

# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



## POST 9934 AND AUXILIARY 9934 DANA POINT, CALIFORNIA NOVEMBER 2021



**ALL STATE POST 2004-05, 2005-06, 2007-08,  
2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13,  
2013-14, 2014-2015, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-2018  
2019-2020**

**ALL AMERICAN POST 2007-08  
2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-2014,  
2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2019-2020**

### COMMANDER'S MESSAGE FOR NOVEMBER 2021

Comrades,  
Welcome to the month of November, the weather is getting colder, the leaves are changing, and our commitment to service to the community just becomes more vital. Our resolve and loyalty to the post cannot waiver during this Fall season.

The Holiday season means so much to those active service and civilian families that need food, holiday cheer and sometimes just a kind word.

An update for those of you who were unable to participate on Saturday October 23rd at the Dana Point Community Center. We were able to contact hundreds of children and their families. Even though we were not able to cook as in past years ...we did give away popcorn, soft drinks, water and of course our patriotic pinwheels and the small American Flags.

It was a very long day with Wayne and Debbie Yost, Bill Cordova and the forever present Ben Valencia doing all of the heavy lifting.

Which brings me to a request and an important question for all of you to ponder. How much more should I do or can I do to participate in Post activities? We all have personal lives, some of us deal with physical issues, a few of us are care givers for family members and/or close friends.

This request comes at a time when Veterans Day and our participation in the Buddy Poppy Program is extremely important to the survival of the Post programs we support. Our monies, that we use to support other Veterans, is funded almost exclusively by the donations we get during the Memorial Day and Veteran's Day weekend.

Comrades, at the present time we do not, I say again, we do not have, enough people to stand together with fellow members of Post 9934, to do 2 shifts for 2 days at 3 markets.

If nothing changes we will only be able to man 1 market.

We have over 300 members at Post 9934.

At any one time we have 50 to 75 active members.

Stand with us ...sign up for just one (1) shift ...Meet the people who support our post...Be that Comrade who thanks a complete stranger who takes a buddy poppy from you and utters that phrase

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!**

Thank You Again My Brothers and Sisters

Be Kind to Yourself and Those around You.

Rick Jauregui,

Commander, Post 9934 Dana Point

#### TO CONTACT YOUR POST

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TO CONTACT U.S. DEPARTMENT  
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
1-800-MyVA411

#### NOVEMBER 2021 MEETING

The next meeting of the Post and Auxiliary 9934 will be Tuesday, November 9.

The Post meeting will be 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. Auxiliary meeting time is 6:30.

## VFW REMEMBERS GENERAL COLIN POWELL

Former Secretary of State was a VFW Life member

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is mourning the passing of former Secretary of State and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, retired U.S. Army General Colin L. Powell, who passed away due to complications of cancer and COVID-19 this morning at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. He was 84 years old.

General Powell was a trailblazer and one of the most influential leaders of U.S. foreign policy in the last 40 years," said VFW National Commander Matthew "Fritz" Mihelcic. "From platoon leader in Cold War West Germany and military advisor during the Vietnam conflict, to overseeing the invasion of Panama and Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, General Powell led generations of men and women who were at the same time warriors and ambassadors for our nation. Yet, in spite all of his accomplishments and accolades, he never strayed away from the core of who he was - a soldier devoted to his

family and the country he loved. He cared about service members. He cared about veterans. He cared about our fellow citizens. He was one of our own," Mihelcic said. General Powell was a Life member of the VFW Department of Maryland.



"On behalf of the entire 1.5 million-member VFW family, our deepest condolences go out to the entire Powell family, and we salute this extraordinary man whose life of selfless service is a stalwart example for all of us."

## VETERANS LEGACY MEMORIAL

Website Expansion

The Department of Veterans Affairs has announced the expansion of their Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM) website <https://www.vlm.cem.va.gov>, which now contains individual webpages for nearly 4.5 million veterans interred in national, state, territorial and tribal veterans cemeteries.

The just-announced expansion added individual webpages for nearly 500,000 veterans interred in 93 state, territorial and tribal veterans cemeteries to the existing four million webpages for veterans interred in VA's 155 national cemeteries.

