



# The Recorder



Vol.12, Issue 9

2015-2016 ALL STATE ALL AMERICAN VFW POST

Don Diego V.F.W. Post 7420 Newsletter

October 2016



## Post Commander:

Comrades and Auxiliary members,  
First off thank you to all the members that have made it out in support of our various events this past month. These events are done with the intent of building a comradeship between our members from all the qualifying conflicts. It's a way for us to bridge the gap between older and younger veterans. To share a laugh, a story or a drink to ensure the history and legacy of our post survives long after we have departed. I for one learned and listened to many of our brothers that have departed from the likes of Jimmy Acevedo, Armando Mireles, Efren Salomon, Marlow Martinez and many more. The beautiful thing is that they continue to live as long as we remember and share our memories of them. I love to speak and hear from our older members like Adam Gastelum, to me he's a walking book of knowledge with a memory that will surprise you. Don Diego has something that a lot of other VFW Posts don't have and you can feel it the moment you step into our Post. We greet people with a smile and a hand shake as it should be and we welcome newcomers with open arms. This month we honored and remembered our POW and MIA with a special ceremony that was well attended by our members. Our Post Quartermaster Nicolas Christilaw and House Committee Chairman Robert Navarro have been hard at work with myself in finalizing a presentation for approval from the membership for our new roof. A project which has been our number one (1) objective and it finally seems to be within reach. If the membership approves our presentation and plans at the next membership meeting, we would be ready to get started on the roof as early as mid-October of this year. These are exciting times as we are so much closer to accomplishing the goals that we set forward when I took over as your Post Commander. None of the things that we have accomplished and are close to

reaching would be possible without the help of comrade Christilaw, Navarro and most importantly our membership and for that I say thank you. Thank you to Comrade Manuel Sanchez and Ray Fino for the endless hours you have volunteered to our post events and in the general maintenance of our post. On October 19<sup>th</sup> the Auxiliary will be selling Bea's delicious and popular beef tacos as they continue to raise money for their various programs. We will also be having a Halloween costume party on Friday October 28<sup>th</sup>, full of fun, raffles and "best of" awards. This month our post received various awards and recognitions, to include a Proclamation from the City of San Diego proclaiming October 3<sup>rd</sup> as Logan Heights Veterans Day, a certificate of recognition from the California State Legislature Assembly was also presented for attaining the title of All State, All American for the year 2015-2016.

Miguel Alatorre

Post Commander





### **Auxiliary President:**

October Newsletter 2016

Greetings to all. We are coming out of a very busy September. Much gratitude to all who participated and helped with the breakfast in remembrance of Patriot Day, September 11. It was good to see so many Comrades and Auxiliary members come out to enjoy breakfast, thank you for bringing your families. We had a very nice ceremony for POW-MIA Day,

Commander led the Missing Man Table Ceremony assisted by Patriotic Instructor Bianca Hurtado and his son Joshua. Once again, nice to see members come out to support.

We had some fun events also, the Comrades made amazing Sunday morning menudo breakfast and that was well attended on September 18. Noche de Salsa and Sleep Walk brought great music to our Post.

Upcoming October are the Mexican Ancestry Scholarship Dinner and Dance Saturday October 1 beginning at 5 pm. Please come out and support this very worthy cause. On Wednesday October the Auxiliary is holding another Bea's Tacos fundraiser, we will begin cooking at 4 pm for the early birds and go on cooking until the tacos are all gone!!!

I hope to see many of our Auxiliary members at the Homecoming for State Commander and State Department President on October 15 at The Crown Plaza Hotel in Mission Valley. It will be a fun event and Department President Tootsie Dougherty will be happy to see the event well attended by the Auxiliary's in from her home District, the Mighty 1<sup>st</sup>!!

I encourage all Auxiliary members to attend our monthly meeting on October 6 as it is our yearly inspection by 1<sup>st</sup> District President Oneita Billings and her officers. Some of our members have volunteered to bring finger foods, thank you.

Keep in mind that yearly dues must be paid, notices have been sent out by our Treasurer Alicia Ketcham. Please help us maintain our membership current and of

course always encourage eligible members to join. If you have questions regarding eligibility please call me, email or speak with me when you see me.

Keep in mind the Veterans whom we serve through our many programs, come in and help, there is so much to do.

Thank you to all who have served and who continue to serve. Thank you to all of our volunteers who come into Don Diego and give of themselves, thank you to the friendliest bar staff in town!!

Yours in service,

Sara I Sandoval  
Auxiliary President



### **Auxiliary Chaplain**

During the month of September, I have to say, as far as illness, and surgeries, “All is quite on the Western Front”.

Aux. Sister Carmen Gomez is still and has been hospitalized for some time regarding a fall she had a few months ago.

