

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. XXXVII, NO. 7

JULY 2025

EDITOR: GALE GOODALL

In memory of Tom Goodall

tommyg0910@aol.com

2025-2026 POST AND AUXILIARY OFFICERS

POST

<u>Commander:</u> Harry Steelman	422-8325
<u>Sr. Vice Commander:</u> Rene Macare	306-3185
<u>Jr. Vice Commander:</u> Ned Costa	(562) 682-3100
<u>Quartermaster:</u> Harshu Sharma	(818) 879-3120
<u>Adjutant:</u> Jackie Yencer	228-2744
<u>Officer of the Day:</u> Gary Heald	466-4225
<u>Chaplain:</u> Robert Casillas	468-8135
<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> Russ Johnson	244-9895
<u>Trustee 2 Year:</u> Robert Carey	280-5845
<u>Trustee 1 Year:</u> Norm Lipin	830-8373
<u>Honor Guard Leader:</u> Robert Carey	280-5845

AUXILIARY

<u>President:</u> Jackie Heddlesten	484-3801
<u>Sr. Vice President:</u> Renee Fulk	(714) 469-9938
<u>Jr. Vice President:</u> Lisa Moncur	(951) 445-2679
<u>Secretary:</u> Kerry Velasquez	678-9134
<u>Treasurer:</u> Mary Lombard	683-0106
<u>Chaplain:</u> Martha Steelman	309-1863
<u>Conductor:</u> Maryrose Kakuschke	322-6003
<u>Guard:</u> Alma Macare	(714) 510-6382
<u>Trustee #1:</u> Rene Fulk	(714) 469-9938
<u>Trustee #2:</u> Katherine Holman	370-0926
<u>Trustee #3:</u> Alma Macare	(714) 510-6382

NOTE: All area codes not noted are (949)

NEXT MEETING

POST: Monday, August 11, 2025, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center

AUXILIARY: Monday, August 11, 2025, 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), Stuart Evans (4/28), Joe Goff (9/26), Al Ramirez (11/26), Fred Egeler (11/25), Clark Courtney (6/30), Robert Carey (7/26), 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), Michael Burnett (5/27), John Summa (6/26), Roger Clinch (6/27), Dave Berutich (2/26), Rene Macare (2/28), Jackie Heddlesten (11/25), Terry Pfeil (7/26), Ned Costa (8/26), Casey Kleindienst (6/28), Steve Valderrama in memory of Enmanuel G. Valderrama (12/37), Harry Steelman (11/26), Carson Day (12/2032)

(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

First let me thank you all for your support and trust. As I have said before, I am really looking forward to a successful year for our Post. I am committed to continuing the work that John has started and perhaps adding to it. And, as John has said, "It all starts with the right attitude".

Attitude — I have been a part of the motorcycle event named "Run For The Wall" almost every year for the past 18; Riding to DC to honor our fallen for Memorial Day. In the motorcycle community we all have a nickname or 'Road Name' as it were. Ironically my "Road Name" is - yes, 'Attitude'. This moniker was bestowed on me by a VN veteran, veteran RFTW leader and very good friend on my FNG Run and it has stuck. (There are riders who go "All The Way" every year who still do not know my real name.) He - aka

“Tanker” - told me then that I had one of the best attitudes of all the FNGs that year. I have made a resolution to live up to that name throughout my senior years. That attitude has served me well in all aspects of my life, be they personal or professional.

If we - all of us - maintain a good, positive attitude and work together even the most difficult of accomplishments can be realized. We do face some budgetary challenges this year, but together we can prevail. If you live in the area, HOPE TO SEE YOU AT BREAKFAST ON FRIDAY. And meanwhile BE SAFE!

Commander, Harry Steelman

Po\$ Script Boo\$ter\$: Thank you to Robert Carey for renewing his Booster for another year.

Meet Our New Commander: *In his own words* ———



I was born in Wilmington, DE, many years ago. We lived in a row home community, now termed townhouses but without the frills, that was built after WWII, but soon moved to a more rural area near New Castle, DE. My parents had a kennel; raising boxers.

I attended William Penn High School, graduating in 1965 and going on to college at the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss), which at the time, was a rather controversial institution because of an intense level of racial unrest. After two years, I was asked to leave due to a low GPA and some misconduct, so I joined the Army. Since I had been to college, I was invited to attend OCS, ending up as an Infantry 2Lt. with MACV in Vietnam.

