

# THE POST SCRIPT

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WAR OF THE UNITED STATES

EDWARD J. KEARNS POST 6024

P.O.BOX 4457

MISSION VIEJO, CALIFORNIA 92690-4457

[vfwpost6024.org](http://vfwpost6024.org)

VOL. XXXVI, NO. 9

SEPTEMBER 2024

EDITOR: GALE GOODALL

*In memory of Tom Goodall*

[tommyg0910@aol.com](mailto:tommyg0910@aol.com)

## 2024-2025 POST AND AUXILIARY OFFICERS

### POST

<u>Commander:</u> John Carson	633-6763
<u>Sr. Vice Commander:</u> Rene Macare	306-3185
<u>Jr. Vice Commander:</u> Al Hicks	647-9253
<u>Quartermaster:</u> Harshu Sharma	(818) 879-3120
<u>Adjutant:</u> Ned Costa	(562) 682-3100
<u>Officer of the Day:</u> Frank McCleary	232-9391
<u>Chaplain:</u> Gary Heald	466-4225
<u>Advocate and Chief of Staff:</u> Casey Kleindienst	306-6133
<u>Surgeon:</u> Clark Courtney	338-8078
<u>Guard:</u> Gary Portas	595-1412
<u>Service Officer:</u> Bob Franzwa	(858) 229-4306
<u>Trustee 3 Year :</u> Robert Casillas	468-8135
<u>Trustee 2 Year:</u> Harry Steelman	422-8325
<u>Trustee 1 Year:</u> Robert Carey	280-5845
<u>Scout Chairman:</u> Thomas Schober	510-0774
<u>Honor Guard Leader:</u> Bob Franzwa	(858) 229-4306

### AUXILIARY

<u>President:</u> Jackie Heddlesten	484-3801
<u>Sr. Vice President:</u> Renee Fulk	(714) 469-9938
<u>Jr. Vice President:</u> Gale Goodall	510-8538
<u>Secretary:</u> Mary Lombard	683-0106
<u>Treasurer:</u> Mary Lombard	683-0106
<u>Chaplain:</u> Kerry Velasquez	678-9134
<u>Trustee #1:</u> Cynthia Neitzke	436-2221
<u>Trustee #2:</u> Renee Fulk	(714) 469-9938
<u>Trustee #3:</u> Kathy Holman	661-3130

NOTE: All area codes not noted are (949)

### NEXT MEETING

**POST:** Monday, October 14, 2024, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center

**AUXILIARY:** Monday, October 14, 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 (7/25), Dick Vaughn (5/28), 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 (7/25), Frank McLeary (11/24), Herbert Nakasone (2/28), Robert Casillas (12/28), Ken Simonson (10/24), Julie Hammeras 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 (6/26), 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 (8/26), Bill Cook (5/25), Casey Kleindienst (6/28), Steve Valderrama in memory of Enmanuel G. Valderrama (12/37)

*(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

One of the most important functions of our VFW Post is to help meet the needs of veterans and their families in our community regardless of membership. Recently, one of our Post members was contacted by a local man who, as his father's September 11 birthday approached, was looking for a way to honor his heroic WWII military service. He wanted to make a donation to our Post in his father's name, which we gratefully accepted. But in addition to that, we invited the son to attend our September Post Meeting and talk about his dad.

