

VFW 1st District of California



DISPATCH



@vfwmighty1st



A peaceful protest in honor of George Floyd turns into an invasion of Interstate 8 in La Mesa...



...and violence ensued which included burning, looting and vandalism near the La Mesa Police Station.



The outside of the building, housing American Legion Post 282, AmVets Post 1775 and VFW Ship 1774 was vandalized. See below and the next page for details of the damage to the building.



LA MESA
PROTEST CONTINUES AROUND LA MESA POLICE HEADQUARTERS

8 CBS8.com
NO AUDIO



Photos: Top: TimesOfSanDiego.com, East County Magazine.

Contents:

- 3: Commander and President Ltrs.
- 4: District Calendar of Events
- 5-11: District Reports
- 12-14: News: VFW
- 15: News: Medical
- 16-18: Recent Events
- 19: Upcoming Events

Report on Events in La Mesa, 30 May 2020

In what started as a peaceful demonstration in support of the Black Lives Matter movement within the City of La Mesa, the evening of 30 May 2020 descended into chaos when the La Mesa Police Station suddenly came under attack. This was followed by attacks on City Hall; the complete burning of two local banks, a railroad museum, vehicles and a fire truck; the looting of Walmart, Target, and Vons; complete looting and destruction of several small businesses; **and to the after-the-fact surprise and non-sensical reaction of the community and members, the burning of American and POW/MIA flags at American Legion La Mesa Post 282 and damage to the facility. The flags that flew over the Vietnam Memorial, adjacent to the facility, were taken and replaced by an unknown flag. The flag in the front of the facility was completely burned. Other damage included graffiti sprayed over the entire building and the breaking of two very large windows and one smaller. Due to road blockages and an imposed curfew, Commander Porath first assessed the building early on Sunday morning and to his surprise found volunteers already cleaning the areas and facility.** The volunteer group quickly swelled and consisted of facility membership, members from other Legion and VFW Posts, strangers, and La Mesa Boy Scout Troop 51. Their work included painting over the graffiti, power washes, facility repairs, temporary covering of the broken windows, tear-gas cleanup, and some repair and painting of the Vietnam Memorial. Due to the vandalism, the entire building will need to be repainted and various repairs made; an unexpected cost that is out of reach of the Club.

La Mesa Post 282 has been in La Mesa, a relatively small community of 60,000, since 1947. The American Legion facility houses American Legion and Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion, **VFW Ship 1774 and Auxiliary**, AMVETS Post 1775, and the Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 1365 of San Diego and Imperial Counties. The facility is affectionately called the La Mesa Veterans Club. **Commander John "Jack" Porath has been the Commander since 2014 and is also the Ship's Captain of VFW Ship 1774 since 2010.**



Post Commander's photo of some of the graffiti



Burning the American Flag at the La Mesa Post



Volunteers clean up the neighborhood.
Photo by San Diego Union Tribune.



Volunteers begin painting and repairs at the La Mesa Post.



District 1 Commander Myles Fry

Greetings Comrades and Auxiliary,

First of all, I want to thank everyone for a fantastic year and all of the hard work

everyone put into his or her Posts, District, and Programs! It has been an honor serving as District Commander for the Mighty 1st District of California! Keep up the press and continue serving! For outgoing officers in both Comrades and Auxiliary, your job is not done. Please serve as advisors to the new Officers and be available if they have any questions. We rely on each other for guidance and council in the upcoming year.

For the upcoming year, I will remain as Post 2080 Commander and I have accepted Voice of Democracy/Patriots Pen Chairman and the VFW M/C Liaison to the State Commander. We are uncertain as to what this position will entail, but Commander Elect John Lowe and I envision this as a way to bridge the gap amongst Veteran Riders and new ways to bring in younger members. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or suggestions. The final Council of Administration will be held on the 12th of June via Zoom. We will be discussing nominations and elections for the 2020-2021 Department Leadership Team. I will reach out to Post Commanders before that meeting to discuss their nominations.

