

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

July 2026

VOL. XXXVIII, NO. 7

EDITOR: GALE GOODALL

In memory of Tom Goodall

tommyg0910@aol.com

2026-2027 POST AND AUXILIARY OFFICERS

POST

<u>Commander:</u> Harry Steelman	422-8325
<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> Greg Fox	(310) 795-8687
<u>Chaplain:</u> Robert Casillas	468-8135
<u>Advocate:</u> Casey Kleindienst	306-6133
<u>Surgeon:</u> Clark Courtney	338-8078
<u>Surgeon:</u> Dr. James Asch	300-3574
<u>Guard:</u> Gary Portas	595-1412
<u>Benefits Advisor:</u> Rick Bitney	(714) 866-0788
<u>Trustee 3 Year :</u> Steve Espinosa	374-1299
<u>Trustee 2 Year:</u> Russ Johnson	244-9895
<u>Trustee 1 Year:</u> Robert Carey	280-5845
<u>Honor Guard Leader:</u> Robert Carey	280-5845

AUXILIARY

<u>President:</u> Jackie Heddlesten	484-3801
<u>Sr. Vice President:</u> Lisa Moncur	(951) 445-2679
<u>Jr. Vice President:</u> Alma Macare	(714) 510-6382
<u>Secretary:</u> Kerry Velasquez	678-9134
<u>Treasurer:</u> Mary Lombard	683-0106
<u>Chaplain:</u> Martha Steelman	309-1863
<u>Conductor:</u> Judith Shumaker	212-8794
<u>Guard:</u> Gale Goodall	510-8538
<u>Trustee #1:</u> Judith Shumaker	212-8794
<u>Trustee #2:</u> vacant	
<u>Trustee #3:</u> Rene Fulk	(714) 469-9938

NEXT MEETING

POST: Monday, August 10, 2026, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center

AUXILIARY: Monday, August 10, 2026, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center

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 (10/29), Roger Clinch (6/27), 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 Enmanuel G. Valderrama (12/37), Harry Steelman (11/26), Carson Day (12/32), John Nicsinger (3/27), Jackie Yencer (12/26), Ed Rice (10/29), Dave Buck (6/30), Haskel Simonowitz (5/29)

(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.)

UPDATING OUR POST SCRIPT LIST

We are doing a periodic review of our Post Script mailing list. **Please let us know if you still want or need a paper copy of the POST SCRIPT or, would you prefer to receive it digitally?** Reducing the number of copies that need to be printed and mailed lowers costs, saves volunteer time, plus less paper in your mailbox. If you do not have access to receiving your Post Script electronically, your copy will continue to be mailed, but if you would like to transition away from receiving a hard copy, we would appreciate hearing from you.

Please email the editor at tommyg0910@aol.com or send a note to Post 6024 at PO BOX 4457, Mission Viejo, CA 92690-4457.

New Members: We welcome 2 new members to our ranks: **Robert Nimtz**, USMC, Vietnam, and **John Saccoccio**, USAF, Vietnam. We hope to see you at upcoming events.

Pos\$ \$cript Boo\$ter\$: Thank you to **John Summa** for his multi-year Booster renewal.

COMMANDER'S CORNER

The Mission Continues: The Spirit of 1776 Lives On

As we reflect this July, we find ourselves in a remarkable moment. Our nation is celebrating **250 years** since the Declaration of Independence. Two and a half centuries of courage, conflict, progress, and perseverance. And every veteran is part of that long American story.

July has always been the month when our nation pauses to remember its beginnings. But this year, the meaning runs deeper. We're not just celebrating another Independence Day—we're honoring a quarter millennium of the American experiment.

In July of 1776, the Continental Congress made a declaration that changed the world. A group of citizens — farmers, merchants, printers, and soldiers — asserted that people have the right to govern themselves. They pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor to a cause that had no guarantee of success. That moment wasn't just political. It was personal. It was a statement of courage, of responsibility, and of belief in something larger than oneself. Those values didn't fade after the Revolution. They became the foundation for every generation of Americans who stepped forward to serve.

As we mark this anniversary, it's worth remembering that America's story has always been carried forward by its veterans.

- **The Revolutionary War soldiers** who fought for a nation that didn't yet exist.
- **Civil War veterans** who endured unimaginable hardship to preserve the Union.
- **World War I and II veterans** who defended freedom on a global scale.
- **Korean and Vietnam veterans** who served through some of the most complex and challenging chapters in our history.
- **Gulf War, Iraq, and Afghanistan veterans** who carried the mission into a new century.

Across 250 years, the uniforms have changed, the battlefields have changed, and the technology has changed—but the spirit of service has not. Every veteran, in every era, has strengthened the promise made in 1776.

