VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Post 9934 & Auxiliary 9934
Dana Point, California

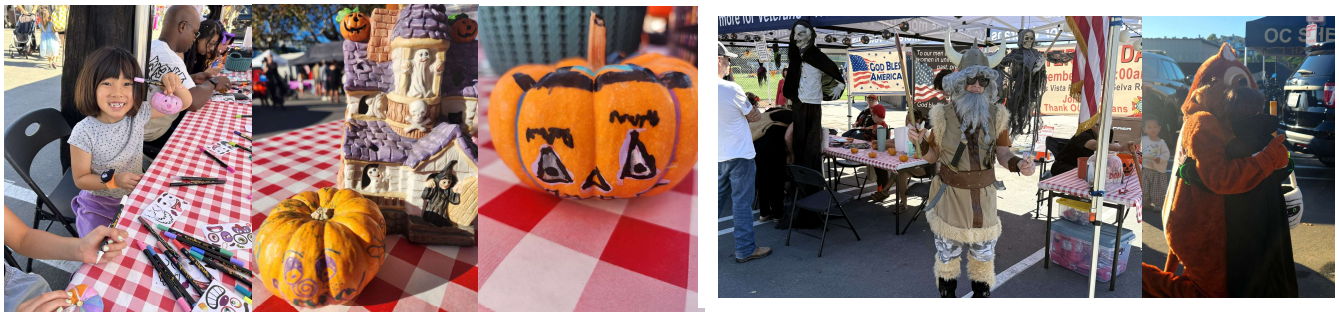
Mail Call

November 2026



Saturday, October 24th, VFW Post 9934 partnered with Dana Point Police Services in their annual Halloween Trunk or Treat event at the Dana Point Community Center. Post and Auxiliary, some dressed in costume, handed out candy and toys along with American flags and buddy poppies. There were tables set up for a pumpkin decorating contest. Two hundred and fifty Halloween costumed kids took up the challenge.





Commander's Message

Greetings Comrades,

First, I wish all my fellow veterans a meaningful Veterans Day. I know that "Thank you for your service" from strangers can sometimes feel hollow and maybe meaningless. Whatever their intention, I always try to answer with gratitude and acknowledgement. Some of you may disagree with me, but I try to believe that those words may be difficult for some people, because they really don't know what to say.

I can guarantee that here in our community, the thanks and acknowledgement we get is honest and from the heart. Unfortunately, there are many communities where veterans are not viewed with that respect or honor. This is evident by the number of VFW Posts that are no longer active or are unable to maintain membership.

We at Post 9934 have always enjoyed support from the city of Dana Point and the surrounding community.
This month, I had the honor to stand with several VFW comrades at the dedication of the *Returning Home Monument* at Heritage Park on Old Golden Lantern. The Dedication was attended by several hundred Active-Duty Military, community members, veterans and family members.
The monument is an emotional testament to:
For those who serve,
For the families who wait,
For the communities that welcome them home
Finding support and love from a community is a precious commodity. We should welcome it and keep it close to our hearts.

It is my hope that many of you attend the VFW Veterans Day observance on Wednesday November 11th at Strands Vista Park. We again honor our brothers and sisters who served and those who are no longer with us. Please try to attend and join us in our remembrance.
If you have not signed up and still want to support the post, please join us for Buddy Poppies on Nov 7 and 8 at Albertsons or Pavilions for a couple of hours.
In closing, I always want to thank all of you for the privilege of being your Post Commander.
Please be safe and be kind to each other

Next Post Meeting: November 10th, 2026, at South Shores Church.

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 November arrives, we are reminded of the Thanksgivings we spent away from home while serving our country. Many of us remember missing family gatherings, familiar traditions, and the comfort of being surrounded by loved ones. Those experiences deepen our appreciation for the privilege of returning home—and remind us of the sacrifices made by those who continue to serve.

