

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Post 9934 & Auxiliary 9934
Dana Point, California



Mail Call 📢

September 2026



Dana Point VFW Post 9934 operated 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.



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Commander's Message

Greetings Comrades,

Summer is coming to an end. After all the concerts and the car show, it is time for us to catch our breath. That does not mean that the Post will stop working. We continue to receive calls and walk-ins from Veterans and their families who have questions and need assistance.

While talking about veterans needing assistance, we sometimes forget about the active-duty personnel around us; specifically those at Camp Pendleton who need ongoing support and assistance.

Those of you who come to the Post monthly meetings have heard Chaplain Tim Laursen and Past Chaplain Ron Egegian speak about our programs that deliver food and home goods to the families at Camp Pendleton.

Our recently approved annual budget included a \$100 per month donation expense for the Marines and their families dedicated to the Pendleton Pantry. In addition, I am asking those of you who can spare a few dollars to donate personal care or household cleaning products, to bring those items to our monthly meetings. The Laursens will personally deliver your donations.

At the last meeting, we talked about Thanksgiving and the past meals we delivered to Mag 39. We may have to "improvise and adapt" a little this year. If anyone has a suggestion or would like to take on this challenge, please let me know. I have contacted some community members, but nothing has been finalized.

Before I sign off, I would like to speak to the Comrades from the former VFW Posts in San Juan Capistrano, San Clemente, and Laguna Beach. I know that getting to Dana Point may be a challenge. We are all still Comrades. We don't ask that you commit to any of the community events. We do ask and that you attend a meeting and share a cup of coffee with fellow veterans and share fellowship.

I don't believe that is a big request.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, September 8th 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 we bring our summer concert season to a close, I want to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation to our Post and Auxiliary members for your outstanding participation and support throughout this long-running event. It was another very successful season, made possible by the dedication, teamwork, and service of so many.

The summer concerts are much more than an enjoyable community event. They are **one of our essential ways of raising funds to assist veterans in need and to support military families facing difficult times.** The proceeds and donations generated through these concerts go directly into our Relief Fund, allowing us to fulfill one of our most important obligations as members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars: **to serve those who have served our nation and to stand beside their families when they need us.**

Our responsibility does not end when a veteran's military service is over. The VFW has a continuing commitment to veterans, their families, and our military community. Every dollar we raise and every hour our members volunteer helps us honor that commitment. I am deeply grateful to everyone who gave their time and energy to make this year's concert series a success.

We also closed out the month of August with our Annual Dana Point Classic Car Show on Sunday, August 23rd. It was a busy and highly successful event, generating more than \$2,000 in net proceeds. By grilling hot dogs and accepting donations for drinks, snacks, and cups of ice, our members once again demonstrated what can be accomplished through hard work, cooperation, and a willingness to serve. It was certainly a lot of work—but, as always, the results made it very rewarding.

A Special Thank You

This month has also brought the considerable responsibility of preparing for our annual Post inspection. This year, the inspection process has moved online, requiring every receipt, disbursement, and supporting document to be scanned, downloaded, and submitted electronically to the inspector.

This has been an extremely time-consuming and demanding undertaking, particularly with the inspection forms not becoming available until August 15th and the completion deadline on for August 30th.

I would especially like to recognize Cindy Laursen for the tremendous amount of time, effort, and dedication she has devoted to completing this work. The hours have been long, and the pressure has been considerable. If you see Cindy, please take a moment to give her a well-deserved pat on the back or simply offer a friendly smile and a sincere “thank you.” Her commitment to our Post and her determination to see this task through are deeply appreciated.

Our Post handles a tremendous volume of paperwork and remains one of the busiest Posts in the District. While this year's inspection process has been challenging, the experience will help us be even better prepared for next year's inspection. Because of the extraordinary workload and pressure surrounding the inspection, I respectfully ask that members limit calls to the Post office until after September 10th, unless the matter is urgent. Your patience and understanding during this particularly demanding time are sincerely appreciated.

Remembering September 11th

As we enter September, we also pause to remember the tragic events of September 11, 2001, and the many lives that were lost that day. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the families who lost loved ones, as well as with all those who continue to carry the memories and consequences of that terrible day. As veterans and members of the VFW, we understand the importance of remembering—not only those we have lost, but also the courage, sacrifice, and service of the countless Americans who responded in the aftermath.

September 11th reminds us of the meaning of **service, sacrifice, duty, and commitment to others.** Those values are at the heart of who we are as veterans and as members of the VFW. Our obligation to serve does not end when we hang up the uniform. We continue that service by supporting our fellow veterans, caring for military families, and making sure those who have sacrificed for our country are not forgotten.

We remember. We honor. We will never forget.

Thank you to all of our members and Auxiliary for your continued service, dedication, and support of our Post and our military community. Every hour you volunteer, every event you support, and every dollar you help raise strengthens our ability to fulfill our commitment to those who have served.

