

# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



## Post 9934 Auxiliary 9934 Dana Point, California AUGUST 2024



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**

### Commander's Message

Greetings Comrades,

When you read this, I will be in Louisville Kentucky at the National Convention. While there, I will represent our Post, and on behalf of our Post will receive the coveted award for "All American Post." I had very little to do with our selection for this award. The award should be presented to all the Chairpersons of the Post that worked so tirelessly on the programs that are a requirement to receive this honor.

These are the Comrades that are always behind the scenes doing what needs to be done. The ones who deserve special recognition are Richard Alonzo, David Vera, Aaron Pluff, and Wayne Yost, along with the assistance of Quartermaster Bill Manes.

With these Comrades, the rest of you who always show up at the car shows, Buddy Poppies, the concerts, cooking and serving when the time calls for it...YOU are the "All American" members of Post 9934.

Speaking of activities, we are in the middle of our summertime busy season. So, if you want to come by the "Concerts in the Park," you can sit under our good-looking EZ ups and listen to music....But according to our new Quartermaster, Phil Jimenez...NO Free Cokes....his words not mine!

We are also making plans with the Dana Point Chamber of Commerce to have a booth at the Dana Point Classic Car Show on Sunday August 25<sup>th</sup>. This year we will cook and serve "Hot Dogs ala Alonzo".

Sign up and join us!!!

I am presently working on a great guest speaker for the September Post Meeting...more to follow.

Please be safe and be kind to each other.

*Rick Jauregui, Commander, Post 9934, Dana Point*

#### CONTACT YOUR POST

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/vfwpost9934](http://www.facebook.com/vfwpost9934)

TO CONTACT U.S. DEPARTMENT  
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
1-800-MyVA411

#### AUGUST 2024 MEETINGS

The next meetings of Post and Auxiliary 9934 will be on Tuesday, August 13, 2024.

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 p.m.

### From the Desk of the Quartermaster



I would like to introduce myself. My name is Phil Jimenez and many of you already know me as I have been active in Post 9934 since 2012. I held the office of Junior Vice Commander, Trustee and Commander of Post 9934. In addition, I also held the office of Junior Vice Commander and Senior Vice Commander of District 2.

I'm including this past experience to let you know I am not just a new kid on the block. I'm looking forward to working with all of you for years to come. Although the position of Quartermaster is new to me, I am willing to give it my all. I understand this position is very structured and requires time, accuracy and responsibility for all the Post's funds. I appreciate your support and confidence in me.

At the present time, we are in the process of remodeling our office and lobby, making use of the space we have. Our plans include the challenge of our conference room and storeroom. All of these improvements are being accomplished with donations of furniture, bookcases, painting and time of volunteers at no cost to Post 9934.

I would like to remind everyone that we have established a budget for the new fiscal year. This is not written in stone and can be adjusted within reason to

accommodate changes as we go through the year. It is very important that any money spent on behalf of the Post in addition to the budget expenditures must be approved at our Post meeting. Also, a request for reimbursement for items purchased must be submitted with an initialed receipt and stated purpose of each item.

I am open to any ideas or suggestions that any of you might have for the good of the Post. The old saying, "That's the way we have always done it," is no longer applicable to this Post. With new members coming in, we welcome your ideas and if we can implement them, we will try. Thank you for trusting me to be your Quartermaster, I want to thank Bill Manes for the wonderful job he has done for our Post for the last 26+ years. I have some big shoes to fill, I hope his shoe size is not too large.

Last but certainly not least, I want to recognize and thank Cindy Somerville for all her assistance with records, reports and finding time to help us with the remodeling of our office. I'm looking forward to working with everyone in the Post and Auxiliary. I will appreciate your help in serving our Post. Let's work toward making our Post Number ONE in District 2 again.

