

# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Post 9934 & Auxiliary 9934  
Dana Point, California



## Mail Call 📢

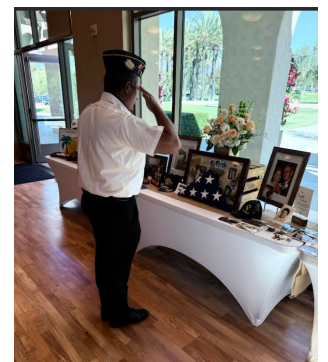
November 2025



Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, VFW Post 9934 partnered with Dana Point Police Services in their annual Halloween Trunk or Treat event at the Dana Point Community Center. Post and Auxiliary, some dressed in costume, handed out candy and toys along with American flags and buddy poppies. There were tables set up for a pumpkin decorating contest. One hundred and fifty Halloween costumed kids took up the challenge.



On Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, Post 9934 Color Guard presented the US Flag and played taps at Veteran Samuel Houston's Celebration of Life in Rancho Santa Margarita.



## Sr. Vice Commander's Message

Comrades,

I just wanted to let you know about some of the events that our members attended in October and some events we are doing in November:

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, our Post had its Annual Inspection held at Anaheim 3173. We passed with no issues. Thank you, Phil and Cindy, for your hard work great bookkeeping.

The Auxiliary held their semi-annual garage sale on October 18th. It was very successful with the biggest donation income to date.

We participated in Trunk or Treat on October 25th. Our Post and Auxiliary handed out candy. Phil (Tigger), Wayne (Viking) and Carlos (Alien) kept the kids entertained as the rest of us helped the kids with the pumpkin decorating.

We will be distributing Buddy Poppies on November 8th and 9th at Albertsons at 30241 Golden Lantern, Laguna Niguel. Please sign up for a shift by contacting the office. (949) 248-1419. Also, the Auxiliary will be distributing Poppies on November 8th and 9th at Ralphs 32555 Golden Lantern, Dana Point. They are asking for volunteers. Contact the office to sign up.

Veteran's Day ceremony will be at Veterans Park at 29 Strand Beach Dr, Dana Point, CA 92629. This will begin at 10:00 AM. Arrive early.

For Thanksgiving Holiday, Ron Egigian will be taking meals to Camp Pendleton. If you can help, please contact Ron at (714) 6861678.

Comrades, please remember that the Holidays can be hard for some, so keep them in your prayers, as we do our part and continue to offer our support.

Post 9934 Holiday Dinner on Dec 14th at Jacks. We will have more information at the meeting on November 11th.

I recently got to see Wayne Yost. Wayne is doing great. Our Commander has provided an update on his cancer treatments. Please continue to keep him and his family in your prayers.

*God Bless you all, Thank you all for making 9934 best Post ever!*

***Ricardo F. Alonzo, Sr. Vice Commander  
Post 9934, Dana Point***



## View From Sickbay

Greetings Comrades...

Let's start off with some good news...I have completed my chemo and radiation therapies. As a side note to those of you who have endured cancer treatment or have assisted a relative or loved one with the process ...YES ...I rang the bell on my last day as I left the radiation department!!!

Mission Accomplished, my Comrades!

I am now in the process of recovery and attempting to gain some of the weight and strength I have lost. I have strict instructions to avoid large crowds, for the next few weeks.

So, for the first time as your Commander, I will miss seeing you at Buddy Poppies and Veterans Day. I know all of you will do an amazing job and represent Post 9934 to the community as proud Veterans.

I plan to see all you at the December meeting if not sooner.

Be safe and be kind to each other.

***Rick Jauregui, Commander,  
Post 9934, Dana Point***



## From the Desk of the Quartermaster



Our **Trunk or Treat Halloween** event on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> was a tremendous success! The candy, toys, and pumpkin decorating were especially popular with the kids.

A heartfelt **THANK YOU** to our dedicated Veterans: **Richard, Carlos, Ben,**

**David, Thom, Wayne, and Tigger** – as well as our supportive Auxiliary: **Lupe, Peggy, Debbie, and Susie** for your time, energy and commitment to serving our community. Your efforts made the day truly special for local families.