Phil Jimenez
Quartermaster
VFW Post 9934

Chaplain's Corner



As we head into the month of September, there are several days to commemorate. Here are a few:

September 2, 1945 – VJ Day

On December 7, 1941, a day that then President Franklin Roosevelt proclaimed to be a day that would live in infamy, Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. On December 8, 1941, the US officially declared war on the Empire of Japan and its allies. This plunged the US into World War 2. On September 2, 1945, in Tokyo Harbor, aboard the USS Missouri, World War 2 officially came to an end with the signing of the surrender documents. It was a grueling time for the US military and would change the face of warfare forever. It started the age of warfare launched from the decks of aircraft carriers and the emergence of submarine warfare.

September 11, 2001 – Patriots Day

It doesn't seem possible that these heinous attacks on the US happened 25 years ago. The country singer/songwriter wrote a song to commemorate the day: Where were you when the world stood still. I'm sure we can all remember exactly where we were when we heard the first news and the continuing attacks that occurred. This started the global war on terrorism. Many have served because of these heinous attacks. Some are current members of our post. Never forget how we got here.

September 18, 1947 – United States Air Force (USAF) established

Tracing its origins to 1 August 1907, as a part of the United States Army Signal Corps, the USAF was established by transfer of personnel

from the Army Air Forces with the enactment of the National Security Act of 1947. Several members of our Post are proud members of the USAF.

3rd Friday in September – National POW/MIA Recognition Day

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed on the third Friday in September. It honors those who were prisoners of war (POWs) and those who are still missing in action (MIA). It is most associated with those who were POWs during the Vietnam War. The US government continues to search for and recover those who are MIA. Each month, the Mail Call lists those who were MIA and have been found.

September 29, 1899 – VFW founded

Last but not least, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was established on September 29, 1899, in Columbus, Ohio. It was federally chartered in 1936. Our motto is, "No one does more for veterans." Every time the Post is benevolent to veterans and their families, we fulfill this motto. Whether it is helping someone with a monetary need or donating goods and/or services, we are showing our dedication to this motto. I am proud to serve this organization.

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 August 2026 MIA Identification

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced 1 identification for a service member who has been missing and unaccounted for from World War II.

Army Pfc. Charles S. Lanier

Auxiliary Corner

“Volunteering is at the very core of being human. No one has made it through life without someone else’s help.” Heather French Henry.

We like to make the most of our summers in Dana Point, and we ended ours with a bang! We closed it out by volunteering with the Post at the Dana Point Classic Car Show and honoring the amazing winner of the Patriotic art contest, Shirvani Kale.

At the Car Show we asked for donations for our cold beverages and yummy hotdogs as we were surrounded by the most spectacular cars.

At our auxiliary meeting we had the pleasure of presenting Shirvani Kale with a certificate and award for her winning entry for the Patriotic Arts contest through our Youth and Scholarship program. Remember her name, you will hear of her in the years to come.

So, what’s coming next, you ask? Well let me tell you about our next adventures!

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 create Lamp post banners for display of our local hometown hero for display in Dana Point. If interested, 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 vfww9934cindy@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 !

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
BUNCO FUNDRAISER!

IN SUPPORT FROM *Gelson's*
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

PENDLETON PANTRY:
Thank you for your interest in donating to our food pantry! Below is a list of items we are looking for:

- Formula: Enfamil & Similac
- Baby wipes
- Diaper Sizes 2, 5 & 6
- Pull Ups (all sizes)
- Cooking Oil (Vegetable, Olive, etc.)
- Glass Jar Pasta Sauce
- Spices (Salt, Pepper, Garlic, etc.)
- Rice
- Jelly
- Lentils
- Spam
- Instant Mashed Potato's
- Ready/Minute Rice
- Pancake/Biscuit Mix
- Condiments/Dressing
- Chicken & Beef Broth
- Dry Beans (Pinto, Black, Navy)
- Pasta (Macaroni, Penne, Rigatoni, etc.)
- Instant Oatmeal
- Cereal
- Hamburger Helper
- Rice Roni
- Pasta Roni
- Cleaning supplies



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®

On Sunday, August 23rd, the Dana Point Chamber of Commerce held their annual Classic Car Show. The event was held all along Del Prado Avenue from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. The event started with VFW Post 9934's Color Guard Presenting the Colors and Post Chaplain Tim Laursen singing Our National Anthem. The Car Show attracted thousands of spectators to enjoy hundreds of custom and classic cars, awards, food trucks, spirits on the street and more. VFW Post 9934 had a booth offering grilled hot dogs, chips and other snacks, and beverages for a donation.



**33RD ANNUAL
VETERAN &
RETIREE EXPO**

Sat, Sep 12 • 7am-1pm
PACIFIC VIEWS EVENT CENTER
MCB, CAMP PENDLETON

Attention Military Veterans and Retirees! Explore benefits and resources tailored for you—don't miss this chance to learn more and maximize your entitlements!

Multiple Vendors and Providers




Scan code with phone camera to visit our website.
mccsCP.com
MARINE & Family | MCCS MARINE CORPS



Need a personal record from VA? Here's the Freedom of Information Act page that gets you there.

Finding the right VA office for your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) records request just got easier. VA has redesigned the page Veterans use to request records.

