THE POST SCRIPT

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
EDWARD J. KEARNS POST 6024
P.O.BOX 4457
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vfwpost6024.org

September 2026 **VOL. XXXVIII, NO. 9** **EDITOR: GALE GOODALL**
In memory of Tom Goodall
tommyg0910@aol.com

2026-2027 POST AND AUXILIARY OFFICERS

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Sr. Vice Commander: Rene Macare	**306-3185**
Jr. Vice Commander: Ned Costa	**(562) 682-3100**
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Adjutant: Jackie Yencer	**228-2744**
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Chaplain: Robert Casillas	**468-8135**
Advocate:: Casey Kleindienst	**306-6133**
Surgeon: Clark Courtney	**338-8078**
Surgeon: Dr. James Asch	**300-3574**
Guard: Gary Portas	**292-7119**
Benefits Advisor: Rick Bitney	**(714) 866-0788**
Trustee 3 Year : Steve Espinosa	**374-1299**
Trustee 2 Year: Russ Johnson	**244-9895**
Trustee 1 Year: Robert Carey	**280-5845**
Honor Guard Leader: Robert Carey	**280-5845**

AUXILIARY

President: Jackie Heddlesten	**484-3801**
Sr. Vice President: Lisa Moncur	**(951) 445-2679**
Jr. Vice President: Alma Macare	**(714) 510-6382**
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Chaplain: Martha Steelman	**309-1863**
Conductor: Judith Shumaker	**212-8794**
Guard: Gale Goodall	**510-8538**
Trustee #1: Judith Shumaker	**212-8794**
Trustee #2: vacant	
Trustee #3: Rene Fulk	**(714) 469-9938**

NEXT MEETING
POST: Monday, October 12, 2026, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center
AUXILIARY: Monday, October 12, 2026, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

There are two dates this month that stand out as meaningful to us as Americans and as VFW comrades:

The first is **September 11, 2001** — a day that changed our nation forever. Twenty five years later, the images and emotions of that morning remain as clear as if they happened yesterday. We remember where we were, who we were with, and how the world seemed to shift in an instant. On that morning, nearly 3,000 innocent people lost their lives in New York City, at the Pentagon, and in a quiet field in Pennsylvania. They were office workers, firefighters, police officers, airline crews, military personnel, and everyday Americans simply starting their day. Their lives were taken in an act meant to break our spirit — but instead, it revealed our strength.

We remember the first responders who ran toward danger without hesitation. Many gave their lives; many more carry the physical and emotional scars to this day. Their courage is a reminder of what service truly means: stepping forward when others step back.

We also remember the men and women in uniform who answered the call in the days, months, and years that followed. Many in our Post served in the wars that came after 9/11. Some deployed once, some many times. We remember those who never returned home, and we honor the families who carry their legacy. But 9/11 is not only a day of remembrance — it is a day of unity. In the hours after the attacks, Americans stood together in a way rarely seen in our history. Strangers helped strangers. Communities opened their doors. Flags appeared on porches, overpasses, and storefronts across the country. We were reminded that despite our differences, we are one nation — and when tested, we rise together.

As we reflect, let us carry forward three commitments:

- **To remember** those we lost and speak their names that they are not forgotten.
- **To honor** those who served, sacrificed, and protected our nation in the years that followed.
- **To remain united**, refusing to let division weaken what tragedy once strengthened.

Comrades, 9/11 will always be a defining moment in our nation's story. But it is also a defining moment in ours — as veterans, as citizens, and as Americans who understand the cost of freedom. May we continue to honor that day not only with ceremony, but with the way we live, serve, and support one another.

The Second is **September 29. 1899** – The **birth of the VFW.** The Veterans of Foreign Wars traces its origins to the Spanish American War and the Philippine Insurrection. In the aftermath, when American service members returned home from fighting overseas, many arrived wounded, sick, or financially strained, and quickly discovered that no federal system existed to support them. There were no veterans' pensions, no medical care, and no structured benefits for those who had served abroad. In response, small groups of these veterans began forming local organizations built on shared hardship and camaraderie. One of the earliest was the American Veterans of Foreign Service, founded on September 29, 1899, in Columbus, Ohio, by Spanish–American War veteran James C. Putnam. Around the same time, similar groups emerged, including the Colorado Society, Army of the Philippines, organized in Denver in December 1899, and other foreign service veteran societies in Pennsylvania.

These groups shared a common mission: to secure rights, medical care, and recognition for veterans who had served overseas. As their numbers grew, they realized their advocacy would be stronger if they united. In 1914, several of these organizations formally merged at a convention in Pittsburgh, creating the nation-wide organization we know today as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

From these humble beginnings—veterans banding together out of necessity—the VFW evolved into a powerful national voice. Over time, it became instrumental in shaping veterans' legislation, establishing the Veterans Administration, expanding educational benefits, and ensuring that those who serve abroad receive the care and recognition they earned.

Let us honor all who serve and let us continue the Mission!!!

