

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

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May 2026

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In memory of Tom Goodall

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<u>Officer of the Day:</u> Gary Heald	466-4225
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NOTE: All area codes not noted are (949)

NEXT MEETING

POST: Monday, June 8, 2026, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center

AUXILIARY: Monday, June 8, 2026, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center

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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

Comrades,

As we gather this May, we enter a month that carries deep meaning for every veteran. May is a time of remembrance, reflection, and renewed commitment to one another. It's a month that asks us not only to look back at the sacrifices made in service to our nation, but also to look around—to the brothers and sisters standing beside us today.

The Spirit of May. May has always been a month of transition. Winter is long behind us, summer is on the horizon, and the world around us begins to feel alive again. For veterans, that sense of renewal carries a special weight. Many of us know what it means to rebuild—physically, emotionally, or spiritually—after returning home. May reminds us that growth is still possible, no matter our age or our battles.

Military Milestones in May. This month is filled with moments that shaped our nation's military story:

- May 8, 1945 – VE Day, marking the end of the war in Europe and the beginning of a long road home for millions of Americans.
- May 28, 1983 – The Beirut Embassy Bombing aftermath, reminding us of the dangers faced by those serving in diplomatic and peacekeeping roles.
- May 1991 – Operation Provide Comfort, when American service members delivered aid and protection to Kurdish refugees after the Gulf War.

These events span generations, but they share a common thread: Americans stepping forward when the world needed them most.

Armed Forces Day. Each May, we also celebrate Armed Forces Day, a moment to honor those currently serving. For many of us, it's a reminder of where we once stood—young, determined, and ready to carry the weight of the mission. It's also a reminder that today's service members will one day join our ranks as veterans, looking to us for guidance, mentorship, and community.

Memorial Day. And of course, May brings us Memorial Day, one of the most solemn days on the American calendar. It is not a day of celebration—it is a day of gratitude. A day to speak the names of those who never made it home. A day to honor the empty seats at our tables and the stories that ended too soon. For many veterans, Memorial Day is personal. It brings back faces, moments, and memories that never fade. But it also reminds us why organizations like the VFW exist: to ensure that sacrifice is never forgotten and that no veteran walks alone.

A Call to Action; As we move through this month, I ask each of us, again, to do three things:

1. Reach out to a veteran you haven't spoken to in a while. A simple call can change a life.
 2. Share your story—with your family, your community, or a younger veteran who needs to hear it.
- Honor the fallen not only with ceremony, but with the way we live, support one another, and continue to serve our communities.

In Closing; May is a month that reminds us of who we are: veterans bound by service, strengthened by experience, and committed to one another. As we honor the past and support the present, let us carry forward the values that defined our time in uniform—duty, camaraderie, and resolve.

Thank you, comrades, for your service, your sacrifice, and your continued dedication to each other.

Commander, Harry Steelman

Po\$ \$cript Boo\$ter\$: A big thank you to new member Haskel Simonowitz for becoming a Post Script Booster.



Countdown to Independence: As we approach the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, it is worth revisiting the crucial sixty day stretch that led to July 4, 1776. This brief window—May and June of 1776—was the period when the push for independence shifted from possibility to inevitability.

By May, momentum had accelerated sharply. Colonial assemblies and conventions began issuing new instructions to their delegates with explicit support for independence rather than reconciliation. At the same time, royal authority was collapsing across the colonies, and provisional governments were stepping in to take control.

On **May 10**, the Continental Congress formally encouraged each colony to establish its own government, effectively signaling the end of royal rule and a decisive step toward political separation.

Meanwhile, the Continental Army continued fortifying New York City against a possible attack, while across the Atlantic, Britain prepared a massive armada for the campaign. France also agreed to send secret military aid, which strengthened the colonies' confidence that independence could be sustained.

On **June 7**, Richard Henry Lee (VA) introduced a bold proposal, *The Lee Resolution*, declaring that the colonies “are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States”. This resolution launched the formal process that would lead directly to drafting, debating, and ultimately adopting the Declaration of Independence. Without the Lee Resolution, there would have been no mandate for Jefferson’s committee to write the document that defined a nation.

By early June, the march toward independence was no longer theoretical—it was underway.

To be continued next month.

Obama Presidential Library Opens: The Obama Presidential Center, set to open to the public on **June 19, 2026**, marks a major new cultural and civic landmark on Chicago’s South Side. Barack Obama has consistently described his vision for the Obama Presidential Center (which includes his presidential library) as a **forward looking, community rooted, and hope driven institution**, not a static monument to the past.

Anchored by a striking **180 foot museum tower**, the 19 acre campus will house exhibits on democracy, citizenship, and the movements that shaped the Obama era. A deeply personal element of the new Center is



the **water terrace dedicated to Obama’s late mother, Ann Dunham**. It is designed as a playful fountain where children can run and splash—a tribute to her lifelong commitment to education, kindness, and service. In the surrounding area are original art displays, a fruit and vegetable garden, walking paths, and public gathering spaces intentionally designed to bring people together. It is the former

President’s objective that the Obama Presidential Center will stand as a new civic rallying point.

Laguna Café: Join us for our weekly breakfast meetings on Fridays beginning at 7:00 am.
24310 Moulton Pkwy, Laguna Woods. **All Veterans Welcome.**



MONTHLY POWER QUOTES:

“Today, we pay tribute to those patriots who never came back — who fought for a home to which they never returned, and died for a country whose gratitude they will always have.”

_____ Barack Obama

“Freedom is a light for which many men have died in darkness.”

_____ War memorial at Valley Forge attributed to George Washington

“They gave their lives for each other, for their units, and for their country. We honor them because they chose service and accepted sacrifice.”

_____ Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel



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UPCOMING AND HISTORICAL EVENTS

May 21-24, 2026 — Buddy Poppy Campaign

May 25, 2026 — Memorial Day

**June 8, 2026 — Post Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center
Pre-meeting social time begins at 1830 hrs.**

June 8, 2026 — Auxiliary Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center

June 14, 2026 — Flag Day Ceremony 1930 hrs., RSM Civic Center Plaza

***May 26, 1819 — First steam propelled vessel, the 350 ton Savannah, successfully makes
trans-Atlantic crossing, leaving Georgia and landing in Liverpool 24 days later on June 24***

May 29, 2004 — Long awaited WWII Memorial dedicated on the National Mall in Washington DC

June 3, 1916 — Act of Congress establishes ROTC shaping generations of military leadership