

THE POST SCRIPT

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WAR'S 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

tommyg0910@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>Surgeons:</u> Clark Courtney & Dr. James Asch	
<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	(714) 743-6950
<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, April 13, 2026, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center

AUXILIARY: Monday, April 13, 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 (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), Dave Buck (6/30).

(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

In recognition of Women's History Month

A look at Women's History in the United States Military

Women have served this nation in uniform since its earliest days, long before they were formally recognized as members of the Armed Forces. During the Revolutionary War, women contributed as nurses, couriers, and, in rare cases, disguised soldiers such as Deborah Sampson. Their service continued through the Civil War, where thousands volunteered as nurses and a few, including Harriet Tubman, served as scouts and intelligence operatives. Though unofficial, these contributions established a legacy of courage and commitment that would shape the future of military service.

In World War I, more than 35,000 women served, marking the first time the Navy and Marine Corps enlisted women in uniformed, non-nursing roles. Their performance proved essential to wartime operations and demonstrated the value of women in military service. World War II expanded these roles

dramatically. Over 350,000 women served in newly created auxiliary units such as the Women's Army Corps (WAC), WAVES, SPARS, and the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP). They worked as mechanics, cryptographers, radio operators, pilots, and intelligence analysts. Their skill and professionalism helped shift public attitudes and laid the groundwork for permanent integration.

A major milestone came in 1948 with the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, granting women permanent status in the regular and reserve forces. Even so, restrictions on rank, numbers, and combat roles persisted for decades. During the Vietnam War, roughly 11,000 women served—primarily as nurses, but also in administrative and intelligence positions—continuing to demonstrate capability under demanding conditions.

The modern era brought sweeping change. Women were admitted to the service academies in 1976, deployed in large numbers during the Gulf War, and gradually gained access to combat aviation and naval combatant ships in the 1990s. Between 2013 and 2016, all remaining ground combat roles were opened to women, including infantry and armor. Today, women serve in every branch, every occupational specialty, and at every rank. Leaders such as Gen. Ann Dunwoody, the first female four-star general, and Admiral Michelle Howard, the first woman to achieve four-star rank in the Navy, reflect the growing presence of women in senior command.

Women now comprise roughly 17–20 percent of the active duty force, contributing across combat arms, cyber operations, logistics, medicine, aviation, and joint leadership. Their service represents more than two centuries of determination, patriotism, and sacrifice. The story of women in the U.S. military is one of expanding opportunity, proven capability, and unwavering commitment to the defense of the nation.

Commander, Harry Steelman

Po\$t \$cript Boo\$ter\$: Thank you to Life Member Dave Buck for renewing his Booster.

New Members: Welcome to new member Greg Fox, US Navy, Vietnam, who was voted in and sworn in at our March meeting.

Teacher of the Year Award: The VFW Teacher Award recognizes teachers who support Citizenship Education in their schools by teaching their students what Americanism and Patriotism mean and the traditions and history that are a part of it. Mrs. Amanda Hatcher encourages and models good citizenship, community involvement, and strives to instill a sense of national pride in her students.

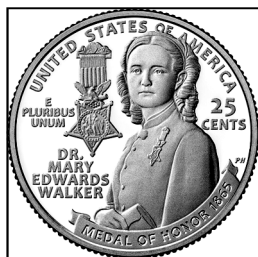


Amanda Hatcher is congratulated by colleague and prior Post 6024 Teacher of the Year, Andrew Herbold, and Youth Activities Committee members Gale Goodall and Richard Vaughn.



