireless hours that went into its preparation, and I want to personally thank all involved. But the honors for the evening go to our guest speaker, SGT Major Michael Mack, who gave the most mesmerizing speech and raised all our knowledge of kindness, sympathy, and respect and what it is to be a Marine. Well done!

### A Quick Brief of Upcoming Events for December 2022

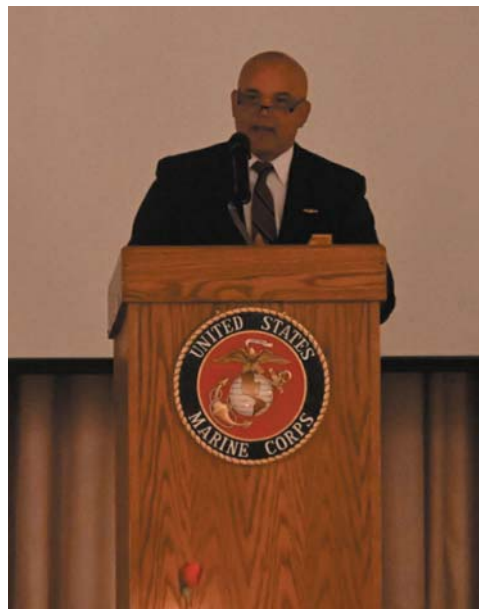
- 7 December – Pearl Harbor Day – Canteen – 1800
- 10 December – District 10 Meeting 1300 (American Legion Post 176 Springfield)
- 14 December – Troop 1919 Court of Honor and Christmas Party – B Hall – 1900-2030
- 18 December – Auxiliary Kids Christmas Party – A Hall – 1300-1500

Until next month, I want to wish everyone a Happy Holiday season. The holidays are a time of giving, family gatherings and friendship. So, remember those family members and co-workers that mean the most to you.

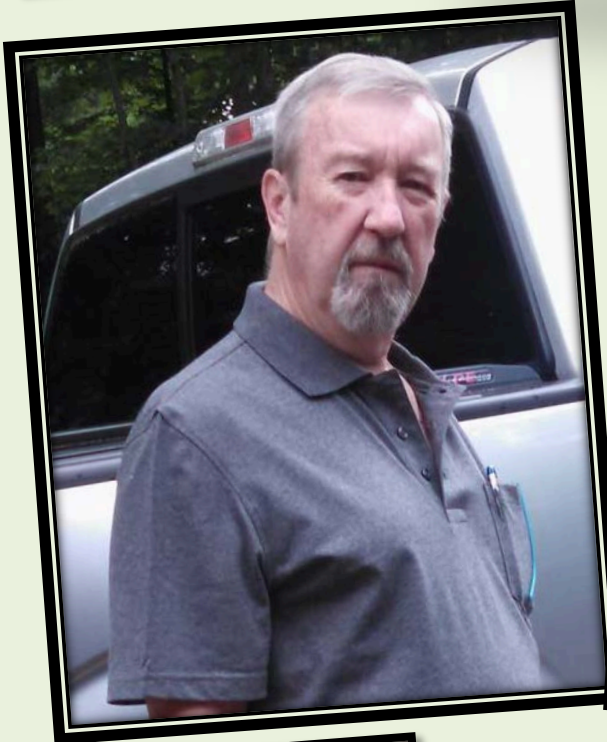
As always stay safe, continue to recruit and be kind to others. Speaking of recruiting, Post 1503 recruited 56 new members during the month of October, an outstanding achievement, placing us well on our way of achieving 100 percent recruitment. And remember, first impressions are lasting and mean everything. To stay informed watch for emails via Constant Contact and check out what is happening on our post website and Facebook page to stay updated and review all the latest happenings and pictures from VFW 1503 events.



**Bernie Carter**  
Post Commander  
cdrpost1503@vfwva.org







## VFW AUXILIARY

Happy December Auxiliary 1503!  
The temperatures sure feel just about right for this time of year – now we just need some snow!

Welcome to our new members, Jina, Angela, Phillip, Vernon, Christopher and Crystal. Look forward to seeing you soon!

Fantastic attendance of 24 at our November meeting! We actually have fun, while conducting our business – I invite you to join us and get involved!

