

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Post 9934 & Auxiliary 9934
Dana Point, California



Mail Call 📢

December 2025



VFW Post 9934 held its annual Veterans Day Ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park, Strand Vista Park, Dana Point. Aakrsh Misra, UCLA student and Post 9934 Tech Support Volunteer, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Annika Green, Dana Hills alum, delighted us with her beautiful rendition of the National Anthem. Special guests Dana Point Mayor Matthew Pagano, Captain Frank Gonzalez, Max Wernher of Sen.

Strickland's office, and Assemblywoman Laurie Davies shared a few words with us before Colonel Eric Cummings, Commander of MAG-39 and VFW member, delivered an upbeat and well received Key Note Address. As always, we enjoyed the patriotic music of Bill Edwards. Many thanks to the city of Dana Point for collaborating with us for this successful event.



On November 8th & 9th, Post 9934 Comrades distributed Buddy Poppies at two locations: Albertsons in Laguna Niguel and Stater Bros in Aliso Viejo.



Commander's Message

Greetings Comrades,

I hope that all of you spent a pleasant Thanksgiving with friends and family. This is my first Commander's Message since I started hiding from all of you last August. I am ready to start where I left off as a working Post Commander.

I have already begun by making contacts regarding the "Spark of Love". We do not have a date yet to volunteer to sort toys and for the toy giveaway at Camp Pendleton yet.

Thanks to the Officers and Staff from the Post, we have been active on the VFW programs: Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Teacher of the Year and recognition of our First Responders.

As we enter the holiday season, I would hope that you could try to remember and reach out to that long-lost brother or sister that you may have lost contact with.

As our children and grandchildren age and move away, our homes tend to get quiet. You may know a friend or neighbor who could use that phone call or visit, (but please ask before you bring that Christmas fruit cake).

Before I sign off, I want to recognize and thank all of you who stepped up to keep the Post functioning and supported the Officers of the Post in my absence.

The next meeting is December 9th. The meeting will be at South Shores Church at 6 PM. I hope to see you there.

Please be safe and be kind to each other.

Rick Jauregui, Commander.
Post 9934, Dana Point



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 Bradley
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

From the Desk of the Quartermaster



As we prepare to celebrate Christmas on December 25th, we reflect on the joy of gathering with loved ones, sharing traditional food and drink, exchanging gifts, and honoring the birth of Jesus Christ. During this special season, let us also keep our service members

in our thoughts and prayers. Many are spending the holidays far from home while bravely serving our nation. May God watch over them and bring them safely back to celebrate future holidays with their families.

I am pleased to share that our annual **Buddy Poppy Drive** was a tremendous success this year. My sincere appreciation goes out to all Post and Auxiliary members who supported this important effort. A special thank you to Rodney Bradley and the PTSD group from the South Orange County Vet Center for their outstanding contribution—collecting over \$1,400 in donations. Every dollar raised through the Buddy Poppy Drive directly supports our relief fund, providing essential assistance to active-duty service members and Veterans in need.

We have once again been invited to assist with the **2025 Spark of Love Toy Drive**, where thousands of toys are sorted and delivered to nonprofit organizations serving families in need—including those at Camp Pendleton and MAG-39. Knowing that so many children will experience the joy of Christmas morning because of these efforts is inspiring. If

you would like to participate, please refer to the schedule of events included in this newsletter, or call the office to sign up.

Additionally, we are partnering with the **City of Dana Point** for the New Year's Eve Dinner Party at the Dana Point Senior Center. This is always a lively and enjoyable event, and we look forward to another great celebration.

We are also excited to announce that renovations to our conference room have been completed. This warm, welcoming space is now available for small gatherings of 6–8 people. Members in need of a private meeting space are welcome to reserve it by calling the office in advance.

As we move through the holiday season, I encourage everyone to remember what it felt like to be far from home during this time of year—the longing for family, a warm meal, and the comfort of familiarity. If you know a Veteran who may be spending the holidays alone, please take a moment to reach out. A simple phone call, a kind word, or a gesture of care can make a meaningful difference and remind them that they are part of a caring and supportive Post community.

Wishing each of you, and all our comrades and Auxiliary families a very **Merry Christmas** and a blessed holiday season.

