

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

vwfpost6024.org

VOL. XXXVII, NO. 11

NOVEMBER 2025

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In memory of Tom Goodall

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<u>Officer of the Day:</u> Gary Heald	466-4225
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NOTE: All area codes not noted are (949)

NEXT MEETING—Christmas Dinner

POST: Monday, December 8, 2025, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center

AUXILIARY: Monday, December 8, 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 (11/27), 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 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)

(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.)

Reflections of a Veteran on Veterans Day

(speech to veterans by Commander Harry Steelman)

It's an honor to stand before you today--not just as a speaker, but as a brother in arms. On this Veterans Day, we gather to remember, to reflect, and to reconnect. We gather not just to honor service, but to honor each other.

I served in Vietnam. Like many of you, I was young—barely out of high school when I was handed a rifle and a set of orders. We were sent halfway around the world into a conflict that was complex, controversial and deeply personal. We didn't understand the politics, but we understood each other. We understood duty. We understood sacrifice. And we understood loss. We lost friends. We lost innocence.

Some of us came home with wounds that never healed—some visible, some buried deep. And when we returned, the welcome wasn't what we expected. There were no parades. No handshakes. No thank-yous. For many of us, silence was the only reception. But we endured. We rebuilt our lives. We found strength in each other. And over time, the nation began to understand what we had given—not just in Vietnam, but in every war, every conflict, every mission where American service members stood tall.

Veterans Day is not just about remembering the past. It's about honoring the present. It's about recognizing that service doesn't end when the uniform comes off. It continues--in our communities, in our families, in our support for one another.

Today, I want to speak to three things: **remembrance**, **resilience**, and **responsibility**. We **Remember** those who never came home. Their names are etched in stone, but their stories live in us. We remember the ones who gave everything--their youth, their futures, their lives. We carry their memory not just today, but every day. We also remember the quiet heroes. The medics who saved lives under fire. The mechanics who kept the birds flying. The cooks, the clerks, the radio operators--every role mattered--every job was essential. Every person served with honor.

We are a **Resilient** group. We've faced war, loss, and hardship. We've battled PTSD, physical injuries, and the challenge of reintegration. And yet, here we are--still standing, still serving, still supporting one another. Resilience is not just surviving. It's thriving. It's finding purpose after pain. It's mentoring younger veterans. It's showing the world that we are more than our scars--we are warriors, leaders, and builders of peace. We have a **Responsibility**—to each other, and to the next generation. We must ensure that no veteran feels alone. That no one slips through the cracks. That every soldier, sailor, airman, Marine, and Coast Guardsman knows they are valued. We must advocate for better care, better support, and better understanding. We must tell our stories—not for sympathy, but for truth. Because when we speak, we educate, we heal, we inspire.

As we stand together today, I ask you to do three things: 1) Reach out to a fellow veteran with a phone call, a visit—a simple “how are you?” can change a life. 2) Share your story. Your experience matters. Your voice matters. Let the world know what service really means. 3) Live with purpose. Whether you volunteer, mentor, or simply lead by example—your continued service is a gift to this country.

Thank you for your courage, thank you for your sacrifice, thank you for your continued strength. There comes a time after you are discharged when you realize that you are never really going to be able to transition from military to civilian life. You are a “Veteran” now and always will be!

We are veterans. **We** are family. And **We** are never alone.
God bless you all, and God bless the United States of America.

Commander, Harry Steelman

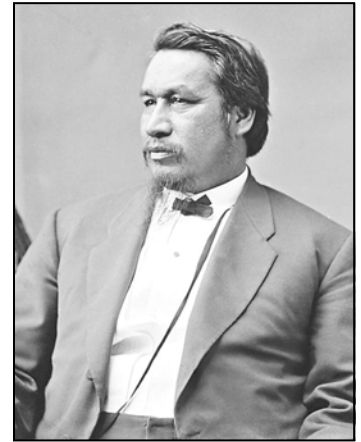
Po\$t \$cript Boo\$ter\$: Thank you to Jackie Heddlesten, Fred Egeler, and Rene Macare for extending their Post Script Boosters.

New Members: At our November meeting, we voted in new member Frank Scarpine, Jr., a US Navy Vietnam veteran. Welcome Frank.

Annual Christmas Dinner and Meeting: All members are invited, with a “plus one” family member or guest, to our annual Christmas dinner on Monday, December 8, at 7:00 pm . Please RSVP your attendance to editor, Gale Goodall at *tommyg0910@aol.com*

Native American Heritage Month: November is designated as Native American Heritage month to honor the history, achievements, and cultures of the United States' original inhabitants and their descendants. Native Americans have made more significant contributions to the American military than you may be

aware of. Most commonly known are the crucial roles of the Navajo Code Talkers and others who used their indigenous languages to transmit unbreakable codes in both World Wars. Beyond coders, Native Americans have served with distinction in all branches and conflicts, often motivated by a strong sense of duty rooted in their own warrior traditions and a commitment to protecting their homelands. Native American, **Gen. Ely S. Parker**, a member of the Seneca Nation, served as General Ulysses S. Grant's military secretary during the Civil War. Parker would eventually write the final draft of the Confederate terms of surrender. He later became the first Native American to hold the post of Commissioner of Indian Affairs.



Native Americans have served in the military at a higher per-capita rate than any other ethnic group, a trend that continues today. During WWII, nearly 45,000 Native Americans served, making them the demographic with the highest rate of voluntary enlistment in the military throughout the entire war. In certain Tribal Nations, 70% of the men of a single Nation enlisted. In Vietnam, an estimated 42,000 served.

American Indian women first supported war efforts as nurses. In World War I, a handful of Native American women joined the Army Nurse Corps; they, like the approximately 15,000 Native American men who served during WWI, were not even American citizens (until 1924), but they still chose to join. In World War II about 800 Native American women served in the various women's branches and another 10,000 joined the Red Cross.



Native Americans have earned medals, such as Purple Hearts, Silver Stars, Good Conduct Medals, and Combat Infantry Badges including 33 Medal of Honor recipients across various conflicts. A member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, **2nd Lt. Ernest Childers** became the first American Indian to be awarded the Medal of Honor in World War II for exceptional leadership, initiative, calmness under fire, and conspicuous gallantry displayed on 22 September 1943, at Oliveto, Italy.

Navajo Code Talkers were eventually recognized with the Congressional Gold Medal by President George W. Bush; an honor that had been delayed because the program was secret and not

declassified by the military until 1968.

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:

"In short, Navajos make good Marines, and I should be very proud to command a unit composed entirely of these people." _____ G.R. Lockard, Camp Goettge Signal Company

"What I want to do is to thank the whole people of America, the citizens. I learned that they are my people too." _____ Sam Tso, Navajo Code Talker

"Gentlemen, your service inspires the respect and admiration of all Americans, and our gratitude is expressed for all time, in the medals it is now my honor to present." _____ George W. Bush



**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
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UPCOMING AND HISTORICAL EVENTS

November 21, 2025 — Public Hearing on Veterans Cemetery 1000 hrs. Anaheim City Council Chambers

December 8, 2025 — Post and Auxiliary Christmas Dinner 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center

December 13, 2025 — Wreaths Across America 0900 hrs., El Toro Memorial Park

December 25, 2025 — Merry Christmas

January 1, 2026 ! — Happy New Year

January 12, 2026 — Post and Auxiliary Meetings 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center

November 21, 1783 — Benjamin Franklin a spectator as first free balloon flight takes place over Paris

November 29, 1947 — UN partitions Palestine into Jewish and Arab land

December 25 — Commemoration of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, celebrated on this date since 336 A.D.