



KFRW Newsletter

December 2021

President's Message

The **KFRW 2nd Biennial American Valor Dinner**, held Friday evening, November 12, was a blessing and success from the numerous comments received from those in attendance. We had 32 local veterans attend, although had reservations for 38, in all 67 enjoyed the great food, catered by Bell's Catering. We were kept on our toes with a very dynamic message from our speaker, **Jessie Jane Duff**, who came all the way from Sacramento, CA.

KFRW primary and associate members who are veterans that we honored during the evening were: **Janis Morrow, Tom Amburgey, John Haynes, Mac McNeill, David Miner, and Harry Mulhearn.** We remembered and honored the 13 U.S. service members killed in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021, eleven Marines, one Navy corpsman, and one Army special operations soldier, with a picture and brief bio of each on a special table in front. In addition, we had the "Missing Man Table" set up and went over the symbolism. **Judi Cleckner** read a veterans' tribute she'd heard on Faith Radio written by Rick Warren. *See all the AV Dinner acknowledgements on Page 4.*

Once Jessie arrived at her destination on Saturday afternoon, she sent me this text, *"The trip was perfect! Everything was amazing. I am so happy I came and you spoiled me. I would love to send a note to the little old man who was so sweet telling me about Boots Thomas, please send his address. He got teary eyed and was so filled with love. I can't thank you enough for the check. I'm humbled how much you took care of my travel. Everything was so perfect and special. Even the ladies who drove me had hearts of gold and patience with me. Thank you. I'm blessed to know you. I'm happy to come again and I promise not to screw up my flight next time..."*

Remember, we will not have a meeting in December, instead we have our **Christmas Party**, now on Monday, December 13, and hosted by **Tracy and Dusty Boyce** since DOE scheduled a meeting that **Eydie** has to attend in Orlando that day. Also, several KFRW officers had conflicts with the Dec. 6th original date. It will be potluck, so bring a "plate" (as they say in Australia) to share. Please invite a friend or spouse to attend as this is a social occasion and opportunity for potential members to mingle with us and find out more about KFRW!

Our next meeting is January 24, 2022, **4th Monday**, which is our Annual Meeting as we kick off 2022.

Lynn

Keystone Federated Republican Women

P. O. Box 45, Monticello, FL 32345

Website: KFRWFL.org – Facebook: KFRWFlorida

KFRW Executive Committee Officers

President – Lynn Stafford – 850-491-8755

VP Membership – Karen Knox – 850-251-0158

VP – Joy Frisby – 850-590-5359

Treasurer – Judi Cleckner – 850-997-5659

Secretary – Annaliese Mincy – 850-519-4818

Florida Federation of Republican Women (FFRW)

President – Deb Tamargo 1st VP – Maricel Cobitz

Secretary – Meg Merritt 2nd VP – Diane Van Parys

Treasurer – Angelia Boynton 3rd VP – Yvette Benarroch

Member-at-Large: Roberta Ulrich, Esther Byrd, Lisa Johnson

Districts Executive – Joanne Cooper

District 2 Representative – Dotty McPherson – 850-591-4988

National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW)

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Membership Update

KFRW Christmas Party is Monday, Dec. 13, 6 pm at Tracy & Dusty Boyce's home, 520 E. Dogwood. Bring a covered dish to share! Wear Christmas attire & bring a guest! Will have some door prizes too!

Membership Renewals for 2022: Due by December 31, 2021. Annual dues remain the same: Primary \$50 and Associates \$25. If not already, you can renew at the Christmas Party, drop off at 295 Hickory St., or mail a check to KFRW, PO Box 45, 32345. For new members joining now, through December, dues paid are for the remainder of 2021 and through 2022. Current membership is 50 primary and 20 associate members, total 70.

