

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

POST 9934 AND AUXILIARY 9934

DANA POINT, CALIFORNIA
JULY 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 NATIONAL OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
2022 NATIONAL OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Comrades:

As many of you are aware, the California Department Convention was held last week, June 19th - 23rd in the City of Orange. There was training involved for your post officers, but of more importance, there was the election of Department Officers.

For the year of 2024-2025 your Department Officers voted in are the following:

Deborah Johnson – State Commander
David Kuta – Senior Vice Commander
Paula Jansen- Junior Vice Commander
Rodger Meier- Adjutant/Quartermaster

During the Ceremony, all District Officers were recognized and sworn in. Among those sworn in was our own Marcia Kuehl as District 2 Commander.

Some of the information that came out of the convention directly changes our approach to the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy Programs.

I will talk more about those programs at the next post meeting.

There is always concern at the convention regarding the ability of the VFW to maintain its numbers and continue to thrive as an organization. As your Commander, I am proud to report that we remain steady in our membership and our commitment to our community and our Veterans.

Please look at the calendar of events, especially our time coming up to help at the summer concerts in Dana Point.

Even if you can't help out at the concerts, there are so many ways to help the post with just your support.

You have received an email regarding our first ever "meet and greet" at the Dana Point Harbor scheduled for July 6th. I got permission to put up an EZ up for a few hours and talk to the folks...

"Let's sit out by the water and have some fun"

The Website is up and running...so check it out!!

I will see you July 9th at South Shores Church 1800 hrs.

Please be safe and be kind to each other.

Rick Jauregui, Commander,

Post 9934, Dana Point

QUARTERMASTER NOTES

It has been my personal pleasure to be in the midst of the Post 9934 activities for some 26 years. It is now time to turn over this office to new, and younger, hands. This Post has developed far beyond what I ever expected when we first started, thanks to the efforts of the officers and members who have carried out the Post activities all these years. The tremendous participation by our members in the VFW programs and community services over the years have given this Post an outstanding reputation as an outstanding veterans service organization. It is typical that I go out in my final year as the Quartermaster of an ALL AMERICAN Post based on the services of so many Post members. I now sit back with great comfort knowing that this Post will continue this service.

Wishing All Hands Fair Weather and Following Seas for years to come.

Bill Manes
Post Quartermaster
Newsletter Editor and Publisher

SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE

Thank you to all who attended my third annual Flag Day & Army's 249th Birthday Celebration! I enjoyed seeing so many in the community gather to celebrate American traditions and our Army service members. I extend my gratitude to the Dana Point [VFW Post 9934](#) for their honor guard and flag ceremony. Special thanks to Col. Dolores Padgett of VFW Post 9934 for sharing about the importance of the American Flag and what it means to you. Everywhere it flies, our flag stands for liberty, freedom, and justice for all.

Katrina Foley
Supervisor, Fifth District
County of Orange Board of Supervisors



TO CONTACT YOUR POST

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/vfwpost9934

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

JULY 2024 MEETING

The next meeting of the Post and Auxiliary 9934 will be Tuesday, July 9, 2024. The Post meeting will be 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. Auxiliary meeting time is 6:30 p.m..

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS JULY 2024

Tuesday, July 2nd, 6:00 PM Dana Point City Council Meeting
 Wednesday, July 3rd, 2:00 to 4:00 PM, Disability Clinic – Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo St.
THURSDAY, JULY 4, INDEPENDENCE DAY
 Saturday, July 6th, VFW Post 9934 “Meet and Greet the Public” at Dana Point Harbor, 2:00 to 4:00 PM
 Tuesday July 9th, 6:00 PM VFW Post Meeting – South Shores Church, 32712 Crown Valley Pkwy. Feel free to invite a Veteran guest so they can see what our Post does!
 Saturday, July 13th, 10:00, VFW District TWO Zoom Meeting
 Sunday, July 14th, July 21st, and July 28th, Concerts in the Park, Sea Terrace Park, 33501 Niguel Road, 2:30-6:00 PM (Load at office at 11:00 AM).
 Tuesday, July 16th, 6:00 PM Dana Point City Council Meeting
 Wednesday, July 17th, 2:00 to 4:00 PM, Disability Clinic – Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo St.
 Saturday, July 27th, Korean War Ended (1953). **NATIONAL KOREAN WAR VETERANS ARMISTICE DAY.**
 Tuesday, July 28th, World War I Began (1914)



Cal-VET Files for Federal Grant

Incredibly great news today regarding continued progress towards building our Veterans Cemetery.

CAL-VET submitted its application to the United States Veterans Administration notifying it that CAL-VET intends to build a cemetery at the Gypsum Canyon site and is formally requesting funding from the VA.

