

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Post 9934 & Auxiliary 9934
Dana Point, California



Mail Call 📣

April 2025



The annual City of Dana Point Festival of Whales was held over the weekend of March 7-9. On Saturday afternoon, VFW Post 9934 provided our color guard for the opening ceremony at Lantern Bay Park. On Sunday, our post partnered with the city to cook tri-tip, hamburgers and hot dogs at the Festival of Whales Barbecue at Baby Beach. This fundraiser was held for the benefit of Dana Hills High School Water Sports.



Commander's Message

Greetings Comrades,

This month will be the beginning of a new and exciting time for Dana Point Post 9934. The meeting on April 8, 2025 will be the first joint meeting of Dana Point VFW Post 9934 and Laguna Beach VFW Post 5868.

At that meeting, there will be many things that will be discussed and voted on. There will be a vote to consolidate our two Posts. There will be the continuation of the election process for Post Officers. The first nominations were heard and presented at the March meeting.

Again, I will ask that if anyone has aspirations to become a Post Officer or to serve in an appointed position, please contact the office or one of the Post Officers.

As a special treat for the Post there will be a "Pizza on the Commander" snack before the meeting. My plan is to serve the pizza at 5:30pm. The regular business meeting will start at 6pm, as usual.

I hope to see as many of you as possible.

March 29, 2025 was National Vietnam War Veterans Day. That morning, to honor those Veterans and the over 58,000 names on the "Wall" in Washington DC, the Post hosted a breakfast get together. It was nice to see old friends and meet new Vietnam Veteran Post members at the breakfast.

As I said at the beginning of my message, we are entering a new chapter for our Post. I ask that you join me in that adventure.

I hope to see you at the next meeting on April 8th at South Shores Church at 6pm.

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

From the Desk of the Quartermaster



It's hard to believe we are already coming to the end of our fiscal year. Our new officer corps will be elected this month and installed in May. We have been blessed by the leadership of the Post and are looking forward to its continued growth.

We have been very busy this year with many events:

- Concerts in the Park*
- Dana Point Classic Car Show*
- Veterans "Honor the Valor" at Dana Hills High*
- Kids' Halloween Party*
- Veterans Day Ceremonies and Poppy Distributions*
- Dana Point Senior Center New Year's Eve Party*
- Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Awards*
- Memorial Services for the Fallen*

These are some of the many events your Post has participated in for our Veterans and Community. If you have missed any, then you have been at home in your rocking chair. And we have missed you!

It's also time for spring cleaning. This is when you empty the garage and set aside the things you have been holding onto for years and will never use again. Let's support our Auxiliary with their Annual Garage Sale event on April 12th. (Info on page 7)

We are looking forward to another banner year for Post 9934! If you haven't already, please stop by and see the new renovations to our office and conference room.

Phil Jimenez, Quartermaster
Dana Point VFW Post 9934

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Auxiliary Corner

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

March had a fun start volunteering with the Post at the Festival of Whales, supporting the Water Polo team for Dana Hills High School.

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 fit for your volunteer needs.

Mark your calendar on Saturday, April 12th for our Garage Sale Fundraiser, 33442 Coral Reach Street, Dana Point from 7:00am to Noon. 100% of the proceeds go to the VFW Auxiliary to support our Veterans. It's a wonderful way to shop for a cause. We offer classic garage sale prices, with a variety of one-of-a-kind items to explore.

If you are planning on spring cleaning and want to donate to our garage sale fundraiser, contact us at VFWAux9934@gmail.com. We accept all working, gently used items except for mattresses and large furniture. We may be able to assist with pick up as well.

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's 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'd like to become a member, please contact Cindy Somerville at (949) 514-1949 or 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. 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®



On Saturday, March 29th, Post 9934 hosted a breakfast for our Vietnam Veterans in honor of National Vietnam War Veterans Day. The breakfast was held at The Brig Restaurant in Dana Point.



On March 3rd, Education Chairman David Vera presented awards to Voice of Democracy 3rd place winner at St. Margaret's Episcopal School in San Juan Capistrano and to 2nd Place Winner from Sky Mountain Charter School in Mission Viejo.



