

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

VOL. XXXVII, NO. 5

MAY 2025

EDITOR: GALE GOODALL

In memory of Tom Goodall

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, June 9, 2025, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center

AUXILIARY: Monday, June 9, 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), 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.)

Passing the Torch: Next month our Commander John Carson will turn over Post 6024 to new leadership. He will leave the Post in the very competent hands of Comrade Harry Steelman and his new officers as he moves on to new challenges and responsibilities as District 2 Commander. We wish John much success in his new position. As part of the transition, I asked Casey to reflect on our Post's accomplishments and future. (Ed.)

What lies ahead for 6024: The Post is uniquely poised for momentous opportunities. The actions of the next 5 years will determine what will be VFW. The platform on which we stand looking into the future is solid, scalable,



flexible, and transportable. Our processes are reliable, operators trustworthy, and the quality high. 6024 is strong in every program. Finances are managed diligently. Tuned and ready.

The person responsible for building 6024 as she stands today is John Carson. For the last eight years, 4 as Jr. Vice followed by 4 as Commander, John has worked tirelessly to achieve the VFW and Post purpose and mission goals. Due to his efforts at every level, 6024 has been awarded All-State and All-American for 5 consecutive years.

John always held a vision for the Post, and today the results sparkle throughout. High performing programs have won tiered honors at District and Department. Without vision, the purpose and mission would have been unachievable.

The VFW is a brand that communicates veterans ideals to the public. The VFW brand is described as: comradeship, patriotic, historical, survivors, US Constitution, American freedom and defense. We strive to make every program reflect facets of the brand. Resources are available, committees are trained, and willingness is on standby.

If Post 6024 can continue to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members, thanks to John's leadership, we are positioned to keep the momentum moving forward for years to come.

Advocate, Casey Kleindienst

New Members: We are happy to welcome transfer member Earl Fulk; Past District 2 Commander, Past Department of CA Commander and Past California representative to the VFW National Council of Administration Members. Earl is a US Navy Vietnam Veteran.

Installation of Officers: Installation for the new term of both the Post and Auxiliary officers will take place at our June Post meeting. They will officially assume their duties following the Installation of the Department Commander on June 21.

Memorial Day Events: Our Post Honor Guard will be performing the rifle salute at both the City of Mission Viejo Memorial Day program at 8:30 am at City Hall plaza and at El Toro Memorial Park at 11:00 am. There will be inspiring speeches and music at both venues and you will have the opportunity to put some \$ in our Buddy Poppy contribution jars to help support our many veteran programs for next year. Contributions will also be welcome via check to our PO Box .

TAPS: Sadly we must say a heartfelt adieu to our comrade and friend **Bruce Hunt**.

Bruce was one the most dedicated individuals to helping Veterans that I ever met. He was always volunteering either for our Post, the American Legion, the Mission Viejo Marine & Sailors Adoption Committee, Wounded Warriors, or for multiple charities for active duty Marines at Camp Pendleton and anyone else that needed his help.

A Marine himself, he enlisted when he was 17 and served in Korea and later in Japan attaining the rank of Sergeant. A rank that served him well in later years as he organized and took charge of all kinds of events for Veterans.

During his years as a Life Member of our Post, he served in several capacities including as a Trustee from 2016-2020. He was always first on the scene to help set up and serve at our VA Hospital BBQs and Pizza Parties. During our Buddy Poppy campaigns on Memorial Day and Veterans Day he stationed himself in front of the local Albertsons store all day long for 3 or 4 days until his health would no longer permit it. Even now, when our members sit at that store, customers ask about Bruce.





After all of his years of helping others, Bruce finally did something for himself and went on the Honor Flight to Washington, DC in October 2019. He returned with lots of pictures and unforgettable memories.

He said his most cherished memory from his time in DC was at the Korean War Memorial. He was both honored and humbled as many Korean visitors bowed and thanked him profusely for whatever small part he had in making it possible for there to be a free Korea today.

Bruce's contagious smile, boisterous laugh, and gentle persona will be missed by all of our Post members who had the privilege of knowing him.



How it all Began (briefly): We all know the story Canadian doctor John McCrae and his poem, 'In Flanders Fields', which he wrote while serving during WWI in Ypres, Belgium in 1915. Poppies were a common sight on the Western Front since they flourished in the soil churned up by the fighting and shelling.

After his poem was published in Britain, other countries began adopting the red flower to honor veterans and the war dead. Artificial poppies were first sold in Britain in 1921 to raise money in support of ex-servicemen and the families of those who had died in the conflict. The poppies were supplied by Anna Guérin, who had already been manufacturing the flowers in France to raise money for war orphans. Selling poppies proved so popular, in 1922, the British Legion founded a factory to produce the flowers themselves, staffed by disabled ex-servicemen, which continues today.

In the United States, the first organized sale of poppies took place in 1921 when the Franco-American Children's League sold poppies made by children in French orphanages for the benefit of children in the war-devastated areas of France and Belgium. Moina Belle Michael, an American working for the YMCA Overseas office, campaigned to make the poppy a symbol of remembrance of those who had died in the war. Her initiative gained momentum, spreading across the United States, Great Britain, France, Canada, Australia, and beyond, with donations raised through the sale of silk poppies.

Before Memorial Day in 1922, the VFW conducted their first poppy distribution, becoming the first veterans' organization to organize a nationwide distribution. The poppy soon was adopted as the official memorial flower of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. In February 1924, the VFW registered the name Buddy Poppy with the U.S. Patent Office. A certificate was issued on May 20, 1924 granting the VFW all trademark rights under the classification of artificial flowers. VFW "**Buddy**"® Poppies would be assembled by disabled and needy veterans who would be paid for their work to provide them with financial assistance. The next year, disabled veterans at the Buddy Poppy factory in Pittsburgh, PA began assembling VFW Buddy Poppies.

MONTHLY POWER QUOTES:

"The things that the flag stands for were created by the experiences of a great people. Everything it stands for was written by their lives. The flag is the embodiment, not of sentiment, but of history."

_____ Woodrow Wilson

"In the End we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

_____ Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy, forget in time that men have died to win them."

_____ Franklin D. Roosevelt



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

May 22-25, 2025 — Buddy Poppy Campaign

May 26, 2025 — Memorial Day Programs

June 9, 2025 — Joint Post and Auxiliary Officer Installation 1900 hrs. Norman Murray Center

June 14, 2025 — Flag Day Retirement Ceremony 1940 hrs. RSM Civic Plaza

June 18-22, 2025 — Department of California Convention, Anaheim, CA

August 9-13, 2025 — 126th VFW National Convention, Columbus, Ohio

May 27, 1937 — 200,000 people strolled across The Golden Gate bridge to celebrate it's opening

June 13, 1971 — The New York Times began publishing the Pentagon Papers

June 14, 1777 — John Adams introduced a resolution before Congress stating, "...that the flag of the thirteen United States shall be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white on a blue field, representing a new constellation."