

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Post 9934 & Auxiliary 9934
Dana Point, California



Mail Call

July 2026



250

★ HAPPY ★

Independence Day

Commander's Message

Greetings Comrades,

As I advised all of you by email, I attended the VFW Department of California Convention in Sacramento during the week of June 17th. Elections were held for the state officers at that time. The newly elected officers are as follows:

- State Commander – Paula Jansen
- State Senior Vice Commander - John Hernandez
- State Junior Vice Commander - Wendy Calderon
- Quartermaster – Deb Johnson
- Adjutant – Andrew Miller
- Chaplain – Frank Correa

We should all wish them luck and give them our support for the year ahead.

Before the convention, there was a full day of training for Post Officers, both newly elected and re-elected. For those who were unable to attend, online training will be offered in the coming weeks. Dates will be announced soon.

I understand that next year's Department Convention will again be held in Sacramento. I encourage each of you to make every effort to attend at least one or two days of the convention.

It is the only way to see how the business of the VFW is done and carried out on a state level. I want all of you to know that I was extremely proud to represent our post at the convention. As is customary at conventions, I had the opportunity to meet and speak with commanders and post officers from across California.

As your Commander, I want to thank you again for allowing me to be part of this organization.

The first Concert in the Park will be on Sunday, July 12th, prior to our July meeting. If you have not signed up to help and you are free that day, please stop by and visit your comrades at the concert.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, July 14th at 6pm at South Shores Church. We will have pizza at 5:30 and a special guest speaker, Bev Lewis from TIP. (See info on last page.)

Please be safe and be kind to each other.

*Rick Jauregui, Commander
Post 9934, Dana Point*



POST OFFICERS FOR 2026-2027

Post Commander	Rick Jauregui	Post Chaplain	Tim Laursen
Senior Vice Commander	Richard Alonzo	Judge Advocate	Michael Turner
Junior Vice Commander	Carlos Garcia	Post Color Guard Captain	Carlos Garcia
Post Quartermaster	Phil Jimenez	Benefits Advisor	Aaron Pluff
Adjutant	David Vera	Trustee (3-year term)	Michael Turner
Assistant Quartermaster	Wayne Yost	Trustee (2-year term)	David Priddy
Post Surgeon	Gil Castro	Trustee (1-year term)	Rodney Bradley

AUXILIARY OFFICERS FOR 2026-2027

President	Lisa Mers	Conductor	Ralph Mariano
Senior Vice President	Sharon Miller	Guard	Lupe Brady
Junior Vice President	Terry Marr	Trustee 3	Sharon Miller
Secretary/Historian	Terry Marr	Trustee 2	Ralph Mariano
Treasurer	Cindy Laursen	Trustee 1	Judy Brandmeier
Chaplain	Carlene Chew	Patriotic Instructor	Lupe Brady

From the Desk of the Quartermaster



Remember the days when your mother would say, "Go outside and play!" Then, as the sun began to set, she'd call you home for dinner. Those were simpler times filled with fresh air, laughter, and friendships.

While those childhood days may be behind us, you can recapture that same spirit by joining your fellow comrades at the VFW Post 9934 booth during the upcoming Dana Point Concerts in the Park. The concerts begin July 12 and continue every Sunday through August 16. It's a wonderful opportunity to enjoy great music, good company, and the fellowship that makes our Post such a special place.

Whether you stay for the entire concert or volunteer for just a short shift, your help makes a tremendous difference. If music isn't your thing, we still have a place for you. We need volunteers to help set up our booth before each event, after which you're free to enjoy the rest of your day. Every helping hand allows another volunteer to take a well-deserved break. Please call the office if you can lend an hour or two.

We also extend a warm welcome home to our Commander, Rick Jauregui, following the VFW State Convention. Be sure to attend our July 14th Post meeting to hear the latest Department news, convention highlights, and the election results of our new incoming officers.

Our Post continues to provide assistance to veterans in need, and that need has never been greater. The success of our fundraising events allows us to continue serving those who once served our nation. Every hour volunteered and every dollar raised helps us fulfill our mission of supporting veterans and their families.

As we celebrate Independence Day this year, we mark an extraordinary milestone—**America's 250th birthday**. Two hundred and fifty years

ago, a courageous group of patriots declared that liberty was worth fighting for, setting in motion the birth of a nation founded on the principles of freedom, opportunity, and self-government. Throughout those two and a half centuries, generations of American service members have answered the call to defend those ideals. Many returned home to build stronger communities, while others gave the ultimate sacrifice so that future generations could continue to enjoy the blessings of liberty.

As members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, we carry forward that legacy of service. This Independence Day, let us proudly fly our nation's flag, remember those who served before us, honor those who continue to serve today, and recommit ourselves to preserving the freedoms that define America.

Happy 250th Birthday, America! May we never forget the price of freedom, and may we always be worthy of the sacrifices made on our behalf.

