



# The Ships Log

Bi-Monthly Bulletin for the VFW Ship 1774  
Ladies Auxiliary and AMVETS 1775

January – February 2012

NEWSLETTER

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It is a new year and we have lots of plans for the Ship, but first allow me to give some perspective of what transpired this last year and some clarifying comments.

In December 2010, we were then recovering from a fairly recent, disastrous past in which we were near financial ruin and insolvency. Heavy rains that month caused a rockslide which resulted in our having to relocate due to a vacate order issued by the landlord. We then considered our moving to another facility or consolidation with another Post.



After many discussions, arguments, proposals, etc., the membership considered the options and unanimously voted to move into our current facility, a building owned by La Mesa American Legion Post 282. This allowed us to continue serving in the City of La Mesa and maintaining the Charter of O.K. Ingram Ship #1774 which has been in existence since 1930.



Many within the VFW community, mostly those not members of our Ship, vigorously opposed our moving into an American Legion facility. Their reasons were many, but one that lives on today

is 1) a viable VFW Post should be on its own and not aligned with another veteran's organization and 2) it would be best to have one larger Post rather than two separate Posts when they are in close proximity of each other. These arguments were heard and soundly rejected by our membership for reasons that were valid then and which are valid today.

The leaders and members of **many** (way too many in the eyes of this writer) veteran-based organizations argue that their organization is better than the other and offer rationale to that effect. The argument, however, is mostly emotional and not based on relevant facts. What is true is that the largest organizations – American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars – continuously talk to our Nation’s elected leaders to offer insights and proposals to benefit the USA and us, and to offer benefits that are substantial and which meet the needs of the community and today’s veterans. If there is a void, then it is up to their membership to define and make the recommendation(s) for change. Having too many veterans-based organizations splinters veterans’ voices and resources, and takes away potential achievements that each organization is well capable of doing. After all, they have been doing it since 1899 (VFW) and 1919 (American Legion). Having a terrific idea but not a member of a large organization often results in not being heard.



There are many of us who belong to both VFW and American Legion, as well as other organizations. Serving in a combat zone and earning the requisite medals to qualify for VFW membership does not make us better; it only makes us different. We were there in the combat zone based on decisions of our National leaders, needs of the services, and Detailers. American Legion membership does not require serving in a combat zone (although it was founded by Expeditionary Force veterans in Paris). The American Legion has had members who earned the Medal of Honor, Silver Star, Bronze Star, etc., and other awards as a result of wartime exploits and service. Of course, to be a member of the VFW we must have served in a combat zone and earned the appropriate medal.

Can we reject or condemn another because he/she belongs to a different organization or meets in an organization other than which a member? I do not think so. In America, we have choices and we should not be condemned because of the choice we make or another makes for us. To continue any condemnation shows an unfounded, ridiculous prejudice that can also have unintended consequences.

We are all here to serve the veteran and the community in which we serve. That is where judgment serves a purpose.



A successful VFW Post, as is YOUR Ship #1774 And Ladies Auxiliary, administers community, veterans, and family programs such as: Voice of Democracy; Patriot’s

Pen; Junior ROTC; Police, Fire and EMT Awards; special recognition dinners; food offerings throughout the year; canteen fellowship and entertainment; counseling and benefits support; money, ceremony and signage for LA Mesa Fletcher Parkway now also known as Veteran's Memorial Parkway; facility improvements that includes a wheelchair lift now allowing handicapped access to all areas of the building; real-property facility improvements and enhancements with more for the future that will provide for full facility ADA compliance; Santa at the Ship providing toys for children of deployed lower-ranking enlisted personnel; homeless veteran support; defibrillator; close working relationship with the Ship's Ladies Auxiliary, American Legion Post 282, and the La Mesa City elected officials; Buddy Poppy drives actually conducted within the community; membership drives; rummage sale; and Wounded Warrior dinner and donation in excess of \$2,000.



Financially, we are sound. Our taxes are current, our financials are audited, our bills are minimal, and we are faithfully following the guidance and principles of our organization. We meet monthly, which is where your voice can be heard and where change begins. We also have a House Committee to plan and coordinate our events, and a web site that provides pertinent information.

We have and will continue the programs and more if the opportunity and resources allow. Can we use help? YES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! How can you volunteer? Let someone know and be available. We need help with plumbing, electrical repairs, painting, cooking and/or serving food, etc., depending on your skills and time. We also have an election for new officers in a few months and we will train you for the office once elected. In sum, be active and help – the more helping is better for all of us. Get involved and you will find it is fun and gratifying. We have been in existence since 14 Jan 1930 and with your help we will be here another 82 years. We have no desire to leave.

If an annual member, and if you have not already done so, renew your 2012 membership. Send the \$30.00 to us and we will process it for you, or you may send it directly to National Hq in the envelope already provided.

CMSgt Jack Porath, USAF (Ret)  
Ship's Captain O.K. Ingram VFW #1774

## Ladies Auxiliary

Dear Sisters,



HAPPY NEW YEAR! I wish you all a safe, healthy, & prosperous new year.

I wish to welcome our newest member Blair B.

Notice to all annual members, if you haven't already paid your 2012 dues, you need to pay them ASAP, as you are no longer a member in good standing as of Jan 1st. Dues submittal will put you back in good standing.