As November begins, we welcome the holiday season. A time of reflection, gratitude, and togetherness. Thanksgiving reminds us to give thanks to God for the blessings in our lives and to cherish moments shared with family and friends.

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, we honor the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of the United States Marine Corps. We extend our warmest

wishes to all our Marine brothers and sisters and thank them for their service and sacrifices.

The next day, November 11<sup>th</sup>, we gather in observance of Veterans Day, a moment to honor all who have served our nation. We invite everyone to join us for our Veterans Day Ceremony at Dana Strands in Dana Point. As we celebrate, please remember that some Veterans may be alone on this day – consider reaching out with a call or visit to share a friendly voice and a moment of camaraderie.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for the Annual Christmas Social on December 14<sup>th</sup> at Jack's Restaurant in Dana Point. More details will follow soon, but be sure to save the date. It's always a delicious dinner and a fun evening to reconnect, share stories, and celebrate the season with fellow Veterans and spouses.

Wishing everyone a warm and memorable **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

*Phil Jimenez, Quartermaster  
Dana Point VFW Post 9934*

**Notice: The November Issue of Post 9934's Mail Call will be the last issue mailed through USPS to those members *who are also receiving it via email*. If you wish to continue receiving the Mail Call in the US Mail, please send us an email at [dpvfwpost9934@gmail.com](mailto:dpvfwpost9934@gmail.com) and let us know.**

### POST OFFICERS FOR 2025-2026

|                         |                |                          |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Post Commander          | Rick Jauregui  | Post Color Guard Captain | Carlos Garcia  |
| Senior Vice Commander   | Richard Alonzo | Service Officer          | Aaron Pluff    |
| Junior Vice Commander   | Carlos Garcia  | Service Officer          | Rodney Bradle  |
| Post Quartermaster      | Phil Jimenez   | Service Officer Advisor  | Marty Hoffman  |
| Adjutant                | David Vera     | Service Officer Support  | Debbie Yost    |
| Assistant Quartermaster | Wayne Yost     |                          |                |
| Post Chaplain           | Tim Laursen    | Trustee (3-year term)    | David Priddy   |
| Judge Advocate          | Michael Turner | Trustee (2-year term)    | Rodney Bradley |
| Post Surgeon            | Gil Castro     | Trustee (1-year term)    | Bob Pruitt     |

### AUXILIARY OFFICERS FOR 2025-2026

|                       |               |           |                 |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------------|
| President             | Lisa Mers     | Conductor | Ralph Mariano   |
| Senior Vice President | Sharon Miller | Chaplain  | Carlene Chew    |
| Junior Vice President | Lupe Brady    | Trustee 3 | Judy Brandmeier |
| Secretary             | Terry Marr    | Trustee 2 | Ralph Mariano   |
| Treasurer             | Cindy Laursen | Trustee 1 | Sharon Miller   |

## Chaplain's Corner



### Thanksgiving A Harvest Celebration

During the autumn of 1621, at least 90 Wampanoag joined 52 English people at what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts, to mark a successful harvest. It is remembered today as the "First Thanksgiving."

Thanksgiving today may have little connection with the Plymouth harvest festival 400 years ago, but it has a long history nevertheless. Originally a regional observance in colonial New England, Thanksgiving began as a solemn affair. Rather than a day of feasting, it was a day for fasting and quiet reflection. A far cry from what we do in the present day.

The federal Thanksgiving holiday has its roots in one of the country's bitterest moments of division—the Civil War. On October 3, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued this Thanksgiving Day proclamation to help unite a war-weary nation. Lincoln was not the first President to issue a Thanksgiving proclamation, but his order set a precedent to "observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving" every year for decades to follow.

In 1941, Congress passed a law in 1941 establishing the fourth Thursday in November as the federal Thanksgiving Day holiday.

