

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



Post 9934 Auxiliary 9934



Dana Point, California
October 2024

Halloween Spooktacular & Trunk or Treat

Join us for a fun Halloween event at the Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo. The City of Dana Point's Recreation Division is teaming up with Dana Point Police Services for a great family event. Activities include games, crafts, entertainment, and the Dana Point Police Services Trunk or Treat display. VFW Post 9934 comrades will hand out candy to the kids and hold a pumpkin decorating contest at our booth. October 26th - 2 to 6 pm



Trunk or Treat 2023



VFW AUXILIARY
UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

Garage Sale Fundraiser

Date: Saturday, October 12, 2024

Time: 7 am to Noon

Place: 33442 Coral Reach Drive, Dana Point
Dana Point Stratford at the Pacific
(off Del Obispo near Stonehill)

We accept Cash, Apple Pay, Debit and Credit Cards



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,

The weather seems to be changing, and Fall is fast approaching. These end of the year months, for the Post, are by no means our slow season. Fall and Winter bring different and varied requests for assistance from our Post. It is not just our brother and sister Veterans in need, it is also the families of Veterans seeking advice, a kind word, and a helping hand.

It is that assistance to Veterans that prompted me to visit the Tierney Center (For Veteran Services) in Tustin. I along with Wayne Yost attended a specific program that centered around Veteran's Housing issues, the past problems, and future programs.

The following day I attended a Veteran's "Stand Down", also at the Tierney Center. I found the sponsored event amazing and gratifying. There were quite a few organizations that attended specifically for the purpose of assisting Veterans in varied ways.

There were organizations there from the Orange County Public Defender's Office, U.S. Vets, Pets for Vets, American Legion, Legal Aid, and many others offering Job and Career counseling. I came away with the knowledge that assistance for Veter-

ans in need is now more available and easier to obtain. At Post 9934, we try to gather as much information as possible. Thus, giving our office staff and Post Service Officers, the ability to give proper direction to our Veterans in need of assistance.

I would implore all of you to look at the website for "The Tierney Center" - tierneycenter.org - to see what they offer. If not for you, then for another brother or sister who needs help.

Also, please look at the Orange County "211" system - 211oc.org or dial 211 on your phone. One call can connect you with Housing issues, Job Resources, and other Veteran and Military support programs.

To all my brothers and sisters... VFW Post 9934 is here for you and your family.

I will see you at the October 8th meeting at South Shores Church at 6PM.

Please be safe and be kind to each other.

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

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

From the Desk of the Quartermaster



This is the time of the year that ghosts and goblins come out. Please be careful while driving at night. We will be assisting Dana Point's Recreation Division with its Halloween Spook-tacular and Trunk or Treat again

this year on October 26th at the Dana Point Community Center. Come out, hand out candy, and have fun with the kids in costumes.

This is also a good time to welcome our new Comrades to the Post. I have watched new comrades attend a post meeting and walk out after it ended never to see them again. It's important to make them feel wanted and welcome at our Post. Please extend a hand to a member at the meeting and call them by name. Everyone wants to be acknowledged and feel

part of the meeting. When we have a fundraising event, it should not be about doing the significant jobs by yourself. Allow the new members to cover breaks and make them feel that they are contributing also. It's hard for a new comrade at a fundraising event to show up to help and not know what to do. Often they don't come back.

We are still trying to name our Post newsletter. Please put your thinking caps on and submit your response to the Post email. dpyfwpost9934@gmail.com. We are extending the contest until October 31, 2024. Remember the winner will receive a free dinner for two at Jack's Restaurant. Paid by the Commander himself, so let's take advantage of this great offer.

*Phil Jimenez, Quartermaster
Dana Point VFW Post 9934*

Auxiliary Corner

"Nothing is as strong as the heart of a volunteer"
(Jimmy Dolittle)

Our President Lisa Mers refers to us as a small but mighty group. This has shown to be true as we joined forces with the Welcome INN. This amazing organization works to feed the hungry in Orange County. Lisa Mers, Carlene Chew, and Judy Brandmeier helped prepare the meals and distribute them at Doheny Beach.