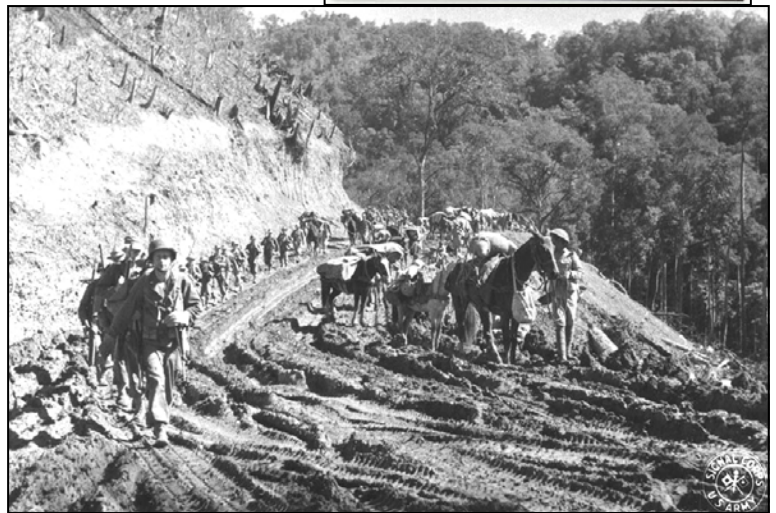
Our guest speaker, Steve Valderrama, was very engaging. He shared photos of his father, Enmanuel Gandara Valderrama, while relating a number of very interesting stories regarding who he was before

he entered his military career. We listened with interest and learned that Enmanuel Valderrama was a man of good character who stood by his morals and values.

Enmanuel grew up in Boyle Heights, East Los Angeles. He participated in ROTC; solo'd his first airplane at the age of 15, and was a bantam weight Amateur Boxer. He joined the Army in 1939 and was assigned to a Calvary unit where he broke his own wild horse and named it "Flea Biscuit" after the famous Race Horse "Sea Biscuit". But the most poignant memory for his son was that of his father's exploits with the Merrills Marauders where Enmanuel became a legend of his own...

Who were the Merrills Marauders and what did they do? The Marauders were the early forerunners to a number of high profile military forces such as the Rangers, Green Berets, Seal Teams, and a number of other military organizations using specialized skills behind enemy lines to help defeat enemy soldiers. The Marauders specifically engaged the Japanese during WWII deep behind enemy lines in Burma and China to disrupt and halt their activities against the Allied Forces. The unit became famous for its deep-penetration missions behind enemy lines, often engaging Japanese forces superior in number. He also participated in the heralded 1000 mile march known as the Burma Road. The Marauders was an All-Volunteer unit and Enmanuel received for his outstanding service a Silver Star, a Bronze Star, a Presidential Unit Citation, Chinese Service Medal and a Purple Heart.

After being wounded, he was shipped home and received a special honorable discharge insignia used during WWII, also called a "ruptured duck." This is a small patch that was issued to an honorably discharged veteran and sewn onto their service coat upon leaving military service.



Merrills Marauders on the Burma Road

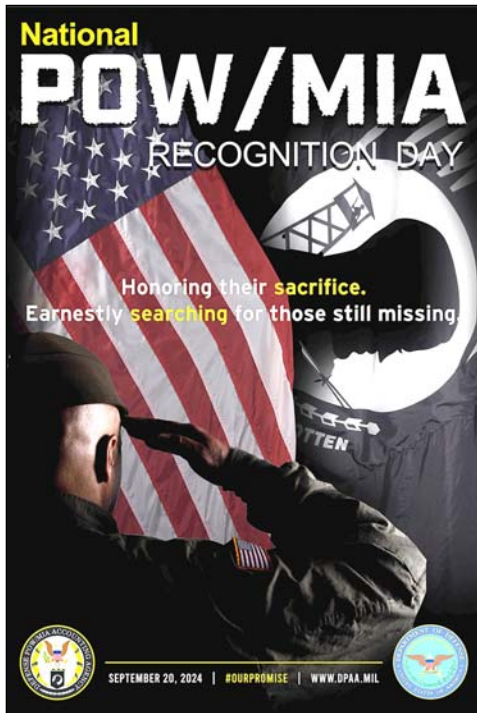
Enmanuel Valderrama we honor your service sir!!!  
*Senior Vice Commander,  
Rene Macare*

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**New Members:** We welcome two new members voted in at our September meeting:  
Edward Pasquale, US Army and USMC, Vietnam, Desert Storm and Jeremy Stanton, Active Duty, GySgt., USMC, Iraqi Freedom.  
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**New Buddy Poppy Venue:** The new Bass Pro Shop which opened in Irvine in March will be one of our Buddy Poppy venues for Veterans Day. During a meeting with Post Officers Rene Macare, Al Hicks, Harry Steelman and Ned Costa, General Manager, Richard Dziedzic offered two locations inside their store near the entrance and the exit doors. Allowing two Buddy Poppy tables during this event will greatly increase our exposure. This is an exciting opportunity but new venues will require more Buddy Poppy volunteers. We need all of our new members to step up and get involved. Contact with the public during our Buddy Poppy campaigns is very rewarding. Come to the October Post Meeting to sign up and get all of the details or if you cannot attend; contact Jr. Vice, Al Hicks.