So, what does Thanksgiving really mean? Since this is my article, I get to tell you what it means to me. It is my favorite national holiday. Why? There is no pretense. No grandiose speeches. No frills. Just Thanksgiving. A day where I purposely give thanks to God, the Creator of the universe. The Giver of life. I look back over the past year and count my blessings. I let everything else fall to the wayside. I stop and deliberately thank God for all He has done and for all I have. I know I should do that every day of the year, but this day is set aside especially for that.

So, this Thanksgiving, join me in holding all that we count dear to us a little closer and thank God for everything that we have. For every blessing He has bestowed upon us.

Happy Thanksgiving!

As always, I am available as your spiritual leader. Let me know if and how I can serve you. Keep me posted on comrades and their family members, living and deceased, who are in need of assistance.

God bless you, and God bless America!

Tim Laursen, Chaplain  
VFW Post 9934, Dana Point  
vfw9934chaplain@gmail.com



## VFW Action Corps Weekly October 2025 MIA Identifications

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced seven identifications for service members who have been missing and unaccounted for from World War II and the Korean War.

### World War II

Army Pfc. Milo O. Whipple  
Army Air Forces Tech. Sgt. Donald A. Dorman  
Army Pvt. Joseph A. Gala  
Army Pfc. Richard P. Summers  
Army Pvt. Philip J. Geary  
Navy Seaman 1st Class Wayne E. Newton

### Korean War

Army Cpl. Norman R. Levesque





## Auxiliary Corner

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

October was a special month for this small but mighty group.

Although not quite October, we were honored to be a part of a very special day for our Treasurer, Cindy Somerville, now Cindy Laursen! It was truly a beautiful day.

The Shea center provided a special one-on-one tour. The Shea Center provides family reunification, Equine Assisted Psychotherapy, couple's groups, adaptive riding and equine assisted learning for Veterans and active-duty members of the armed forces. This is the beginning of a special partnership.

October is also a birthday celebration for the Navy! They were established on October 13th, 250 years ago! Please give a big thank you to your favorite Navy Veteran.

Hopefully you made it to the BEST garage sale in Orange County. Our small but mighty group worked super hard, and the outcome showed. It was our biggest garage sale fundraiser to date. A huge thank you to all who donated, worked, and purchased! And a special thank you to the Post for providing the EZ ups and tables. AND to the Post members for setting up and taking down.

Finally, it ended with a fun day volunteering with the Post at a SPOOKTACULAR Trunk or Treat family event in Dana Point.

It's never too late to be a part of this small but mighty group!

To become a member, please contact Cindy Laursen at [vfw9934cindy@gmail.com](mailto:vfw9934cindy@gmail.com).

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.

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.

Contact us at [VFWAux9934@gmail.com](mailto:VFWAux9934@gmail.com) for more information and join us !

Although June is PTSD awareness month, it's very important to be aware of it daily. Please check out the resources the VFW provides:

<https://www.vfw.org/home-bottom-rotator/national-ptsd-awareness-day>

**Terry Marr,**  
**Secretary, Historian**  
**VFW Auxiliary 9934**



## VFW to Washington Post - Veterans' Disability Benefits are Not 'Loopholes' to Exploit

*The following letter from the VFW National Commander was submitted to the Washington Post on October 07, 2025 [<https://vfw.org/media-and-events>]*

To the Editors of The Washington Post,

Your recent article, "How some veterans exploit \$193 billion VA program, due to lax controls" (October 2025), is not just a disservice to veterans — it is a dangerously misleading piece that feeds into damaging stereotypes and ignores both the moral and legal foundations of the Department of Veterans Affairs disability system.

Let's be absolutely clear: veterans' disability benefits are not charity. They are compensation owed for injuries and conditions incurred in the line of duty — promised by a government that asked men and women to risk their lives and health, often irreversibly, on its behalf. These benefits are not some "loopholes" for opportunists to exploit; they are the very least this country can do for the people it sent to war repeatedly, especially after more than two decades of sustained conflict without a draft.

