

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Post 9934 & Auxiliary 9934
Dana Point, California



Mail Call 📢

May 2025



On April 15th, VFW Post 9934 presented our 2025 First Responder awards during the Dana Point City Council Meeting. Heroes are: Law Enforcement - Deputy Tyler John McLurg, Firefighter - Fire Apparatus Engineer Kyle Mochizuki, and EMT - Firefighter Serge Morosoff. A huge "Thank You" to our courageous local public servants. We also presented a certificate to City of Dana Point employee, Juan Ruano, for his continued energetic efforts and assistance to our Post.



On April 29th, VFW Post 5868 - Laguna Beach (now consolidated with Post 9934) volunteered at the Laguna Food Pantry for their Day of Service. Shown here are: Paul Parkhurst, Frank Daniel, Norm Abbod, Pat Gallis, John Connolly, and Phillip Orellano.

Commander's Message

Greetings Comrades,

I hope that you were able to spend the Easter Holiday in your own way and hopefully with family and friends.

Saturday May 10th is the District 2 Convention. Post 9934 will host the convention at South Shores Church. Prior to the regular District Business meeting at 10:00am, there will be a District Memorial Service at 9:00am. I urge all of those who can, please attend the Memorial Service to show our support and pay our respects. We will be serving a light breakfast at 8:15am. Dress Code for the Memorial Service/District Convention will be VFW shirt and VFW cover.

May is the beginning of our summer and as always, it allows us to spend more time with the community. We have already started planning for the Memorial Day Observance at Pines Park on May 26th. For all of our new Comrades, I hope you will join us on that solemn day to honor our fallen brothers and sisters.

Prior to Memorial Day is Buddy Poppy weekend, May 24th & 25th. We will have signups at the May 13th Post meeting for two different locations. We really need all

hands-on-deck for that weekend. If you can't volunteer for even a couple of hours, just drop by for moral support and let another comrade take a break for a coffee or a meal. Buddy Poppy Weekend brings in very generous donations that give our Post the ability to promote and be active with all of our programs.

Memorial Day is always very meaningful to us as Veterans. To you, my Brothers and Sisters, who came home and left a friend behind; I share your sorrow, and you have my support always. When those thoughts and feelings come back...Call me or another Comrade, we will share that time together.

I hope to see you at the District 2 Convention and at our next meeting on May 13th at South Shores Church at 6 pm.

Please be safe and be kind to each other.

Rick Jauregui, Commander.

Post 9934, Dana Point

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POST OFFICERS FOR 2024-2025

Post Commander	Rick Jauregui	Service Officer	Aaron Pluff
Senior Vice Commander	Richard Alonzo	Service Officers Team	Jim Socks
Junior Vice Commander	Carlos Garcia		John Coon
Post Quartermaster	Phil Jimenez		Ben Valencia
Assistant Quartermaster	Wayne Yost	Service Officer Advisor	Marty Hoffman
Adjutant	David Vera	Service Officer Support	Debbie Yost
Post Chaplain	Ron Egigian		
Judge Advocate	Dolores Padgett	Trustee (3-year term)	Rodney Bradley
Post Surgeon	Gil Castro	Trustee (2-year term)	Robert Pruitt
Post Color Guard Captain	Carlos Garcia	Trustee (1-year term)	Scott Roberts

AUXILIARY OFFICERS FOR 2024-2025

President	Lisa Mers	Conductor	Ralph Mariano
Senior Vice President	Sharon Miller	Chaplain	Carlene Chew
Junior Vice President	Lupe Brady	Trustee 2	Sharon Miller
Secretary	Terry Marr	Trustee 1	Judy Brandmeier
Treasurer	Cindy Somerville	Guard	Tory Boegeman

From the Desk of the Quartermaster



In April, we had the Election for our Officers for the Fiscal Year 2025-26. Thank you to all who have dedicated their time and energy to Post 9934 and who will continue to carry the traditions that make our Post great. Let's welcome and support them in all of our upcoming Post events, making this year even better than last year.