We finished off last year with a very successful Santa at the Ship. We provided gifts for 177 children, and served them & their parents a pancake breakfast. We had a huge turnout of volunteers this year, and I would like to send a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped with this event. Among the volunteers were of course the best Auxiliary (mine), the VFW, American Legion, SD Mustang Club, AMVETS, Audrea Taylor & friends from Im2moro and a EBO basketball team . A representative from 32nd St Family Services was there and was able to answer questions & pass out information to the families who needed. This was a new & welcome service provided at this annual event. Thank you again to all who helped.



Upcoming events include a joint Rummage Sale on Feb 25th and Steak Dinner in April.

We will be doing some dinners jointly with the VFW over the next couple of months, please check the website or board down at the club for dates and menu.

Thats all for now. Hope to see you down at the Ship.

Sincerely,  
Jerrie Thomason  
Aux President

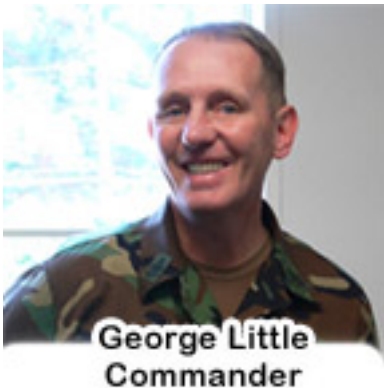
## AMVETS Post 1775

Here is a quick message from our National Commander, Gary Fry,

For more than 60 years, we in AMVETS have taken to heart the credo of service set forth by our organization's founding fathers. In so doing, we endeavor to provide our fellow veterans with the type of support they truly deserve. This outreach effort takes many forms, from the professional advice our service officers offer on earned veterans benefits to our legislative efforts on Capitol Hill to the work done by our hospital volunteers. Other AMVETS members involve themselves in a range of initiatives aimed at contributing to the quality of life in their local communities.

These two areas—veterans service and community service—drive the commitment we, as AMVETS members, have to make a difference in the lives of others. Our aim of building for a better America is an undertaking to which all can contribute. I invite you to join us.

Gary Fry  
National Commander



As your Commander for the last few years I can tell you how honored I am with how much our Post has accomplished, but we can still do so much more. The best way for AMVETS to do more is for you, the membership to be more active in the Post functions. Everything to raising funds for our post functions and helping out with our share of the money spent to keep our post operational to getting more volunteers involved with not only working the functions but suggesting ways for AMVETS Post 1775 to move forward. Our meetings are every month on the third Tuesday starting at 6:30 PM. Please come and voice your opinion on how we can do a better job.

I can report to you all that last year we as a post became tax compliant with the state of California, this means that we can request funds from the Department of AMVETS State of California for worthwhile events if we need to. If you would like to know more about this please come to our meeting and ask the question.

I am happy to report that we provided support in the form of donations and volunteers for the follow events, Veterans Stand Down, The Wounded Warrior Foundation, OP Ball Fishing in the Pines, Fishing Derby for children funds, for the Veterans Memorial Parkway signage in La Mesa, Funds and toy donations

for the annual Santa at the Ship. These are but a few of the volunteer opportunities that are out there in our community and our involvement show our community that we care about our Veterans and our community.

I urge you as AMVETS members to become more involved with AMVETS and the activities that take place every day at our post. Only through your continued support can we continue to support our Veterans.

Respectfully,  
George Little, Commander

January 2012				8118 University Avenue La Mesa, California 91941 <a href="http://www.lamesapost282.org/">http://www.lamesapost282.org/</a> (619) 469-6064		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>Charger/Raider Pajama Party Pot Luck 11AM</p>	<p>2</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>VFW Auxiliary Regular Meeting  6PM</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Tacos 11 – 2 Sloppy Joes Karaoke 6pm</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 <b>Music</b>  Beef Brisket w/ Baby Potatoes  Jim Moore</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Lunch w/Lenny 12 pm  Karaoke 6 pm</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Canteen Open 10am</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>VFW Regular Meeting  6PM</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Tacos 11 – 2 Braised Beef Tips Karaoke 6pm</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 <b>Music</b>  Salisbury Steaks &amp; Mashed Potatoes  Two Guys</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Lunch w/Lenny 12 pm  Karaoke 6 pm</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Canteen Open 10am</p>	<p>16 MLK Day</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Tacos 11 – 2 Stir-Fry Chicken Karaoke 6pm</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 <b>Music</b> Pulled Pork w/Coleslaw &amp; Fried Rice Alex A.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Lunch w/Lenny 12 pm  Karaoke 6 pm</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Canteen Open 10am</p>	<p>23</p> <p><b>E-Board Meeting 5 pm</b>  <b>General Meeting 6 pm</b></p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Tacos 11 – 2 <b>VFW Ladies Special Treat !!</b> Karaoke 6pm</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 <b>Music</b> VFW Mens Special Spaghetti Meal  Bert Torres</p>	<p>28</p> <p>No Lunch Today  Karaoke 6 pm</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Canteen Open 10am</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				
					<p>Don't forget the Superbowl is Feb 5th Food in the Canteen</p>	