

# 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](http://vfwpost6024.org)

VOL. XXXVII, NO. 1

JANUARY 2025

EDITOR: GALE GOODALL

*In memory of Tom Goodall*

[tommyg0910@aol.com](mailto: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, February 10, 2025, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center

**AUXILIARY:** Monday, February 10, 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

Happy New Year, everyone.

Several thousand people in our sister county to the north have had a bad start to the year. Our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone affected. If you can and have the opportunity, please contribute to the American Red Cross or any other well-established disaster relief organization.

If you were not at the January Post meeting, you missed an excellent presentation by three second-place finishers in the Post's Voice of Democracy essay contest. All of the speeches were fantastic. Next month, the first-place Post finishers from the Patriot's Pen contest will read their entries. It is incredible what these middle school and high school students can do when putting pen to paper. Come to the next meeting. It's well worth the price of admission.

The Post is very busy, you can learn about our activities by reading the E-blast, the Post's weekly email newsletter, or visiting our website at [vfwpost6024.org](http://vfwpost6024.org).

It's that time of year again when Post elections are coming up. If you would like to be a leader in this award winning VFW Post, call Chief of Staff Casey Kleindienst or Commander John Carson and place your name on the slate. You can be an elected post leader, appointed officer, or appointed committee leader. If that's not your cup of tea, volunteer on one of our many committees. What better way to have a voice heard than to serve as an elected officer or committee member? This is your Post, and you have a say. Let's keep moving forward and growing. See you at the Friday informal breakfasts or the next meeting.

*Commander, John Carson*

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**Po\$t \$cript Boo\$ter\$:** No new boosters this month.

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**New Members:** We are very happy to announce that three new members were voted in at our January Meeting. Welcome Dr. James Asch, USAF Vietnam; Duane Kaya, USN Submarine Service Vietnam; and George Dabdoub, USMC Sniper Desert Storm.

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**Youth Activities:** Three of our very talented Voice of Democracy student winners came to our **January Post Meeting** with their families and read their essays to members of the Post and Auxiliary.



The VOD audio essay contest is open to grades 9-12 high school students. The theme for the essay this year was, "Is America Today Our Forefathers Vision?" Each of these students received a Post 2nd place award. Even though they were all writing on the same theme, they approached it from different perspectives, thus the judges awarded them all second place.

***Pictured with Comrade Richard Vaughn, L-R :***

Jonathan Zhou, sophomore, Sage Hill School  
Jessica Zhang, junior, Sage Hill School  
Brooke Reinhard, freshman, Santa Margarita Catholic

Coming up at our **February Post Meeting**, we will have three of our middle school Patriot's Pen winners on hand to read their essays. We will also be making a special presentation to our Teacher of the Year.

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**Post Historian:** The Post is looking for someone to help document the history of our Post. We know there are many of you reading this newsletter who cannot make it to meetings anymore. It may be due to health, mobility, family responsibilities, or relocation. But, if you are a long time member you may be able to contribute to the Post by remembering and writing down some of the most memorable things that took place while you were an active member. We are especially looking to fill out the timeline with the names and dates the Commanders between 1987-2001. If you are interested in being Post Historian or just want to give information, email the Post Script editor, mail it to our PO Box, or call the Commander.

**Lifetime Service Award:** At our January meeting, **Gary Portas** was honored for his many years of dedicated service to our Post. For more years than most of us remember, Gary has been the first welcoming face we see as he sits guarding the entrance to the Post.

Gary became a Charter Member of the Post when it was established in 1987. As well as being an active participant in many of the Post activities, over the years he served as Chaplain, member of the Honor Guard, and currently has had a very long tenure as Guard.



Uncle Sam came calling when Gary was living in Chester, PA attending Penn Morton Colleges as a 20 year old Sophomore. On Sept 27, 1966 Gary entered the Army and underwent Basic Training at Fort Gordon, GA and AIT Training at Fort Jackson, SC before joining the 25th Infantry Division based in Cu Chi, Vietnam. Gary was assigned to The Centaurs, Heavy Scout Team, D Troop (Air). As a Door Gunner on a helicopter gun ship, Gary flew many missions picking up L.R.R.P troupes and also nurses before picking up the wounded. His Huey was shot down three times including once over Cambodia. Gary also had the honor of picking up Bob Hope for the USO Christmas Show December 1967. During his tour in Vietnam from March 67 to March 68, Gary received 9 Air Medals and a Purple Heart.

When Gary returned to the States in March 68, he became a Drill Sargent at Fort Dix, NJ

Thank you Gary for your continued support of our Post.

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**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**  
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### **MONTHLY POWER QUOTES:**

*"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Martin Luther King, Jr.

*"True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice."*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Martin Luther King, Jr.

*"Great leaders are almost always great simplifiers, who can cut through argument, debate, and doubt to offer a solution everybody can understand."*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Colin Powell

*"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Winston Churchill



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## THE POST SCRIPT



### UPCOMING AND HISTORICAL EVENTS

**January 24, 2025** ———Department Voice of Democracy Banquet, Sacramento, CA  
**February 10, 2025** ———Post Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center  
**February 10, 2025** ———Auxiliary Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center  
**February 15, 2025** ———District 2 Meeting, 1000 hrs., Anaheim Post  
**February 17, 2025** ———Presidents' Day

*January 23, 1968 ———USS Pueblo seized by North Koreans in the Sea of Japan amid claims the Navy ship was spying*

*January 27, 1945——- The Russian Army liberates Auschwitz death camp*

*February 9, 1943—— U.S. troops capture Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands after six months of battle, with 9,000 Japanese and 2,000 Americans killed*