Commander, Harry Steelman

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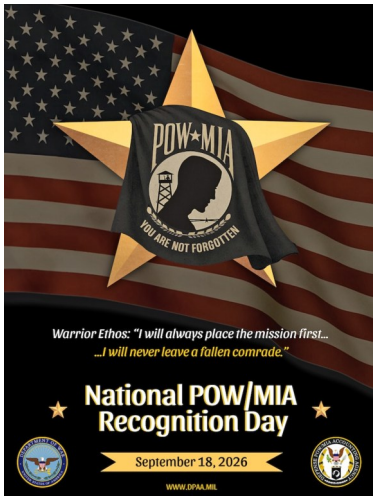
New Members: John Girard, US Army, Vietnam, was sworn in as our newest member at the September Meeting. Welcome John.

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Post Script Delivery Reminder: Remember to notify us if you would prefer to receive your Post Script via email rather than paper. Notify the editor at: *tommyg0910@aol.com*

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Wreaths Across America: Have you ever walked through El Toro Memorial Park during the Christmas holidays? If not, you should make an effort to go, it will be a moving experience. All of the veteran graves will be decorated with full size red-ribboned wreaths. Courtesy of the sponsorships from you and me and thousands of other caring people around the country, Wreaths Across American is able to fulfill their goal of placing a wreath on every heroes grave. Volunteer wreath layers are asked to "say the name" of the recipient to ensure that the legacy of duty, service, and sacrifice is never forgotten. It's time to sponsor wreaths for 2026 Wreaths Across America day on December 19. You can chose a participating cemetery near you at *https://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org* and honor someone for a mere $17.



POW/MIA Recognition Day:
Observed the **Third Friday in September**, this is one of the most solemn military observances in the United States. This day of recognition is dedicated to:

- Honoring POWs who endured captivity and unimaginable conditions while serving our country.
- Remembering MIAs whose fate remains unknown and whose families live with unanswered questions.
- Reaffirming our national promise, "You are not forgotten".

There are still **more than 81,000 Americans listed as Prisoners of War or Missing in Action** from conflicts dating back to World War II. This day also highlights the efforts of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), tasked with the job of locating, identifying remains and bringing our service members home.

The latest DPAA news shows that recoveries, identifications, and international search missions are *actively ongoing* — even with considerable budget pressure. **The Agency estimates that roughly 38,000 of the missing service members are considered to be recoverable**, while the rest are generally presumed lost at sea or perished during non-recoverable cir**cumstances.** Roughly 75% of all American MIA losses are located in the Indo-Pacific region**.**

Renewed Search Missions are taking place in China with DPAA recovery teams deployed to Hunan and Guangxi provinces to search for WWII, Korean War, Cold War, and Vietnam War MIAs. A nationwide search also continues as a joint effort in South Korea with investigators surveying 6 locations tied to major engagements.

Recent Recovery News includes:

At least 20 American POWs from the Pacific theater were identified and returned to families between January and April 2026.

Two West Virginia POWs — *Sgt. William L. Harper (Korean War) and Pvt. Ira Warren (WWII)* — were finally identified after decades. Their families were notified and burials scheduled.

Second Lt. Milton L. Hymes Jr. (WWII) was identified after Danish divers located his B24 wreck in the Baltic Sea. His remains were repatriated and buried with full honors in Savannah, GA in 2025.

These cases point out how new scientific advancements and DPAA's increasing use of next generation DNA sequencing, stable isotope analysis, and forensic skeletal anthropology contribute to solving long unsolved cases.



Repatriation Ceremony (Feb 2026)
With over 280 Americans remaining missing in Laos, the DPAA recently completed a recovery mission in Laos and repatriated possible remains to Hawaii for laboratory analysis.

As long as our service members are missing the work continues, **"Fulfilling Our Nation's Promise."**

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Laguna Café: Join us for our weekly breakfast meetings on Fridays beginning at 7:00 am. 24310 Moulton Pkwy, Laguna Woods. **All Veterans Welcome**.

Also, 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 QUOTES:

"Time is passing. Yet, for the United States of America, there will be no forgetting September the 11th. We will remember every rescuer who died in honor. We will remember every family that lives in grief."
——————— George W. Bush

"If we learn nothing else from this tragedy, we learn that life is short and there is no time for hate."
——————— Sandy Dahl, widow of Flight 93 pilot Jason Dahl

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
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UPCOMING AND *HISTORICAL EVENTS*

September 22, 2026 -—Welcome Fall Potluck, Norman Murray Center 1730-2000 hrs.
entertainment by Flashback band,
October 12, 2026 --——— Post Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center
Pre-meeting social time begins at 1830 hrs.
October 12, 2026 ———---Auxiliary Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center
November 7-10, 2026 —— Post Buddy Poppy Campaign

September 18, 1947 —— US Air Force Birthday—established by President Harry Truman
September 30, 1918 —— USS Ticonderoga sank in North Atlantic by the German U-152 after two hour gun battle
October 10, 1845 ——- US Naval Academy established at Ft. Severn in Annapolis, Maryland by Secretary of the Navy George Bancroft