"Each One Bring One and Watch Us Grow in 2022"

Membership Challenge for 2022: We can double if every member invited just ONE. *Let's set the goal now for next year—and do it!*

GROWTH = MEMBERS = STRENGTH = VOTES = REPUBLICAN MAJORITIES

KFRW Merchandise for S~A~L~E

Shop KFRW for those on your Gift List! We have a few **new** items ([Trump bear and shot glass](#)), Magnets ([Back the Blue; We the People...](#)), [DeSantis Cap Keep Florida Free in navy](#); **Trump Won** bumper sticker, and flags ([2nd Amendment; Don't Tread on Me in yellow](#); [Tyranny...George Washington quote](#); & [God, Guns, Guts Made America](#)). Pictures of all **merchandise** now available to purchase and sell (\$2 to \$20) can be seen on the [KFRW Website](#) by categories: [Cowboy & fedora hats](#), [bling & baseball caps](#), [visors](#), [reading glasses \(1.0-3.5\)](#), [fanny packs](#), [umbrellas](#), [flags](#), [magnets](#), [bumper stickers](#), [ties & tie bar](#), [buttons](#), [bracelets](#), [brooches](#), [earrings](#), [lapel pins](#), [scarf holders](#), [watches](#), and [tile & paracord bracelets](#). *Contact Lynn Stafford if you have questions or to obtain items.* ■

KFRW Committee Updates

All Committee Chairs: *Please e-mail monthly updates to Lynn S. by Sunday, prior to monthly meeting, so updates can be shared with all club members via email, newsletter, etc. Thank you!*

For more info on committees and purpose of each, refer to each on the KFRW [website](#).

Executive Committee Planning Retreat will be Sunday, December 12, 1:30-6 pm, at 295 Hickory St. KFRW Officers and all Committee Chairs, *please plan to attend.*

Community Outreach – Gretchen Wallace completes a 13-week class for homeschoolers on Dec. 6, the establishment of the first 13 colonies, and will start back Jan. 10, with the revolutionary war and establishment of the U.S. of America, which includes in depth studies of foundational documents and prominent events and the founders. The students just submitted essays for the annual National Fleet Reserve Association essay contest on "Why am I Proud to be an American" and will learn about local and national awards in early and mid-2022. She hopes they have some winners! If anyone has any suggestions or comments about 2022 Community Outreach programs, *please contact Gretchen, prior to the Planning Retreat on Dec. 12. [She is especially looking for members who would like to volunteer to work on a project.](#)*

Election Integrity – Had their first meeting, Monday, Nov. 29. **Janis Morrow** will be the chair of this new committee. Anyone can help!

Events & Fundraising – We will take a much-needed "break" after the **2021 American Valor Dinner**, a lot of work—yet very rewarding, too! *See page four for a recap of the event.*

Media – Yikes...we must do better at taking photos at our events. We got none with Jessie or the set-up of the tables, food, silent auction, etc. *Thanks to those for the pictures we did get.* Note: If you take photos at events, *please forward via text or e-mail to Lynn Stafford ASAP.* ☺

The expectation is all members will help at club events, as available, when called upon by the committees.

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"What you do speaks so loudly that I cannot hear what you say." -- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Monthly Themed Raffle Baskets



“It’s Almost Christmas”
 usable container filled with Christmas season goodies, prepared by **Catherine McNeill**, was raffled & won by **Janis Morrow**, raising \$72.

Suggested items for baskets are to provide ideas, yet optional. If you have items to contribute for a themed basket, *please bring to a meeting.* ☺

It’s Time to Adopt a basket for 2022, few remaining.

January - “Cold Night Survival Kit” Debbie Snapp

Suggestions: Devotional, mug, cocoa, teas, coffee, honey, candy

February - “Spring into Action” K. Knox/L. Stafford

Spring/Easter Theme - Suggestions: Fresh plants, umbrella

March - “Gold Dust be Gone” Annaliese Mincy

Time to remove the pollen! Car Cleaning/Outdoor Cleaning Theme

April - “Seaside Escape” Diana Mulhearn

Beach Themed Basket

May - “Thanks a Melon” Judi Cleckner

Watermelon Themed Basket

June - “America First!” Susan Carabello

Red/White/Blue Themed Basket - Patriotic items, USA made

July - “Elephant Ears” Janis Morrow

Primary Is coming! - Election Themed Basket

August - “Let’s Get Ready for Football” _____

Fall Themed Basket - Suggestions: Snacks, Dips, Recipes

September - “Boo Away Cancer” _____

Pink Themed Basket - Suggestions: Pampering items

October - “Gobble till You Wobble” Catherine McNeill

Thanksgiving Themed Basket

November - “Silver Bells” _____

Christmas Themed Basket



American Valor Dinner Speaker, **Jessie Jane Duff**, with (Left-Right) **Billy Chain, Gary Alberstadt, John Haynes, David Miner, Leamon Ratterree, and Harry Mulhearn.**

(Photo: Julie Dybendahl)



December Members’ Birthdays

Happy Birthday to each of you!

