

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Post 9934 & Auxiliary 9934
Dana Point, California



Mail Call 📢

August 2026



Dana Point VFW Post 9934 operates a refreshment & recruiting booth for six “[Concerts in the Park](#)” in July and August at Sea Terrace Community Park, Dana Point. These concerts provide excellent entertainment for Dana Point locals as well as guests from surrounding cities. Post Comrades and Auxiliary volunteer for every concert to distribute snacks and drinks for donations to aid our Veterans and Active Military and their families. Sea Terrace Park is located at the corner of Niguel Road and Pacific Coast Hwy in Dana Point. See page 6 for the Concerts in the Park Schedule.



Commander's Message

Greetings Comrades,

I hope many of you are enjoying the summer weather here on the coast. I would like to thank all the Post Comrades and the members of the Auxiliary who have helped at the Sunday concerts at Sea Terrace Park. At the time of this writing, there will be 3 concerts left, with the last concert on August 16th.

On that Sunday the 16th of August, I have arranged for the Vietnam Veterans of America to loan us their UH 1 (Huey) helicopter which will be on a trailer next to the VFW EZ ups.

I imagine it will bring along quite a few veterans to come, look and reminisce. I invite all my brothers and sisters who "volunteered" or who were "voluntold" to spend time in the "Nam" to come down and take a group picture with all of us.

On a personal note, I would like to say a few words of advice that will assist your families down the road. As some of you know, my family has been dealing with a death of a relative who lived out of the area. She was a widow of a decorated Air Force Officer. However, as attuned as she was with day-to-day life, she failed to prepare her family for the confusion that comes with unfinished end of life issues.

I would like to ask all of you, if you have a will, make sure it's current and up to date. If there has been a name change, make sure it's recorded.

Look at your bank accounts and investments, verify that if you have another person on an account, that they are reliable and above all ...are still living.

Read your paperwork and think about the named executor, and are they prepared for the tasks necessary. If not, who?

One last thing, many of you have VA benefits. Make sure your family knows what you're entitled to and what happens to your pension upon your passing. These are not fun thoughts, but trust me your family will appreciate that you took the time to make their lives a little easier during an already stressful time.

I hope to see many of you at one of the upcoming concerts or the Dana Point Car Show on August 23rd. Please stop by even if it only to say, "Hey Comrade".

The next meeting is on Tuesday, August 11th at 6pm at South Shores Church.

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	Rodney Bradley
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



As summer continues, it's hard to believe we're already halfway through another wonderful Concerts in the Park season. Looking around at our volunteers, members, families, and friends, I can't help but feel proud of what we've accomplished together. These days have been about much more than music—they've been about fellowship, service, and strengthening the bonds that unite us as veterans.

For many of us, spending time together has been a reminder that no one has to face life's challenges alone. The friendships we've built and the support we give one another are part of what makes our Post so special. Whether you're a longtime member or recently joined Post 9934, you belong here.

If you haven't attended one of our concerts, I encourage you to come out and join us. Enjoy the music, share a meal, visit with old friends, and make a few new ones. We have a comfortable rest area, food, refreshments, and great company waiting for you.

We're also looking forward to the annual Dana Point Classic Car Show following the concert series. Once again, we'll be serving hot dogs, snacks, drinks, and water. Events like these help strengthen our connection with the community while showcasing the spirit of service that defines our Post. Thank you to every volunteer whose time and generosity make these events possible.

Last month, our Junior Vice Commander and I attended the National Convention in Reno. We had a successful week representing our Post, learning about new programs and initiatives, and brought back ideas that will help us better serve our veterans, their families, and our community.

I'm also pleased to report that our Trustees have completed the annual audit of our financial records. Our books are in excellent order, and the Post remains in good standing. I will be presenting the new fiscal

year budget at our August Post meeting. A heartfelt thank you goes to Cindy Laursen for the countless hours she devoted to maintaining our records with such care and accuracy. Her dedication behind the scenes is an important part of our success.

As a reminder, our Post has an electric scooter available for any member or comrade who may need assistance. If you would like to use it, simply contact the office. When you're finished, please return it so another comrade can benefit from it as well.

As we begin a new fiscal year, we're grateful to have Commander Rick back in good health and ready to lead us into another exciting year. Our motto for the coming year is **Membership**, because every new member strengthens our voice, our mission, and our ability to serve those who have served our nation.

Our goal is to earn both **All-State** and **All-American Post** recognition. Reaching that goal requires just one new member each month. It may seem like a small challenge, but together your efforts will make a tremendous difference.

Every person we welcome into our Post helps preserve the legacy of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and ensures that future generations of veterans will always have a place to find friendship, support, advocacy, and hope.

Thank you for everything you do for our Post, for your fellow veterans, and for our community. Your dedication, patriotism, and willingness to serve continue to make this organization something we can all be proud of.

Together, let's make this our strongest year yet.

*Phil Jimenez, Quartermaster
Dana Point VFW Post 9934*



Chaplain's Corner



These are truly the dog days of summer! August is here. There are several significant commemoration days this month.

