

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

vfwpost6024.org

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FEBRUARY 2025

EDITOR: GALE GOODALL

In memory of Tom Goodall

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NOTE: All area codes not noted are (949)

NEXT MEETING

POST: Monday, March 10, 2025, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center

AUXILIARY: Monday, March 10, 2025, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center

POST SCRIPT BOOSTERS

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(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

February is the month chosen as Black History Month in the United States of America. I have written articles about brave black U.S. Military units that have fought gallantly in every single American conflict.

Over 5,000 black warriors fought in the Revolutionary War. One unit from the 1st Rhode Island Regiment fought so bravely, ferociously, and fiercely, several Hessian officers in the 1778 Battle of Newport, resigned instead of leading their men into battle against the 1st Rhode Island Regiment. General George Washington noticed their fight and granted all slaves their unconditional freedom.

Many of the smaller wars in the 19th century have records of black service members; wars such as the War of 1812 and the Seminole Wars. It is an undisputed fact, that there were Black combatants in these national conflicts. At the Battle of New Orleans, Andrew Jackson promised 900 Black men who joined him equivalent pay, and enslaved men were granted freedom.

During the U.S. Civil War, one of the first Black units, the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment, in battle would become one of the most famous. By the end of the war, 186,000 black men had served in the Union Army and another 30,000 black men served in the Navy. It led to four permanent all-Black regiments in the Army following the war. In 1866, Congress authorized the creation of permanent all-Black regiments. Eventually those units would be designated the 9th and 10th Cavalry and the 24th and 25th Infantry and would collectively become remembered as the “Buffalo Soldiers.”

In WWI recognized Black units were again able to prove themselves with distinction in the 92nd and 93rd combat divisions. General John J. Pershing was required to provide replacement troops to the French Army. Pershing assigned the 93rd Division to the French. One Black Regiment of the 93rd Division would stand out, the 369th Infantry Regiment “Harlem Hell fighters” at the famous battle sight of Belle Woods. The 369th spent more time on the front than any other American unit and included the first Americans to be awarded the French Croix de Guerre. The 369th was the only unit that never gave up gained territory to the enemy. When later joined with the U.S. Marines, they worked and fought ferociously alongside as equals. Over 404,000 Black officers and men would serve during World War I. I must stop here. The history of black men fighting for our country could fill a library with their heroics.

As we celebrate Black History Month, take a second and remember these brave men that had nothing to lose, and everything to gain in fighting for the freedom our great nation offers. To you brave men and women, I give my heartfelt thanks to you, and what you have done for our country.

Commander, John Carson

New Members: Welcome Jessie Salmon III, USMC Iraq; Robert Strauss, USN Seabee, Vietnam; and John Nicsinger, US Army, Vietnam who were all voted in at our February Meeting.

Youth Activities: It's been another busy and exciting month for our Youth Activities Committee. First, we were informed that one of our **Voice of Democracy** entries won **First Place** at District 2. The first place VOD winners from all of the Districts were invited to the Department VOD Banquet on January 24 in Sacramento where the State awards are presented.



We are so proud of Hailey Palmer for receiving the **5th place** award for State of California.

Pictured are: Marcia Kuehl, District 2 Commander; Hailey Palmer; Al Lipphardt, VFW National Commander-in-Chief (US Army, Vietnam); and Renee Fulk, District 2 Auxiliary President.

Hailey has been submitting winning essays to our Post since she was in 7th grade. She is currently a Junior at San Juan Hills High School and we are hopeful to have her in the VOD program for one more year.

If you come to our meeting on **March 10**, you will be able to meet Hailey and hear her read her essay on the theme, “Is America Today Our Forefathers’ Vision?”

Next, on February 8, we received the results of District 2 **Patriot's Pen** essay judging. It was so exciting to learn that our Post's middle school entries had taken the **First, Second, and Third place awards**. Commander Carson accepted the District awards on their behalf at the District 2 Meeting on February 15.

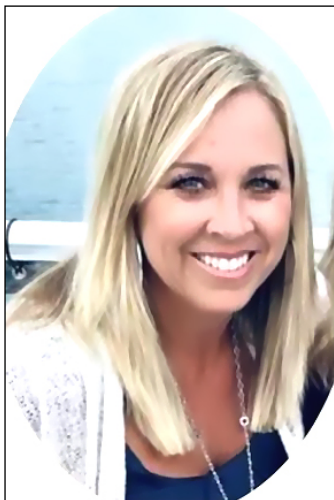
Pictured are: Deborah Johnson, Commander, Department of California; John Carson, Commander Post 6024; Marcia Kuehl, District 2 Commander.



This year's Patriot's Pen theme was; "My Voice in America's Democracy?", which was a difficult topic for middle school students.

Plan to come to our **March 10 Post meeting**, to hear how each of the three winners answered this question.

Teacher of the Year:



At our February Post Meeting, we presented our annual Teacher of the Year award.

This award recognizes teachers who support Citizenship Education in their schools. The teacher should encourage and model good citizenship and community involvement, be passionate about the profession of teaching and strive to instill a sense of national pride in students. Each year our Post selects a K – 12 teacher who best meets these National criteria.

This year we selected Michelle Kleindienst, a 5th grade teacher at Bathgate Elementary School in Mission Viejo. The award was presented posthumously since Michelle, sadly, suddenly passed away during the nomination process. We welcomed to our meeting more than 25 Bathgate staff in addition to her family and friends to speak and honor Michelle and support her husband, Brian Kleindienst, as he accepted the well-deserved award.

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:

"Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letter, U.S., let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pocket, there is no power on earth that can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship." — Frederick Douglass

"You will, of course, appreciate my position in this matter, which, in brief, is that negroes are American citizens. My Government, for reasons which concern itself alone, has decided to organize colored combat divisions and now desires the early dispatch of one of these divisions to France. Naturally I cannot and will not discriminate against these soldiers."

— General J. Pershing
(in response to British rejection of help from African American troops.)



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UPCOMING AND HISTORICAL EVENTS

March 10, 2025 —Post Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center

March 10, 2025 —Auxiliary Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center

March 21, 2025 —Post and Auxiliary St. Patrick's Pot Luck 1700-2000 hrs. Murray Center

March 22, 2025 —65th Annual Swallows Day Parade, 1100 hrs., San Juan Capistrano

April 12, 2025 —Lake Day for City adopted Marines and Sailors 1000-1500 hrs., Lake MV

February 15, 1989 — Soviet Russia withdraws from Afghanistan after 9 yrs. of unsuccessful involvement with rebels and loss of 15,000 Russian soldiers.

February 24, 1867 —House votes to impeach Andrew Johnson but fails in Senate by one vote

March 5, 1946 — Churchill delivers "Iron Curtain" speech to describe the boundary between the free West and Eastern Europe under Soviet control.