We continued our community outreach on the birthday of the VFW Auxiliary. Mary Koebler and Terry Marr completed 10 hours of volunteer service with the Ocean Institute Maritime Festival.

As much as we love to give, we also need your support. We are asking you to follow the VFW Auxiliary 9934 Dana Point Facebook page and get updated on our upcoming garage sale fundraiser happening on October 12th, with the bonus of seeing what this small but MIGHTY group is up to next.

*Terry Marr
Secretary, Historian
VFW Auxiliary 9934*



One Veteran Without a Home Is One Too Many



Guest Opinion: The Levin Letter
by Rep. Mike Levin

(Reprinted from the Dana Point
Times Sept 12, 2024).

There are currently more than 35,000 homeless veterans in the United States. While this number is less than half of the 76,000 U.S. homeless veterans in 2010,

it is still far too high. Roughly 10% of the current homeless veteran population is in California. In Los Angeles, San Diego and Orange County, you don't need to look far to find veterans living in tents and on sidewalks.

It's simply unacceptable. No veteran should ever be without a home after selflessly serving our nation with dignity. Just as there is no single cause of veteran homelessness, there is no single solution. However, this shouldn't stop us from doing everything we can to ensure every veteran has a place to call home.

One of the most effective programs we have in addressing veteran homelessness is the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing, or HUD-VASH, program. Under HUD-VASH, veterans who earn below a certain income level qualify for housing vouchers, and veterans can use these vouchers for rental assistance to secure an affordable, stable home. Unfortunately, some of the veterans most in need of a HUD-VASH voucher have been unable to receive one. Until now.

When determining a veteran's eligibility for a HUD•VASH voucher and other rental assistance programs, HUD historically has considered a veteran's disability benefits as part of their income. This caused thousands of low-income and homeless veterans to exceed the income eligibility threshold for vouchers, making them ineligible to access the necessary resources to secure affordable housing. This especially presented a problem for veterans hoping to use their HUD-VASH vouchers for units funded by the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, which has a stricter income threshold.

In many instances, veterans have served our country, become disabled because of their service, and then been denied housing assistance because of their disability benefits. This has been no more evident than at the West Los Angeles VA campus, where 100% disabled veterans have been

priced out of housing built specifically for them. It's absolutely ridiculous.

For years, much of my effort to address veteran homelessness has been centered on this issue. I wrote letters, helped introduce legislation, held hearings, convened meetings, and drew public attention to this problem. Last month, it finally paid off.

In August, HUD finally made federal policy changes that stopped counting veterans' disability benefits as income for the purposes of the HUD-VASH program. This will enable thousands of veterans to become eligible for housing vouchers and affordable housing and rental assistance programs, in our communities and across the country. This is a big deal.

Going forward, veterans will not be denied housing due to their disability benefits. HUD is now working with the Treasury Department to ensure that this policy change extends to units funded by the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit. This is a major win for veterans across the country.

These policy changes will make a tremendous impact in getting homeless veterans off the streets and into affordable housing units. We know that having a stable home produces better life outcomes, and our veterans deserve nothing less. Now, veterans will not have their disability benefits held against them when applying for rental assistance.

I'm grateful to HUD for acting and heeding my call to do more to help homeless veterans. Our nation's heroes should never go hungry, unemployed, or without a place to call home. While this is a huge step in the right direction, it does not by itself solve the issue of veteran homelessness.

Congress must exhaust every resource available to connect veterans with available housing, and we must redouble our efforts to build more affordable housing units and make it easier to access them.

I'm committed to doing everything I can to ensure all our nation's veterans are housed, and I look forward to working together with my colleagues in Congress to make that a reality.

US Representative Mike Levin represents the 49th Congressional District, which includes the South Orange County cities of Dana Point, San Clemente and San Juan Capistrano. He was reelected in 2020 and 2022 and resides in San Juan Capistrano with his wife and two children.

