

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

POST 9934 AND AUXILIARY 9934

DANA POINT, CALIFORNIA
MAY 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

ALL AMERICAN POST 2007-08
2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-2014,
2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2019-2020, 2021-2022

2018 NATIONAL OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
2022 NATIONAL OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Comrades,

May is here and we start with a busy VFW Post 9934 calendar of events.

The Post has already completed the list of activities for Memorial Day weekend. I sent an email requesting assistance earlier this week. Please try to set aside several hours to join your Post Comrades at the Buddy Poppy locations on May 25th and 26th . The donations we receive that weekend are vital for the success of all our Post programs.

The locations and times are in the email. We will also have a sign-up roster at the meeting on May 14th .

Please make sure that you have our Memorial Day Ceremony on your personal calendar. As in years past, the ceremony will be at Pines Park at 1000 Hrs on Monday, May 27th . Please invite your family and friends.

This year our post will participate in the VFW National Day of Service on May 11th. On that day we will all meet at Sea Terrace Park to assist the City of Dana Point with the creation of new habitats for the Monarch Butterflies that

migrate across our area. As we discussed in prior emails and in person meetings, all VFW Posts are encouraged to participate in at least one community event, non-veteran related during the month of May. Our incoming quartermaster Phil Jimenez brought this activity to our attention, and it seemed to fit exactly what the VFW had in mind as a worthwhile community activity.

So, join us on the 11th, bring your gardening gloves, your favorite hat and a gardening implement and support the City of Dana Point. We'll be at the beach so invite the family along.

Before I leave you, I would like to have all of us this Memorial Day, remember our past friends and comrades who have passed and/or never got to enjoy their time back home after serving their country.

“Lest we forget”

Please be safe and be kind to each other.

Next Post Meeting: May 14th, 2024 1800 Hrs
South Shores Church

Rick Jauregui, Commander, Post 9934,

**VFW POST 9934
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS – MAY 2024**

- Wednesday, May 1st, 2:00 to 4:00, Disability Clinic – Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo
- Saturday, May 4th, 9:00 AM VFW District 2 Memorial Service and District meeting at Anaheim Post, 805 E. Sycamore Street, Anaheim.
- Tuesday, May 7th, 6:00 PM Dana Point City Council Meeting
- Saturday, May 11th, 9:00 AM VFW National Day of Service. Post 9934 Monarch Butterfly habitat planting, Sea Terrace Park, 33501 Niguel Rd, DP (where summer concerts are held)
- **SUNDAY, MAY 12th, MOTHERS DAY**
- Tuesday, May 14th, 6:00 PM VFW Post Meeting – South Shores Church, 32712 Crown Valley Pkwy. Planning for Memorial Day Ceremony and Buddy Poppy Donation Drive. Feel free to invite a Veteran guest so they can see what our Post does!
- Wednesday, May 15th, 2:00 to 4:00 Disability Clinic - Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo
- Saturday, May 18th, 11:00 AM, Military Speakers Forum, Portola High School, 1001 Cadence, Irvine.
- Tuesday, May 21st, Noon, Opening Ceremony, Post 9934 Color Guard, Field of Honor @ Mission San Juan Capistrano Courtyard, 26801 Old Mission Rd, San Juan Capistrano.
- Tuesday, May 21st, 6:00 PM Dana Point City Council Meeting
- Thursday, May 23rd, 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Dana Point Non-Profit Symposium, Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo Street
- Saturday, May 25th and Sunday, May 26th, 9:00 to 5:30, Buddy Poppy donation Drive.
Location #1 Albertsons, 34241 Golden Lantern, Laguna Niguel 1st Shift 9:00-1:00, 2nd Shift 1:00-5:30
Location #2 Pavilions, 989 Avenida Pico, San Clemente, 1st Shift 9:00-1:00, 2nd Shift 1:00-5:30
- **MONDAY, MAY 27th, MEMORIAL DAY.** VFW Post 9934 and the City of Dana Point Ceremony, 10:00 – 11:00, Pines Park, 34941 Camino Capistrano, Capistrano Beach. (Set up at 8:30 AM)

INFLUENCING THE FUTURE

The 2024 Dana Point State of the City was held on April 24, 2024 at the beautiful Ocean Institute. Mayor Jamey Federico opened the evening by celebrating how Dana Point is influencing the future as the City is working towards building a foundation and brand so that our local residents and businesses can shape the Dana Point community today and for generations to come. The event featured a video presentation and Q&A with guest speaker Kelly LeVeque, a local entrepreneur and social media influencer, who emphasized the importance of leveraging Dana Point's brand for your business.

