

Roll Call

An All American Post

VFW Post 3783

December 2022



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Have an article for Roll Call? Please submit your article no later than the 21st of each month, to pao@vfw3783.org. Please place Newsletter Submission in the subject line.

**Editor: Larry Burns
Proofreader: Lisa Burns**

Commander's Corner

Season's Greetings!

We had a pretty busy month, but not as busy as October. The month started with our District 1 meeting which was held at VFW Post 1924 in Fallbrook.

Next up, the United States Marine Corps 247th birthday was on the 10th. We celebrated it on the 13th with a Steak and Egg breakfast followed by a remarkable ceremony conducted by Alan Michaud. It was a great learning experience with a lot of Marine Corps history followed by the Commandant's Message. The ceremony culminated with shots provided by Gunny for those who were still present.



Veterans Day followed the Corps' birthday on Friday the 11th, which kicked off our Buddy Poppy Drive for the weekend. Folks went out and stood their first day shifts to get the ball rolling. We were lucky enough to have Marla, Dale, Karen, and Milly cook up an awesome meal for our Veterans Day Celebration. The meal was followed by our POW/MIA Ceremony. I'd like to thank Lisa, Karen, Uncle George, Gwen, Holly and Doug for assisting with the ceremony. Special thanks to Aodhan and his crew for assisting with the candles.

Saturday and Sunday finished up the Buddy Poppy Drive and I'd like to thank those who stood more than one shift, especially Tambo and Jaime who stood two (2) consecutive shifts. This brings me to my unpleasant remarks... There are entirely too many members of our Post/Auxiliary for folks to have to stand more than one shift! That is totally unsat! I'm off my soapbox.

Let's talk Turkey! We brought back our turkey fundraiser again this year on the 23rd. Luckily prices were still manageable, and all of our patrons were extremely patient and ready for the announcement that we were moving forward. We had 31 customers from last year say YES to turkeys again this year. We then opened it up and sure enough, before too long, all 36 birds were reserved. We sold out very quickly and had to relay the bad news to those who weren't in the 36. Special thank you to all who provided extra donations for their turkeys.

Every single dollar went to the Post. Thanks to Doug for providing a beverage for all the volunteers. This ensured the Post and Canteen had a great day. (Unfortunately, we killed the cider)

Special thanks to the crew who showed up at 5:00 a.m. to get things rolling: Doug, Dale, DJ, Henry and Uncle George. Dale drew the short straw for belt duty this year as I was in cleaning/prepping the turkeys for the spits. A HUGE shoutout to Henry for providing doughnuts from Mary's. We enjoyed a few, while watching the sun rise over the Post. It was a great day!

Cont on pg 2



Commanders Corner Cont...

December brings up our Voice of Democracy / Patriots Pen / Teacher of the year Dinner on the 10th. We will be presenting plaques to our Post winners during an awards ceremony starting at 7:00 p.m. I hope to see you there to help show support for our winners and awardees.

The Post and Auxiliary are working hand-in-hand again for Military Family Christmas delivery on December 11th. Thank you to all the folks who are on the team to help make it an awesome event. (I would list folks specifically, but I don't have enough space) We will not be serving breakfast, However, we will have the Gems folks onsite supplying coffee and breakfast goodies. Swing by and support a local veteran owned company. Their offerings are very good!

I hope to see everyone at the Post Christmas Party on December 17th. The Post will provide a protein so please bring a side or dessert. It should be a fun time, especially during the White Elephant gift (\$25) exchange. Check out the flyer in the Newsletter.

Don't forget about our New Year's Eve feast put on by Dale and Marla. It is some awesome grub! Come dressed in your finery and help us toast in the new year. I need to start practicing that it will be 2023...

I hope to see you around the Post !

Larry Burns, Post Commander

Tha Clan Burns a 'guidhe Nollaig Chridheil agus Bliadhna Mhath Ùr dhut.

Auxiliary President

Ho Ho Ho and a Merry uknowhatt!!!

Hi folks, happy December! As I write this, there is a chill in the air and rain is beckoning on the weekend horizon. Thanksgiving has passed and the Christmas holiday is approaching.

On the 11th of this month we will be celebrating our local military families with Post festivities, particularly a visit from St. Nick for our younger people (of all ages). This is our yearly major support event for Ramona Active Duty Servicemembers and their dependents. If you would like to donate gift cards or other financial assistance, please see Larry Burns or myself to make a contribution. This is yet another opportunity to thank our folks for their service to our welfare and our country.