FEDERAL JUDGE HOLDS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS RESPONSIBLE FOR MISUSING WEST L.A. VETERANS CAMPUS

A major campus for veteran services in West L.A. was formerly known as the Pacific Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers which had been established as a home for Civil War veterans on land donated in 1888. After WWI, the campus gradually evolved from institutional housing to medical care. As many as 4,000 veterans had lived on the property in the early 20th century but the transformation into a medical center continued after WWII. By 1962, the West L.A. Medical Center, as it became known, was the largest in the country with more than 6,000 patients and 4,000 staff, although the National Home still existed as well.

Following the 1971 Sylmar earthquake, the hospital building was judged seismically unsound and demolished. To make room for a temporary hospital during reconstruction, the roughly 1,000 remaining residents of the Home were abruptly evicted with only about half being relocated to other VA facilities. In following years, surveys of homeless veterans in the Los Angeles area would relate many of them to be former residents of the National Home. After the new hospital opened, the old buildings were left to deteriorate.

The Department of Veterans Affairs began to look at the 388 acre site as a potential source for income producing activities. Over time, oil drilling was authorized into a West L.A. oil field. Commercial parking facilities were constructed, UCLA and Brentwood private school were authorized to construct sport facilities, among other activities that had no direct relation to the original donation of the land for veteran services.

Approximately 20 acres of the land were eventually transferred to the State of California for construction of a State Veterans Home. The home was designed for a capacity of 400 residents but the operation of the state homes is entirely different from the original concept of the former National Home. Because of the admission standards, resident fees, and the failure of the state to fund adequate staff, the State Home has never reached the original capacity of residents and, certainly, was never considered to be a potential source of assistance for homeless veterans.

Individual veterans, and veteran groups, in the L.A. area have long complained about the V.A policy of leasing parts of the campus for activities that were not primarily services for veterans. A federal judge, David O. Carter, an 80-year old Marine, has been conducting hearings concerning legal action brought by the veterans to try to force the V.A. to provide more care for homeless veterans. The trial reprises litigation going back to 2011 that challenged the V.A. leases and asserted an unmet need for veteran housing. In 2015, the V.A. agreed to a settlement that provided for a master plan that called for 1,200 units of housing in new and rehabilitated buildings with a commitment to complete more that 770 units by the end of 2022. Only 54 of those units were completed by the deadline and only 233 are currently open.

During the latest hearing on the lawsuit filed by the veterans, Judge Carter made an extensive review of the entire West L.A. campus including a personal visit to all of the V.A. authorized contractors. The trial was a non-jury affair meaning the Judge made the entire decision on the verdict. His final ruling was that the leases to UCLA, Brentwood School, and other activities on the campus were illegal since they do not principally serve the veterans. The V.A. was ordered to construct 2,500 units of housing for low income veterans on the campus, and to build 750 units of temporary housing within 12 to 18 months. The V.A. is also directed to formulate a plan within six months to add 1,800 units of permanent housing to the 1,200 units previously in the planning stages.

In addition to all this, the Judge is requiring the V.A to construct a town center, which would include a cafe and general store, in 18 months. There was no specific ruling concerning what would happen to the V.A. leases with UCLA, Brentwood School, and other activities, but that these issues would be addressed after additional hearings.

William Manes, Former Chairman
Governor’s Advisory Commission on the
Southern California Veterans Homes

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Dear Comrades,

I am seeking volunteers to assist with Color Guard/Honor Guard details. Our goal is to have 5 to 10 post members helping with duties. With a 10-person team, we can rotate members to avoid being overwhelmed by requests.

In the past, I managed with five members and a few alternates, and we've become a well-known Post in our region for honors and ceremonies. So, what are the duties of a member of our post detail?

- ◆ Presenting and folding our National Ensign at memorial or graveside events
- ◆ Color Guard details for parades and special events
- ◆ Playing of Taps at memorial and graveside events
- ◆ Assisting in proper destruction of the American Flag

You do not need previous experience for these duties. I will provide proper instruction and the uniforms at no cost. When you decide you want to volunteer for this special post detail, please contact me via my cell at 949.276.1800 or via email at aquaticcg@gmail.com.

