

# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Post 9934 & Auxiliary 9934  
Dana Point, California



## Mail Call



December 2024



VFW Post 9934 held its annual Veterans Day Ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park, Strand Vista Park, Dana Point. William Kim, Portola High School student and Post 9934 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 Jamey Federico and Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley shared a few words with us before Nel-

son Coburn, USMC 1st Sergeant (Ret) Commandant of South Coast Detachment Marine Corps League and Post 9934 Life Member, delivered an upbeat and well received Key Note Address. We were also blessed to have Navy Lt. Tianna Ren, Camp Pendelton as our Ceremony Chaplain. And as always enjoyed the patriotic music of Bill Edwards. Many thanks to the city of Dana Point for collaborating with us for this successful event.



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,

To all my Brothers and Sisters: Happy Holidays! My December message will be brief, as I know all of you are busy with holiday plans and hopefully, celebrations with family and friends.

To those of you that don't have plans, think about calling another brother or sister who may be alone over the next few weeks. Think about spending some time with that friend or family member you lost contact with. At the least, send that text or email. You may be surprised at the response.

This month try to join us at the Spark of Love toy drive on Thursday, the 5<sup>th</sup> at the Calvary warehouse located at 3232 West MacArthur Blvd, Santa Ana. We muster around 0815. The Marines from MAG-39 will come up that day to pick their toys. It is always a good time.

Also remember our Holiday Party is Dec 8<sup>th</sup> at Jack's Restaurant in Dana Point. We still have a few reservations available.

Happy Holidays to all....And to All a Good Night!

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



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



## From the Desk of the Quartermaster



November was a very busy month for our Post. We had a very successful poppy drive, bringing in \$6,700 between the two locations. Jack's Restaurant in Dana Point was very generous with an additional \$1,200 donation. If

you feel like going out for dinner, please patronize his restaurant.

Our Veterans Day ceremony at Strands Park was well attended. Many thanks to all for your support of this event for the community and our Veterans. Our comrades visited senior living centers and thanked residents for their service to our country.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of December we will gather for Spark of Love Toy Drive, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. All elves' helpers are invited to assist with the sorting of toys.

As you know, your Post has always been a leader and continues to go the extra mile to provide help for active military and our Veterans. We cannot do it alone; we need your help!

**VFW POST 9934 NEEDS YOU:** When you offer your time and energy and enthusiasm as a volunteer, you're doing more than supporting your Post. Done regularly, volunteering can help boost your emotional and physical health. It also helps with your wellness and happiness being surrounded by other Veterans and working as a unit together.

We have our Post Christmas Dinner on 8<sup>th</sup> of December, tickets are going fast please call the office for your reservation; your cost is \$35.00 each and the Post is subsidizing the balance.

December is the month of the year we celebrate Christmas, that we not only give thanks, but special efforts are made to be around family. Prayers go out to all Veterans and their families on this special day. Remember our men and women in uniform as you sit down for your Christmas meal, we pray for their safe return to once again be united with their families. Merry Christmas to all.

*Phil Jimenez, Quartermaster  
Dana Point VFW Post 9934*

## Auxiliary Corner

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

November brings in the thoughts of the holidays but most importantly a reminder of what we are thankful for and why we're thankful. November starts with honoring our Veterans. On November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> our small but mighty group were spotted at the Ralphs in Ocean Ranch, giving out poppies and flags. On November 11<sup>th</sup>, we joined the Post for their annual Veterans Day Service. It was a beautiful morning and service.

On November 14<sup>th</sup> we had the honor of attending Katrina Foley -Supervisor for the 5<sup>th</sup> District - as she rewarded our own Bill Manes for Veteran of the Year. It was a very special evening.

We ended November by volunteering for the Welcome INN, whose mission is to “Feed the Hungry” reminding us during this holiday season what we are thankful for.

We are asking you to become a member of the VFW Auxiliary 9934 Dana Point Facebook page and support our latest fundraiser: Flower Power – enjoy the beauty of Holiday flowers and bulbs.

Enjoy your time with family and friends and give Thanks.

*Terry Marr,  
Secretary, Historian  
VFW Auxiliary 9934*



## BILL MANES HONORED AS VETERAN OF THE YEAR

On November 14, 2024, VFW Post 9934 Life Member and Quartermaster for 26 years, Bill Manes (USN-Retired) was honored at the Veteran of the Year Awards hosted by Orange County Supervisor, Katrina Foley. Bill was one of eight Veterans nominated as true patriots by the community. Supervisor Foley noted that Bill has donated many years of his life to Veterans, the Military and to the people of the United States of America.



### WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM MANES

William Manes enlisted in the Navy in 1950 after graduating from high school. He initially served as a radio operator in a destroyer and in 1952 was selected for a fleet appointment to the Naval ROTC program. He graduated from Northwestern University in 1956 and was commissioned as Ensign, USN. He subsequently served as division officer, head of department, staff officer, and executive officer in destroyers in the Atlantic Fleet. Significant experiences include the Cuban Missile Crisis and as Chief of Staff to the Antisubmarine Warfare Commander in the Sixth Fleet. In 1968, LCDR Manes was assigned as Executive Officer at the Naval Support Facility, Cam Ranh Bay, South Vietnam. Shore duty assignments included as a student at the Armed Forces Command and Staff College; graduate studies at American University, Washington, D.C., leading to an M.A. degree in International Affairs and National Security Policy; and as Assistant for Congressional Policy to the Chief of Naval Operations. In 1972, Commander Manes assumed command of USS HEPBURN (FF-1055) during operations in the South Vietnam area with the Seventh Fleet. In 1973-74, Commander Manes served as Assistant Professor of Naval Affairs at the Army Command and Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

After retiring from active duty, he was employed at California State University, Long Beach, as Assistant Dean of the Graduate Center for Public Policy and Administration, Assistant to the Dean of the College of Engineering, and Assistant to the Vice President

for Academic Affairs.

Mr. Manes became active in veterans' affairs, initially as a member of the Military Officers Association of America, serving four years as President of the California Council of Chapters and six years as a member of the National Board of Directors. He was active in legislative issues at the national level and in the State of California. He served as a member of the California State Commanders Veterans Council and received appointments from both Governors Pete Wilson and Gray Davis as chairman of the Governor's Advisory Commission on Veterans' Homes which successfully recommended establishment of seven new state veterans' homes. He served as State Legislative Chairman for the Department of California of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. In local activities, he was elected for two years as Commander of the VFW Post in Seal Beach, California and subsequently was a founding member of the new Post in Dana Point where he served two years as the Post Commander and then, for 26 years, as the Post Quartermaster. He was also elected as Commander of VFW California District 2 for the year 2014-2015.

Military swards include the Bronze Star, Navy Commendation Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Cuba), Vietnam Service Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation, National Defense Service Medal.

William and Kathryn Manes are parents of an extended family of six children, eleven grandchildren, and (so far) seven greatgrandchildren.



On November 9th & 10th, Comrades distributed Buddy Poppies at two locations: Albertsons in Laguna Niguel and Pavilions in San Clemente.



Lions Heart Boys at Ladera Ranch Middle School presented a Veterans Day Event on November 11th.

### Thanksgiving Dinners for MAG-39

Just in time for Thanksgiving, Chaplain Ron Egigian completed the Herculean task of planning, organizing, purchasing and delivering well over 100 thanksgiving dinners to the Marines of MAG-39 at Camp Pendleton. This was no small feat, even for Post 9934.

After turkeys and fixings were donated or purchased and packed with the help of Dave and Peggy Vera, there was the truck rental adventure! Eventually the truck was loaded and at last; the ordering of all those pumpkin pies.

In the early morning hours of November 20th, Chaplain Egigian organized his task force of Rick Jauregui, Wayne Yost, David Lockwood, Gil Castro, Bob Pruitt, Carlos Garcia, and Dave Priddy. They mounted up and off to Pendleton they went. The dinners were welcomed by so many Marines and their families; with so many smiles and expressions of appreciation.



## House Approves Wide-Ranging Veterans Bill After Bipartisan Compromise Reached

A wide-ranging veterans policy bill that would bolster home caregiver programs and support for homeless veterans, among other areas, was approved by the House on Monday evening after election-season politics stalled the bill for months.

Tweaks were made to the legislation between when it was first introduced over the summer and Monday's vote that got Democrats on board with the bill, allowing it to easily pass the House in a bipartisan 389-9 vote. But the backbone of the bill -- language aimed at making it easier for aging and disabled veterans to get home- and community-based nursing care -- remained intact in the version of the bill approved Monday.

"For nearly the entire 118th Congress, the House and Senate committees on Veterans Affairs have worked together to develop a bipartisan package of common-sense proposals," House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Mike Bost, R-Ill., said on the House floor Monday afternoon. "The Dole Act is a result of that work and would enhance, reform and modernize nearly every part of the VA. Specifically, the Dole Act would change the landscape for elderly veterans and finally give them a choice in where they choose to live out their sunset years."

Dubbed the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act, the marquee provisions in the bill would increase the Department of Veterans Affairs' share of covering home nursing care from 65% to 100% of costs and make several other changes to increase the accessibility of home nursing care for veterans.

The changes have long been sought by caregivers and their advocates who say that veterans should be able to live out their final days at home if they choose.

On veterans homelessness, the bill would increase the per diem rate the VA can pay to organizations providing short-term transitional housing from 115% of costs to 133%. It would also give the VA flexibility to provide unhoused veterans with bedding, shelter, food, hygiene items, blankets and rideshare services to medical appointments. Both changes would sunset in September 2027.

The VA had those authorities during the COVID-19 pandemic, and they were credited with reducing the veterans homelessness rate. But the authorities expired when the public health emergency did.

Those two aspects of the bill always had broad bipartisan support, but other aspects of the bill became political lightning rods.