Our Auxiliary is proud to have helped the Department of Florida in their efforts to assist their VFW and Auxiliary members recover from Hurricane Ian, with a \$500.00 donation.

The month of November was busy for our members. We were at Quantico to cheer on and say hello to Honor Flight attendees, we prepared cans and passed out Buddy Poppies, we enjoyed breakfast with five Veteran's from an Assisted Living Home, we attended the Marine Corp Ball, said goodbye to two of our dear, beloved Comrades, Dallas & Doogy, we unloaded and sold Christmas Trees and we VOTED! Thank you to those who were able to participate!

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

## AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President . . . . . Kelli Levitt  
Sr. Vice President . . . . . Deborah Nichols  
Jr. Vice President . . . . . Monika Walczyk  
Secretary . . . . . Pamela Flores  
Treasurer . . . . . Karla Coker  
Chaplain . . . . . Michael Alicea  
Conductress . . . . . Jan Kiecker  
Guard . . . . . Gloria Wiley  
1st Yr Trustee . . . . . Janell Garland  
2nd Yr Trustee . . . . . Patricia Wootten  
3rd Yr Trustee . . . . . Gina Powers  
Historian . . . . . Mary Seiffert  
Patriotic Instructor . . . . . Rita Maldonado

**Our annual children's Christmas Party  
is scheduled for 18 DEC from 1-3.**

**Please plan to attend and lend a hand!**

**Also, one of the highlights for the kids**



**Donations of sweet treats appreciated!**

We will continue our tradition of providing and serving the 'meeting meal' to our Comrades this month. We forever enjoy showing our appreciation to them and for their service to our Nation.

Mark your calendar for 17 DEC – Auxiliary Breakfast with Cookie Exchange and something new this year – Sock Swap!! If you would like to participate, please bring three dozen home baked treats and one pair of socks. Thank you to Betty for providing us with containers to pack up our goodies.

Congratulations to Auxiliary 1503 member – Muriel Woods Wills for winning a Life Member upgrade in our drawing of annual members who renewed their dues before 31 OCT.

MEMBERSHIP – Per section 104 of the Podium Book, Members in Good Standing:

Annual members who have not paid their dues by 31 DEC are no longer a member in good standing.

Do not let this happen to you!! IF you are unsure, please check your card and call me if you have questions! You can leave your payment (\$25) with the bartender, renew online in MALTA, or mail to our treasurer – Karla Coker • 13212 Trails End Court • Manassas, VA 20112

Are you receiving Chaplain Alerts? If not, please email Chaplain Michael at [auxiliarychaplain1503@gmail.com](mailto:auxiliarychaplain1503@gmail.com)



Are you receiving Department of Virginia Auxiliary Monthly Communications? If not, you may sign up at [www.vfwauxva.org](http://www.vfwauxva.org)

Do you have a login for Malta? What is Malta? It is access to resources, your information and more for the Auxiliary. [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org) You can pay your dues, request a replacement membership card and update your contact information.

Auxiliary 1503 will continue to place VFW Store orders, for our members at the end of each quarter. Orders due by the 21 DEC meeting.

Pictures of available items are here: [Store Items](#)

Order form is here: [Store Order Form](#)

If you have not attended a meeting since joining, please do so! We have a welcome bag for you and would like to meet you!

As always, if you have questions, concerns, comments or you are in need of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me, or any of our officers – we are here to help. I look forward to seeing you at our monthly meeting, if not sooner!

I wish each of you a cheerful and blessed holiday season, spending time doing what makes you happy!



Loyally, **Kelli Levitt**  
VFW Auxiliary 1503 President  
[itsmekelli@aol.com](mailto:itsmekelli@aol.com)  
703-895-8855

Please continue to reach out to those who are ill, struggling or lost.

**~ NO ACT OF KINDNESS, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, IS EVER WASTED ~** *aesop*

Remember to like and follow our Facebook page!! **VFW Post 1503 - Auxiliary**



## VFW POST 1503 INTERVIEW PROJECT



You are invited to follow along as VFW Auxiliary member Elizabeth continues her interview series. Her writings will grow into a collection of the rich histories and experiences of our beloved combat veterans. Please click [HERE](#) to read her interview with **BEN**

If you would like to share your story, you may reach Elizabeth at [mrs.elizabeth.marlowe@gmail.com](mailto:mrs.elizabeth.marlowe@gmail.com)

### A Life of Thanks-*Living*

I'm grateful to live in a nation where collectively we set aside one day to slow down, pause, and be grateful for the extraordinary blessings God has provided us. This past Thanksgiving Day, many of us prayed with family and friends, because the holidays are a time when we feel extraordinarily blessed and that instinctively inspires us to outwardly express our gratefulness.

