THE POST SCRIPT

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
EDWARD J. KEARNS POST 6024
P.O.BOX 4457
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vfwpost6024.org

October 2026 **VOL. XXXVIII, NO. 10** **EDITOR: GALE GOODALL**
In memory of Tom Goodall
tommyg0910@aol.com

2026-2027 POST AND AUXILIARY OFFICERS

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Adjutant: Jackie Yencer	228-2744
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Chaplain: Robert Casillas	468-8135
Advocate:: Casey Kleindienst	306-6133
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Chaplain: Martha Steelman	309-1863
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Guard: Gale Goodall	510-8538
Trustee #1: Judith Shumaker	212-8794
Trustee #2: vacant	
Trustee #3: Rene Fulk	(714) 469-9938

NEXT MEETING
POST: Monday, November 9, 2026, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center
AUXILIARY: Monday, November 9, 2026, 1900 hrs. - Norman Murray Center

POST SCRIPT BOOSTERS

Carol Rigg in memory of Gene Rigg (6/28), Burton J. Rounds (in perpetuity), Dick Vaughn (5/28), Stuart Evans (4/28), Joe Goff (9/26), Al Ramirez (11/26), Fred Egeler (11/27), Clark Courtney (6/30), Frank McLeary (11/28), Herbert Nakasone (2/28), Robert Casillas (12/28), Julie Hammeras in memory of Samuel Bussell (11/27), Michael Burnett (5/27), John Summa (10/29), Roger Clinch (6/27), Rene Macare (6/30), Jackie Heddlesten (11/29), Ned Costa (8/30), Casey Kleindienst (6/28), Steve Valderrama in memory of Enmanuel G. Valderrama (12/37), Harry Steelman (11/26), Carson Day (12/32), John Nicsinger (3/27), Jackie Yencer (12/26), Ed Rice (10/29), Dave Buck (6/30), Richard Carroll (1/28), Haskel Simonowitz (5/29)

(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.)

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

As I prepared for our October meeting, I took a moment to reflect on what this month represents for veterans, for our nation, and for our Post. October is a month of transition—summer gives way to fall, the year begins its final quarter, and we prepare for the solemn observances and busy activities that lie ahead. October has been a significant month throughout our nation's military story:

- **October 13, 1775 – The U.S. Navy was born.** The Continental Congress authorized the first American naval forces, laying the foundation for a Navy that today protects global freedom of navigation and projects American strength across the world.
- **October 26, 1775 – The Continental Army established its first official flag.** These early symbols of unity remind us that even in the most difficult days of the Revolution, Americans believed in a future worth fighting for.
- **October 23, 1983 – The Beirut Barracks Bombing.** We lost 241 U.S. service members—Marines, Sailors, and Soldiers—in one of the deadliest attacks on Americans overseas since World War II. We honor their sacrifice and reaffirm our commitment to remembering the cost of service.

- **October 25, 1983 – Operation Urgent Fury (Grenada).** American forces acted decisively to protect U.S. citizens and restore stability. Perhaps some of our own served in this operation.

These events remind us that October is not just another month—it is a chapter in the long story of American courage.

October marks the beginning of a season when many veterans, myself included, feel the weight of memories—deployments, holidays spent away from home, and comrades who are no longer with us. As a Post, this is our time to lean in:

- Check on each other.
- Reach out to those who haven't been to a meeting in a while.
- Offer a ride, a phone call, or simply a listening ear.

No one should feel alone heading into November and December. That is what the VFW was built for—comradeship, support, and shared purpose.

Post Priorities for October:

A. Veterans & Military Family Support: This month we continue strengthening our outreach to local veterans, especially those who may be struggling with housing, employment, or isolation. If you know a veteran who needs help, bring their name forward. We are here to serve.

B. Community Engagement: October is a great time to be visible in the community. We will continue participating in local events, supporting youth programs, most notably Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen, and preparing for Veterans Day activities next month.

C. Administrative Readiness: As we approach the end of the calendar year, we will ensure our Post records, membership renewals, and reporting requirements are up to date. Your participation and timely communication make this possible.

D. Honor Our Comrades: Let us take a moment to recognize:

- Those currently deployed
- Those recovering from illness or injury
- The families who support our veterans every day
- And the memory of those who have passed since our last meeting

Their service continues to inspire everything we do.

October reminds us that freedom is never guaranteed—it is earned, protected, and preserved by the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States. As your Commander, I am proud of the work this Post – you - continues to do. Your dedication, your volunteerism, and your commitment to each other make this Post strong.

Let us carry this spirit forward as we prepare for Veterans Day (Buddy Poppy Drive and Remembrance Ceremonies at local venues) and the final months of the year.

Thank you, comrades. Let us continue forward, together—always in service to our veterans, our community, and our great nation; Honor All Who Serve and Continue the Mission!

Commander, Harry Steelman

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New Members: We welcomed two new members to our Post at our October Meeting: Roy Van Olden, USMC, Vietnam; and Jesse Salmon III, USMC, Iraqi Freedom.

