

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Post 9934 & Auxiliary 9934
Dana Point, California



Mail Call

March 2026



March 1st. Five VFW Post 9934 officers conducted a Flag Raising Ceremony at Capistrano Beach Care Center. Two Post members, four Auxiliary members, and more than a dozen residents/family members were in attendance. Scan QR code below to view the video taken by Edward Chew III. (Posted on Facebook)



Commander's Message

Greetings Comrades,

What started out to be a quiet beginning to our year has turned into non-stop activity for the months of February and March. First and foremost, I would like to thank all of you who assisted in the planning and attendance at our memorial service for our brother Ben Valencia on February 21st. The family repeatedly thanked us for supporting them on this occasion. They appreciated our ceremony that recognized their loved one, and how we showed our love and respect for Ben.

Starting this week, we have several more activities that require our attendance and assistance. The family of our Comrade Ed Chew noted that the American Flag that flies outside the facility where Ed is staying needed replacement. Our Quartermaster Phil Jimenez obtained a new flag and replaced the damaged halyard and straightened the flagpole. On Sunday March 1st we had a ceremonial flag raising at Capistrano Beach Care Center.

Starting on Saturday, March 7th, our Post will participate in Dana Point's Festival of Whales celebration. We will have several vehicles as well as march in the parade on Saturday.

On Sunday March 8th we will be serving refreshments at Dana Cove Park during the Concert on the Water at Baby Beach.

For Swallows day, March 21st, Assemblywoman Laurie Davies has graciously asked our Post to participate by riding with her in the parade. If you have always wanted to ride in the Swallows Day Parade and be recognized, let the office know ASAP.

There is a lot here to digest but I know that all of you will commit to our mission and support your VFW brothers and sisters and our community.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, March 10th at 6 PM at South Shores Church. I hope you can attend.

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 Alonzo	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



Welcome to the month of March. As we begin moving toward the summer season, our Post enters one of its most active and exciting times of the year. Community events are ramping up, and with them comes an opportunity for each of us to make a meaningful impact.

Sunday, March 8th. This will operate similarly to our concert series booth, and we look forward to another successful community presence.

We are also proud to share that this month we were able to assist a Veteran who recently underwent a kidney transplant. He needed tires and repairs for his family vehicle, and we were honored to help during this challenging time. He is a lifetime VFW member from a Post that has since closed and has expressed his intention to transfer his membership to our Post. Supporting Veterans in moments like these is at the heart of our mission.

We sincerely need your assistance with the upcoming events highlighted in this newsletter. Our Post runs entirely on volunteers, and your time and involvement allow us to continue serving Veterans throughout our community. Please consider signing up to help at one of our events. Together, we can accomplish so much more.

Additionally, we replaced and conducted a flag presentation ceremony for the Capistrano Beach Care Center after their flagpole and flag required repairs. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the ceremony meaningful and respectful.

March also marks the beginning of our annual officer elections. If you are interested in serving in an elected leadership role, please notify the office. We are continually seeking dedicated members who are willing to step forward. In addition, we are in need of event chairpersons to coordinate and oversee our activities. While we are fortunate to have many Veterans willing to help, strong leadership and organization ensure our events are successful.

As we celebrate St. Patrick's Day this month, I wish each of you happiness and good fortune. A friend is like a shamrock — bringing a little extra luck and encouragement along the way. Thank you for your friendship and for all you do to support our Veterans and our Post.

Warm regards,

One of the highlights this month is the Dana Point Festival of Whales. The Parade will take place on March 7th, and this year our Post will host the soft drinks and snacks booth at the festival on

*Phil Jimenez, Quartermaster
Dana Point VFW Post 9934*

The beloved Festival of Whales Parade returns on Saturday, March 7th with an updated route that offers even more fantastic viewing opportunities along the Dana Point Harbor. The parade begins at the corner of Golden Lantern and Dana Point Harbor Drive, travels along Dana Point Harbor Drive, turns onto Island Way, crosses over the bridge, and concludes at the Richard Henry Dana Jr. statue. Contact the Post office for information if you want to participate in the parade with our Post!

On Sunday, March 8th, Post 9934 will host a booth to distribute beverages and snacks at the Concert on the Water at Baby Beach. Our booth will be located in Dana Cove Park from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Contact the office if you want to volunteer at the booth. (949) 248-1419.



Chaplain's Corner



Marching into Spring

Is it just me, or is the year flying by again? As the daylight gets longer, we tend to spend a little more time outside. In my book, that's a good thing. Let's take a look at some things to celebrate this month.

