

# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Post 9934 & Auxiliary 9934  
Dana Point, California



## Mail Call

January 2026

*Happy New Year!*



Post 9934 Annual Holiday Party. December 14th at Jack's Restaurant, Dana Point



## Commander's Message

Greetings Comrades,

My hope is that all of you have been healthy and able to celebrate the holidays with family and friends.

Our Post participated in the Spark of Love Toy Drive on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Several of your comrades joined together with some family members and guests to sort and gather toys for the children of South Orange County. As usual it was noted that no organization works as hard and as fast as VFW Post 9934. Job well done!!

To those of you who were able to spend time at our holiday party, your attendance and participation was noted and very much appreciated.

For those of you who were not present at the Christmas Dinner, the Commander's Award for the Comrade of the Year went to Quartermaster Phil Jimenez. Thanks to Phil for all his hard work and love for the VFW that allowed the Post to succeed in my absence.

My choice for Patriot of the Year was awarded to our Office Manager, Cindy Laursen. I was informed by several sources that her consistent presence at the office and post activities kept all the comrades connected and informed during the past year.

As year 2025 has ended, it is time to look at 2026 with anticipation and plans for a successful year. I have had several meetings with some of the officers to discuss ideas and activities for the coming year. I want to thank all of you for all the work you did last year and all your contributions to the Post and the VFW.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, January 13th at 6 PM at South Shores Church. 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 Chaplain	Tim Laursen
Senior Vice Commander	Richard Alonso	Judge Advocate	Michael Turner
Junior Vice Commander	Carlos Garcia	Post Color Guard Captain	Carlos Garcia
Post Quartermaster	Phil Jimenez	Benefits Advisor	Aaron Pluff
Adjutant	David Vera	Trustee (3-year term)	David Priddy
Assistant Quartermaster	Wayne Yost	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 the holiday season comes to a close, we are reminded to cherish the joy of time spent with family and friends sharing laughter, love, and gratitude. Please remember that our Post and Auxiliary members are also an important

part of that circle. As we welcome the new year, let us carry forward the same spirit of kindness, faith, and generosity. Blessings are not measured by their size, but by the hearts that give them.

My sincere appreciation goes out to all Post and Auxiliary members who once again supported the **2025**

**Spark of Love Toy Drive.** Our elves were especially busy this year, sorting and preparing the Yellow (Toddlers), Red (Girls), and Blue (Boys) bags for distribution to various charities. I am incredibly proud of how well-organized and dedicated our Post and Auxiliary members of Post 9934 continue to be.

As we move into the second half of our fiscal year, we will be working on a revised budget for the remaining six months. We have successfully remained within budget during the first half, with only a few exceptions. As a reminder, any new items not previously approved in the budget must be brought to a vote and receive approval at our meetings. Additionally, all expenditures must be accompanied by receipts, and no spending should occur without prior authorization.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome back to **Commander Rick** and **Assistant Quartermaster Wayne**. Our prayers were answered in having our comrades return to us -now it's time to get back to work!

Wishing each of you and your families a very Happy New Year.

***Phil Jimenez, Quartermaster  
Dana Point VFW Post 9934***



We currently have five wheelchairs and two walkers in stock to loan at no charge. Please contact the office at (949) 248-1419 if you know of any Veteran in need.

### Military Personnel Records

The National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records (NPRC-MPR) is the repository of millions of military personnel, health, and medical records of discharged and deceased veterans of all services during the 20th century.

This site provides information regarding military personnel, health, and medical records stored at NPRC-MPR.

If you are a veteran or next-of-kin of a deceased veteran, go to:

[www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records) to order a copy of your military records. For all others, your request is best made using a Standard Form 180. It includes complete instructions for preparing and submitting requests.



Students from St. Edward's in Dana Point delivered two banners to the office on Veterans Day, November 11th.



Shown with the banners:

Post members and guests are who attended the Post meeting that evening.

## Chaplain's Corner



### Year to Year

As we start another year on the Gregorian calendar, I think it's important take a peek over our shoulders and reflect on the blessings we received last year. Not to dwell on the past but to use it to guide and direct us in the future.

The author of Ecclesiastes tells us, "For everything there is a season and a time for every activity under heaven." (No, believe it or not, this was not originated by the Byrds back in 1965.) This entire book laments the futility of life as he looks back to see where he has come based on his experiences.

I'm sure we could all do the same if we were to dwell on the lows we have experienced. But there is hope. The author continues: "Two are better than one, because they get a good return for their effort. For if they fall, the one will lift up his companion."

"Though a man might overpower one, two can stand against him. Moreover, a threefold cord cannot be quickly broken."

The motto of the VFW is,  
"No one does more for veterans."

We don't do that alone. We do that as a manyfold cord that cannot and will not be quickly broken.

In the past year, we have lost some "cords" due to the ending of life. They are sorely missed. Nothing can replace them in our hearts. But other "cords" have come to strengthen and refresh us. We are stronger than ever because of their coming along side. We continue to do more for veterans because of their presence and assistance.

I look forward to a prosperous new year. I'm confident that we will continue to fulfill our mission to the local veteran community and the community at large. Let's make it a great year! It's too passive just having one.

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 the United States of America!

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



### VFW Action Corps Weekly December 2025 MIA Identifications

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced 8 identifications for service members who have been missing and unaccounted for from World War II and the Korean War.

