

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Post 9934 & Auxiliary 9934
Dana Point, California



Mail Call

February 2025



As with many VFW Posts, we take in worn or damaged U.S. flags from the local community. Outside our main office entrance is a “drop box” for the public to deposit their old flags. Due to the generous donation from the City of Dana Point, our Post has an incinerator for the purpose of retiring the flags.

Title 4 U.S. Code, Chapter 1§8(k) states: “The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.”

During two Saturdays in January, post comrades volunteered their time and much energy to retire approximately 700 flags. We still have another 600 or so on hand, with more being delivered via the deposit box each week.



Commander's Message

Greetings Comrades,

As the month of February begins, the clock has started ticking for the planning of the new District and Post Officers for the year 2025-2026. I have been asked by the District Command Staff if any Comrades in Post 9934 have contemplated becoming a District Officer or holding one of several District Positions. If so, they should relay that information to me.

While on the same subject, I would hope that some of you may want to become more involved in the VFW. You do not have to accept an actual post. If you would like to assist with any of the programs: Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy, Teacher of the Year, Scout of the Year, or Community Involvement, that is also an option. I know for a fact that the chairpersons would welcome any assistance with these programs.

Speaking of Community Involvement, I am asking that if any Post Member has an idea or a project that revolves around our Community, please bring it to the table.

There are always ideas as to how our Post should become involved locally; Veteran related or not. Please speak up and bring it to my attention.

If possible, have an outline for your idea...to get any idea off the ground, feasibility and budget constraints should always be thought out. But let's look at what you want to do...it may work!

Let's all move forward together...

I will not be present at the next meeting on February 11th. The meeting will be at South Shores Church at 6 PM. I leave you in the capable hands of Sr. Vice Commander Richard Alonzo and Jr. Vice Commander Carlos Garcia.

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

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

From the Desk of the Quartermaster



Now that the holiday season is over, there is a renewed spirit of giving and it's the perfect time to recognize those who represent the true essence of our post; the highly motivated volunteers I call **The Doers**. They are the extraordinary members who

give of themselves day after day to strengthen our community and post.

The Doers are the heartbeat of our post. They are the ones who, without hesitation, step up when something needs to be done. They cook, tidy up after events, serve on committees, organize funds. Assist with poppy drives. And recruit new members. They make sure no one is left behind during the holidays and ensure that those who need it the most come first throughout the year.

These contributions often go unseen and unsung, but they are always felt. The Doers don't seek praise or recognition; their reward comes from giving their time and energy to our post.

Our biggest part in helping the Doers is with membership. It's important to continue with efforts to increase our membership. If you know of a Veteran, someone in your neighborhood or work place, and need help with recruiting this person, feel free to take a Doer with you to close the deal and have them join our active post.

The Doers are the members who inspire us and who embody the very heart of what it means to be part of the VFW. They are the ones that keep our post strong and bring the true spirit of helping others. As a new year resolution, think about joining the Doers Club.

*Phil Jimenez, Quartermaster
Dana Point VFW Post 9934*

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Visit to Long Beach VA Blind Center

On January 21st, our Post Surgeon stopped by the Blind Rehabilitation Center at the Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center, Long Beach. Gil brought various toiletries, socks, scarfs and other knitted items and spent an hour visiting with the residents.

The VA Blind Rehabilitation Centers (BRC) are residential inpatient programs that provide comprehensive adjustment to blindness training and serve as a resource to a geographic area usually comprised of several states. BRCs offer a variety of skill courses designed to help blinded Veterans achieve a realistic level of independence. These skill areas include:

- Orientation and mobility
- Communication skills
- Activities of daily living
- Manual skills
- Visual skills
- Computer access training
- Social/recreational activities

The Veteran is also assisted in making emotional and behavioral adjustments to blindness through individual counseling sessions and group therapy meetings.

Auxiliary Corner

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

If you are interested in becoming a member, please reach out to President Lisa Mers at lisabmers@gmail.com. If you are already a member but can't drive to the meeting, please reach contact Lisa and we can Zoom you into our meeting. It's a great way to participate. Please become a member of the VFW Auxiliary 9934 Facebook page and keep posted on our new year adventures.