Democrats argued that some language in the bill amounted to backdoor efforts to privatize the VA, while some Republicans argued that the bill did not go far enough in expanding veterans' ability to seek private health care using VA funding. Veterans groups maintained both sides were playing politics with a much-needed bill ahead of a hotly contested election.

One of the sections caught in that fight -- which would have established new access standards for veterans to get treatment at residential mental health and substance abuse programs and allow veterans to go to non-VA programs if the wait for a VA program is too long -- was taken out of the bill approved Monday.

But another of the contentious sections made it into the approved bill. That section would ban the department from overriding a VA doctor's referral for their patient to get outside care. The ban would last two years, after which the VA would need to report to Congress on its effects.

The tweak was enough to get Democrats to support the bill.

"Our caucus held firm on our values and have fought to preserve VA health care for current and future generations of veterans," Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif., the ranking member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, said in a statement ahead of the bill's passage. "This is not a perfect package -- they rarely are -- but it achieves many of the goals we set out to accomplish at the beginning of the Congress, and better late than never."

In the end, all nine "no" votes came from Republicans: Reps. Josh Brecheen of Oklahoma; Eli Crane of Arizona; Jeff Duncan of South Carolina; Bob Good of Virginia; Paul Gosar of Arizona; Ralph Norman of South Carolina; Matt Rosendale of Montana; Chip Roy of Texas; and Keith Self of Texas.

"When a uniparty agreement comes together overnight, like it did with the Dole Act, it means a small group of individuals negotiated it and the American people -- and in this case our nation's heroes -- get the short straw," Rosendale said in a statement on his vote against the bill. Rosendale's statement specifically objected to a provision in the bill that would define a surviving spouse as someone who "lived continuously with the veteran until their death and who has not remarried," because, he said, it codifies language allowing the VA to pay benefits to same-sex partners.

He also cited that the bill approved Monday excluded any language related to the beleaguered electronic health records program.

[Continued on Page 7]

**House Approves Veterans Bill** [continued from page 6]

The bill that was introduced in May would have required the VA to end its contract with Oracle Cerner unless its troubled system is fixed, among other provisions aimed at improving the health records program, but all of that language was taken out of the final bill.

A raft of other provisions were approved Monday, including ones authorizing grants for mental health care for veteran caregivers; mandating the VA provide caregivers booted from the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers with the option to enroll in other caregiver programs; extending a high-tech job training program for veterans through 2027; allowing GI Bill beneficiaries to continue getting a housing allowance even if they are only part-time students in their final semester; and requiring the VA to reimburse ambulance costs for some rural veterans.

The bill must still be approved by the Senate before

heading to President Joe Biden's desk for his signature. The Senate has not yet said when it will take up the bill, but must do so before the end of this congressional session in January or else the legislative process would need to start from scratch.

"I know the determination that reaching consensus often requires, so I applaud the members of Congress and congressional staff who never gave up on this bill, and the coalition of veterans' organizations that never wavered in their commitment to ensure that these life-changing and life-saving promises be delivered," the bill's namesake, former Sen. Elizabeth Dole, said in a statement released by the House Veterans Affairs Committee. "I am eager to see this package now quickly pass in the Senate and be sent to the president's desk for his signature."

*Rebecca Kheel specializes in covering Congress for Military.com, holding lawmakers accountable for how their decisions affect military personnel and veterans.*



**Dia de los Muertos**

When offered a place at the first annual Dana Point Dia de los Muertos, Post 9934 jumped at the chance to man a booth at the event. The holiday was celebrated on November 2nd in La Plaza Park with ofrendas, live bands, dancing, art, delicious food and beverages. It was a great family friendly event.



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - DECEMBER 2024

- ◇ Tuesday, December 3rd, 6:00 pm - Dana Point City Council Meeting
- ◇ Wednesday, December 4th, 10:30am - Bert Clarke Funeral Service, Fairhaven Memorial, 27856 Center Drive, Mission Viejo
- ◇ Wednesday, December 4th, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo St.
- ◇ Wednesday, December 4th, 2:15 pm - Bert Clarke Graveside Service, Miramar Nat'l Cemetery, 5795 Noble Dr. San Diego
- ◇ Sunday, December 8th, 5:00 pm - Post Holiday Dinner, Jack's Restaurant, Dana Point
- ◇ Tuesday, December 10th, 6:00 pm - VFW Post 9934 Meeting, South Shores Church, 32712 Crown Valley Pkwy.
- ◇ Tuesday, December 17th, 6:00 pm - Dana Point City Council Meeting
- ◇ Wednesday, December 18th, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo St.
- ◇ Wednesday, December 25th - Christmas Day. Hannukah begins.
- ◇ Wednesday, December 31st - New Year's Eve.

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**Congratulations to Auxiliary 9934 Secretary, Terry Marr for her winning entry "Mail Call" in the Name our Post Newsletter contest. Terry has won dinner for two at Jack's Restaurant in Dana Point!**

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

### DECEMBER 2024 MEETINGS

The next meetings of Post and Auxiliary 9934 will be on Tuesday, December 10, 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 pm.