

# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

## POST 9934 AND AUXILIARY 9934

DANA POINT, CALIFORNIA  
SEPTEMBER 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

Greetings Comrades,

It is with a heavy heart that I speak to all of you this month...For many of us these past few days and weeks have raised old memories ...and maybe a little sadness as well. I know that for some of you those thoughts may raise a little anger or at least some frustration.

But as all of us knew when called to serve ...we did... without question because it was the thing to do, and we all knew it was for a better cause...

So now our emotions and feelings have to be funneled into other activities or endeavors.

As members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars our efforts are always geared to the betterment of our fellow warriors and the community that we serve.

So after you are done either yelling or agreeing with that news commentator, look at a community website...and/or the VFW website and see what your fellow veterans are doing with their time...What programs they are involved in, who needs help and how can we, as veterans assist those around us.

Remember, there is plenty to do around Post 9934... Between getting ready for meetings...helping the service

officers...taking on a new project...our community activities...All this requires a volunteer mentality and a willingness to give of yourself for a few minutes each week. I have mentioned this before and I will keep bringing this up.

Especially, with the activities in Afghanistan...PLEASE reach out to any fellow comrade who you think may need a phone call... a cup of coffee or just a few minutes to vent his or her feelings.

The biggest mistake we can make is to wait for them to call us.

I have heard on too many occasions, "I don't want to bother him/her...I'm sure they're ok...I figured if he/her needed something they would have called..."

Fellow comrades I can tell you nothing....and I mean nothing could be further from the truth.

Don't be the "friend" who says...If I only knew ...I always thought they could handle it...

As I finish my commanders message to you I would like to share a very personal verse from *Isiah 6:8*, which I believe describes all warriors who were willing to sacrifice all for our country;

(cont'd page 2)

### TO CONTACT YOUR POST

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Website: <https://www.vfwpost9934.org>  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/vfwpost9934](http://www.facebook.com/vfwpost9934)

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

### SEPTEMBER 2021 MEETING

The next meeting of the Post and Auxiliary 9934 will be Tuesday, September 14. **The Post meeting will be at South Shores Church, 32712 Crown Valley Parkway, starting at 6:00 p.m.** Members may also join the meeting sing the ZOOM protocol.

Meeting ID: 806 684 3584 Passcode: 748119

One tap mobile

+14086380968,,8066843584#,,,\*748119# US

(San Jose)

**The Auxiliary will meet at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 33501 Stonehill. Auxiliary meeting time is 6:30.**

## VFW ELECTS MATTHEW M. “FRITZ” MIHELICIC AS NEW NATIONAL COMMANDER

‘The time is now!’ for the organization to move forward

Mathew M. “Fritz” Mihelcic, of Sparta, Illinois, was elected as the new national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, a congressionally-chartered veterans service organization comprised of 1.5 million eligible veterans and military service members from all six branches of the armed forces.

“Comrades, Auxiliary members, family and friends, thank you for letting me share a few moments with you as I begin this great journey as your VFW Commander-in-Chief as we shake off the past and rise again to the challenge of this next year,” said Mihelcic.

Mihelcic’s election as the VFW’s 113th Commander-in-Chief occurred at the conclusion of the organization’s 122nd national convention in Kansas City, Missouri. The gathering was a much-welcomed event following a year without a national convention due to the pandemic restrictions. During his acceptance speech, Mihelcic commended the remarkable community service of VFW members during the COVID crisis.

“If there are those that can do it in the Dark Ages, during the plague of the modern era, think of what we can all do, working together, in the coming Renaissance,” said Mihelcic. “When it comes to taking action in spite of our circumstance, I say ‘The Time Is Now!’”



VFW membership eligibility requires honorable service in a war or expedition on foreign soil or in hostile waters. Mihelcic served in the U.S. Air Force Air National Guard from 1989 to 1999 with the 131st Tactical Fighter Wing. He earned his VFW eligibility when he was activated for federal service in Desert Shield and Desert Storm as a security policeman. In recognition of his service and contributions during deployment, he received many awards and decorations, to include the Air Force Achievement Medal and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with “V” device.

He joined the VFW at Post 2698 in Sparta, Illinois, in 1991 and maintains a Gold Legacy Life membership. Over the years, Mi-

helcic has held many vital leadership positions at the local, state and national levels. He served as judge advocate for the Department of Illinois from 1999 to 2011, the Department of Illinois commander from 2013 to 2014, in which he achieved All-American status, multiple terms as the national parliamentarian, and served four separate terms as national judge advocate general.