2020 has been a tough year but we have persevered through adversity and pandemics. The term "No One Does More For Veterans" is not just a catch phrase, but rather a way of life for all of us!

In Comradeship,

**Myles Fry
Commander
VFW Post 2080
Mighty 1st District**



District 1 President Grace Leyva

Hello Brothers, Sisters & Comrades,

This is my final article as your District One President.

To all the Auxiliary Members for you hard work, dedication, and support during my year 2019-2020. To the Line Officers for always being there for the District throughout the year. Chairmen for working diligently on the programs and making sure that the Mighty 1st District is at a 100% in reporting. The Deputy Chief of Staff's for teaching and providing assistance to the Auxiliaries. To the wonderful Advisors Emma T Lopez, Gloria Palmer, Erma "Tootsie" Dougherty and Maria McCoy I cannot fully express my appreciation for all your guidance support and advice throughout the year.

To our District One Commander Myles Fry it has been a pleasure working with you. For me it has been a privilege and honor being you District One President 2019-2020

Congratulations to Rachel Luke and her Line Officers for the ensuing year 2020-2021.

**Respectfully
Grace Leyva,
District One President**

**SPREAD OUR WINGS
TO PROTECT OUR
VETERANS**





June 2020



STAY SAFE PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 REMEMBER TO PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING STAY SAFE OBEY ALL ORDERS COVID-19	4 Face Coverings Mandatory SD COUNTY	5	6 D-Day, WWII
7 REMEMBER TO PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING STAY SAFE OBEY ALL ORDERS COVID-19	8 NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO BE CALLING YOUR UNPAID MEMBERS	9 VAMC LaJolla VAVS NEED MASK DONATIONS	10	11	12 20-21 STATE COMMANDER DISTRICT & POST OFFICERS NOW LEAD	13
14 Flag Day 	15	16 CHECK ON MEMBERS OVER 65	17 	18 	19 NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO BE CALLING YOUR UNPAID MEMBERS	20 
21 HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! 	22	23 Face Coverings Mandatory SD COUNTY	24	25	26 Happy Friday!! 	27 REMEMBER TO PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING STAY SAFE OBEY ALL ORDERS COVID-19
28	29	30 4th Quarter Ends	  <p>VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS. 1ST DISTRICT VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA 2019-2020</p>			

REPORTS FROM DISTRICT OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS



Above: Our new District 1 President, Rachel Luke and new District 1 Commander Paula Jansen Below: Incoming District 1 Commander Paula Jansen receives her Commander cover from her daughter, Post 5867 Auxiliary President LeAnna Brown



REPORTS FROM DISTRICT OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS

Senior Vice Commander Report



I once read "without membership we are nothing, so take care of your membership". As the line officers travel around the District, we meet a lot of wonderful people, they all make the Mighty 1st great. I remember the first time I met comrade Richard Anderson from Post 7907 at the Post meeting when I was Jr Vice. You could tell he was passionate about his contribution to the Post on the membership committee. Richard and I have had discussions over the last couple of years about how the system works when it comes to those percentages, how we are always chasing, how it's hard to find people that don't have information or show up on the undeliverable list. We talked about what it takes to get members to renew and keep track of them when you have a post with so many members. I also had the pleasure of working the Miramar Airshow with him last year. Richard understands that his position is key to keeping the Post running. That you must maintain track of your members and recruit new ones to stay alive. Richard is a guy that is not afraid to talk to anyone; he will make sure a member is not forgotten; he will not forget to follow up. It is no surprise that he is the #1 recruiter for District 1 and for the VFW Department of California. I just want to say **Thank You Richard!** for taking care of our membership.



Paula Jansen SVC



Post 1924
helps World
War II
Veteran
Betty Gilby
celebrate a
Happy 101st
Birthday!



Any man who may be asked in this century, what he did to make his life worthwhile, can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction, "I served in the United States Navy".

