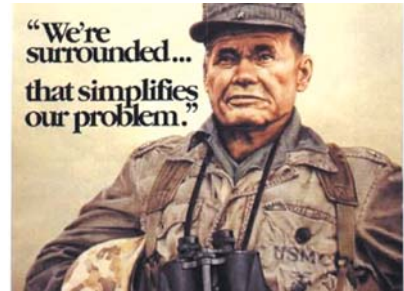




VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

APR 23



General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller

Post 1503

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. Spring is here albeit not as warm as we would like it, but nonetheless it's here. The perfect time for an early reseeded, flower bed preparation and the gathering of special tools and equipment that will ensure your yard is kept impeccable throughout the year.

Speaking of impeccable, last month saw us hold our annual Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year ceremony honoring those winners who submitted essays. We followed that ceremony with a Centennial celebration, commemorating 100 years of the VFW in the state of Virginia. We closed out the month with a St. Paddy's Day celebration, District 10 meeting and National Vietnam Veterans Observance.

On 4 March we held our Patriots Pen (PP), Voice of Democracy (VOD) and Teacher of the Year (TOY) ceremony for those awardees who submitted essays and placed. We had 5 winners from Patriots Pen, and Voice of Democracy, each winning anywhere from \$50 to \$1,000. For Teacher of the Year three finalists were chosen, one being our own Elizabeth Marlowe. I was especially appreciative when three of her students in attendance lauded her teaching style and her ability to get them to extract their inner selves in their writings. Well done!

Continuing events on the 4th, VFW Post 1503 held and took part in the second of seven State Dept. planned Centennial Events celebrating "100 years of the VFW in the State of Virginia". It was, I consider, a magnificent afternoon, hosting the National Commander in Chief, Tim Borland, National Senior Vice Commander in Chief Duane Sarmiento, National Junior Vice Commander in Chief Al Lipphardt, Adjutant General Dan West and



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



Quartermaster General Marc Garduno. Also present was our State Commander Geoffrey Lyster and his staff along with many of the VFW posts within the area. In all, a spectacular day of networking, conferring and comradery.

On 17 March we celebrated St. Paddy's Day, with all the green trimmings and four meal selections. Throughout the day members poured in, enjoyed a great meal and green beer to celebrate this festive occasion and one of my true favorites as well.

Our District 10 meeting was conducted on 26 March here at Post 1503 and presided over by our very own Mr. Ben Guinan, 10th District Commander and current Post 1503 Senior Vice Commander. We welcomed 10 different Post commands to dine and discuss matters pertaining to the running of the district. We finished the session with an awards ceremony for those awardees who made it up to the district level and were forwarded to state.



Finishing up the month we observed the 29th of March, National Vietnam War Veterans Day, officially signed into law under the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017. The day commemorates the loyalty, determination, sacrifices, and devotion of our Vietnam Vets as they fought during a turbulent time in our nation's history.



A quick brief of UPCOMING EVENTS for April 2023

- 2 April – Auxiliary Children's Easter Party: A Hall 1300 - 1500
- 14-15 April – Boy Scouts Mulch Setup/Delivery: Back Parking Lot
- 15 April – Auxiliary Cornhole Tournament: 1000 - 1600 Pavilion Parking Lot
- 19 April – Post Elections – Voting Poles Open at 1200
- 29 April – MOC/MOCA Flea Market: 0800 - 1600

Until next month, I want to wish everyone a happy upcoming Easter and 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 48 new members during the month of March, an outstanding achievement, continuing to place us among the top recruiting posts. 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. And review all the latest happenings and pictures from VFW Post 1503 events.



Bernie Carter
Post Commander
cdrpost1503@vfwva.org



VFW AUXILIARY 1503 ANNUAL

EASTER EGG HUNT & PARTY

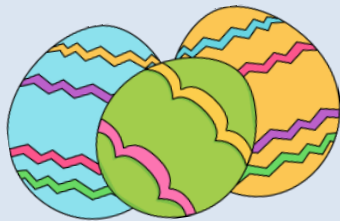


EASTER BASKETS PROVIDED

SUNDAY - APRIL 2, 2023

1-3 POST 1503 'A' HALL

14631 MINNIEVILLE RD



ALL CHILDREN

MUST BE ACCOMPANIED

BY A PARENT OR ADULT

SNACKS - GAMES - EGG HUNT

VISIT & PHOTOS WITH THE EASTER BUNNY



VFW AUXILIARY

April greetings Auxiliary 1503!

