

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. 9

SEPTEMBER 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	292-7119
<u>Benefits Advisor:</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

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<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, October 13 2025, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center

AUXILIARY: Monday, October 13, 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), John Nicsinger 3/27, Jackie Yencer 12/26

(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

Comrades,

Did you know that the Veterans of Foreign Wars is 126 Years old – this month! The VFW originated in the shared experiences and needs of American soldiers who served overseas during the Spanish–American War and the Philippine–American War. In 1899, returning veterans formed local groups to support one another and advocate for their rights. These included the American Veterans of Foreign Service in Columbus, Ohio, and the Colorado Society, Army of the Philippines in Denver.

On September 29, 1899, fourteen veterans of the 17th Infantry Regiment met in Columbus to formally establish the American Veterans of Foreign Service—the precursor to the VFW. Over time, these groups merged, and in 1914, they unified under the name Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. The organization was federally chartered in 1936.

From its earliest days, the VFW has championed veterans' benefits and legislation. It played a pivotal role in securing the GI Bill of Rights in 1944 and has continued to advocate for healthcare, education, and compensation for veterans, including recent efforts supporting the PACT Act.

Headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri, the VFW now includes over 6,000 local Posts worldwide. Its mission is to foster camaraderie among U.S. veterans of overseas conflicts, serve communities, and ensure veterans are honored and supported.

Today, we remain a powerful voice for veterans, celebrating 126 years of service -- a legacy built on sacrifice, advocacy, and unity.

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS!

Commander, Harry Steelman

Post Script Booster\$: Thank you to Jackie Yencer for her donation as a new Post Script Booster.

New Members: We are very happy to welcome three new members who were voted in at our September meeting. Steve Espinosa a USMC, Desert Storm, Transfer Life Member; Terry Schnitski, US Army National Guard and USN Combat Medic, Kuwait; and David Gjestland US Army, Vietnam.

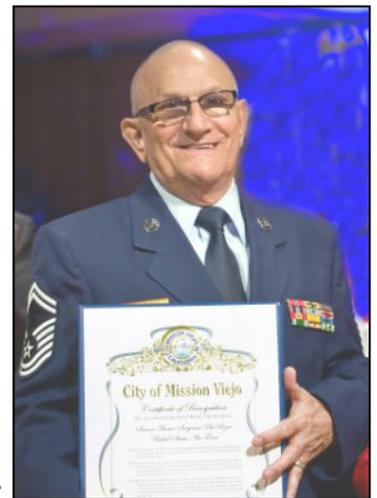
TAPS: We are sad to report that after many years of service to our country and our Post, our Comrade and Friend Pat Rizco passed away on September 15. Pat served in the USAF from 1952 to 1973 achieving the rank of Senior Master Sergeant. He earned 5 Air Force commendations plus a Bronze Star for meritorious service in Vietnam 1971-72, where he was the Maintenance Control Supervisor & Inspector, 483rd Supply Squadron, stationed in Cam Ranh Bay.



Pat held the position of Jr. Vice in 2009 before being elected to serve as Post Commander from July 2010-June 2012. He achieved All-State recognition for our Post in 2010.

As well as being the Post Service Officer during 2012-2015, Pat regularly volunteered with the Post at the VA Hospital and with Buddy Poppies.

Just a few weeks ago, on August 29, Pat was presented with our Post Lifetime Achievement Award.



Pat was honored as Veteran of the Year by the City of Mission Viejo, Nov. 2013.



..... *Rest easy Comrade*

WWII Air Evacuation Transport Nurses:

Approximately 500 Army nurses served in thirty-one medical air evacuation transport squadrons worldwide. It is a testament to their skill that, out of 1,176,048 patients air evacuated during the war, only 46 died en route. Seventeen flight nurses lost their lives during the conflict. The World War II Flight Nurses are honored by a marker at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

This is the story of one of those nurses: (Thank you to Past Commander Carson for submitting this article.)

U.S. Army Nurse 1st Lt. Mary Louise Hawkins, awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, WWII

On September 24, 1944, 1st Lt. Mary Louise Hawkins from Denver, Colorado, was evacuating 24 patients from Palau to Guadalcanal when the C-47 fuel ran low. The pilot made a forced landing in a small clearing on Bellona Island. During the landing, a propeller tore through the fuselage and severed one patient's trachea.

Hawkins fashioned a suction tube from various items, including the inflation tube from a "Mae West." Using this device, she kept the man's throat clear until help arrived 19 hours later. All of her patients survived. For her actions, Hawkins was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. After the war, Mary Louise moved to California and got married. She continued her nursing career for many years, teaching in the U.S., serving in Africa, the Middle East, and the United States. She finally retired in 1988. First Lieutenant Hawkins died on July 9, 2007, at the age of 86.



Distinguished Flying Cross Citation

"The President of the United States of America, authorized by the Act of Congress on July 2, 1926, is pleased to present the Distinguished Flying Cross to First Lieutenant (Nurse Corps), [then Second Lieutenant] Mary Louise Hawkins, United States Army, for extraordinary achievement during aerial flight while serving with the Air Transportation Command as Flight Nurse in charge of patients from a crashed evacuation airplane on Bellona Island, Solomon's Group, on September 26, 1944. First Lieutenant Hawkins showed exceptional courage by providing prompt and effective first aid to an injured passenger immediately after the accident. Examination of the patient rescued from the wreckage revealed that a wounded Marine Corps enlisted man had throat injuries from the crash and was in danger of suffocation. Despite being shaken by the crash, First Lieutenant Hawkins performed an emergency procedure that allowed the patient to breathe and saved his life. Her quick action in performing technically challenging tasks under the stress of the crash landing exemplifies steadfast courage, reflecting great credit on herself and the Army Nurse Corps."

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:

"It does not require a majority to prevail, but rather an irate, tireless minority keen to set brush fires in people's minds." _____ Samuel Adams

"Yet we can maintain a free society only if we recognize that in a free society no one can win all the time. No one can have his own way all the time, and no one is right all the time." _____ Richard Nixon



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UPCOMING AND HISTORICAL EVENTS

- September 29, 2025 — Happy Birthday VFW—126 years
- October 13, 2025 — Post Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center
- October 13, 2025 — Auxiliary Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center
- November 7-10, 2025 — Buddy Poppy Campaign
- November 11, 2025 — Veterans Day

Sept. 24, 1957— President Eisenhower orders the National Guard to enforce racial integration in Little Rock, AR schools

Oct. 2, 1975— Japanese Emperor Hirohito makes first historic visit to the White House

Oct. 5, 1913— Shawnee Indian Chief Tecumseh killed during the War of 1812 while serving on the side of the British as brigadier general

Oct. 6, 1973— Yom Kippur War started as Egypt and Syria launched attacks on Israeli positions on East Bank of the Suez and Golan Heights.