The Veterans Legacy Memorial website lets anyone look up veterans interred in these cemeteries and see their service information, a map of the gravesite and, in many cases, a photograph of the gravestone. It also gives friends and family members the ability to contribute photos, stories, histori-

cal documents and pay respects. "VLM offers families a meaningful way to pay tribute to our veterans," Matthew Quinn, VA under secretary for memorial affairs, said in a press release. "Because of the expansion of VLM to VA grant-funded State, Territorial and Tribal Veterans cemeteries, many families -- including my own -- will have the opportunity to memorialize their veterans online."

The free site offers those researching family history a wealth of information and is a way that those who are physically distant can pay tribute to lost friends, family and loved ones. More than 22,000 virtual submissions have been made to veterans' profile pages in VLM since the site launched in 2019. All content uploaded or submitted to a veteran's personal memorial webpage is reviewed by moderators before being posted.

[Source: Military.com Jim Absher October 5, 2021]

## IRVINE FINAL OC CITY TO SUPPORT VETERANS CEMETERY IN ANAHEIM

The city of Irvine this week voted 4-1 to support building a state veterans cemetery at the Gypsum Canyon site in Anaheim instead of the El Toro Marine Base in Irvine, making it the final Orange County city to pass a resolution of support. Several members of Post 9934, in addition to representatives from many other veteran organizations, were very visibly in attendance at the meeting.



final resting place on a portion of the former El Toro Marine Corps Air Station in Irvine.

Over the last four months, proponents of the Gypsum Canyon site have gotten statements of support from every other city council in Orange County, along with the county Board of Supervisors and multiple state and federal officials.

The debate over an Orange County veterans cemetery has raged for nearly a decade, with efforts to find veterans a

Irvine City Councilman Larry Agran as the lone dissenting vote in the entire county against the proposal.

## VA CAREGIVER PROGRAM

Thousands May Lose Stipends under New VA Review

Thousands of veterans caregivers could see their Veterans Affairs stipends reduced or taken away completely under a series of case reviews planned over the next year to ensure long-time participants still qualify for the benefit. Veterans Affairs officials said that no families currently in the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) will see reductions in stipends before fall of next year, and families being removed from the program won't have the financial support cut off until early 2023. But the move still means the looming loss of thousands of dollars a month for some families of veterans with serious, lingering service injuries.

About 33,000 individuals are currently enrolled in the program, which provides support services and monthly stipends to caregivers of veterans unable to perform basic self-care activities. Program Executive Director Colleen Richardson said the reviews will cover about 19,800 "legacy" participants, all of whom entered the program before October 2020. Before then, only veterans who left the ranks after September 2001 were eligible to apply for the program. Officials expect about one-third of that group — around 6,700 families — to be completely dropped from the program after the review, based on preliminary work. It's unclear how many more could see reductions in the amount of financial support they receive each month. In addition, some veterans could see increases in the amount of payouts they receive, if reviews find they are eligible for more support.

Department officials hope to complete the reviews in the next six months, but Richardson said no stipend reductions will take place before October 2022, to ensure that families are given time to deal with the financial impact of the moves. Caregivers being dropped from the program will get an additional five months of payments as they transition out, Richardson said. "And even though they may not qualify for the stipend, they will still qualify for services within the caregiver support program" such as counseling and training offerings, she said. The reviews will include medical exams and in-home visits (or virtual, if pandemic concerns linger) to determine veterans' independence and ongoing assistance needs. Veterans involved will not need to

reapply; instead, program officials will contact them about the reassessments.

About 107,000 caregivers applied to the program in the past year, mostly connected to veterans who served during the Vietnam War or in earlier eras. That group wasn't eligible for the program until last fall. The approximately 13,000 individuals approved from that group in the last year will not be part of the new reviews. Richardson said the new move also is not expected to disrupt plans scheduled for next fall to expand the caregiver program to veterans of any era. Benefits under PCAFC include education and training, enhanced respite care, counseling, a monthly stipend, CHAMPVA (if eligible) and certain travel expenses, among others.