Pres. John F. Kennedy

REPORTS FROM DISTRICT OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS

Congressman Darrell Issa stopped by the Post 9327 Memorial Day get together.

Left to Right:

**District Commander Myles Fry,
District SVC Paula Jansen,
Congressman Darrell Issa,
Post 9327 Commander Jose Marrero,
Post 9327 SVC Brian Britton**



Senior Vice President Report:

As we wrap up the 19-20 year, I want to thank our District President Grace Leyva and all the Line Officers and Chairmen for their support and hard work for our veterans. The year started out so strong and we were out and about doing great things, 2 stand downs, parades, memorials, air shows, recruiting, recruiting and more recruiting.

Then an invisible enemy changed our lives, shut us down, made it hard to take care of our Veterans, especially those in challenged health situations. It forced us to think outside the box and figure out new ways to communicate and operate so we could salvage the last third of the year. Everyone came together and we got through it. Strong willed people will always succeed!!!!

Many thanks to all the Auxiliaries, I learned something from each one of you. Thank you for the leadership and guidance of the Past Presidents and this year's line officers for all the support you gave the District Leadership Team throughout the year.

I look forward to the challenge of the coming year and I wish each of you a successful year of rebuilding, strengthening, and supporting our veterans!!!!

**Rachel Luke
District 1 Sr Vice President**

CHIEF OF STAFF REPORT

Comrades,

As the 2019-2020 VFW year comes to an end, I would like to thank everyone who has made this such an interesting year. Without your hard work it would not have been a success. I look forward to seeing all of you during the 2020-2021 year!

Yours in Comradeship,

PDC Douglas Carrington, District 1 Chief of Staff 2019-2020
slainte1861@att.net



REPORTS FROM DISTRICT OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS



DISTRICT 1 AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN REPORT

Hello to all, as we are still in quarantine mode. Glad that some of the restrictions are being lifted, to be able to get fresh air, exercise, order food for pick up and/or delivery, and managing through the pandemic.

The following cards have been sent out covering April 21-May 20, 2020:

- April 24, 2020 – get well card to Olivia Solomon from Aux 7420, having back surgery and recovery to be at home.
- April 28, 2020 – sympathy cards sent to Wilson/Simpson family on the passing of Edith Simpson, PDP and retired Auxiliary President for Imperial Beach Post 5477. She will be added to the memorial book to include her years (2000-2001), colors, symbol, and Dist. 1 Commander.
- April 30, 2020 – springtime wishes to cheer up PDP Akemi Nelson, keep her spirits up as she is not forgotten.
- April 30, 2020 – springtime wishes to cheer up PDP Marie Kelley, also keep her spirits up as she is not forgotten, and not feeling well.
- May 2, 2020 – get well card to Karen Watts Walker, past Auxiliary President for Santee 9327. Still recovering from stroke 2 years ago.
- May 9, 2020 – sympathy card to Terry Richards, Auxiliary 3788 whose mother, Joyce, an original Charter member, and past Auxiliary President (1961-62) passed away on April 28, 2020.
- May 14, 2020 – courtesy get well card to Post 1512 Commander Eric Luke, recovering from minor surgery. He is husband to our Dist. 1 Sr. Vice President, Rachel.
- May 18, 2020 – sympathy card for Nancy Berg, VFW Auxiliary 3788, whose husband/comrade Pete Berg, passed away from health issues on Fri. May 14.

For all our Auxiliary members: This will be my last news article as your Auxiliary Chaplain for District 1. It has been an extreme honor and great privilege to assist everyone in their time of need, cards, celebrations of life, internments, or funeral/memorial services over the last year. I accepted the challenge to do my best as your Chaplain, working with everyone along the way. I thank all the Auxiliary Chaplains and everyone else for their due diligence in sending out cards to those in need, and others who attended Chaplain training classes during November 2019 and January 2020. I sincerely appreciate the thank you cards and letters I received from many about my compassion, sympathy, and kindness when those folks felt lost or forgotten. A thank you also to a past District Commander, Captain Jack Turner who complimented my news articles as informative and beautifully written. He was happy to have what he needed to share with his comrades.

