

# 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

vwfpost6024.org

VOL. XXXVI, NO. 12

DECEMBER 2024

EDITOR: GALE GOODALL

*In memory of Tom Goodall*

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 Carey	280-5845
<u>Trustee 2 Year:</u> Robert Casillas	468-8135
<u>Trustee 1 Year:</u> Harry Steelman	422-8325
<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, January 13, 2025, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center

**AUXILIARY:** Monday, January 13, 2025, 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 (4/28), Joe Goff (9/26), Al Ramirez (11/26), Fred Egeler (11/25), Clark Courtney (6/30), Robert Carey (7/25), Frank McLeary (11/28), Herbert Nakasone (2/28), Robert Casillas (12/28), 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), Harry Steelman (11/26)

*(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

Post 6024 Veterans and Auxiliary members,

Here we are, December has rapidly come upon us. Putting up Christmas Trees, indoor home decorations and outside lights; a routine we have done many times. We should not forget those who can't be home for the holidays because they are standing at the ready to protect our nation, our freedom, and our way of life. The same as we did in our younger years. We also need to remember those that are home or hospital bound for the holidays. Send prayers out to them, and the MIA/POWs.

Last Monday was our annual Open Meeting/Christmas dinner. This year The Laguna Café served a wonderful meal, and the Auxiliary set beautiful tables and centerpieces, along with providing delicious desserts. We had a scheduling hiccup at the beginning, but as soon as the room cleared, it was all hands-on deck to get the room ready. We only were delayed 30 minutes. Thanks to AJ for his great presentation on the Brown Water Navy in Vietnam, and to Ned Costa for the outstanding video (available to all to view-show-or present) about VFW Post 6024 and what we do to help veterans and promote youth education of American values. We collected over 30 toys for the Mission Viejo Marine Corps Adoption Committee, and near 30 gift cards for the VA Hospital. Thanks to all that attended the meeting and contributed to those in need.

As the new year approaches, there are new challenges, duties, and adventures. I'm working with the Boy Scouts as they transition to Scouts of America and the rule changes as it affects our relationship. Our fifth year to earn All-American honors and All-State honors is progressing but rule changes need to be worked out also. Our Pot Luck dinners with the Auxiliary will continue and First Marine Division Lake Day will be held in April. Another Buddy Poppy campaign approaches, at least three conventions are scheduled at the end of the fiscal year, and post officer's elections are just around the corner. So, roll up your sleeves, take a deep breath, and away we go. Oh, and have a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. Be safe, sane, and healthy.

*Commander, John Carson*

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**Po\$t \$cript Boo\$t\$er\$:** A big thank you to Stuart Evans for his 3+ year Booster renewal.

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**New Members:** No new members were voted in due to the December Open Meeting but several are waiting to be considered in January.

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**Christmas Open Meeting and Dinner:** On December 9, 65 members and guests attended our annual Christmas Meeting and Dinner. Everyone enjoyed visiting with members that we hadn't seen at meetings for awhile.



Comrade Harry Steelman set up and explained The Missing Man Table.

Fun in the Photo Booth





**Patriot's Pen Essay Awards:** We have started presenting essay awards, a process that will go on for several months at our participating schools. Our first presentation was at Lomarena Elementary School in Laguna Hills. This is the first year we have had 6th grade entries from Lomarena. Casey Kleindienst, Gale Goodall, and Michelle Coppage represented our Post on December 17, at 8:00 am, where the students were presented with certificates and checks outside on the blacktop, in front of the student body, teachers and parents. This is a school where more than 30% of the students are English Learners. It was inspiring to see the excitement of these students who had stepped up to the challenge, written an essay and were now being recognized.

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**January Post Meeting:** Three of our Voice of Democracy high school winners will be at our Post Meeting on January 13. Plan to come to the meeting and you will have the opportunity to meet and hear them read their essays on the theme: "Is America Today our Forefathers' Vision?"

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**Christmas in Combat:** No doubt many of you recognize images like these of Christmases spent during your service. We are thankful for all of those now standing watch this Christmas.



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Excerpt from a Christmas Poem from an unknown author.

### **Guardian of Honor The Night Before Christmas**

Twass the night before Christmas, I came down the chimney with presents to give and to see just who in this hootch did live. I looked all about, a strange sight did I see. No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree. No stockings by the mantle just boots filled with sand. A sober thought came through my mind, the house of a soldier was what I did find.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone, curled upon the floor in this little home. The face was so gentle, the room in disorder, Not what I pictured of a United States soldier.

Was this the hero of whom I had read, curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed? I realized the families I saw on this night, owed their lives to these soldiers, Who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world the children would play and celebrate a bright Christmas Day. They enjoyed freedom each month of the year, Because of the soldiers, like the one lying here. I couldn't help wonder how many others lay alone, on a cold Christmas Eve, in a land far from home.

I dropped to my knees and started to cry. The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice, "Santa don't cry, this life is my choice; I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more, My life is my God, my Country, my Corps."

As the soldier then drifted to sleep, I couldn't control it, I started to weep. I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark night, This Guardian of Honor so willing to fight. The soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure, and whispered,

"Carry on Santa, It's Christmas Day and All is secure."

I looked at my watch and knew he was right. Merry Christmas, my friend, ... and to all a good Night!



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

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## THE POST SCRIPT



### UPCOMING AND HISTORICAL EVENTS

**December 25, 2024 — Merry Christmas. Happy Hanukkah**

**January 1, 2025 — Happy New Year—Welcome 2025**

**January 13, 2025 —Post Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center**

**January 13, 2025 —Auxiliary Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center**

*December 21, 1861 —Congress Authorizes Medal of Honor be awarded to Navy Personnel for gallantry in action*

*December 30, 1853— Gadsden Purchase signed, acquiring 30,000 sq. mi for \$10 million and finally establishing US Southern Border with Mexico*

*January 5, 1945— Soviets turn Poland into a nondemocratic satellite country—which it remained until 1989*