



MILITARY VETS' LIFE

V. F. W. Post 4048 Newsletter, MAY, 2008

PURPOSE: Fraternal, Patriotic, Historical, Educational and Camaraderie



COMMANDER'S COMMENTARY Bill Thomas

MEMORIAL DAY

This is one of the great days that have been designated as a date to commemorate ALL the MEN AND WOMEN who have ever served in the American Armed Forces.

Instead of patriotic parades or appearances at a local MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION, too many people USE this special holiday for department store sales, picnics, amusements of all sorts including all types of travel to far flung areas of the world, etc...

Many millions of our dedicated and patriotic citizens over the past three centuries have lost their lives and/or limbs. Today, many are alive but suffering from severe wounds on their bodies and minds.

There are so many Veterans who are buried in cemeteries, cremated, or lost at sea.

Many are still "Missing In Action" (MIAs) and some who are POWs, Prisoners of War, are unaccounted for.

Many thousands of our wounded warriors lie in hospitals, or are barely existing in rest-homes or individual homes.

Countless numbers of Homeless Veterans in so many communities all over the USA struggle to stay alive.

These are the Veterans of many wars who have paid so dearly for serving OUR country.

Many millions have died but there are many millions of living Veterans who are still among us, many well past the mid-century of their lives.

Those of us who are members of a Veterans organization contribute what we can in serving our living Veterans, and assisting others in our local communities.

MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION

Our VFW Post 4048 has members in many cities throughout the United States who certainly can't travel to Seal Beach for a one-day celebration but we are glad and proud many of our VFW and American Legion members do participate.

Monday, May 26, 2008 is the date of our local celebration at 2:00 p.m. in Eisenhower Park next to the Seal Beach Pier.

We are fortunate to have Eddie Montana, Rob Roy, Christina Lynn and Laurence Sabin for their musical renditions. JoAnn Adams will introduce the Program and Commander Jim Alexander will be Master of Ceremonies.

The Navy Seal Cadets will "Present the Colors."

Pastor Don Shoemaker and his group will lead us in singing patriotic songs. We thank them for their chairs.

Congressman Dana Rohrabacher and Orange County Register columnist Gordon Dillow are our prime speakers.

We also happily welcome all invited guests.

DINNER AND INSTALLATION

In lieu of our regular meetings on Tuesday, May 27th, our Social Hour will begin at 6:00 p.m. with delicious slices of pizza, a yummy salad, and desserts.

At 7:00 p.m. the Installation of Post Officers will be conducted by Past Cmdr. Arthur Peck and his associates.

Past President Dolores Peck will officiate at the Ladies Auxiliary. Each Installation will be in separate rooms.

We heartily thank all the outgoing officers of both groups, and gladly welcome the "New Crews."

Please be sure to attend and enjoy this evening.

SOLDIERS PICNIC AT RUSH PARK

Commander Jim Alexander of American Legion Post 857 and Commander Bill Thomas of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4048 are proud their Posts voted for the "Adoption" of the 216th National Guard Unit during their upcoming overseas deployment,

In the previous months, the wives and sweethearts of the Soldiers had determined to have a going-away picnic for the Soldiers. Unable to raise the funds or donations of foods from local supermarkets they contacted Bill who relayed the message to Jim.

The two commanders worked out plans with the Rossmoor Picnic Planning Committee to include the National Guard unit into the Annual Picnic in Rush Park in Rossmoor on Sunday, May 4, 2008.

The two Posts also voted to cover the costs of all the foods, beverages and carnival rides for all the Soldiers and their families at the picnic.

The highlight of the day was the unfurling of the huge 95 x 130 foot American Flag across part of the park.

Jim Alexander announced that a long line of Soldiers would carry the huge flag on their shoulders. Together with Veterans and civilians, they would all help spread the Flag in front of the Grand Stand.

It was a marvel for all picnickers to see while hearing the National Anthem.

The weather was ideal for the occasion while the breezes were just right to assist in "floating the Flag."

Many parents invited their children to run and play under the Flag. The kids really enjoyed this experience which will be one of their greatest remembrances.