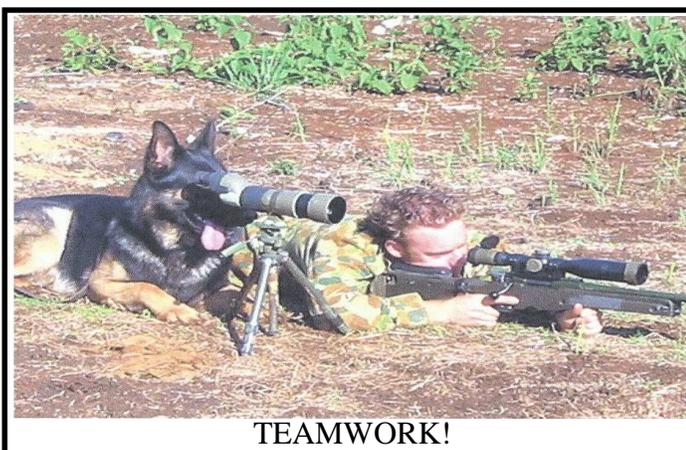
Please note that this is a mandatory requirement and if approved the State will receive a grant up to \$10 million.

We are very grateful to Veterans Affairs Secretary Sinn and Under Secretary Boylan for their outstanding work on our project. They have been working very hard for us. Below is a brief statement from Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva:

"Partnership between the state and the federal government is crucial for the success of this project," said **Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva**. "Securing this grant will ensure that we can move forward effectively and honorably with providing a dignified final resting place for our veterans. We are one step closer to fulfilling our commitment to those who have bravely served our nation."

We must always remember we have come this far towards our goal because regardless of our differences in race, ethnicity, gender religion or anything else you can think of... **BECAUSE OF ONE THING THAT IS THE SAME...WE ARE UNITED STATES VETERANS!!** That is a bond that can never be broken.

God Bless You and God Bless America..
 VALOR Board of Directors (Nick Berardino, Bill Cook, Bobby McDonald, Steve Spriggs and Michele De La Cruz).



TEAMWORK!



MEMORIAL DAY 2024 ATTENDEES

VFW Kicks Off 125th Anniversary Commemoration

The year-long campaign will celebrate the VFW's legacy of service

KANSAS CITY, Mo., — This year the VFW enters its 125th year of service to veterans, service members and their families. As such, the VFW has proudly launched a year-long campaign to commemorate the momentous occasion.

The VFW traces its roots back to Spanish-American war when the battle wounded returned home to no health care, benefits and little support. Left to fend for themselves, a group of 13 veterans gathered in a small tailor shop in Columbus, Ohio, to discuss how they could assist their fellow veterans and dependents of their fallen brothers-in-arms.

In fact, they weren't alone. Several small, unaffiliated organizations were taking shape in areas across the United States with a common goal of advocating for veterans' needs, and in 1899, two key groups were established: the American Veterans of Foreign Service and the National Society of the Army of the Philippines. These groups would soon merge to become the VFW. It's mission: To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans.

The VFW would quickly grow in membership and influence, expanding its advocacy efforts to educational benefits, disability pensions and hospital services. The group would also cultivate its local impact initiatives through community service, youth scholarships and programs, and civic engagement activities.

Today, and throughout its storied history, the VFW has led the charge in making available positive, life-changing support and resources through its advocacy initiatives and services to include the establishment of the Veterans Administration. It has played an instrumental role in the passage of every piece of vital veterans legislation and collects \$13 billion in benefits and compensation from the VA annually for veterans.

Today's launch of the commemorative campaign celebrates the VFW's legacy of service with a dedicated microsite, commemorative VFW Post program and a sneak peek into an upcoming line of commemorative VFW Store items. New initiatives will be added as the organization builds momentum to its official founding date of Sept. 29 and to its conclusion at the 125th VFW National Convention in August 2025.

VA EXTENDS PRESUMPTIONS OF SERVICE CONNECTION FOR THREE NEW CANCER TYPES

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is including three new cancer types in the list of presumed service-connected disabilities due to military environmental exposure under the PACT Act. This announcement marks the continued commitment under the Biden-Harris administration's Unity Agenda and the Biden Cancer Moonshot to support the nation's Veterans.

Through a sub-regulatory policy letter published to the Federal Register, the following three cancer types have been included in the list of presumptive diseases:

- Male breast cancer.
- Urethral cancer.
- Cancer of the paraurethral glands.

This policy establishes presumptions of service connection for eligible Gulf War and post-9/11 Veterans who deployed to Afghanistan, Somalia, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Uzbekistan, and the entire Southwest Asia theater of operations, which includes Iraq. Presumptive service connection means VA automatically assumes service connection for the disease and provides benefits to eligible Veterans who have submitted claims with evidence of a diagnosis.