VFW Announces 2025 National Scholarship Winners

A New Hampshire high school senior takes home top \$35,000 scholarship

WASHINGTON - March 3, 2025

The Veterans of Foreign Wars proudly presented nearly \$175,000 in national scholarships and awards as it named the winners of its 2024-2025 Voice of Democracy® and Patriot's Pen® youth scholarship competitions.

This year's national winners were announced at the 2025 VFW Washington Conference in Washington, D.C., during the Parade of Winners ceremony, sponsored by Twisted X.

VFW National Commander Al Lipphardt was joined by VFW Auxiliary President Brenda Bryant to announce this year's national first place Voice of Democracy winner, Tri Vu. His award-winning essay answered this year's thought-provoking theme, "Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?" A high school senior at Central High School from Manchester, New Hampshire, Vu was sponsored by Queen City Memorial VFW Post 8214 in Manchester. Following the announcement, Vu, who was unable to attend the ceremony, accepted his award via video message.

Second place winner Caleb Smith, a junior at The Key School in Annapolis, Maryland, was sponsored by VFW Post 304 in Annapolis, and was awarded the \$21,000

Charles Kuralt Memorial Scholarship. Della Phillips, a senior homeschool student in Fargo, North Dakota, who was sponsored by VFW Post 1874 in Grand Forks, North Dakota, was named the third place winner and awarded the \$15,000 VFW Scholarship. All other state winners were awarded a college scholarship worth at least \$1,000, with more than \$1.4 million being awarded this year.

Also featured during the awards ceremony was the 2025 Patriot's Pen first place winner, Evelyn Newbigging. Sponsored by VFW Post 12136 located in Indian Land, South Carolina, Newbigging was awarded the top Patriot's Pen award of \$5,000.

The Patriot's Pen second place winner, Laila Kamin, sponsored by VFW Post 1741 located in Auburn, Washington, will receive a \$4,000 award, while third place winner Canaan Ly, sponsored by VFW Post 758 located in Saint Albans, Vermont, will receive a \$3,500 award.

For complete article go to: <https://vfw.org/media-and-events/latest-releases/archives/2025/3/vfw-announces-2025-national-scholarship-winners>

VFW Launches 79th Annual Youth Scholarship Contests

Middle and high school students compete for share of awards totaling nearly \$2.4 million

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – March 12, 2025

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is now accepting entries for its 79th annual Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen youth scholarship competitions. The 2025-2026 theme asks America's students "How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?"

Established in 1947, the VFW's Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay competitions were created to encourage a better understanding and appreciation for America and to foster patriotism among the nation's youth. The programs also offer friendly competition as well as reward success in the form of individual scholarships and awards totaling nearly \$2.4 million at the national, state and local levels.

The Voice of Democracy audio-essay competition is open to high school students in ninth through 12th grades and comes with a national first place prize scholarship totaling \$35,000. More than 26,000 high school students worldwide compete in the competition each year for their share of more than \$170,000 in national awards.

First place Voice of Democracy Department (state) winners will also receive an all-expenses-paid trip to attend a *Founding Forward Spirit of America Youth Leadership* program at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Through this inspiring four-day program, students experience mock congressional debates, participate in a free enterprise challenge, visit historical sites, and engage in interactive educational activities.

The VFW's Patriot's Pen essay contest is open to eligible sixth, seventh and eighth grade students, with middle schoolers competing for their share of nearly \$1 million in local, state and national awards and prizes. The national first place winner receives a \$5,000 award. More than 60,600 students participate annually in the competition.

Student entries may be submitted (along with a completed entry form) to their local participating VFW Post. The deadline for both contests is **Oct. 31, 2025**.

vfw.org/media-and-events/latest-releases/archives/2025/3/vfw-launches-79th-annual-youth-scholarship-contests



On March 22nd, Post members gathered at Sea Terrace Community Park to assist the City of Dana Point in their Monarch Butterfly Habitat Workday.