To my counterpart VFW Chaplain – James – thank you for your kind words as we worked together this last year. We learned much from each other and those who we met at these classes. Teamwork is the best when the support and encouragement works on a continual flow! May your Chaplaincy continue to thrive as you do in your continued service to your Auxiliary brothers and sisters or help those who will assume the position during the next year and beyond.

Continue forward in 2020-21 as we work through the current life challenges before us. Strength comes in numbers. A smile or kind word or deed/service to someone in need is a lot for those who live in fear of the unknown. Keep up the great work!

Be well, be strong, your faith (whatever it may be) will be with you always.

Shalom to all.

Loyally submitted: **Sheila Jo Snyder, Dist. 1 Aux Chaplain**

REPORTS FROM DISTRICT OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS

Women Veterans Chairperson Report

This is a new section of the newsletter where future articles will provide women veterans with useful and valuable information about programs, benefits and opportunities available to the women who serve or served in our armed forces. Expect to see articles and information from these organizations on many topics of interest to our women vets:



- ◆ FaceBook
- ◆ Women's Vet Alliance
- ◆ She Served Too
- ◆ Proud Women VetsVFW Department of California Women Veterans
- ◆ San Diego Women Vets Network
- ◆ SD Lady Vet
- ◆ Us Women's Veterans Advocacy Initiative
- ◆ Foundation for Women Warriors
- ◆ Native American Women Warriors (NAWW)

Paula Jansen, Women Veterans Chairperson

From The District Secretary

I was going to thank everyone at the last district meeting of the year for all the wonderful cards and wishes I received during my recovery from the fall I took which resulted in my fracturing my pelvis in two places, and yes it was very painful!! However, due to the COVID19 pandemic we are not having the usual meeting, I will thank everyone this way.

Thank you all so much for your kind thoughts, wishes and prayers. It was greatly appreciated. I also want to personally thank Past Department President, Reta Butler, for filling in for me at the Official Visit meeting in February. You did a great job. It has been a pleasure to serve as your secretary to the "Mighty 1st District" this year. I look forward to thanking everyone personally when we get back to having a "normal" meeting.

Thank you again,

Evie Holland, 1st District Secretary.

The Results Are In!

Visit our web site: vfwcadist1.org to see the list of new:

- ◆ District Officers
- ◆ District Chairmen
- ◆ Auxiliary Officers
- ◆ Auxiliary Chairmen



REPORT FROM STATE ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER

Happy Memorial Day Weekend,

I will apologize ahead of time for the length of this email.

