

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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EDITOR: GALE GOODALL

In memory of Tom Goodall

tommymg0910@aol.com

2025-2026 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> 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
<u>Trustee 1 Year:</u> Norm Lipin	830-8373
<u>Honor Guard Leader:</u> Robert Carey	280-5845

AUXILIARY

<u>President:</u> Jackie Heddlesten	484-3801
<u>Sr. Vice President:</u> Renee Fulk	(714) 469-9938
<u>Jr. Vice President:</u> Lisa Moncur	(951) 445-2679
<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)

NEXT MEETING

POST: Monday, November 10 2025, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center

AUXILIARY: Monday, November 10, 2025, 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 (11/25), 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 (2/28), Jackie Heddlesten (11/25), 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

Early November – Time for Buddy Poppies again! I know that everyone has heard this before, but this is one of our few activities that stand out in the community where we can be seen and interface with the public.



The Buddy Poppy is a poignant symbol of remembrance, sacrifice, and support for veterans. Originating after World War I, its inspiration comes from the poem *In Flanders Fields*, which describes red poppies growing among soldiers' graves. The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) adopted the Buddy Poppy in 1922 to honor fallen service members and assist living veterans.

Wearing a Buddy Poppy—especially around Memorial Day and Veterans Day—serves as a public tribute to those who gave their lives for freedom. It also raises funds for veteran rehabilitation, welfare programs, and community outreach. The flower's red color symbolizes the blood shed in battle, while its presence in public spaces reminds citizens of the cost of liberty.

Beyond its visual impact, the Buddy Poppy fosters national unity and gratitude. It connects generations, educates the public about military sacrifices, and reinforces the importance of caring for those who served. Whether worn on a lapel or displayed in a memorial, the Buddy Poppy is more than a token—it's a living emblem of honor, hope, and enduring commitment to veterans and their families.

We, as always, need volunteers to help distribute poppies. No, we don't sell them, but we do encourage donations. Yes, we have some Post and Auxiliary members signed up for the "long haul", but they may need some relief from time to time to take care of "personal business" and walk around for a minute. Your participation for even an hour at one of our tables helps us show active support for both veterans and the community. Donations are used solely to fund our veterans and programs throughout the community. Stations will be set up starting Nov 7th. If you are not sure where we will be, contact Ned Costa and he can point you to a station in your area. We will also be conducting Honor Guard services at the Norman Murray Center and El Toro Memorial Park on the morning of the 11th as well as a Recognition event at the Rancho Santa Margarita City Hall on the evening of the 12th. All Post and Auxiliary members and their families are welcome and encouraged to join us.

Commander, Harry Steelman

Po\$t \$cript Boo\$ter\$: Thank you to Carol Rigg for renewing her Post Script Booster in memory of her husband Gene and to Ed Rice for supporting this publication for another four years.

New Members: Welcome to new member Robert Nimitz, Jr., USMC, Vietnam who was voted in at our October meeting. We look forward to seeing him at future meetings and activities.

Veterans Day: At the 11th hour, of the 11th day of the 11th month ceremonies honoring Veterans will take place across our country. Our Post will participate with our Honor Guard at the observance at El Toro Memorial Park starting at 11:00 am. The keynote speaker will be US Marine Corps Veteran, Gerald Freibrun, who served with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit from 2020 to 2024.

