

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Post 9934 & Auxiliary 9934
Dana Point, California



Mail Call 📢

June 2025



Guest Speakers: Captain Frank Gonzalez, Chief of Dana Point Police Services, Max Wernher, Speaking on Behalf of Senator Tony Strickland, Katrina Foley, Orange County Supervisor, 5th District, Laurie Davies, California Assemblywoman, Mike Levin, US Congressman, Key Note - Colonel (Retired) Bob Seitz

Commander's Message

Greetings Comrades,

We all know that May is always an extremely busy month for the Post. We hosted the District 2 Convention on May 10th, and then everything took off from there.

On the same day as the Convention, our Post traveled to Belmont Village in Aliso Viejo for an early Mother's Day Celebration. Quartermaster Phil organized the event as our annual VFW Day of Service. With the help of our new volunteers Rachel Yordon and Kimberly Yordon, Phil and his wife Susie were able to transform buckets and buckets of flowers into over eighty (80) gorgeous bouquets.

In addition to the bouquets, we also set up a photography backdrop and offered the residents a "Mother's Day" portrait. To go along with their "Mother's Day" portrait, we gave the ladies a small picture frame to commemorate their day.

We also engaged the services of one of our go-to singers, Gino Gaudio. He entertained the residents and the staff with several Broadway songs which are always a hit with everyone.

Buddy Poppy Weekend was a huge success. We will have a complete tally by the June meeting.

At this time, I would like to thank all of you who stood post with us at Buddy Poppies. I know it's a tough assignment. But as always, Post 9934 came through.

I want all of you to know that the community has commented to many of us how much they appreciate the Memorial Day Observance at Pines Park. To those who have lost loved ones in service to this Country, the ceremony is the least we can do. To those of us who have lost Comrades or a family member, it is always a time to remember and honor those warriors.

I hope that many of you will attend the June meeting. At that time we will have the installation of Officers for the Year 2025-2026.

For all new Comrades to Post 9934, it will be a good time to get acquainted with your new Officers for the coming year.

The next meeting is June 10th. The meeting will be at South Shores Church at 6 PM.

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	Chaplain	Carlene Chew
Junior Vice President	Lupe Brady	Trustee 2	Sharon Miller
Secretary	Terry Marr	Trustee 1	Judy Brandmeier
Treasurer	Cindy Somerville	Guard	Tory Boegeman

From the Desk of the Quartermaster



On June 6th we honor the fallen on D-Day 1944 in remembrance and prayers.

During the June 10th Post meeting, we will be installing our new officer corps. I encourage all to attend to show support for our new officers. We

thank them for giving of their time and talents in carrying on the traditions of our post.

On June 15th, we celebrate our fathers. Happy Father's Day to all the fathers in our post. This is your special day; enjoy that easy chair at home.

It's hard to believe our fiscal year ends on the 30th of this month. This year has been so busy, time has flown by. We will be working on the new budget for our new year beginning July 1, 2025 and will

have it available at our July 8th meeting for review. Thanks to everyone who helped with our buddy poppy distribution last weekend. It was a very successful fund raiser for our Relief fund. Remember that this Fund is used for assisting Veterans and their families in need.

Our Memorial Day Ceremony was very well attended. We received over \$1,300 in donations.

Our next big event will be The City of Dana Point Concerts in the Park, held each Sunday at Sea Terrace Park. Next month's Mail Call will have the information regarding volunteering the Post with this event.

Happy Father's Day to all.

Phil Jimenez, Quartermaster
Dana Point VFW Post 9934

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Buddy Poppies,
Albertsons,
Laguna Niguel



Scott Edwin Roberts
April 19, 1961 to May 20, 2025
Celebration of Life
June 20, 2025 - 10am - Pines Park

Auxiliary Corner

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

May is National Military Month. During the month there are some national recognitions. In the middle of the month is Armed Forces Day and it ends with Memorial Day. Did you know that the Memorial Day observance was originally known as Decoration Day? By the late 1860's many Americans began hosting tributes by decorating fallen soldier's grave with flowers and flags. Over time it evolved to an official Remembrance Day to become an official federal holiday in 1971.

Over the Memorial Weekend, you may have spotted the Auxiliary at the Ralphs in Ocean Ranch, Dana Point, donating flags and Buddy Poppies.

We want to thank everyone who stopped by to offer amazing conversations with sweet memories of their loved veterans as well as the generous monetary donations.

