

THE POST SCRIPT

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

EDWARD J. KEARNS POST 6024

P.O. BOX 4457

MISSION VIEJO, CALIFORNIA 92690-4457

vfwpost6024.org

VOL. XXXVI, NO. 4

APRIL 2024

EDITOR: GALE GOODALL

In memory of Tom Goodall

tommyg0910@aol.com

2023-2024 POST AND AUXILIARY OFFICERS

POST

Commander: John Carson 633-6763
Sr. Vice Commander: Rene Macare 306-3185
Jr. Vice Commander: Al Hicks 647-9253
Quartermaster: Harshu Sharma (818) 879-3120
Adjutant: Ned Costa (562) 682-3100
Officer of the Day: Frank McCleary 232-9391
Chaplain: Gary Heald 466-4225
Advocate: Casey Kleindienst 306-6133
Surgeon: Clark Courtney 338-8078
Guard: Gary Portas 595-1412
Service Officer: Bob Franzwa (858) 229-4306
Trustee 3 Year : Robert Casillas 468-8135
Trustee 2 Year: Harry Steelman 422-8325
Trustee 1 Year: Robert Carey 280-5845
Scout Chairman: Michelle Coppage (951) 348-1366
Honor Guard Leader: Bob Franzwa (858) 229-4306

AUXILIARY

President: Jackie Heddlesten 484-3801
Sr. Vice President: Gale Goodall 510-8538
Jr. Vice President: Lea Bergman (562) 412-8202
Secretary: Mary Lombard 683-0106
Treasurer: Mary Lombard 683-0106
Chaplain: Thomas Walling 586-9689
Conductor: Kerry Velasquez 678-9134
Guard: Melissa Sorensen 244-3992
Trustee #1: Kathy Holman 661-3130
Trustee #2: Cynthia Neitzke 436-2221
Trustee #3: Thomas Walling 586-9689

NOTE: All area codes not noted are (949)

NEXT MEETING

POST: Monday, May 13, 2024, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center

AUXILIARY: Monday, May 13, 2024, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center

POST SCRIPT BOOSTERS

Carol Rigg in memory of Gene Rigg (10/25), Burton J. Rounds (in perpetuity), Doug Sasso (7/24), Dick Vaughn (5/24), Veronica Ashdown (5/24), Micky Jimerson (1/24), Stuart Evans (1/25), Joe Goff (9/26), Al Ramirez (11/24), Tom Fenton (10/24), Dave Buck (9/24), Fred Egeler (11/25), Clark Courtney (6/30), Robert Carey (7/24), Frank McCleary (11/24), Herbert Nakasone (2/28), Robert Casillas (12/28), Ken Simonson (10/24), Julie Hammers in memory of Samuel Bussell (11/27), RJ Jackson (8/25), Ed Rice (5/25), William Wyngaard (5/25), Michael Burnett (5/27), John Summa (6/24), Roger Clinch (6/27), Dave Berutich (2/26), Pat Rizco (3/25), Rene Macare (2/28), Jackie Heddlesten (11/25), Terry Pfeil (7/26), Ned Costa (8/24), Bill Cook (5/25)

(NOTE: A donation of at least \$15.00 allows you to be a Post Script Booster for one year. The date after your name indicates your donation expiration. Our Boosters help offset the costs for mailing and printing this newsletter.)

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Comrades,

Every member of the U.S. Veterans of Foreign Wars has earned a combat ribbon. We try to lose the memories, but it is impossible. What we did, saw, experienced, and endured is forever part of our DNA. We gather with other veterans because there is an understanding of what bonds us, as brothers and sisters of a very tight-knit group having experienced a uniquely life-changing event.

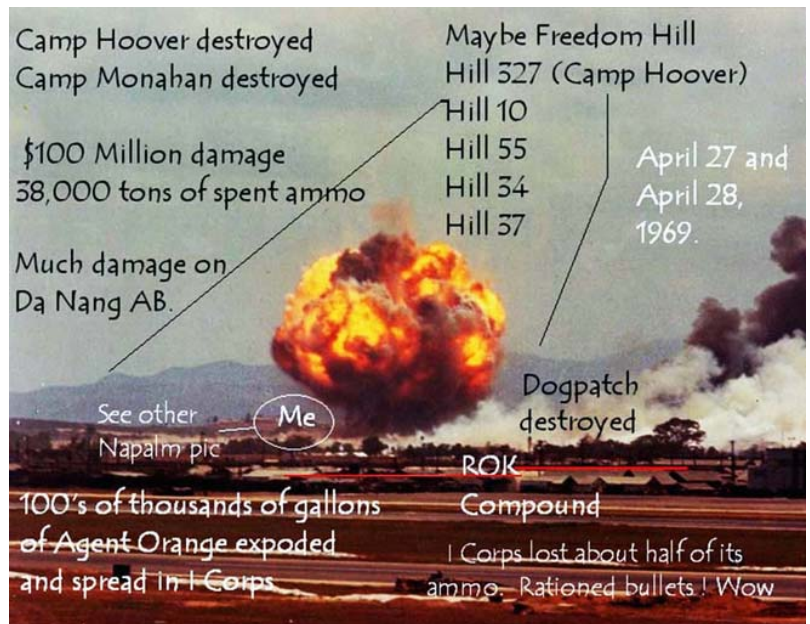
I am in the process of filing claims for injuries with the VA for what seems to have developed much later after slipping into civilian clothing and trying to get on with my life. Just the thought of this woke me up a few nights ago from a dead sleep and kept me up after only 4 hours of sleep. I felt