- COVID-19 Update
 - Posts and Districts should continue to monitor their local guidelines to determine what restrictions the Posts will continue to face.
- Tentative Schedule for Department
 - Friday, June 12
 - ✦ Commander Kuznik's final Council workshop via Zoom
 - ✦ Department holds a *pro forma* Convention
 - ✦ June 12 – 27
 - ✦ Nominations are open for elected Department officer positions
 - ✦ Saturday, June 27
 - ✦ Commander Lowe holds first Council workshop via Zoom. Please note, only District Commanders who have been installed will be able to participate in the business of the Council.
- Website: Drive Path has our specs for the reporting system.: Once the reporting system has been built, we will be switching over to the new website.
- ✦ Community Service / Reporting
 - Please get any last minute reports into the system as we will have to submit our year end numbers to National in June.
- Service Department
 - The VA has shutdown all the offices except San Diego at this date.
- Media Presence
 - This is reminder to please have your Posts take pictures and write up a little narrative on what they are doing in our communities. We are trying to regularly update Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. The new website has a photo gallery. The home page pulls random photos to display at the bottom giving the page a fresh look every time you visit.
- Awards for 2019-2020 administrative year
 - Buddy Poppies
 - ✦ Outstanding Participation
 - 1st – Post 1900-16: 2nd – Post 7792-13: 3rd – Post 10125-17
 - Campaign Certificate
 - William Tarver – 1900: Don Hahn – 1900: Joel Greenfield – 1900: Allen Ott – 1900
 - Hector Cortez – 7792: Steven Jones – 7792: Tina Whitley – 7792 (Auxiliary)
 - Citizenship/Education: 1st – Post 10859-6: 2nd – Post 9242-12: 3rd – Post 7792-13
 - ✦ **Community Service**
 - ✦ **1st – Post 3783-1 (also submitted for National Outstanding Community Service Award)**
 - ✦ 2nd – Post 6311-13 (also submitted for National Outstanding Community Service Award)
 - ✦ **3rd – Post 7041-1**
 - ✦ National Post Special Project Award
 - ✦ Post 97-6 (POW/MIA event)
 - ✦ **First Responders**
 - ✦ **EMT: John Denhalter submitted by Post 3783-1**
 - Firefighter: David Hernandez submitted by Post 184-3
 - Law Enforcement: Jeff Dyer submitted by Post 3699-3
 - **Safety**
 - ✦ 1st – Post 5551-5: 2nd – Post 2080-1: **3rd – Post 11387-1**
 - ✦ Youth Development: Scouting: Scout of the Year: 1st – Nicholas Carson, Troop 164, submitted by Post 15005: 2nd – Aditya Sriram, Troop 7062, submitted by Post 1123-16: 3rd – Lauren Nettles, Troop 371, submitted by Post 1614-7

(Continued on next page.)

REPORT FROM STATE ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER

- o Outstanding Scout Unit of the Year: Post 6024 and Troop 7272
- o Outstanding Scout Leader of the Year: Dea Del Bosario submitted by Post 6024-2
- o Post Most Active in Scouting: Post 1929-16
- o JROTC
 - National Youth Cadet: Cadet Robbie Hewitt submitted by Post 6311-13
 - o Post Most Active in JROTC: Post 1956-3
- o Teacher of the Year
 - ✦ Elementary: Tracy Bedford submitted by Post 7635-13
 - Middle School: Shawn Roberts submitted by Post 8470-9
 - High School: Lisa Ann Friedrichs submitted by Post 7766-1
- All-State Posts
 - ✦ We currently have 14 Posts that appear to qualify (Posts have until June 30th to qualify for membership and program donations)
 - ✦ All-State Districts
 - ✦ We currently have 3 Districts that appear to qualify (Districts have until June 30th to qualify for membership)
 - ✦ National Certificate of Recognition
 - ✦ Sherman Patterson – Veterans Health Administration of Long Beach, CA
 - ✦ Tony Baker – Veterans Health Administration of Sacramento, CA
Recognition was given for their support of veterans who were quarantined on the Grand Princess Cruise Line during the COVID-19 crisis.

Have a safe Memorial Day weekend.

Respectfully,

Rodger W. Meier, State Adjutant/Quartermaster, VFW Department of California
9136 Elk Grove Blvd, Suite 100, Elk Grove, CA 95624, [916-509-8712](tel:916-509-8712) (phone), [916-509-8720](tel:916-509-8720) (fax)

VFW Members visited the grave of former Commander in Chief Rainwater on Memorial Day



NEWS OF INTEREST TO VFW MEMBERS



Mike Frank
State Advisor
VFW Riders Chapter 1513 President
Email: vfw.riders.california@gmail.com
Facebook: California VFW Riders

MISSION

1. To promote and support programs of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
2. To provide a family-oriented organization dedicated to the ideals of the VFW and formed for the betterment of communication and camaraderie between other Veterans Organizations, Local Communities, and other VFW Riders Chapters.
3. To promote interest in various forms of motorcycle activities that will encourage camaraderie amongst the membership and offer support to any programs that are sponsored by the VFW.
4. To encourage a better understanding of motorcycle riding as a constructive sport among members of the VFW, the Public, Law Enforcement Agencies, and other Veterans Organizations.
5. To promote motorcycle safety programs.

