



# The Recorder



Vol.17, Issue 3

Don Diego V.F.W. Post 7420 Newsletter

July

2017



## Post Commander:

### Comrades and Auxiliary members,

Comrades and Auxiliary members let me start off by saying how proud I am to be your Commander and for the opportunity to lead this great Post. I am excited and honored. There is much work to accomplish and I vow to continue the success of our predecessors. At the next scheduled VFW and Auxiliary meeting you will see new faces in different positions and I would like to take a moment to congratulate and let the new cabinet know that your commitment and dedication is appreciated and that we will walk alongside this journey together to represent Don Diego. I also appointed the several members to their respective positions and appreciate their enthusiasm and dedication.

As Post Commander my priorities will be to follow the mission and vision of the Veterans of Foreign Wars which are to foster camaraderie among United

States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans. Our Vision: Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.

I will be the first to admit that it is no secret that I am a strong supporter and advocate for Veterans benefits and will continue to fight the good fight until every Veteran and family of a Veteran receive the benefits that they deserve. I request every member of Don Diego that you reach out and support the cause by encouraging membership to attend meetings, provide valuable input and spread the word about our great organization to assist with recruiting efforts. I want to end by saying that communication throughout the membership is vital to our success and I intend to ensure complete transparency with open lines of communication. Please update your email and phone numbers with leadership to ensure access to the monthly newsletter, Don Diego website and Facebook.

In closing I want to express my sincere sadness and condolences on behalf of Don Diego on the passing of our beloved charter member Adam Gastilum. He passed away on July, 28th 2017 as he was surrounded by loving family. A great man has left us but his memories will always be in the halls of Post 7420. I am requesting full participation from Don Diego to pay respect to Adam and support his family during this time. Services are as followed:

July 6th

Mass will be at 11:00am: St. Michaels Catholic Church 2643 Homedale Street San Diego, CA 92139

Graveside Services – Immediately following Mass Holy Cross Cemetery 4470 Hilltop Drive

San Diego, CA 92102

Reception – Immediately following Graveside Services

VFW Post #7420 2100 Logan Avenue San Diego, CA 92113

Thanks,

John Lewis





## **Auxiliary President**

Bobby Godinez. Coming soon!



Comrade Oscar Munoz was born June 1949 in El Paso TX, raised in Arizona and married Norma and has 3 children and blessed with 2 grandchildren. Our Comrade served in the Marines from February 1969 to February 1970. Around February 1969, started his tour in Vietnam and ended after 11 months and 20 days. Before departing to Camp Pendleton, his mother called him to her room and in her soft-spoken voice she said “te quiero dar una bendicion” (giving her blessing to him). The battle at Liberty Bridge (first battle), images from battle would never fade away. In March 1969, while assigned to Delta Company, they received orders to report to Liberty bridge. Around midday on March 17, his Lieutenant called for him, indicating enemy forces where threatening their bridge and needed to set up an ambush and was assigned point man for this mission the next day. On the day of the mission, our Comrade was given a receiving radio and transmitting radio.

As our Comrade was walking, he spotted some birds flying out of the trees just ahead of him and motioned for the men to take cover. He shot a few rounds into the trees, then suddenly the tree line was firing back. The battle lasted around 3 hours, he was right in the middle of enemy and friendly fire, with sued-bullets, rockets and grenades, it seemed like hell. Bullets whizzed past him, with no options but to wait, his life was in the hands of the enemy and his comrades.

When our comrade finally came to his senses, the reality of his survival was intense. His company had accomplished its mission by driving the enemy back.

Comrade Munoz, indicated only one percentage of the population puts on the uniform of this great nation. Out of that percentage few are or become Marines. Out of those very few, only a small percentage see combat. And out of the combat

soldiers, very few open-up their mind to someone. His story should have the unseen enemies he faced in his life and how he copes with them. While in Vietnam, along with three fallen Marines, the Viet Cong, shot his friend in the chest. Comrade Munoz joined Don Diego 7420 in around 2009 and has held position as a Trustee. Our Comrade enjoys writing and carpentry as a hobby.

Those images of war haunt him every day. At times our Comrade would close his eyes and see bombs falling from the sky and he would feel like it's coming towards him. Comrade Munoz endured hardship yet he served his country well. Comrade Munoz with the help from his brother writing a book called "Hidden Enemy" PTSP: A puzzle piece that does not fit. But he writes short stories on face-book all the time and enjoys singing Karaoke with his beautiful wife Norma at the post.