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Po$t $cript Boo$ter$: Thank-yous go out to Carol Rigg for her booster renewal in memory of her husband Gene Rigg, to Ned Costa for his booster renewal, and to Richard Carroll for becoming a new booster.

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Veterans Day Activities: Our Post member volunteers will be out in force at local venues from Nov. 6-Nov.10 accepting Buddy Poppy donations and telling community members about the VFW. Our Honor Guard will participate in ceremonies for both the City of Mission Viejo and El Toro Memorial Park. If you are not a participant, make an effort to stop by one of our Buddy Poppy stations and/or attend one of these ceremonies. If you live out of the area, get out to a local event. **This is your day**, you deserve to be recognized and honored.



The figures at the base of the Francis Scott Key Monument are a symbolic trio representing Liberty protecting Youth. A relief of the Maryland state seal appears below the group. Keys arm stretched gesture anchors the statue in the narrative of the anthem: An elated Key directing attention to the flag, the symbol of national survival.

Francis Scott Key Monument

On a recent trip back to Washington, DC, I visited the historic Mount Olivet Cemetery in nearby Frederick, Maryland where Francis Scott Key, his wife, and 1 of his 11 children are interred. There, I learned things I never knew about the man behind our National Anthem. *ed*

Many people are surprised to learn that Key was not a soldier, but a lawyer who initially opposed the War of 1812. Born in Frederick Co., MD in 1779, Key believed the war with Great Britain was unnecessary. Nevertheless, when British forces threatened Washington in August 1814, he volunteered to assist the American militia at the Battle of Bladensburg, a disastrous defeat that opened the way for the British burning of Washington. Key's experience illustrates an important distinction familiar to many veterans: ***one can disagree with a war while remaining devoted to the defense of one's country.***

His involvement led him to being detained on a British vessel in Baltimore harbor as an envoy to obtain the release of a captured Maryland physician. There he endured the 25 hour bombardment. A little known belief is that the huge 30x42-foot flag now displayed at the Smithsonian was probably not flying throughout the night. Fort McHenry had a smaller storm flag, of 17x25 feet, which historians believe was used during stormy weather. As the weather improved and the bombardment ceased the morning of Sept 14, 1814, the huge garrison flag was raised above the fort, signaling that its American defenders had withstood the British assault. It was remarkable how quickly Francis Scott Key's words reached the American public. Within days of the battle, Key completed his four-stanza composition, originally titled *Defence of Fort M'Henry*, and shared it with his brother-in-law, Judge Joseph Nicholson, who had helped defend the fort. Nicholson recognized its significance and had copies printed as handbills. By Sept 17,1814, copies were being distributed throughout Baltimore and to the soldiers who had defended Fort McHenry.

Key died in 1843—88 years before his song was officially recognized as our national anthem. In 1889, the U.S. Navy ordered it played during flag-raising ceremonies, and during World War I, President Wilson directed its use at military ceremonies. But it wasn't until famed military band leader John Philip Sousa championed its official adoption that things moved forward. Sousa composed some of America's most beloved patriotic marches, including *The Stars and Stripes Forever* (1896), yet supported Key's song rather than promoting one of his own compositions for the national anthem. Finally, on March 3, 1931, President Hoover signed the congressional act designating *The Star-Spangled Banner* as the national anthem of the United States. Sousa lived long enough to see his efforts come to fruition; he died March 6,1932.

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



Also, the "Flashback" band entertains on the patio the 3rd Sunday of every month from 11:00am—2:30 pm.
All donations go to the VFW

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MONTHLY POWER QUOTES:

"Those who serve have given us a legacy of liberty and a model of courage."
——————— Bob Dole

"A generation honored its commitment to defend a world they did not create."
——————— George H.W. Bush

"History does not long entrust the care of freedom to the weak or the timid."
——————— Dwight Eisenhower

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
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UPCOMING AND *HISTORICAL EVENTS*

November 9, 2026 --——— Post Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center
Pre-meeting social time begins at 1830 hrs.
November 9, 2026 ———--Auxiliary Meeting 1900 hrs., Norman Murray Center
November 7-10, 2026 ——Post Buddy Poppy Campaign
November 10, 2026 ——– Happy 251st Birthday USMC
November 11, 2026 ——Veterans Day Program, City of MV, Norman Murray Center, 0830 hrs.
November 11, 2026 ——Veterans Day Recognition, El Toro Memorial Park, 1100 hrs.
November 17, 2026———-Vets-giving Potluck, Norman Murray Center 1730-2000 hrs.

October 11, 1951 ——USMC conducts first combat lift using transport helicopters in Korea
November 1, 1952 —— US conducts first test of hydrogen thermonuclear device
November 3, 1783 —— Washington releases Continental Army following Treaty of Paris
November 16, 1942 —Navy's 1st Night Fighter squadron(VMF(N)-531)established at Cherry Point, NC.