Mayor Federico said, "We're proud that as the City's physical infrastructure changes, our culture and community still stay true to Dana Point. The world and economy are ever evolving and we want you to know that we're committed to evolving with you. Influencing the future while keeping everything we've always loved about Dana Point."

TO CONTACT YOUR POST

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

MAY 2024 MEETING

The next meeting of the Post and Auxiliary 9934 will be Tuesday, May 14, 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.

IMPACT OF MASSIVE HEALTH CARE CYBERATTACK ON VETS REMAINS UNCLEAR

A massive cyberattack against a private health care firm in February may have exposed millions of veterans' personal medical records. House lawmakers want to know how many veterans had personal medical data compromised in a massive cybersecurity attack earlier this year against the private firm Change Healthcare, calling it a potential "catastrophe" for families across the country.



ware group holding stolen data hostage and demanding additional ransom payments," he wrote. "This bad situation seems to be getting worse. ... While nearly every institution is the target of cyberattacks, your company's reticence seems to be impeding VA from fully understanding and recovering from this incident."

So far, both Veterans Affairs officials and executives at UnitedHealth Group — which owns Change Healthcare — have said they do not know if any such private information was stolen in the attack.

But corporate leaders have acknowledged that "a substantial proportion of people in America" could have been affected by the breach, and understanding the scope of its impact could take months.

The Feb. 21 attack disrupted VA and military pharmacy operations along with thousands of civilian medical offices. VA payments to outside medical offices were also temporarily halted.

During testimony before Congress this week, UnitedHealth Group CEO Andrew Witty said the company's systems were hacked by outside criminals who stole data and deployed ransomware, crippling operations.

UnitedHealth officials were forced to pay \$22 million in bitcoin to regain control of the system, but are still unsure of the lingering effects of the attack.

In a letter to Witty on Thursday, House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Mike Bost, R-Ill., said the company's lack of transparency and poor security is unacceptable, particularly given the amount of veteran and service member data they work with.

"There are now other reports of a second, related ransom-

Last week, VA Secretary Denis McDonough said that most department operations have resumed as normal following the attack, and that officials "are not aware of any adverse impacts on vets care or health outcomes because of the breach."

But he said he is pressing UnitedHealth officials for more information on lost veterans data and any potential future problems related to the breach.

"If we do learn that veterans' personal information has been compromised, we'll move quickly to mitigate the impact and provide full support to veterans affected," he said.

Change Healthcare has announced plans to offer free credit monitoring to any individuals whose data was compromised. VA officials have also outlined tools to protect veterans against fraud on their department website.

But Bost noted in his letter that lawmakers and veterans need to know the full scope of the attack before they can address any lingering problems. He demanded a clear timeline on when that information will be made public, with assurances that work is moving ahead as quickly as possible.

"If VA cannot rely on Change Healthcare or any other company to be a good-faith partner in the event of a breach, the department must immediately look elsewhere as patient privacy and safety must be the number one priority," he wrote.

[[Leo Shane III](#) May 3, 08:03 AM]

VA LONG BEACH MEDICAL CENTER DIRECTOR AWARDED VA SECRETARY'S EXCELLENCE IN NURSING AWARD

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough awarded VA Long Beach Healthcare System Medical Center Director Walt C. Dannenberg with one of VA's highest honors – the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Award for Excellence in Nursing & Advancement of Nursing Programs.

The VA Secretary's Awards in Nursing Excellence program, established in 1984, annually honors recipients whose contributions to the care of patients in any VA health care setting are patient-driven and demonstrate such excellence as to merit recognition from peers. Only one medical center director across the entire VA receives this award annually.



SUPREME COURT TO HEAR ANOTHER MAJOR VETERANS BENEFITS CASE THIS FALL

The Supreme Court agreed this week to take up another major veterans benefits case later this fall.

The Supreme Court will review the legal claim of two veterans denied medical benefits for what they insist were service-connected traumas, a case that could potentially expand benefits for thousands of veterans.