March 2-3 – Purim. I know this is a Jewish holiday, but it has significant meaning for those who follow the Messiah. Purim celebrates a failed attempt to annihilate the Jewish people. If it had been successful, there would have been no Messiah! Thanks to Queen Esther and Uncle Mordecai, the plot was exposed and failed. Have some hamantaschen and say "l'chaim" to our Jewish brothers and sisters.

Here are some other military significant dates in March.

March 3 – Navy Reserve Birthday

March 5 – Seabees Birthday

March 13 – K-9 Veterans Day (est 1942)

March 21 – Rosie the Riveter Day

March 25 – Medal of Honor Day

March 26 – Anniversary of the end of the Battle of Iwo Jima

March 29 – National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Many in our post are members because they served in Vietnam. Extending a little extra honor and love to them is very appropriate. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

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 February 2026 MIA Identifications

In Memoriam

World War II

Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Stephen J. Fatur

Korean War

Army Sgt. 1st Class Charles D. Eason

Angela Marie Handy

November 29, 1924 –
February 13, 2026

Wife of Max Handy, Life Member of Post 9934, for 64 years, Angela passed away at the age of 101.



Auxiliary Corner

“Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve.” Martin Luther King Jr.

March was named for Martius, the Roman God of War. It was historically the time when military campaigns resumed after winter. March also symbolizes, “marching forward,” embracing a period of new beginnings, action and warmer weather. Let’s embrace the meaning of March, with simple new beginnings/goal.

Our new goal is to showcase our local hometown heroes!

We would like to put up banners showcasing our local military members throughout downtown. Do you have a family member or friend from Dana Point serving in the Military. Please send us a photo and tell us which military branch they serve. Send it to Cindy Laursen at vfw9934cindy@gmail.com

Continuing with our spring forward, we are having a great fundraiser. Flower Power! Great selection of Spring flowers.



Use this QR code to access the purchasing webpage.

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.

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 !

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



VFW AUXILIARY
UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

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VFW Expresses Condolences for US Casualties of Operation Epic Fury

The following is a message from VFW National Commander Carol Whitmore

WASHINGTON — On behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and its Auxiliary, we are deeply saddened by the news that three American service members were killed in action and five others seriously wounded during the ongoing Operation Epic Fury.

These brave men and women answered our nation’s call without hesitation, serving in harm’s way to defend the freedoms we too often take for granted. Their courage, commitment and selfless devotion to duty represent the very best of America.

We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the Gold Star families whose loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice. No words can fully ease the pain of such profound loss, but please know that a grateful nation stands beside you. We also keep those who were wounded in our thoughts and pray for their full and swift recovery.

The VFW remains steadfast in our support of the men and women currently deployed in Operation Epic Fury and across the globe. We honor the lives and legacy of the fallen and we will never forget their sacrifice in defense of our country and liberty everywhere.



February 21st. Pines Park. Celebration of Life for our dear departed Comrade Ben Valencia. Beautiful day in Capistrano Beach,



VFW Demands VA Rescind Disability Rating Rule Change

VFW National Commander calls VA response 'dismissive and unacceptable'

WASHINGTON — The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) is demanding that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) immediately rescind its interim final rule changing how disability ratings are evaluated, warning that the policy threatens to unfairly reduce benefits for disabled veterans.

In a letter sent yesterday, the VFW raised serious concerns about the rule’s broad impact on veterans with musculoskeletal injuries, chronic pain and mental health conditions, as well as VA’s decision to bypass the traditional notice-and-comment process. The VA’s response, the VFW said, failed to address those concerns.

“The VA’s response to the well-articulated concerns raised by so many has been dismissive and unacceptable,” said VFW National Commander Carol Whitmore. “Disabled veterans should never be forced to choose between following their doctor’s orders and protecting their earned benefits. This interim rule puts that stability at risk, and it must be withdrawn.”

The rule directs VA adjudicators to evaluate veterans based on their level of functioning while on medication, rather than the true underlying severity of their service-connected conditions in a shift that contradicts long-standing court precedent and risks penalizing veterans who follow prescribed treatment.

“VA’s disability compensation system exists to compensate veterans for the average impairment in earning capacity resulting from service-connected conditions,” said Whitmore. “It should not penalize veterans for seeking treatment, nor should it sidestep the system of judicial accountability Congress deliberately put in place.”