*Phil Jimenez, Quartermaster
Dana Point VFW Post 9934*

Notice: The November Issue of Post 9934's Mail Call was the last issue mailed through USPS to those members *who are also receiving it via email*. To continue receiving the Mail Call in the US Mail, please send us an email at dpvfwpost9934@gmail.com and let us know.



The Post received a donation of this Shoprider Electric Chair. Size: 24.5" by 42".

If you know of any Post member or other Veteran who is in need of this type of chair, please contact the office at (949) 248-1419



Chaplain's Corner



'Tis the Season

Well, here we are again. December, the last month of the Gregorian calendar, is meant to be filled with glad tidings of comfort and joy. And for many it is. We enjoy get-togethers with family, friends and coworkers.

There are several different holiday traditions and celebrations. From Chanukah (my spelling; there are several different versions) to Christmas to Kwanzaa, each has its own way of celebrating and commemorating events. However, and whatever you may celebrate, may you embrace the true spirit of the occasion.

But for some, it holds different tidings. For many veterans, the holiday season intensifies feeling of stress, depression, anxiety and loneliness. If you struggle during this time, you are not alone. Creating a community and building connections are ways to combat the holiday blues and provide a sense of purpose. There are many resources available to assist those who struggle with these different tidings, including [mentalhealth.va.gov](https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov). It's

more than a mental health resource. It offers different options for helping people connect with their family and friends. Check it out to see how it can assist you or someone you may know who struggles this time of year.

Additionally, I encourage everyone to remember those deployed and away from family and friends at this time of year. Having gone through this, I know first hand how tough it can be. I urge everyone to pray for those deployed and support their families if at all possible. Show support by wearing red on Fridays:

Remember Everyone Deployed.

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 November 2025 MIA Identifications

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced 18 identifications for service members who have been missing and unaccounted for from World War II and the Korean War.

World War II

Army Staff Sgt. Dayton Polvado
Army Pvt. Donald R. Lichty
Army Sgt. Melvin E. Jones
Army Staff Sgt. Charles H. Knecht
Navy Lt. j.g. Thomas A. Ruth
Army Staff Sgt. Paul A. Huzarewicz Jr.
Army Cpl. Richard A. Veal

Army Air Forces Pvt. Lowell C. Akers
Army Air Forces Technician Fourth Grade Howard B. Shorts
Army Air Forces Sgt. Leonard J. McNeill
Army Maj. Harry C. Hoffmeyer
Army Air Forces Tech. Sgt. Roman J. Ropinski

Korean War

Army Cpl. Thomas W. Neiswinger
Army Cpl. Nicholas S. Dell Olio
Army Cpl. Charles L. Carroll

Army Cpl. Vester Hicks Jr.
Army Sgt. James R. Martin
Army Cpl. Lawrence A. Smith

Auxiliary Corner

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

The month of November brings in thoughts of holidays. Most importantly, a reminder of what we are thankful for and why we're thankful. November starts with honoring our Veterans. On November 8th and 9th our small but mighty group joined the Post and were spotted at the Ralphs in Ocean Ranch as well as Albertsons, giving out poppies and flags. A huge thank you to everyone that stopped by to share stories and donate. On November 11th, we joined the Post again for their annual Veterans Day Service. It was a perfect morning and service.

The month ended with 164 Turkeys! I was fortunate enough to join Ron Egigian, Dave Lockwood, Dave Priddy, and Marcia Kuehl from the Post and Danny Maxwell (Deployment Readiness Coordinator). We distributed turkeys, Costco pumpkin pies and bags of sides to Mag 39 and the S1 at Camp Pendleton. To see the smiles on those faces will be something I will always remember and a reminder of the importance of giving.

November isn't only Military appreciation month; it's also the Marines Birthday! The Marine Corps is 250 years old! It was founded on November 10, 1775.

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. 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. Please 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 !

Although June is PTSD awareness month, it's very important to be aware of it daily and especially now during the holidays. Please check out the resources the VFW provides: <https://www.vfw.org/home-bottom-rotator/national-ptsd-awareness-day>

Enjoy your time with family, friends.
Happy Holidays!