November was a busy time for our little Ramona post! Thanksgiving turkey time filled our home away from home with familiar aromas and good people. Be sure to stop by and enjoy the ambiance! It is a time to put aside petty differences, particularly politics (!) and celebrate our commonality as citizens and our inherent humanity for one another. It is also a time to reflect on our servicemembers overseas, far from home, with thanks for their efforts and dedication. God bless them and keep them safe!

Our Post is part of the Auxiliary District One. There are of course many Districts across our country. This District consists of 27 (I counted!) San Diego County Posts and thousands of members. Our local District advises our Auxiliary on the monthly events occurring in our region. One I have been advised of is called "Care & Share 2022," which is a program dedicated to assist veterans in our greater San Diego community through the VA Medical Center. In particular, to pack and distribute holiday meals on the 14th and 15th of this month. It seeks to provide financial assistance for up to 700 families (like our local program, only on steroids). If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to our VA administrators Marina Vargas (Marina.Vargas@va.gov) or Gayle.Galyean-Gray@va.gov. There will also be a silent auction on Wednesday December 7 in furtherance of this yearly cause.

In other news, there will be a "Wreaths Across America" ceremony at our beautiful Fort Rosecrans Cemetery on December 17, 2022 (where my grandfather rests). A ceremony will also be held at our fairly new and equally inspiring Miramar location (where my dad rests). If you would like to sponsor a wreath, you are encouraged to go to the Miramar National Cemetery site or Fort Rosecrans site for further information. Additionally, you can google "Wreaths Across America-San Diego" and read all about it.

Happy Trails 2022, 2023 is just around the corner.

May the Lord bless us all!

Robert 'Bob' Thorn, Auxiliary President



Vietnam Veteran Name Finder

<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>

First click on a state. When it opens, scroll down to the city where you went to high school and look at the names. Click on a name and it will give details of the person's death, a picture, or at least their bio and medals.

This really is an amazing web site! Someone spent a lot of time and effort to create it. I hope that everyone who sees this appreciates what those who served in Vietnam sacrificed for our country.

Please pass this link on to others, as many knew wonderful people whose names are listed.



From the House Committee

Hello VFW friends and family!

We are wrapping up the year with some new projects being completed! Thanks to the grant we received, we now have a brand new roof on the Post! Yay! No more leaks when it rains! Thank you all for your patience while it was being worked on! More projects are on the horizon! Upgrading the electrical and repaving the parking lot will be next year along with SOLAR!!!!

Speaking of Solar, if you would like to sponsor a panel, please let us know! When you sponsor a panel, not only do you get a tax donation letter, but you will also get your name on the underside of a solar panel to show your sponsorship! Payment plans can be made available!

If you have noticed the work around the flagpole, then you have seen an Eagle Scout Project in progress! The pole has been repainted and the gravel area redone! Thank you, Niall Hearn, for giving our flagpole area the attention it deserves!

Now that the good stuff has been talked about, it is time to bring up the not so fun. Starting in January some of our meal prices will have to be increased. We are doing a cost analysis to keep the margin as low as possible. We appreciate all that have come in for our meals! We have been seeing many new faces and we hope you all keep inviting others to come! Unfortunately, with the prices from our vendors rising, we have to make an adjustment. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

We have had a few members of the House Committee move out of state which has left a few openings. If you are a Post member in good standing and are interested in being on the House Committee (or want to know more about it), please let me know. There is only one meeting a month, 5:30 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. This House Committee discusses items pertaining to the "house," such as maintenance, canteen management and Post calendar scheduling. This is YOUR Post! So, if there are changes you would like to see, this is a good place to start.

And that is a wrap for this year! Have happy and safe holidays!

Alexis Henshaw, Post Sr. Vice Commander

Auxiliary Chaplain

I have been requested not to send cards to two (2) of our members. With that said, I ask all of you to remember our Auxiliary, Post and Active Duty military members. Keep them in your prayers during this holiday season.

Have a blessed Christmas!

Cheris Anthony, Auxiliary Chaplain

From the Clubhouse

Please notify me what items you need for your planned meals. Orders are placed on Wednesdays, prior to 11:00 AM, for a week-end delivery. Also, please look to see if we have any items in stock before writing on the board to order. If you want something that's not commonly ordered, please place an initial after the item so if there are any questions, I can contact you.