Auxiliary Sister Pat Cook is still doing her best to stay above water with her walking and hearing issues.

Of course Sister Pat Cook is over the Big “90” so it gives her a reason to have health issues.

Please keep me posted on any illness or prayer you may need.

“Peace be with You”

Sincerely,

Chaplain Olivia J. Solomon  
Contact: [619-265-8903](tel:619-265-8903)  
[olysolomon@cox.net](mailto:olysolomon@cox.net)



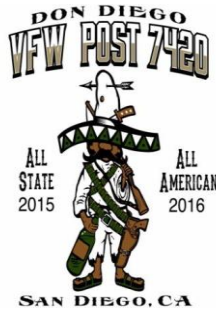
### Auxiliary Treasurer

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

On September 23, I mailed out 23 dues reminder notices. If you haven't paid your annual dues for 2017 you received one. I realize your 2016 membership is good until 12/31/16, however, the pressure comes down from the District, Department and National to all auxiliaries to have their membership at 100% as quickly as possible in 2016. **BELIEVE ME.**

So if you'd kindly take the time to pay your dues now, you save many of us a lot of stress. Please make your check or money order payable to VFW Aux. 7420 for \$28.00.

Loyally,  
Alicia Ketcham, Treasurer/Membership Chairman  
[ketchme47@gmail.com](mailto:ketchme47@gmail.com)



# Don Diego VFW Nationally Recognized

September 15, 2016

[Community Notes](#), [Featured](#), [Stories](#)

By Mario A. Cortez



Left to right: Jaime Yancey, Nani Yancey, and John Crispin.

Operating since 1955, Barrio Logan's Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 7420, also known as the Don Diego VFW, has been providing an environment where the men who fought in armed conflicts abroad can find camaraderie and support. Having earned various recognitions in the 61 years since its foundation, Don Diego can now add 2016 All-American VFW post to its list of awards and decorations.

This year, Don Diego VFW received the National VFW's All-American award in recognition of the post's outstanding efforts and to recognize Post 7420's exceptional leadership, authentic accomplishments in membership retention and growth, and support of the VFW organization's core programs. The criteria leading to the All-American award is such that very few VFW posts across all of the United States receive the All-American recognition. The 2016 award marks the third time in the posts' 61-year history in which Don Diego has been named an All-American VFW post.

"One of the things that the organization is doing is fighting for veteran's rights and benefits, especially dealing with the Veterans Administration," explained Jaime Yancey, a Vietnam veteran and member of the Don Diego VFW. "Our focus is to get more members to speak for us and through the National VFW."

Selection for the 2016 award takes into consideration activities and membership from July 1 of last year through June 30 of this year.

"We give out scholarships, we also do community involvement activities, we donate to the preschool next door, and donate through the Marine Corp's Toys For Tots. We have to be involved in such programs," Yancey specified.

The award brings in an extra significance as it has been presented to a post with a predominantly Mexican-American membership located in a historically Mexican-American and Chicano neighborhood of San Diego.

"This is a Mexican-American, post and this particular post is one of the larger Mexican-American posts in the United States. We have a membership of close to 500 members here," Yancey added.

In addition to the All-American award, the Don Diego VFW has also received two other VFW recognitions during the 2016 cycle. Post 7420 has been awarded the All-District award and the All-State award from the California VFW, for which Don Diego Commander Miguel Alatorre and Quartermaster Nicolas Christlaw have been presented with certificates of achievement. Don Diego's VFW Auxiliary also satisfied all requirements for the All-State award as well.

"Our military background is so significant to who we are and earning these awards is huge to all of us. We are so proud of who we are and what we have done to be named All-District, All-State, and All-American," said Don Diego member and Vietnam veteran John Crispin to La Prensa San Diego.

If you are a veteran that served in an overseas conflict, meet eligibility requirements, and are interested in joining Don Diego VFW Post 7420, you can contact the post through their website [www.dondiegotpost7420.org](http://www.dondiegotpost7420.org) or by calling (619) 239-5373



**DON DIEGO VFW  
AUXILIARY  
FUNDRAISER:**

**\$6**

**BEA'S  
BEEF TACO  
DINNER**

**WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19TH**

**DON DIEGO VFW**

**4PM-SOLD OUT 2100 LOGAN AVE.  
SAN DIEGO, CA. 92113**



# **HALLOWEEN PARTY**



**FRIDAY  
OCTOBER 28, 2016**

**8PM - 1AM**

**WEAR YOUR BEST COSTUME!**

**GAMES    CONTESTS    PRIZES**

**DON DIEGO VFW POST 7420**

**2100 LOGAN AVE. SAN DIEGO, CA. 92113**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: CONTACT BLANCA AT  
619-239-5373**