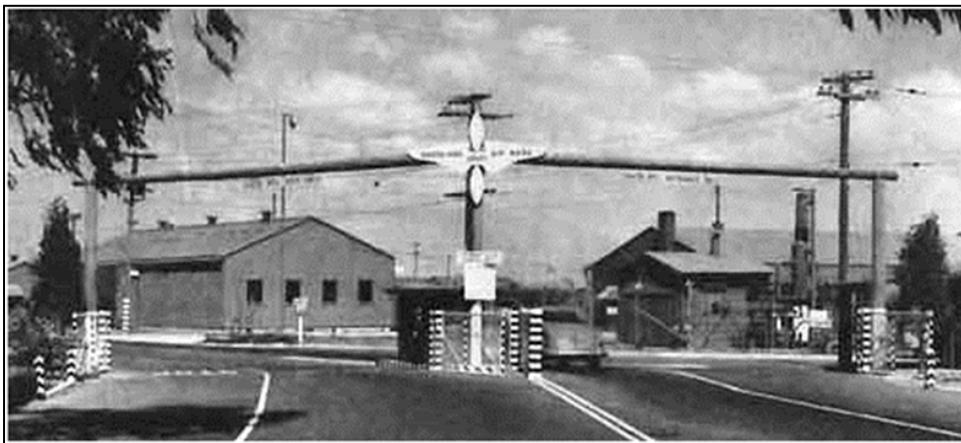
Prior to that, our Honor Guard will supply the rifle salute at the City of Mission Viejo ceremony at 8:30 am at the Norman Murray Center. We hope you will attend one of these programs if you live locally, or one wherever you are. Also, consider taking a fellow Veteran with you who no longer drives or visiting a shut-in Post member.

The SAAAB and Heroes Hall Museum: Did you Know that 1/5th of Costa Mesa's land area was once a training center for The Army Air Corps during WWII. Known as the **Santa Ana Army Air Base (SAAAB)**, it occupied 1336 acres that now include part of the OC Fair Grounds, John Wayne airport, OC College, Costa Mesa High School and Costa Mesa Civic Center. At that time this area was part of the City of Santa Ana.



As the West Coast Air Corps Training Center, it served as a classification center where aspiring cadets were tested for aptitudes and classified as **pilots**, **navigators** or **bombardiers**. SAAAB was the only base to provide pre-flight training for all three of these classifications. The first group of cadets arrived in February 1942 at the airbase which had no planes, hangars or runways.

They lived in tents until the barracks were completed. The base grew rapidly as the need for pilots and air crews skyrocketed and eventually consisted of about 800 buildings. From its inception until late 1944 the SAAAB Classification Center received and trained 149,425 men.



In the Fall of 1942 SAAAB also became an overseas replacement depot (ORD) housing Army Air Forces personnel awaiting transportation overseas. Then, In November 1943 members of the **Women's Air Service Pilots** (WASP) began training at the base, followed shortly by members of the **Women's Army Corps** (WAC).

After VE Day, 7 May 1945, its role

suddenly changed to a separation center to process service members returning to civilian life. Finally, on 13 March 1946, the Army deactivated the SAAAB. In the ensuing years some of the buildings on the base were sold and moved piecemeal, others became part of colleges. In 1953 the City of Costa Mesa was incorporated and in June 1955, the former SAAAB property was annexed to the city. A mess hall from the base was sold and moved to **Cook's Corner**, where it stands today. One of the buildings that served as barracks now houses the **Heroes Hall Museum and Education Center**.



The museum's changing exhibits, which occupy the first floor, celebrate the legacy of Orange County veterans. The current exhibit *"Echoes of Conflict Remembering Vietnam"*, includes photos and stories of local veterans.



The second floor is devoted to the interesting history of the Santa Ana Army Air Base.

Located adjacent to the parking lot of the Orange County Fair Grounds, it is easily accessible to our members to visit. If you have never had your service experiences recorded for the California archives or Library of Congress, you can make an appointment to have your recording done when you are at the museum.

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:

"A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers."

John F. Kennedy

"Of the four wars in my lifetime, none came about because the US was too strong."

Ronald Reagan



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UPCOMING AND HISTORICAL EVENTS

November 7-10, 2025 — Buddy Poppy Campaign
November 10, 2025 — USMC 250th Birthday *OORAH!*
November 10, 2025 — Post Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center
November 10, 2025 — Auxiliary Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center
November 11, 2025 — Veterans Day
November 12, 2025 — Veterans Recognition, City of RSM 1800 hrs.
November 19, 2025 — Post and Auxiliary Vetsgiving Potluck, Norman Murray Ctr. 1730 hrs.

*October 21, 1967 — Thousands of antiwar protestors storm the Pentagon, no shots fired, 250 arrests
October 21, 1915 — First transatlantic voice message transmission from Virginia to Paris
October 26, 1787 — “Federalist Papers” were published calling for ratification of the Constitution*