*Phil Jimenez, Quartermaster  
Dana Point VFW Post 9934*

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### Dana Point Harbor Meet and Greet

On Saturday, July 6, 2024 Post 9934 Comrades were down at Dana Point Harbor to visit with the locals and visitors. Our booth was set up on the boardwalk southeast of Coffee Importers. Post members spoke with over 200 people, many of them Veterans, sharing how our organization can assist them with their VA Claims as well as direct them to other Veterans Programs, including scholarships for junior and senior high students.



## Fifty Million Dollars in Cemetery Fund

From VALOR Veterans Alliance of Orange County: July 1<sup>st</sup>

We are rapidly moving forward to our objective. Since June 17th we have:

1. Received Unanimous support from the Anaheim Planning Commission
2. CAL-VET has notified Veterans Administration in Washington DC that it has selected the Gypsum Canyon Site to build the cemetery and applied for a \$10 million grant
3. Through the efforts of Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva and Senator Tom Umberg and approval from Governor Newsom an additional \$5 million was allocated to the cemetery.... resulting in approximately \$50 million now in the account

In addition to the above the Cemetery District now has \$50 million in its account to begin building the companion cemetery (public cemetery) from which we will derive tens of millions of dollars in cost savings for the Veteran Cemetery construction.

Consequently, there is now approximately \$100 million available for the entire project (Veterans and Public Cemetery).

Update: July 24<sup>th</sup>

On July 23rd the Anaheim City Council unanimously approved the recommendation of its planning commission to approve various project land use amendments to begin construction of the Cemetery project.

## OC Veterans Cemetery Picks Up Steam Following Anaheim Approval

By *Noah Biesiada, Voice of OC, July 24, 2024*

Orange County's first veterans cemetery is one step closer to getting built after Anaheim City Council members signed off on needed approvals, paving the way for a final resting place in Gypsum Canyon.

"What we're doing tonight is something none of us get to do very much. And that's something that's bigger than us," Veterans Alliance of Orange County President Nick Berardino said during Tuesday's city council meeting. Berardino, a combat Marine in Vietnam, added, "All of you have been so wonderful, so gracious, so thoughtful. God bless each of you, and God bless America."

There's also a much-needed public cemetery that will be built along with the veterans' final resting place. Tuesday's approval clears the last major local hurdle state and county leaders faced, but there are still questions about the final price tag for both cemeteries and how those costs will be split between the two.

Veterans have been trying to bring a state cemetery to Orange County for over a decade, with years spent debating over multiple sites in Irvine. Yet nothing panned out despite multiple studies, ballot initiatives and city council discussions. "The debacle in Irvine ... it's nuts," Berardino said.

But in Anaheim, things went much more smoothly, with zero denials by city leaders or alternative sites since Gypsum Canyon was first proposed in 2021. Council members unanimously approved both cemetery projects on Tuesday night.

Councilman Jose Diaz, a Cuban immigrant, blew off the few calls to return the cemetery to Irvine that came on Tuesday night.

"Irvine? That train left the station. It's too late. You had your opportunity to do this, and you failed," Diaz said.

"All this country said to me was we want you to be a good citizen and contribute to society," he continued. "It didn't cost me nothing to be free. But freedom is not free. We owe the veterans, the ones that provided freedom for me."

Anaheim veteran Ron Bengochea said it would be a "gem" that needs to be built as soon as possible.

"I've lost a lot of brothers that want to be in this cemetery," Bengochea said during public comment "But what a great place it's going to be. This is just awesome."

The efforts for a veterans cemetery overlaps with the county cemetery district's plan to set up a cemetery at Gypsum Canyon, the first new public cemetery in over a century.

Tim Deutsch, director of the Orange County Cemetery District, thanked the veterans who came to the meeting and again highlighted the need for another public cemetery.

"We will be running out of casket space for all county residents, possibly effective in the fiscal year 2025/26," Deutsch said. "I have the privilege tonight to try and carry out this community benefit."

The biggest question still hanging over the project is how much the state and county will each pay for the infrastructure costs at the site that make up a large chunk of both project's budgets.