"We are working with urgency to deliver on the promise of the PACT Act to provide health care and benefits to as many toxic-exposed Veterans as possible — we're leaning in wherever we can," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "VA is working with one goal in mind: getting today and tomorrow's Veterans and their families the

benefits they deserve as fast as possible."

Any Veteran who currently has or previously had one of the listed cancers at any time during military service or after separation may be entitled to disability compensation benefits dated back to Aug. 10, 2022, the date the PACT Act was signed into law. VA will review all claims from impacted Veterans and survivors who previously filed and were denied for these three conditions on or after Aug. 10, 2022, to determine if benefits can now be granted. Veterans enrolled in VA health care can obtain cancer screening and treatment at VA, which recently announced expansion of cancer care services closer to where Veterans are.

VA has granted its 1 millionth PACT Act-related disability compensation claim and awarded over \$5.7 billion to Veterans and survivors since President Biden signed the bill into law.

Veterans and survivors can apply or learn more about the PACT Act by visiting [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT) or by calling 1-800-MYVA411.

There is no charge to file a claim with VA. For further assistance with the disability claims process, Veterans are encouraged to work with a VA-accredited representative or contact their state Veterans affairs office.

For more information about VA cancer care, visit cancer.va.gov.

[Department of Veterans Affairs, June 14, 2024]

WHY DEFINING 'GOLD STAR' MAKES A DIFFERENCE FOR SURVIVORS

On average, more than 1,400 U.S. servicemembers on active duty died each year between 1980 and 2022. Each death is a sudden and painful loss for their family members. Survivors of those who succumb to service-connected injury or illness face the same tragic reality.

Often referred to as "an honor no one wants," the Gold Star symbol took root during World War I, when families hung banners with blue stars representing loved ones in service. The star was changed from blue to gold if the servicemember died while at war, allowing the nation to pay tribute to the sacrifices of these families.

There is no legal definition of "Gold Star" in statute. DoD issues a Gold Star Lapel Button to next of kin of a servicemember who lost his or her life. Unfortunately, the DoD instruction leaves out many thousands of survivors whose servicemember died outside of combat – in a helicopter crash during a training event, for example – as well as those who lost a servicemember due to an injury or illness sustained while in uniform or from invisible wounds that led to suicide.

Military Officers Association has endorsed efforts led by the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) urging Congress to pass legislation establishing a definition in

statute for "Gold Star" as it relates to families of servicemembers and veterans who have "died while serving or from a service-connected injury or illness."

A recent letter to congressional leaders on the issue highlights the challenges that have arisen from the lack of a legal, consistent definition, with the result often being the unintentional exclusion of some survivors. More than 50 organizations joined MOAA in support of this letter.

An inclusive definition of "Gold Star" recognizes the casualties of war that don't fit neatly into the "hostile engagement" category:

- The Marine who drowns during a swimming qualification exercise.
- The sailor serving in Rota, Spain, who dies in a vehicle accident.
- The retired soldier who passes away from cancer caused by toxic exposure.
- The airman diagnosed with post-traumatic stress who commits suicide.

Survivors in each of these scenarios face unimaginable difficulties, just like family members whose servicemembers are lost at war.

[By: Jen Goodale, JUNE 11, 2024]

10 TIPS TO DEFEND YOUR ONLINE DATA

The global cost of cybercrime topped \$8 trillion in 2023—translating to over \$250,000 a second worldwide—and is expected to rise to over \$23.84 trillion by 2027. North America remains the most targeted for ransomware attacks, up 50% from 2022. Since 2020, the health sector alone has experienced a 45 percent increase in cyberattacks.

Hackers are targeting health and data partners and Veterans with phishing to ransomware every day to steal data and wreak havoc on U.S. health care and other services. Veterans are often targeted by criminals attempting to fraudulently receive benefits or access valuable data.

Defending the galaxy of Veteran data

The defenders of Veteran online data include VA, Veterans, caregivers and family members. As the largest health care provider in the nation, VA:

- Uses automated tools and cybersecurity expertise to detect and thwart malicious cyber activity every day.
- Adheres to “Zero Trust” principles in that we assume our perimeter and network are always subject to assault and are vulnerable. Based on this assumption, we have multiple layers and tools in use to limit access and to rapidly detect, remediate and protect against any attack.
- In 2023, VA intercepted over one trillion potential security events and blocked nearly a billion malicious emails.
- Confirmed: 96 percent of VA staff use multi-factor authentication (MFA) to verify their identity before they

can log in to VA systems—and only VA staff with a need to know (for delivering services) have access to Veteran data.