Your article leans heavily on inflammatory anecdotes and edge cases, portraying veterans as system abusers, while ignoring the structural reality: combat wounds are not the only occupational hazards of military service. The daily grind of service — exposure to toxic environments, repeated concussions, sleep deprivation, moral injury, sexual trauma, constant stress, and grueling physical demands — leaves lasting scars. Just because a veteran wasn't blown up by an IED doesn't mean they aren't disabled.

Invisible injuries like PTSD, traumatic brain injury, and toxic exposure-related illnesses are not "new" or suspect; we just finally stopped ignoring them. Every generation of veterans before this one suffered in silence, and many died without care or acknowledgment. To now say that recognizing these conditions is proof of fraud is not only illogical — it is cruel.

The article also seems to misunderstand how VA disability ratings work. The system doesn't compensate based solely on whether someone can work. It compensates based on how a service-connected condition impairs a veteran's average ability to function in life and society. The fact that a veteran can hold a job doesn't mean their disability doesn't make daily life harder, more painful, or more isolating. If VA ratings

were based solely on complete incapacity, we wouldn't see skyrocketing rates of veteran suicide, addiction, homelessness, or divorce — all of which are fueled not by fraud, but by the very real and too often dismissed cost of military service.



Lastly, let's not ignore what this article really reflects: veterans make an easy scapegoat for the elites of this country. We're a small percentage of the population. Many Americans are disconnected from the wars they authorized or ignored. It is politically and socially convenient to question the integrity of veterans rather than confront the true cost of 25 years of war. But the cost is real. And the obligation to those who bore it is not optional.

If your investigative team wants to find waste and fraud, start with the contractors who overbill, the generals who fail upward, the executives of squandered programs, or the politicians who wave flags while gutting oversight. But don't you dare turn on America's sons and daughters who carried the burden of service and now ask only for the care and compensation they were promised.

We veterans kept our end of the agreement and will continue to demand that those who asked us to defend our nation do the same. **Honor The Contract.**

Sincerely,

Carol Whitmore  
VFW Commander-in-Chief



## TSA HONOR LANE: FAST-TRACK SECURITY FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

Travel days can be chaos—especially when you’re juggling bags, kids, and the weight of departure or homecoming. But a newly expanded TSA benefit is changing that narrative for military families across the country.

Enter: The Honor Lane—a dedicated security screening experience that offers respect, efficiency, and a smoother travel journey for those who serve and support our nation.

Here’s what you need to know about this game-changing update.

### What Is “The Honor Lane”?

The Honor Lane is a new TSA initiative that provides a streamlined, dignified airport security experience for military members and their families. It’s more than a shortcut. **It’s a statement of gratitude** - recognizing the sacrifices made not just by the service member, but by the whole military family unit. By design, Honor Lanes reduce wait times and eliminate some of the common headaches associated with airport screening, all while maintaining rigorous safety protocols.

TSA is partnering with major airports nationwide to designate these special lanes at security checkpoints, and momentum is building fast.

### Who Is Eligible?

This benefit isn’t just for the active-duty service member. It extends to the entire military family. Eligible individuals include:

- Active duty service members** (all branches, including Guard and Reserve)
- Veterans** with a valid military ID or VA Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)
- Military spouses and dependents** with DoD-issued ID cards
- Gold Star families**

In short: **If your ID reflects your military connection, you’re covered.**

### Where Can You Find It?

The Honor Lane is currently rolling out across select airports, with more locations joining every quarter.

Look for clear signage marked “Honor Lane” or ask a TSA officer at check-in. Some airports also include digital signage or PA announcements that guide eligible passengers to these lanes.

While not yet nationwide, early adopters include:

- Atlanta (ATL)
- Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW)
- San Diego (SAN)

- Washington, D.C. (DCA and IAD)
- Norfolk (ORF)
- Nashville (BNA)
- Tampa (TPA)
- And more on the way

TSA has signaled its intention to make Honor Lanes the standard—not the exception—at major travel hubs.