*Phil Jimenez, Quartermaster
Dana Point VFW Post 9934*



Chaplain's Corner



As we celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States of America, I'd like to give you a brief history on how our nation began.

The Revolutionary War was fought from April 19, 1775 through October 19, 1781. It officially ended on September 3, 1783 with the signing of the Treaty of Paris.

On June 10, 1776, the newly formed Congress of the 13 colonies

of Great Britain appointed a committee of 5 men to draft a statement of independence for the colonies. The final draft was presented to the full Congress on July 2, 1776. After 2 days of revisions, the following was declared:

In Congress, July 4, 1776.

THE UNANIMOUS DECLARATION OF THE THIRTEEN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The second paragraph of the document that declared our independence from Great Britain states:

We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The Declaration of Independence was adopted 250 years ago on July 4, 1776. A total of 56 men signed the Declaration. These signers represented 13 American colonies.

Notable signers include Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and my sixth great uncle, Robert Treat Paine. The signers risked their lives and fortunes by declaring independence from Britain. Many suffered greatly both physically and financially.

Five signers were captured by the British and tortured.

Nine signers fought in the Revolutionary War.

Three signers lost their lives in battle.

Several signers had their homes destroyed by British troops.

Two signers were killed during the war.

Many faced financial ruin due to their support for independence.

From this declaration was born a new nation: the United States of America. It has grown from 13 states to 50 states, the District of Columbia, which includes our nation's capitol, Washington, and 16 territories.

In 1787, the United States Constitution was signed and a new form of government was established. A Republic of the people, by the people, and for the people.

It was because of the Declaration of Independence that this way of government was established. No nation has held to a document such as our Constitution for as long as we have. It is a testimony to those who developed and established it. It provides us with many freedoms not enjoyed in other lands. Here are just a few:

No government-regulated religion

Freedom of speech

Freedom of the press

Freedom of peaceable assembly

Right of people to keep and bear arms

Abolishment of slavery

There have been 27 amendments to the Constitution that better define our freedoms.

As of July 4, 2026, we have been a nation for 250 years. In the grand scheme of things, that's not very long. We have been through many hard times including a Civil War, two World Wars, and multiple other wars and conflicts. But this republic of the people, by the people, and for the people has held strong and continues to hold strong today. It is a testament to those who came before us and established this great republic.

As a veteran of the United States Navy submarine service, I took an oath to protect and defend this country and its Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic. I take that oath seriously and continue its defense to this day.

I wish the United States of America a happy 250th birthday. I pray that this great nation will remain strong and uphold the freedoms that we have today.

As always, I am available as your spiritual leader. Let me know if and how I can serve you. Keep me posted on comrades and their family members, living and deceased, who are in need of assistance.

God bless you, and God bless the United States of America!

Tim Laursen,
Chaplain VFW Post 9934, Dana Point
vfw9934chaplain@gmail.com

Auxiliary Corner

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” Mahatma Gandhi

Summer is here and Dana Point summers are always beautiful. Please come by to say hello and support the VFW starting Sunday July 12th at Sea Terrace Park at the start of the Concert in the Park series. The Auxiliary will be there to enjoy the music as well as assist the Post with their booth every Sunday through August 16th. This is a great way to meet some of the Auxiliary members and learn more about us.

Did you know that our small but mighty group are looking to celebrate our hometown heroes? We want to create lamppost banners for our local heroes for display in Dana Point. If you know one of our heroes, please email a picture, name, and branch of service to

vfwaux9934@gmail.com.

We also assist in supporting amazing organizations: Fisher House and ASYMCA.

We have a great Bunco fundraiser coming in September. Please save the date of Saturday, September 19th. You don't need to know how to play, we'll teach you! It's fun and easy to learn.

If you want to become a member, please contact Cindy Laursen at

vfw9934cindy@gmail.com.

Although June is PTSD awareness month, it's very important to be aware of it daily. Please check out the resources the VFW provides:

<https://www.vfw.org/home-bottom-rotator/national-ptsd-awareness-day>


Join our Auxiliary 9934 Dana Point Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/599185986803743>.

This is a fantastic way to find out what we are up to.

Contact us at VFWAux9934@gmail.com for more information and join us !

Terry Marr
Secretary, Historian
VFW Auxiliary 9934



VFW AUXILIARY #9934
 UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

Dana Point VFW Auxiliary 9934 is reaching out to our hometown heroes.

We want to celebrate our active and retired military members throughout Dana Point on lamp post banners.

If interested in honoring your hometown hero please send a picture, name, and branch of service, along with any questions to vfwaux9934@gmail.com

VFW AUXILIARY
BUNCO FUNDRAISER!