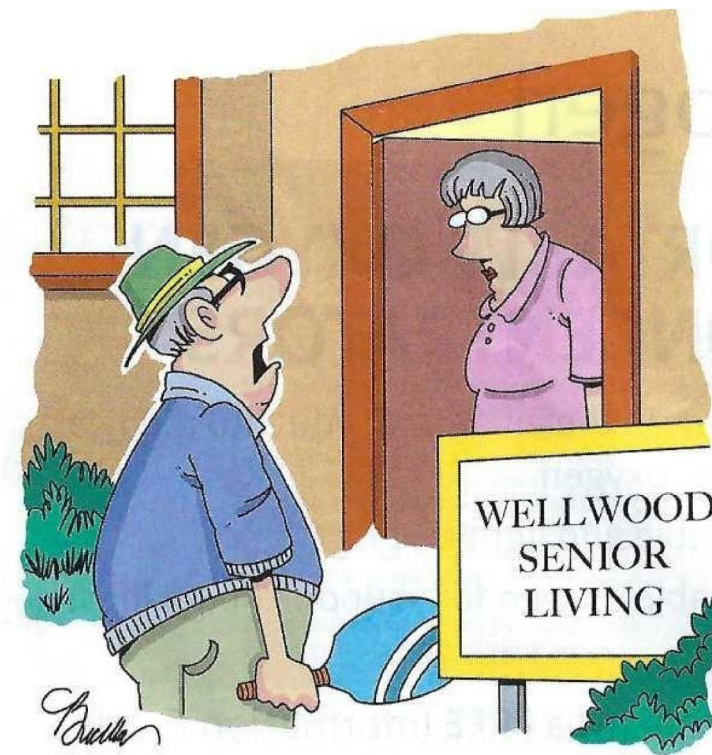
I would like to wish a Happy Mother's Day to all mothers in our Post and Auxiliary. This is your special day, so enjoy with family.

May also brings us our Memorial Day Service on May 26th. Once again, we will be distributing the official flower of the VFW, the Buddy Poppy. In

1924, the VFW secured trademark rights for the name "Buddy Poppy", ensuring no other organization, firm or individual can legally use the name.

On Memorial Day weekend, Saturday May 24th and Sunday, May 25th, we will be distributing Buddy Poppies in two locations: Albertsons in Laguna Niguel and Pavilions in San Clemente. We need participation from our Post members to hand out poppies in remembrance of our fallen. Please contact the office to volunteer for one or both dates; even if for just a few hours. **All funds** donated are deposited into our Relief Fund to assist Veterans and their families. Today, it is needed more than any other time.

Phil Jimenez, Quartermaster
Dana Point VFW Post 9934



"Can Wayne come out and play pickleball?"

Memorial Day Weekend Buddy Poppy Drive

Saturday, May 24th and Sunday, May 25th

Time: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Locations:

Albertsons - Laguna Niguel
Laguna Heights Market Place
30241 Golden Lantern
(Crossroad Marina Hills Drive)

Pavilions - San Clemente
Plaza Pacifica
989 Avenida Pico (Crossroad La Pata)



Please contact the office at (949) 248-1419 or dpvfwpost9934@gmail.com to volunteer. There will be a sign up sheet for each location at the Adjutant's table during our next monthly meeting on May 13th at 6:00 pm

Auxiliary Corner

“Nothing is as strong as the heart of a volunteer.”
(Jimmy Dolittle)

April was off to a great start with our own Mary Koebler volunteering at the Homeless Garden Project at the Natural Bridges Farm in Santa Cruz. She assisted with drying the flowers that are used in some of the products they sell in their local store (Homeless Garden Project Store).

We also had the best garage sale in Orange County! The VFW Auxiliary Garage Sale Fundraiser was an amazing success. 100% of the proceeds to the VFW Auxiliary go to support our Veterans. Look out for the next best garage sale in October.

We want to send a very big Thank You to those that donated and found treasures!

We enjoy supporting and volunteering for the community when we can. If you need volunteers, please contact Lisa Mers at VFWAux9934@gmail.com and find out if we are a good fit for your volunteering needs.

If you are an auxiliary member but live too far or find the drive difficult, please consider joining us on Zoom! You can participate from the comfort of your home. It is a terrific way to participate. We value everyone's thoughts and ideas.

If you want to learn more about us, please reach out at VFWAux9934@gmail.com, and we will set up a time for a meet and greet at one of our fundraisers or monthly meetings.

If you want to become a member, please contact Cindy Somerville at VFW9934cindy@gmail.com.

We are asking you to join the VFW Auxiliary 9934 Dana Point Facebook page. This is a fantastic way to find out what we are up to. Speaking of what we are up to, please come by Ralphs at the Ocean Ranch shopping center in Dana Point on May 24th and/or May 25th. We will be handing out Poppies and Flags in honor of Memorial Day.