Continued on Page 5 - Veterans Cemetery

## CELEBRATE 80 YEARS OF THE G.I. BILL

Many of VA’s benefits or services can be traced back to June 22, 1944. That’s when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act (SRA) of 1944, otherwise known as the G.I. Bill of Rights.

“This generation,” said Roosevelt, “has a rendezvous with destiny.” More than 16 million Americans served in World War II. Nearly 300,000 died in battle. Many were returning home to uncertain futures.

But these Veterans had determined allies.

Harry Colmery was a World War I Veteran, a former national commander of the American Legion and a former Republican National Chairman. He and the committee of legionnaires he led had a plan: a law that would assist new Veterans in their transition from military service.

Colmery wrote the original language of the bill that would eventually be sponsored by U.S. Representative Edith Norse-Rogers (R-Mass.), who eventually chaired the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

The SRA provided WWII Veterans funds for college, unemployment insurance and housing benefits. By the end of the World War II-era in 1956, roughly 8 million out of 16 million WWII Veterans had used their G.I. Bill benefit for some kind of training.

“With the signing of this bill a well-rounded program of special Veterans’ benefits is nearly completed,”

Roosevelt said. “It gives emphatic notice to the men and women in our armed forces that the American people do not intend to let them down.”

The G.I. Bill put tools and resources into the hands of young Americans looking to create a better life for themselves and their families, helping to create and strengthen the American middle class.

The G.I. Bill also had important social impact. It played a role in the promotion of the American Dream—owning a home, getting a good education and achieving upward mobility.

### Observe the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the G.I. Bill

Upon its passage 80 years ago, not all Veterans benefitted equally. Racial and gender disparities made it difficult for all Veterans to access and use the benefits they earned. While VA cannot tell this story without including this truth, today, equity and access have become part of VA’s top priorities. VA remains committed to supporting America’s Veterans of every generation as they strive to realize their own American Dreams.

[Craig Coleman, Navy Veteran and Public Affairs Specialist, Veterans Benefits Administration, June 21, 2024]

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The Dana Point Chamber of Commerce presents the Dana Point Classic Car Show on Sunday, August 25th on Del Prado Avenue. 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

This event attracts thousands of spectators to enjoy hundreds of custom and classic cars, awards, food trucks, spirits on the street and more. FREE for spectators.

VFW Post 9934 will have a booth to offer grilled hot dogs and refreshments for a donation



Visit our New Website @ [vfwpost9934.org](http://vfwpost9934.org)

### SCAMMERS TARGETING TRICARE FOR LIFE BENEFICIARIES WITH FAKE TEXT MESSAGES

TRICARE For Life (TFL) beneficiaries should be on the lookout for fake text messages claiming their health care benefit will expire, according to a recent warning from the Defense Health Agency (DHA).

Beneficiaries reported receiving a text from (888) 763-0248, with the sender claiming to be Wisconsin Physicians Service (WPS), the domestic TFL contractor. The message states the recipient is about to lose coverage “due to nonpayment” and should call the toll-free number, according to DHA.

WPS does not send text messages to beneficiaries, per DHA, nor does the contractor collect money.

The scam could expand beyond TFL beneficiaries to the wider TRICARE population, according to the agency. In its alert, it reminded beneficiaries should:

Not open links in unsolicited emails or texts.

Not reply to unsolicited texts.

Not provide personal information via these communications, or to any unknown person.

#### Reporting Fraud

If you have been contacted as part of this scam or any TRICARE-related fraud, DHA asks that you file a report to the appropriate agency using the following contact information:

**TRICARE For Life (WPS):** Call (866) 773-0404 or email [reportit@wpsic.com](mailto:reportit@wpsic.com).

**TRICARE East Region (Humana Military):** Call (800) 333-1620 or use this website.

**TRICARE West Region (Health Net Federal Services):** Call (844) 886-2206, email [Program.Integrity@hnfs.com](mailto:Program.Integrity@hnfs.com), or use this website.

