

# SOUND OFF!



BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF VETERANS UNITED FOR TRUTH, INC.

#41

*"VETERANS STANDING UP FOR EACH OTHER"*

1 JULY 2010

---

---

## **TRUTH MATTERS!**

Since the founding of VUFT we have prided ourselves on a search for truth in veterans' and military affairs. We think that we have kept to that task fairly well by emphasizing the truth of those issues, rather than buying into and parroting the talking points and spin that surround them, and which most often hide the truth,

We are inspired now to pursue the truth on yet another military/veterans issue, and that is the truth surrounding the attack on the USS Liberty 43 years ago on 8 June 1967.

No one denies that the Israelis have suffered. Unfortunately, most are quick to deny that the Israelis have caused suffering as well. There are many Israelis who would welcome honesty on our part, and who would likewise support a demand for honesty on the part of their government.

Most of us have supported Israel since 1948, and have rooted for her in her many wars and conflicts. That support, however, does not rise blindly. Just as we can accuse our own government of hiding the truth about many issues – Agent Orange, Gulf War Syndrome, Depleted Uranium, Camp Lejeune water, "preexisting condition" discharges, WMD, etc. – we must also be able to face the truth about this attack by friends on a friend.

Thirty-four of our own died that day—31 Navy, 2 Marines, 1 civilian—and they were killed in an unprovoked act of aggression by Israeli forces, at the order of the government. That is undisputed—that is the unquestionable truth.

It is time that the Israeli government apologized to the veterans of this attack, to the families of those who died or were wounded, and to people of the United States. It is likewise time that we stop supporting any of our allies blindly, especially when they jeopardize our foreign policy and the safety of our citizens through their acts of aggression.

Friendship is built on trust and honesty. It is time to renew trust and honesty between these two sovereign nations, and more importantly between and among all of their citizens. It is time for the world to see the United States take an even-handed and objective approach to Israel and her actions—supporting those we can and supporting them well, but calling out those that we disagree with, and particularly those which we abhor.

Your board has discussed this matter at length: we realize that discussing this issue may not sit well with some of you and we understand that position. Nonetheless we are sending this request to all of you that you send a simple message to your Senators and your Representative. Request that they support an open discussion of the attack on the Liberty in the halls of Congress, and that they support a formal inter-governmental request for an apology from the Israeli government. Also, send letters to the editor to your local newspapers and radio and TV stations.

It is past time for truth, and truth really matters in all things if we are to ever move forward.

- You can contact your Senators using [http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)
- You can contact your Representative using <https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>

Bob Handy, Chair—for the Board of Directors