Contact us at VFWAux9934@gmail.com for more information and join us!

Terry Marr,
Secretary, Historian
VFW Auxiliary 9934



VFW AUXILIARY
UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

Heritage Park Monument Approved by Dana Point City Council



During the Tuesday, April 15, Dana Point City Council meeting, the council and staff reviewed a proposal application from the Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group (DPMRSG) to install a monument in Heritage Park that aims to honor Marines and their families.

“For the past 18 years, it has been my honor to serve this organization,” Support Group President Terry Rifkin said. “For much of that time, I have dreamed of a permanent tribute in Dana Point, a meaningful public acknowledgement of this powerful adoption between the Fifth Marine Regiment and our city of Dana Point. That time has come.”

With a crowd erupting into a cheer at the 5-0 approval from the City Council to move forward with the proposal, with the exception of a few trees that were laid out in the design, the monument project is now in the fundraising phase.

In collaboration with the DPMRSG, the proposal brought by staff has developed a framework for the City Council’s consideration to advance this monument project. Detailed in this, the city will oversee the construction of all site improvements and the installation of project components provided by the DPMRSG, which will be the statue, tablets, benches, plaques, and inscription services for pavers.

The estimated project cost is \$220,000, covering site improvements and initial project components. The DPMRSG intends to begin fundraising immediately, contingent on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the city.

Based on the fundraising schedule, the project aims to enter the implementation phase, with work expected to begin as soon as feasible, likely in 2026,

according to staff documents. When appropriate, staff will bid out the construction contract and return to the council to award the contract and approve the project budget, which recommends a contribution of \$110,000.

In a previous interview with the *Dana Point Times*, Rifkin said the concept for this monument honors “the force behind the force.” This was prompted by a comment from a Marine years ago that has stuck with her in the years since the city adopted the 5th Marine Regiment in 2004 and the Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group was incorporated in 2008.

“A Marine said to me, ‘You know, we just love all the monuments you’ve done at Camp Pendleton, but how come we never thank and celebrate the families?’ ” Rifkin said.

“So, that conversation with that Marine stuck in my mind, and about three to four years ago, I started working on something that would honor the families,” Rifkin continued. “I found a sculptor out of Colorado – his name is Sutton Betti – and I found this image of ‘Returning Home’ ... and I’ve been to so many farewells and welcome-homes that this to me depicted the family.”

The monument will feature a bronze sculpture of a Marine reuniting with their family in front of a granite backdrop. The granite slab will include text about the importance of families, Rifkin said. The statue would be located on the walkway on Golden Lantern leading up to Heritage Park.

Now that the monument has been approved to move forward, Rifkin noted that the support group will begin to offer sponsorship opportunities for the statue.

“We will invite our patriotic community locally and across the country to be part of this legacy,” Rifkin said. “Sponsorships at the monument site will include inscribed pavers, bronze plaques on a wall of honor, patriotic stars and stripes on the concrete, and two concrete benches. It’s a chance to honor a veteran, recognize a loved one, or highlight a business that supports our military.”

[Continued on Page 6 - Heritage Park]

VFW Named as a Beneficiary of Harley-Davidson's 2025 Let's Ride Challenge

VFW encourages members to ride with a purpose through Oct. 31

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is proud to announce it has been named a beneficiary of the 2025 Harley-Davidson's Let's Ride Challenge™ Ride for Heroes, an initiative that aims to celebrate those who serve our country and marks the largest ride challenge in H-D's history, perpetuating the company's long-standing history of support to the military community spanning back to the early 1900s.

From now to Oct. 31, Harley Davidson's (H-D) 2025 Let's Ride Challenge™ Ride for Heroes is putting special purpose behind riders' miles with the goal of donating \$1 million to organizations that support America's service members, veterans and first responders — like the VFW!

The VFW and many H-D dealers have been actively working together to support veterans locally since 2020.

Participation is simple: Throw your leg over your bike and head to your local H-D dealer where you'll register and log your first odometer reading. From there, *every mile ridden fuels the cause*. Along the way, riders will earn milestone collectibles, climb the leaderboard and compete to win one of five brand-new 2025 Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

Harley Owners Group® or Passenger member rewards go even further. Miles will count toward the H.O.G. Ride 365™ Mileage Challenges and the Let's Ride Challenge.