Volunteer cooks, please write down portions you are using for each meal as this helps with inventory and future cost analysis data.

Recycle bins are for use as follows: the small bin is for glass and the large bin is for cardboard. Please break down any boxes that need to go in the bin .

Free dinners, drawn in August, to be used during the month of September:

Ron Conners
Fernando Quiroz (Last four of phone 4422)

Shelby Mercer, Clubhouse Manager

Our Very Own Pâtissier

Alexis' Cakery in Ramona puts a dash of personality into confectionary creations



Alexis Henshaw is used to helping other people celebrate special occasions. But Veterans Day this year was a festive one for her.

The former Navy petty officer first class-turned-cake-maker received the news that she had been approved by the county for Cottage Licensing, which would allow her to bake from home.

The Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations license allowed the Ramona resident to open Alexis' Cakery on Nov. 10.

"There's no better way to celebrate Veterans Day weekend than to have this license go through," said Henshaw, who served nearly nine years in the Navy. "Right now, I'm happy and content baking in my own kitchen."

It was actually a reopening — Henshaw had originally opened Alexis' Cakery in 2014 while stationed in Japan. She ran the business the year-and-a-half she lived at the Sasebo Naval Base, selling custom or specialty cakes along with cupcakes, French macarons, and hand-rolled pretzels. Her forte was making cakes for weddings, retirements, birthdays and ceremonies.

"I was very busy, but the beauty of it is no jobs are the same, everybody's cake and event are different," she said. "I get to be a part of so many people's special occasions. Everybody takes pictures of their wedding cakes and I get to be a small part of their day."

For Henshaw, owning a cake business isn't just about baking. It's also about getting to know her clients and incorporating their personalities and preferences into her one-of-a-kind creations.

"It's a very personal thing to be invited into," said Henshaw, 44. "I love being able to cultivate people's dreams by making a cake."

Some of the bigger projects she's done are wedding cakes. Before getting started in the kitchen, Henshaw typically sets up a consultation with the bride and groom, sometimes including other wedding party members and family. From there, she asks them to describe themselves and share what they like to do. Then they talk about flavors and designs and schedule a cake tasting.

Details such as wedding themes and indoor vs. outdoor settings matter to Henshaw so she can incorporate personal touches into each cake.

"It gets to be exciting because they're excited," Henshaw said of her clients. "I feed off other people's excitement and I just want to reciprocate it back to them. It's not just a job but about providing something for a special occasion. Everybody's occasions are important and they're important to me."



Henshaw, who is married to retired Navy Lt. Commander Donald Henshaw, just finished a black wedding cake for Ramona residents Garrett and Krystine Wear.

The Wears chose a Victorian/Sleepy Hollow-meets-Southern-style fall festival theme for their Oct. 29 wedding ceremony held at First Congregational Church of Ramona.

Krystine Wear, a Navy veteran who met Henshaw at a Veterans of Foreign Wars event. When she found out that Henshaw was starting a bakery and had tasted some of her cakes previously, she hired Henshaw to make a cake for her wedding shower.

"It was absolutely the most beautiful cake I'd ever seen so I knew I could count on her to make my cake for the most important day of my life," Wear said. "I also really wanted to support friends and family businesses so it was a win-win

in my eye."

The couple wanted a cake that made a statement, and black was one of the primary colors of their wedding, so an elegant black cake fit the bill.

Wear said Henshaw was "absolutely amazing" at listening to what they wanted and delivering on their request. Cake tasting was one of the fun parts of the process, she said. Henshaw asked for her top flavors, then showed different textures and styles before allowing the couple to pick what they thought matched their theme. The end result was a beautiful — and delicious — red velvet and chocolate with raspberry cake, Wear said.

"Not only was the cake the best cake I've ever had, but the process was easy and it was like working with family," she said.



With a home baking business, Henshaw said she can create more personalized orders, unlike those from commercial off-the-shelf bakeries.

"When choosing a home baker you can get something special," she said. "Every piped dog can get a pink bow. Custom work allows you so much flexibility in the product that you receive. (Other bakeries) serve their purpose. In a pinch you can pick something up and it's going to be great, but it's not as personalized as when you go through a home bakery."

