

# 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

vwfpost6024.org

VOL. XXXVI, NO. 11

NOVEMBER 2024

EDITOR: GALE GOODALL

*In memory of Tom Goodall*

tommyg0910@aol.com

## 2024-2025 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 and Chief of Staff:</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 Carey	280-5845
<u>Trustee 2 Year:</u> Robert Casillas	468-8135
<u>Trustee 1 Year:</u> Harry Steelman	422-8325
<u>Scout Chairman:</u> Thomas Schober	510-0774
<u>Honor Guard Leader:</u> Bob Franzwa	(858) 229-4306

### AUXILIARY

<u>President:</u> Jackie Heddlesten	484-3801
<u>Sr. Vice President:</u> Renee Fulk	(714) 469-9938
<u>Jr. Vice President:</u> Gale Goodall	510-8538
<u>Secretary:</u> Mary Lombard	683-0106
<u>Treasurer:</u> Mary Lombard	683-0106
<u>Chaplain:</u> Kerry Velasquez	678-9134
<u>Trustee #1:</u> Cynthia Neitzke	436-2221
<u>Trustee #2:</u> Renee Fulk	(714) 469-9938
<u>Trustee #3:</u> Kathy Holman	661-3130

NOTE: All area codes not noted are (949)

### NEXT MEETING

POST: Monday, December 9, 2024, 1800 hrs. - Norman Murray Center

AUXILIARY: Monday, December 9, 2024, 1800 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), Stuart Evans (1/25), Joe Goff (9/26), Al Ramirez (11/26), Fred Egeler (11/25), Clark Courtney (6/30), Robert Carey (7/25), Frank McLeary (11/28), Herbert Nakasone (2/28), Robert Casillas (12/28), 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 (8/26), Bill Cook (5/25), Casey Kleindienst (6/28), Steve Valderrama in memory of Enmanuel G. Valderrama (12/37), Harry Steelman (11/26)

*(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

Post 6024 Veterans and Auxiliary members,

Last Tuesday I again stood behind the podium and held a monthly post meeting. Just like riding a bike, you remember quickly how it works and off you go. November basically winds down the first half of the year, but at the same time, sets in motion what the Post may or should do the last half of the year.

I had invited Gayle Wood from the Mission Viejo Marine Adoption Committee to give a brief talk. This group supports the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Corps Division in Camp Pendleton and is one of the organizations we sponsor and help throughout the year. She spoke about the Committee, and told us about ways we can

help during the holidays through their toy drive, unwrapped new toys for military children, or their adopt a Marine or Marine Corps family in need. (117 this year). Toys can be brought to our December Post meeting. Contact Gayle Wood, Mission Viejo Marine Corps Adoption Committee 949-412-8620 about helping these 117 Marine Corps families.

AJ Summa reported he bought an above ground flower planter box to replace one that was broken at the Long Beach VA Hospital, Spinal Ward. It was needed and several veterans were elated to receive it so they could grow flowers and vegetables again.

Al Hicks reported on yet another successful Buddy Poppy Campaign. Donations collected allow the Post to continue to assist veterans in need. This is why the VFW exists, to help Veterans in need.

The Post and Auxiliary are putting on a “Vets-Giving” potluck dinner at the Murray Center on November 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 5 p.m. Bring a dish to share and an appetite as all the food is beyond belief. Be prepared to meet and talk to Post and Auxiliary members and have fun.

December’s Post meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup> will begin at **6 p.m.** sharp in the Sycamore B room. This is an Open Meeting but reservations are required. As soon as the short meeting is over, a catered meal from the Laguna Café in Laguna Woods will be served.

A lot of work needs to be done after January, but for now, have a great Thanksgiving. I hope most of you can spend a very pleasant time with family and friends.

*Commander, John Carson*

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**Po\$t \$cript Boo\$ter\$:** Thank you to Al Ramirez and Frank McCleary for renewing their Boosters, and to Harry Steelman for becoming a new Booster.

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**New Members:** Welcome to transfer member Bill Stewart, US Navy, voted in at our November meeting.

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**TAPS:** He always greeted me with a compliment, a smile, and a warm handshake. Although he was only part of our Post for a little over 2 years, he quickly became a beloved member. You always wished you had more time to listen to his wonderful stories about his Service years, extensive travels, and exploits.



US Navy Chief, **Richard McKenzie Sr.** passed away 14 October at the age of 90 and was laid to rest with full military honors 04 November at Miramar National Cemetery.

