

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Post 9934 & Auxiliary 9934
Dana Point, California



Mail Call 📢

October 2025



On September 4th, Post Surgeon Gil Castro visited veterans at the Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center in Long Beach. He provided the Vets with various sundry items purchased at the LBVA PX



Linda Sundram, Chair for the Warrior Warehouse/PCSF at Camp Pendleton



On September 12th, Comrade Ron Egigian delivered 10 boxes of diapers to The Rotary Camp Pendleton. The boxes were donated by Post members at our monthly meeting on September 9th.

Sr. Vice Commander's Message

Comrades,

I want to let you know about some of the events that our Post members attended in September:

On September 5th, four of our Comrades attended the Honor the Valor Ceremony at Dana Hills High School. Thank you to those who participated and to the Dana Hills 12th Man Club who sponsored it.

Our Education Chairman, Dave Vera, his wife Peggy (Auxiliary) and Dave Priddy attended the Engage Fair on September 13th. See page 3 for details.

And on September 21st, Post Officers hosted a pre-wedding brunch for our Chaplain, Tim Laursen and our Office Manager, Cindy Somerville (now Laursen). Congratulations to our newlyweds Tim and Cindy. Many happy years ahead!

As we get ready for fall activities, we start with the Dana Point Police Services Trunk or Treat event.

Our Quartermaster's column provides more detail. And, we really need to get ready for Veteran's Day on November 11th and our Buddy Poppy distribution on the 8th and 9th. I need you to get prepared for this and start thinking about when and where YOU can help. It's a great time to work together.

I recently got to see Wayne and Debbie Yost. Wayne is doing great. Not yet ready for pickleball, but doing fantastic. Thank you all for your prayers.

Our Commander has provided an update on his cancer treatment. Please continue to keep him and his family in your prayers.

God Bless You All,

*Ricardo F. Alonzo, Sr. Vice Commander
Post 9934, Dana Point*



View From Sickbay

Greetings Comrades...

So, here I am looking at the last two weeks of treatment...However, It takes about 4 – 6 weeks for the aftereffects of the Chemo and the Radiation to start slowing down.

So much for the good news and the bad news...If any of you watched the NFL on Sunday you saw the "Crucial Catch -Intercept Cancer" Commercials.

Those of you who were wondering, in late June I suspected there was something wrong and went to the Medical Staff at Hoag.

This came literally two weeks after two scheduled physicals where I was given a clean bill of health.

Following Homeland Security's advice to "If you see something, say something,". I did.

So be proactive ...Take care of yourselves and watch out for each other.

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

From the Desk of the Quartermaster



Upcoming Event: Halloween Spooktacular & Trunk or Treat

The month of October brings us one of our favorite community traditions: the Dana Point Halloween Spooktacular & Trunk-or-Treat! This year's event will be held on

Saturday, October 25th, from 2:00–6:00 p.m. at the Dana Point Community Center.

We'll have a booth at the event, and while our Auxiliary will be helping staff it, Veterans are needed to bring our canopies, tables etc. from storage before the event begins and help set up at the community center. Also, at the end of the event to break down, and return everything to storage. If you can lend a hand for either, your support will make a big difference—thank you in advance!

Keep Our Leaders in Your Thoughts

Please continue to keep Commander Rick Jauregui and Assistant Quartermaster Wayne Yost in your prayers as they recover. We look forward to welcoming them back with us soon.

Membership Recruiting Contest

We're still pushing toward our goal of recruiting 20 new Veterans by December 31st to achieve All-American Post status this year. Let's show Commander Rick that we can make this happen!

Here's how you can win by helping us grow:

- 1st Place: \$100 Gift Card to Jack's Restaurant (Recruit 5 new Veterans)
- 2nd Place: 2025 Silver Dollar (Recruit 4 new Veterans)
- 3rd Place: \$50 Gift Card (Recruit 3 new Veterans)
- 4th Place: \$25 Gift Card (Recruit 2 new Veterans)
- 5th Place: Gift Basket (Recruit 1 new Veteran)

Prizes will be awarded at our January 2026 meeting. One winner per prize drawing.

Why Membership Matters

Being part of this Post means more than attending meetings or social events. It means belonging to a brotherhood and sisterhood of Veterans who answer the call to serve our communities without hesitation. The question isn't "Why be a member?" but rather, "How could I not be one?"

Every time a Veteran renews their membership, lives are touched:

A fellow Veteran receives help.

A child's future is supported.