The Soldiers and family members praised and thanked the Post Commanders for arranging such a splendid and memorable picnic occasion, and for their opportunity and delightful participation in spreading and holding the immense American Flag

Many of the attendees stated this is one occasion they will long remember.

Minutes of Apr 22, 2008 Meeting

Wayne Cunningham, Adjutant

POST MEETING opened at 7:00 P.M. by **Commander Bill Thomas** in Bldg 6 with the normal formalities. Guest American Legion Post 857 Commander **Jim Alexander**, was introduced.

Quartermaster Dave Van Aken stated that our Post needs 150 points to qualify for **All State Honors**. Due to the diligent effort of our members, we have earned 140 points, with ten yet unrecorded points

The National Guard Picnic, as scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, May 3rd and 4th in Rush Park in Rossmoor, was discussed at length

Post members approved a motion to donate \$850 to partially pay for the foods, beverages and amusements at the Picnic for the Guardsmen and their families.

Jr. Vice Cmdr. Jim Crowley and **Cmdr. Jim Alexander** will send full details of our Picnic plans and location of the event. via email and VFW Website.

Jo Dawson of SBTV-3 has invited **Cmdrs... Bill and Jim** to appear on May 1st for the program taping to discuss the May 26th Memorial Day Celebration at the Seal Beach Pier.

It was decided to change our ceremony time to 2:00 P.M. to avoid conflict with other local events that day.

QM Dave will send details of the program and guest speakers, etc. at a later date.

Sr. Vice Commander Dan Schmaltz presented a \$100 personal donation to **QM Dave**, in addition to the \$500 donation he received by his Post Website.

These donations will be used to benefit Veterans' causes.

Chairman Robert. Coronado distributed a sign up sheet for our Quarterly Breakfast to be held on Wednesday, May 7th, at 9:00 a.m. at the **Old Town Café** on Main Street. in Seal Beach.

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INCOME TAX REPORT

Well, I finished our report back in January and received our small refund.

Long ago I had a darn good tax accountant, George.... or so I thought. He was a person who solved problems I didn't know I had in a way I never understood.

I should have known better when I read his new book, "30 Ways to Save on Your Taxes, and 50 things To Do While You're in Jail."

He came up with so many extra deductions for me that I'd wind up with enough money left over to post my bail.

George also told me, "In the event that if I make a mistake on your income tax returns, I'll help you negotiate the sale of rights to your prison memoirs."

But George was so honest that if he stole a car, he'd keep up the payments.

George got so rich that instead of wearing glasses when he drove, he had a prescription windshield.

He was the only accountant I know of who had an office with a recovery room for his clients.

George advised me once to write a letter to the IRS and tell them, "I can no longer afford your service." ..

QM Dave presented the financial report showing the opening and closing balances.

Buddy Poppies are available for members to sign up and present to the public prior to **Memorial Day**.

Contact **QM Dave**

Post member Jim Bradford conducted the VA Hospital Garden Center Celebration of Earth Day on Friday, April 18th. **Jim** and his Veteran-patients can be rightfully proud of all the improvements and "greenery splendor" at their rehab facility. Assorted refreshments were available, and a free plant was provided to each attendee.

Sr. Vice Cmdr. Dan Schmaltz, Nominations Committee Chairman., presented final nominations.

Elected Officers and Appointees:

Commander	Bill Thomas,
Sr. Vice Commander	Jim Crowley,
Jr. Vice Commander	Dave Van Aken,
Quartermaster	Dan Schmaltz,
Chaplain	Robert Soto,
Judge Advocate	Robert. Coronado,
Surgeon	Larry Lerno,
Service Officer	Paul Lambach
Adjutant	Wayne. Cunningham,
Trustee, 1 Year	Rod Carpenter,
Trustee 2 Years	Dominic Amatangelo,
Trustee 3 Years	Paul Lambach,
Officer of the Day	Robert Moore.

Next regular meeting is Tuesday, May 27th, at the Naval Weapons Station.

Meeting Installation Dinner, tastefully prepared by the Auxiliary, will be at 6:00 PM Beverages by **Dan Whitney**.