For most Americans, July is fireworks, parades, and barbecues. But for veterans, July carries a deeper meaning. It reminds us of:

- **Why we served**—to protect the freedoms declared 250 years ago.
- **Who we served with**—the brothers and sisters who stood beside us.
- **What we continue to stand for**—community, patriotism, and commitment to one another.

The VFW exists because service doesn't end when the uniform comes off. Our mission continues in how we support veterans, strengthen our communities, and honor those who gave everything.

This July, that mission is especially important because our 250th anniversary is not just a celebration of the past. It's a reminder that the American story is ongoing. Our nation has faced triumphs and trials. We've seen unity and division, progress and setbacks. But through it all, the American people have shown resilience—and veterans have always been at the center of that resilience.

The next chapter of America will be shaped by the same values that shaped the first; those being **Courage, Service, Responsibility and Hope**. These values live in every veteran, and they live in every community that supports its veterans.

A Call to Action for this Anniversary Year: As we celebrate this milestone, let's make July a month of purpose.

- **Reach out** to a veteran who may need support or connection.
- **Share your story** with younger generations who may not understand the cost of freedom.
- **Participate** in community events that honor our nation's heritage.
- **Lead by example**—showing what service, integrity, and unity look like in everyday life.

America's future depends on citizens who care, who serve, and who step forward. Veterans know how to do that better than anyone.

Comrades, July reminds us that America is still worth believing in. Worth serving. Worth strengthening. For 250 years, this nation has endured because ordinary citizens—and extraordinary veterans—have kept its ideals alive.

As we celebrate this historic anniversary, let's carry forward the spirit of 1776 with pride, gratitude, and resolve. We are part of the American story, and the American story is far from finished.

Commander, Harry Steelman

Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library opens in North Dakota: It has been 107 years since Teddy Roosevelt died, so why is this just happening now and why is this New Yorker's Library in North Dakota? Roosevelt died in 1919, decades before the modern presidential library system existed. By the time presidential libraries became a thing, (FDR had the first official presidential library), Roosevelt's papers, artifacts, and archives were already scattered across the country—and his family did not want a single centralized library.

As the 250th anniversary approached, it created a national appetite for new civic institutions which prompted major private, public, and philanthropic donations. The \$450 million Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library opened in **Medora, North Dakota on July 4**. The 96,000-square-foot compacted-earth building conforms to the rugged Badlands topography. It features a walkable green roof, skylights, and a mile-long boardwalk. It is fitting the Library is anchored into North Dakota's Badlands like an extension of the earth itself blending seamlessly into the dramatic, rainbow-tinted landscape.



This is not a traditional presidential library. It is a story-driven experience that explores Theodore Roosevelt's ideas, leadership, and lasting impact. It describes a frail, bookish New Yorker when he arrived in the Dakota Territory who left as a hardened outdoorsman with a passionate love for the soil, forests and mountains.

Roosevelt first came to the Badlands in **Sep. 1883** to hunt buffalo. He immediately fell in love with the area and invested in a ranch. After the deaths of his wife and mother on **Feb. 14, 1884**, he completed his 3rd term in the NY State Assembly, and in June returned to the Badlands seeking solitude. He expanded his ranching operations and lived and worked there until the catastrophic winter of **1886–87** destroyed most of his cattle and effectively ended his ranching career. He returned to New York, remarried, and began re-engaging in politics.

Roosevelt's time here influenced his conservation ethic and political persona. He often credited the state with making him the man who became president. Likewise, North Dakota has long claimed him as a spiritual son.

Laguna Café: Join us for our weekly breakfast meetings on Fridays beginning at 7:00 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:

"Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources... Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance."

_____ Theodore Roosevelt

"Patriotism means to stand by the country. It does not mean to stand by the president."

_____ Theodore Roosevelt

"Knowing what's right doesn't mean much unless you do what's right."

_____ Theodore Roosevelt



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

**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MISSION VIEJO, CA
PERMIT NO. 591**



THE POST SCRIPT



UPCOMING AND HISTORICAL EVENTS

July 24-30, 2026 — VFW National Convention, Reno, NV

August 10, 2026 — Post Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center

Pre-meeting social time begins at 1830 hrs.

August 10, 2026 — Auxiliary Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center

Sept 11, 2026 — Patriot Day Remembrance Ceremony, RSM Civic Plaza 1730-1830

Sept 22, 2026 — Welcome Fall Potluck, Norman Murray Center 1730-2000

July 27, 1898 — Marines from USS Dixie first to raise American flag over Puerto Rico

July 30, 1942 — FDR signs a bill creating the WAVES

August 6, 1887 — Delegates in Philadelphia begin debating the first complete draft of Constitution

August 9, 1892 — Thomas Edison receives a patent for two-way telegraph