Sometimes her creations can be little works of art, like the rustic Highland cow cupcakes she made for Rustic Interiors' Oct. 14 Grand Opening ceremony in Ramona.

"They were so cute you didn't want to eat them," Henshaw said.

Information retrieved from, <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/ramona-sentinel/news/story/2022-11-22/alexis-cakery-in-ramona-puts-a-dash-of-personality-into-confectionary-creations>.

Our Very Own Pâtissier Cont...



Rustic Interiors' co-owner Carrie Bryant, who runs the home décor store with Andrea Delgado, still has one of the cow cupcakes in her refrigerator.

"It just makes me so happy when I open the fridge and he looks at me," Bryant said.

Bryant has known Henshaw for years, through Pop Warner and VFW activities, and had previously sampled her cupcakes and pretzels. Bryant said she knew Henshaw's products were delicious and that her character and integrity are top-notch.

"I'm obsessed with Highland cows and they are the mascot for Rustic Interiors," Bryant said. "I had come across a picture of Highland cows and I asked her, 'Can you make these for me please?' and they turned out better than anticipated."

"They were a hit," she added.

Henshaw joined the Navy in 1996 right after graduating from Buffalo High School in Buffalo, Missouri in 1996 because she wanted to travel and experience other cultures. She had also grown up in a military family — her mother, Karen Welch, had been in the U.S. Army.

As her own three children became older, Henshaw began thinking about using her GI Bill. So while her husband was on shore duty in Nebraska, she decided it would be a good time to go back to school and learn about one of her passions, baking and pastry making.

"I went in with the mindset that this is the career path I want to take," she said. "For me, taking the baking and pastry route was what called to me the most. Then we went back to Japan and I got to do it."

In 2010, Henshaw went to culinary school at the local Metropolitan Community College in Omaha, Neb. She earned a specialist diploma in baking and pastry and an associate's degree in fine arts from the community college in 2013.

Being a home baker fit in with the itinerant military lifestyle, she said, and she could have flexible hours to be available to her children — Tyler, 15; Brandon, 19; and Hailey, 22. Plus, she said baking enables her to do something she loves while bringing joy to other people.

After leaving Japan in 2015, the Henshaws decided to move to Ramona where Hailey could participate in the Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) at Ramona High School. They were also looking for the same type of small-town environment they experienced in Nebraska and Japan.

When first arriving in Ramona Henshaw wasn't too confident she could re-launch her baking business right away because she didn't know many people in town. But she and husband Donald soon became active in the Ramona VFW Post 3783 and her community connections grew.

Alexis Henshaw served as commander of the Ramona VFW Post for three years, from July 2017 to July 2020. Next year, starting in June, she will serve as commander of the VFW district for all of San Diego County. Henshaw also worked for a few years as a loan officer assistant for H5 Financial in Ramona.

"Getting involved in the community helped me build friendships and make contacts," said Henshaw, who received numerous responses to her Nov. 10 Facebook announcement that she was reopening Alexis' Cakery. "That's the beauty of Ramona. Once you get involved, this community opens up its arms to you and it wants for you to be successful."

Information retrieved from, <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/ramona-sentinel/news/story/2022-11-22/alexis-cakery-in-ramona-puts-a-dash-of-personality-into-confectionary-creations>.



VFW Post 3783

SPONSOR A PANEL

The VFW is going Solar and YOU can sponsor a panel! Each \$1,000 tax deductible donation will receive their name plaque on their sponsored solar panel! Donate as a family, business or an individual! 75 panels are available!

To reserve your panel contact Alexis Henshaw at alexishenshaw@hotmail.com

3rd Annual...

A CUL-DE-SAC CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December, 3rd.

Litten Way, SDCE, Ramona 10am - 2pm



Photo Booth with
SANTA !!

20+ Artists & Craftsman:

Disney Gifts + Mulled Wine + Homemade Salsa
Specialty Chocolates + Christmas Gifts & Novelties
Dog Training + "Blue Honey" Country Wine & Meats
"Earth Gems Art" - Serving Trays, Charcuterie Boards,
Stone Coasters, Wine Glasses, Pendants & More
Children's Handmade Clothing + Novelty T-shirts
Knitted Hats + Soaps & Beauty Products + "Outlaw BBQ"
Gift Wrap Service! & Much More!!