**National POW/MIA Recognition Day:** First established in 1979 by a proclamation signed by President Jimmy Carter and continued by each subsequent president, the third Friday in September is designated as National POW/MIA Recognition Day.



The Defense Department remembers and honors those Americans who were prisoners of war and those who served and never returned home. DOD's POW/MIA Accounting Agency continues the search for the missing, fulfilling the nation's promise to leave no service member behind.

A National POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony is held each year at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and hosted by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. It is a tradition that affords local veterans organizations, community members, U.S. military personnel, and family members of missing personnel an opportunity to recognize and honor unaccounted for personnel from past conflicts. As part of the event this year, the American Battle Monuments Commission will host a rosette ceremony for more than 940 U.S. service members who were declared missing during the Vietnam War and have since been recovered and accounted for. Family members are welcome to attend and place the bronze rosette beside their loved one's name on the Courts of the Missing, a symbol of their family member's recovery and identification. No doubt our friend, Mindy Simonson had some role in making this all possible.

Other ceremonies will be held around the country including a national-level ceremony, traditionally held at the Pentagon, with members from each branch of military service and participation from high-ranking officials.

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**Oktoberfest, October 2:** Come out and enjoy a fun POTLUCK dinner party planned by our Auxiliary. This will be held at the Norman Murray Center from 5:30-8:00 pm in the Palo Verde Room. Bring your favorite Oktoberfest dish to share and enjoy socializing with friends. This would be a great time for new members to get to know everyone. Please RSVP to Kerry Velasquez: [kerryliz1949@gmail.com](mailto:kerryliz1949@gmail.com)

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**Color Guard Members:** The Post would like to form a Color Guard, in addition to our Riffle Squad/Honor Guard, to respond to requests by local organizations to display the colors. We are looking for five volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Bob Franzwa, [doc8425@outlook.com](mailto:doc8425@outlook.com) .

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**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**



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**MONTHLY POWER QUOTE:**

Excerpt from President Reagan's 1984 White House speech in observance of POW/MIA Recognition Day:

*I'm mindful that I stand here before the families of many of the missing. I'm mindful that you gave your sons and husbands and fathers into the care of our government when they left to fight for our nation. You knew they might die in battle. But you had, and will always have, every right to expect that your government will not abandon those who failed to return.*

*I said to all the Nation -- and most especially to all of you -- that we write no last chapters; we close no books; we put away no final memories until your questions are answered. Your husbands, fathers, and sons and brothers did their duty by this Nation, and this Nation will do its duty by them.*

*Today we stand together . . . and witness the missing man flyover. And today I pledge -- we will not rest until that formation is complete.*





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

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## THE POST SCRIPT



### UPCOMING AND HISTORICAL EVENTS

**October 2, 2024** —- Oktoberfest Pot Luck 1730-2000 hrs., Norman Murray Center  
**October 5-6, 2024** — RSM Family Fest begins 1400 hrs. Civic Center Plaza, Post will have a booth  
**October 14, 2024** —Post Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center  
**October 14, 2024** —Auxiliary Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center  
**November 11, 2024** —City of MV, Veterans Day Observance, Norman Murray Center 0830 hrs.  
**November 11, 2024** — El Toro Memorial Park Veterans Day Ceremony 1100 hrs.  
**November 12, 2024** —Post Meeting Rescheduled 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center

*September 29, 1789*—— Congress creates the US Army consisting of 1,000 enlisted men and officers  
*October 4, 1957*—— Space Age begins as Russia launches the first satellite, Sputnik, into orbit