- 12/1 Karen Purser
- 12/3 Scott Brantley
- 12/3 Dale Young
- 12/27 Joy Frisby
- 12/30 June Campbell



Calendar of Events



Tuesday, December 7

~ **Pearl Harbor Day** ~

Chamber Christmas Party

5 pm @ 420 W. Washington St.



KFRW EC Planning Retreat

Sunday, December 12, 1:30-6 pm
 Lynn Stafford’s Home, 295 Hickory St



Monday, December 13

KFRW Christmas Party

6 pm @ Tracy & Dusty Boyce’s Home
 520 E. Dogwood St.

JC School Board Meeting

6 pm @ 1490 W. Washington St



No December KFRW Meeting



Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25



New Year’s Eve

Friday, December 31

~ 2021 American Valor Dinner Acknowledgements ~



I especially want to thank **Leslie Rabon** for co-organizing the event with me. She acquired several sponsors, including her own, arranged for the caterers (everyone said “*the food was great*”), printed the event programs, set up & arranged tables, provided the mic & speakers and monitored the sound during the event, and purchased the materials & made the table center pieces, and decorated including the stage.

For providing travel for Jessie, I wish to thank **Brenda Sorensen** for picking her up at the airport on Friday around noon, and taking her back to the Avera-Clarke cottage after the event. A BIG thank you goes to **Judi Cleckner** for picking Jessie up at 5 AM and taking her to the airport for a Saturday 7 AM flight! (Brenda said, “*I’m sure glad you didn’t give me that assignment.*”) Judi also picked up Jessie and brought her to the event. *I am very much appreciative to both of them!!!*

I also want to thank **Mike Herrin**, Exec. Director of the Monticello Opera House, for letting us borrow a 4x4 foot section of stage and set of stairs, which **Bill Snyder** hauled to and from the event for us, and the use of 13 white table cloths (which I pressed before and washed afterwards) and table numbers for the 13 tables we set up. We donated \$150 to the Opera House as a token of our appreciation!

A *special thanks of gratitude* to the following for helping to set up on Thursday afternoon for the event: **Leslie Rabon, Lynn Stafford, Bill Snyder, Karen Purser, Karen Knox, Julie Dybendahl, and Jean Timms** and **Edna Hand**. Friday afternoon for last minute touches: **Leslie Rabon, Lynn Stafford, Abby McGehee, and Gretchen Wallace**. After the event, **Leslie Rabon, Bill Snyder, Judi Cleckner, Abby McGehee, Gretchen Wallace, and Lynn Stafford** stayed, packed up and left the facility as we found it.

The event happened due to the generosity and number of **Event Sponsors: Kirk Reams, Dean & Andie Jerger, Fireside Robert, Inc., Rep. Jason Shoaf, Jordan Investigation & Consulting, Sheriff Mac McNeill, Angela Gray, Malloy’s Nursery, Sons of the Confederate Veterans, Leslie Rabon/Conference Quest, and the sixteen Hometown Hero Sponsors: Daphne Wood (3), Larry & Gretchen Wallace, Brenda Sorensen, Bill Snyder, Judi Cleckner, Pam Willis/Vintage Treasures, Buck Bird, Gary Wright, Bob Perry, Marty Bishop, Annie Wickham, Florida-Georgia Citrus, NF Abstract & Title, and Big Bend Tire. The sponsorships raised \$5,850. And 3 personal donations, \$210. (KFRW members in bold.)**

We had 21 items or gift certificates ranging from \$10 to \$200 in value donated for the **Silent Auction**, a total value of \$1,107, **raising \$795**, with three going for face value and three for close to or double the value! *We thank the following who donated items to the silent auction:* Wood Turnings by DAW (6), **Gretchen Wallace** (2), Spencer Taylor/FNLW Knife & Woodworks (handmade knife & stand), **John Haynes’ Mission** (stem cell patches), and gift certificates/cards from Trophy Creek Outfitters, Betsy Barfield Photography, Monticello Opera House, **Vintage Treasures**, Two Sisters, Flatwoods Café, Artic Scoop Ice Cream, Tupelo’s Bakery & Café, 2 Old Men, Gellings Floral Designs, and the Rancho Grande.

We had on display 3 tables of **merchandise** and thanks to **Gretchen Wallace** and **Abby McGehee**, who assisted buyers, **sold \$194** to eager-to-buy attendees, including five Trump flags!

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