Since the creation of judicial review in 1988, veterans law has evolved through a constructive dialogue between the courts, Congress and VA. If the Department disagrees with judicial interpretation, the appropriate response is engagement through the rulemaking process or legislative clarification, not the use of emergency procedures to bypass public input while casting binding precedent as an obstacle.

The VFW believes that invoking “good cause” to avoid notice-and-comment procedures, particularly where the rule materially affects earned disability compensation, undermines transparency and risks eroding confidence in the veteran-centric, non-adversarial benefits system Congress intended.

“Congress created judicial review of VA decisions to ensure accountability, uniformity and fidelity to the law,” said VFW General Counsel John Muckelbauer. “When Congress established the United States Court of Veterans Appeals, which is now the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, it did so to end decades of unchecked administrative decision-making and to provide veterans with an independent forum for review. Judicial oversight is not a disruption; it is a statutory safeguard.”

In addition to rescinding the rule, the VFW is calling on VA to restore the prior evaluation standard pending full regulatory review; and engage Congress and stakeholders in a transparent process that respects judicial precedent and protects veterans’ earned benefits.

The VFW will continue to submit formal comments, consult with Congress and evaluate all available options to ensure the integrity of the veterans benefits system is preserved. www.vfw.org/media-and-events February 19

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The New Alternative Caps Have Arrived!

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 have a dozen of these caps for Post 9934. They are available to members at the Post’s cost of \$32 each and can be purchased at the next meeting on March 10th.

Schedule of Events - March 2026

- ◇ Sunday, March 1st, 10:00 - Flag Raising Ceremony, Capistrano Beach Care Center, 35410 Del Rey, Capistrano Beach
- ◇ Tuesday, March 3rd, 6:00 pm - Dana Point City Council Meeting
- ◇ Wednesday, March 4th, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo
- ◇ Saturday, March 7th, 10 am - Festival of Whales Parade
- ◇ Sunday, March 8th, 11:00am to 5pm - Concerts on the Water, Dana Cove Park at Baby Beach.
- ◇ Tuesday, March 10th, 6:00 pm - VFW Post 9934 Meeting, South Shores Church, 32712 Crown Valley Pkwy.
- ◇ Tuesday, March 17th, 6:00 pm - Dana Point City Council Meeting
- ◇ Wednesday, March 18th, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo
- ◇ Saturday, March 21st, Swallows Day Parade. San Juan Capistrano

Commemorative Tributes

- March 24 - Start of Kosovo Campaign 1999
- March 29 - National Vietnam War Veterans Day
- March 31 - Somalia Campaign Ended (1995)



VA: Health and Benefits

US Department of Veterans Affairs

The VA Health and Benefits app acts as a one-stop-shop for managing VA care and benefits, allowing veterans to securely message doctors, refill prescriptions, view claim/appeal statuses, download letters, and access the Veterans Crisis Line. It is available on iOS and Android to manage appointments, update direct deposit, and verify, proof of veteran status.

Key Features of the VA Health and Benefits App:

Health Management: View, schedule, or cancel appointments, message care providers, and track prescriptions.

Benefits & Claims: Check disability ratings, check status of claims or appeals, and submit documentation.

Documents & Records: Download official VA letters, proof of Veteran status, and vaccine records.

Emergency Access: Quick access to the Veterans Crisis Line.

Let us know if you need help accessing the app or signing up for *myhealthvet*.



MARCH 2026 MONTHLY MEETINGS

The next monthly meetings of the Post and Auxiliary 9934 will be on Tuesday, March 10th.

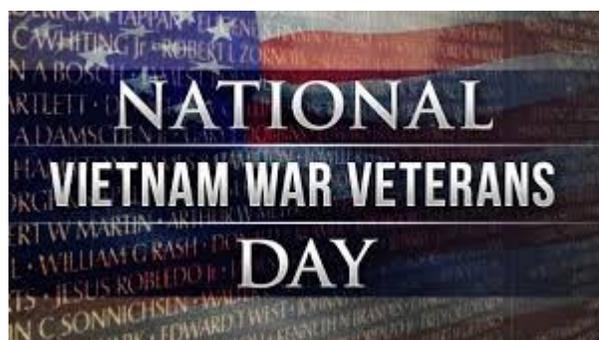
The Post meeting will be held at South Shores Church, 32712 Crown Valley Parkway, starting at 6:00 p.m.

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

CONTACT VFW POST 9934

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



March 29th