“It matters not what war or conflict you were in, what branch, or where you were deployed. If you served and are eligible we want you to be part of us. Everyone wants to be part of something bigger than themselves. The VFW offers you that,” said Mihelcic.

### COMMANDER’S MESSAGE

(cont’d from first page)

*Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.*

I have also asked our Chaplain Comrade Lofdahl, to give us some spiritual guidance...I have attached those words to my message

Thank you Again, Comrades

See you on September 14, 2021  
Rick Jauregui, Commander  
VFW Post #9934, Dana Point

### CHAPLAIN’S NOTES

To all my Military Brothers and Sisters:

These last days of ending our involvement in Afghanistan has resulted in losses of Military Lives, as well as Afghanistan Civilian Lives.

We pray for the families of our fallen Military Brothers and Sisters. We pray that these losses will never be forgiven or forgotten. We pray for the remaining Military Brothers and Sisters who are still there doing their part in evacuating the remaining Americans and Afghanistans who have been an extension of our military forces for the last twenty years.

We pray for all our Military Brothers and Sisters who continue to give us the freedom we enjoy in our country. We pray for some form of peace in the remaining country of Afghanistan. We pray for the women and children who remain in Afghanistan. We pray that they will be safe from harm as we will no longer be there to protect them. We pray for some form of world peace.

We ask this in His Name,  
Jim Lofdahl  
VFW Post 9934 Chaplain



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

**VA Long Beach Healthcare System**

**VALB OFFERING 3RD DOSE OF COVID-19 VACCINE TO IMMUNOCOMPROMISED**

VA Long Beach is offering a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine for people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised and received the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines.

Who qualifies as moderately to severely immunocompromised?

VA is following the CDC guidance in defining individuals who are immunocompromised. They are people with medical conditions or people receiving treatments that are associated with moderately to severely immunocompromised conditions. This includes people who have:

- Been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
- Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Received a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response

People should talk to their healthcare provider about their medical condition and whether getting an additional dose is recommended for them.

If I am eligible, when should I get the third dose?

CDC and FDA recommend getting the third dose at least 28 days after you completed the two-shot series.

How do I schedule an appointment if I am eligible?

We are actively reaching out to Veterans eligible for a third dose of the COVID vaccine. If you have not heard from us and believe you are eligible, please call our COVID Vaccine Call Center at (562) 826-5300 (Mon-Fri 0730-1630). Please tell the Call Center that you are requesting to schedule your third dose Moderna vaccine.

What else do I need to do to keep safe?

Immunocompromised people, including those who receive a third dose, should continue to follow prevention measures, including wearing a mask, staying six feet apart from others they do not live with, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces until advised otherwise by their health care provider. VHA remains deeply dedicated to the safety of our employees and Veterans. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation as we work together to end this pandemic.

Is an additional vaccine dose being offered to those who received the Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine?

There is no additional dose recommended for those who have received the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine at this time.

When will boosters become available to everyone else?

Other fully vaccinated individuals do not need an additional dose right now. Currently the additional dose is only recommended for people who received an initial series with the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine and have a specific condition that makes them less likely to have had an immune response to the vaccine they received originally. Once we have more information on boosters for others we will reach out to share this guidance.

**TRICARE RECALL ALERT**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has directed Philips Respironics to recall millions of sleep and respiratory devices following concerns that foam in the devices, which is used to reduce sound and vibration, may break into particles and enter the air hose of the device and be inhaled by the user. In response, the Military Health System (MHS) has notified all TRICARE-authorized durable medical equipment providers of the recall. And it's asking prescribing physicians to help notify patients of the recall and determine if they were issued a medical device on the Philips recall list.

Which devices does the recall affect?

The recall affects certain medical devices that were produced before April 26, 2021. They include:

- Philips Constant Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) devices
- Bi-Level Airway Pressure (BiPAP) devices

Health care providers often prescribe these devices for home use to treat sleep apnea. The recall also includes some ventilators. However, military hospitals and clinics have begun taking separate actions to identify and defer use of the recalled ventilators.

What are the possible health risks of the CPAP and BiPAP devices?