Installation Ceremonies of the VFW and Auxiliary will be conducted immediately thereafter.

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George never wanted to be a C.P.A. Someone told him that stands for "Constant Pain In the Ass.

One of his tax clients called the IRS to ask if he could make a certain deduction on his income tax. The answer was "NO!" followed by , "This is a recorded message."

I never try to fool the IRS. I never could fool George. He always laughed harder at my income tax questions than he did at my jokes.

He had a sign in his office, "It's tough to win. If you do something wrong, you're fined. If you do something right, you're taxed."

I remember George's wedding vows to his new bride. "Honey, you stick to your washing, ironing, scrubbing and cooking. No wife of mine is going to work."

George loved home-cooked meals, and he had a choice of cooks, his wife, his son

That guy would really be so crotchety if he didn't use tenderizer on his Cream of Wheat.

He loved being an actor at times. He enjoyed so much being in front of lights, he'd volunteer for police lineups.

Once, very long ago, George wanted to go to a disco, but they wouldn't let him in unless he was accompanied with a chiropractor. "Alas, George has taxed on."

Quartermaster Report

Dave Van Aken

Membership

We are pleased to announce two new members have joined our Post.

Both are Life Members and have transferred from other posts.

Albert J. Ducharme: From Lomita, California, served in the Navy in WW II and Korea.

He has several enlistments and discharges over the life span of his military background.

"Dutch" was awarded China Service Medal, and a United Nations Service Medal with one star.

John J. Ross: From Lake Isabella, California. Served in U.S. Army Infantry Division during WW II with action in New Guinea in 1944.

John was awarded a Purple Heart Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with one star, and World War II Victory Medal.

Kevin Young: Renewed his membership and up graded to Life Membership.

Welcome aboard comrades. We look forward to your taking an active part in our Post Meetings and Activities.

Please note: Over the past months we have acquired several new Life Members as transfers from other posts but their original post will receive credit for their membership for the current year,

Next year, they will be included in our membership ratings.

Medical Mileage

The Dept of Veterans Affairs has provided funding for the Veterans Administration to increase the beneficiary travel mileage reimbursement rate from 11 cents per mile to 28.5 cents per mile.

The increase went into effect on February 1, 2008.

This reimbursement covers only your trips to a Dept of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility.

Trips to other medical facilities are not covered for this new gasoline mileage rate reimbursement.

Start keeping track of and separate VA medical mileage from other medical mileage expenses from February 1st, and for the rest of the year.

MEDICAL ADVICE

A doctor told an elderly woman, "Mrs. Harris, I think you just have a bad case of nerves. I suggest you have sex three times a week to relax you."

She said, "My husband in in the waiting room. Would you mind telling him what you told me?"

The physician explained the remedy to the old man.

"Your wife should have intercourse three times a week... Monday, Wednesday, and Friday."

The husband agreed. "Well, Okay, I can drive her here on Monday and Wednesday, but she'll have to take the bus on Friday."

Buddy Poppies

May is a busy month for all of us. District Awards Recognition, and District Business Meeting with Installation of Officers

Buddy Poppy Distribution, during the week of May 19th through May 26th and of course our Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday 5-26.

National Hdqs erred in sending us a double order of Poppies, so we have a lot on hand. We encourage everyone to participate and do your best in the offering of the Poppies.

ALL the donations go directly to the Veterans Relief Fund to help Veterans.

If you need more Poppies, just call me.

Please return any revenue you've collected, and any left over poppies to me at our Regular Post meeting on Tuesday the 27th.

Please convert currency to larger denomination paper money. -----

VFW Veterans Memorial Wall

This Memorial Day, we join you in remembering the more than 4,000 fallen heroes of the Global War on Terrorism. And we remember our defenders throughout history who also made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

You can help ensure not a single veteran is ever forgotten by adding your loved one's name to the VFW Veterans Memorial Wall.

The VFW Veterans Memorial Wall pays tribute to more than 11,000 proud men and women who have served our country and live on in our memories.

Visitors around the globe view the VFW Veterans Memorial Wall each year, honoring and remembering our courageous veterans.

