

# The Foc'sle



A publication of the Ingleside Area Council of the U.S. Navy League

President D. B. "Bull" Walker, INGLESIDE AREA COUNCIL, P.O. Box 1046, Aransas Pass, Texas 78335-1046 [dustybulltx@gmail.com](mailto:dustybulltx@gmail.com)

November &  
December 2013

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 25 Christmas

**2014**

Jan 01 New Years Day

Jan 09 **INGLESIDE AREA COUNCIL**  
Officer/Director's Meeting, 1130,  
Old Fulton Seafood Café & Deli,  
109 S. Fulton Beach Rd., Fulton.

Jan 15 IRS Quarterly payment due ☹️

Feb 02 Super Bowl

Feb 06 **INGLESIDE AREA COUNCIL**  
Officer/Director's Meeting, 1130,  
Old Fulton Seafood Café & Deli,  
109 S. Fulton Beach Rd., Fulton.



**Merry  
Christmas &  
Happy New  
Year!!**

## **IMPORTANT**

- **12 year INGLESIDE AREA COUNCIL member Henry "Andy" Ficken passes away.**

**ALL Officer/Director Meetings are OPEN to Council members!** We appreciate your inputs on how to make our Council more efficient and fun. Our only request is to please tell Bull Walker [361-463-1201 or [dustybulltx@gmail.com](mailto:dustybulltx@gmail.com)] in advance that you will be attending. We want to ensure we have ample space.

**Welcome Aboard** - no new members this period.

**Renewed:** Jon C. LEWIS (16 years), Todd W. PEARSON (11 years), Dora & Pete PERKINS (10 years), and Peggy & Ronald M. YEAGER (22 years).

**Thank you for your continued support!!**

President's Corner  
"Bull's Eye"



**2013**  
**Officers/Directors:**

**D.B. "Bull" Walker**  
(President)  
(National Director)

**Dusty Walker** (Vice  
President)

**Felix Keeley**  
(Treasurer)  
(National  
Director)

**Pete Perkins**  
(Secretary)

**Bill Janeczek**  
(Honorary Director)  
**Steve Morehead**

Sad news: Colonel "Andy" Ficken passed away December 3, a loyal supporter of our Council and the Navy League for more than 12 years. He is survived by his bride, Teri: Our heartfelt condolences. A modified obituary is later in this newsletter.

Our membership has leveled off. Your Council has no intention of "going away". We have adjusted our focus to the Coast Guard men and women scattered throughout South Texas who diligently serve us. Additionally we are actively supporting the Navy Junior ROTC Units at Rockport-Fulton, Lyndon B. Johnson (Laredo), Los Fresnos, and San Benito Veterans Memorial High Schools, the Marine Military Academy in Harlingen, and McAllen Memorial Marine Corps JROTC.

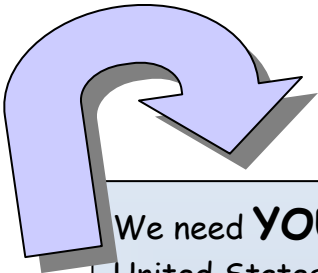
Our primary means of communication is electronically through this newsletter, fliers, and email. If you would like me to include you in our email listing, please include your address (mine is [dustybulltx@gmail.com](mailto:dustybulltx@gmail.com)). We treat all addresses with the utmost confidentiality.

Our updated website is up and running ([www.navyleagueingleside.org](http://www.navyleagueingleside.org)), I hope you enjoy the new format! This site also contains many of our past newsletters. If you have any comments, forward them to me, thank you.

Our Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps have been busy. Please take a moment to read their articles: Thank you **Captain Jeff Carlson** (Rockport-Fulton High School) and **Lieutenant Rolando Gonzalez** (San Benito Veterans Memorial Academy).

We hope that you have a wonderful Christmas and New Year and that 2014 be healthy and prosperous!

*Bull*



We need **YOU** as a citizen in support of the Sea Services (United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard, and U.S. Flag Merchant Marine).