different for the next three days and nights, not getting much sleep. I remember an injury I never reported because the sick bay was packed. Fifty-five years ago, on April 27-29, 1969, the I Corps bomb dump at Da Nang, Vietnam, exploded. I was waiting to get on a 6-by truck to be driven to the flight line. A fire started in the bomb dump that spread quickly among the tens of thousands of bombs, ammunition, and 100 thousand fifty-gallon cans of Agent Orange that sprayed the entire Da Nang base and all personnel. I was thrown about twenty feet from the shock wave into the back of another truck landing with my back on the truck. The Navy had just unloaded two ships of ammunition for the Army, Navy, Marines, ROK Marines, and ARVINS. Hundreds of military and civilians lost their hearing due to the explosions. Entire civilian villages, military camps, and buildings were destroyed. 38 tons of ammo and other weapons totaling over 100 million dollars were gone. Our housing was less than a quarter mile from the bomb dump.

This may have started the injury that caused my neck vertebrae to finally collapse, (crushed as the surgeon reported) causing my recent medical issues. The VFW was instrumental in forming the VA, and most recently the PACT Act to help military veterans get medical and financial relief due to injuries. Make sure you contact one of our post's PSOs to start your filing of a claim with the VA. The dump burned and exploded for three days.



Commander, John Carson



Po\$ \$cript Boo\$ter\$: Thank you to Pat Rizco for anteing up for another year of support.

New Members: Two new members were voted in at our April 8, Post Meeting . Welcome Ted Sparkuhl, US Army Vietnam Vet, and transfer member Jacqueline Yencer, US Navy Hospital Corpsman, Iraq

Ken Simonson Memorial Service: The memorial service for Ken and Ginger Simonson has been scheduled for Saturday April 20, at 3:30 pm at Strands Beach in Dana Point. Our Honor Guard will perform flag folding.

Election of Officers: At the April Post Meeting, nomination for officers were entertained and closed. With no new nominations or contested offices, it was moved to elect the slate by white ballot. All current officers will retain their positions for another year.

Lifetime Service Award : Congratulations to AJ Summa who received our Post's lifetime service award at the April Post Meeting.



AJ's military career began in ROTC at Notre Dame. He finished the program in 1966 and was commissioned as an Ensign in the United States Navy. He was assigned to USS Ranger aircraft carrier and was off to Vietnam. During that tour, he served on the Bridge as Officer of the Day, oversaw ship to ship transfers of supplies, and periodically manned the 5" gun. In 1968, AJ was deployed again to Vietnam and joined River Patrol Squadron 53 on the My Tho River. Through 1969, he trained the troops manning the river boats. He was discharged as a Lieutenant in 1970.

AJ has served in numerous capacities in our Post. It is a rare occasion that you do not see him occupying a seat at a Post Meeting.

He has long been the Post liaison with Long Beach VA Hospital, coordinating support for our veterans in the Spinal Cord Injury Ward as well as helping families at Fisher House. He always makes sure the patients get the personal supplies they need and organizes entertainment and events so they do not feel forgotten and have contact with other vets.



For years AJ was instrumental in the distribution of the Post Script. He and his wife would spend evenings in front of the TV every month sticking address labels on and taping them closed.

AJ also coordinates our Post's support of the City's Adopted Marine Unit by securing entertainment at the annual Lake Day for Camp Pendleton Marines, Sailors and their families.

Among the Post offices he has held are Service Officer, Surgeon, Jr. Vice and Sr. Vice Commander, plus he has served for many years as part of the Post Honor Guard.

We thank AJ for his contributions and for being an outstanding example of VFW service to this day .

Buddy Poppies: Memorial Day is fast approaching. We need volunteers to man the Poppy tables. Please contact Jr. Vice, Al Hicks, and let him know your availability.

Laguna Café: Join us for our weekly breakfast meetings on Fridays at 7:30 am. 24310 Moulton Pkwy, Laguna Woods. **All Veterans Welcome.** In addition, the "Flashback" band entertains on the patio the 3rd Sunday of every month from 11:00 am—2:30 pm **All donations go to the VFW**



MONTHLY POWER QUOTES:

"Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly and applying the wrong remedies." _____ Groucho Marx

"All communities are apt to look to government too much...The framers of our excellent Constitution...wisely judged that the less government interferes with private pursuits the better for the general prosperity." _____Martin Van Buren

"Bad politicians are sent to Washington by good people who don't vote". _____ William E. Simon



**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
Edward J. Kearns Post 6024
P.O. Box 4457
Mission Viejo, CA 92690-4457**

**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MISSION VIEJO, CA
PERMIT NO. 591**



THE POST SCRIPT



UPCOMING AND HISTORICAL EVENTS

May 4,-5, 2024 — District 2 Convention and Memorial Service 900-1200 hrs. Anaheim Post

May 13, 2024 — Post Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center

May 13, 2024 — Auxiliary Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center

April 22, 1864 — “In God We Trust” included on every newly minted US coin by Act of Congress

April 27, 1865 — On MS River, worst Steamboat explosion in US history aboard the Sultana killed nearly 2,000 former Union prisoners of war returning home

May 2, 2011 — US Special Forces kill Osama bin Laden in Pakistan

May 7, 1954 — After fall of Dien Bien Phu, Vietnam divided in half at the 17th parallel