

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

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DECEMBER 2025

EDITOR: GALE GOODALL

In memory of Tom Goodall

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2025-2026 POST AND AUXILIARY OFFICERS

POST

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<u>Sr. Vice Commander:</u> Rene Macare	306-3185
<u>Jr. Vice Commander:</u> Ned Costa	(562) 682-3100
<u>Quartermaster:</u> Harshu Sharma	(818) 879-3120
<u>Adjutant:</u> Jackie Yencer	228-2744
<u>Officer of the Day:</u> Gary Heald	466-4225
<u>Chaplain:</u> Robert Casillas	468-8135
<u>Advocate:</u> Casey Kleindienst	306-6133
<u>Surgeon:</u> Clark Courtney	338-8078
<u>Guard:</u> Gary Portas	292-7119
<u>Benefits Advisor:</u> Bob Franzwa	(858) 229-4306
<u>Trustee 3 Year:</u> Russ Johnson	244-9895
<u>Trustee 2 Year:</u> Robert Carey	280-5845
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<u>Honor Guard Leader:</u> Robert Carey	280-5845

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<u>Secretary:</u> Kerry Velasquez	678-9134
<u>Treasurer:</u> Mary Lombard	683-0106
<u>Chaplain:</u> Martha Steelman	309-1863
<u>Conductor:</u> Maryrose Kakuschke	322-6003
<u>Guard:</u> Alma Macare	(714) 510-6382
<u>Trustee #1:</u> Rene Fulk	(714) 469-9938
<u>Trustee #2:</u> Katherine Holman	370-0926
<u>Trustee #3:</u> Alma Macare	(714) 510-6382

NOTE: All area codes not noted are (949)

AUXILIARY

NEXT MEETING—Christmas Dinner

POST: Monday, January 12, 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.)

Comrades,

This afternoon Martha & I spent some time at Jerry's Heavenly Home, a facility dedicated to providing dignified support to seniors in the last days of their time on earth. The visit was the result of an invitation from the facility to provide a "Final Salute" to a veteran resident there.

Lieutenant Colonel B. Lewis Avera, Jr., USMC, Retired served two tours in Vietnam; the first in 1963, supporting operations at numerous outposts. The second in 1970. His DD214 outlines a list of awards, including a Bronze Star and a Marine Corps Commendation Medal, both with "V" devices. The moment was originally organized by Lisa Moncur, of our Auxiliary, and was meant to allow more veterans to show their respect, but Col. Avera has taken a turn for the worse and the larger event had to be cancelled.

It was an honor to be asked to represent the local veteran community in expressing our appreciation for Col. Avera's service. The only other people present were his wife and daughter. I was also asked to present a Certificate of Appreciation from the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

Tomorrow Comrade Al Hicks will be honoring a veteran at his 100th birthday celebration.

It may seem out of place to put together a Commander's Corner of this nature at this time of year. But, this is a particularly difficult season for those nearing the end of their tour of duty here and their families. I feel that it is important, as we celebrate this holiday season, to keep these people in our thoughts and prayers. If you know of anyone or any family facing such an experience, perhaps consider reaching out to them.

I do want to take this moment, as we near the end of another year, to thank all of our members for their service to our country. Thank you for supporting the local community and thank you for your continued service to the veteran community through your participation in VFW activities,
And finally, I want to wish each of you and your family the Happiest of Holidays.

Commander, Harry Steelman

Annual Christmas Dinner and Meeting: On Monday, December 8, about 80 members, spouses and guests attended our annual Christmas Meeting. Following the Opening ceremony all current Post business was suspended and everyone enjoyed a turkey and ham dinner followed by a myriad of tempting desserts prepared by the Auxiliary. Four students from our Post Essay Program along with their families were our special guests for the evening. Post members enjoyed meeting and talking with the students and the students were excited to meet our veterans and associate faces with the members of our Post Essay Committee. The highlight was when each student read their essay.



Left: Hailey Palmer, VOD participant, senior San Juan Hills High School

Right: Charlee Mills, Patriot's Pen participant, 8th grade Stoneybrooke Christian School with Essay Committee members Gale Goodall and Richard Vaughn



Left: Alia Charles, VOD participant, sophomore Tesoro High School with Essay Committee member Robert Carey.

Right: Bradley Mills, VOD participant, senior Junipera Serra Catholic High School



Remembering Those Who Serve: During the holiday season, as we gather with loved ones, we need to be reminded of the extraordinary gift given to us by those who serve the gift of freedom, safety and peace. Americans are able to celebrate the holidays at home because of the contributions of millions of service members throughout our history who have given of themselves so that our country can be free.



One such Army Nurse and POW shared some feelings about Christmas in confinement at the Santo Tomas prison camp in the Philippines. **Major Josephine Nesbit Davis**, faced the season stripped of nearly everything that once gave it comfort or ceremony. Like other U.S. Army nurses held there after the fall of the Philippines, she endured hunger that gnawed constantly, made sharper by memories of holiday meals back home. The internees' rations were meager and unreliable, and the winter months unhospitable. Christmas Day arrived without decorations, music, or gifts, marked instead by roll calls, uncertainty, and the quiet ache of separation from family an ocean away. On their first Christmas in captivity, Josie reminded the group, "Prisoners or not we are much better off than last year when the Japanese were dropping bombs on us." For Davis, the holiday underscored the loss of freedom and the cruel irony of celebrating peace while confined by war.

Army nurses were ordered from Manila to Bataan at the end of December 1941. Most of the nurses thought they would be assigned to a hospital, but soon figured out they were about to become the first group of American military nurses sent onto the battlefield for duty. There they tended wounded soldiers in outdoor hospitals under battlefield conditions. The hospital where they were assigned, was a "jungle hospital."

Davis was second in command of the Army Nurse Corps in the Philippines during WWII. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese troops rapidly advanced through the Philippines, overwhelming American and Filipino defenses. She stayed to care for the wounded and sick until capture was unavoidable. She was evacuated to Corregidor in April 1942 but captured by the Japanese the next month, sharing the fate of hundreds of other Army nurses who endured years of internment until liberation in 1945. She retired from the military in 1946 with numerous awards, including a Bronze Star, as a major with 28 years of service. She lived to the age of 99 in Alameda County, CA.

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:

"On our fighting front, there are no silent nights, but there are plenty of holy nights."

————— Bing Crosby, Christmas 1944

"To each officer and soldier ... I wish a Merry Christmas. I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty, and skill in battle. We march in our might to complete victory. May God's blessing rest upon each of you on this Christmas Day." ————— George Patton, Christmas 1944

"Christmas is a piece of one's home that one carries in one's heart; it is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind." ————— Calvin Coolidge



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

December 25, 2025 —Merry Christmas

January 1, 2026 —Happy New Year

January 12, 2026 — Post and Auxiliary Meetings 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center

February 9, 2026 — Post and Auxiliary Meetings 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center

December 29, 1170 - Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, was murdered by four knights acting on orders from England's King Henry II

December 29, 1940 - During the Blitz, German aircraft dropped thousands of incendiary bombs on the center of London, causing the worst fire damage since the great fire of 1666.

January 1, 1776 - During the American Revolution, George Washington unveiled the Grand Union Flag, the first national flag in America.

January 4, 1790 - President George Washington delivered the first State of the Union address.