This Thanksgiving season, our Post is proud to provide 100 turkeys and pumpkin pies for our adopted Marines at MAG-39, Camp Pendleton. We are also donating 50 complete Thanksgiving meals to the Camp Pendleton Pantry to support active-duty families. I believe this reflects the very best of our organization: service, compassion, and a lasting commitment to those who serve our nation and the families who stand beside them.

Let's Look After One Another

As we enter the holiday season, let us remember our fellow Post comrades. Some may have joined us at meetings or helped at fundraising events, while others may not have been around as often lately. I challenge each of us to reach out to a comrade during the holidays. A friendly phone call, a visit, or a small act of kindness can mean more than we realize. You might even notice that a member's outdoor flag has become torn or weather worn. Our office has 3-by-5-foot flags available for replacement.

Our motto reminds us, "No One Does More for Veterans." That commitment begins with how we care for one another within our own Post. Sometimes a member may need help with a leaking faucet, a sticking drawer, or a cabinet door that needs repair. We have members with handyman skills, and Post funds may be available to assist with small repairs when needed. If you know a Post member who could use a helping hand, please contact the office at **949-248-1419**. A little time and consideration can make a meaningful difference. No veteran or fellow comrade should feel that they must face a difficult situation alone.

Upcoming Events and Ways to Help

Semi - Annual Poppy Drive — November 7–8

We still need volunteers for our annual Poppy Drive. If you can spare an hour or two, please come to one of our two distribution centers. Locations are listed on the last page of this newsletter. Your help will allow our volunteers to take lunch or restroom break while keeping the drive going. Every volunteer hour makes a difference.

Veterans Day Memorial Ceremony

Please plan to join us for our Veterans Day memorial ceremony at Strands Vista Park in Dana Point. Let us come together to honor the service, sacrifice, and memory of the men and women who have defended our nation.

Annual Holiday Dinner — December 13

Save the date for our annual Christmas dinner at Jack's Restaurant in Dana Point on December 13. The price will be announced soon. We look forward to sharing the season with our Post family.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I wish each of you and your families a blessed and happy holiday. May we carry the spirit of gratitude into the months ahead by continuing to serve our veterans, support our military families, and look after one another.

Phil Jimenez
Quartermaster Post 9934

Chaplains Corner

Thanksgiving - A Harvest Celebration

If this article sounds familiar, it's because it's the same one I wrote last year. I reread it and can't think of anything else I'd add or subtract. I hope you enjoy it again this year.

During the autumn of 1621, at least 90 Wampanoag joined 52 English people at what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts, to mark a successful harvest. It is remembered today as the "First Thanksgiving."

Thanksgiving today may have little connection with the Plymouth harvest festival 400 years ago, but it has a long history, nevertheless. Originally a regional observance in colonial New England, Thanksgiving began as a solemn affair. Rather than a day of feasting, it was a day for fasting and quiet reflection. A far cry from what we do in the present day.

The federal Thanksgiving holiday has its roots in one of the country's bitterest moments of division—the Civil War. On October 3, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued this Thanksgiving Day proclamation to help unite a war-weary nation. Lincoln was not the first President to issue a Thanksgiving proclamation, but his order set a precedent to "observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving" every year for decades to follow.

In 1941, Congress passed a law establishing the fourth Thursday in November as the federal Thanksgiving Day holiday.

So, what does Thanksgiving really mean? Since this is my article, I get to tell you what it means to me. It is my favorite national holiday. Why? There is no pretense. No grandiose speeches. No frills. Just Thanksgiving. A day where I purposely give thanks to God, the Creator of the universe. The Giver of life. I look back over the past year and count my blessings. I let everything else fall to the wayside. I stop and deliberately thank God for all He has done and for all I have. I know I should do that every day of the year, but this day is set aside especially for that.

So, this Thanksgiving, join me in holding all that we count dear to us a little closer and thank God for everything that we have. For every blessing He has bestowed upon us.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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 America!