Benefiting:
Ramona's VFW Post 3783

More Vendor Space Available!

Jodie = 808-341-9159

Be respectful of neighborhood.
No public bathrooms.



**Help support our adopted
Military Families this
Christmas**



The public is invited
to the Ramona VFW Post 3783 for our
Spaghetti with Meatballs Dinner
to include salad and garlic bread

\$12.00 per person

Proceeds (incl. dinner profit + tips) support our
“Active Duty Military Families Program”

Saturday December 3, 2022

Seating at 6pm

Additional donations can be made in cash
or with Albertsons, Stater Bros., Walmart, etc.
or gas station “gift cards” in \$10.00
increments.

Call (760) 789-7888

VFW Post 3783, 2247 Kelly Ave. Ramona CA 92065



December 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Please RSVP for Saturday night dinners @ (760) 789-7888 (Either 6:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m.)</p> <p>Sunday breakfast is from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.</p>				<p>1 Rigatoni  \$5.00</p>	<p>2 Fish & Chips  \$10.00</p>	<p>3 Spaghetti Fundraiser  \$12.00</p>
<p>4 Steak & Eggs  \$10.00</p>	<p>5 Chili Dog  \$5.00</p>	<p>6 TACO TUESDAY Every Tuesday is TACO TUESDAY 12 till gone \$5.00</p>	<p>7 Brats  \$5.00</p>	<p>8 Pulled Pork  \$5.00</p>	<p>9 Burgers & Fries  \$10.00</p>	<p>10 VoD / PP / ToY Dinner Roast Beef  \$15.00</p>
<p>11 Delivery Day No Breakfast Gems Food Truck will be here</p>	<p>12 Chili Dog  \$5.00</p>	<p>13 TACO TUESDAY Every Tuesday Is TACO TUESDAY 12 till gone \$5.00 Aux Meeting 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>14 Sloppy Joes  \$5.00</p>	<p>15 Rigatoni  \$5.00</p>	<p>16 Fish & Chips  \$10.00</p>	<p>17 Christmas Party Potluck </p>
<p>18 Chicken Fried Steak  \$10.00</p>	<p>19 Chili Dog  \$5.00</p>	<p>20 TACO TUESDAY Every Tuesday is TACO TUESDAY 12 till gone \$5.00</p>	<p>21 Sloppy Joes \$5.00 House Meeting 5:30 p.m. Post Meeting 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>22 Pulled Pork  \$5.00</p>	<p>23 Burgers & Fries  \$10.00</p>	<p>24 No Dinner Closing Early MERRY CHRISTMAS </p>
<p>25 WISHING YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS </p>	<p>26 Chili Dog  \$5.00</p>	<p>27 TACO TUESDAY Every Tuesday is TACO TUESDAY 12 till gone \$5.00</p>	<p>28 Sloppy Joes  \$5.00</p>	<p>29 Rigatoni  \$5.00</p>	<p>30 Fish & Chips  \$10.00</p>	<p>31 Surf & Turf  \$35.00</p>

**Sunday
December 11th
2021**



11:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Come join us for our VFW Post & Auxiliary Second Annual Event!
For our members and Active-Duty Service families in Ramona Vista Housing**

**FREE
Pictures with
Santa Claus
Inside the Post**





Christmas Party, Saturday December 17th 2022!

Potluck Dinner:

- Post will provide the protein
- Please bring a side dish or dessert
- Dinner is 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
- White Elephant Gift Exchange starts at 7:00 PM

White Elephant Gift Exchange:

- Recommended \$25.00 Limit
- Three (3) steals allowed
- First pick has option to pick last
- Label your wrapping Male, Female, or Unisex
- Commander's Consolation gift for worst gag gift

Ugly Sweaters, Pretty sweaters, or Holiday Finery

Come join us at the Post for some Holiday fun!



VFW Post 3783

New Years Eve Party

Filet Mignon

Jumbo Garlic Shrimp

Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Asparagus, Salad & Dessert

\$35.00

RSVP @ 760-789-7888

Seatings: 6:00 & 7:30 PM

Champagne Toast at

Midnight



From the Editor

Articles for the January Newsletter will be due by noon on Sunday, December 18th. Please ensure your submissions are emailed to pao@vfw3783.org or blug8r@gmail.com.