On Memorial Day, you saw us supporting the Post at the Memorial Day Services at Pines Park.

I know there are many members who may not be able to participate at our fundraisers or monthly meetings but who are volunteering and doing many special deeds for our Veterans. Please share these efforts with VFW Auxiliary Historian Terry Marr. We will report it here in the Auxiliary Corner. You can email your story and or pictures to VFWAux9934@gmail.com.

If you want to learn more about us, please reach out at VFWAux9934@gmail.com, and we will set up a time for a meet and greet at one of our fundraisers or monthly meetings.

If you want to become a member, contact Cindy Somerville at vfw9934cindy@gmail.com.

We are asking you to join the VFW Auxiliary 9934 Dana Point Facebook page. This is a fantastic way to find out what we are up to.

It may not feel like it, but Summer is here! We look forward to seeing you.

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

Terry Marr,
Secretary, Historian
VFW Auxiliary 9934



VFW AUXILIARY

UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®



One May 17th, the Wounded Warriors Club of Portola High School in Irvine hosted a Military Speakers Forum. Eight Post members attended with three of them speaking of their military experiences to the 250 students in attendance.

More VFW Post 9934 May Events



On Saturday, May 3rd, VFW Post 9934 visited American Legion Post 222 in Laguna Beach for their Open House. We had an information table set up and it was an opportunity to meet the Legion Members and their Auxiliary.



On Saturday morning, May 10th, California District 2 held their annual Memorial Service and Convention at South Shores Church, Dana Point. District Officers were elected and installed. Awards were given to two members of Scouting America.



On Saturday afternoon, May 10th, Post 9934 conducted its annual *VFW Day of Service* by presenting bouquets and picture frames to all of the ladies at Belmont Village Senior Living, Aliso Viejo. Commander Rick took photographs of many of the residents to display in their frames.

Dr. Philip Matz: A Pioneer in VA Medical Research

World War I brought about new types of injuries caused by modern, mechanized warfare, such as those from machine guns, poison gas and heavy artillery. At the same time, it acted as a driving force for advancements in medical practices, public health and the professionalization of research methodologies. Following the war, with a dramatic increase in the number of Veterans—roughly 150,000 more than before—there was a growing recognition of the need for medical research to improve care for these individuals.

In 1923 President Warren G. Harding and the Veterans Bureau's first administrator, Charles Forbes, created a medical council to survey the state of Veteran care and propose a modern hospital network. The following year, the council made key recommendations, including the creation of a research program, the appointment of a director of research, and the publication of a medical bulletin.

The council emphasized the need for statistical studies, standardized procedures, and clinical research focused on conditions affecting Veterans. The idea of integrating research approaches into Veteran hospital systems was adapted from practices already in place at U.S. Public Health Service Hospitals, 50 of which the Bureau absorbed into its new hospital network.



To lead this major research expansion, the Bureau looked to Dr. Philip Matz, who was appointed as director of research in September 1925. Matz, a Baltimore-born pathologist, graduated from the Long Island College of Medicine in 1908. He began his career as a laboratory chief at the Leavenworth Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. Dur-

ing World War I, he served as chief of the laboratory service at the Camp Travis, Texas, base hospital. After the war, he continued his laboratory work with the Public Health Service.

In his new role at the Veterans Bureau, Matz directed clinical research in hospitals and outpatient facilities, ensuring that studies directly contributed to improving Veteran treatment. Matz also oversaw the creation of three laboratory research centers at hospitals in Palo Alto, California; Washington, D.C.; and Maywood, Illinois, in early 1926.

He also played a crucial role in publishing the *Medical Bulletin*, a monthly medical journal featuring articles from Bureau physicians and staff designed to share case studies, promising treatments and other reports based on their extensive experience with patients in Veterans' hospitals.

Beyond his administrative duties, Matz conducted research himself. In 1926, he analyzed cardiovascular disease, tuberculosis, cancer, and neuropsychiatric conditions among Veterans, comparing their rates to civilian populations. His work contributed to landmark publications, including a *New England Journal of Medicine* study on cardiovascular disease incidence in Veterans and a 1938 *Journal of the American Medical Association* report revealing that 50 percent of Veterans suffered from neuropsychiatric disorders.

In perhaps his most widely known study, Matz collaborated with Dr. H.L. Gilchrist, medical director of the Army's Chemical Warfare Service, to study Veterans exposed to poison gas during World War I. Their research identified chronic bronchitis with asthma-like symptoms as a common aftereffect but found no increased risk of tuberculosis among those exposed, contrary to what some physicians perceived at the time.