First, on August 4, 1790, the US Coast Guard was established as the Revenue Marine to enforce tariff laws. It was renamed the Revenue Cutter Service in 1894 and merged with the Lighthouse Service in 1939. It became a branch of the

U.S. Armed Forces in 1949. Its mission includes maritime safety, security, and environmental protection.

Next, on August 7, 1792, National Purple Heart Day was established by George Washington— then the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army. The original Purple Heart, designated as the Badge of Military Merit. It was awarded for bravery in action. The records show that only three men received it during



the American Revolution, all of them noncommissioned officers. Two of these coveted badges still exist. The original medal, sewn onto the coat, was simply a purple heart-shaped piece of cloth edged with silver braid. It was forgotten for about 150 years. The 200th anniversary of Washington's birth on February 22, 1932 marked the revival of the award. It

is now received by those who received wounds in the line of duty. It bears the profile of George Washington as seen here.

Next, on August 14, 1945, it was announced that Japan had surrendered unconditionally to the Allies, effectively ending World War II. This is known as

“V-J Day.” The term has also been used for September 2, 1945, when Japan's formal surrender took place aboard the U.S.S. Missouri, anchored in Tokyo Bay. Why was the surrender signed aboard the USS Missouri? Who was the President of the United States? Harry Truman. And where was he from? Lamar, Missouri.

Also on August 14 is National Navajo Code Talkers Day. It was established through a presidential proclamation by President Ronald Reagan 1982. This day honors the extraordinary contributions of Navajo Marines during World War II. These heroes developed and used an unbreakable code based on their native Diné language, proving pivotal in the Pacific theater.

Lastly, on August 31, 2010, President Barak Obama declared that Operation Iraqi Freedom was over. The orderly withdrawal of troops and equipment was officially completed in December 2011.

Approximately 1.5 million U.S. service members were deployed during the operation. The peak deployment reached around 170,000 U.S. troops in 2007. A total of 4,416 casualties were incurred during the conflict.

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 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

VFW Action Corps Weekly July 2026 MIA Identifications

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced 8 identifications for service members who have been missing and unaccounted for from World War II and the Vietnam War.

World War II

Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Franklin H. McKinney
Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Harold T. Thompson
Grooms

Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Nick Gavalas
Army Air Forces Sgt. William A. Jones

Army Pvt. Jacob Cornsilk
Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Given C.

Army Air Forces Cpl. Gerald W. Herrington

Vietnam War

Air Force Staff Sgt. Don F. Worley

Auxiliary Corner

"Every person can make a difference, and every person should try." President John F. Kennedy

Mark, your calendar! September 19th is our world-famous Bunco Fundraiser from 11:00am to 1:00pm at Gloria Dei Church in Dana Point.

Come in your best **patriotic** apparel  and bring an item from the [ASYMCA wish list](#). No experience necessary, simply prepare yourself for a ton of laughs and fun.

Did you know that our small but mighty group want to celebrate our hometown heroes! We want to display lamppost banners of our local hometown heroes in Dana Point. If you know of someone, please provide a picture, name, and branch of service to vfwaux9934@gmail.com.

The VFW Auxiliary was established in 1914 and is one of the oldest veteran service organizations. These are highlights of this amazing organization:

- * Volunteering
- * Legislative Advocacy
- * Youth and Scholarships
- * Family and Troop support

These are just a handful of reasons to join. Consider becoming a member and contact Cindy Laursen at vfw9934cindy@gmail.com. You are welcome to attend one of our monthly meetings to get to know us before you join.

If you want to meet us in a less formal manner, come to Sea Terrace Community Park for Dana Point's Summer Concert series. We volunteer with the VFW Post. We have a great booth. See you there!

We are asking you to not only become a member but participate in the VFW Auxiliary 9934 Dana Point Facebook page. Please let us know what your special veteran means to you. Contact us at VFWAux9934@gmail.com for more information and join us !

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>

Terry Marr
Secretary, Historian
VFW Auxiliary 9934



Dana Point VFW Auxiliary 9934 is reaching out to our Hometown Heroes!

We want to celebrate our local active and retired military on lamp post banners throughout the city of Dana Point.

If you know a South Orange County Hometown Hero, please send us an email:

vfwaux9934@gmail.com



Visit our Facebook Page



VFW AUXILIARY

UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®



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.

danapointcarshow

Dana Point CLASSIC Car Show 2026

DANA POINT
LANTERN DISTRICT



START YOUR ENGINES!
REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

SHOW DATE:
SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2026
10AM - 3PM DEL PRADO

DANAPOINTCARSHOW.COM

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.



VFW Post 9934 will be grilling hot dogs and providing beverages, etc. at the Dana Point Classic Car Show. Sign up to volunteer at our next Post meeting, August 11th. Next to our booth on display will be a 2003 Harley Davidson V-Rod. We will hold a silent auction and announce the winner at the end of the Car Show.

VFW Elects Cory Geisler as National Commander



RENO, Nev. – Cory L. Geisler of Hartland, Wisconsin, was elected today as commander-in-chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) during the organization's 127th National Convention at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center. Geisler's election as the VFW's 118th commander-in-chief came before thousands of delegates representing approximately 1.3 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary gathered to elect national leadership and establish the organization's legislative priorities for the coming year.