The entire community grows stronger.

So, when doubt ever lingers, remember the difference your membership makes. Then, leave that doubt at the door and step forward with pride.

*Phil Jimenez, Quartermaster
Dana Point VFW Post 9934*



On Saturday, September 13th, David Priddy and Dave and Peggy Vera set up a booth at the Engage Fair Event at the Laguna Niguel Sea County Community Center. ENGAGE is an organization which promotes volunteer opportunities for high school students in the south Orange County communities. This event gave us the opportunity to present our Voice of Democracy & Patriots Pen essay contest to students.

Chaplain's Corner



The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is a nonprofit veterans service organization comprised of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, guard and reserve forces.

We were established on September, 29, 1899, when veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902) founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service. Many arrived home wounded or sick. There was no medical care or veterans' pension for them, and they were left to care for themselves.

In their misery, some of these veterans banded together and formed organizations that would eventually band together and become known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. After chapters were formed in Ohio, Colorado and Pennsylvania, the movement quickly gained momentum. The VFW received its Congressional Charter on May, 28, 1938. Today, membership stands at more than 1.4 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary.

You may ask why this information is being presented in The Chaplain's Corner. Allow me to continue.

The meetings and rituals of the VFW are steeped in Judeo-Christian beliefs. These beliefs are one of the cornerstones of this organization. The altar with its flag and Bible, the prayers, pledges and the official stations comprise the inner sanctum of our order. They express the distinctive character of the world's oldest overseas war veterans' organization.

Some examples are:

- In the initiation ceremony, the Member's obligation begins with, "In the presence of Almighty God."
- God, Lord, and Father combined are mentioned 107 times in the VFW Ritual, clearly acknowledging Him as the God of the universe and our ideal.

So, as I mentioned earlier, our Judeo-Christian beliefs are one of the cornerstones of this organization. May God, our heavenly Father, our Lord, continue to bless our nation and our organization as we strive to uphold and practice these beliefs.

At our monthly Post meetings, there is a POW/MIA table prominently displayed. Before the meeting is adjourned, we honor their memory by saluting them. The US government tirelessly continues to search for and find the remains of missing service members. The *VFW Action Corps Weekly* posts a list of names of those who have been recovered. From now on, we will publish the list of those who have been found over the previous month, thereby honoring their memory. See the Update below for those accounted for in September.

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 America!

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



VFW Action Corps Weekly September 2025 MIA Update

World War II

Army 1st Lt. Wilburn R. Saunders Jr.
Army Air Forces Sgt. Henry L. Younge
Army Air Forces Pfc. Bernard F. Sweet
Army Pfc. Charles B. Winters
Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Edgar W. Nevois
Army Pvt. Condia Lynch Jr.
Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. Charles E. Wallace
Army Capt. Willibald C. Bianchi
Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Stephen J. Fatur

Korean War

Army Cpl. Earl E. Kibbey
Army Cpl. Marvin S. Patton
Army Cpl. Donald J. Birmingham
Army Pfc. William T. Farrell
Army Sgt. Roger L. R. Duquesne

Auxiliary Corner

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

It may not feel like it, but Fall is here!

September is filled with many special days to remember; Patriot Day, VFW Auxiliary Birthday, Constitution/Citizenship Day, POW/MIA Recognition, Gold Star Mother's Day and the VFW Birthday.

Carl Hankey Elementary in Mission Viejo hosted a special Patriot Day program hosted by our Patriotic Instructor, Lupe Brady.

To celebrate the VFW Auxiliary Birthday, we had the honor of making two very special donations. One was to the Armed Services YMCA at Camp Pendleton and the other was to the Shea Center for their Military Therapy Program. Two amazing programs. Armed Services YMCA at Camp Pendleton has a National Early Childhood Program Accreditation and offers programs at no or low cost for military members. The Shea Center provides family reunification, Equine Assisted Psychotherapy, couple's groups, adaptive riding and equine assisted learning for Veterans and active-duty members of the armed forces. This is the beginning of a special partnership.

Did you know that the VFW Auxiliary offers Scholarships?! One of our programs is called Patriotic Art. An amazing entry came from student Natalie Haserot. As runner up she received a scholarship of \$200. The award was presented at our September 9th Auxiliary to Natalie's mother, Ellen.

It's never too late to be a part of this small but mighty group! To become a member, please contact Cindy Laursen at vfw9934cindy@gmail.com. If you are an auxiliary member but live too far or find the drive difficult, please consider joining us on Zoom! You can participate from the comfort of your home. It is a terrific way to participate. We value everyone's thoughts and ideas.