For additional information contact Mike Frank at
vfw.riders.california@gmail.com



NEWS OF INTEREST TO VFW MEMBERS

Editor's Note: Many of you know that the Commanding Officer of the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), a San Diego based nuclear aircraft carrier, was recently fired from his job. The article on this and the next page, from what appears to be two professional and unbiased journalists, has the best description I have seen that covers the present status, and possible outcomes of this situation. I provide this article for your information.

Richard Vannoy, Editor editor@vfwcadist1.org

Reinstate? Reassign? Navy to Decide Fate of Fired Aircraft Carrier Captain

Military.com | By Lolita Baldor and Robert Burns, The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Navy's top admiral will soon decide the fate of the ship captain who was fired after pleading for commanders to move faster to safeguard his coronavirus-infected crew on the USS Theodore Roosevelt. In the glare of a public spotlight, Adm. Mike Gilday will decide whether Navy Capt. Brett Crozier stepped out of line when he went around his chain of command and sent an email pushing for action to stem the outbreak. As of Friday, 660 sailors on the aircraft carrier, now docked at Guam, had tested positive for the virus and seven were hospitalized. One sailor, who was from Arkansas, has died, and more than 4,000 of the ship's 5,000 crew members have been moved onto the island for quarantine. Gilday's review won't be limited to Crozier. It will also look at the command climate on the ship and higher up within the Pacific-based fleet, to determine if there are broader leadership problems in a region critical to America's national security interests. Gilday has many options as he reviews what was an extraordinarily rapid investigation by Adm. Robert Burke, the vice chief of naval operations. Burke and his staff finished the review in about a week, conducting interviews almost entirely online and by phone between Washington and Guam. A look at some of Gilday's options, and their benefits and pitfalls.

REINSTATEMENT:

Gilday could decide that Crozier acted in the best interests of his crew and was unfairly removed. He could reinstate him as captain of the Roosevelt.

That could generate a lot of support.

In a widely viewed video, Roosevelt crew members applauded and chanted Crozier's name as he walked off the ship after being fired. When Thomas Modly, the acting Navy secretary who fired Crozier, traveled to the ship and criticized him in a speech to the crew, he came under fire and had to resign. President Donald Trump even suggested that while Crozier shouldn't have sent the memo, he shouldn't be destroyed for having a "bad day."

But reinstating Crozier has its problems.

It would put him back on a ship with Rear Adm. Stuart Baker, commander of the carrier strike group of which the Roosevelt is the lead ship. Officials say they did not have a good relationship and that was among the problems that triggered Crozier's memo. Gilday may worry that putting them back together would exacerbate the ship's toxic command climate.

FORGIVE AND MOVE ON: Rather than return Crozier to the Roosevelt, Gilday could absolve him of wrongdoing and recommend he move on to another job. Crozier could retain his rank and standing and perhaps command another ship, leaving open the possibility that he could gain promotion and continue his Navy career. This would avoid sending him back into the chain of command that likely felt betrayed by his memo. But it doesn't provide the emotional lift of seeing a popular captain stride back onto the ship for which he risked his career.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS: Gilday could fault Crozier for doing the right thing the wrong way. He could determine that Crozier was unfairly fired, but that he acted rashly and went outside his chain of command and therefore did not exhibit good leadership. He could put a letter in Crozier's personnel file, which usually is a career-ender. Crozier could stay in the Navy and might move on to other jobs, but would probably not be promoted. *(Continued on next page)*

(Continued from previous page)

FIRE ONE, FIRE ALL: Gilday could determine that firing Crozier was appropriate.