What you need to know to guard Veteran data

As Veterans, caregivers and family members, protect your personal data online by:

1. Securing your information with multi-factor authentication: it’s easy to do!
2. Being alert to and report phishing and smishing attempts.
3. Encrypting your data using a VPN.
4. Not saving your passwords to your browser.
5. Regularly updating the software on your devices and computers; many updates include security protections against the latest threats.
6. Avoiding using public Wi-Fi.
7. Not clicking on unknown or unfamiliar attachments and links.
8. Shopping only on legitimate, secure and trusted websites.
9. Protecting your benefits against Payment Redirection Fraud.
10. Deleting rarely used or unused applications and using a browser instead.

When it comes to protecting Veteran data online, it takes multiple defenders working side by side to guard the galaxy of Veteran information. Check out VA’s Cybersecurity Spot for the resources you need.

[VA Office of Information and Technology, May 6, 2024]

SURPRISING WAYS VA SOCIAL WORKERS CAN HELP

You may think social workers help people facing challenges like poverty and homelessness. And they do! But social workers are also a core part of VA health care. As a part of your extended team at VA, they can connect you to a variety of resources and services.

VA social workers help Veterans overcome challenges to their health and well-being. They can connect you to resources for issues related to access to care, mental health, economics, housing, and more. If you’re not sure where to look for support, talking to a social worker is a great place to start.

Get connected

Navigating all the resources available at VA is easier with guidance. VA encourages you to **contact a social worker** for help at any time. Social workers can connect you to these and other resources:

- Mental health care
- Whole Health programs
- The MOVE! Weight Management program
- Chronic pain management
- Education on specific health conditions
- Support for homelessness
- Financial assistance
- Programs for smoking cessation, grief, insomnia, and more

Where to start

Here are a few ways to connect with a VA social worker:

- Ask for a referral. Your primary care provider, Whole Health coach, pharmacist, nutritionist, or advanced care providers can refer you.
- Call your local VA and ask to speak to a social worker.
- Visit your local VA. If a social worker is available, they’ll talk to you then. If not, an appointment will be scheduled for you.

When you meet with a social worker, they’ll talk with you about your needs and what resources are available. If you’re in crisis, the social worker will assess if hospitalization or a visit to the ER is needed. Whatever your situation, they’ll work with you to create an action plan and connect you to the care you need.

Keep in touch

Once you’re working with a social worker, you can contact them through Secure Messaging. You can even upload paperwork for your social worker to review before an appointment.

To use Secure Messaging, you’ll need a Premium My HealthVet account. It’s free to upgrade your account online or in person at a VA health facility.

You don’t have to navigate your VA health care alone. If you have questions, or don’t know where to look for support, VA social workers are here to help.

VA MOVING TO LET LIVING VETERANS PREP THEIR ONLINE MEMORIAL PAGES

Veterans Affairs planners expect to expand their Veterans Legacy Memorial platform by the end of this year to allow living veterans to prepare their own tribute pages with personal details of their time in service, officials said Monday.

The five-year-old project — which allows family members to update online memorials of deceased veterans — has grown to include nearly 10 million veterans interred in VA-run cemeteries, Department of Defense sites and thousands of private cemeteries.

VA Undersecretary for Memorial Affairs Matt Quinn said he has been pleased with the progress in recent years but has also heard from veterans who want to prepare their own tributes to better capture their memories of military life.

“By the end of the year, we expect to have that live,” he said. “Then the veteran ... can go and fill out the information on their service, what they want their family or others to be aware of. And upon the veteran’s passing, that page will go live.”

Veterans would not be able to have the pages displayed while they are still alive, but would be able to view it themselves to ensure the information there will be accurate when made public, officials said.

Quinn did not provide any estimates on how many veterans

may be interested in the service. Of the nearly 17 million veterans in America today, nearly half are 65 or older.

News of the expansion comes just days ahead of Memorial Day celebrations at VA cemeteries and memorial sites across the country. Quinn said the weekend is the busiest for the National Cemetery Administration each year, although volunteer and crowd numbers still appear slightly lower than before the COVID-19 pandemic forced partial closures of the sites for two years.

VA Secretary Denis McDonough is scheduled to speak at the New York Veterans Cemetery Finger Lakes in Waterloo, New York, on May 27. The town, dubbed the “birthplace of Memorial Day,” first marked the holiday in 1866.

VA Chief of Staff Kimberly Jackson is scheduled to speak during ceremonies at Wood National Cemetery in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on May 27. VA Deputy Secretary Tanya Bradsher is scheduled to speak at Baltimore National Cemetery in Maryland on May 30 as part of the extended holiday celebrations.

Information on events at all VA sites and the online veterans memorial project is available through the National Cemetery Administration website.

[Veterans Administration, May 22, 2024]

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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



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