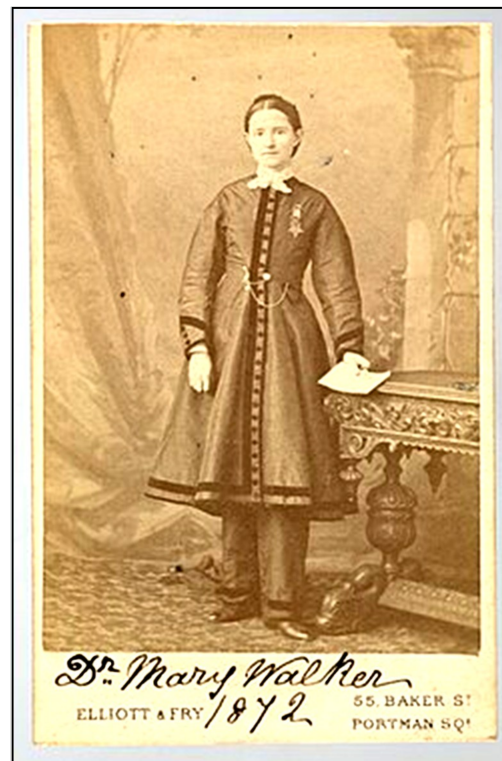
Amanda Hatcher, 6th grade Social Science teacher and History Dept Chair at Ladera Ranch Middle School receives our Post Award from Commander Steelman and District 2 grades 6-8 Teacher Award from District Commander Carson.

Did You Know: The **American Women Quarters Program** is a series of quarters featuring notable women in U.S. history, commemorating the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution. The United States Mint issued five designs each year from 2022 to 2025 for 20 total designs. One woman is honored on the reverse of each coin, selected for contributions to the United States in a wide spectrum of accomplishments and fields. The 13th design released was of **Mary Edwards Walker, 1832-1919**, the only woman in US history to receive the Medal of Honor.



Born in Oswego, New York, Mary Walker graduated from Syracuse Medical College in 1855, becoming one of the few women physicians in the country. She married and started a private practice. When the Civil War began, she volunteered as a surgeon, despite the Union Army initially refusing to commission women doctors she was contracted as a civilian to become part of the 52nd Ohio Infantry. She served near the front lines at battles including Bull Run, Fredericksburg, and Chickamauga. She often crossed into active combat zones to treat wounded soldiers and civilians. In 1864, while working near Confederate lines, she was captured, arrested for being a spy and held as a prisoner of war for four months. For her "valuable service to the Government," **President Andrew Johnson awarded her the Medal of Honor in 1865.**

In 1916, the U.S. Congress created a pension act for Medal of Honor recipients, and in doing so triggered an investigation into eligibility of recipients of many previously issued awards. The Army's Medal of Honor Board deliberated in 1916-1917 and struck 911 names from the Army Medal of Honor Roll, including those of Dr. Mary Edwards Walker and William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody. Both were considered ineligible for the Army Medal of Honor because 1862, 1863, and 1904 laws strictly required recipients to be officers or enlisted service members. However, Walker's medal was restored posthumously in 1977 on a recommendation from the Board for Correction of Military Records affirming her place in American military history.



After the war, she became a writer and lecturer, supporting such issues as health care, temperance, women's rights, and dress reform for women. She died 18 months before the 19th Amendment was ratified.

Laguna Café: Join us for our weekly breakfast meetings on Fridays beginning at 7:00 am. 24310 Moulton Pkwy, Laguna Woods. **All Veterans Welcome.**



MONTHLY POWER QUOTES:

"You don't have to be fearless. Just don't let fear stop you."

_____ Lt. Gen. Laura Richardson

"I never grew up thinking I couldn't do something because I was a woman. I just did it."

_____ Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody

"You can't rise to the occasion if you don't believe you belong there."

_____ Adm. Michelle Howard

"Service is about stepping forward when others step back."

_____ Gen. Lori Robinson



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UPCOMING AND HISTORICAL EVENTS

March 28, 2026 ———Marine Lake Day 1000—1500 hrs., Lake Mission Viejo
April 13, 2026 ———Post Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center— election of officers
Pre-meeting social time begins at 1830 hrs.
April 13, 2026 ———Auxiliary Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center

March 23, 1775 ——— Patrick Henry delivers famous “give me liberty or give me death speech”
March 24, 1999 ——— NATO launches air campaign in Kosovo to stop ethnic cleansing in Balkans
April 1, 1865 ——— Decisive Union victory at Battle of Five Forks forces Lee to abandon Petersburg
and leads to fall of Richmond
April 2, 1982 ——— Argentina invades Falkland Islands