#### Who is the **Navy League**?

- It is a community service organization with over **45,000** members worldwide, and **250** councils (chapters) conducting activities in local communities.
- Theodore Roosevelt promoted the founding of the Navy League in 1902, which was supported by the civilian and business communities - the condition that continues today.
- **AND everyone is eligible to be a member, we are all civilians.**

#### Mission and Goals:

- To educate national leaders and the nation in the necessity of a strong Maritime Service.
- Support the men and women of the *Sea Services*.
- Provide assistance to *Sea Service* families.
- Support youth programs.

#### Did you know?

- The US Navy has approximately the same number of ships today as **BEFORE** World War I. A serious decline that began in the 1990s and continues today due to insufficient funding.
- **95%** of world-wide trade is now transported by sea.
- The deterrent value of a strong Navy and Coast Guard and the need to protect the commercial sea lanes and maritime borders are necessary for our nation's continued vitality and strength.

**America's security and economic interests extend to every region of the globe.**

If you would be interested in supporting the United States Sea Services please give us a call or drop us a note. A membership application is on the next page.

Please pass this newsletter to a friend and ask them to join us.

**Thank you!**

## **MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:**

(Years as Member/Anniversary Date of Renewal)

These are the dates your membership will expire. We continue to support the Coastal Bend Military Service personnel (Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and U.S Flag Merchant Marine) and our South Texas JROTCs. We need your continued support!

Vickie **ABEGO** (15 years, 12/31/13), Jackie & Jeff **CARLSON** (4 years, 03/31/14), Tom **DePUMA** (10 years, 02/28/14), Phyllis & John **LIBERTI** (8 years, 03/31/14), Fred P. **NARDINI** (22 years, 11/30/13), Jude A. **POWELL** (7 years, 12/31/13), and Christine H. **YOUNG** (6 years, 11/30/13).

If there is an error above, please contact **Bull Walker** [790-7337 (H), 463-1201 (C), or [dustybulltx@gmail.com](mailto:dustybulltx@gmail.com)] as soon as possible—**THANK YOU**.

## **LIFE MEMBERS**

(Year became LIFE members)

Nancy **ALLEN** (1988), Nancy & Ken **BLEWETT** (2000), Karen **CERVENKA** (2009), John F. **CHAPMAN** (2003), Dr. Cecil A. **CHILDERS** (1985), Cecil A. **CHILDERS III** (1993), Gloria & Bob **CLINE** (2003), "Babe" **CROUCH** (1973), Alan **DEARDORFF** (2001), Bonnie **DEMMITT** (1997), Wilson C. **EDWARDS** (1988), Norman R. **FLEEMAN, Jr.** (1998), Reneatha D. **GOLMAN** (1989), Jeff **GORDON** (1995), Alan **GRELLING** (1975), Ernest L. **HAGNESS** (1999), Genie & Frank **HAMETNER** (1988), Judy & David **HAWLEY** (2002), Martha & Jim **ISBELL** (2000), Bill W. **JANECEK** (1997), Pamela H. & Ronald E. **JORGENSEN** (1996), Barbara & George **KAIN** (1992), Upinder **KAMAL** (2001), Felix P. **KEELEY** (1992), Cassy B. **KEY** (2001), Larry C. **KEY** (2001), Vickie L. & Paul W. **LOEFFLER** (1999), Josephine **MILLER** (1989), John **MILLER** (1989), William M. **MILLER** (2007), Steve **MOREHEAD** (2008), Peter B. **MORGAN** (1988), Bob **O'DONNELL** (1993), Christine M. **PENNING** (2003), Ron **PIFER** (2001), Billie N. & Clayton E. **POENISCH** (2000), Oralia & Felix C. **RAMIREZ** (1992), Jim A. **ROBINSON** (1986), Steve A. **STEPHENSON** (1999), Chela **STORM** (2000), Tina **TREADWAY** (1989), Diane & W. Aaron **TUCKER** (2002), Donna & William R. **VADEN** (1998), Marcia W. & Donald B. **WALKER** (1994), Elaine **WILLEFORD-KEMP** (1992), Suzy **WILLIAMS** (1973), Ronald R. **WOODRUFF** (2001), and Carl D. **WORKMAN** (2002).