*Terry Marr,
Secretary, Historian
VFW Auxiliary 9934*



VFW AUXILIARY
UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

KNOW THE ENEMY : HOW SCAMMERS TARGET VETERANS.

VA LOAN SCAMS

Offers to refinance VA loans at extremely low rates.

UPDATE YOUR FILE SCAM

An imposter, claiming to be from a government agency, attempts to get a veteran's personal information to "update their file" so they can maintain their benefits.

SECRET VETERAN BENEFITS SCAM

Veterans are told they qualify for "secret" government programs or benefits that offer thousands of dollars — but first, they attempt to collect personal information or a fee.

PENSION POACHING SCAM

Scammers often offer veterans lump sum payments up front, in exchange for signing over all their future monthly benefit checks.

AID AND ATTENDANCE SCAM

Veterans (or their family members) receive an offer to move their assets into a living trust so that they can qualify for financial assisted-living benefits.

VETERANS MAY ALSO ENCOUNTER GENERAL SCAMS

In addition to scams that specifically target veterans, there are an abundance of scams aimed at the general public to which veterans are more susceptible. These include: phishing (attempts to gain access to financial accounts), fake tech-support calls, fraudulent credit card / loan schemes, attempts to "collect" fictitious tax bills, fraudulent charities, investment scams, pyramid schemes, and more.

If you or a loved one has encountered a financial scam in the past 12 months, please help us keep fighting for our veterans by filling out the survey at the right or calling 877-908-3360.

HELP PROTECT AMERICA'S VETERANS. REPORT FRAUD NOW.

Please put a check by those scams you have personally encountered in the past 12 months. Then, detach this panel and drop it in the mail, so we can track fraud trends and warn our veterans.

VA LOAN SCAM

Someone offers to refinance your VA loan at a lower interest rate.

TECH SUPPORT SCAM

You get a message or email saying that there is a virus on your computer and you need to pay to remove it.

PHISHING SCAM

You receive a call or email about a program for vets that pays thousands in benefits, but they ask for your personal information.

CREDIT CARD SCAM

You get a call from a robocaller saying you can lower your interest rate.

IRS TAX SCAM

Someone calls or leaves a message saying they work for the IRS and that you owe them money.

CHARITY SCAM

You are asked to make a donation to support veterans, but the charity is not a legitimate organization.

OTHER

I AM A:

- Veteran
- Friend of a veteran
- Family member of a veteran
- Other

The information you provide is anonymous and will be used by AARP to prepare research on fraudulent activity affecting veterans. This survey is not a method of reporting crimes to law enforcement authorities. If you want to report mail-related crimes, please contact the USPIIS at postalinspectors.uspis.gov.

VA Sign In Changes: After Jan. 31, 2025, you will need to sign in to your VA websites and apps with your DS Logon, Login.gov, or ID.me. Your MyHealtheVet user ID and password will no longer be an option. Don't have a Login.gov or ID.me account?

Go to va.gov/initiatives/prepare-for-vas-secure-sign-in-changes/

Or scan this QR code with your phone camera.



VFW Celebrates Long Overdue Victory as Dole Act Signed into Law

The following is a message from the VFW National Commander Al Lipphardt:

I am pleased to hear the news, along with more than 7.8 million transitioning servicemembers, veterans, caretakers, and survivors, that The Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act, also known as the Dole Act, was officially signed into law by President Biden late last week. *[February 26th]*

The Dole Act will expand VA benefits, modernize healthcare delivery, and cut through much of the red tape that prevents veterans, caregivers and other beneficiaries from receiving the care and services they deserve. This new law will expand caregiver benefits for elderly and infirmed veterans; increase the cap for in-home care programs; fix community care options for veterans outside of the VA healthcare system; extend timelines, eligibility, and availability for certain GI Bill programs; and even provide funding for family caregiver mental health services and sheltering homeless veterans. Thanks to the hard advocacy work of VFW - Student Veterans America fellows getting the VFW-championed

Not Just A Number Act included as a provision within this comprehensive package, we believe the Dole Act will also help reduce veteran suicide.