Whether you're requesting a DD214, medical record or benefits letter, this page helps you get started. It replaces a maze of legal terms and links with clearly labeled boxes that match you to the form you need.

You don't need to know the difference between a FOIA request and a Privacy Act request. You don't need to know which VA administration handles what. You simply choose the box that matches what you're looking for.

That's more than a design change. It means less time searching and more time getting the records you need.

Find the right office faster

Before the redesign, a Veteran's request for medical records might end up in a benefits mailbox. A DD214 request might land in a queue unrelated to military personnel records. Every misdirected request meant more waiting and more frustration for Veterans who were already navigating an important life event.

After the redesign, misdirected requests have dropped by 90%, helping Veterans reach the correct office faster, while maintaining the same level of access to VA records.

"We transformed a confusing, text-heavy process into a simple, intuitive experience built around clearly labeled selection boxes that guide requesters directly to the right office," said Tammy Wray, VA FOIA public liaison. "As both a VA employee and a retired military Veteran, it was important to me that every requester, especially our fellow Veterans, could easily find and request the records they need."

Teams across VA, including the Office of Information and Technology, Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefits Administration and National Cemetery Administration, worked together to redesign the page and improve the records request experience for Veterans.

How it works

The FOIA and records request page includes clearly labeled boxes for the most common requests, including:

- Veterans Benefits Administration records
- Veterans Health Administration records
- Military service records and next-of-kin requests
- DD214 requests
- National Cemetery Administration records
- Employment verification
- Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) claims
- Publicly available records and proactive disclosures.

Some requests include more than one option because they follow different processes. Pick the option that fits, and the site opens the right form or submission system.

Built with Veterans in mind

The page launched in October 2025 with six sections and has continued to evolve based on the questions Veterans ask every day.

VA reviews incoming requests routinely to identify common challenges and update the page so Veterans can find answers more easily.

"I find the boxes with brief descriptions and bold print especially helpful for a quick view of what we are looking for during visits," said Amy Jack, Navy Veteran and Veteran Health Care navigator. "The addition of direct links to the actual information eliminates the need to locate an accurate website and navigate to the information required."

Get started today

The next time you need a record from VA, skip the guesswork. Visit the FOIA and records request page, at <https://department.va.gov/foia> and select the box that matches the record you're looking for, and immediately access the correct form.

news.va.gov August 20, 2026

Chuck Shin, Director, Office of Communication, VA Office of Information and Technology



Schedule of Events - September 2026

- ◇ Tuesday, September 1, 6:00 pm - Dana Point City Council Meeting
- ◇ Wednesday, September 2, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo
- ◇ Tuesday, September 8, 6:00 pm - VFW Post 9934 Meeting, South Shores Church, 32712 Crown Valley Pkwy.
- ◇ Tuesday, September 8, 6:30 pm - VFW Auxiliary 9934 Meeting, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 33501 Stonehill
- ◇ Tuesday, September 15, 6:00 pm - Dana Point City Council Meeting
- ◇ Wednesday, September 16, 2:00 to 4:00 pm - Disability Clinic. Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo
- ◇ Saturday, September 19, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm - Auxiliary Bunco. Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 33501 Stonehill
- ◇ Tuesday, September 22, 1:00 to 2:00 - Bingo ,Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center, 5901 E. 7th, Long Beach

Commemorative Tributes

September 2 - V-J Day: Japan Signed Formal Surrender (1945)

September 11 - Patriots Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance

September 14 - VFW Auxiliary Founded (1914)

September 17 - Constitution and Citizenship Day

September 18 - U.S. Air Force Established (1947)

3rd Friday in September - POW/MIA Recognition Day

September 29 - VFW Founded in 1899



SEPTEMBER 2026 MONTHLY MEETINGS

The next monthly meetings of the Post and Auxiliary 9934 will be on Tuesday, September 8th.

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

Address: 33282 Golden Lantern, # 103
Dana Point, CA 92629
Phone: (949) 248-1419
Email: dpvfwpost9934@gmail.com
Website: vfwpost9934.org
Facebook: facebook.com/vfwpost9934

Alternative Caps

Effective September 11, 2025, Section 803 "Manufacture and Use of Seals, Emblems, Badges, Insignia and Uniforms" of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Bylaws has been amended to the following (Amendment in bold italics):

Regulation caps shall be worn by elected and appointed officers at all official meetings. ***Alternative Cap. A baseball-style cap, black in color, lettered with VFW initials, Post numerals, state, rank of office (when applicable), Veterans of Foreign Wars and bearing the Cross of Malta may be worn by members other than officers during meetings of the Post and District. Lettering on each cap shall be in gold. The trim on the front of the bill shall be either gold, green, red, or silver, corresponding to the official braid colors for the respective organizational echelon. The baseball-style cap shall be an alternative to, but not a replacement for the regulation overseas cap and shall not be worn in place of the regulation cap at formal ceremonies, when in business attire, or at events where the regulation cap is prescribed.***

We purchased another half dozen of these caps for Post 9934. They will be made available to members at the Post's cost of \$32 each. If you have an interest in obtaining one, please contact the office.