Officials from the high court on Monday announced they will take up *Bufkin v McDonough*, which has been moving through the veterans and federal courts for the last four years. Justices will address the case in their next term, which starts this fall, and are expected to issue a ruling in early 2025.

The case centers on Air Force veteran Joshua Bufkin, who served from 2005 to 2006, and Army veteran Norman Thornton, who served from 1988 to 1991. Both men were repeatedly denied medical benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, but say the decisions and appeals process have been improperly handled.

Both Bufkin and Thornton sought medical care for post-traumatic stress disorder related to their military service, but failed to convince VA administrators they qualified for the benefits.

Their attorneys have argued those moves violate federal “benefit of the doubt” rules mandated by Congress, which state that when evidence supporting or opposing a veteran’s



claim is roughly balanced, the department should rule in favor of granting the benefits.

VA officials — and subsequent court officials — have said the cases were properly handled, both by staffers evaluating the claims and during the subsequent appeals process.

A ruling in favor of the plaintiffs by the Supreme Court could force major changes in how such benefits cases are appealed, and potentially open the door for more individuals initially refused benefits eligibility to have their cases reconsidered.

The Supreme Court announcement comes just two weeks after justices ruled in favor of expanding veterans benefits in another major case, *Rudisill v McDonough*.

In that decision, a majority of the court ruled that veterans should be able to access both their Montgomery GI Bill education benefits and Post-9/11 GI Bill college benefits, in contrast to current VA policy mandating individuals choose only one program.

VA officials have said they are still reviewing that decision and expect to issue new rules regarding education benefits eligibility in coming months.

[[Leo Shane III](#) Tuesday, Apr 30]

IMPACT OF MASSIVE HEALTH CARE CYBERATTACK ON VETS REMAINS UNCLEAR

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“There are now other reports of a second, related ransomware group holding stolen data hostage and demanding additional ransom payments,” he wrote. “This bad situation seems to be getting worse. ... While nearly every institution is the target of cyberattacks, your company’s reticence seems to be impeding VA from fully understanding and recovering from this incident.”

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(cont'd page 5)

NEARLY 250,000 VETERANS TO RECEIVE PAYOUTS IN 3M EARPLUG SETTLEMENT

Officials from 3M said that more than 249,000 veterans will receive payouts through a settlement over combat earplug defects.

More than 249,000 veterans will receive part of the \$6 billion lawsuit settlement against 3M as part of the Combat Arms Earplug settlement announced in 2023, corporate officials announced.

The figure represents more than 99% of all of the claimants who filed suit against the manufacturing company, accusing them of causing hearing damage in troops through faulty production of military-grade hearing protection.

The earplugs, produced by Aearo Technologies before that company was bought by 3M in 2008, were sold from 1999 to 2015 and used extensively by troops deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as other locations.

The high-profile legal fight has been grinding through courts for years, with a handful of individual claimants winning their cases against the company. In summer 2023, attorneys involved in a class-action lawsuit against the company announced plans to end all outstanding action against 3M if at least 98% of claimants agreed to the \$6 billion settlement.

Of the nearly 300,000 cases filed against the company, more than 41,000 were thrown out by the court overseeing the agreement, 3M officials said. Those dismissals allowed lawyers to meet the threshold for triggering the agreement.

3M, based in Minnesota, has not acknowledged flaws with the earplugs.

In past statements, officials from the company have said the equipment is safe and effective “when used properly.”

Veterans involved in the lawsuit will see payouts between now and 2029. Exact amounts will depend on the severity of their injuries, but the total payouts 3M will be liable for will not exceed \$6 billion.

In summer 2023, 3M reached a separate \$10 billion settlement with numerous municipalities to resolve pending claims over the company’s alleged contamination of drinking water systems through their manufacturing processes.

More information on the settlement is available through an information site set up by the company.

On August 29, 2023, 3M announced that it reached an agreement with the court-appointed negotiating plaintiffs’ counsel to resolve the Combat Arms Earplug litigation against Aearo Technologies (Aearo) and 3M.

About the Product

The Combat Arms Earplugs product was developed by Aearo Technologies for the U.S. military prior to 3M’s acquisition of Aearo in 2008, and was sold from 1999 until 2015.

This product offered protection from high-level impulse noises, such as gunfire, while allowing users to hear lower-level sounds, like speech. When used properly, this product was safe and effective for its intended purpose.