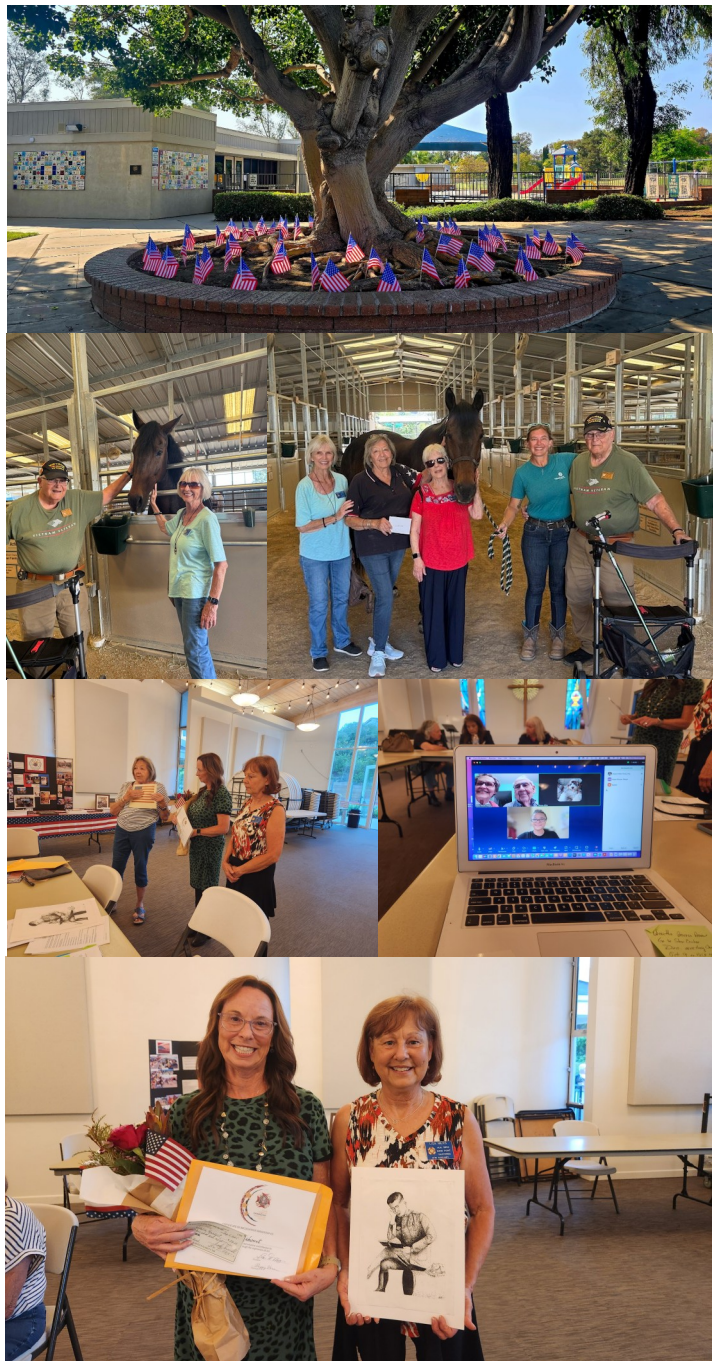
We are asking you to join the VFW Auxiliary 9934 Dana Point Facebook page. This is a fantastic way to find out what we are up to.

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



VFW AUXILIARY
UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®



On September 21st, our Post Officers hosted a brunch for our recently engaged Post Chaplain, Tim Laursen and Officer Manager, Cindy Somerville at The Brig Restaurant, Dana Point Harbor. Tim and Cindy were married on September 26th at Aventura Sailing in Dana Point.

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VFW Pledges It Won't Rest Until They're All Accounted For

The VFW honors National POW/MIA Recognition Day with a solemn reminder. On Sept. 19, National POW/MIA Recognition Day, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) reaffirms its sacred commitment to those who never returned home. For the VFW, the third Friday in September serves as a powerful reminder of the more than 142,000 former American prisoners of war and less than 81,000 service members who remain missing and unaccounted for, and it reinforces our unwavering pledge to their families and to the nation: We will not rest until we have the fullest possible accounting for every single service member.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) reports that just under 81,000 Americans are still unaccounted for from World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, the Vietnam War and other

conflicts. Behind every one of those numbers is a life, a story and a family that has endured decades of uncertainty and questions that couldn't be answered. Our nation owes them the ensuring promise that their service and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

As a proud and committed supporter of the DPAA, the VFW will continue to support their tireless efforts to conduct recovery missions, forensic identifications and historical research across the globe. Our shared goal to bring a measure of peace and closure to the families is a mission that transcends time and will be passed down through every generation of veterans.