Offering up heartfelt prayers of thanksgiving on special days pleases God. Although, it seems our words are little remembered. Therefore, let us transform these prayers of thanksgiving into prayers of thanks-*living*. Our ability to make this transition, depends upon what we do after the holidays are over, and throughout the year. Do we live out our gratitude? Or do we just continue accepting God's blessings, giving thanks, but without returning any blessings of our own?

In Psalms God says that giving thanks is a "sacrifice that truly honors me." Why is it a sacrifice to give thanks when it's an easy thing to do? It is a sacrifice because it requires more than words... it requires action. We are called to a life of thanks-*living* because thanksgiving is simply too big for one day.

Author Jeff Herring has an ability to distill concepts into "universal laws." Here are a few of those laws to help us translate thanksgiving into thanks-*living*:

#### ***The Law of Thanksgiving***

It's easy to be grateful around the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. But what if we were able to find ourselves feeling grateful year-round? What might that change about our lives?

#### ***The Law of Attitude***

Gratitude is simply an attitude. The one thing we can always choose each day, in any situation, is our attitude. Therefore, we always have the ability to choose an attitude of gratitude.

#### ***The Law of Who Past***

To whom in the past are you grateful? Someone who gave you a break, someone who cared about you, inspired you, believed in you, or someone who simply listened to you? Have you ever sought them out to thank them, perhaps just a phone call to say thanks? Ever receive that kind of call?

#### ***The Law of Who Now***

For whom are you grateful for in your life right now? Have you let them know lately how much you appreciate them? If not, give the gift today!

#### ***The Law of Focus***

When we focus on what we lack, we tend to look out for ourselves. Conversely, when we focus on our blessings, we tend to find ourselves looking out for others as well as ourselves.

#### ***The Law of Abundance***

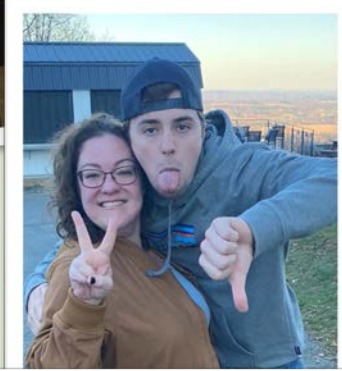
Author Stephen Glenn has this definition of abundance: *"In terms of the population of the planet, you have abundance if, when you wake up each morning, you have a choice of what to eat; choice of what to wear; a job to go to; and a way to get there."*

I am thankful for our post home where I can always find support and fellowship. If you too are thankful for our post, then translate that to thanks-*living*. Consider how you can serve our post in order to serve others.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, Almighty God, we are thankful for the abundant blessings you bestow upon us. As we accept your grace and favor each day, help us to translate them into thanks-*living*.

Ed Bennett  
Chaplain





## FACILITY HAPPENINGS

Merry Christmas every one and of course Happy New Years.

November was a very exciting month for us in that the FOB system has now officially been issued to over 900 members (and seems to be working for the most part). Also, towards the end of the month we had our credit card and POS problem's addressed with the installation of all new wiring throughout the building, equals better service at the bar.

Sorry, to announce that starting in December it will be necessary for us to raise the price's for both our food and drinks (liquor-beer). Prices continue to go up, this needs to be addressed immediately. We have been able to offer the lowest prices around for many years in both of these categories. And that was because of our supplemental income from our games offered in the canteen (V tabs - Wall tickets - Jar Tickets).

A recent proposal has been introduced to the state to make changes to Charitable Gaming Licensee's, that would not allow us to continue to disperse funds from them as we have in the past to cover operating expenses. More info will follow as it comes available to us, but wanted to touch base with you about what new challenges we are facing.