But hurry! You must **send your submission by May 22nd for your loved one to be added prior to Memorial Day, May 26th.**

After you've submitted your loved one's name, we will send you an email message letting you know when you can visit the Wall and pay tribute to your special veteran.

You will also be able to **send a personalized eCard** to family and friends inviting them to honor your hero and add their own heroes to the **VFW Veterans Memorial Wall**.

Thank you for remembering our veterans!

IT IS THE SOLDIER

Fr. Denis E. O'Brien, USMC"

It is the soldier, not the reporter
who has given us freedom of the press.
It is the soldier, not the poet
who has given us freedom of speech.
It is the soldier, not the campus organizer
who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.
It is the soldier who salutes the flag, who serves the flag,
and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the
protester to burn the flag."

Auxiliary News

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

On Monday, May 26, we will be having the Memorial Day ceremony at Eisenhower Park in Seal Beach at 2:00PM. Bring your poppies, and funds already collected, to **Dolores Young** – it's important all Auxiliary poppy funds be given to Dolores at the meeting Tuesday, May 27.

The May meeting will be fun and busy. After the Pizza and salad dinner we will have the official installation of officers for July 2008 – July 2009. Past District President **Dolores Peck** will be the installing officer. I'm very proud and pleased the following people have volunteered to take the following positions:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| President | Mary Crawford |
| Sr. Vice President | Gwendolyn Hefley |
| Jr. Vice President | Ruth Echelberger |
| Secretary | Marilyn Lambach |
| Treasurer | Soula Thomas |
| Chaplain | Georgia Crowley |
| Guard | Christine Schmaltz |
| Conductress | Virginia Whitney |
| Historian | Elsie Cunningham |
| 1st Trustee | Joan Volden |
| 2nd Trustee | Georgia Crowley |
| 3rd Trustee | Dolores Young |

All the committee chairmen have been selected and along with the officers will start their term as of 7-01-08.

It has been an honor and pleasure for me to serve as your President the past 4 years and my thanks to all of you for the privilege you have given me to serve you, and for all of your support. Our Auxiliary has a wonderful group of ladies willing to support our veterans in every way we can.

Congratulations to our new slate of officers!

Juanita Townsend, President

**Next Meeting - Tuesday May 27
Pizza and Salad - 6:00PM
Installation of Officers and Meeting 7:00PM**

Memorial Day



Tustin Marine Air Base

Development company plans to turn hangar into park space.

By ELYSSE JAMES, STAFF WRITER

Tustin hangar has chance for new life

The future of two military hangars was uncertain after the Tustin Marine Air Base closed in the late 1990s. Now, one faces demolition while the other may become a sports park.

The hangars, built in 1942, housed blimps during World War II. In later years, the hangars housed helicopters and were used to film movies. Both hangars are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Thomas Messmer, a 10-year Tustin resident and vice president of the development company IRG, is heading plans to turn the north base hangar into an indoor-outdoor park with baseball and soccer fields, at least one ice rink, a waterfall that cascades down all three planned levels and a Vietnam War veteran display.

Messmer's plan, which he's been working on for about five years with partner Bruce Haas, also a Tustin resident, would be partially funded by private interests, including companies that could have retail space at the hangar.

IRG, he said, works to "bring existing buildings back to life."

Mayor Jerry Amante said that when he was a councilman, residents would tell him he had to preserve the hangar. But, he said, they didn't want to be taxed to pay for its restoration or upkeep.

IRG recognizes how daunting the task is and they aren't daunted, Amante said.

"I tell a lot of people that if I didn't live in Tustin and didn't feel so strongly about this I maybe would have gotten discouraged," Messmer said.

"The city is really behind this. It gives us a very good feeling," Messmer said.

Proposals to save and restore the south hangar were rejected in 2007 by the City Council because of lack of

funding, including a proposal for a veteran's museum that focuses on the site's history.

The south hangar eventually will be torn down and the land used for Tustin Legacy, a project that houses parks, schools, businesses and homes at the old base.

When the land is given to Tustin Legacy the south hangar will be torn down, Amante said.

Right now, the history of both hangars is being documented and people who were involved with the base are being interviewed, he said.