We had another fantastic turn out for our March meeting, with 34 members present! Thank you to everyone for making an effort to attend – we are doing great things for our Veterans and community!

Welcome to our four new Life Members – Jennifer, Charles, Linda & Lawrence. Our membership continues to grow every month, thanks to those who continue to recruit!

Congratulations to our own, Elizabeth Marlowe, who earned the first place winner spot for 'Teacher of the Year' at the VFW Post 1503 Awards Ceremony on March 25th. Thank you also to Elizabeth for presenting the Auxiliary awards to the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winners.

We were honored to have our Auxiliary National President, Jane Reape, chauffeured by our Department President, Fred Jennings, made a stop at Post 1503 on her way from the Virginia Beach area to Washington, DC. Though it was a short visit, it was a great chance to meet and spend time with her.

The VFW National Voice of Democracy Parade of Winners was held on March 6th. Betty and I attended, along with many Post 1503 Comrades. It was an exciting evening for all the kids, leading up to the first place winner announcement.

Tammi, Monika, Jeanne, Debbie and I, along with Comrades Ken and Marcia visited the residents of Brookdale Assisted Living on the 20th. Our Auxiliary purchased and provided ice cream, cookies, and loads of bingo prizes. Looking forward to planning another visit, hopefully in May.

Attendance for our March Breakfast on the 18th was impressive! With 20 people, we ended up with three packed tables! There were a lot of laughs, great conversations and yummy food! Hope you will join us this month, on the 22nd.

Immediately after breakfast, we headed to the bingo hall to fill 2,300+ eggs for our annual Easter Party! With so many helping hands, the task was completed in record time. Many thanks to all who were able to help.

Speaking of the Easter Party – your help is needed! Sunday, April 2nd 1-3. We will begin set up about 11:30. After snacks, games and a visit from the Easter Bunny, we will need 'all the help' hiding ALL those eggs!

We enjoyed showing our appreciation and offering a warm 'thank you and welcome home' to our Vietnam War Veterans on the 29th.

April 15th is our annual Auxiliary Corn Hole Tournament Fundraiser. It is always a blast – You will not want to miss this fun and worthwhile event! See the flyer in this newsletter for details.

Please DO NOT miss our membership meeting this month! Nominations and elections for the ensuing year will take place and your vote matters!! I am requesting that anyone who wishes to be nominated, to send an email to me with the office you intend to run for and who will nominate you. This will help me in preparing the meeting agenda and facilitate a smooth election process.

It is not too late to register for our Department Convention in June, but please do not wait! Details are on the website here – www.vfwauxva.org

Auxiliary 1503 will continue to place [VFW Store orders](#), for our members at the end of each quarter. Next order will be end of June. Order forms and payment due at the June 21st meeting.

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

Are you receiving Chaplain Alerts? If not, please email Chaplain Michael at

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



auxiliarychaplain1503@gmail.com

Are you receiving Department of Virginia Auxiliary Monthly Communications? If not, you may sign up at 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 You can pay your dues, request a replacement membership card and update your contact information.

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!

Loyally,
Kelli Levitt
VFW Auxiliary 1503 President
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*

Please like and follow our Facebook page!! [VFW Post 1503 - Auxiliary](#)

[VFW POST 1503 INTERVIEW PROJECT](#)



You are invited to follow along as VFW Auxiliary 1503 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 Carl

If you would like to share your story, you may reach Elizabeth at mrs.elizabeth.marlowe@gmail.com

Maintaining a Positive Attitude

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things." *Philippians 4:8*

We sometimes believe the worst is going to happen, that something bad will come from a situation and we are not going to be able to handle it. It is easy to focus on our fears and then choose to adopt negative attitudes. But there's a better way. We may not be able to choose what we face, but we can choose how we face it.

Our attitude has a great deal to do with the outcome of our lives. It also affects our happiness. So how can we adopt a positive attitude? Stephen Covey wrote a powerful book *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* and explained that life gets into focus if you adopt the following principles:

1. **Be proactive:** You are responsible for your life. Decide what you should do and get on with it.
2. **Begin with the end in mind:** Think of how you want to be remembered at your funeral. Use this as a basis for your everyday behavior.
3. **Put first things first:** Devote more time to what's important but not necessarily urgent.
4. **Think win-win:** Have an abundance mentality. Seek solutions that benefit all parties.
5. **Seek first to understand, then to be understood:** Don't dive into a conversation. Listen until you truly understand the other person.
6. **Synergize:** Find ways to cooperate with everyone. Value the differences between people.
7. **Sharpen the saw:** Exercise regularly and renew four elements of your life: Physical, mental, emotional/social, and spiritual to keep the body and mind strong so you can continue to practice the other six habits.

