

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

JANUARY 2026

vfwpost6024.org
VOL. XXXVIII, NO. 1

EDITOR: GALE GOODALL
In memory of Tom Goodall
tommyg0910@aol.com

2025-2026 POST AND AUXILIARY OFFICERS

POST

Commander: Harry Steelman
Sr. Vice Commander: Rene Macare
Jr. Vice Commander: Ned Costa
Quartermaster: Harshu Sharma
Adjutant: Jackie Yencer
Officer of the Day: Gary Heald
Chaplain: Robert Casillas
Advocate: Casey Kleindienst
Surgeons: Clark Courtney & Dr. James Asch
Guard: Gary Portas
Benefits Advisor: Bob Franzwa
Trustee 3 Year : Russ Johnson
Trustee 2 Year: Robert Carey
Trustee 1 Year: Norm Lipin
Honor Guard Leader: Robert Carey

422-8325
306-3185
(562) 682-3100
(818) 879-3120
228-2744
466-4225
468-8135
306-6133
292-7119
(858) 229-4306
244-9895
280-5845
830-8373
280-5845

President: Jackie Heddlesten 484-3801
Sr. Vice President: Renee Fulk (714) 469-9938
Jr. Vice President: Lisa Moncur (951) 445-2679
Secretary: Kerry Velasquez 678-9134
Treasurer: Mary Lombard 683-0106
Chaplain: Martha Steelman 309-1863
Conductor: Maryrose Kakuschke 322-6003
Guard: Alma Macare (714) 510-6382
Trustee #1: Rene Fulk (714) 469-9938
Trustee #2: Katherine Holman 370-0926
Trustee #3: Alma Macare (714) 510-6382

AUXILIARY

NOTE: All area codes not noted are (949)

NEXT MEETING

POST: Monday, February 9, 2026, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center

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POST SCRIPT BOOSTERS

Carol Rigg in memory of Gene Rigg (10/26), Burton J. Rounds (in perpetuity), Dick Vaughn (5/28), Stuart Evans (4/28), Joe Goff (9/26), Al Ramirez (11/26), Fred Egeler (11/27), Clark Courtney (6/30), Robert Carey (7/26), Frank McLeary (11/28), Herbert Nakasone (2/28), Robert Casillas (12/28), Julie Hammeras in memory of Samuel Bussell (11/27), Michael Burnett (5/27), John Summa (6/26), Roger Clinch (6/27), Dave Berutich (2/26), Rene Macare (6/30), Jackie Heddlesten (11/29), Terry Pfeil (7/26), Ned Costa (8/26), Casey Kleindienst (6/28), Steve Valderrama in memory of Emmanuel G. Valderrama (12/37), Harry Steelman (11/26), Carson Day (12/32), John Nicsinger (3/27), Jackie Yencer (12/26), Ed Rice (10/29)

(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

This past Saturday I attended the District 2 meeting in Anaheim. Lacking a quorum, little business was conducted, however I did learn a lot, as is usually the case when attending VFW meetings and/or conventions. At the end of the meeting, our Department Commander, Dave Kuta delivered a long message to the attendees. Now, Dave has a unique way of delivering his messages. He does so in a rather flamboyant manner that ensures your undivided attention throughout. A significant part of his message was for us to remember that we should not be chastising our fellow comrades just because we might not agree with their position or actions. This is a trap that we have all fallen into from time to time, myself included. **We all share in the same mission, helping veterans, and we need to support one another in this endeavor in a positive manner.**

When I got home, I was paging through my emails and came across a message from a website that distributes (OK, sells) Native American merchandise. Red Elk, CEO of this firm, usually includes an example of Native American culture for consideration when visiting their website. It struck a chord within me in that the timing was perfect following Commander Dave's presentation.

Keeping the Commander's message in mind, I would like to share with you a story that Red Elk indicated has been passed down for generations among the Cherokee people. This story carries deep meaning, not just for the Cherokee people, but for all of us in *our* society.

"The legend is about two wolves — one dark, filled with anger, jealousy, greed and fear; the other bright, filled with love peace, humility and hope. These two wolves are forever at odds, fighting for dominance in the heart of every person.

This ancient Cherokee story reminds us that within each of us lies the choice between negativity and positivity, despair and hope. Every day we face moments where we decide which part of ourselves to nurture. When we feed the wolf of love, compassion and peace, we bring light into our lives, regardless of the struggles we face.

But feeding the right wolf doesn't come easily. It requires conscious effort, reflection and often a reminder to ourselves that we have the power to choose. In times of hardship, it's easy to feed the darker wolf — the one that wants to hold on to anger or resentment. But when we choose love, we create not only peace in our hearts but peace in the world around us.