#### World War II

Army Air Forces Pfc. Willard C. Orr  
Army 1st Sgt. Daniel Proctor  
Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Austin K. Neely

Marine Corps Pfc. Robert G. Thompson  
Navy Aviation Radioman 2nd Class Robert L. Cyr Jr.

#### Korean War

Army Pvt. Arthur P. Carlsen  
Army Cpl. Aubrey L. Gibson  
Army Cpl. Orestus M. Stewart



## Auxiliary Corner

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

We ended the year with lots of fun events. We immediately got into the holiday spirit with celebrations and giving. Going to our own Judy Brandmeier’s very festive home to have our annual Christmas brunch with a super fun round of white elephant. I volunteered with the Post at the Winter Wonderland Festival hosted by the city of Dana Point. It’s a very sweet event geared towards senior citizens with dinner, dessert, and live music. Back to the celebrations with the Post and their annual Christmas Dinner at Jack’s Restaurant.

Please consider adding the gesture of giving, not just for the holidays, but as a regular practice. Doesn’t have to be grand gestures or monetary. Giving your time is a great gesture of giving.

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. 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](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 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>

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



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## New Alternative Caps

Effective September 11, 2025, Section 803 “Manufacture and Use of Seals, Emblems, Badges, Insignia and Uniforms” of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Bylaws has been amended to the following (Amendment in bold italics):

Regulation caps shall be worn by elected and appointed officers at all official meetings. *Alternative Cap. A baseball-style cap, black in color, lettered with VFW initials, Post numerals, state, rank of office (when applicable), Veterans of Foreign Wars and bearing the Cross of Malta may be worn by members other than officers during meetings of the Post and District. Lettering on each cap shall be in gold. The trim on the front of the bill shall be either gold, green, red, or silver, corresponding to the official braid colors for the respective organizational echelon. The baseball-style cap shall be an alternative to, but not a replacement for the regulation overseas cap and shall not be worn in place of the regulation cap at formal ceremonies, when in business attire, or at events where the regulation cap is prescribed.*



We purchased a dozen of these caps for Post 9934. They will be made available to members at the Post’s cost of \$32 each. If you have an interest in obtaining one, please contact the office.



Ben Valencia - 09/12/1931 to 12/29/2025  
 U.S. Navy Korea 06/06/50 to 03/29/54  
 VFW Post 9934 Life Member

*Ben, our brother, you can rest now....We have the watch.*





Ron Egelian played Santa for the Christmas Party on December 19th at our Adopt-a-Unit MAG-39 Purple Foxes Unit. Toys were donated by the Spark of Love Toy Drive to Military and families on the Marine Corps Air Station at Camp Pendleton. The Toy Drive is sponsored by the Orange County Fire Authority and KWAVE.



Members of Post and Auxiliary volunteer to sort toys at the Spark of Love warehouse.

Dana Point Winter Wonderland, December 19th



## Schedule of Events - January 2026

- ◊ **Wednesday, January 7th, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo**
- ◊ **Tuesday, January 13th, 6:00 pm - VFW Post 9934 Meeting, South Shores Church, 32712 Crown Valley Pkwy.**
- ◊ **Tuesday, January 20th, 6:00 pm - Dana Point City Council Meeting**
- ◊ **Wednesday, January 21st, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo**
- ◊ **Friday, January 23rd, 10:00 am - Assemblywoman Diane Dixon will award Commander Rick Jauregui as a 2025 Veteran of the Year for Assembly District 72. 4100 MacArthur Blvd, Newport Beach**

## Commemorative Tributes

January 27, 1973—Signing of the Vietnam Peace Accord

### VFW Marks the 14th Anniversary of the End of the Iraq War

We honor our Iraq War veterans and remember those still deployed to the region

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – On Dec. 15, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) marks the 14th anniversary of the conclusion of the Iraq War. We pause in solemn reflection to honor the service of the more than 1.5 million soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen who deployed to Iraq from March 2003 to December 2011 and pay tribute to the nearly 4,500 courageous men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our nation and advance the cause of freedom.

As an organization comprised of combat veterans, VFW members recognize the tremendous burden carried by our Iraq War veterans and their families, many whom endured multiple, demanding deployments and who often carried the invisible wounds of war as they returned home.

While this major conflict officially ended, the threat remains. The VFW continues to honor the selfless service of our men and women currently deployed to the region to ensure stability, and to help keep us safe here at home.

Please join the more than 1.3 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary in honoring the veterans of the Iraq War and remembering our brave defenders who continue to carry the torch of freedom forward.

### JANUARY 2026 MONTHLY MEETINGS

The next monthly meetings of the Post and Auxiliary 9934 will be on Tuesday, January 13th.

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



Cmdr David Kuta



## **Dept of CA Official Visit**



President Katheen Okoski

### **Schedule of Events:**

**09 Jan 2025 – Social Hour 1700 – 2000**

**Steak Nite - \$15.00 No Host Bar**

**VFW Post 3173 801 E Sycamore Anaheim CA**

**10 Jan 2025**

**1000 - District 2 Post & Aux Meetings 1130 - Lunch**

**VFW Post 3173 801 E Sycamore St Anaheim CA**

**1400 - Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum Tour**

**8065 Marine Way Irvine CA**

**1700 – Social Hour**

**VFW Post 86808751 Industrial Ln Rancho Cucamonga, CA**

**11 Jan 2025**

**1000 – Comfort Quilts for Veterans**

**Whitten Heights 200 West Whitter Blvd La Habra**

All VFW D2 post and auxiliary members are encouraged to attend