We must own these habits. It is imperative we take responsibility for our own life. If we have brought the problem on ourselves, then we need to take responsibility for it. Complaining or blaming others helps no one. This practice goes back a long way. Let us recall the fall of Adam and Eve. After Adam ate the fruit, he blamed Eve for giving him the fruit. Eve blamed the Serpent. Then Adam implied God was to blame for creating the woman.

What occurs is less important than our reaction to it. Reactions drive action and action defines the outcome, so ultimately our reaction is everything. Charles Swindoll wrote: "Life is ten percent what happens to you and ninety percent how you respond to it." Every hardship presents an opportunity, we just need to recognize that instead of letting it defeat us. Our thoughts and attitude change our experiences and shape our lives.

Ed Bennett
Chaplain



VFW AUXILIARY 1503 FUNDRAISER

CORN HOLE **TOURNAMENT**

SATURDAY APRIL 15, 2023

REGISTRATION BEGINS @ 11:00

GAMES BEGIN @ NOON

**VFW POST 1503 PAVILLION
14631 MINNIEVILLE ROAD**

**OPEN TO THE
PUBLIC**

**PRIZES for
WINNERS**

50/50 RAFFLE

\$20 PER PERSON

INCLUDES

FOOD & BEVERAGES

\$10 FOOD & BEVERAGE ONLY

*** teams will be assigned by random
draw once all players are
checked in and paid**

*** bags will be provided – and must
stay at each board, NO carrying of
bags from board to board**

KELLI LEVITT - 703-895-8855 – itsmekelli@aol.com

FACILITY HAPPENINGS

Hopefully we are now into Spring like weather conditions. March seemed like it didn't want to give up the cold and windy days for some reason, and was more like February.

St Patty's day has always been one of our busiest days and this year was no exception. Doors opened at 12 pm with the the initial crowd for our Corn beef and Cabbage meals followed by partying members that lasted well past midnight. Special recognition to our great staff who once again did a outstanding job with keeping the food and drinks coming. All this with a rookie bartender **MARK PRICE** who held things together until 2nd shift came on duty **Kristen** and **Tabitha**. **John** and the kitchen staff and **Erin** with her workers all made it a day to remember.

Last month we had equipment breakdown's during a Sunday breakfast. We had to stop taking orders at 11 am. Problem was two fold. Printer in kitchen was not getting the orders sent back by Waite staff and by the time we realized it back up's occurred. On top of that the kitchen oven used (bacon, sausage etc,) broke and we could not make the food fast enough to keep up with the demand. Sorry for the inconvenience and thanks for your understanding.

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER HOURS ARE NOW 5 PM TO 8 PM

WINGS STILL ON SATURDAY NIGHTS 6 PM TO 8 PM

WACKY WEDNESDAY APRIL 5TH IN CANTEEN

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 9TH – BREAKFAST SERVED 9 TO 12 PM

EASTER SUNDAY – HAM OR TURKEY DINNERS SERVED 12:30 TO CLOSING – LIMITED BAR MENU WILL BE AVAILABLE

SHREDDING EVENT AT POST PARKING LOT MAY 10TH – 10AM TO 1 PM

Need experienced cook P/T. Call the office please 703-670-4124 x2

John Meehan
Facility Manager



MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

All Gave Some, Some Gave All!

The Purple Heart Medal is ranked immediately behind the Bronze Star and ahead of the Defense Meritorious Service Medal in order of precedence.

Possession of the Purple Heart medal does not by itself qualify veterans for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation. However, since November 1999, Purple Heart recipients have been placed in VA's enrollment priority group 3, unless eligible for the higher priority groups (1 or 2) based on service-connected disabilities. Recipients are also exempt from co-payments for VA hospital care and medical outpatient care, but not from pharmacy co-payments for medications prescribed for non- service-connected conditions.



Yours in Patriotism,
Dom Dionne
Commander Chapter 1775



MOC / MOCA

Comrades and Auxiliary members,

We had our elections and installation at our last scratch for the 2023-2024 cootie year. Congratulations to Charles "Romeo" Marlowe elected as incoming MOC Seam Squirrel and Laura Adamczyk as incoming MOCA President and to all the other elected or appointed officers!

We have a Flea Market coming up in April. Details should be in the flyer included in this newsletter.

