

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

JUNE 2024

vwfpost6024.org

VOL. XXXVI, NO. 6

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> Robert Carey	280-5845
<u>Scout Chairman:</u> Vacant	
<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, July 8, 2024, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center

AUXILIARY: Monday, July 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 (7/25), Dick Vaughn (5/28), Veronica Ashdown (5/24), 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 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 (8/24), 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

Comrades,

Wrapping up the VFW's fiscal year has been very busy for the Post members. Although 6024 lost seven members this year, we still have boosted our membership numbers to 105.26%. We have welcomed eleven new members to our post. Our efforts also have brought in new members to the Auxiliary. Thanks to Sr. Vice Commander, Rene Macare, and the many members who brought others into the fold.

Jr. Vice Al Hicks again wrapped up a great year with the Buddy Poppy Campaigns. This allows us to continue helping those veterans in need. Post members have all worked hard, allowing us to meet our goals. From the Honor Guard's activities, members attending numerous events, setting up recruiting

stations, working on the All-State/American paperwork, Scouting activities, Youth essay contests, meeting room prep, Post Script, Website attention, notifications, VA Hospital activities, Service officer activities, to being present at Post meetings, we all are a vital part of the team. You may have a billion-dollar rocket, but the missile will fail if that \$1.00 nut fails. The Post needs all of its nuts and bolts working !

On that note, I need to address a matter I have noticed. The post is thriving in our efforts to help veterans, but if we fail to bring in donations, that hinders our efforts. During this past Buddy Poppy Campaign, the number of stations was increased in anticipation of many new and old members showing up to help. In the past three years, due to death or illness, the post has lost several Buddy Poppy high producers. When a member falls in battle, there is a rally to pick up the slack and continue to meet the objective. Even with the increase in poppy stations, staffing for the needed positions was an issue. Our post was successful in having our presence and message out in the public but we fell short of the goal set for donations. Our next budget meeting will no doubt see some belt-tightening.

As we start the new fiscal year, one of my goals is to increase member participation. Another is to ask elected officers and committee members to find someone to help and become mentors to them. This should be possible, with eleven new faces over the past year and forty-two since 2020. Contact your commander or adjutant for a list of new members. Veterans Day is coming in November. Mark it on your calendars and find a team leader to help with the Buddy Poppy Campaign.

Commander, John Carson

PoSt \$cript Boo\$ter\$: Thank you to John Summa for his 2-year Booster renewal and to Casey Kleindienst for his 4-year Booster contribution.

New Members: We voted in four new members at our June meeting and are happy to welcome:
Tom Schobar, USN, Global War on Terror; Lonnie Howerton, USMC, Vietnam, Desert Storm; Howard Fennel, USA, Vietnam; Robert Shake, USMC, Global War on Terror, Active Duty

Installation of Officers June 10: District 2 Commander, Dan Jennings, was on hand at our June Post meeting to perform the installation of both Post and Auxiliary officers for the coming term. These officers will assume their positions following the Department Convention ending on June 23, 2024.

D-Day: The 80th Anniversary of D-Day has been observed around the world with much pomp, fanfare, speech giving and remembrances. What is the take away as we reflect on this Day and this mission ?

Do you think those who lie in graves above the beaches could imagine that, in less than one generation since their sacrifice, tyrants still persecute people in numerous places in the world, that the ugly face of anti-Semitism has risen again-in the United States of America, and a cancel culture tries to disprove and rewrite history in our schools? Do you think, should an equally compelling situation arise, our current leaders would be able to put personal and political ambition aside and make the tough unpopular decisions that are the right choice for our country and the world ?



Soon all of those who experienced that day first hand will be gone. It will be up to the rest of us to carry on and tell the stories. The importance of this day that changed the course of world history cannot be diminished. We must be sure that our voices and those of our children and grandchildren continue to salute the bravery of both the leaders and fighting men on that day.

Many in our younger generations view D-Day as something that happened in the distant, unrelated past. And, unfortunately more people know of the battles of *Game of Thrones* than the events of June 6, 1944. As we pause to mark the occasion, it's worth stopping to ask how well we are keeping the memory of those events alive in order to preserve the ideals of freedom.

To paraphrase Colonel Matthew Lundgren, Commanding Officer, Headquarters Battalion, First Marine Division, in his City of Mission Viejo Memorial Day address: The lives of our fallen were **given** not taken. Their struggles, pain and sacrifice was their gift to our country. Our responsibility to them is to keep connected to the source of human freedoms—the truth and education, and **repay their gift with a better version of the future.**

Youth Essay Wrap Up: Our 2022-23 VFW Essay contest was finally completed with our last and largest school awards presentation on May 28. The gym at Tesoro High School was packed with parents of 8th grade students from Ladera Ranch Middle School. Ours was one of many awards given to outstanding students that

evening and a very good opportunity to get exposure for our Post within the Community. We presented 14 students with certificates and monetary awards for First Place through Honorable Mention in the Patriot's Pen Essay contest.

Our Post had a very successful program this year with 195 **Patriot's Pen** entries from 7 Middle Schools and 24 **Voice of Democracy** entries from 12 different High Schools. In total, we gave out 75 award certificates and checks to deserving students.

The highlight was being able to bring many of our winners to Post meetings to read their essays and have a meet and greet with members. **A rewarding experience for students and members alike.**

Thank you to the very hard working members of the Essay Committee: Dick Vaughn, Casey Kleindienst, Kristen Clements, and Gale Goodall.

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:

"Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety". _____ Benjamin Franklin

"In the face of impossible odds, people who love this country can change it".
_____ Barack Obama

"Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred".
_____ Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom, must, like men, undergo the fatigues of supporting it".
_____ Thomas Paine



**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

June 19-23, 2024 — Department of CA Convention, Anaheim, CA
July 4, 2024 — Independence Day
July 8, 2024 — Post Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center
July 8, 2024 — Auxiliary Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center
July 21, 2024 — Post and Auxiliary BBQ
July 27-31, 2024 — VFW National Convention, Louisville, KY

June 14, 1775 — Continental Army established as US first Military Service
June 19, 1865 — General Order No. 3, Emancipation Proclamation read to people of Texas
resulting in freeing 250,000 enslaved African Americans in Texas
June 30, 1997 — Britain transfers power over the Crown Colony of Hong Kong to China
July 3, 1976 — Raid at Entebbe airport Uganda as Israeli commando unit rescued 103 hostages
on Air France jet hijacked by pro-Palestinian guerrillas