Unless that's overturned in an appeal process, that would end Crozier's Navy career. In most cases, senior officers simply retire after being relieved of command for cause. But Gilday could also decide that the ship's problems extended beyond Crozier. He could recommend that Baker be fired or punished for not being receptive to Crozier's concerns. Gilday's review could also dole out criticism for leaders who may have taken too long to recognize the Roosevelt's outbreak as the deadly problem it became. Those would include the 7th Fleet commander, Vice Adm. William R. Merz; the Pacific Fleet commander, Adm. John C. Aquilino, or the most senior admiral in the Pacific, Adm. Phil Davidson, head of Indo-Pacific Command. William Fallon, a retired four-star admiral and former commander of U.S. Pacific Command, says Gilday's decision is important to American interests in the Asia-Pacific region, where an aircraft carrier presence is central to U.S. strategy. "He's making an administrative decision back here, but it has profound operational implications," Fallon said.

AND THEN THERE'S THE POLITICS: The backdrop to Gilday's decision is a fraught political environment in Washington that has taken a toll on the Navy. Modly became acting secretary last November when his predecessor, Richard Spencer, was forced out in a clash with the White House over Trump's intervention in the war crimes case of former Navy SEAL Eddie Gallagher. And Gilday had abruptly become chief when Spencer pushed out the admiral who was in line for the job. Gilday, known as an honest, straight shooter, is expected to make a decision based on the facts and his judgment of what is best for the ship's crew and the Navy.

But the decision expected early next week can't be separated entirely from politics. When Gilday reaches a decision, he will relay recommendations to acting Navy Secretary James McPherson. They will also go to Defense Secretary Mark Esper. More importantly, the Navy will alert members of Congress and the White House. Any of those could weigh in on the matter. Or, in Trump's case, he could reverse it.

Trump has expressed seemingly contradictory views on Crozier. On April 4, he publicly blasted the captain, saying Crozier's letter pleading for more urgent action was "terrible." Trump also criticized Crozier for the ship's port visit in Vietnam, where crew members may have picked up the coronavirus, even though the Navy says that decision was made by Davidson. Two days later, Trump took a more empathetic tack, saying, "I'm not looking to destroy a person's life, who's had an otherwise stellar career, as I understand it." Trump said that as far as he could tell, Crozier had simply "had a bad day."



NEWS—MEDICAL

Navy Wants Ships at Sea to Be Free of COVID-19

After outbreaks of the coronavirus on the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt and the destroyer USS Kidd while at sea, the Navy developed new standardized operational guidance for the fleet during the pandemic. The guidelines were based on lessons learned from combating the disease. The Navy's new standards for ships at sea is to now operate as clean "bubbles," allowing only people aboard who have been medically screened and who adhere to health mitigation measures. In the wake of the coronavirus outbreak onboard ships, the DoD Inspector General has initiated an evaluation of Navy's approach to preventing the spread of infectious diseases aboard its ships and submarines.

Here's the VA's 3-Part Plan to Resume Full Services for Veterans

Military.com | By [Patricia Kime](#)

Another massive pandemic relief package introduced Tuesday in the House of Representatives As the number of active COVID-19 cases among its patients declined slightly this week, the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) announced a three-part plan for resuming operations at its facilities in the coming months.

The effort will largely depend on local COVID-19 conditions, including a declining number of patients with symptoms, a reduction in those testing positive and widespread availability of testing. While the VA's Central Office has drafted a tiered plan for operations, decisions will be made at the local level and may not be in line with other state or federal reopening goals, VA officials said.

"A central planning solution for resuming regular operations makes no sense here because some areas of the country will take longer to recover, while other areas have seen minimal cases," VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said in a release. "That's why we're letting local conditions dictate our next steps."

The first phase, to occur within the next month, will largely consist of assessments by VA facilities to determine the risks and impact of increasing operations, such as non-emergency procedures like clinical visits and lab tests and admissions to spinal cord injury units. Officials will also explore the capacity for community health care providers to resume seeing veteran patients.

In this phase, the Veterans Benefits Administration will increase virtual hearings and formulate plans to resume face-to-face compensation and pension exams, while the National Cemetery Administration will prepare for resuming memorial services and burials that will be held later.