We commend those members of Congress whose dedication and leadership garnered the bipartisan support in getting this flagship, bicameral veterans package passed and to the president's desk. While we are certainly grateful the Dole Act is now law, we are still perplexed at the lack of urgency in solving longstanding veterans' priorities. Let's not forget that veterans and their families suffer needlessly while waiting for members of Congress to stop playing to their party's base and do the work they are depending on them to do.

Continuing to pass legislation like this signals to the more than one million service men and women in the Armed Forces, to include the thousands currently deployed to war zones throughout the Middle East and Horn of Africa, that Congress and the Administration will honor the contract which all service members and veterans signed.

[vfw.org/media-and-events January 6, 2025]

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As many of you know, our Post's long-time Life Member, Bill Cordova, moved to Nevada last year. Bill was very active in our Post, volunteering at most Community Events and Chairman for the Laguna Niguel Buddy Poppies Location for many years.

Although sad that Bill has left us, we are happy to report that he has since joined the Carson Valley Post 8583 in Gardnerville, NV and continues his volunteer efforts. He reports that the locals are very supportive of Veterans, as they certainly are here in Dana Point.

We look forward to Bill's attendance at one of our Post Meetings whenever he makes his way back to Southern California for a visit.



Laguna Beach VFW Post 5868 to Consolidate with Dana Point Post 9934

During their January 8th monthly post meeting, VFW Post 5868 voted unanimously to consolidate with Post 9934. Our Post voted on the matter during our January 14th meeting and the motion passed (also unanimously).

The consolidated Post will retain our post number 9934. It is Commander Rick's intention and hope that we can make a smooth transition consolidating the two posts before this fiscal year ends on June 30th.

VA Benefits for Filipino Veterans

Citizens of the Republic of the Philippines who serve today in the U.S. Armed Forces are eligible for VA benefits under the same criteria as other U.S. military veterans. However, eligibility for VA benefits for Filipino veterans who served in recognized units of the Philippine Armed Forces – especially during World War II – is not so clear-cut.

The Philippine Islands gained their independence from the United States in 1946 following a transition period that was interrupted by World War II. During World War II, Filipinos served in a variety of units, some coming under direct U.S. military control, others having no ties to the U.S. military, and still others falling somewhere in the middle. Federal law, international treaties and court cases have taken up the question of which VA benefits should be given to various groups of World War II Filipino veterans.

The United States recognizes service in four groups as qualifying for some VA benefits:

- ◆ Regular, or “Old,” Philippine Scouts. Regular Philippine Scouts, or “old scouts,” were members of a small, regular component of the U.S. Army that was considered to be in regular active service. Originally formed in 1901, long before any formal plan for Philippine independence, the Regular Philippine Scouts were part of the U.S. Army throughout their existence.
- ◆ Commonwealth Army of the Philippines. Also known as the Philippine Commonwealth Army, these veterans were called into the service of the United States Armed Forces of the Far East (USAFFE), its members serving between July 26, 1941, and June 30, 1946.
- ◆ Guerrilla Service. People in this group served as guerrillas in USAFFE in resistance units recognized by and cooperating with U.S. forces between April 20, 1942, and June 30, 1946.
- ◆ New Philippine Scouts. New Philippine Scouts were Philippine citizens who served with the U.S. Armed Forces with the consent of the Philippine government between Oct. 6, 1945, and June 30, 1947.

[Department of Veterans Affairs FACT SHEET 04-2008]

VA Expands Access to Veterans Legacy Memorial, Allowing Veterans to Chronicle Their Life Story

The Department of Veterans Affairs expanded the Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM) - the nation’s largest digital platform dedicated to the memory of Veterans and service members - to allow Veterans to tell their own story before they pass away. The new “Your Story, Your Legacy” feature will allow Veterans who have been approved for VA’s pre-need eligibility determination for burial in a VA national cemetery to log in to a secure website where they can privately submit images, autobiographies, military and life milestones, and historical documents.