He served our country from 1952-1977 with tours in Korea and Vietnam including 3 years in the Seabees—US Navy Construction Battalions in Vietnam.

Richard became active in our Post from the beginning. He loved helping out at the Buddy Poppy tables on Memorial Day and Veterans Day and



telling his stories to the many community members who were anxious to hear them. He was also a regular face at our Friday Breakfasts and attended every Post meeting.

RIP Richard, it was our privilege to have known you.

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**Patriot’s Pen and Voice of Democracy Essays:** Our Post Youth Essay Committee consisting of Dick Vaughn, Gale Goodall, Kristin Clements, and Robert Carey has spent numerous hours over the past three weeks reading and judging student essay entries. This year we received 144 Patriot’s Pen Essays from sixth, seventh and eighth grade students written on the theme “My Voice in America’s Democracy?” High School students in grades nine through twelve wrote on the theme “Is America Today Our Forefathers’ Vision?” We had 30 VOD essays from 11 different schools who were judged on their audio presentation as well as their written essay.

Starting with our January meeting, we will be inviting our winners to come and read their essays and meet our members. You won't want to miss hearing these student presentations; we promise you will leave inspired and encouraged by what you hear from these young people.

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**Christmas Open Meeting and Dinner:** December 9 will be our joint Post and Auxiliary Annual Christmas Meeting and Dinner. We will begin an hour earlier at 18:00 hrs. in the Sycamore B Room at the Norman Murray Center. There will be a short meeting prior to the meal which will be catered by the Laguna Café. Donations to VA Hospital Long Beach will be gladly accepted in the form of \$25 gift cards to Target, Arco, or Ralphs. Also an unwrapped toy for the Marine Adoption Committee would be greatly appreciated.

RSVP's are required for member +1 by November 30. Please email your RSVP with the number attending to: **tommyg0910@aol.com**

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**Did You Know:** Homing Pigeons were used extensively in WWI as the most reliable source of communication since telephone and the radio were still new technologies and not always accessible in the field. Pigeons can hear sounds at lower frequencies, enabling them to create a sound map in their head which allows them to navigate around unknown spaces to get "home." The Army recognized this skill at the beginning of World War I in 1914 when the pigeon corps was first established. Short notes were placed in a tiny canister attached to the pigeon's leg which they would carry to their destination.



**Cher Ami** was one of the 600 Army Signal Corps pigeons sent to France to assist with communication on the battlefield and is attributed with saving the lives of American Troops trapped behind German lines. Cher Ami was stationed with the 77th Division, referred to as the "Lost Battalion," in the Argonne Forest. They found themselves cut off from the rest of the American troops, under heavy bombardment. The battalion was trapped behind German lines and unable to make their position known. Soon, American bombs began falling on them on October 4, 1918 making the situation dire. Since they were out of the reach of the radio signal, using a homing pigeon was their only choice. American Maj. Charles Whittlesey attached a note to Cher Ami's leg writing, "We are along the road parallel to 276.4. Our own artillery is dropping a barrage directly on us. For heaven's sake, stop it." Cher Ami dodged German bullets and although wounded he flew at record speeds, covering 25 miles in a little less than a half an hour. Due to Cher Ami's trip, the bombardment on the Lost Battalion stopped and 194 men safely returned to American lines.



Cher Ami was awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French government to honor bravery on the battlefield. Under the care of his trainer, Capt. John Carney, Cher Ami returned to the US where he spent the rest of his life. Cher Ami died due to his war wounds on June 13, 1919, in Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. His body was preserved and presented to the Smithsonian Institution with honor in 1921.

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**MONTHLY POWER QUOTE:** *Edna St. Vincent Millay poem apropos to Veterans Day*

**Not for the flag of any land  
because myself was born there  
Will I give up my life.  
But I will love that land  
where man is Free,  
And that will I defend.**



**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.  
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## THE POST SCRIPT



### UPCOMING AND HISTORICAL EVENTS

**December 9, 2024** —Post and Auxiliary Christmas Open Meeting 1800 hrs. Norman Murray Ctr.  
**December 14, 2024** —- Army vs Navy Watch Party, 1200-1600 hrs. Mission Viejo Elks lodge  
**January 13, 2025** ——-Post Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center  
**January 13, 2025** ——-Auxiliary Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center

*November 20, 1945* ——24 Nazi leaders go on trial before an international war crimes tribunal in Nuremberg

*November 30, 1995*—— Official end of Operation Desert Storm

*December 10, 1941*— President Roosevelt signs into law a revised draft bill which puts those who have been fathers since before Pearl Harbor at the bottom of the list