Please check out the Post website at [Post 3783](http://www.vfw3783.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp) (<http://www.vfw3783.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp>) Additionally, our Facebook page is updated constantly with Post happenings. Check it out at [Post FB Page](https://www.facebook.com/VFW-Post-3783-Ramona-CA-205428942824592/) (<https://www.facebook.com/VFW-Post-3783-Ramona-CA-205428942824592/>).

Advertisers, the date below your business card is the expiration date for your paid year. Please see D.J. Henshaw or myself if you are interested in continuing to sponsor our Newsletter. The timeline for sponsorship is typically July 1st through June 30th of the year you are paying. However, if your sponsorship begins off-cycle, your ad will be placed with the expiration date as one year from your sponsorship payment.

Lastly, As I sated last month, I was told I need to do a better job with the Newsletter. Again, I've been doing the Newsletter for 8½ years. I have a full time job for the Navy. I am also the Post Commander and I volunteer for a lot of things around this Post for which see very few people stepping up. With that said, I appreciate the usual suspects who are ALWAYS here helping with meals or projects around the Post; you know who you are! However, if anyone would like to step up and take over as the Newsletter editor, since I am doing such a poor job, I will be more than happy to relinquish this responsibility. I'm off my soapbox, for now...

Quotes for December are for Christmas:

"Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone." ~ **Charles M. Schultz**

"My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others." ~ **Bob Hope**

"There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humor." ~ **Charles Dickens**

"Christmas is a necessity. There has to be at least one day of the year to remind us that we're here for something else besides ourselves." ~ **Eric Severeid**

"This Christmas may you have... Walls for the wind, a roof for the rain, drinks bedside the fire, laughter to cheer you, those you love near you, and all that your heart may desire." ~ **Irish Proverb**

Thank for your continued support of this Newsletter. Please let me know if you have any ideas on how to improve it.

Larry Burns, Newsletter Editor



A Spin on Season's Greetings

1. English - Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
2. Czech - Přeji vám veselé Vánoce a šťastný rok nerw
3. Danish - Ønsker dig en god jul og et godt Nerw-år
4. Dutch - Ik wens u prettige kerstdagen en een gelukkig Nerw-jaar
5. Filipino - Nais ka ng isang Maligayang Pasko at isang Maligayang Nerw Year
6. Finnish - Toivotamme hyvää joulua ja hyvää hermovuotta
7. French - En vous souhaitant un joyeux Noël et une bonne année
8. German - Ich wünsche Ihnen ein frohes Weihnachtsfest und ein gutes neues Jahr
9. Greek - Sas éfchomai Kalá Christoúgenna kai Eftychisméno to Néo Étos
10. Hebrew - מאחל לך חג מולד שמח ושנה טובה ומבורכת
11. Icelandic - Óska þér gleðilegra jóla og farsældar á nýju ári
12. Irish Gaelic - Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain Shona a thabhairt duit
13. Italian: Ti auguro un buon Natale e un felice anno nuovo
14. Japanese: Merikurisumasu to happinyūiyā o oinori shimasu
15. Korean - gippeun seongtangwa saehae bog manh-i bad-euseyo
16. Latin - Volentes vobis New Anno Felix et Christmas
17. Norwegian - Ønsker deg en god jul og et godt nytt år
18. Polish - Życzymy Wesółych Świąt i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku
19. Samoan - Fiafia ia te oe se Merry Christmas ma se Tau Fiafia Fou
20. Scottish Gaelic - A 'guidhe Nollaig Chridheil agus Bliadhna Mhath Ùr dhut
21. Serbian - Želim vam sretan Božić i srećnu Novu godinu
22. Spanish - Te deseo una feliz Navidad y un feliz año nuevo
23. Swedish - Önskar dig god jul och ett gott nytt år
24. Welsh - Gan ddymuno i chi Nadolig Llawn a Blwyddyn Newydd dda
25. Yiddish - gevalt ir a gute niftl aun a gut yor

Translations acquired from: <https://translate.google.com/http://www.etranslator.ro/english.php>;
<https://www.translation-services-usa.com/languages/cornish.php>

History of Christmas

Christmas is both a sacred religious holiday and a worldwide cultural and commercial phenomenon. For two millennia, people around the world have been observing it with traditions and practices that are both religious and secular in nature. Christians celebrate Christmas Day as the anniversary of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, a spiritual leader whose teachings form the basis of their religion. Popular customs include exchanging gifts, decorating Christmas trees, attending church, sharing meals with family and friends and, of course, waiting for Santa Claus to arrive. December 25—Christmas Day—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1870.