Additionally, the Harley-Davidson® Riding Academy is celebrating its 25th anniversary by offering VFW members a **\$100 discount** on any license-waiver course at participating Harley-Davidson® Riding Academy dealers.

Use code **MVFCHAR25** when you enroll at h-d.com/ridingacademypromo.

Learn more at h-dletsride.com

This exclusive discount is limited to the first 5,000 participants that enroll before June 6, and classes must be completed by Dec. 31, 2025.

The 2025 Let's Ride Challenge™ Ride for Heroes is more than just a ride — it's a "thank you" to those who have given so much for our freedom, and the VFW encourages all VFW and Auxiliary members and supporters to join in this historic event. This isn't just about the miles, it's about the mission.

[www.vfw.org/media-and-events - April 24, 2025]



[Heritage Park - Continued from Page 5]

As a few councilmembers have served in different branches, including Michael Villar in the Marines, this project will mean a lot to not only the community but also to the council.

"As a retired Marine, it was super important to me that we did this," Villar said. "Little things like his boots weren't originally tucked in correctly, or he

wasn't wearing military or Marine Corps cammies, or the positioning of his hand — just little things that you were willing to work with me and with the other councilmembers as well; you met with each of us, and that was super important to me, personally."

[Dana Point Times - By Kaila Mellos, Apr 18, 2025]

On Thursday, April 18th at Belmont Village Senior Living in Aliso Viejo, Ralph Pregors, WWII Navy Veteran presented VFW Post 9934 with the proceeds from the center's fundraiser event dedicated to our Post.



On Saturday, March 15th, David and Peggy Vera presented a donated electric scooter to a disabled Vietnam Veteran. 1st. Lieutenant Edward Matlin, 35th Field Artillery, Dong Tam Base Camp, Mekong Delta, who served 1967-1968.



Visit our Website

vfwpost9934.org



VFW Action Corps Weekly - April 21, 2025

Legislative Priorities

The location of our Washington, D.C., office allows us to monitor all legislation affecting veterans, alert VFW membership to key legislation under consideration and to actively lobby Congress and the administration on veterans' issues. **National Legislative Service** establishes the VFW's legislative priorities and advocates on veterans' behalf. By testifying at congressional committee hearings and interacting with congressional members, the VFW has played an instrumental role in nearly every piece of veterans' legislation passed since the beginning of the 20th century. Everything we do on Capitol Hill is with the VFW's Priority Goals and veterans' well-being in mind. With the strength of the more than 1.4 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary, our voice on Capitol Hill cannot be ignored!

Among the VFW's most recent and important legislative victories was expanding college education benefits for military service members with the signing of the Forever GI Bill, and ensuring America's service members and veterans receive the care they deserve - whenever and wherever they need it - by passing the VA MISSION Act.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - MAY 2025

- ◇ Saturday, May 3rd, 11am to 2pm - VFW Recruiting Event at American Legion, 384 Legion St, Laguna Beach
- ◇ Tuesday, May 6th, 6:00 pm - Dana Point City Council Meeting
- ◇ Wednesday, May 7th, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo
- ◇ Saturday, May 10th, 9am to Noon - District 2 Convention, South Shores Church, 32712 Crown Valley Pkwy
- ◇ Saturday, May 10th, 1:30pm to 3:00 pm - VFW Day of Service, Belmont Village Senior Living, 300 Freedom Lane, Aliso Viejo
- ◇ Sunday, May 11th - **Mother's Day**
- ◇ Tuesday, May 13th, 6:00 pm - VFW Post 9934 Meeting, South Shores Church, 32712 Crown Valley Pkwy
- ◇ Tuesday, May 20th, 6:00 pm - Dana Point City Council Meeting
- ◇ Wednesday, May 21st, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo
- ◇ Saturday, May 24th & Sunday, May 25th, 10:00am to 5:00pm, Buddy Poppy Distribution - See Page 3 for details.
- ◇ Monday, May 26th, 10:00am - Memorial Day Ceremony, Pines Park, 34941 Camino Capistrano, Capo Beach



Sunday, May 11th

MAY 2025 MONTHLY MEETINGS

The next monthly meetings of Post and Auxiliary 9934 will be on Tuesday, May 13th.

The Post meeting will be held at South Shores Church, 32712 Crown Valley Parkway, starting at 6:00 p.m.

The Auxiliary will meet at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 33501 Stonehill, starting at 6:30 pm.



Monday, May 26th

CONTACT VFW POST 9934

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