A Life member of VFW Post 721 in Waukesha, Wisconsin, Geisler served in the United States Army from 2005 to 2012, earning his VFW eligibility through combat service in Iraq. He succeeds Carol Whitmore as the organization's commander-in-chief and will serve as its chief advocate before Congress, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the American people.

In his acceptance address, Geisler called on every member of the VFW to embrace a common purpose centered on his national theme: "One Team. One Mission. Veterans First."

"These six words are more than a motto," Geisler said.

"They are a commitment. They remind us that regardless of our differences, we are united by a single purpose. That is to serve veterans, their families and our communities." Geisler reminded delegates that the VFW's power is more than the brick and mortar of its establishments,

"The strength of the VFW has never come from its buildings or its canteens," Geisler said. "It has always come from its members."

Drawing on lessons learned during military service, Geisler emphasized that teamwork remains the foundation of the VFW's success.

"During our military service, success depended on trusting one another. We learned that no one accomplishes the mission alone," Geisler said. "That lesson did not end when we took off the uniform. It lives on in every VFW Post, every District, every Department and every National program."

He challenged members to keep veterans at the center of every decision the organization makes.

"When we plan programs, Veterans First. When we recruit new members, Veterans First. When we advocate for legislation, Veterans First. When we support military families, Veterans First," Geisler said. "If we remain faithful to that principle, we will never lose sight of why this organization exists."

Geisler also called on members to prioritize the physical and mental well-being of veterans, encouraging comrades to support one another through fellowship and meaningful connections.

"Sometimes the greatest act of service is simply checking in on a fellow comrade, inviting them to a meeting, sharing a cup of coffee or taking the time to listen," Geisler said. Looking toward the future, Geisler stressed the importance of membership growth and developing the next generation of VFW leaders.

"Membership is important, not simply because numbers matter, but because every new member brings new experiences, new ideas and new opportunities to serve," Geisler said. "The veterans returning from today's conflicts are looking for connection. They are looking for purpose, motivation and direction. The VFW has everything they are searching for, but they need to know we are here."

He encouraged every VFW member to take personal responsibility for recruiting eligible veterans and mentoring future leaders, noting that leadership is measured not by rank or title but by a willingness to serve others. Geisler then reaffirmed the enduring mission that has guided the VFW since its founding 127 years ago.

"Our service does not end with military service. It simply takes on a new form," Geisler said. "Together we preserve our traditions. Together we advocate for veterans. Together we strengthen our communities. Together we honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Together we build an even stronger Veterans of Foreign Wars."

Geisler concluded by urging members to "lead with integrity, serve with humility, support one another and welcome the next generation," reminding delegates that "if we remain united in purpose, there is no challenge we cannot overcome and no goal we cannot achieve."

Geisler closed with an emphasis on the words he intends to define his year as commander-in-chief.

"One Team. Working together in a spirit of service and respect. One Mission. Supporting veterans, their families and our communities with honor and dedication. Veterans First. Always."

Before his election as commander-in-chief, Geisler served as VFW senior vice commander-in-chief and Department of Wisconsin commander. He has also held numerous leadership positions at the Post, District and national levels since joining the VFW in 2008.

Geisler and his wife, Beth, and daughter, Laura, reside in Hartland, Wisconsin.

In addition to Geisler, delegates elected Glenn R. Umberger Jr. of Pennsylvania as senior vice commander-in-chief and Bobby Lovergne, of Louisiana as junior vice commander-in-chief. Adjutant General Dan West and Quartermaster General Marc Garduno also reassumed their national offices.

July 29, 2026

vfw.org/media-and-events



Schedule of Events - August 2026

- ◇ **Sunday, August 2 - Concerts in the Park - See details on Page 6**
- ◇ **Tuesday, August 4, 6:00 pm - Dana Point City Council Meeting**
- ◇ **Wednesday, August 5, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo**
- ◇ **Sunday, August 9 - Concerts in the Park - See details on Page 6**
- ◇ **Tuesday, August 11, 6:00 pm - VFW Post 9934 Meeting, South Shores Church, 32712 Crown Valley Pkwy.**
Pizza served at 5:30 . Two guest speakers.
- ◇ **Tuesday, August 11, 6:30 pm - VFW Auxiliary 9934 Meeting, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 33501 Stonehill**
- ◇ **Sunday, August 16 - Concerts in the Park - See details on Page 6**
- ◇ **Wednesday, August 19, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo**
- ◇ **Sunday, August 23 - Dana Point Classic Car Show - See details on Page 6**

Commemorative Tributes

August 4 - U.S. Coast Guard Established (1790)

August 7 - National Purple Heart Day

August 14 - Japan Surrendered, Ending WWII (1945)

August 14 - National Navajo Code Talkers Day

August 31 - End of Operation Iraqi Freedom 2010

AUGUST 2026 MONTHLY MEETINGS

The next monthly meetings of the Post and Auxiliary 9934 will be on Tuesday, August 11th.

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.

CONTACT VFW POST 9934

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Japanese surrender on the deck of the USS Missouri BB-63