Today, and every day, the VFW solemnly pledges to never forget America's POWs and MIAs.

vfw.org/media-and-events September 18, 2025

House Passes NDAA Including VFW-Backed TAP Promotion Act

The House passed [H.R.3838](#), *Streamlining Procurement for Effective Execution and Delivery and National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2026*, with a bipartisan vote of 231-196. Included in Section 562 is the *TAP Promotion Act*, which is a top priority for the VFW to ensure that transitioning service members have direct access to accredited representatives for VA claims assistance to enable prompt receipt of earned benefits. This

inclusion reflects the VFW's ongoing advocacy efforts to streamline the benefits process and support successful reintegration into civilian life and careers. This legislation also authorizes a 3.8% pay raise for service members and allocates funds to increase military readiness end strength by approximately 26,000 troops in 2026.

VFW Action Corps Weekly September 22, 2025

POST OFFICERS FOR 2025-2026

Post Commander
 Senior Vice Commander
 Junior Vice Commander
 Post Quartermaster
 Adjutant
 Assistant Quartermaster
 Post Chaplain
 Judge Advocate
 Post Surgeon

Rick Jauregui
 Richard Alonzo
 Carlos Garcia
 Phil Jimenez
 David Vera
 Wayne Yost
 Tim Laursen
 Michael Turner
 Gil Castro

Post Color Guard Captain
 Service Officer
 Service Officer
 Service Officer Advisor
 Service Officer Support
 Trustee (3-year term)
 Trustee (2-year term)
 Trustee (1-year term)

Carlos Garcia
 Aaron Pluff
 Rodney Bradle
 Marty Hoffman
 Debbie Yost
 David Priddy
 Rodney Bradley
 Bob Pruitt

AUXILIARY OFFICERS FOR 2025-2026

President
 Senior Vice President
 Junior Vice President
 Secretary
 Treasurer

Lisa Mers
 Sharon Miller
 Lupe Brady
 Terry Marr
 Cindy Laursen

Conductor
 Chaplain
 Trustee 3
 Trustee 2
 Trustee 1

Ralph Mariano
 Carlene Chew
 Judy Brandmeier
 Ralph Mariano
 Sharon Miller

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**DANA POINT 5TH MARINE
 REGIMENT SUPPORT GROUP**

Irvine Improv
527 Spectrum Center Dr.
Irvine

\$55 includes Dinner & Show

Scan for Tickets or
Contact: (949) 373-5375
info@DanaPoint5thMarines.com



**LAUGHS FOR
LEATHERNECKS**

*A night of laughs to support our
Wounded Heroes, Marines,
Sailors and Families*

NOW IN OUR 10TH YEAR!

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6th

Doors open 5:30 PM

Show time 7:00 PM

**RON
RUHMAN**

**GEOFF
GROOMS**

**LAURA
HAYDEN**

**SAM
FEDELE**

**JAMES P.
CONNOLLY**

Schedule of Events - October 2025

- ◇ Wednesday, October 1st, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo
- ◇ Tuesday, October 7th, 6:00 pm - Dana Point City Council Meeting
- ◇ Tuesday, October 14th, 6:00 pm - VFW Post 9934 Meeting, South Shores Church, 32712 Crown Valley Pkwy.
- ◇ Wednesday, October 15th, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo
- ◇ Tuesday, October 21st, 6:00 pm - Dana Point City Council Meeting
- ◇ Saturday, October 25th, 2:00 to 6:00 pm - City of Dana Point Halloween "Trunk or Treat" Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo St

Commemorative Tributes

October 7, 2001 - Start of Operation Enduring Freedom - Afghanistan

October 13, 1775 - Birthday of the US Navy

October 18, 1997 - Dedication of the Military Women's Memorial as Recognition of Women in Military Service

October 23, 1983 - Beirut Bombing

CONTACT VFW POST 9934

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Facebook: facebook.com/vfwpost9934

CONTACT U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

OCTOBER 2025 MONTHLY MEETINGS

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



Visit our Website
vfwpost9934.org