**Total of 61!**



## Col. Harry A. Ficken, Jr. "Andy"

Corpus Christi, TX

Col. Harry A. Ficken, Jr. USA (ret.), aka Andy, passed away on Tuesday, December 3, 2013. Andy was born on December 16, 1928 in Asheville, North Carolina. He attended Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina. After completing the ROTC program, he was called to active duty as a 2nd Lt. in the Infantry, and sent to Korea in 1952. He returned to college at Hardin Simmons University in Abilene, Texas and received his BBA degree in 1959. He was released from active duty and assigned to the active duty reserve. Andy then went to work for the Treasury Department and was assigned to the Corpus Christi area. He remained in the Active Reserve. When the Vietnam War broke out, he was recalled to active duty as a Major, sent back to Fort Benning, Texas and then on to Vietnam. While in RVN, he was awarded 3 Bronze Stars, The Air Medal, The Army Commendation Medal, The Combat Infantry Badge, The Vietnam Cross of Gallantry w/ Palm, The Vietnamese Service Medal, and the US RVN Medal. After a series of other tours of duty, Col. Ficken was assigned as Provost Marshall Three Corps and Fort Hood, and for their actions he and his MP's were awarded the Humane Action Medal. Ultimately Andy retired with 34 years of honorable service.

After retirement, Andy kept busy as a marine surveyor and private investigator. Being an avid sailor, Andy and his wife, Teri, were constants on the racing scene in their boat 'Warrior', and then when sailing became too much, they were often seen on the water on their trawler 'We'll Sea'. Andy was a long-time member of the Corpus Christi Yacht Club and Past Commodore of the Bay Yacht Club. In October 2010, Andy was bestowed with the honor of becoming an Admiral in the Texas Navy, an honor he greatly cherished.

Andy is survived by his wife, Teri; daughter, Kathrine; two grandchildren, Melissa & Justin; his brother, Chuck Ficken (Alice) of Winston-Salem, N.C.; brother-in-law, Tony Feher of New York City; and two of the best friends imaginable, Robin & Alan Dinn. He also leaves behind a nephew, David Ficken (Kerry) of Raleigh, North Carolina; and numerous cousins in both North Carolina and Texas. His friends were many and he will be sorely missed. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Corpus Christi Area Heritage Society or a charity of your choice.



(Cadets Martinez and Barron painted their faces for the Rodeo Roundup)



**RODEO ROUNDUP.** On 19 October, Cadets came out of the wood works to help the Valley Baptist Hospital and the Elks Lodge with their Annual

Miracle Kids Western Rodeo Roundup at the San Benito Resaca Park. The Cadets manned booths and helped with food and entertainment, ensuring the success of the roundup and that a good time was had by all the special kids that attended. The Cadets proved their word that this year's Community Service would be dedicated to our former Instructor, Chief Richard Williams.



**PARADES AND PARADES.** The Cadets turned up in numbers to represent NJROTC during the SBHS Homecoming Parade on 24 October and the San Benito City Christmas Parade on 14 December. The crowds were pleased to see need additions to our line up, including a Squad with Service Flags and a Squad of Rifle Spinners.



**VETERANS DAY.** The Cadets were busy all week preparing for Veterans Day, and on 11 November, they help celebrated Veterans Day at the San Benito High School Veterans Day Celebration, then the City of San Benito Veterans Day Parade and finally the Veterans

Memorial Academy Veterans Day Celebration. The Cadets were exhausted at the end of the day, but were very pleased with the amount of Veterans that they were able to say thank you too with their performances and presence.



**CANNED FOOD DRIVE.** In November, the Cadets collected over 3,500 cans of various canned food items that were donated to the San Benito Food Pantry to assist needy families during the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays as well as the San Benito CISD Communities in Schools Program.