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

Auxiliary Corner

“Everywhere in life, the true question is not what we gain, but what we do.” Thomas Carlyle

October ended with a Spooktacular event! We assisted the POST at the Trunk or Treat for the city of Dana Point. It was a great family event with the added excitement of having Search and Rescue land their helicopter on the field. Continue the fun spirit by posting photos wearing your costume on our Facebook page.

We’d like to take a moment to thank everyone for their generous donations towards our Garage Sale Fundraiser. It was for unfortunate reasons we had to cancel it, but we wanted to let you know that your items did not go out in vain. We made special bundles and delivered them to the ASYMCA in Camp Pendleton. We will notify you when we schedule the next best garage sale in Orange County!

We are days away from the holidays. It’s our special time to remind us of the meaning of giving and the importance of family. In the spirit of giving, we are collecting toys for the children of Mag-39 from Camp Pendleton.

We are super excited to announce we received our first submission to celebrate hometown heroes. Let’s keep this momentum going. If interested, please provide a picture, name, and branch of service to vfwaux9934@gmail.com. Our goal is to have at least 10 submissions to display in Dana Point.

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.

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!

Holidays do heighten our emotions. It is particularly important for PTSD awareness. 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

SMILES FOR FREEDOM

A DAY DEDICATED TO OUR LOCAL VETERANS AND THEIR SPOUSES!

In Honor of Eugene Fournier, USMC Master Sergeant and his wife, Marian Fournier

FREE DENTAL WORK for veterans, their spouses, and spouses of active duty military

CALL NOW to RESERVE YOUR TIME

Bring a Copy of Your Military ID or DD-214.

NOVEMBER 13TH

Serving Those that Serve, One Smile at a Time.

APPOINTMENTS / ADULTS ONLY!

Appointments are first come, first serve.

We ask for only serious inquiries so that we can help as many veterans as possible on this day of free dentistry.

SHORELINE
DENTAL STUDIO

info@ShorelineDentalStudio.com | 1409 S. El Camino Real | San Clemente, CA.
(949) 498-4110 www.ShorelineDentalStudio.com

Schedule of Events - November 2026

Tuesday, November 3rd, 6:00 pm - Dana Point City Council Meeting
Wednesday, November 4th, 2:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo
Saturday, November 7th, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm—Buddy Poppies Distribution, Albertsons, 30241 Golden Lantern Laguna Niguel and Pavilions, 989 Avenida Pico, San Clemente
Sunday, November 8th, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm - Buddy Poppies Distribution, Albertsons, 30241 Golden Lantern Laguna Niguel and Pavilions, 989 Avenida Pico, San Clemente
Tuesday, November 10th, 6:00 pm - VFW Post 9934 Meeting, South Shores Church, 32712 Crown Valley Pkwy.
Wednesday, November 11th, 10:00 to 11:00 am - Veterans Day Ceremony, Strand Vista Park, Dana Point
Sunday, November 15th, 2:00 pm, Joseph Lovullo Celebration of Life, Shorecliffs Golf Club, 501 Avenida Vaquero, San Clemente
Tuesday, November 17th, 6:00 pm - Dana Point City Council Meeting
Wednesday, November 18th, 11:00 am – Distribution of Thanksgiving Dinners to Camp Pendleton Pantry
Wednesday, November 18th, 2:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo
Friday, November 20th, 11:00 am – Distribution of Turkeys and Pumpkin Pies to MAG-39, Camp Pendleton
Thursday, November 26th, THANKSGIVING DAY

Commemorative Tributes

November 10, 1775 - Birthday of the US Marine Corps
November 11, 1918 - Armistice Day - Commemorating the End of World War I

CONTACT VFW POST 9934
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Website: vfwpost9934.org
Facebook: facebook.com/vfwpost9934

NOVEMBER 2026 MONTHLY MEETINGS
The next monthly meetings of the Post and Auxiliary 9934 will be on Tuesday, November 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.