Things did get better from there. I finished college at the University of DE with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering and went to work for the Union Pacific RR. The railroad kept me moving as I worked my way up to Division Engineer in Little Rock, AR. But, RR mergers were big at the time and I left UP to consult, traveling the country constructing light-rail systems, among them the Metro Green Line in LA, then ending up in San Jose, CA; there I accepted a position as Division Engineer for Amtrak's Southwest and Pacific Northwest Divisions. After 8 years it was time to go consulting again. This time focusing on Heavy Rail Projects including Metro link's line to Redlands.

By now it was time to retire. Along the way I managed to live in 13 states, purchase and sold 5 or 6 homes, got married 4 times and divorced 3. HOWEVER, my wife, Martha, and I have now been together 33 years and very happily married for the past 25. We now reside in San Juan Capistrano. I have a daughter, Katy, living in Huntington Beach and 4 step children (I hate that term) scattered around So. CA and AZ.

I have traveled across our great nation 18 times, both on a Harley and in a truck with Run For The Wall. I have a life membership in the VFW and VVA and an annual membership in the American Legion. My life now centers on my wife who joins me on all doctor visits and most VFW/RFTW/Am Legion events. I've "been around the block" a time or two and have had a great time doing it.

Now, I look forward to a great year as your Post Commander. I will do my best to stay appraised of VFW requirements as well as community needs, and keep the Post pointed in a positive direction. I thank you for your trust and support.



Did You Know: US Army **Gen. George S. Patton Jr.** is the only Four-Star General buried at an American Battle Monuments Commission cemetery abroad?

At the start of the Western Allied invasion of France, Patton was given command of the Third Army, which conducted a highly successful rapid armored drive across France and liberated Luxembourg. Under his leadership, the Third Army took the lead in relieving beleaguered American troops at Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge, after which his forces drove deep into Nazi Germany by the end of the war.

General Patton's final journey began in Mannheim, Germany on Dec. 9, 1945, when the sedan in which he was riding collided with an Army truck. It was a low-speed collision but Patton hit his head on a glass partition in the back seat, opening up a large gash. Patton was rushed to the Army hospital in Heidelberg, where X-rays revealed that he had suffered a broken neck and spinal cord injuries that had paralyzed him from the neck down.

His wife, Beatrice was flown in from the States. For nearly two weeks, Patton's body fought against his injuries but he succumbed on Dec. 21. He lay in state in Heidelberg then his body was placed on a special funeral train for the trip to Luxembourg. In spite of the pouring rain, thousands lined the tracks. He was buried on December 24th following a funeral service at the Luxembourg Cathedral. Representatives of 9 countries and the highest ranking officers of the American troops stationed in Europe followed the coffin and a French battery fired a seventeen-round gun salute.

I recently had the opportunity to visit the **Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial.** (ed.) In the cemetery lie 5,076 service members, many of whom lost their lives in the Battle of the Bulge and in the subsequent advance to the Rhine River. In accordance with his wishes, Patton was buried with his men. Two pylons display the battle movements in the western European Operations including the Battle of the Bulge plus 371 names of those missing in action. The fallen interred here include 2 Medal of Honor Recipients and 5 soldiers of Easy Company, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, the "Band of Brothers". The chapel and landscaping provides a befittingly tranquil final resting place for these Americans who gave all.



The city of Luxembourg served as headquarters for Patton's Third Army. The cemetery was established Dec. 1944 by the Third Army while holding off the enemy's desperate Ardennes Offensive



MONTHLY POWER QUOTE: Inscribed at Luxembourg American Cemetery

"Here, we and all who shall hereafter live in freedom, will be reminded that to these men and their comrades we owe a debt to be paid with grateful remembrance of their sacrifice and with the high resolve that the cause for which they died shall live eternally."

_____ Dwight Eisenhower



**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

August 9-14, 2025 —126th VFW National Convention, Columbus, Ohio

August 11, 2025 —Post Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center

August 11, 2025 —Auxiliary Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center

September 11, 2025 — Patriot's Day Commemoration 17:30 hrs., RSM Bell Tower Plaza

July 20, 1944 —Col. Claus Schenk von Stauffenberg attempts to assassinate Hitler at his headquarters in Rastenburg

July 25, 1944—US Gen. Omar Bradley launches Operation Cobra and supported by Gen. George Patton drives the German army back resulting in the liberation of Paris on August 25

July 30, 1945 —USS Indianapolis torpedoed by Japanese submarine and sinks within minutes in shark-infested waters. Only 316 of the 1,196 onboard survive