Stipend calculations are based on the severity of veterans' injuries and the cost of living in the area where they live. For example, a caregiver tending to a severely injured veteran living in the Washington, D.C. area could receive up to \$3,100 a month in financial support. Individuals in a less costly area with less severe medical complications could see half that amount. The new reviews are separate from potential changes linked to a U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims ruling earlier this year requiring a new appeal process for individuals rejected for the caregiver stipend program. Richardson said officials expect to have additional announcements on that issue in coming days. Questions about PCAFC should be directed to local VA facility Caregiver Support Program staff or the Caregiver Support Line, at 855-260-3274. Go to <https://www.caregiver.va.gov> for more information on the reviews. Find your Caregiver Support team or Caregiver Support coordinator using the facility locator at [https://www.caregiver.va.gov/support/New\\_CSC\\_Page.asp](https://www.caregiver.va.gov/support/New_CSC_Page.asp).

[Source: AirForceTimes |& VA Press Release Leo Shane III September 22, 2021]

{NOTE: Members who have questions concerning this program should attend the meetings conducted by the Post Service Officers on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Meetings are scheduled from 2:00 to 4:00 at the Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo Street, Dana Point.}

## QUARTERMASTER REPORT

The Post meeting on November 9 will include a very important event – we will have our annual "Inspection" conducted by VFW District 2 for the Department of California. The inspection is primarily administrative in nature and looks at the records and files of the Post to see if everything is in conformance with National and Department Bylaws. The Inspector will also attend to Post meeting to observe attendance and procedures.

It would be nice for the Post's reputation to have a good attendance at this particular meeting so those in the area are requested to make a special effort to attend this month.

Also, for those in attendance, please wear the VFW Cap if you have it, but do not wear the baseball type caps during the meeting.

November is a very important time of the year for Veterans, of course, with all of the activities related to VETERANS DAY (and the Marine Corps Birthday). The Post VETERANS DAY program will return to the Dana Point Veterans Memorial at Strands Vista Park this year. Efforts are being made for Orange County to authorize the use of part of the parking lot to accommodate the expected large attendance. Bill Manes, Post Quartermaster

## SBP DIC OFFSET

### Second Phase of Offset Phased Elimination

This coming January marks the start of the second phase of the SBP-DIC Offset Phased Elimination, in accordance with the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, which modified the law that requires an offset of Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) payments for surviving spouses who are also entitled to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). In Phase Two of the SBP-DIC Offset Phased Elimination, which begins January 1, 2022, the amount that is offset (deducted) from the spouse's SBP annuity payment will be one-third of the amount of the DIC payment. January 2022 benefits will be paid on February 1, 2022.

To help surviving spouses who are eligible for both SBP and DIC in 2022 understand the effect of this 2022 change, DFAS will mail you a letter in December of 2021 with an individual estimates of your 2022 SBP payment. As a reminder, the SBP-DIC Offset Phased Elimination only affects SBP payments issued by DFAS. The changes do NOT affect Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payments from the VA. Eligible surviving spouses will continue to receive the full amount of DIC from the VA.

You should also be aware that Annuitant Account Statements for spouses now show their current gross SBP benefit at the bottom of the statement. You can estimate your net SBP payment for 2022 using the current gross SBP benefit amount that is on your statement. Subtract an amount that is equal to 1/3 of your current DIC payment FROM the amount of your current gross SBP benefit. The result is approximately what your SBP payment will be in the second phase. Keep in mind that if there is a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2022, it will increase the amount of your DIC payment and your gross SBP payment.

Annuitant Account Statements are available in your myPay account: <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. You will also receive a January 2022 Annuitant Account Statement (AAS) near the time of your February 1, 2022 payment that will show changes to your SBP and/or SSIA payment because of the second phase of the SBP-DIC Offset Phased Elimination. Watch for your preestimate letter in the mail in December of 2021.

[Source: DFAS Retiree Newsletter September 2021]

## LAST OF THE FIRST SALUTE

### Old Corps Gathering to Honor Guadalcanal WWII Vets

Marines across the country are set to gather for the 246th birthday of the Marine Corps in a few weeks. But for a group of Camp Pendleton veterans, the celebration will be especially poignant. Their "Old orps" gathering will include a "Last of the First" salute. The celebration will pay tribute to surviving World War II combat veterans of the 1st Marine Division based at Camp Pendleton. Most are in their mid to late 90s. The veterans will toast with a bottle of 1920s-era Joseph Etournaud & Company Extra Grand Fine Champagne 1st Grand Cru Cognac.