On a more pleasant note we are looking forward to once again helping needy families from five different schools with our **CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKET** program. Food gift cards are being mailed out to 94 families representing 500 people. Amount of donations range between \$50.00 to \$150.00 dependent on the number of people in each family (Low of 3 to High of 15) this year.

**New Years Eve tickets** are now on sale. You can order by calling me at the office 703-670-4124 x2, e-mailing me at [vfw1503facmgt@comcast.net](mailto:vfw1503facmgt@comcast.net), on our website [vfw1503.org](http://vfw1503.org) (has purchase button available) or from the bartenders. You can pay by cash, check or credit card.

**NOW HEAR THIS: WE WILL BE CLOSING CHRISTMAS EVE AT 7PM.**  
WE WILL BE CLOSED ALL DAY CHRISTMAS DAY  
**NO WINGS ON THE 24TH OR THE 31ST OF DEC.**  
NO BREAKFAST ON SUNDAY JAN 1ST.

John Meehan  
Facility Manager



MERRY CHRISTMAS

## DECEMBER EVENTS

- 07 Dec – Pearl Harbor Day: Post Canteen 1800
- 10 Dec – Post Officers Christmas Breakfast: B Hall 1000-1200
- 11 Dec – District 10 Meeting: (American Legion Post 176) Springfield 1300
- 14 Dec – Troop 1919 Court of Honor and Christmas Party: B Hall 1900-2030
- 18 Dec – Auxiliary Kids Christmas Party: A Hall 1300-1500
- 20 Dec – Space Force Birthday
- 24 Dec – NO WINGS - Post closes early
- 25 Dec – **Post Closed**
- 31 Dec – New Year's Eve Party/Celebration: Full Hall 1830-2400





**Saturday, December 31, 2022**

Doors Open at 6:00

Cocktails 6:00 • Dinner 7:00

\$80 per person or \$700 for a Table of 10

**VFW Post 1503**

14631 Minnieville Road • Dale City, VA

Entertainment by **RockHits**

Dancing starts at 8:30

**Hot Station with Salad Bar**

**Buffet Style Dinner**

**Assorted Desserts**

# MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

The month of December is full of dates that have impacted our veteran community and their loved ones. The Somalia campaign began, the attack on Pearl Harbor which led to the US declaring war on Japan and entering WWII, Germany and Italy declared war on the US, the Iraq War ended, the official end of WWII. I know numbers can be numbing, but I included a chart below to show the price paid by veterans and families you may encounter in our local community:



Conflict	Killed in Action	Wounded in Action
World War II	291,551	670,846
Korea	33,686	92,134
Vietnam	47,434	153,303
Gulf War	149	849
Somalia	29	153
Afghanistan	1,910	20,093
Iraq	3,519	32,222
ISIS Intervention	16	81

As we plan to spend time with our loved ones to celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, or Kwanza, please also try to plan time to pay your respects to those that served or are currently serving to ensure we are safe in our American homeland, and as always, thank you for your service!

***All Gave Some, Some Gave All!***

Yours in Patriotism,  
**Dom Dionne**  
Commander • Chapter 1775

## MOC / MOCA

Comrades and Auxiliary members,

November was another busy month for us in the MOC/MOCA. Early in the month, we attended our 87th annual Tomb Trek in Arlington, VA. Many thanks to Ken and Marcia Eggers and all those that helped them run the Virginia Hospitality Room. A great time was had by all. What's Tomb Trek? Glad you asked!

Way back in 1921, four unknown, unidentifiable soldiers were exhumed from four World War I American cemeteries in France. A soldier named Edward F. Younger was chosen as the person who would select the soldier to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The other three soldiers were interred in the Meuse Argonne Cemetery, France. Sgt. Younger went on to become a VFW member and a Cootie from Pup Tent 1 in Washington, DC. Sgt. Younger asked Congress to extend the honor of laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to the Military Order of the Cootie. No one in congress would deny him this request. For 87 years, the MOC/MOCA have been laying wreaths in Arlington National Cemetery to include at Sgt. Younger's gravesite. Depending on situations at Arlington, sometimes the wreaths are laid at the Argonne Cross, sometimes at General Pershing's gravesite, but Supreme Leadership still makes it over to the Tomb itself and lays a wreath.

In the ramp up to Thanksgiving, the MOCA put on their usual Bake Sale outside of Bingo. Thanks to all who donated, made items, and purchased some of the goodies!

