

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

April 2026

VOL. XXXVIII, NO. 4

EDITOR: GALE GOODALL

In memory of Tom Goodall

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2025-2026 POST AND AUXILIARY OFFICERS

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<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
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<u>Treasurer:</u> Mary Lombard	683-0106
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<u>Conductor:</u> Maryrose Kakuschke	322-6003
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<u>Trustee #3:</u> Alma Macare	(714) 510-6382

NOTE: All area codes not noted are (949)

NEXT MEETING

POST: Monday, May 11, 2026, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center

AUXILIARY: Monday, May 11, 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), 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).

(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

Before getting into my Commander's Corner this month, I want to apologize to those members who attended the long April meeting. We work to keep meetings shorter, but we are a relatively active Post and have a lot of material to cover. Please bear with us.

April: A Month of Renewal, Remembrance, and Resolve

April has always carried a special weight in American history. It is a month of turning points, transitions, and reminders of what service, sacrifice, and resilience truly mean. As winter fades and spring rises, April invites us to reflect on the past while renewing our commitment to one another and to our community.

American Turning Points in April:

- April 19, 1775 – Lexington and Concord.
The first shots of the American Revolution were fired, marking the beginning of the fight for independence.

- April 9, 1865 – Appomattox Court House
The Civil War effectively ended, beginning the long process of national healing.
- April 6, 1917 – U.S. Enters World War I
A new generation of Americans stepped forward to defend freedom overseas.
- April 18, 1942 – The Doolittle Raid
Eighty volunteers launched a daring mission that lifted national morale and demonstrated American resolve.
- April 30, 1975 – The Fall of Saigon
A difficult anniversary for many Vietnam veterans, marking both an end and the beginning of a long struggle for recognition.

April as a Time of Renewal:

- Spring symbolizes renewal — something every veteran understands deeply.
- Checking in on our comrades and supporting those who may be struggling.
- Continuing the mission of service through our VFW Post.
- Honoring those who didn't make it home and supporting those who did.

The Veteran's Spirit in April:

April teaches us resilience. Every generation of American service members has faced uncertainty and pressed on. That same spirit lives in every veteran today.

- Courage is choosing to move forward.
- Service continues beyond the uniform.
- Every veteran carries a story worth telling.

A Call to Action for This April:

- **Reconnect with a veteran you haven't spoken to in a while.**
- **Support our Post's programs.**
- **Share your story with younger generations.**
- **Honor those who served before us and those still serving today.**

April is more than a month — it is a reminder of who we are as veterans: resilient, committed, and forever bound by shared service. As we move forward into the year, let us carry April's spirit with us: renewed, resolute, and ready to continue the mission.

Commander, Harry Steelman

Po\$t \$cript Boo\$t\$: No new boosters this month. Check the list on page 1 to see if your booster has or will expire soon. It would also be good to see some new contributor names.

New Members: Three new members were sworn in at our April meeting: **Eric Welch**, USMC, Desert Shield/Desert Storm; **Haskel Simonowitz**, Army, Vietnam; and **Steven Thornton**, USN, Global War on Terror who came to us as a transfer member. Welcome, we look forward to seeing each of you at upcoming events.

National Essay Awards: The 2026 VFW National Essay Award winners have been announced and the California Patriot's Pen entry took first place! **Andrew Ge**, sponsored by Post 75 in Danville, CA was awarded the top prize of \$5,000. **Irene Pan**, the District 2 VOD winner sponsored by Anaheim Post 3173, represented the Department of CA. Although, she did not finish in the top10, she received a \$2,500 award for her outstanding entry.

District 2 Convention: Post 6024 will host the District 2 Convention at the Norman Murray center on Saturday, May 9. The Memorial Service will be from 900—1000 hrs. and the Convention from 1030-1200 hrs. We would like to have a nice turnout from our Post. All members are encouraged to participate.

FDR Hope Memorial: Franklin D. Roosevelt's death on **April 12, 1945**, came at a moment when the Allied cause was finally turning the corner toward victory. For more than 12 yrs, Roosevelt had been the steady center of gravity for the US and its partners, guiding the nation through the Great Depression and the years of WW II. His leadership helped hold together a fragile coalition of Allied powers, and shaped the campaigns that ultimately brought Nazi Germany to the brink of collapse. When he died just weeks before VE Day, the shock was profound because the country had lost the only wartime president it had ever known, a leader whose resolve had carried the nation through crisis after crisis.

Yet, throughout those years of public strength, Roosevelt and those around him worked tirelessly to conceal the full extent of his disability. After contracting polio in 1921, he permanently lost the use of his legs, but he understood that many Americans of that era equated physical disability with weakness. To preserve his political viability, his staff, the Secret Service, and a mostly cooperative press corps helped manage every public appearance. When he appeared to "walk," it was only through carefully choreographed movements using heavy steel leg braces, a cane, and the arm of an aide. It was a deliberate illusion crafted to protect both his presidency and the nation's confidence.



The **FDR Hope Memorial** is a powerful and unusually intimate tribute to **Franklin D. Roosevelt**, focusing specifically on his experience with disability, something most memorials to him historically avoided, and is the first to portray Roosevelt openly in his wheelchair. Dedicated in New York City, July 17, 2021, the site is intentionally located on Roosevelt Island, once known as Welfare Island, which was home to major chronic care hospitals that treated generations of patients with polio and other long term disabilities . By placing the memorial there, it connects FDR's personal experience with paralysis to the broader history of polio survivors who lived and healed on the island.

The memorial's central image, created by sculptor Meredith Bergmann, shows Roosevelt extending a hand toward a young girl using a crutch, reframing his disability not as something to hide, but as a shared source of strength and hope.

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:

"We are responsible for each other. That's what makes us soldiers long after we take off the uniform."
_____ Sgt. Maj. of the Army Dan Dailey

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."
_____ Theodore Roosevelt

"The test of a leader lies in the reaction and response of his followers. What counts is their willingness to carry on."
_____ Adm. Michelle Howard

"Responsibility is a unique concept. You may share it with others, but your portion is not diminished."
_____ Adm. Hyman Rickover



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UPCOMING AND HISTORICAL EVENTS

May 4, 2026 ——— Cinco de Mayo Potluck, Norman Murray Center, 1700-2000 hrs.

May 9, 2026 ——— District 2 Convention, Norman Murray Center, 900-1200 hrs.

May 11, 2026 ——— Post Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center

Pre-meeting social time begins at 1830 hrs.

May 11, 2026 ——— Auxiliary Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center

May 21-24, 2026 ——— Buddy Poppy Campaign

April 21, 1918 ——— The Red Baron (Manfred von Richtofen) shot down and killed during the Battle of the Somme. British pilots recover his body and bury him with full military honors

April 22, 1864 ——— Act of Congress mandates, "In God We Trust" to be included on all newly minted U.S. coins

April 28, 1945 ——— Twenty-three years of Fascist rule in Italy ended abruptly as Italian partisans shot former Dictator Benito Mussolini.