

La Mesa Veterans Club membership, all organizations:

Observing the actions and Program results of our combined organizations, the caring of our membership, and the dedication to our various causes makes me proud. And proud you should be of your belonging and dedication to the La Mesa Veterans Club, regardless of organization. The comradery, caring for others, volunteerism, membership recruitment and retention, help with facility needs, etc., is truly something to behold. Without the many volunteers we would close our doors. Know that we must always maintain the facility, like you do to your residence, and not again let it get in disrepair. This is money that our Canteen revenue cannot cover because of its costs (licenses, etc). It takes separate donations and fund-raising. Any food profit goes to the sponsoring organization that uses it for their veteran and community programs.

If you are not yet a member, check us out. I would estimate that over 95% of those who are not a member can join in one of our organizations via your family history and the veterans thereof. Visit us and ask. Members of the public can always participate in our meals (which are sponsored by the various organizations (check the calendar)). Members of the public may use our large hall.

The expenditures of VFW Ship 1774, American Legion Post 282, and other organizations are continually scrutinized to ensure our sparsely earned money is not unnecessarily spent. At the American Legion, for example, our costs have been cut whenever possible and we have thus held our low prices, especially when compared to the private sector. As you have experienced increased costs of your own standard of living, we too have experienced the increases. Thus, the need to pass some of that to the paid customer. Please know, however, that the officers, trustees, and business manager who have the responsibility to scrutinize our processes continually analyze and make recommendations for change. The membership has a role in his also, as your input and decisions are solicited. This is your club. We listen to the membership.

Election of officers is a yearly event in April of each year. Nominations start at the March meeting and continue at the April meeting followed by the election. We want new officers and the members to participate. Volunteers too are needed. We will train and guide. Have ideas for change? Participate in the business meetings rather than complain outside of meetings.

Veteran, youth, and community programs are continuous. We sponsor Boys and Girls State; oratorical contests; scholarship opportunities for youth via the Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy Programs; awards for teachers, fire, and police; and baseball. Programs and awards are available for the boy and girl scout programs to include Eagle Scouts. Check our websites for what is available. Programs differ per the organization.

As a testament to our working together to further interests of veterans (members or not), following is a Certificate of Appreciation awarded to the O.K. Ingram Ship 1774 by American Legion District 22. Via the VFW sponsored Poker Tournament held last year (and which will be held every year), Ship 1774 was able to donate to a major undertaking of the American Legion via their support of a drug-free treatment program as well as its own Programs. The issues of PTSD, traumatic brain injury, depression, suicide, homeless, opioid addiction, VA care, guidance and counseling of our veterans to include proper support is received as an earned benefit is a concern to all of us. Thus, the many programs. Can you help? Yes, via your donations. Call me if you have any questions or concerns.



J. R. PORATH

Captain VFW Ship 1774

Commander American Legion Post 282

Attachment: Certificate of Appreciation

The American Legion



Certificate of Appreciation

Awarded To

Veterans of Foreign Wars Ship 1774

With sincere appreciation and spirited recognition of La Mesa VFW Ship 1774's donation OF \$2,293.75 to the San Diego American Legion PrTMS Program. Your love of Country, lasting commitment to those who serve in our Nation's Armed Forces and the absolute unselfishness of your efforts will help San Diego Veterans suffering from TBI, Depression, and PTSD with non-invasive, efficacious treatments.

Presented by

American Legion Department of California

San Diego County, District 22

This 10th day of February 2019

Christopher Syta
Commander

Paul Hyde
Adjutant