This lesson of balance, strength, and wisdom is something I strive to carry with me every day, sometimes with more success than others, which is why I want to share with you. As we face the challenges of life, let us remember that we are never alone on this journey. The spirit of the two symbolic wolves lives within all of us, guiding us toward the best version of ourselves."

Food for thought — No?

Commander, Harry Steelman

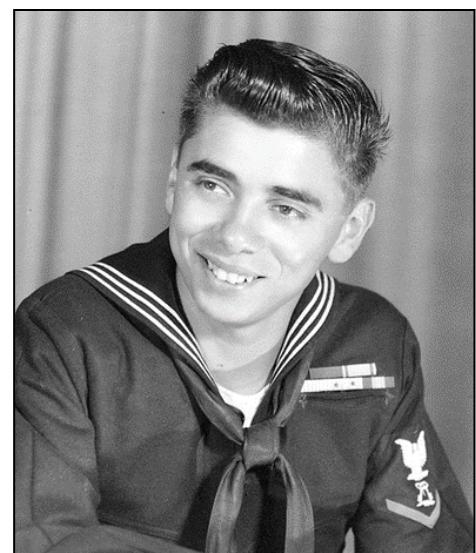
Po\$t \$cript Boo\$ter\$: No new Boosters for several months. Please consider contributing to support this Publication.

New Members: Welcome to new member John Dinunzio, US Army, Vietnam, who was voted in and sworn in at our January meeting.

TAPS: Our Post is very saddened by the passing of our friend and comrade **Al Ramirez**. Al succumbed to pneumonia on December 31 just 3 weeks after we enjoyed socializing with him at our annual Christmas meeting and dinner. As a **Charter Member**, Al was a cornerstone of Post 6024 since its organization in 1988.

Al came to the VFW via his Naval service. Born in 1933, Al grew up in San Gabriel, CA. After graduating high school in 1951, he enlisted and began his service aboard the destroyer USS Henry W. Tucker where he worked himself up to the position of cook. The Tucker was attached to task Force 77 during the Korean War.

After Korea, he served on a seaplane tender at Salisbury Sound in Alameda, CA and was discharged in 1955 with the rank of Petty Officer 3rd class. Al earned an AA degree and went on to have a long civilian career finally retiring from his job with Southern California Edison at San Onofre in 1990.





After retirement, Al had more time for the VFW and he moved through the elected officer chairs, became Commander in 1994 and served 2 terms. He also joined the Rifle Squad.

It is impossible to enumerate Al's VFW accomplishments without talking about his wife of 66 yrs., Liz.



Liz was a **Charter Member** of Post 6024 Auxiliary and served multiple times as President, Sr. Vice, Chaplain, and Secretary. During the membership "lean years", at one point, Liz single handedly went out and recruited new members to keep our Auxiliary afloat. When she retired from her teaching career, she and Al teamed up and spent many. many of their retirement hours serving the Post and Auxiliary. They were always there to help at the VA Hospital, Buddy Poppy stations, Memorial Day and Veterans Day activities, Post

BBQs, Swallows Day Parades, Essay Judging, or wherever they were needed.

Al went on to serve in most of the elected and appointed Post offices until settling in as Officer of the Day where he stayed until he stepped back from Post duties in 2018. Al had invasive throat surgery in 2019, but his incredible strength and resolve enabled him to learn to speak again and resume normal activities. We lost Liz to cancer in 2023 but Al continued to be active in the Post. When he was no longer able to drive at night, Post members stepped up to be sure he had a ride.

One of the things Al was most proud of was his California Native American Heritage. He was a fourth generation registered member of the Gabrielino Indian Tribe. His ancestry can be traced back to native Californians living or working at Mission San Gabriel in the mid 1800's.

We are enormously grateful for the years of service Al gave to Post 6024. His presence will be greatly missed.



Dr. James Asch has been appointed to serve alongside Clark Courtney as the second Post Surgeon. His medical expertise will bring a unique perspective to the Post.

Laguna Café: Join us for our weekly breakfast meetings on Friday 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**

MONTHLY POWER QUOTES: In remembrance of Martin Luther King, Jr.

"In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."

"The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people."

"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools."



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UPCOMING AND HISTORICAL EVENTS

**February 9, 2026 — Post and Auxiliary Meetings 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center
March 18, 2026 — St. Patrick's Day Potluck Dinner 1700-2000 hrs.
March 28, 2026 — Marine Lake Day 1000—1500 hrs.**

January 26, 1788—British establish a penal colony of 788 convicts in Sydney Harbor, Australia to relieve overcrowded prisons in England.

January 26, 1994 — Romania becomes first Cold War foe to join NATO following collapse of Soviet Union.

January 29, 1916 —First aerial bombings of Paris by German zeppelins take place during WWI

February 11, 1929 — Mussolini grants political independence to Vatican City and recognizes the sovereignty of the Pope over the area.