**TRICARE Overseas (International SOS):** Call (877) 342-2503 or (215) 354-5020, email [TOPProgramIntegrity@internationalsos.com](mailto:TOPProgramIntegrity@internationalsos.com), or use this website. [By: Kevin Lilley JULY 15, 2024]

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We have it on good authority (the engravers) that the plaques for Dana Point Veterans Memorial Park will be ready for installation by mid-August. The City of Dana Point has increased the length of the concrete platforms to hold two additional plaques. (Not shown in photo) VFW Post 9934 provides the City with the names of our departed Comrades who were members of the Post and with the names of those who were Dana Point residents. As always, we will be holding our Veterans Day Service at the Memorial. Strand Vista Park, South-end of Selva Road, Dana Point.

#### Veterans Cemetery - Continued from Page 3

While Orange County and Sacramento officials agreed to split the cost, there is still no agreement on what that final share will look like.

Deutsch said there’s no hard date yet for when the veterans cemetery will be coming, his department plans to break ground with the public cemetery by September 2026 regardless of the state’s plans.

Mayor Ashleigh Aitken clarified that the county would be required to include a section of the land for veterans even if it came later, then praised the opportunity to dedicate “hallowed ground” to those who served the nation.

“We have the opportunity to have a sacred place within our city to pay tribute to the brave men and women who have given so much to our country,” Aitken said. “It’s also going to be a place of sober reflection for their family members where they can gather and honor their legacy.”

Bill Sandlin, a Vietnam veteran who’s been pushing for the cemetery for years, said he hopes he’ll still be alive by the time they finish construction.

“I’m old,” he said. “Let’s get this done.”

*Noah Biesiada is a Voice of OC reporter and corps member with Report for America, a Ground Truth initiative. Contact him at [nbiesiada@voiceofoc.org](mailto:nbiesiada@voiceofoc.org) or on Twitter @NBiesiada*

## SOCIAL SECURITY'S NEW ELECTRONIC INITIATIVES PROVIDE FASTER MORE EFFICIENT SERVICE

The Social Security Administration is listening, and our advocates' and community partners' feedback is important to us. Some of the feedback that we are hearing from you includes:

"Nobody has fax machines anymore."

"There's a reason it's called snail mail. Regular mail takes too long."

"I shouldn't have to drive to an office and pay for parking to turn in paperwork that I should be able to email or submit online."

"There has to be a better way!"

SSA is transforming the way it conducts business. Employees can now ask customers to electronically submit some forms, documents and evidence needed to process disability applications and other transactions. That means faster and more efficient service to Veterans and their families.

For years, Social Security has offered convenient online services at [www.SSA.gov](http://www.SSA.gov). Many people prefer to conduct business with SSA from the comfort of their computer or mobile device. In response to this demand, Social Security is expanding its electronic options.

SSA recently released the eSignature/Upload Documents initiative nationwide. This end-to-end secure service allows customers to electronically submit some frequently used forms, such as appeal requests (SSA-501 and SSA-561) and waiver of overpayment recovery (SSA-632). Customers can also submit evidence, including the VA Disability Rating Verification, medical and school records, bank statements, tax forms and many more.

Social Security employees initiate the request by sending an email to customers with the required form. In turn, customers review the request, electronically complete, then sign the form (if a signature is required) and submit directly to SSA.

SSA receives 35 million pieces of mail each year, and approximately 14 million are forms sent back because it requires a signature. With this new application, employees can request that 50 different forms and nearly 80 different types of evidence be electronically submitted. These would otherwise have to be mailed, faxed or dropped off at a local office.

### **eSignature/Upload Documents has many advantages**

Eliminates the cost and inconvenience of "snail mail" and in-person visits to submit requested information.

Minimizes the risk that sensitive documents and personal information will be lost or misplaced.

Securely transmits files for faster, more efficient processing.

Offers flexibility in how customers conduct their business.

SSA will continue to accept forms, documents and evidence that are faxed, mailed or dropped off at an office. However, it would like for its customers to enjoy more options with the new electronic online services.