The sound-reducing foam found in these medical devices may break into potentially harmful particles. These particles may enter the device's air hose and cause the user to inhale them. If that happens, the user could experience mild to severe symptoms. These symptoms could be an inflammatory response, headache, irritation in the eyes or nose, respiratory issues, or possible toxic effects. The FDA is closely monitoring reports of adverse health effects. To date, there have been a small

(cont'd page 6)

## VA ELDERLY BENEFITS

### Special Benefits for Elderly Wartime Veteran Population

As a follow up to the 14 AUG National Financial Awareness Day, the Department of Veterans Affairs is launching an awareness campaign to inform elderly wartime Veterans and their families of their lesser known pension, funeral, burial and survivor benefits.

“VA’s pension benefit helps Veterans and their families cope with financial challenges by providing supplemental income,” said Acting Under Secretary for Benefits Thomas Murphy. “Currently, only 189,800 wartime Veterans and 139,800 surviving spouses are using their needs-based pension benefits that are meant to ease the burden on them, their families and caregivers. We need to ensure all of our wartime Veterans and their survivors are aware of their benefits.”

The following benefits are available through VA’s Pension and Fiduciary Service as noted in the guide at

[https://benefits.va.gov/FIDUCIARY/docs/VA\\_Fiduciary\\_Guide\\_Apr2020.pdf](https://benefits.va.gov/FIDUCIARY/docs/VA_Fiduciary_Guide_Apr2020.pdf)

for use in planning and preparing for the future.

□ VA pension is payable to wartime Veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to non-service on-connected disability, or who are age 65 years old or older, and who meet certain income and net worth limits. Refer to <https://www.va.gov/pension>.

□ Special monthly pension is an additional benefit for Veterans in receipt of pension who are housebound, require the aid and attendance of another person to help them with daily activities (such as eating, bathing and dressing), have very limited eyesight or require nursing home care. See <https://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/limitedincome/EnhancedorSpecialPension.pdf>.

□ For surviving spouses, there are two types of benefits P&F Service offers. Survivors Pension <https://www.va.gov/pension/survivors-pension> provides monthly payments to qualified surviving spouses and unmarried dependent children of wartime Veterans who meet certain income and net worth limits. Special monthly pension is also available to surviving spouses who are housebound or require the aid and attendance of another person.

□ Dependency and Indemnity Compensation is available to dependents and parents and generally is not based on income and assets (except the income limits apply to parents). DIC is a monthly monetary benefit paid to a surviving spouse, child or parent of a Veteran who died from a

servicerelated injury or illness, or when an active-duty service member dies in the line of duty. Special monthly DIC is also available to surviving spouses who are housebound or require the aid and attendance of another person. See

[www.va.gov/disability/dependency-indemnity-compensation](http://www.va.gov/disability/dependency-indemnity-compensation).

□ A surviving spouse of a Veteran who served on a Blue Water Navy vessel offshore of the Republic of Vietnam, or on another U.S. Navy or Coast Guard ship operating in the coastal waterways of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975, may be eligible for DIC benefits — even if they were previously denied. See

<https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materialsexposure/agent-orange>.

□ VA’s funeral and burial benefits are available for both service-related and non-service-related deaths. New regulations allow a flat-rate burial and plot or interment allowance with decreased paperwork and maximum payment permitted by law. See

<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials>.

□ For those interested in burial benefits such as a Presidential Memorial Certificate, burial flag, headstone or marker, the National Cemetery Administration has information about pre-need eligibility. See

[https://www.cem.va.gov/burial\\_benefits/index.asp](https://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits/index.asp).

Many vulnerable senior wartime Veterans are targeted with misinformation. In many cases, this is because they are not fully aware of their benefits, which increases the chances of them being taken advantage of and/or defrauded. VA encourages elderly wartime Veterans and their family members to consult a VA accredited representative <https://www.benefits.va.gov/vso/index.asp> if they want or need help filing a claim. They are reminded to beware of individuals or companies that promise benefits or ask for money upfront, as only VA can make final determinations on eligibility.

Factsheets at

<https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/factsheets.asp#BM3> are available to assist Veterans with limited resources. Pension eligibility information with details on how Veterans and their families can get help filing their claim for free can be found at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/limitedincome/pensionprogram-and-representation.pdf>.

