

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

VOL. XXXVII, NO. 3

MARCH 2025

EDITOR: GALE GOODALL

In memory of Tom Goodall

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2024-2025 POST AND AUXILIARY OFFICERS

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<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
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<u>Advocate and Chief of Staff:</u> Casey Kleindienst	306-6133
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<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, April 14, 2025, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center

AUXILIARY: Monday, April 14, 2025, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center

POST SCRIPT BOOSTERS

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(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

March is the national salute to women month. What better way than to showcase nine famous women veterans who served in the military?

9 FAMOUS FEMALE VETERANS WHO NOT ONLY SERVED BUT MADE HISTORY.

By Syrena Felty

Bea Arthur: Arthur was one of the first members of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve. Before she was a Golden Girl, Dorothy was a Marine. She served as a typist and a truck driver. She was honorably discharged in 1945 and earned the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Harriet Tubman: Tubman was a military leader and as a Union Army spy led a group of Soldiers to free slaves in South Carolina in 1863. This made Tubman the first female *and* the first *black* female Veteran. Tubman also served as a recruiter for the Union Army.

Grace Murray Hopper is one of the notable female veterans on our list. She joined the Navy during World War II, was promoted to lieutenant in 1944, and contributed to the Harvard Mark I computer project. Her military career continued to progress, leading her to achieve the rank of Rear Admiral.

Gal Gadot: Yes, Wonder Woman herself enlisted in the IDF. Before wielding the Lasso of Truth on the big screen, Gal Gadot served two years in the Israel Defense Forces as a physical fitness specialist at the age of 20.

Eileen Collins: Collins was one of the first female Air Force and space pilots. In addition to being NASA's first female shuttle commander, she was also the Air Force's first female flight instructor. She was among the first four women to undergo pilot training in 1978. In TIME magazine, she wrote, "The Air Force was testing whether women could succeed as military pilots. My philosophy was to be the best pilot I could be."

Amelia Earhart: Although she wasn't a military Veteran herself, she is known as one of the earlier women to appear on the aviation scene. Her work was crucial to the advancement of women in the military, inspiring women to serve their country.

Sarah Emma Edmonds: In 1861, Edmonds fled her home to escape an arranged marriage. She adopted the identity of Franklin Thompson and joined the Union Army's 2nd Michigan Infantry as a male nurse. She later worked as a courier, mail carrier, and spy behind Confederate lines. In 1863, she contracted malaria and feared that her true identity would be discovered. Consequently, she decided to desert rather than risk exposure, and as a result, she could not claim the pension or recognition that other Union veterans received.

Queen Elizabeth: During World War II, Queen Elizabeth served as a truck driver. At the age of 18, she persuaded her father to allow her to contribute during the war. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service in England. Not only did she drive military trucks, but she also trained as a mechanic.

Jenifer Marshall, better known as Susan Hargrove, served in the U.S. Navy from ages 17 to 22. During her time there, she worked as a forklift operator, aircraft handler, and logistics specialist. Additionally, she contributed to the USS Theodore Roosevelt Sexual Assault Victim Intervention Program.

Tops on **MY** list of famous women remain unnamed, yet they serve in extremely hazardous conditions. These women are the spouses, significant others, or mothers of servicemen who have returned from combat duty damaged. Most veterans are not physically affected, but nearly all suffer mentally. They have stayed up nights, worrying as the nightmares struck, holding hands and offering soothing words to calm the veterans down. It has taken a toll on many, yet many more have persisted, caring for the veterans who have given so much. These brave women have endured the horrors of war, witnessed the damage firsthand, and remained ever faithful. They have suffered in silence; still, to this day, they have very few support groups. They endure PTSD alongside their spouses, yet very little is said or acknowledged. These courageous women faced this ordeal alone, yet they have done more for our veterans than anyone can imagine. Thank you!

Commander, John Carson

New Members: Welcome John Dordell; US Navy, Dessert Storm, who was voted in as our newest member at our March Post meeting.

April Post Meeting: *Election of Officers*; this is a very important meeting; members please plan to attend.

The Hello Girls: Recent legislation on Dec. 26, 2024-**The Hello Girls Congressional Gold Medal Act** - finally awards the **Congressional Gold Medal** to more than 220 American women who served as essential telephone operators with the U.S. Army Signal Corps during World War I. While it is honorable that this has finally happened, the award now is to be presented to their *grandchildren*.



Formally known as the **Signal Corps Female Telephone Operators**, the Hello Girls were recruited by General John J. Pershing in 1917 as the first group of female soldiers in American history to hold non-medical positions in the U.S. Army and be officially deployed to a combat zone.



With telecommunication in battle still relatively new at the time, General Pershing was looking for experienced individuals that could improve communication on the front lines. As the telephone operator field was dominated by women, General Pershing made the decision to form the specialized unit comprised solely of women for the first time. It was required that the women be bilingual in both French and English so that they could effectively communicate and coordinate with French and American forces. By the end of the war, the Hello Girls had connected over 26 million calls in support of the war effort, and even continued to serve in Europe to organize the return of American forces following the armistice. These women were acknowledged by General Pershing for their exemplary service, only to be sent home and dismissed by the government, prompting a 60 year fight before benefits were awarded in 1977 and many more decades for this recognition.

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:

“You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it’s right.”
_____ Rosa Parks

“Women, whether subtly or vociferously, have always been a tremendous power in the destiny of the world.”
_____ Eleanor Roosevelt

“They (the Women’s Army Corps) have met every test and task assigned to them ... their contributions in efficiency, skill, spirit, and determination are immeasurable.”
_____ Dwight Eisenhower

“Throughout our history, women have been among the patriots who have defended our land and liberty from every enemy... we owe all of them a special debt of gratitude for their part in advancing the promise of freedom. We do well to recall that we owe appreciation to our many veterans of military service who are women.”
_____ Ronald Reagan



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UPCOMING AND HISTORICAL EVENTS

April 12, 2025 ———Lake Day for City adopted Marines and Sailors 1000-1500 hrs., Lake MV
April 14, 2025 ———Post Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center
April 14, 2025 ———Auxiliary Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center
May 10, 2025 ———District 2 Convention, Dana Point Post 0900-1200 hrs.
May 21-25, 2025 — Buddy Poppy Campaign

March 6, 1836 ———The Alamo falls to Mexican troops after 13 day siege
March 28, 1885 ———The Salvation Army officially organized in the US
*April 6, 1965 ——— US launches first communications satellite into orbit; “Early Bird” built
by Hughes Aircraft*