Phase 2 will include expanding non-emergency procedures and medical visits to hospitals and clinics; reopening the department's Fisher Houses; resuming memorial services and burials with military honors, with limited attendance based on local conditions; and in-person services at VBA regional offices, by appointment.

The final phase will build on the others: resuming visitor access to all VA health facilities, including nursing homes, expanding services at VHA and VBA locations, and resuming all other normal operations.

VA officials said the work will be done with employee health and safety in mind, and all criteria and parameters "must be met before starting the phases and may precipitate a return to an earlier phase."

"The pandemic is not over, and VA continues to provide response efforts," the plan notes. "The timeline for moving through this transition process will be dependent on the ability to minimize and control exposure and infection levels and maintain a constant decrease over time."

As of Friday, 8,137 veteran VA patients were confirmed to have contracted the novel coronavirus since the start of the pandemic and 619 had died. An additional 212 veterans deaths were reported to the VA.

The number of new patient cases at VA facilities declined in the past week, with no new cases reported Friday from the previous day and 56 cases between Wednesday and Thursday. On Monday, the VA reported 261 new cases in 24 hours.

More than 1,200 VA employees have been diagnosed with the illness, including 26 who have died.

RECENT EVENTS



Diane & Harvey (Top & Left), Paula Jansen and Rachael (Bottom-right) made it a point to stop by their local BK during "Thank You Burger King Week."



SVC and Auxiliary members from Post 5867 at "Thank You BK Week"

Post 3787 prepares for the opening

RECENT EVENTS



Post 9305 conducted ceremonies at the Evergreen Cemetery, then another at Veterans Memorial in El Centro



Delivering free lunches to our heros.



Matt Foster helping out at the Park Avenue Community Center



Post 1924, Fallbrook takes a photo op after placing Memorial Day flags along Main



Food for Warriors Program at Post 5477

RECENT EVENTS



Penelope youth places a flag on her great grandfather's grave.



On 22 May, Post 7907 performed a flag-raising at Mt. Carmel High School in commemoration of Memorial Day. Participants were (l to r) Don Biedermann, incoming Commander Bill Kimble, Eric Biedermann and District 1 Jr. Vice Commander Bob Parks.



Apryl youth from Post 5867 places a flag at Miramar National Cemetery on Memorial Day

UPCOMING EVENTS

This “UPCOMING EVENTS” section will be minimal until we are informed by VFW, state, county and local officials that we can resume some or all of our activities.

When the time comes that we can be planning and attending events, please resume sending your event flyers and information to:

vfwcadist1.webmaster@gmail.com (Sara Jeyes, Webmaster)

editor@vfwcadist1.org (Richard Vannoy, Editor, Dispatch)



The flyer features a central circular graphic with a gold and red border, containing the text "TX POKER" in large, bold, gold letters. The background of the circle is dark with playing card symbols (hearts, spades, clubs, diamonds) around the perimeter. Two fanned-out playing cards are positioned on either side of the central circle. Below the graphic, the text "\$40.00 DONATION" is displayed in white. Further down, contact information is provided: "CONTACT SIX-SEVEN / jchanna51@gmail.com" and "vfwmotorcycleclub.org". The date and time are listed as "OCTOBER 24, 2020" and "6:00 PM". A note reads "***SPAGHETTI DINNER & RAFFLE PRIZES***". At the bottom, there is a logo for "VETERANS FOREIGN BROTHERS CALIFORNIA" and the address "VFW LAKESIDE POST 5867, 12650 Lindo Ln, Lakeside, CA 92040".

\$40.00 DONATION

CONTACT SIX-SEVEN / jchanna51@gmail.com
vfwmotorcycleclub.org

OCTOBER 24, 2020
6:00 PM

SPAGHETTI DINNER & RAFFLE PRIZES



VFW LAKESIDE POST 5867
12650 Lindo Ln, Lakeside, CA 92040