[Source: VA News Release August 17, 2021]

## VA AFGHAN STRESS CARE

Resources Available for Veterans Unsettled By Afghanistan News

Advocates are reminding veterans that help is available if headlines about the disastrous end of the U.S mission in Afghanistan and the looming Sept. 11 anniversary are triggering anxiety and mental health issues.

“Veterans should be on the lookout for red flags if news of Afghanistan starts changing behavior,” Dr. Sonya Norman, director of the Department of Veterans Affairs’ PTSD Consultation Program, said in a statement late last week. “These include isolating, using alcohol and drugs or any increase in unhealthy behaviors compared to normal.”

Even before the collapse of the Afghan government over the weekend, VA officials had been preparing for increased requests for mental health care and trauma assistance amid the ongoing U.S. military withdrawal from the country. Health officials said they have already seen an uptick in the number of veterans seeking help, and expected even more demand “as [veterans] come to terms with their service and as the Afghanistan withdrawal comes to completion.” About 1.9 million post-9/11 veterans are currently enrolled in health care with the department. A 2014 study by department officials found that nearly 16 percent of all veterans who deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan screened positive for post-traumatic stress.

Both VA and Defense Department officials in recent years have worked to eliminate the stigmas surrounding mental health care, noting that PTSD and related issues can be handled if individuals acknowledge they are facing personal difficulties. The department has been running a series on

mental health issues on its official blog, including a feature on lessons learned from the aftermath of the Vietnam War for veterans struggling with unresolved medical issues. The Veteran Crisis Line is also available around-the-clock at 1-800-273-8255 (veterans should select option 1 for a VA staffer.) Veterans, troops or their family members can also text 838255 or visit <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net> for assistance.

Numerous lawmakers and congressional committees shared the crisis line number on social media on 16 AUG, thanking veterans for their service and letting them know help is available. Veterans service organizations are also stepping up their outreach efforts in light of the unsettling news overseas.

□ In a statement 16 AUG, officials from Wounded Warrior Project noted that “developments in Afghanistan may bring back difficult memories for warriors and their families.” The group urged anyone needing assistance to contact their counselors at 888-997-2586 or through the organization’s web site.

□ Officials from Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America said veterans who served in the recent wars should remember that their service “was important and mattered.” The organization’s Quick Reaction Force for help is available online and at 855-917-274.

The military health system offers many mental health resources. Remember, you re not alone.

[Source: ArmyTimes Leo Shane III August 16, 2021]

## VA MY HEALTH eVET WEBSITE

My HealtheVet Advanced Accounts Will Be Discontinued

My HealtheVet, VA’s online patient portal, gives you access to your VA health information so you can understand and manage your VA care. Beginning in September 2021, My HealtheVet is Advanced Accounts will be discontinued. If you have an Advanced account today and do not upgrade to a Premium account, your account will revert to a Basic account. If that occurs, you will lose access to the pharmacy features, including the ability to request and track your VA prescription refills. That means... it’s time to upgrade to a Premium account. With a free Premium account, you can securely access your VA health information, 24/7.

Using your My HealtheVet Premium account, you will be able to:

- Request VA prescription refills, track your VA medications, and access your current VA prescriptions and prescription history.
- View, download and print your VA health information, reports and images from your VA medical record.
- Send online secure messages to your VA care team to ask them non-urgent health questions; ask to renew your medications; and send updates on your condition.
- View, schedule, reschedule and cancel VA appointments.

How to get started

If you are new to My HealtheVet, create an account by visiting the My HealtheVet website, selecting Register, and filling out the required fields. Make sure to check the boxes verifying that you are a VA patient and Veteran. If you are already a user, you may have a Premium account. If you do, there will be a “P” icon next to your name. Also, if you currently use secure messaging on My HealtheVet, you’re all set. Patients who use secure messaging already have a Premium account.

Three ways to upgrade to Premium level

If you have an Advanced account, there are three ways to upgrade to Premium level: in person, online or through a video appointment. Upgrading your account is free. If you want to upgrade in person or through a video appointment, contact the My HealtheVet coordinator in your local VA facility. Ask about upgrading to a Premium account. You can locate your VA facility’s contact information through VA’s facility locator tool. To upgrade online, you’ll need to use your DS Logon Premium or ID.me secure sign-in credentials. You can learn more about the online upgrading process on the My HealtheVet blog post.