— ★ ★ ★ —

Gloria Dei Church
 33501 Stonehill Dr.
 Dana Point, Ca. 92629

\$20 DOOR ENTRY
 BRUNCH
 50 / 50
 BASKETS

— ★ ★ ★ —

SEPTEMBER 19
11:00 - 1:00PM
RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 10: LISA MERS
vfwaux9934@gmail.com

PLEASE BRING AN ITEM FROM THE ASYMCA WISH LIST: WWW.ASYCPDONATE.ORG

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES



CITY OF DANA POINT PRESENTS

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

These FREE family-friendly concerts feature two headlining bands, and are held at Sea Terrace Park, PCH & Niguel Road

JULY 12TH	2:30pm-4:00pm Cassie B 4:30pm-6:00pm Yachty by Nature
JULY 19TH	2:30pm-4:00pm Sega, Genecide 4:30pm-6:00pm Decades
JULY 26TH	2:30pm-4:00pm Flock of 80s 4:30pm-6:00pm Flashback Heart Attack
AUGUST 2ND	2:30pm-4:00pm 90s Rock Show 4:30pm-6:00pm Reflexx
AUGUST 9TH	2:30pm-4:00pm Tunnel Vision 4:30pm-6:00pm Common Sense
AUGUST 16TH	2:30pm-4:00pm Emo Kids 4:30pm-6:00pm Tijuana Dogs

Food trucks, spirits for 21+ available for purchase.

Post and Auxiliary Volunteer Schedule

1st Shift: Noon - 3:30 pm. Set up at Sea Terrace Park. Man booth, accept donations for Snacks & beverages, hand out flags, distribute information about the VFW, recruit new members.

2nd Shift: 3:00 pm - 6:30 pm. Man booth, accept donations for snacks and beverages, hand out flags, distribute information about the VFW, recruit new members. Pack up for return to VFW office.

Bob Pruitt received a Heroes Honor at the Southern California Area Republican Women's Club in Laguna Hills on May 20th.

Members of post and auxiliary held a Bingo Tournament at Long Beach VA Medical Center on June 6th



June 9th Meeting:
Officers Installation Ceremony.
For newly elected and re-elected Officers, see page 2.

Schedule of Events - July 2026

- ◇ Wednesday, July 1, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo
- ◇ Saturday, July 4 - **Independence Day**
- ◇ Tuesday, July 7 , 6:00 pm - Dana Point City Council Meeting
- ◇ Sunday, July 12 - Concerts in the Park - See details on Page 6
- ◇ Tuesday, July 14, 6:00 pm - VFW Post 9934 Meeting, South Shores Church, 32712 Crown Valley Pkwy.
Pizza served at 5:30 . Guest speaker, Bev Lewis from TIP Orange County. See below for details.
- ◇ Tuesday, July 14, 6:30 pm - VFW Auxiliary 9934 Meeting, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 33501 Stonehill
- ◇ Wednesday, July 15, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo
- ◇ Sunday, July 19 - Concerts in the Park - See details on Page 6
- ◇ Tuesday, July 21, 6:00 pm - Dana Point City Council Meeting
- ◇ Saturday, July 25 to 29, National Convention, Reno
- ◇ Sunday, July 26 - Concerts in the Park - See details on Page 6

Commemorative Tributes

July 4 - Independence Day

July 27 - Korean War Armistice Day

VFW Action Corps June 2026 MIA Identifications

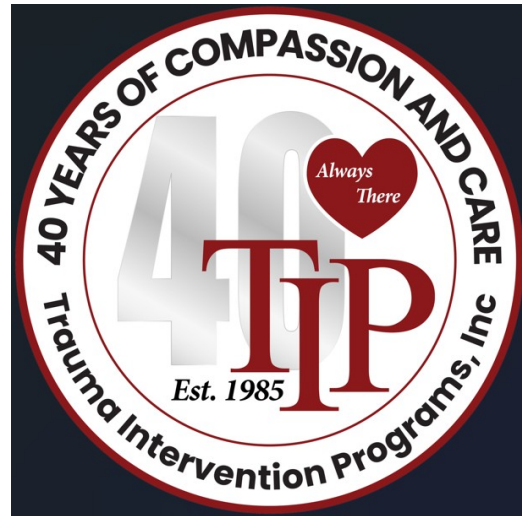
MIA Update: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced no identifications for June 2026.

CONTACT VFW POST 9934

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Facebook: facebook.com/vfwpost9934

JULY 2026 MONTHLY MEETINGS

The next monthly meetings of the Post and Auxiliary 9934 will be on Tuesday, July 14th. 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.



THE FIRST RESPONSE IS ONLY HALF THE RESCUE
When Tragedy Happens, TIP is there.

When tragedy strikes, TIP Second Responders are on-the-scene to provide emotional first aid to survivors.

Guest speaker, Bev Lewis from TIP will be joining us at our Post meeting on July 14th. Pizza will be served.

www.tiporangecounty.org