Big thanks to Ken Eggers for all the work in getting the special shoes that are camping out in our shed at the moment while we prepare to deliver them to those in need. Ken found a supply of orthopedic type shoes from someone going out of business that gave us a great deal on these. The folks at McGuire VA Hospital should be pleased.

Robert "Check" Adamczyk
MOC Seam Squirrel
mrcheck@gmail.com

Laura Adamczyk
MOCA President
lauraadamczyk2@gmail.com



Flea Market

Saturday
April 29th, 2023

VFW Post 1503

Dale City, Virginia
14631 Minnieville Road

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Sponsored by
Pup Tent 14
MOC and MOCA

Vender Information

Tables inside pavilion: \$25.00

Parking Spot: \$20.00

Contact Laura Adamczyk

703-763-6259

Text or Call!



CANDIDATE FOR SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

I would like to announce my candidacy for Senior Vice Commander. In the past year, I have held this position as well as serving as District 10 Commander, State Council of Administration member, Military Order of the Cootie (MOC) Grand Commander, MOC Pup Tent 14 Hospital Chairman, MOC Pup Tent 14 Trustee, MOC Supreme Council of Administration member, and Co-Chairman of Post 1503's IT Committee (along with Robert "Check" Adamczyk). Prior to that, I have served in multiple VFW and MOC leadership roles at the Post, District, and State levels including Post Surgeon, Post and District Adjutant, and Post and District Junior Vice Commander, Pup Tent 14 Seam Squirrel, and Grand Junior and Senior Vice Commander. I look forward to continuing to serve the Post in the role of Senior Vice Commander and would sincerely appreciate your vote and support.

Yours in Comradeship,
Benjamin "Ben" Guinan

CANDIDATE FOR JUDGE ADVOCATE

Comrades, I would like to announce my candidacy for Post Judge Advocate. For the past year, I've been serving in this position. Prior to that, I spent two years as the Post Surgeon. I've also been serving as a member of the Post Honor Guard, Assistant Bingo Manager, District 1- 3 year trustee, MOC Pup Tent 14 Seam Squirrel, MOC Grand Sr. Vice Commander, MOC Grand Hospital Chairman, MOC Supreme District 1 Hospital Commissioner, MOC Supreme Codeslinger, Department of Virginia IT Committee Chairman, and Webmaster for the Post, District, and Department as well as managing the information and pictures on the TV in the canteen. I'm well versed in the VFW bylaws, standing motions, and articles of incorporation at all levels as well as Roberts Rules and stand ready to continue supporting our Commander in these areas. I look forward to continuing to serve as your Post 1503 Judge Advocate and would appreciate your support.

Robert "Check" Adamczyk

248th Army Birthday Ball



Saturday, June 24th, 2023

1830 Semi-Formal

VFWPost 1503

14631 Minnieville Road, Dale City, VA 22193



<https://vfwus.org/ArmyBall>

CANDIDATE FOR POST TRUSTEE

Trustees oversee the financial obligations of the Post and our facility, and audit the financial transactions of both. At our Post, that means hundreds of thousands of dollars each month. That oversight is an important role helping to ensure the strength of our Post now and in the future. We need experience and knowledge in the person holding that position.

My experience comes from serving in elected and appointed positions at multiple levels of the organization. This includes being a two-time All-American and All-State Post Commander at Post 1503, as Seam Squirrel (Commander) of the Military Order of the Cootie Pup Tent 14 (PT14), a Trustee for PT14, a two-time District 10 Adjutant, and currently as a National Legislative Committee member for Virginia.

Comrades, doing the best job possible as a trustee while putting the needs and best interest of the Post first will be my mission. Understanding the current charitable gaming laws, which constrain our use of funds, is a challenge we will take on. My purpose as a trustee will be to make the Post as successful as possible while taking care of the membership.



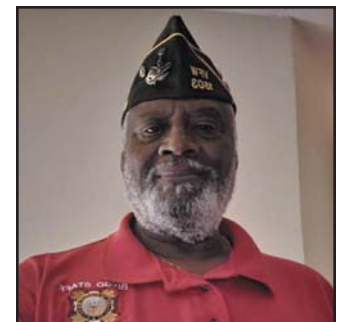
Yours in Comradeship,
Thomas 'Tom' Levitt



CANDIDATE FOR POST TRUSTEE

Fellow Brothers and Sisters in Arms,

As a life member, I have supported VFW Post 1503 since it was built in 1989. I have held and supported many various positions. I was the Bingo caller for ten years, and still, to this day volunteer my time to the Bingo Program we provide here at our Post. I also held the Master of Arms position during the early years of Post 1503. I am one of the first DJ's who played for the majority of events and still do when called upon. I have recruited more new members than I can remember. Volunteered for more programs than I can remember and now once again I am stepping forward to announce my intention of running for the 3-Year Trustee position in the upcoming election on April 19th. I'm asking for your support and vote. I promise you all in return I will fulfill the 3-Year Trustee position with dedication, fairness, and honesty. Continuing to support our Post as I have for the past 34 years.