[Source: Vantage Point July 12, 2021]

## VA EHR

### VA ‘Reimaging Approach’ To Costly Electronic Health Record Project

The Department of Veterans Affairs promised a new approach 14 JUL for the major project to overhaul its electronic health record system, following concerns from federal watchdogs and employees who used the program when it first went live in Spokane, Wash. VA Secretary Denis McDonough testified that day before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee about the challenges and the department’s plan moving forward. Shortly after becoming secretary in February, McDonough paused the project and ordered a 12-week internal review. The review revealed patient safety problems, escalating costs, a lack of productivity and ineffective training on the new system for health care providers, among other issues. In some cases, veterans received duplicate medications in the mail when the new system did not automatically cancel old prescriptions, McDonough said.

Some staff in Spokane complained that they were not introduced to the system until the day it went live and didn’t know how to use it. McDonough vowed there would be a “surge of activity” in the coming weeks and months to correct the problems. The department was supposed to deploy the new system at a second site in Columbus, Ohio, but the agency said Wednesday it would not go live in Columbus until patient safety issues were addressed. “As a result of the strategic review, we’re reimaging our approach to this system,” McDonough said. “We can and will get this effort back on track.”

In 2017, the VA started to overhaul its electronic health record system. It awarded a contract to Cerner Corp., a technology company in Kansas City, Mo. The new system is supposed to be capable of sharing patient data seamlessly with the Defense Department, which could limit problems when a service member transitions out of the military.

The new system went live at the Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center in Spokane in October. At the time, former VA Secretary Robert Wilkie described it as a “historic step toward creating a seamless health care experience for veterans.”

Health care workers in Spokane did not receive enough training on the new system before it launched, the VA Inspector General found. One VA employee told the IG that there was a “high anxiety level” after training with Cerner. Nearly two-thirds of staff said they had difficulty navigating the new software, and only 5% felt fully prepared to use all functions of it.

The IG also discovered that the VA underestimated the cost of the project. The department’s contract with Cerner started at \$10 billion but increased to \$16.1 billion. The VA underestimated the cost of necessary upgrades to both its physical infrastructure and its information technology, the IG reported. It would likely need \$2.5 billion to \$5.1 billion more for the project, the report states.

“I, for one, am fed up with the amount of taxpayer dollars being spent on this program without any demonstrated benefits to veterans or VA medical staff,” said Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT), the committee chairman. “This simply cannot continue.” McDonough described Wednesday the agency’s plans to invest in infrastructure, improve training and testing and be more transparent with Congress as the new system rolls out. He committed to Cerner’s technology, saying that the issues were with the management of the project, rather than the software.

McDonough and Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS), the ranking Republican on the committee, said that if the system is implemented correctly, it has the potential to simplify the patient experience and move the health care industry forward. “It’s exasperating because the potential benefits that could accrue from this effort are tremendous,” Moran said. “It’s the ability for the VA to care for veterans, for service men and women to more easily transition from active duty to becoming a veteran. And the longer we delay and the longer we have challenges, the less likely that the veterans who are living today are going to benefit from this.”

[Source: Stars & Stripes Nikki Wentling July 15, 2021]

## TRICARE RECALL ALERT

(cont’d from page 3)

number of symptomatic complaints. But there have been no reports of death as a result of these issues.

What should you do if you own a recalled device?

You should check the Philips Respironics patient portal or call 1-877-907-7508 to see if your device is on the recall list. If so, make sure you register your device on the patient portal. Philips Respironics is working towards a solution to replace or repair all affected BiPAP or CPAP devices. Keep in mind, there could be some time before you receive a new device. So, it’s important to consider the risks and benefits of continued use of your current device while you wait. Be sure to talk to your provider if you have any concerns about continuing use of your device. Your provider

can determine if the benefit of using the device outweighs the risk outlined in the recall.

If you continue to use your Philips device, the MHS recommends that you use it as prescribed. You should also clean it as described in the manufacturer’s owner’s manual. Don’t use products that contain ozone or ultra-violet light to clean, sanitize, or disinfect your device.

Do you have more questions about the recall?

If so, be sure to contact the provider you received the device from. Philips Respironics is working to replace or repair affected devices. Go to the FDA website or Philips Respironics website to learn more.

[Source: TRICARE Communication July 23, 2021]

**QUARTERMASTER REPORT**

We are ~~one~~ two months into the new (fiscal) year – and still waiting for the National membership office to send the new list of members to help us start making our plans. Yes, that is a repeat of the first line of my report in the previous newsletter. I now have some information that the membership list for 2021-2022 will be available in September. No actual date provided.

