

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



Post 9934 Auxiliary 9934



Dana Point, California
September 2024

Saying Goodbye to Summer

After three Sundays in July and three Sundays in August at the Concerts in the Park Series, VFW Post 9934 closed our summer activities with the City of Dana Point at the annual Classic Car Show on August 25th on Del Prado Avenue. The show kicked off with our Post Color Guard and Dana Hills 2023 alum, Lauren Bodnar, singing the National Anthem. See excerpt from the *Dana Point Times* August 23rd article on page 6.



Special Guest Speaker September 10th Post Meeting

Major General (Retired) Peter Gravett served over 40 years in the US Army and Army National Guard. He enlisted in the Army as a 17 year old private, promoting to Sergeant First Class in the Guard while serving over 20 years simultaneously with the Los Angeles Police Department.

He received his commission as a Second Lieutenant upon graduating from Army Officer Candidate School. He retired from police service with the Army rank of Lieutenant Colonel and returned to active duty promoting thru the ranks to Major General and commanding a Mechanized Infantry Division.

During the second part of his military career, he served in the Pacific, Asia, Central America, the Caribbean, Western Europe and Central Europe, where he served as a Senior NATO Military Training Officer in Kiev, Ukraine with the US State Department's Partnership for Peace Program. He has a Master's Degree from USC, where he serves as an Adjunct Lecturer at the Price School of Public Policy, and is a graduate of the JFK School of Government at Harvard University.

Please join us at 5:00 pm for a light meal. Major General Gravett will speak at 5:30 pm. South Shores Church, 32712 Crown Valley Parkway, Dana Point.

**ALL STATE POST 2004-05, 2005-06, 2007-08,
2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13,
2013-14, 2014-2015, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-2018-
2019-2020, 2021-2022, 2023-2024**

**ALL AMERICAN POST 2007-08
2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-2014,
2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2019-2020, 2021-2022,
2023-2024**

2018 & 2022 NATIONAL OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Commander's Message

Greetings Comrades,

I hope the end of summer finds you all in good health and making plans for the days ahead. As most of you know, I attended the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

As in most conventions, the focus is usually around membership and the recruiting of new comrades. This was part of the message we heard. But there was another message communicated to us. The motto that we all celebrate, "No One Does More for Veterans," is not the complete message.

Yes, we strive to help the Veterans in our community...But we should also work to help those closest to us. We should not forget fellow comrades...those we sit next to, have coffee with, stand next to at Buddy Poppies.

It is impossible to take care of a community without having our own support system. So look after your own brothers and sisters. This is not to emphasize the "silver sneakers" crowd.

Our newer comrades who are still trying to work on their careers and have young families may still have a story or a memory that they are willing to share and be able to fight through that struggle.

I hope that many of you can make the September Post meeting.

We have a great guest speaker who will be speaking at 5:30 on the day of the meeting on September 10th.

Our speaker will be Major General Peter Gravett, (Ret)

There will be a light meal served at 5:00 PM.

Please try to attend and support our post.

Please be safe and be kind to each other.

Rick Jauregui, Commander.

Post 9934, Dana Point

Visit Our Website

vfwpost9934.org



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	Guard	Tory Boegeman
Junior Vice President	Lupe Brady		
Secretary	Terry Marr	Trustee 3	Mary Koebler
Treasurer	Cindy Somerville	Trustee 2	Judy Brandmeier
Chaplain	Carlene Chew	Trustee 1	Sharon Miller

From the Desk of the Quartermaster



Working at the office of our post is especially important and remarkably interesting. We have veterans stopping by the office and asking questions about disability and how to get health care.

Sometimes I'm asked, "Is this an old man's drinking club?" Others want to know, "Where is our watering hole?" I'm sure that something similar has happened to you. I explain that Post 9934 is all about serving our community and supporting our Veterans to show our appreciation for their service to our country.

So, it's time to get out there, tell our story and become an effective public relations team for our Post.

Cindy and I have been working on reports and schedules to help the membership better understand what goes on with the finances of the Post. In the coming months, you will be seeing changes to reports at our meetings. They will help you understand the income

that is coming into the post (fundraisers, donations, etc.) and expenses that are paid by the post (internet, office supplies, postage, expenses related to fund raisers).

Our Post has been highly active with the summer concert series. It has been profitable and a reliable source for public relations in the community. Thanks to Judy Brandmeier for the wonderful homemade peanut butter and chocolate cookies, and to all who gave their time and effort to this successful season.