On February 16th, VFW California Department, District 2, and Post 9934 Officers presented handmade quilts to the Veterans who reside at The Towers at Laguna Woods.

**Visit the National Home
During Convention**

On Aug. 13, 2025 a bus will leave from Convention headed to Eaton Rapids, Michigan, for a tour of the VFW National Home for its 100th anniversary.

Headed to VFW’s National Convention in Columbus, Ohio, in August? If so, the VFW National Home has a deal for you. On Aug. 13, a bus will leave at 7 a.m. from the Columbus Convention Center headed to Eaton Rapids, Michigan, for a tour of the VFW National Home, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary throughout the year.

Included in the day trip aboard a premium motor coach – which has reclining seats, wireless internet and a restroom – is a three-hour guided tour of the VFW National Home, lunch, dinner and snacks for the road. The cost for this exciting opportunity is just \$75 per person.

The visit includes a tour of one of the homes, a museum visit, a tour of the grounds and a chance to learn about the multitude of programs offered to the families living at the VFW National Home. The bus returns approximately 7 p.m. to Columbus. To register for this opportunity, visit vfnationalhome.org/news-and-events/events/anniversary-bus-tour/

[This article was featured in the 2025 March issue of VFW Checkpoint.]



VFW AUXILIARY
UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

9934

Garage Sale Fundraiser

Date: Saturday, April 12, 2025

Time: 7 am to Noon

Place: 33442 Coral Reach Drive

Dana Point Stratford at the Pacific (off Del Obispo near Stonehill) Dana Point

Items for donation (big or small) can be dropped off one week prior. For donated large items, contact Lisa Mers (lisabmers@gmail.com) or text (949) 436-2427

We accept Cash, Debit and Credit Cards



Visit our Website

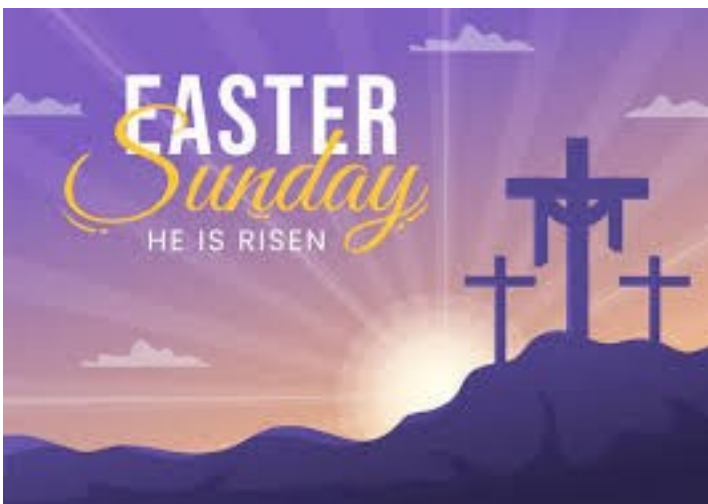
vfwpost9934.org

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - APRIL 2025

- ◇ Tuesday, April 1st, 6:00 pm - Dana Point City Council Meeting
- ◇ Wednesday, April 2nd, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo
- ◇ Tuesday, April 8th, 6:00 pm - VFW Post 9934 Meeting, South Shores Church, 32712 Crown Valley Pkwy, Dana Point. Vote to consolidate Post 9934 with Post 5868. Election of Officers and Convention Delegates. Pizza served at 5:30 pm.
- ◇ Saturday, April 12th, 7:00 am to Noon - Auxiliary 9934 Garage Sale, 33442 Coral Reach Drive, Dana Point
- ◇ Tuesday, April 15th, March 18th, 6:00 pm - Dana Point City Council Meeting - VFW Post 9934 and City of Dana Point award presentation to First Responders.
- ◇ Wednesday, April 17th, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo
- ◇ Sunday, April 20th, **Easter Sunday**



April 5th



April 20th

APRIL 2025 MEETINGS

The next meetings of Post and Auxiliary 9934 will be on Tuesday, April 8, 2025.

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.

CONTACT VFW POST 9934

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1-800-698-2411