**Auxiliary Treasurer**

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Beginning in July, the Auxiliary is going into a new program called MALTA. This stands for Membership Auxiliary Leadership Technical Access System. The May issue of your National magazine had a full page on MALTA. As a member, here's what you can do on MALTA, pay your dues on line, make a gift to Cancer Aid & Research, Health & Happiness or an open gift. You can see your Auxiliary Delegates and you can easily see your Auxiliary & Department officers. In order to login to MALTA, you will need to provide your member ID number, first & last name and your zip code. You can verify what National has on file for you by looking at your National magazine. If it is not the same, you won't be able to login. If you chose to pay your dues on MALTA, you can use a credit card or echeck (ACH). You can still just mail your dues to me if you'd like. Again, this system will be available sometime in July. Please keep checking the National website, [VFWauxiliary.org](http://VFWauxiliary.org) for more info. This year I turned in 15 Early Birds at Convention. Thanks to all who paid, because of converting to MALTA, it will take a few weeks to receive your membership card from National. If you have any questions, please contact me. For all you life members whose life membership card says "Ladies Auxiliary" on it, National will be mailing you a new plastic life membership card which will say "Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary." This will be rolling out this July and August. With all these changes, it is extremely important I have your current contact information, including email

address. As I've said in the past, many of you have given up your landline for cell phone only, please, please take the time to let me have your information.  
Loyally, Alicia Ketcham, Treasurer/Membership Chairman  
ketchme47@gmail.com



# ATTENTION

## OEF/OIF VETERANS:



Have you been separated from the Military?

Have gone through the Disabled Transition Program (DTAP)?

Were you diagnosed with PTSD?

If the answer to each of these questions is yes, sharing your experiences can help improve veteran's transitional processes!

Participants are needed for a study focusing on OEF/OIF PTSD veterans.



## PLEASE SHARE YOUR STORY

Partake in the  
interview  
process

Your shared  
experiences can  
help improve  
the transitional  
system

Your help can  
save a veterans  
life

## CONTACT

TIFFANY WARE  
at  
[tware@mail.brandman.edu](mailto:tware@mail.brandman.edu)

# Veterans Benefits Page

## DOD to Open Online Exchange Shopping to Veterans

DoD News, Defense Media Activity / Published Jan. 13, 2017 The Defense Department announced today that veterans will soon be able to shop online at military exchanges.

The policy change will extend limited online military exchange shopping privileges to all honorably discharged veterans of the military, DOD officials said in a news release.

The shopping benefit will be effective this Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2017. While shopping privileges exclude the purchase of uniforms, alcohol and tobacco products, it includes the Exchange Services' dynamic online retail environment known so well to service members and their families, the release said. The change follows careful analysis, coordination and strong public support, officials said in the release. "We are excited to provide these benefits to honorably discharged veterans to recognize their service and welcome them home to their military family," said Peter Levine, performing the duties for the undersecretary of defense for Personnel and readiness.

# National Cemetery

## Eligibility

### Persons Eligible for Burial in a National Cemetery

The National Cemetery Scheduling Office has the primary responsibility for verifying eligibility for burial in VA national cemeteries. A determination of eligibility is made in response to a request for burial in a VA national cemetery. To schedule a burial fax all discharge documentation to 1-866-900-6417 and follow-up with a phone call to 1-800-535-1117.

#### a. Veterans and Members of the Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard)

(1) Any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who dies on active duty.

(2) Any Veteran who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. With certain exceptions, service beginning after September 7, 1980, as an enlisted person, and service after October 16, 1981, as an officer, must be for a minimum of 24 continuous months or the full period for which the person was called to active duty (as in the case of a Reservist called to active duty for a limited duration). Undesirable, bad conduct, and any other type of discharge other than honorable may or may not qualify the individual for Veterans benefits, depending

upon a determination made by a VA Regional Office. Cases presenting multiple discharges of varying character are also referred for adjudication to a VA Regional Office.

(3) Any citizen of the United States who, during any war in which the United States has or may be engaged, served in the Armed Forces of any Government allied with the United States during that war, whose last active service was terminated honorably by death or otherwise, and who was a citizen of the United States at the time of entry into such service and at the time of death.

For more information on VA Benefits see our Service Officer: Anthony Madrano.