VLM already offers family, friends, and others a way to chronicle the life of a Veteran by uploading written tributes, photos, biographies, documents, and other information. It contains nearly 10 million interactive VLM pages for those interred in VA national cemeteries, Department of Defense-managed cemeteries, VA grant-funded state/tribal cemeteries, National Park Service cemeteries, and private cemeteries around the world.

VA will keep a Veteran’s content secure until they pass away and VA approves a request for a burial or memorial benefit. Following approval, the content the

Veteran submitted will become public and appear on their VLM page on the public-facing website.

“The legacies we leave behind come in many forms,” said **Acting Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Ronald Walters**. “Providing Veterans with resources to document their stories while they are still with us ensures their voices are heard and allows family members, friends, and others to appreciate the experiences of those who served.”

Veterans who have provided their email address and been approved for pre-need eligibility will receive an email directing them to the “Your Story, Your Legacy” landing page.

For more information, go to the VLM webpage at www.vlm.cem.va.gov/livingveteranhome.

Since the VLM website launched in 2019, more than 165,000 submissions have been made to Veteran profile pages. NCA moderators review all content submissions before being posted to a Veteran’s page to ensure it conforms to the VLM User Policy.

[US Dept of Veterans Affairs -VA News, 01/16/2025]



VA | Burials and memorials



VA provides compassionate, professional memorial and burial services to ease Veteran families through the loss of their loved ones.

Did You Know...

- VA provides burial and memorial services to Veterans at no charge to honor their service to the nation.
- Spouses and children may also receive these services.
- With new VA national, state, and tribal cemeteries opening soon, almost every eligible Veteran will have a VA burial option within about an hour's drive from home.

VA Serves Veterans

VA takes special care to pay lasting tribute to the memory of Veterans who served and sacrificed, and that of their families. VA meticulously maintains more than 135 VA national cemeteries in 39 states and is adding new sites to accommodate Veterans and loved ones in their time of need.

VA memorial benefits may include the following services:

- **VA national cemetery burials.** For eligible Veterans and loved ones, VA national cemetery burials involve the opening and closing of the gravesite, inscribed headstones or markers, a burial flag, award of the Presidential Memorial Certificate, and perpetual care of the gravesite.
- **Casket or cremation burials.** VA national cemeteries can provide services for traditional casket or cremation burials.
- **Private cemetery burials and allowances.** VA may accord eligible Veterans and family members who elect to hold private cemetery burials with memorial benefits that include headstones, markers, or medallions to mark the gravesite, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate. VA may also provide burial allowances toward a family's burial and funeral costs.

VA gravesites cannot be reserved, although arrangements can be made with funeral homes in advance. At the time of need, contact a funeral home to arrange a burial at a national cemetery. To schedule a burial, fax a DD-214 form or other discharge papers to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 866-900-6417 and follow up with a phone call to 800-535-1117, Option 1.

Find Out How You Can Benefit

Explore VA memorial benefits today at VA.gov/burials-memorials.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - FEBRUARY 2025

- ◇ Tuesday, February 4th, 6:00 pm - Dana Point City Council Meeting
- ◇ Wednesday, February 5th, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo St.
- ◇ Tuesday, February 11th, 6:00 pm - VFW Post 9934 Meeting, South Shores Church, 32712 Crown Valley Pkwy, Dana Point
- ◇ Friday, February 14th, **Valentine's Day**
- ◇ Saturday, February 15th, 10:00 am - District 2 Meeting, VFW Post 3173, 805 E Sycamore St, Anaheim
- ◇ Monday, February 17th, **Presidents' Day**
- ◇ Tuesday, February 18th, 6:00 pm - Dana Point City Council Meeting
- ◇ Wednesday, February 19th, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del

Join Wayne Yost PPR Certified Pickleball Instructor to learn more how to play this exciting game. Instruction is given free of charge each Monday and Friday at the Laguna Niguel YMCA, located on Crown Valley Pkwy. 8:30 – 10:00 am. Wear court shoes and eye protection, all other equipment will be provided.



FEBRUARY 2025 MEETINGS

The next meetings of Post and Auxiliary 9934 will be on Tuesday, February 11, 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.



Monday, February 17th

CONTACT VFW POST 9934

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1-800-698-2411