The middle of winter has long been a time of celebration around the world. Centuries before the arrival of the man called Jesus, early Europeans celebrated light and birth in the darkest days of winter. Many peoples rejoiced during the winter solstice, when the worst of the winter was behind them and they could look forward to longer days and extended hours of sunlight. In Scandinavia, the Norse celebrated Yule from December 21, the winter solstice, through January. In recognition of the return of the sun, fathers and sons would bring home large logs, which they would set on re. The people would feast until the log burned out, which could take as many as 12 days. The Norse believed that each spark from the re represented a new pig or calf that would be born during the coming year. The end of December was a perfect time for celebration in most areas of Europe. At that time of year, most cattle were slaughtered so they would not have to be fed during the winter. For many, it was the only time of year when they had a supply of fresh meat. In addition, most wine and beer made during the year was finally fermented and ready for drinking. In Germany, people honored the pagan god Oden during the mid-winter holiday. Germans were terrified of Oden, as they believed he made nocturnal flights through the sky to observe his people, and then decide who would prosper or perish. Because of his presence, many people chose to stay inside.

In the early 17th century, a wave of religious reform changed the way Christmas was celebrated in Europe. When Oliver Cromwell and his Puritan forces took over England in 1645, they vowed to rid England of decadence and, as part of their effort, cancelled Christmas. By popular demand, Charles II was restored to the throne and, with him, came the return of the popular holiday. The pilgrims, English separatists that came to America in 1620, were even more orthodox in their Puritan beliefs than Cromwell. As a result, Christmas was not a holiday in early America. From 1659 to 1681, the celebration of Christmas was actually outlawed in Boston. Anyone exhibiting the Christmas spirit was fined five shillings. By contrast, in the Jamestown settlement, Captain John Smith reported that Christmas was enjoyed by all and passed without incident.

After the American Revolution, English customs fell out of favor, including Christmas. In fact, Christmas wasn't declared a federal holiday until June 26, 1870.

It wasn't until the 19th century that Americans began to embrace Christmas. Americans re-invented Christmas, and changed it from a raucous carnival holiday into a family-centered day of peace and nostalgia. But what about the 1800s peaked American interest in the holiday?

The early 19th century was a period of class conflict and turmoil. During this time, unemployment was high and gang rioting by the disenfranchised classes often occurred during the Christmas season. In 1828, the New York city council instituted the city's first police force in response to a Christmas riot. This catalyzed certain members of the upper classes to begin to change the way Christmas was celebrated in America.

In 1819, best-selling author Washington Irving wrote *The Sketchbook of Geoffrey Crayon, gent.*, a series of stories about the celebration of Christmas in an English manor house. The sketches feature a squire who invited the peasants into his home for the holiday. In contrast to the problems faced in American society, the two groups mingled effortlessly. In Irving's mind, Christmas should be a peaceful, warm-hearted holiday bringing groups together across lines of wealth or social status. Irving's fictitious celebrants enjoyed "ancient customs," including the crowning of a Lord of Misrule. Irving's book, however, was not based on any holiday celebration he had attended – in fact, many historians say that Irving's account actually "invented" tradition by implying that it described the true customs of the season.

Also around this time, English author Charles Dickens created the classic holiday tale, *A Christmas Carol*. The story's message—the importance of charity and good will towards all humankind—struck a powerful chord in the United States and England and showed members of Victorian society the benefits of celebrating the holiday.

The family was also becoming less disciplined and more sensitive to the emotional needs of children during the early 1800s. Christmas provided families with a day when they could lavish attention—and gifts—on their children without appearing to "spoil" them. As Americans began to embrace Christmas as a perfect family holiday, old customs were unearthed. People looked toward recent immigrants and Catholic and Episcopalian churches to see how the day should be celebrated. In the next 100 years, Americans built a Christmas tradition all their own that included pieces of many other customs, including decorating trees, sending holiday cards and gift-giving.

Although most families quickly bought into the idea that they were celebrating Christmas how it had been done for centuries, Americans had really re-invented a holiday to fill the cultural needs of a growing nation.

Information retrieved from <https://www.history.com/topics/christmas/history-of-christmas>.



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