The important change made to the Post Bylaws by the National Convention was to add a clear statement that U.S. citizenship is NOT required for membership in the VFW. If anyone is signing up a new member, you should be aware that the CERTIFICATION on the reverse side of the application form, concerning citizenship, is no longer applicable and could be lined out if necessary.

The Post continues its progress in completing the mandatory items toward qualification for the **ALL AMERICAN** status in 2021-2022 Fiscal year. The important steps for future months will be completing the programs, such as Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen. A special note for all members – if you are engaged in an event that relates to services for veterans, military personnel, family members, or community services, or attending a program related to veterans affairs (example – POW/MIA remembrance on September 18) the reporting of such activities can be helpful to the Post’s records of service. Generally speaking, your membership in the VFW should be related to what you are doing in such an event. If you want to offer a report of this nature, please contact me at the office. I can tell you whether the event would be “reportable” and what information I would need.

One of the new requirements by the National VFW and the

California Department for Posts to be considered for the **ALL AMERICAN** or **ALL STATE** awards is that the unit have a social media site on the internet. The Post has had, for some time, a Facebook page but this was not widely recognized. The site is now being given wider dissemination — including a listing on the first page of this newsletter. Members are encouraged to follow the Post activities on this site.

The efforts by the veteran organizations to develop a State Veterans Cemetery in Orange County continue to grow at an extraordinary pace. Currently 152 Veteran



Organizations are formally supporting the proposal by the Orange County Board of Supervisors to locate the cemetery at the “Gypsum Canon” site in Anaheim. 75 bipartisan elected officials are supporting the Veteran Coalition. 11 OC City Councils have unanimously adopted support resolutions, with approximately 9 more pending soon. Past Post Commander, and District 2 Senior Vice Commander, Wayne Yost has played a leading role in pursuing the votes by the city councils. Such efforts are important because it will be necessary for the California Department of Veterans Affairs and the State Legislature to take specific actions to approve its location.

Bill Manes, Post Quartermaster

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**

The House Committee on Oversight and Reform has urged the National Archives to digitize its records to help with a large backlog of records requests from veterans who need personnel information to secure government benefits. The National Archives and Records Administration told lawmakers that they were struggling with a backlog of about 500,000 records requests from veterans who need military personnel information from the archives when applying for Department of Veterans Affairs benefits and health care. They estimated the backlog would not be eliminated until the end of 2022. The records requests grew during the coronavirus pandemic when most employees at the National Personnel Records Center were not permitted to work on site. Workers could not access records while working remotely. The center is working to digitize its records, but it’s not happening fast enough, lawmakers said.

Members of the House committee urged the archivist to apply for funding through the Technology Modernization

Fund to help with the digitization efforts. The fund is intended to help federal agencies with technological challenges.

The archivist acknowledged in a letter to Congress that digitizing records was important to eliminate the backlog. He said the agency would begin digitizing records in August. “Mass digitization will significantly enhance the [National Personnel Records Center]’s ability to process requests remotely in the unfortunate event of a pandemic resurgence,” he wrote. Lawmakers said they believe funding through the Technology Modernization Fund would speed up the process. “[The agency] has identified the need to digitize records as one of the biggest hurdles to addressing the backlog of veterans’ requests,” lawmakers wrote. “Although [the National Archives] has taken some steps to begin digitization, more significant action is needed to improve the agency’s IT infrastructure.”

[Source: Stars & Stripes Nikki Wentling July 27, 2021]

**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 Advisor	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 SEPTEMBER 2021**

- Thursday, Sept 2 V-J Day, Japan signed formal surrender (1945)
- Monday, Sept 6 **LABOR DAY**
- Saturday, Sept 11 **PATRIOT DAY** and **National Day of Service and Rembrance**
- Friday, Sept 17 **NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY**
- Friday, Sept 17 Constitution Day (U.S. Constitution Approved (1787))
- Saturday, Sept 18 U.S. Air Force Established (1947)
- Wednesday, Sept 29 **VFW DAY** (VFW established 1899)



**VFW DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA  
CEREMONY AT USS MIDWAY  
MUSEUM, SAN DIEGO,  
SEPTEMBER 18, 0900**

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

