

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

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June 2026

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In memory of Tom Goodall

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NOTE: All area codes not noted are (949)

NEXT MEETING

POST: Monday, July 13, 2026, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center

AUXILIARY: Monday, July 13, 2026, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

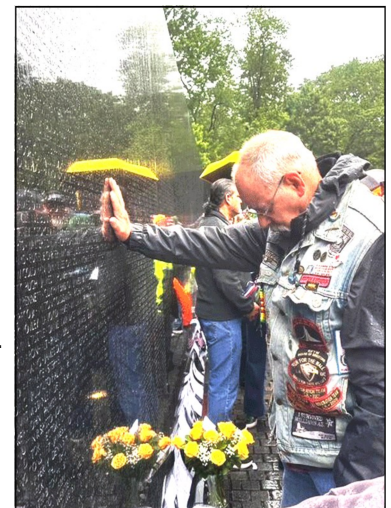
The Mission Continues: Serving, and Remembering in June

In June, we stand in a meaningful place on the calendar. Memorial Day has just passed, reminding our nation of the cost of freedom. Independence Day is approaching, when America celebrates that freedom. In between those two moments stand **us**—the veterans who understand both sacrifice and liberty in a way only those who served can.

I want to talk about two missions that continue long after our military service ends: the mission of **Run For The Wall**, and the mission of the **Veterans of Foreign Wars**. They may look different, but they share the same purpose, the same values, and the same promise to those who served.

Every May, the riders of Run For The Wall cross the country from CA to Washington, D.C., carrying a message that America must never forget:

- Remember the fallen
- Account for every POW/MIA



- Support those still serving
- Promote healing for veterans and families
- Educate the public about the true cost of freedom

Run For The Wall promotes healing, demands accountability for POW/MIA, supports those still serving, and educates the public about the true cost of freedom. It is not a motorcycle trip. It is a mission—solemn, disciplined, and purposeful.

By the time June arrives, the ride is complete. But the mission is not. Riders return home carrying the same message we carry here in the VFW: **remember, honor, and continue to serve.**

The Veterans of Foreign Wars has its own enduring mission:

- To advocate for veterans and their families
- To ensure no veteran is left behind
- To honor the memory of the fallen
- To strengthen communities through service
- To preserve the values we defended in uniform

For more than a century, the VFW has been the voice of veterans—fighting for healthcare, benefits, recognition, and dignity. It is a place where **service continues, where camaraderie remains strong, and where every veteran has a home.**

Run For The Wall and the VFW share the same foundation:

- Remembrance
- Accountability
- Healing
- Community
- Patriotism
- Service beyond the uniform

Both remind America that freedom has a cost. Both remind veterans that they are not alone. Both remind the fallen that they are not forgotten. Run for the Wall riders and VFW members are part of the same family—veterans who still feel the call of duty and who refuse to let the sacrifices of our brothers and sisters fade into history.

A Call to Action; As we move through this month, I ask each of us, again, to do three things:

1. **Reach out to a veteran you haven't spoken to in a while. A simple call can change a life.**
2. **Share your story—with your family, your community, or a younger veteran who needs to hear it.**
3. **Honor the fallen not only with ceremony, but with the way we live, support one another, and continue to serve our communities.**

June is not a quiet month. It is a month of responsibility.

Comrades, the uniform may be folded away, but the mission continues.

Run For The Wall reminds America of the cost of freedom. The VFW ensures that veterans are never forgotten, never abandoned, and never alone.

Together, these missions form a single message: **We remember. We serve. And we will never stop.**

Commander, Harry Steelman

Countdown to Independence: Last month's issue started looking at the crucial sixty day stretch when the push for independence shifted from possibility to inevitability—**this is the continuation.:**



June 11 — Committee of Five Appointed

Jefferson, Adams, Franklin, Sherman, and Livingston are tasked with drafting a declaration.

June 12 — Articles of Confederation Committee Form

Congress simultaneously begins planning a national government.

June 12–27 — Jefferson Drafts the Declaration

Jefferson writes the draft; Adams and Franklin revise it.

June 28 — Draft Declaration Presented

Jefferson's draft is read before Congress.

June 28 — Battle of Sullivan's Island (Fort Moultrie)

American forces repel a major British naval assault on Charleston, South Carolina. This victory boosts morale and demonstrates that the colonies *can* defeat British regulars.

Late June — British Armada Arrives in New York

Over 30,000 British and hired Hessian troops assemble offshore, signaling Britain's intent to crush the rebellion. This massive buildup pressures Congress toward full independence.

July 1 — Debate on Independence Begins

Congress opens formal debate; initial vote shows divisions but momentum favors independence.

July 2 — Independence Approved

Twelve colonies vote in favor (New York abstains). This is the *actual legal vote* for independence.

July 2–3 — Editing the Declaration

Congress edits Jefferson's draft, removing about a quarter of the text.

July 4 — Declaration of Independence Adopted

Congress approves the final text, creating the document we commemorate today.



In the months after the **Declaration of Independence was adopted in July 1776**, the new United States immediately faced the reality that declaring independence and securing it were two very different challenges. The Continental Army endured a series of military crises as British forces sought to put down the uprising, but American resilience and several key victories kept the cause alive.

"The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army." — George Washington

In early 1777, Washington won important battles at **Trenton and Princeton**, boosting morale and proving his army could outmaneuver the British. Meanwhile, the Continental Congress continued building the framework of a new nation, drafting the **Articles of Confederation** and sending them to the states for ratification in November 1777. Militarily, there were both hardships and turning points: the British captured Philadelphia forcing Congress to flee,

while Washington's army suffered through brutal conditions at **Valley Forge**. Then American victories in the northern campaign, especially **Saratoga** proved decisive and convinced **France** to enter the war as an ally. Thus, transforming the conflict into a global struggle and giving the revolution a vital lifeline moving forward.

Laguna Café: Join us for our weekly breakfast meetings on Fridays beginning at 7:00 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:

"It is hoped that all Distinctions of Colonies will be laid aside so that one and the same Spirit may animate the whole." — George Washington

"Tis a common observation here that our cause is the cause of all mankind, and that we are fighting for their liberty in defending our own." — Benjamin Franklin

"We are in the very midst of a revolution, the most complete, unexpected, and remarkable of any in the history of nations." — John Adams

"The harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph." — Thomas Paine



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UPCOMING AND HISTORICAL EVENTS

**June 14, 2026 ——— Flag Day Ceremony and Veterans Monument Dedication 1900 hrs.,
RSM Civic Center Plaza**

June 19-21, 2026 ——— Department Convention, Sacramento, CA

July 6, 2026 ——— Americana Pot Luck 1700-2000 hrs., Norman Murray Center

**July 13, 2026 ——— Post Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center
Pre-meeting social time begins at 1830 hrs.**

July 13, 2026 ——— Auxiliary Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center

July 24-30, 2026 ——— VFW National Convention, Reno, NV

***June 11, 1944 ——— Future President Lt. John F. Kennedy receives the Navy and Marine Corps
Medal and the Purple Heart for heroic actions as torpedo boat commander***

June 25, 1798 ——— US Congress passes the Alien Act allowing president to deport dangerous aliens