On Saturday, 17 December, we will be having a Dart Tournament at 1pm! Keep an eye out on [vfw1503.com](http://vfw1503.com) for details.

**Robert "Check" Adamczyk**  
MOC Seam Squirrel  
[mrcheck@gmail.com](mailto:mrcheck@gmail.com)

**Laura Adamczyk**  
MOCA President  
[lauraadamczyk2@gmail.com](mailto:lauraadamczyk2@gmail.com)







## VFW December Entertainment

All DJs and Bands start at 8pm Friday and Saturday nights

Friday Night

Saturday Night

**December 2nd**

DJ Michael

Dance Party/Karaoke!

**December 3rd**

True Soul Band

Old and New R&B

**December 9th**

DJ Joe Clay

Dance Party/Karaoke!

**December 10th**

DJ T Play

Dance Party/Karaoke

**December 16th**

DJ Michael

Dance Party/Karaoke!

**December 17th**

DJ Steve Bolden

Video Dance Party!

**December 23rd**

DJ Pynk Dyamond

Dance Party!

**December 24th**

Merry Christmas

Post Closes @ 7pm

**December 30th**

DJ Joe Clay

Dance Party/Karaoke

**December 31st**

New Year's Eve

Party in A & B Hall

DJ T Play in the Canteen!

# CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY



Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup> 1-3

Vfw Post 1503

**LUNCH**

**CRAFTS & GAMES**

**CAKE WALK**

**VISIT WITH SANTA**

CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

CONTACT - KELLI LEVITT - 703-895-8855



# December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 BINGO 7:30	2 DJ Michael FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-9:00	3 <b>True Soul Band</b> Breakfast 9-12 <b>WINGS</b> 6:00-8:00
4 Breakfast 9-12:00	5	6 BINGO 7:30	7 Pearl Harbor Day 1800	8 BINGO 7:30	9 DJ Joe Clay FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-9:00	10 DJ T Play Post Officers Christmas Breakfast 10-12 Breakfast 9-12 <b>WINGS</b> 6:00-8:00
11 Breakfast 9-12:00 District 10 Meeting American Legion 176 1300	12	13 BINGO 7:30	14 <b>Wacky Wacky TexMex</b> MOCA 7:00 pm MOC 7:30 pm	15 BINGO 7:30	16 DJ Michael FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-9:00	17 DJ Steve Bolden Breakfast 9-12 AUX Breakfast <b>WINGS</b> 6:00-8:00
18 Breakfast 9-12:00 Childrens Christmas Party 1-3	19	20 BINGO 7:30 Space Force Birthday	21 Auxiliary 7:00 pm Post Meeting 7:00 pm	22 BINGO 7:30	23 DJ Pynk Dyiamond FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-9:00	24 Breakfast 9-12 Christmas Eve Close @ 7
25 <b>Merry Christmas</b>  POST CLOSED	26	27 BINGO 7:30	28 <b>Wacky Wacky Seafood</b>	29 BINGO 7:30	30 DJ Joe Clay FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-9:00	31 DJ T Play Breakfast 9-12 New Year's Eve Party A & B Hall

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road  
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193



Next Monthly Meeting

**December 21st**

[vfw1503.org](http://vfw1503.org)

## **WACKY WACKY WEDNESDAY'S ...**

### **December 14th ... Wacky Bowls**

**Chicken & Shrimp Rice Bowl . . . . . \$10.95**

*Stir Fry Veggies, Soy, Ginger, Garlic Sauce with Rice Mushrooms, Mango, Avocado and Broccoli*

**Ahi Tuna Bowl . . . . . \$12.95**

*Dice Tuna, Citrus Ponzu with Avocado, Rice, Mushrooms, Zucchini, Carrots, Siracha Aoli*

**Mediterranean Steak Bowl . . . . . \$11.95**

*NY Strip Steak, Grilled Veggies, Romaine Lettuce, Cucumber, Black Olives, Feta Cheese, Honey Yogurt Sauce*

### **December 28th ... Wacky Seafood**

**Steamed Shrimp . . . . . \$10.95**

**Fried Catfish . . . . . \$10.95**

**Fish Tacos . . . . . \$11.95**

*12 Noon until Supplies are Gone*