### **How eSignature/Upload Documents Works**

Step 1: The employee asks the customer to allow consent for Social Security to send an email that contains an access link and instructions for using Upload Documents.

Step 2: With customer consent, Social Security emails the customer the request for forms, documents and other evidence needed to process their pending claim or action.

Step 3: The customer reviews the electronic request, completes requested forms, electronically signs them (when a signature is required), and uploads the forms and other information.

Step 4: Social Security sends a follow-up email 10 days after the initial request, if form or evidence is not received. The customer has 30 days to electronically submit requested information.

Step 5: The requesting employee receives an alert when a customer submits the request, then the employee completes the remaining necessary actions.

### **Future Enhancements**

In addition to the eSignature/Upload Documents initiative, SSA is converting many of its frequently used forms to convenient, fillable electronic versions. In April 2024, for example, it "webified" the SSA-827 (Authorization to Disclose Information to the Social Security Administration). This is the medical release that is mandatory for all disability applications. The electronic SSA-827 mirrors the paper version without the need for a wet signature or verbal signature over the phone.

SSA employees can email a link with the electronic SSA-827 to customers who can choose to complete, electronically sign and submit the form rather than having to print, sign and mail or hand deliver it to a local office. That means faster disability processing times and fewer claims denied because of a missing medical release.

Social Security continues to make changes and improvements to provide faster and more efficient service to our customers, including Veterans and their families.

### Dana Point Concerts in the Park Sea Terrace Park July 14th and 21st



Dana Point VFW Post 9934 sets up a refreshment & recruiting booth for the six “Concerts in the Park” at Sea Terrace Park, Dana Point - July 14<sup>th</sup> through August 18<sup>th</sup>. These concerts provide excellent entertainment for Dana Point locals as well as guests from surrounding cities. Post Comrades and Auxiliary volunteer for every concert to distribute snacks and drinks for donations to aid our Veterans and Active Military and their families. Sea Terrace Park is located at the corner of Niguel Road and Pacific Coast Hwy in Dana Point. August Concerts are listed in the Schedule of Events on Page 8 (back page).



**POST OFFICERS FOR 2024-2025**

Post Commander:	Ricardo Jauregui	Service Officer:	Aaron Pluff
Senior Vice Commander:	Richard Alonzo	Service Officers Team:	Jim Socks
Junior Vice Commander	Carlos Garcia		Don Ellis
Post Quartermaster	Phil Jimenez		Ben Valencia
Assistant Quartermaster	Wayne Yost		John Coon
Post Chaplain:	Ronald Egigian	Service Officer Advisor	Marty Hoffman
Post Surgeon	Gil Castro	Service Officer Support	Debbie Yost
Judge Advocate	Dolores Padgett		
Adjutant	David Vera	Trustee (3-year term)	Rodney Bradley
Women Veterans Coordinator	Marcia Kuehl	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	Trustee 3	Mary Koebler
Treasurer	Cindy Somerville	Trustee 2	Judy Brandmeier
Chaplain	Carlene Chew	Trustee 1	Sharon Miller

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**August 2024**

Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup> Concerts in the Park, 2:30 to 4:00pm: The Reflexx, 4:30pm-6:00pm: Saved by the 90s  
Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup> Disability Clinic, 2:00 to 4:00pm, Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo  
Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup> Concerts in the Park, 2:30 to 4:00pm: Full Strength, 4:30pm-6:00pm: Tijuana Dogs  
Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> VFW Post Meeting, 6:00pm, South Shores Church, 32712 Crown Valley Pkwy  
Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup> Concerts in the Park, 2:30 to 4:00pm: Common Sense, 4:30pm-6:00pm: The Aggrolites  
Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup> Disability Clinic, 2:00 to 4:00pm, Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo  
Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup> Dana Point Classic Car Show, 10:00am to 3:00pm. Post 9934 Color Guard. Hot dogs and beverages will be provided by our Post for a donation.

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**DANA POINT VFW POST AND AUXILIARY 9934**  
**33282 Golden Lantern Suite 103**  
**Dana Point, California 92629**