*Carlos Garcia, Jr Vice Commander,
Color Guard Captain*

Congressional Resolution Establishes Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Day

118TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION H. CON. RES. 128

Expressing support for the designation of September 29, 2024, as “Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Day”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas the organization now known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was founded in Columbus, Ohio, on September 29, 1899, in the aftermath of the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection;

Whereas the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will occur on September 29, 2024;

Whereas the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has, for the past 125 years, provided voluntary and unselfish service to the Armed Forces, veterans, and the Nation by advocating for overarching veterans’ benefits programs, facilitating veterans transitioning back to civilian society, serving the communities in which veterans live, and taking a national leadership role on substantive issues important to all veterans of the Armed Forces; and

Whereas the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States provides an opportunity to recognize, honor, and pay tribute to the nearly 1,000,000 veterans of the Armed Forces represented by that organization who served in combat from World War II to the present day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

- (1) expresses support for the designation of “Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Day”;
- (2) recognizes the historic significance of the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States;
- (3) congratulates the organization on achieving that milestone;
- (4) commends the nearly 1,000,000 veterans who belong to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and thanks them for their service to their fellow veterans and the Nation; and
- (5) authorizes and requests the President to issue a proclamation calling upon all government agencies and the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

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Post 9934 presents Grant to Surfside Quilters Guild

On September 10, Post 9934 member Marcia Kuehl presented our Post's donation of \$1,000 to the Surfside Quilter’s Guild, a philanthropy program which provides quilts and pillow cases to the veterans at the VA Hospital, children at CHOC, foster children in Orangewood, shut-ins with Meals on Wheels to name a few. Marcia thanked the Surfside Quilters for providing quilts in partnership with VFW Dana Point Post 9934 and how much the veterans and military members appreciated the quilts they received. So far 45 quilts made by Surfside quilters have been presented to the VA Hospital veterans by Post 9934 members, 9 Quilts to veterans in a Rehab in Yorba Linda, 15 quilts to veterans in a Rehab in Long Beach,

and over 80 pillowcases delivered to CHOC for the children.

Surfside Quilters have made 35 of the 50 quilts pledged for Camp Pendleton Marines who will not be going home for Christmas this year. They will receive a quilt as a gift at the Christmas dinner party held at the Dana Point harbor. Each month the Quilters get together for 4-6 hours, make kits for members to take home to make quilt tops or pillowcases. When the philanthropy team receives the quilt tops, they make the quilt backs and bindings, and kit it for the longarm Quilters.



Marcia Kuehl and Jeannette Brooks

UPDATE: PATRIOT'S PEN - VOICE OF DEMOCRACY - TEACHER OF THE YEAR

It's that time of year again for our local students to compose their essays for the VFW's Youth Scholarship contests. Although National has revised the application process this new fiscal year, we do not anticipate any real hiccups. National has contracted with Scholar's App for the purpose of processing the applications. One of the reasons: National will now receive ALL applications/essays submitted to the individual VFW Posts. While this may be a little complicated across the board (nation) I think we'll get the hang of it this year.

Students may still submit their applications with written/recorded essays as they have done in the past or they may use a QR code created specifically for our Post. For complete rules for the competition, visit our website at vfwpost9934.org. Go to the Programs Page and then Youth Programs, click on the applicable contest. Absolute deadline is October 31st for Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy.

Sometimes forgotten is the Teacher of the Year applications that our Post submits for the three grade tiers: K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. If you know of any teacher that you consider outstanding and who is committed to teaching Americanism and instilling patriotism, please ask them to apply for this award. Applications are available on our website, at our Post meeting on October 8th, or you can contact the office and we'll email or mail one to you. Deadline for applications is also October 31st.

*David Vera, Education Chairman
Dana Point VFW Post 9934*

VETERANS BENEFITS SAFE AFTER SENATE APPROVES \$3 BILLION IN ADDITIONAL FUNDING BEFORE DEADLINE

Veterans benefits payments scheduled to go out Oct. 1 will be undisrupted after the Senate approved a bill to plug a \$3 billion funding shortfall with a day to spare before the payments could have been delayed.