Your comrade,
Danny Gibbs

VFW POST 1503

CONCEALED CARRY CLASS

RECEIVE YOUR TRAINING
CERTIFICATE NEEDED TO
OBTAIN A CONCEALED
WEAPONS PERMIT



UTILIZING A CUTTING EDGE
LASER-BASED INDOOR RANGE:
NO LIVE FIREARMS OR
AMMUNITION. EVERYONE
SHOOTS THE LASER PISTOLS!

Saturday, May 20, 2023 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$60 Per Person

VFW POST 1503 * 14631 MINNIEVILLE ROAD * DALE CITY, VA 22193

CLASS SATISFIES THE TRAINING REQUIREMENT FOR A CONCEALED HANDGUN PERMIT IN ALL VIRGINIA JURISDICTIONS & INCLUDES LECTURE WITH LASER FIREARMS LIVEFIRE

CALL 804-484-9694 FOR MORE INFORMATION

The course presenter is Glenn Blandford. Mr. Blandford holds numerous weapons instructor certifications from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) as well as the National Rifle Association (NRA) and has served as a police officer, investigator, police academy instructor and firearms unit supervisor during a 30- year law enforcement career.



April 15, 2023 10:30am

VFW Post 1503
14631 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, VA 22193



VFW April Entertainment

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

Friday Night

Saturday Night

April 1st

DJ Michael

Kamikaze Karaoke & Dance Music

April 7th

DJ Danny

Dance Music Party

April 8th

The Janus Project

Classic Rock and Blues!

April 14th

DJ Michael

Kamikaze Karaoke & Dance Music

April 15th

DJ Steve Boldin

Dance Music & Videos

April 21st

DJ Joe Clay

Joeyoke & Dance Music

April 22nd

Mars Rodeo Band

Classic and Modern Rock!

April 28th

DJ T Play

Dance Music with Karaoke

April 29th

DJ Joe Clay

Joeyoke & Dance Music

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 April Fool's Day DJ Michael Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
2 Children's Easter Party 1-3 Breakfast 9-12:00	3	4 BINGO 7:30	5 Wacky Wacky BOWLS	6 BINGO 7:30	7 DJ Danny FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	8 The Janus Project Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
9 Happy Easter Breakfast 9-12:00	10	11 BINGO 7:30	12 MOCA 7:00 pm MOC 7:30 pm	13 BINGO 7:30	14 DJ Michael FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	15 DJ Steve Boldin Breakfast 9-12 AUX Breakfast WINGS 6:00-8:00
16 Breakfast 9-12:00	17	18 BINGO 7:30	19 POST ELECTIONS Auxiliary 7:00 pm Post Meeting 7:00 pm	20 BINGO 7:30	21 DJ Joe Clay FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	22 Mars Rodeo Band Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00
23 Breakfast 9-12:00 30 Breakfast 9-12:00	24	25 BINGO 7:30	26	27 BINGO 7:30	28 DJ T Play FRIDAY Dinners 5:00-8:00	29 DJ Joe Clay Breakfast 9-12 WINGS 6:00-8:00

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 1503

14631 Minnieville Road

Woodbridge, Virginia 22193

Happy Easter

Next Monthly Meeting

April 19th

vfw1503.org

WACKY WACKY

WEDNESDAY ...

APRIL 5TH ... Wacky Bowls

Chicken & Shrimp Rice Bowl \$10.95

Grilled Chicken & Shrimp with Rice, Mushrooms, Pineapple, Avocado
and Broccoli

Ahi Tuna Bowl \$12.95

Sliced Grilled Tuna, Citrus, Soy Sauce, Rice, Avocado, and Stir Fry
Vegetables

Grilled Steak Bowl. \$12.95

NY Strip Steak, Grilled Vegetables, Romaine Lettuce, Cucumber, Feta
Cheese, Mandarin Oranges and Honey Yogurt Dressing

12 Noon until Supplies are Gone...