Cadets got a chance to visit USS Lexington during Rockport's Drill Meet



**DRILL, DRILL, DRILL.** In November and December the Drill Teams competed in Rockport-Fulton High School, Rockport; Seguin High School, Seguin; and Southwest High School in San Antonio. Although State qualification eluded the Teams this year, the teams improved in their performances in Personnel Inspection, Regulation Drill and Exhibition Drill. With a bit of tweaking during the summer, next year should be a good year to qualify for the State Drill Meet.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR.** San Benito NJROTC Cadets would like to wish all the Navy League members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and would like to deeply thank you for your awesome support.

and Happy New Year and would like to deeply thank you for your awesome support.



The **Rockport-Fulton High School Navy Junior ROTC** has had a busy fall and the winter is shaping up to be just as busy. After participating in October in the Flour Bluff High School "Sea Hornet Classic" Drill Meet, and qualifying to attend our fourth consecutive State Championship, we hosted our own third Coastal Bend Classic Drill Meet here at Rockport-Fulton High School on November 16th. We had 17 NJROTC units participate...our biggest drill meet yet...and in spite of the construction and other events going on that day, all feedback was very positive and the units had a great time visiting our town. We followed that up with a very successful trip to San Antonio to the "Sea Dragon

Invitational" at Southwest High School. We placed **6<sup>th</sup>** overall amongst 28 high schools and even braved the Arctic Cold Front to get in a side trip to the San Antonio Zoo. We are preparing to go to Houston in January to a drill meet at Andy Dekaney High School and include a day at the Space Center Houston so our cadets can see the wonders of our past, present and hopefully future space program. We continue to work our community service events, from Keep Rockport Beautiful to color guards at various ceremonies to serving meals to our visiting Winter Texans at the Fulton Fish Fry. Our students are making their presence felt throughout their high school and our Unit Commanding Officer and the Navy League Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal recipient for 2013, **Cadet LCDR Leanna Grimes**, was recently honored as a Caller-Times/Citgo South Texas Distinguished Scholar for 2013!! As always the support from our Navy League is exceptional and on behalf of all of our cadets we wish you a **safe and Merry Christmas holiday and a very Happy New Year!**

Jeff Carlson  
CAPT, USN (ret)  
Senior Instructor

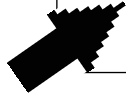


**HELP US BUILD OUR NAVY LEAGUE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP!** Use the form below or go to our website [www.navyleagueingleside.org](http://www.navyleagueingleside.org) and sign someone up. Either bring it and the person(s) to our next All-Hands function or **mail it to the address below**. This will ensure that the individual gets future newsletters as soon as possible.

**MAKE AS MANY COPIES AS NEEDED, PLEASE PRINT!**

**THANKS YOU!!**

Membership is open to U. S. citizens who are not on active duty with any military service.



Name (Mr., Mrs., Dr., Etc) First Name Middle Init Last Name

Name of Spouse (Mr., Mrs., etc.) First Name Middle Init Last Name

Address: Number, Street Name (Apt., Suite, P. O. Box, etc.) E-Mail Address

City State Zip Code (+4)

Business Phone Home Phone Date of Birth

**INGLESIDE AREA**

Sponsor's Last Name Sponsors Member # New Member's Council

**Method of Payment:**

- Check enclosed (MAKE PAYABLE TO NLUS)
- Please charge my: VISA MasterCard AMEX

Mail this form and payment (payable to NLUS) to Bull Walker, 2515 Turkey Neck Circle, Rockport, Texas 78382-3530 to expedite your membership

Navy League of the United States  
 Ingleside Area Council  
 P. O. Box 1046  
 Aransas Pass, Texas 78335-1046



The Ingleside Area Council is exempt from the Limited Sales, Excise, and Use Taxes as an Organization exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS (please check one):

- Regular Individual (1 yr) ..... \$50.00
- Regular Individual (2 yr) ..... \$90.00
- Regular Individual (3 yr) ..... \$125.00
- Husband/Wife (1 yr) ..... \$85.00
- Life (to age 55) ..... \$1000.00
- Life (age 56-75) ..... \$750.00
- Life (age 76+) ..... \$500.00
- Active Duty Spouse ..... \$30.00
- Student ..... \$25.00
- Community Affiliate (Application) ..... \$400.00

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