### What Does It Offer?

In short, the benefit offers speed, respect, and relief. Here’s what you can expect from an Honor Lane:

- Shorter wait times** with a dedicated screening line
- Family-friendly processing**, especially helpful when traveling with young children
- More dignity and less stress**, particularly for those traveling in uniform, with visible injuries, or navigating the airport with a service dog

And no—you **don’t need TSA PreCheck to use the Honor Lane**, although many military travelers may already have it. This lane operates independently and is designed to supplement—not replace—existing benefits.

### Why It Matters

Military families are used to waiting—for homecomings, for PCS orders, for the next chapter. But at the airport, you shouldn’t have to wait in line just to be recognized. **The Honor Lane** is one small but significant way to restore time, peace of mind, and a little bit of humanity to your journey. It’s the TSA saying: *We see you. We thank you. And we’ve got your six.*

### Final Boarding Call: What You Can Do Now

**Bring your ID.** Your military or dependent ID is your ticket to the Honor Lane.

**Look for signage** or ask a TSA agent at your departure gate.

**Plan ahead.** Not all airports have implemented the program yet, so check your departure location’s TSA offerings in advance.

**Share the word.** Tell other military families about the Honor Lane—it’s a benefit earned through collective sacrifice.

### The Bottom Line

*The Honor Lane isn’t just about skipping lines—it’s about honoring service.* It’s a long-overdue acknowledgment that military life is a team effort, and when the uniform travels, the whole family moves with it. Let the journey feel just a little more human. You’ve earned it.

## Schedule of Events - November 2025

- ◇ Tuesday, November 4th, 6:00 pm - Dana Point City Council Meeting
- ◇ Wednesday, November 5th, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo
- ◇ Saturday, November 8th, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm—Buddy Poppies Distribution, Albertsons, 30241 Golden Lantern Laguna Niguel
- ◇ Sunday, November 9th, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm - Buddy Poppies Distribution, Albertsons, 30241 Golden Lantern Laguna Niguel
- ◇ Tuesday, November 11th, 10:00 to 11:00 am - Veterans Day Ceremony, Strand Vista Park, Dana Point
- ◇ Tuesday, November 11th, 6:00 pm - VFW Post 9934 Meeting, South Shores Church, 32712 Crown Valley Pkwy.
- ◇ Tuesday, November 18th, 6:00 pm - Dana Point City Council Meeting
- ◇ Wednesday, November 19th, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo
- ◇ Thursday, November 27th, **THANKSGIVING DAY**

## Commemorative Tributes

November 10, 1775 - Birthday of the US Marine Corps

November 11, 1918 - Armistice Day - Commemorating the End of World War I

### CONTACT VFW POST 9934

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Website: [vfwpost9934.org](http://vfwpost9934.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/vfwpost9934](https://facebook.com/vfwpost9934)

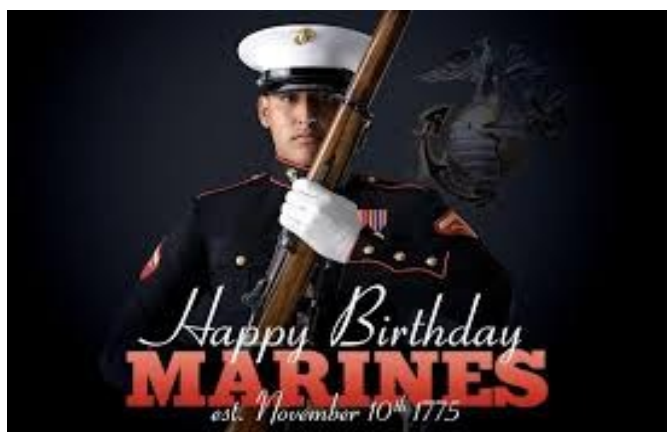
CONTACT U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
1-800-698-2411

### NOVEMBER 2025 MONTHLY MEETINGS

The next monthly meetings of the Post and Auxiliary 9934 will be on Tuesday, November 11th.

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.



Visit our Website

[vfwpost9934.org](http://vfwpost9934.org)