The bottle was set aside in 1944 by 14 Marine survivors of the 1942 Battle of Guadalcanal fought in the South Pacific during World War II, a battle that earned the 1st Marine Division a Presidential Unit Citation. The "Last of the First" bottle, as it is called, was intended to be opened by the last survivor among the Marines and sailors who served in combat with the 1st Marine Division during World War II. The salute honors "absent comrades" and surviving World War II combat veterans of the 1st Marine Division. The bottle of cognac was donated in 1944, on the second anniversary of the 1st Marine Division's landing on Guadalcanal during a gathering of veterans of that battle at the Piedmont Hotel in Atlanta, Ga. It was donated by Ralph McGill, a World War I Marine Corps veteran and editor and publisher of the Atlanta Constitution.

By the end of World War II, thousands of veterans were eligible to open the bottle eventually. But with the passing of time, fewer and fewer were left to claim that honor. "For those who continue to march while friends from their youth pass on, it can be an emotional, heartbreaking journey. We cannot stop time, but we can retire the bottle

while some survivors of the 1st Marine Division's Greatest Generation can still be publicly honored," said retired Marine Col. Richard Rothwell, president of the Camp Pendleton Historical Society, which is cohosting the gathering with the 1st Marine Division Association.

For the last 11 years, the cognac has been on display at the Marines' Memorial Club in San Francisco and will be brought out for the Last of the First salute on 6 NOV. So far, seven WWII Marine Corps veterans from the 1st Marine Division have been located across the country and have been invited to the Last of the First salute. "In their presence we will open the Last of the First Bottle and they will toast their comrades — heroes who are no longer with us," Rothwell said. The World War II combat veterans will be guests of the 1st Marine Division Association and the Camp Pendleton Historical Society.

The Marine Corps Birthday celebration and Last of the First salute will be from 5 to 9 p.m. Nov. 6 at the Omni La Costa Resort & Spa, 2199 Costa Del Mar Road, Carlsbad. All active and retired Marines, their spouses and friends of the Marine Corps are welcome. The event includes social and cocktail hour 5 to 6 p.m.; a traditional Marine Corps Birthday ceremony from 6 to 6:30 p.m.; dinner 6:45 to 8 p.m.; and Last of the First salute 8 to 8:45 p.m. The non-profit hosting groups are collecting donations to pay for the travel expenses of the WWII veteran honorees and their family or escorts. For or information about attending or donating, email Lt. Col. Charles Kershaw, (retired USMC) at [cphs.events@gmail.com](mailto:cphs.events@gmail.com) or call (760) 402-8638.

[Source: San Diego Union Tribune Linda McIntosh  
October 12, 2021]

## VA TRAVEL ALLOWANCE

### Reimbursement for Travel to VA Medical Appointments

Did you know the Department of Veterans Affairs will pay your travel expenses to medical appointments? To be eligible for travel reimbursement, you must meet at least one of the following requirements:

- Traveling for treatment of a service-connected condition;
- A disabled veteran rated at least 30%;
- Traveling for a scheduled compensation or pension examination;
- Receiving a VA pension;
- Have limited income;
- Traveling to receive a VA-authorized service dog.

#### How Much Travel Will the VA Pay?

The VA will pay you a flat rate of 41.5 cents per mile to use your vehicle. If you take a rideshare, taxi or public transportation, they will reimburse you for the actual cost of travel. They also will reimburse you for tolls, parking and other travel costs. For anything other than mileage reimbursement, you usually are required to submit copies of receipts. You either can scan these or take a picture with your phone.

Those who get reimbursed for qualifying travel normally also have a deductible amount of \$3 for a one-way trip or \$6 for a round trip, with a maximum of \$18 per calendar month. That means if you travel a round trip of 20 miles to reach your VA appointments, you would be reimbursed \$2.30 (\$8.30 for a 20-mile round trip, minus the \$6 deductible). However, these deductibles can be waived for financial hardship. The VA also will pay travel reimbursement for an authorized family caregiver, under the VA Family Caregiver Program, or other medically required attendants.

In certain situations, the VA will reimburse you for specialized medically necessary transportation services like an ambulance, if required. For this type of transportation, you need VA pre-approval. Contact your provider for more details. The VA will also pay for lodging in certain situations if required. The mileage rates and deductibles can change annually, depending on economic factors.

#### Filing a Travel Claim

The VA is trying to get everyone to file their travel claims

online via its new Beneficiary Travel Self Service System, or BTSSS at:

<https://eauth.va.gov/accessva/?cspSelectFor=bts>.