I want to express my appreciation to everyone for their help and encouragement with running the Post. I could not do it without you. If you have any time to help with cleaning and organizing our conference room and storeroom, we can use your help even for two hours. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact us at the office.

*Phil Jimenez, Quartermaster
Dana Point VFW Post 9934*

Auxiliary Corner

"Nothing is as strong as the heart of a volunteer" (Jimmy Dolittle)

VFW Post 9934 Auxiliary teams up to help raise awareness and donations for Veterans. We started our summer volunteering with a visit to the VA Hospital in Long Beach. We had great conversations and distributed beautiful handmade quilts.

July kicked off Dana Point Summer Concert series. You could spot us every Sunday, helping raise funds with our Dana Point VFW Post 9934. We ended the summer by participating in the Dana Point Classic Car Show. We aren't done yet, though! Keep an eye and ear out for this amazing unit- VFW POST 9934 Auxiliary.

Visit our page at vfwpost9934.org. Contact us at vfw9934cindy@gmail.com for more information and join us!

*Terry Marr
Secretary, Historian
VFW Auxiliary 9934*



VFW Elects Al Lipphardt as New National Commander

The Georgia native urges members to have courage and to ‘believe in what you do – do what you believe in’

August 01, 2024

LOUISVILLE, Ky., — Alfred “Al” Lipphardt, a Georgia native and veteran of the Vietnam War, was elected today as the new national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), a congressionally chartered veterans service organization comprised of more than 1.4 million eligible veterans and military service members from all six branches of the armed forces. Lipphardt’s assumption of command took place during the VFW’s 125th National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

“I am deeply humbled to stand before you today having been elected and installed to the highest office of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, commander-in-chief,” said Lipphardt. “Standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before us, the founders from the Spanish American War followed by World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and deployments placing you between the weapons of our enemies and these shores.”

Lipphardt delivered remarks as the VFW’s 116th commander-in-chief to those attending in person at the Kentucky International Convention Center and watching via livestreaming video, at the conclusion of the weeklong gathering. Approximately 10,000 members of the VFW and its Auxiliary converged on the city to conduct the business of the organization, recognize individuals and organizations for excellence and to elect new leadership for the 2024–2025 year. The last time the VFW held its national convention in Louisville was 2013.

In his address, Lipphardt gave his vision for the year, which he deems “Operation All In,” calling on all levels of the organization to embrace courage and the warrior spirit that sets the VFW apart as the oldest and largest combat veterans organization.

“Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts are some of the very few places where heroes gather, and warriors meet,” said Lipphardt. “Too many people in this nation have forgotten what it is to be a warrior. Heroes are what others think of us. Warriors are who we are.”

VFW membership eligibility requires honorable service in a war or expedition on foreign soil or in hostile waters. Lipphardt served in the United States Army from 1965 to 1979. He earned his VFW eligibility by serving in Vietnam



from 1967 to 1968, and from 1970 to 1971. In recognition of his service, he received the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star with Valor device, Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Service, Purple Heart Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with Silver Star and two Bronze Stars, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Medal, and the Vietnam Staff Service Medal First Class.

Throughout Lipphardt’s speech, he reflected on those he served with in the Army, veterans within his family, and how they influenced his life. A solemn moment came when he spoke the names of the ones he lost during the Vietnam War.

“Pvt. Lewis Sloan of East Point, Georgia, Cpl. Kenneth Adams of Santa Clara, California, Cpl. Philip Adams of Croton Falls, New York, Robert Waddell of Batavia, Ohio, and Rodney Loatman of Newark, New Jersey.” said Lipphardt. “These men served under my command when they paid the ultimate price for freedom. I promised myself, those who gave their full measure of devotion would be honored for their service and sacrifice by saying their names whenever I had an opportunity.”

Lipphardt’s remarks harkened back to core tenants of the VFW, as well as its stated vision – ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.

“I have only been a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars for 20 years, but I have seen too many members who have forgotten our roots,” said Lipphardt. “Whatever the branch, whatever the military specialty, or whenever the conflict, let us never forget those who no longer have a voice.”