However, since 2019, 3M and Aearo have faced litigation from individuals alleging hearing injury.

About the Resolution

The Combat Arms Settlement Agreement was reached through a mediation process involving mediators appointed by the federal and state courts, and the negotiating plaintiffs’ counsel appointed by the courts. The agreement is structured to promote participation by claimants and to help provide greater certainty and finality for all involved.

Out of a total of almost 293,000 claims, more than 249,000 claimants have registered to participate in the settlement. In addition, nearly 42,000 claims have been dismissed by the courts administering the agreements. Once all settlement registrations have been validated, 3M anticipates that the settlement will have achieved a more than 99.9% participation level.

Under the terms of the settlement agreement, 3M will contribute up to \$6.0 billion between 2023 and 2029 upon satisfaction of certain participation levels as set for the in the settlement agreement. As the participation now exceeds some of the required thresholds in the settlement agreement, 3M will make payments starting in 2024 and through 2029 pursuant to the timeline established in the agreement.

To learn more, visit [3m-earplugsettlement.com](https://www.3m-earplugsettlement.com).

[Leo Shane III Thursday, Mar 28]

IMPACT OF MASSIVE HEALTH CARE CYBERATTACK

(cont’d from p.4)

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[Leo Shane III May 3, 08:03 AM]

DELTA TO DMZ
12-25 OCTOBER 2024
US MILITARY & WOMEN SERVING VIETNAM & CIVILIAN
MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS www.military.com

Great Chance for Women who served in RVN to reconnect. PRE-TOUR– starts 9/10 October Saigon. Hotel LE Meridien – Tour inclusive of in country flight, tour bus, most meals. Fly to DaLat. Visit Tuyen Lam, Bao Dai Villa, Dalat Railway Station, Dalanta Water Fall. A Very extensive tour (RECOMMEND) Fly back to Saigon 12 October to meet up with **MAIN TOUR** 12 October **PRE TOUR COST \$745 DOUBLE OCCUPANCY, SINGLE ADD \$190**

MAIN TOUR COVERS: Cities and transportation MY Tho, Binh Phuoc, Song Be, Quan Loi Phuoc Vinh, Dong Xoai, Cu Chi, Taynink, Pleiku, An Khe, QuyNhon, Hoi AN, Bien Hoa, Long Bien, China Beach, Ha Van Pass, Route 9, QuanTri Pass, DaNang . HueCity Depart Hue City. **They will be covering where the Vietnam Nurses were stationed. TOUR PRICE FOR MAIN \$3,395, single Supplement \$895** Tour Price includes Vietnam Visa, First Class Hotel Accommodations, Air- Conditioned Tour Buses with Bottles water, meals as indicated on itinerary, Tour Historical Trip information packet, Emergency Medical EVACUATION HOSPITAL INSURANCE, Admission fees sites, attractions and museums listed itinerary. English Speaking Tour Guide

POST TOURS: Ha Long Bay 2 Night tour 26-28 October. \$1,100 SS \$175. Siege of Deien Bien Phu– 26-29 \$1,100 **ASK FOR INFORMATION AND COMPLETE ITINERAY 703 590 1295** This Tour Company is operated by Veterans who volunteer. Pam is the coordinator who arranges the flights and visas and paper work. The is a 4-star tour group on Yelp, Google and member of Better Business Organization. **IF INTERESTED PLEASE CALL THEM. DEADLINE FOR**

DEPOSIT, PASSPORT PHOTO and REGISTRATION FORMS Is AUGUST. I'm going with my son and Another RVN Nurse, please take this opportunity to join us. I will help you in any way, Dolores (Wohnus) Padgett RVN December 66-67 85th Evac QuiNhon Dturdt717@gmail.com

THIS IS OPEN TO ALL MILITARY – FAMILIES - COUNTERPARTS.

U.S. Military & Civilian Women in Vietnam
"Delta to the DMZ!"
 12 - 25 October 2024
 Tour Leader: LtCol John Powell USA(Ret) 1st/9th Cav

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GRAND OLE OPRY SALUTE THE TROOPS SHOW TO HONOR UNITED STATES MILITARY

The Grand Ole Opry is scheduled to salute the U.S. Military with a return of the red carpet parade and what has become a highlight of the year, the special Salute the Troops Opry performance Tuesday, May 21. Among the artists scheduled to perform are Opry member Craig Morgan, who serves as an Army Reserve Warrant Officer and will perform with the 313th U.S. Army Band, Opry member Lauren Alaina, Lee Brice, HunterGirl, Austin Snell and more.