If you have problems filing online, you can file a travel claim at kiosks located in VA medical centers, help desks or patient services offices at many VA hospitals or local clinics. You also can file a hardcopy claim via postal mail using VA Form 10-3542 which can be filled out online and downloaded at <https://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/vha-10-3542-fill.pdf>

On their YouTube channel, the Veterans Health Administration says in a video explaining the online filing system that those who file a claim online should see payment in 3-5 business days, while those who file other ways may have to wait up to 45 days for any reimbursement. This video can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7INUiyQT4gM>. Accessing the BTSSS is done using your MyHealthVet, DSLogin or by creating a verified account with the ID.me system.

Once logged into the system, your VA appointments are prefilled, allowing you to submit a claim in just a few clicks. Commenters on Reddit (<https://www.reddit.com/r/Veterans/comments>) said that the new online system has been difficult to use. Curious, the writer of this article checked it out for himself, only to see that none of his past or future VA or civilian care appointments showed up in the system, and he still was listed as attached to a VA hospital on the other side of the country, where he hadn't lived for years. To correct this situation he recommended stopping by your local clinic or calling the VA-411 line at 800-698-2411 which probably would at least point you a way to get things fixed. And to be fair (for many) most VA and civilian medical appointments during the pandemic have pretty much been over the phone or computer for the last year and a half.

Is it worth it to spend three hours filing a claim for \$2.30? Everyone's situation is different. But if you're regularly dropping \$20-\$50 on an Uber or parking and spending three hours of your day in medical appointments, it may make things a bit less painful.

[Source: MOAA Newsletter September 22, 2021]



POST 9934 COLOR GUARD  
AT THE DANA POINT  
CLASSIC CAR SHOW  
CEREMONIES

**POST OFFICERS FOR 2021-2022**

|                            |                  |                         |               |
|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Post Commander:            | Ricardo Jauregui | Service Officer:        | John Coon     |
| Senior Vice Commander:     | Richard Alonzo   | Service Officers Team:  | Jim Socks     |
| Junior Vice Commander      | Carlos Garcia    |                         | Don Ellis     |
| Post Quartermaster         | Bill Manes       |                         | Ben Valencia  |
| Assistant Quartermaster    | Wayne Yost       |                         | Aaron Pluff   |
| Post Chaplain:             | James Lofdahl    |                         | Robert Fowler |
| Post Surgeon               | Gil Castro       | Service Officer Advisor | Marty Hoffman |
| Judge Advocate             | Dolores Padgett  | Service Officer Support | Debbie Yost   |
| Adjutant                   | Wayne Greenleaf  | Trustee (3-year term)   | Richard Carr  |
| Women Veterans Coordinator | Marcia Kuehl     | Trustee (2-year term)   | David Vera    |
| Post Color Guard Captain   | Carlos Garcia    | Trustee (1-year term)   | Phil Jimenez  |

**AUXILIARY OFFICERS FOR 2021-2022**

|                       |                 |             |                |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------|
| President             | Rebecca Dulmage | Chaplain    | Yvonne English |
| Senior Vice President | Sharon Miller   | Conductress | Terri Marr     |
| Treasurer             | Renee Fulk      | Guard       | Torey Boegeman |
| Secretary             | Lisa Mers       |             |                |

**CALENDAR NOVEMBER 2021**

Tuesday, Nov 2 Post Service Officers, Dana Point  
Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo St  
2:00-400

**WEDNESDAY, NOV 10 BIRTHDAY U.S. MARINE CORPS**

Tuesday, Nov 9 Post and Auxiliary meetings

**THURSDAY, NOV 11 VETERANS DAY  
DANA POINT VETERANS DAY  
SERVICE, Strands Vista Park, 10:00**

Tuesday, Nov 16 Post Service Officers, Dana Point  
Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo St  
2:00-400

Sunday, Nov 21 Granada Campaign Ended (1983)

**THURSDAY, NOV 25 THANKSGIVING DAY DANA  
POINT TURKEY TROT, DANA  
MARINA PARKING LOT, 6:00 - 11:00**



Thought of the Month:

"Why does a woman work ten years to change a man's habits and then complain that he's not the man she married?"

DANA POINT VFW POST AND AUXILIARY 9934  
33282 Golden Lantern Suite 103  
Dana Point, CA 92629