Continued on Page 5—VFW Elects Al Lipphardt

Continued from page 4—**VFW Elects Al Lipphardt**

Lipphardt joined the VFW in 2002 when he became a charter member of VFW Post 12002 in North Fulton, Georgia. He later transferred his Gold Legacy Life membership to his current post VFW Post 2667 in Newnan, Georgia. He has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department levels, culminating with his election as the VFW Department of Georgia commander from 2014 to 2015, in which he achieved Triple Crown All-American commander status. On the national level, he has served on the Legislative Committee, the National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee, and the Council of Administration.

“You and I know membership is more than about numbers,” said Lipphardt. “We are not numbers, we are people. I am proud to share with my community – I am a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.”

Lipphardt is a member of the Rotary Club of Stone Mountain, Georgia, American Legion, and life member of the Disabled American Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, the VFW National Home for Children, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, and an inductee to the United States Army Officer Candidate School Alumni Association Hall of Fame. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Pacific Western University in 1990.

Much of Lipphardt’s remarks after being installed as commander-in-chief emphasized a commitment to values and valuing service to the nation. He also spoke about the importance of integrity within the organization.

“If your word is not to be trusted, everything and anything you do is unreliable. You can’t be called on nor can you be counted on,” said Lipphardt. “There is no place in the Veterans of Foreign Wars for these individuals.”

In addition to Lipphardt, other national officers elected were Carol Whitmore, an Iraq War veteran from the Department of Iowa, as senior vice commander-in-chief, and Timothy Peters, a Persian Gulf War veteran from the Department of Montana, as junior vice commander-in-chief. The final day of the convention also saw Adjutant General Dan West and Quartermaster General Marc Garduno reconfirmed in their positions.

“My ask is for you to embrace the vision of courage,” said Lipphardt. “Rekindle the warrior’s fire in your belly. Put that vision into action. I am proud to lead you, as together, we seek the courage to be the best we can be in all things and at all times.”

“Believe in what you do – do what you believe in.”

Lipphardt and his wife of more than 57 years, Carol Lipphardt, are retired and reside in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

Reprinted from vfw.org - August 1, 2024

VET THE VOTE: EMPOWERING VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES IN CIVIC SERVICE



Vet the Vote is a nationwide campaign dedicated to enlisting veterans and military family members as the future generation of poll workers. As veterans and military family members, they are committed to stepping forward to contribute to the nation’s democracy in new ways. Today, that means answering the call to serve

However, the task of recruiting volunteers for these essential roles has become increasingly difficult. Thus, Vet the Vote has taken proactive steps to recruit veterans and military families into these critical positions. By leveraging each community’s expertise and dedication, they aim to uphold the integrity and accessibility of the electoral process.

In 2022 alone, Vet the Vote mobilized over 63,500 veterans and military family members to participate as poll workers. This impressive turnout reflects our collective commitment to serving our country and supporting democracy at its core.

Vet the Vote stands as a beacon of civic duty and national service, rallying veterans and military families to take an active role in safeguarding America’s democratic process. By stepping forward as poll workers, these dedicated individuals uphold the integrity of elections across thousands of communities nationwide.

Visit their Website at: vetthe.vote

as the next generation of poll workers who support upcoming elections.

Each election cycle, thousands of counties and towns across the country rely on dedicated poll workers to set up and manage over 115,000 voting locations. These committed individuals ensure that elections run smoothly and securely, adhering to their state’s specific guidelines.

Dana Point Classic Car Show Returns to Lantern District on Aug. 25

(Excerpt from *Dana Point Times* article by Carrie Graham Aug 23, 2024

Hungry attendees can also follow their nose to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9934 booth for freshly grilled hot dogs, drinks and other snacks. Proceeds from the event go directly to a number of programs supporting veterans from World War II, up through current servicemembers and their families.

“We offer a number of programs to provide financial assistance to vets and their families in the form of paying their rent, car payment, if they need a car or major appliance repair, and utility bills,” explained Wayne Yost, a Post 9934 officer, who says the event brings in thousands of dollars each year. “And it’s all grants. We give them the assistance, and there’s never any expectation that it be paid back.”

The VFW has partnered with the Classic Car Show since the Chamber of Commerce began running it in 2017.



(Commander Rick - After the National Convention)

Name our Newsletter

We are holding a contest to name our monthly newsletter. All entries must be emailed to dpvfwpost9934@gmail.com by September 30th. Post officers will be the judges and are ineligible to participate. We want to hear from you! Winner receives a dinner for two at Jack’s Restaurant in Dana Point.



