

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

vfwpost6024.org

VOL. XXXVI, NO. 1

JANUARY 2024

EDITOR: GALE GOODALL

In memory of Tom Goodall

tommyg0910@aol.com

2023-2024 POST AND AUXILIARY OFFICERS

POST

Commander: John Carson 633-6763
Sr. Vice Commander: Rene Macare 306-3185
Jr. Vice Commander: Al Hicks 647-9253
Quartermaster: Harshu Sharma (818) 879-3120
Adjutant: Ned Costa (562) 682-3100
Officer of the Day: Frank McCleary 232-9391
Chaplain: Gary Heald 466-4225
Advocate: Casey Kleindienst 306-6133
Surgeon: Clark Courtney 338-8078
Guard: Gary Portas 595-1412
Service Officer: Bob Franzwa (858) 229-4306
Trustee 3 Year : Robert Casillas 468-8135
Trustee 2 Year: Harry Steelman 422-8325
Trustee 1 Year: Ken Simonson (941) 539-2551
Scout Chairman: Michelle Coppage (951) 348-1366
Honor Guard Leader: Bob Franzwa (858) 229-4306

AUXILIARY

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

NOTE: All area codes not noted are (949)

NEXT MEETING

POST: Monday, February 12, 2024, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center
AUXILIARY: Monday, February 12, 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,

A new calendar year, 2024 is here. This means our VFW Post fiscal year of 2023-2024 is half over. The first six months were very busy for almost everyone. As the VFW year winds down, our post is close to achieving yet another All-American honor and earning the All-State status. This will require an "All Hands -On Deck" effort. We have now nearly 230 members in Post 6024, yet only 14 die-hard members manned the Buddy Poppy stations. I have asked all my elected officers and committee chairman to give me all scheduled post activities for the next six months. That way we can anticipate our needs and activities. As an example: there are two conventions in June, District-2, and the Ca. VFW Department,

ending with the National VFW Convention in July in Kentucky. All those who attended the conventions last year enjoyed meeting other veterans and attending informative seminars. The knowledge learned in the convention seminars helped better our post.

I am excited to have many new members joining our post and am looking forward to them standing alongside our older members to learn and see the fun and rewards of helping fellow veterans in need. Welcome aboard, roll up your sleeves, and pitch in. You are our future leaders. The Memorial Day Buddy Poppy Campaign is just around the corner. See you on the Poppy lines. Let's finish with a positive effort. It all starts with attending our monthly meetings and joining us for Friday Breakfast at the Laguna Café in Laguna Woods/Laguna Hills at 07:00 hours.

Commander, John Carson

Long Beach VA Hospital: It has been since February 2020, the beginning of Covid, since we have been allowed in the LBVA Hospital. But, on December 28, a few members including Rene Macare, our Sr. Vice, and his band, "The Flashback", was able to put on a live concert in the Spinal Cord Injury Ward for the patients.

The feedback from the hospital was that all of the Veterans who attended really enjoyed the music.



Unfortunately this does not signal the lifting of any restrictions to enable us to resume visits to the hospital or put on our usual BBQs or Pizza Parties.

Our Post does continue to provide donations to the LBVA in the form of gift cards so the staff can buy things the patients need.

Youth Essays: We received a record breaking number of entries this year for the Patriot's Pen Essay contest from seven local Middle Schools. We also received Voice of Democracy audio essays from 12 local High Schools. Our Post Committee, consisting of Richard Vaughn, Gale Goodall, Casey Kleindienst, and Kristen Clements, spent many hours reading and judging these essays and are now ready to begin presenting awards to the winners. 58 middle school students and 13 high school students will receive 1st, 2nd 3rd, or Honorable Mention awards. Many of these will be presented at their respective schools and some will be given out at one of our monthly Post meetings.

Beginning in February, we will start bringing some of our winners to Post meetings to read their essays and receive their awards. You will definitely want to plan to come and hear the inspiring essays these students have written.

Orange County Veterans Cemetery Update: The on-going quest for a veterans cemetery has recently cleared another potential obstacle. The successful completion of the site feasibility study for the Gypsum Canyon Veterans Cemetery project commissioned by CalVet is a significant step forward. The most important information from the study is that the 100-acre site has been determined to have no obstacles to development, paving the way for continued progress at the site. Ongoing efforts continue to secure the necessary funding for site improvements and infrastructure. While the Veterans Cemetery project still has a long road ahead, the continuing progress is promising.

US Air Force Memorial to become part of Arlington Cemetery: The US Air Force Memorial's official dedication was held October 14, 2006. President George W. Bush spoke and underscored the memorial's meanings: "A soldier can walk the battlefields where he once fought, a Marine can walk the beaches he once stormed, but an airman can never visit the patch of sky he raced across on a mission to defend freedom. And, so it's fitting that, from this day forward, the men and women of the Air Force will have this memorial, a place here on the ground that recognizes their achievements and sacrifices in the skies above." This commemorative site is located on a high promontory overlooking Arlington National Cemetery, the Pentagon, the Potomac River and the Washington, D.C. skyline.



It is now planned that as part of the Arlington National Cemetery expansion project, the southern boundaries of the cemetery will be extended. As many as 60,000 more burial sites will be added and the US Air Force Memorial will become the centerpiece of a new southern entrance. This change will ensure seamless public access bringing thousands more people each year to honor American service members' journeys to the skies and beyond. Work is currently underway to clear the area and reroute roads and is expected to be complete by October 2026.

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:

"War is a poor chisel to carve out tomorrows."
 _____ *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

"Arms alone are not enough to keep peace. It must be kept by men."
 _____ *John F. Kennedy*

"If the Third World War is fought with nuclear weapons, the fourth will be fought with bows and arrows."
 _____ *Lord Louis Mountbatten*

"Terrorism takes us back to ages we thought were long gone if we allow it a free hand to corrupt democratic societies and destroy the basic rules of international life."
 _____ *French President Jacques Chirac*



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

**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MISSION VIEJO, CA
PERMIT NO. 591**



THE POST SCRIPT



UPCOMING AND HISTORICAL EVENTS

January 15, 2024 ——— **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
February 12, 2024 ——— **Post Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center**
February 12, 2024 ——— **Auxiliary Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center**
February 17, 2024 ——— **District 2 Meeting 1000 hrs., South Shores Church, Dana Point**
February 19, 2024 ——— **Presidents' Day**

January 26, 1994, ——— ***Romania becomes first former Cold War foe to join NATO***
January 30, 1835 ——— ***Pres. Andrew Jackson survives first assassination attempt on a US President when would-be assassin fired two shots but both pistols misfired.***
February 3, 1870 ——— ***15th amendment to Constitution, guaranteeing all citizens right to vote regardless of race, is ratified***
February 20, 1943 ——— ***US Troops lose first major battle of WWII as German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel breaks through American lines at Kasserine Pass in North Africa***