

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

DECEMBER 2023

vfwpost6024.org

VOL. XXXV, NO. 12

EDITOR: GALE GOODALL

In memory of Tom Goodall

tommyg0910@aol.com

2023-2024 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:</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> Ken Simonson	(941) 539-2551
<u>Scout Chairman:</u> Michelle Coppage	(951) 348-1366
<u>Honor Guard Leader:</u> Bob Franzwa	(858) 229-4306

AUXILIARY

<u>President:</u> Jackie Heddlesten	484-3801
<u>Sr. Vice President:</u> Gale Goodall	510-8538
<u>Jr. Vice President:</u> Lea Bergman	(562) 412-8202
<u>Secretary:</u> Mary Lombard	683-0106
<u>Treasurer:</u> Mary Lombard	683-0106
<u>Chaplain:</u> Thomas Walling	586-9689
<u>Conductor:</u> Kerry Velasquez	678-9134
<u>Guard:</u> Melissa Sorensen	244-3992
<u>Trustee #1:</u> Kathy Holman	661-3130
<u>Trustee #2:</u> Cynthia Neitzke	436-2221
<u>Trustee #3:</u> Thomas Walling	586-9689

NOTE: All area codes not noted are (949)

NEXT MEETING

POST: Monday, January 8, 2024, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center
AUXILIARY: Monday, January 8, 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 (7/24), Dick Vaughn (5/24), Veronica Ashdown (5/24), Micky Jimerson (1/24), 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 (7/24), Harry Steelman (12/23), 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 (6/24), Roger Clinch (6/27), Dave Berutich (2/26), Pat Rizco (2/24), Rene Macare (2/28), Jackie Heddlesten (11/25), Terry Pfeil (7/26), Ned Costa (8/24)

(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

Comrades,

The end of yet another year is here. We end the season with the celebration of Jesus Christ's birthday, now referred to as Christmas. As the wise men did at Bethlehem 2023 years ago, we give gifts to friends, loved ones, and an occasional Grinch. Post 6024 just finished its traditional holiday meeting by conducting an open meeting where no business was transacted, only the ritual to remind everyone who we are and what we stand for. Yes, I set a record for my shortest meeting to date!

Harry and Martha Steelman presented the POW/MIA Missing Person empty table and ritual explanation

of the table before our meal was served. Everyone enjoyed another great feast organized by Gale Goodall, post volunteers, and Auxiliary members. Mindy Simonson gave an emotional presentation, speaking about her job as an Archeologist working for the Department of Defense. Her teams, which total about forty military and civilians, travel worldwide to recover our brave military MIAs at battle sites.

This was followed by a great dessert presentation served for all to enjoy. Casey Kleindienst and Frank McCleary handed out gift prizes to those who remained. This was a joyous occasion, and I want to thank all who attended. Some members were sick and or in the hospital and were unable to attend. They all were missed.

The evening was made possible by a small handful of volunteers from the post and auxiliary. Many hours of planning, logistics, discussion, phone calls, and running after supplies and materials were spent to put on a festive event and post-meeting. A special shout out to all that helped. Thank you all again for putting on a memorable evening.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Happy Holidays. Remember all those suffering both medically and emotionally this holiday season. See you at the Friday breakfasts and next year.

Commander, John Carson

December Meeting:



Other than great food and door prizes, the main event at our holiday meeting was a very interesting talk given by archeologist, **Mindy Simonson**, who works for the **Defense POW / MIA Accounting Agency**. Mindy spends most of her time overseas in the field working to find U.S. Military remains. This tedious, often tortuously hot work under primitive conditions thousands of miles away from home is the ultimate dedication to the promise of **“No Man Left Behind”**. But the reward is also great when you are able to see the faces of families who have waited decades for closure on their loved one.



Sr. Vice, Rene Macare, thanked Mindy Simonson for the important work she does and presented her with our **VFW Post 6024 Service Award**.



Mindy hammers a stake while plotting out an

Did you Know:

We all remember Washington's famous crossing of the Delaware, but did you know it took place on **Christmas Day**? The winter of 1776 was not going well for Washington's Continental Army. They had suffered many defeats in the first few months of the Revolution and had been pushed out of New York and New Jersey into Pennsylvania. Troops morale was low. Washington needed to renew faith in the battle, so he decided to surprise the Hessians (German troops hired by the British) who were stationed in Trenton, NJ. Washington thought the enemy's Christmas celebrations might leave them unprepared for a fight and he was right. Late Christmas night, Washington and his troops took boats across the icy Delaware River and surprised the enemy at dawn on December 26 which quickly resulted in their surrender. This victory was very significant to the Continental Army's cause. Not only did it raise troop spirits, but it revived the hopes of the colonists.



Did you Know that America's National March, "Starts and Stripes Forever", was written on **Christmas Day**?



John Phillip Sousa, the famed US Marine Band Leader, was crossing the Atlantic on Christmas Day 1896 on his way home from a vacation. It was four years following the end of his 12 year tenure as Band Leader and Sousa reported that the melodic lines were conceived as he thought over and felt homesick for the old days in Washington when he was leader of the Marine Band.

The composition gained much attention during WWI becoming the song that inspired millions to help fight the war to end all wars. But, it wasn't until December 10, 1987 at the urging of President Regan that the song was named "Official March of the United States of America" by an act of Congress.

John Philip Sousa's long and fascinating military career and his lasting contribution to the Patriotic music of this country will be continued in a future issue.

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 QUOTE:

*"CHRISTMAS is a time for hope. It is also a season for renewed inspiration from Christ's universal message of peace on earth, good will toward men.
To the men and women of the Armed Forces and to their families, Mrs. Johnson and I send our warmest wishes for the blessings of the Christmas heritage.
Many of you are serving the cause of freedom far from your homes and families. Among other freedoms, you are safeguarding the right of worship.
Our prayers, the invocations of free men, are constantly with you. Your courage and dedication have earned our deepest gratitude and pride.
As we enter the New Year, we shall reaffirm our determination to secure a world at peace. And we shall hold fast to our faith in the brotherhood of men, everywhere on earth".*

————— **Lyndon Johnson's Christmas message to the Troops 1966**



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UPCOMING AND HISTORICAL EVENTS

December 25, 2023———Merry Christmas
January 1, 2024 ——-- Happy New Year
January 8, 2024———- Post Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center
January 8, 2024———- Auxiliary Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center

December 21, 1951——- *The first landing of a helicopter on a hospital ship takes place aboard USS Consolation*
December 28, 1950 ——- *Chinese troops cross the 38th parallel into South Korea*
January 10, 1917——- *US Navy places its first production order for aerial photographic equipment*
January 14, 1943 ——- *Franklin Roosevelt becomes first US President to travel by airplane while in office—from Miami to Morocco to meet with Winston Churchill*