Terry Marr,
Secretary, Historian
VFW Auxiliary 9934



On November 14th, Quartermaster Jimenez and Chaplain Laursen presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Ralph Pegors, WWII Navy Yeoman 3rd Class at Belmont Village Senior Living. Ralph was celebrating his 98th birthday with his family.



VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.



Lions Heart Boys at Ladera Ranch Middle School presented a Veterans Day Event on November 11th. Post Surgeon Gil Castro gave opening remarks.



On November 24th, Post and Auxiliary members assisted in delivering over 150 Thanksgiving Day meals to families of MAG-39 and the S-1.



VFW STILL SERVING CAMPAIGN SHATTERS RECORDS

Over 6.5 million people engaged, 3,500 veterans' stories shared and 3,700 community service events occurred in 32 countries

KANSAS CITY, Mo.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) launched Still Serving in March 2020 to highlight how America's veterans continue to serve in their local communities after transitioning from the military. What started as a campaign became a movement as veterans across the world stepped up to share stories of their continued service. In 2022, the organization launched an outgrowth of the initiative, VFW Day of Service – an annual dedicated day of community service projects led by veterans throughout the world. To date, more than 3,700 community service events have taken place. The Still Serving initiative has continued to break records for year-over-year growth. For example, from FY2024 to FY2025, engagements grew 112% and Day of Service events more than tripled.

“Service doesn’t end when the uniform comes off,” said Carol Whitmore, VFW national commander. “The Still Serving campaign reminds us that veterans, to include the collective VFW, not only give back to our local communities, but we stand shoulder to shoulder with our fellow veterans, helping them navigate their VA benefits, advocating for enhanced quality of life programs and resources and ensuring no one is left behind. Veterans continue to answer the call, proving every day that the spirit of service lasts a lifetime.”

According to the 2021 Veterans Civic Health Index, veterans average nearly 30% more volunteer hours per year and outpace civilians by 15% in charitable donations. Additionally, nearly 40% more veterans belong to a group working on community issues.

Since its launch, 6.5 million people have engaged with the campaign through the Still Serving website, videos and social channels. Additionally, more than 3,500 veterans have shared their personal stories of sacrifice and service.



Building on a legacy of service spanning over a century, the Still Serving initiative captures the essence of the VFW and its members, reflecting the ongoing evolution of today's VFW Posts as a place where veterans can seek support, share camaraderie with those who have similar experiences and give back to both fellow veterans and the broader community. The VFW encourages veterans and their families to share stories on social media using #StillServing to showcase how they themselves continue to answer the call to serve or honor a veteran in their lives who believes the spirit of service transcends military life.

Visit vfw.org/StillServing to learn more about the campaign, make a shareable image honoring veterans in their lives, watch videos of VFW members making a difference and see a collection of user-generated content.

vfw.org/media-and-events-October 13, 2025

* * * * *

November 12, 2025

Post Surgeon, Gil Castro visited the Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center and provided coupons to pay for various toiletries, etc at the PX and distributed the items to several patients.



Schedule of Events - December 2025

- ◇ Tuesday, December 2nd, 6:00 pm - Dana Point City Council Meeting
- ◇ Wednesday, December 3rd, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo
- ◇ Tuesday, December 9th, 6:00 pm - VFW Post 9934 Meeting, South Shores Church, 32712 Crown Valley Pkwy.
- ◇ Sunday, December 14th, 5:00 pm - Post Holiday Dinner, Jack's Restaurant, Dana Point
- ◇ Sunday, December 14th, Hanukkah begins
- ◇ Wednesday, December 17th, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo
- ◇ Monday, December 22nd, Hanukkah ends
- ◇ Thursday, December 25th, CHRISTMAS DAY
- ◇ Wednesday, December 31st, New Year's Eve Party. Dana Point Community Center.

Commemorative Tributes

December 7, 1941—Pearl Harbor Day



Visit our Website

vfwpost9934.org



DECEMBER 2025 MONTHLY MEETINGS

The next monthly meetings of the Post and Auxiliary 9934 will be on Tuesday, December 9th.

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

Address: 33282 Golden Lantern, # 103
Dana Point, CA 92629
Phone: (949) 248-1419
Email: dpvfwpost9934@gmail.com
Website: vfwpost9934.org
Facebook: facebook.com/vfwpost9934

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