Additionally, the Opry will welcome Lt. Gen. Jody Daniels, chief of the Army Reserve and commanding general of the U.S. Army Reserve command, as its special guest. Lt. Gen. Daniels, the first female to command the Reserve component, commands more than 200,000 soldiers and civilian employees who live and work in communities across the country.

The Opry and its presenting sponsor Humana are partnering with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), whose mission is to support, serve, advocate for and foster camaraderie among U.S. veterans. Special VFW guests attending the show will be Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Carol Whitmore, also the first female to hold such a position, and Brian Walker, interim VFW Foundation director.

“The VFW is honored to be a part of the Grand Ole Opry’s Salute the Troops event along with our great friends at Humana,” said VFW National Commander Duane Sarmiento. “We’re honored to be included in a historic night dedicated to celebrating the brave service and continued sacrifices of America’s best and brightest.”

The Opry will invite active duty and veteran service members attending the show, as well as their spouses, children, and parents to join a red carpet parade into the Opry House for the evening’s show. Lt. Gen Daniels and retired Army Lt. Gen Keith Huber, senior advisor for veterans and leadership initiatives at Middle Tennessee State University and founder of the MTSU Charlie and Hazel Daniels Veterans and Military Family Center and Carol Whitmore Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief with the VFW, will lead the parade.

This year’s Opry Salute the Troops will be filmed to air as a special Opry Live on Memorial Day weekend (Saturday, May 25) on the Opry Facebook and YouTube channels, streaming free on the Circle Now app, or tune in via Circle Country digital streaming partners at 9/8 pm CT. The show will air live on WSM Radio and will also be heard on SiriusXM, Channel 59 Willie’s Roadhouse.

The Opry’s Salute the Troops celebration is presented by



Humana and supported by the VFW. Participating sponsors include Hiller Plumbing, Heating, Cooling & Electrical, Transition to Trades and the MTSU Daniels Center. Retired Lt. Gen. Keith Huber will be a guest announcer representing the Daniels Center.

Among the artists scheduled to appear on the Opry in the coming weeks include Lauren Alaina, Bill Anderson, Kelsea Ballerini, Blanco Brown, Terri Clark, Ashley Cooke, Tyler Hubbard, Malpass Brothers, Scotty McCreery, Old Crow Medicine Show, Drew Parker, T.G. Sheppard, Jeanie Seely, Josh Turner, Carrie Underwood, Anne Wilson, Trisha Yearwood among many others.

About the Grand Ole Opry

The Grand Ole Opry is the home of country music where artists and fans gather, in person and virtually, to celebrate and be part of country’s past, present and future. Founded in Nashville in 1925 and today the longest-running live broadcast show in the world, the Opry strengthens its roots by constantly evolving. The Opry’s members are country’s most emblematic artists, and the show regularly showcases country music’s top new talent. The Opry welcomes legions of fans to visit the Opry House in Nashville, Tennessee – Music City, USA – to experience one of the 3-5 live shows it hosts per week; take a backstage tour; listen to live broadcasts on opry.com and wsmonline.com, SiriusXM Willie’s Roadhouse, or its flagship home WSM Radio; and watch Opry Live on Saturday nights and Opry content all week long on Circle Country. The Grand Ole Opry is owned by Ryman Hospitality Properties (NYSE: RHP) and part of a strategic investment with Atairios and NBCUniversal.

POST OFFICERS FOR 2023-2024

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	Bill Manes		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)	Robert Pruitt
Women Veterans Coordinator	Marcia Kuehl	Trustee (2-year term)	Scott Roberts
Post Color Guard Captain	Carlos Garcia	Trustee (1-year term)	Richard Carr

AUXILIARY OFFICERS FOR 2023-2024

President	Lisa Mers	Trustee 3	Judy Brandmeier
Junior Vice President	Sharon Miller	Trustee 2	Sharon Miller
Secretary	Terry Marr	Trustee 1	Mary Koebler
Treasurer	Cindy Somerville	Chaplain	Yvonne English
Guard	Tory Boegeman	Conductor	Ralph Mariano



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