

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

FEBRUARY 2024

vfwpost6024.org

VOL. XXXVI, NO. 2

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, March 11, 2024, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center

AUXILIARY: Monday, March 11, 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), Frank McCleary (11/24), Herbert Nakasone (2/28), Robert Casillas (12/28), Ken Simonson (10/24), Julie Hammers 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), Bill Cook (5/25)

(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

Commander Carson underwent long awaited neck surgery on January 31. All went well and he will be recuperating at home for several weeks. In the meantime, the Post is in the very competent hands of Sr. Vice Commander Rene Macare. Instead of writing a Commander's Corner, Rene wanted to share this important information about FREE Legal Support for Veterans with all of our readers:

There are times when we need some legal help to get through a "Life Issue", but we know it can be quite costly. There is a great resource available to us Veterans that many of us (including myself until recently)

do not know about. As I was looking for some help with a family matter and saw on the Mission Viejo Civic Center website something called The Veterans Legal Institute. I figured it was probably just some basic support with legal questions or something like that, however, to my surprise it actually provides help in many areas. I decided to go to their website www.vetslegal.com and I was amazed at the support available and it is PRO BONO (no charge)!

To take advantage of this service you only need to send them a copy of your DD-214 to prove you are a Veteran. Once they confirm it, you can start using their services. When I was approved, I chose the area of expertise I needed support with and just one day later I was assigned an Attorney who followed up with me to start discussing the help I needed! Life can get complicated at times with legal issues, but for us Veterans here is a great resource to help us. Go check them out and put your mind at ease because **Help is On the Way.**

Sr. Vice Commander, Rene Macare

Post Script Boo\$ter\$: Thank you to Bill Cook for renewing his booster.

New Members: Welcome aboard to new members Scott Pierce, USAF, Desert Shield/Storm, and Robert Newell, USMC, Persian Gulf/Iraq; who were both voted in at our February Meeting.

Lifetime Service Award: Last year our Post started giving a Lifetime Service Award, which includes a beautiful customized plaque, to members who have gone “over and above” in supporting our Post, promoting the ideals of the VFW and interfacing our Post with the Community. The recipients are, and will continue to be, members who leave a lasting mark on the Post whose value continues even though they may no longer be active. *****



The latest recipient of our Post’s lifetime service award was presented posthumously to **Tom Goodall**. All of Tom’s 18 years with our Post were spent as an active participant. He served on committees, went through the officer chairs and became “a face” of the Post at local and District VFW meetings as well as at Civic activities even before he was elected Commander. He served two terms as Commander 2002-2004; then was called into service again serving three more terms 2006-2009 while holding down a full time job. Tom was always going to events and helping out wherever needed. He was a great communicator and found a way to make every new member, committee person and officer feel good about their job and know they were important and belonged.

Securing a rent free permanent Post meeting room at the Norman Murray Center, helping to get a Veterans Memorial on the campus of Saddleback College, and expanding our Post’s outreach involvement with VA Hospital Long Beach are all part of Tom’s legacy.

CORPORAL USMC, MAG-39, HMM-161, Quang Tri Vietnam.
Medivac, Door Gunner, Combat Air Medal, Bronze Air Medal with 8 stars



Teacher of the Year: Our Post Teacher of the Year for 2023-24 is **Molli Patterson** from Lomarena Elementary School in Laguna Hills, CA where she has been a teacher since 2014.



Mollie is currently a 4th grade teacher and comes highly recommended as someone who has a passion for showing appreciation for First Responders, Veterans and all of those in the community who serve others. She works hard to instill this appreciation in her students.

One of her most successful events is the annual Heroes Breakfast hosted every 9/11 for Veterans, Military, Law Enforcement and First Responders. After breakfast, the colors are posted by scouts and the students present the Heroes with handmade cards and notes and entertain them with patriotic songs and poems. It has become a great way for the students to learn to show their gratitude and also makes the heroes feel honored as well.

Mollie is a dedicated teacher who strives to help every child meet their fullest potential. She understands the importance of preparing students at a young age to become engaged, productive, citizens in the future.

As well as receiving our Post award, Mollie was also selected as the **Elementary Teacher of the Year for District 2.**

From the Auxiliary: Let's get together for a St. Patrick's Day Potluck!



All Auxiliary and Post members are invited to bring your favorite Irish Dish to share and join us at the Norman Murray Center in room Sycamore B on **March 21**, from 5:30-8:30 pm. Water and coffee will be provided and there will be a Photo Booth for you to take fun pictures.



RSVP by March 10 to: Jackie Heddlesten, 949-484-3801 / heddlesten.j@gmail.com or Kerry Velasquez, 949-678-9134 / kerryliz1949@gmail.com

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 FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH:

"I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality.... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word."

_____ *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

"In recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings, we pay ourselves the highest tribute."

_____ *Thurgood Marshall*

"Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed."

_____ *Booker T. Washington*

"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."

_____ *Nelson Mandela*



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UPCOMING AND HISTORICAL EVENTS

- March 11, 2024 — Post Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center
March 11, 2024 — Auxiliary Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center
March 21, 2024 — St. Patrick's Day Pot Luck, Norman Murray Center 1730-2030 hrs.
March 23, 2024 — Swallows Day Parade, San Juan Capistrano
April 6, 2024 — Lake Day for MV adopted Marines and Sailors, Lake MV 1000 hrs.

February 26, 1948, — The Communist Manifesto published by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels
February 29, 1968 — Robert McNamara resigns as Secretary of Defense after Tet disaster
March 12, 1938 — Nazis invaded Austria and absorbed the country into Hitler's Reich
March 16, 1802 — First Military School in the US founded by Congress at West Point