The Senate on September 19 approved the legislation to cover the shortfall in Department of Veterans Affairs funding for disability and education benefits by voice vote, sending the bill to President Joe Biden's desk for his expected signature. The vote came ahead of what VA officials were warning was a Friday deadline to approve the funding or else risk delaying the benefits.

"Our veterans were there for us. We have to be there for them," Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Patty Murray, D-Wash., said on the Senate floor. "Congress has a responsibility to ensure these veterans, their family members, and survivors receive the benefits they have earned, on time."

In July, the VA told lawmakers that the department was short about \$3 billion of what it needs for disability and education benefits this fiscal year, which ends at the end of the month. If the funding wasn't approved by Sept. 20, VA officials warned, payments scheduled to be sent Oct. 1 could be delayed.

VA officials have attributed the shortfall to higher-than-expected benefits claims under the PACT Act, the sweeping law that expanded benefits for veterans exposed to toxins during their military service. GI Bill payments have also exceeded the department's earlier projections for this year, officials have said.

Senators had tried to approve the funding patch in late July, but some Republicans objected to passing the bill prior to a hearing on the shortfall.

That hearing was held by the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on September 18. At the hearing, senators from both parties expressed frustration that they were not informed sooner about the VA's budget woes.

"I don't know that I need to have a conversation about providing benefits," Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., the ranking member of the committee, said at the top of the hearing. "We're for that. Veterans are entitled to benefits. We want them to receive them. But here's what troubles me, is the lack of budgeting accountability, knowing the facts in time to make better decisions. And what is really troubling to me is the lateness in which this issue arose."

Even with the hearing, it was unclear whether the Senate would be able to act on time. In the notoriously slow upper chamber, one senator can delay a bill by refusing to agree to waive lengthy procedures.

In the case of the veterans benefits funding bill, Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., was threatening to object to fast-tracking the legislation unless he got a vote on his amendment to offset the \$3 billion for the VA by cutting funding from the Department of Energy.

Paul was granted a vote on his amendment, which failed 47-47. It needed 60 votes to pass. Among those who voted in support of the amendment was Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester, D-Mont., who is in a tight reelection race.

The benefits funding cliff was averted, but the VA still faces a \$12 billion shortfall in its medical budget next fiscal year, which starts October 1. VA officials have asked Congress to include the medical funding in a stopgap spending bill that lawmakers need to approve by September 30 in order to prevent a government shutdown, but it's unclear whether lawmakers will follow that request.

An initial House GOP proposal for the stopgap spending bill did not include the \$12 billion for VA medical funding. That proposal was voted down in the House on Wednesday evening over issues unrelated to the VA, and lawmakers have not said what their next proposal will entail. [Military.com, Rebecca Kheel, September 19, 2024]

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - OCTOBER 2024

- ◇ Wednesday, October 2nd, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo St.
- ◇ Tuesday, October 8th, VFW Post Meeting – 6:00 pm, South Shores Church, 32712 Crown Valley Pkwy.
- ◇ Saturday, October 12th, Auxiliary Garage Sale - 7:00 am to Noon, 33442 Coral Reach St. Dana Point.
- ◇ Tuesday, October 15th, 6:00 pm Dana Point City Council Meeting
- ◇ Wednesday, October 16th, 2:00 to 4:00 pm- Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo St.
- ◇ Saturday, October 26th, 2:00 to 6:00 pm - City of Dana Point Halloween “Trunk or Treat” Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo St.

Newsletter Naming Contest

We are extending the deadline for the contest to name our monthly newsletter. All entries must be emailed to dpvfwpost9934@gmail.com by October 31st. Post officers will be the judges and are ineligible to participate. We want to hear from you! Winner receives a dinner for two at Jack’s Restaurant in Dana Point

CONTACT VFW POST 9934

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Website: vfwpost9934.org
Facebook: facebook.com/vfwpost9934

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

OCTOBER 2024 MEETINGS

The next meetings of Post and Auxiliary 9934 will be on Tuesday, October 8, 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.

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



Monday, October 14th



Visit our Website: vfwpost9934.org