August 18th Concert in the Park



VA BUDGET TO SURGE: \$369.3 BILLION PLAN TARGETS MEDICAL CONSTRUCTION, CAREGIVER SUPPORT

The White House revealed a plan to elevate the Department of Veterans Affairs' funding by nearly 13% for the upcoming fiscal year. This proposed boost highlights significant investments in the construction of medical facilities and the enhancement of caregiver support programs.

With a proposed budget of \$369.3 billion for the VA in fiscal year 2025, this announcement arrives just three days following the congressional approval of a \$328.1 billion budget for the current fiscal year, extending through October 1. VA Secretary Denis McDonough shared in a statement that this budget proposal, set to undergo discussion and modifications by Congress in the upcoming months, aims to "continue delivering more care and more benefits to more veterans than ever before in our nation's history."

Despite ongoing debates among lawmakers regarding the federal budget's overall size, the VA's funding has seen significant growth over the past two decades. The department has enjoyed a minimum 7% increase in funding for the past six consecutive fiscal years, and in 17 out of the last 23 years. From a total budget of \$48 billion in fiscal year 2001, the spending surged to \$182.3 billion by fiscal year 2017, less than half of what is being requested for fiscal year 2025.

This upward trend in the budget is largely attributed to the expansion in mandatory health care and benefits spending, as administrations and Congress have broadened the eligibility of veterans for these services. The proposed budget includes \$24.5 billion earmarked for the Toxic Exposures Fund to address costs related to

the implementation of the 2022 PACT Act, which has enhanced disability compensations and medical care for veterans exposed to harmful chemicals and toxins during service. The plan also proposes a 6% hike in mental health care funding to \$17.2 billion, aligning with the VA's commitment to lowering veteran suicide rates. Additionally, health care initiatives tailored for women veterans are set to receive an 11% increase, reaching \$1.1 billion.

Support for caregiver programs is poised for nearly a 21% increase to \$2.9 billion, acknowledging the vital role of family caregivers in veterans' health and well-being. The budget also seeks a nearly 65% increase in construction funding to \$2.8 billion for various medical center projects nationwide, including the development of a new critical care facility in West Los Angeles and expanding gravesites at Fort Logan in Colorado.

While the president's budget foresees a 3% growth in homeless prevention efforts to \$3.2 billion, it anticipates a 3% reduction in information technology spending, approximately \$6.2 billion, primarily due to cutbacks in the electronic health records modernization project.

This budget proposal now advances to Congress for thorough examination over the next seven months. Failure to pass a comprehensive budget by October 1 could result in a partial government shutdown. However, the VA has largely been shielded from such funding disruptions in recent years, thanks to Congress's practice of approving advance appropriations, with \$308 billion already allocated for VA spending in fiscal 2025 to ensure uninterrupted benefits and health care services.



The plaques have (finally) been installed at our Veterans Memorial at Strand Vista Park, Selva Road, Dana Point. We will be holding our Veterans Day Ceremony at the Memorial on Monday, November 11, 2024. If you get the chance before then, drive over and view the new plaques. End of Selva Road.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - SEPTEMBER 2024

Monday, September 2nd, Labor Day

Tuesday, September 3rd, 6:00 pm Dana Point City Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 4th, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo St.

Tuesday, September 10th, VFW Post Meeting – 5:30 pm, South Shores Church, 32712 Crown Valley Pkwy. Light dinner at 5:00 pm. Guest Speaker, Major General Peter Gravett (Ret) at 5:30 pm.

Thursday, September 12th, OCVMFC General Meeting, 2:30 to 4:30 pm, Tierney Center for Veterans Services, 1231 Warner Avenue, Tustin, CA 92780

Friday, September 13th, Veterans Stand Down and Resource Event, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Tierney Center for Veterans Services, 1231 Warner Avenue, Tustin, CA 92780

Tuesday, September 17th, 6:00 pm Dana Point City Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 18th, 2:00 to 4:00 pm- Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo St.

CONTACT VFW POST 9934

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Website: vfwpost9934.org

Facebook: facebook.com/vfwpost9934

CONTACT U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

1-800-698-2411

SEPTEMBER 2024 MEETINGS

The next meetings of Post and Auxiliary 9934 will be on Tuesday, September 10, 2024.

The Post meeting will be held at South Shores Church, 32712 Crown Valley Parkway, starting at 5:30 p.m.

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

DANA POINT VFW POST AND AUXILIARY 9934

33282 Golden Lantern, Suite 103

Dana Point, California 92629



September 29th