Underscoring his work, Dr. Matz believed that Veteran medical research should have a direct impact on patient care. In 1926, he articulated his vision: "It must be clearly understood at the outset that research work in our service must show that upon consummation it will result in the betterment of the treatment of the beneficiary. It is not within the province of the Veterans' Bureau to carry on research work of a purely academic character; there are other governmental agencies for this line of endeavor. Ours must be research based on practicability. Our research work must eventually result in larger percentages of recoveries and reduced mortality rates of the beneficiaries of the United States Veterans' Bureau."

Matz passed away suddenly at the age of 53 while on a nationwide tour of Veteran Administration hospitals in 1938. The void left by his death coupled with the onset of World War II resulted in no new major Veteran research initiatives until the 1950s.

Dr. Philip Matz's pioneering work laid the groundwork for the modern VA research program. His emphasis on data-driven, patient-focused studies set a standard that continues to shape Veteran healthcare research today.

[Katie Rories, Historian, Veterans Health Administration -va.gov
May 28, 2025]

PACT ACT INTRODUCES TWO NEW PRESUMPTIONS FOR VIETNAM VETERANS

As a part of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022, or PACT Act, VA added two new conditions to the list of presumptive conditions related to Agent Orange exposure. Veterans with qualifying military service who have these conditions are now automatically eligible for disability benefits:

- Monoclonal Gammopathy of Undetermined Significance (MGUS) – MGUS is a condition in which a person is a higher level of a protein called M protein in the blood. Those with MGUS have a higher risk of developing cancer.
- Hypertension, also known as high blood pressure – Many older Americans and Veterans have high blood pressure. Agent Orange exposure may be a risk factor.

There are now more than twenty Agent Orange Presumptive Conditions. Learn more about these conditions at: <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/index.asp>
Learn more about expanded eligibility for Vietnam Veterans through the PACT Act at: <https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/#vietnam-era-veteran-eligibility>

Presumptive conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure:

- AL Amyloidosis
- Bladder Cancer
- Chronic B-cell Leukemias
- Chloracne (or similar acneform disease)
- Diabetes Mellitus Type 2
- Hypertension
- Hodgkin's Disease
- Hypothyroidism (*new*)
- Ischemic Heart Disease
- Monoclonal Gammopathy of Undetermined Significance (MGUS) (*new*)
- Multiple Myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- Parkinsonism
- Parkinson's Disease
- Peripheral Neuropathy, Early-Onset
- Porphyria Cutanea Tarda
- Prostate Cancer
- Respiratory Cancers
- Soft Tissue Sarcomas

Visit our Website

vfwpost9934.org





HONOR OUR STARS & STRIPES ON

FLAG
DAY

THE U.S. ARMY'S
250TH
BIRTHDAY

★ JUNE 14, 2025 ★
2:00 PM

DISPLAY: | BABY BEACH,
JUNE 12-15 | DANA POINT

WEAR RED, WHITE, AND BLUE



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - JUNE 2025

- ◇ Tuesday, June 3rd, 6:00 pm - Dana Point City Council Meeting
- ◇ Wednesday, June 4th, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo
- ◇ Tuesday, June 10th, 6:00 pm - VFW Post 9934 Meeting, South Shores Church, 32712 Crown Valley Pkwy
- ◇ Friday, June 14th, 2:00 pm 6:00 PM, Flag Day Event, Baby Beach, 34451 Ensenada Place, Dana Point.
- ◇ Sunday, June 15th - **Father's Day**
- ◇ Tuesday, June 17th, 6:00 pm - Dana Point City Council Meeting
- ◇ Wednesday, June 18th, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo
- ◇ Wednesday, June 18th, Department of California State Convention Training, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Hotel Fera Anaheim, Doubletree by Hilton, 100 The City Drive North, Orange, CA
- ◇ Thursday, June 19th through Sunday, June 22nd, Department of California State Convention, Hotel Fera Anaheim, Doubletree by Hilton, 100 The City Drive North, Orange, CA.
- ◇ Friday, June 20th, 10:00 am - Scott Roberts Celebration of Life, Pines Park, 34941 Camino Capistrano, Capo Beach



June 6, 1944



June 15, 2025

JUNE 2025 MONTHLY MEETINGS

The next monthly meetings of Post and Auxiliary 9934 will be on Tuesday, June 10th.

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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