

# 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

AUGUST 2024

[vfwpost6024.org](http://vfwpost6024.org)

VOL. XXXVI, NO. 8

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 Casillas	468-8135
<u>Trustee 2 Year:</u> Harry Steelman	422-8325
<u>Trustee 1 Year:</u> Robert Carey	280-5845
<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, September 9, 2024, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center

AUXILIARY: Monday, September 9, 2024, 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 (1/25), Joe Goff (9/26), Al Ramirez (11/24), Tom Fenton (10/24), Dave Buck (9/24), Fred Egeler (11/25), Clark Courtney (6/30), Robert Carey (7/25), Frank McLeary (11/24), Herbert Nakasone (2/28), Robert Casillas (12/28), Ken Simonson (10/24), 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)

*(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

As many of you may know our Post often recognizes and awards our local Law Enforcement and Fire Fighter/EMT personnel for a job well done. What you probably don't know is that we recently had a local Fire Fighter who was not only our Post winner, a District Winner, and a State Winner, but he made it all the way to be a NATIONAL winner! This is a FIRST for our Post and a huge complement to this man's accomplishments. Our Post set up a time to meet Wade and his superior officers to present his National Award which included a Plaque, a Certificate and a check for \$500. The Post presentation team consisted of Casey Kleindienst, Harry Steelman, AJ Summa, Robert Casillas and Rene Macare.

**Wade Munson** works at Orange County Fire Authority Station 45 in RSM and he comes from a family with a long line of Fire Fighters. Not only did Wade show exemplary performance as an EMT but he also planned, built, and launched a new behavioral wellness program incorporating a department Therapy Dog for his Fire Station. Wade received PAX, a 3-year old lab retriever, through the Thor's Hope Foundation and worked tirelessly as a volunteer to learn about how to set up a Peer Support Canine Program. Wade became Orange County's first Canine Peer Support Specialist using PAX in his department station to help diffuse crisis level behavioral health events (we know this better as PTSD in the military after experiencing life crisis events in combat). Fire fighters and EMT's face daily crisis events and deal with death, suicides, horrible car accidents, and destructive fires then come back to the station with a lot of stress, anguish, etc. and it's a great relief for them to have PAX there waiting for them to help relieve the day's experiences...

Wade is helping other Fire Stations to put similar programs in place to help them deal with the stresses of being a Fire Fighter/EMT with the Fire Authority. He also co-founded a group that cross trains facility canines for Peer Support functions between other response agencies (law enforcement, fire, hospital, and EMS). We could not be more proud of Wade's accomplishments, and for him to make it all the way to the National level VFW award is just indicative of his drive and motivation for success at whatever he sets his mind to accomplish.



Left to Right: Harry Steelman, AJ Summa, Battalion Chief Cheyne Maule, Rene Macare, Fire Fighter/Paramedic Wade Munson, PAX, Casey Kleindienst, Robert Casillas

*Senior Vice Commander,  
Rene Macare*

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**New Members:** Another new member was voted in at the August meeting. Welcome Chuck Hahn, USN, Expeditionary Operations, Iran

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**VFW National Convention:** Once again, I was granted the opportunity to attend the VFW National Convention and represent our Post. I consider this an honor. I learned quite a bit about how the VFW operates and how we support both our members and the veteran community at large. The convention was held in Louisville, KY, July 27-31. Here is a synopsis of what I did while I was there:

I started on Saturday with registration and the Western Caucus - a meeting of representatives from the about 10 western states to determine nominations for two National officer seats (There are 4 Conferences representing the Departments.) We developed nominations for the Jr. Vice Commander and the Judge Advocate General. On Sunday, I attended the solemn Annual Memorial Service and later the Member Rights/Post Commander Authority Workshop. The focus was almost entirely on member rights.

Monday was the Joint Opening session with a number of very interesting presentations from distinguished members and partner organizations. In the afternoon I attended the Parliamentary Procedure Workshop and also spent some time browsing the many vendor exhibits.

Tuesday morning started the Business Sessions which ended up lasting longer than expected due to the call for a roll-call vote on one of the Bylaw change proposals. This was the first roll call vote on a Bylaw proposal in nearly 30 years! The motion was regarding the voting majority required by the Council to Approve the National Commander-in-Chief's appointment for the position of Adjutant.

I finished up on Wednesday with the morning Business Session including the Nomination of Officers and a VFW National Home Workshop in the afternoon.

I am always available to discuss any of the sessions I attended. If you are ever have the opportunity, I highly recommend you attend one of these conventions.

Harry Steelman, Post Trustee

**Lifetime Service Award:** Post Charter Member, Frank McCleary was honored at our July meeting for his years of dedicated service to our Post. Frank is currently our Officer of the Day, a position he assumed in July 2018. Prior to that he served as Trustee for three years.



The engraved wooden plaque was presented by Commander John Carson and Jr. Vice Commander Al Hicks.



Frank, a US Army veteran, served in Vietnam from 1967-69 and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne, stationed near Da Nang in Phu Bai. Frank received a Bronze Star and other decorations for his heroic service.

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**Help Us Find a Teacher of the Year:** We are asking for the help of all of you reading this Post Script to help us identify a dedicated K-12 teacher who promotes the values of the VFW in the classroom. We are looking for someone who stimulates interest in American's history and traditions, civic responsibility, flag etiquette, and patriotism. Many of you must know one of your children's or grandchildren's teachers or a neighbor or friend who is a teacher and an outstanding role model for Americanism. If so, please contact the Post Script Editor by September 15: [tommyg0910@aol.com](mailto:tommyg0910@aol.com)

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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:**

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

\_\_\_\_\_ General Colin Powell

*"Those who stand for nothing, fall for anything".*

\_\_\_\_\_ Alexander Hamilton

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Winston Churchill

*"From time to time, the tree of liberty must be watered with the blood of tyrants and patriots".*

\_\_\_\_\_ Thomas Jefferson





**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.  
Edward J. Kearns Post 6024  
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Mission Viejo, CA 92690-4457**

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## THE POST SCRIPT



### UPCOMING AND HISTORICAL EVENTS

**September 9, 2024 —Post Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center**

**September 9, 2024 —Auxiliary Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center**

**September 11, 2024 —Patriot Day Remembrance Ceremony, RSM Civic Center Plaza, 5:30 pm**

**August 24, 1914——British invade and burn Washington DC during War of 1812**

**September 2, 1945—— President Truman declares V-J Day commemorating formal Japanese  
surrender to Allies aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay**

**September 18, 1947——US Air Force established as separate branch of US Military**

**September 20, 2023—— Congress passes resolution designating this day every year as National  
Service Dog Day recognizing critical services these dogs provide to Veterans**