Models of the two hangars will eventually be placed at Tustin Legacy, but the south hangar will remain until its history is fully documented, Amante said.

Messmer declined to name companies interested in the north hangar, but said they are people who own and operate ice rinks, sports franchises and recreational equipment retailers.

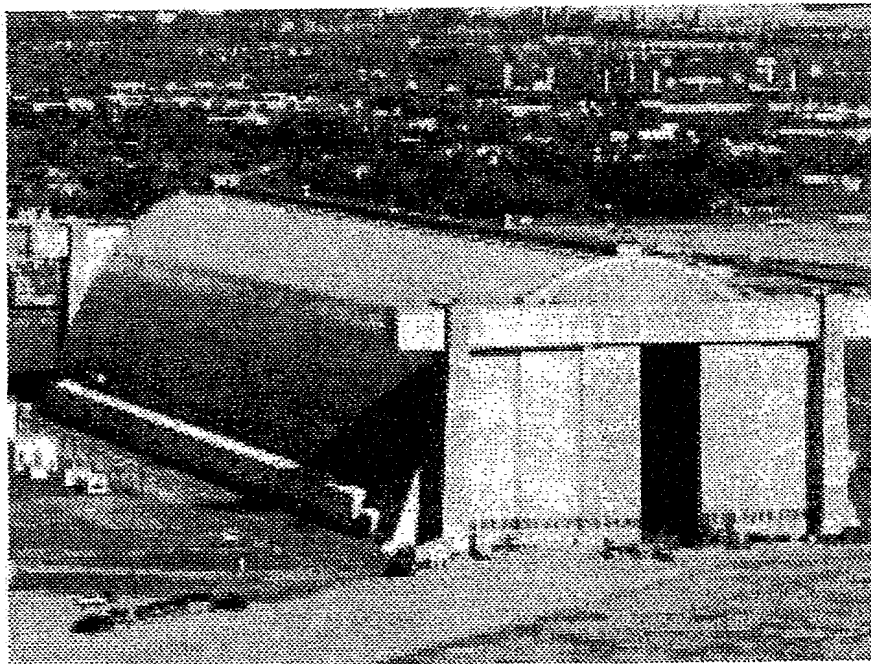
Plans for the north hangar won't be put in place for at least 18 months, Messmer said. And it could take longer.

IRG must gain National Park Service approval of the project, which it plans to do this summer. Then, more traffic and utility studies must be done and more detailed architectural drawings created. The Navy could then give the land to Orange County, and IRG will lease the land.

Tustin and Orange County must also approve any further plans. Also, the hangar must be restored and space saved for a county animal shelter.

Messmer said the hangar began to have personal meaning when he worked closely with veterans and started understanding its history. He's been in the hangar about 12 times.

"From an architectural and construction standpoint it's a real wonder," Messmer said.



MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

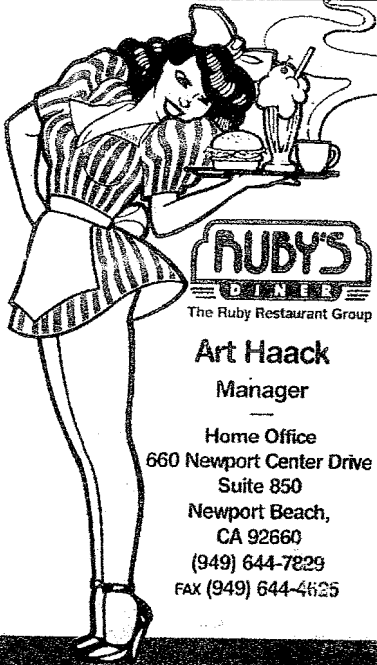
Monday, May 26, 2008, 2:00 p.m.
Eisenhower Park at Seal Beach Pier

Program Entertainment	Eddie Montana, Rob Roy Seal Beach Music Store & SBTV-3	Christina Lynn, Laurence Sabin
Program Introduction	Jo Ann Adams	President, S. B. Chamber of Commerce
Opening Ceremonies	Jim Alexander	Commander, American Legion Post 857
• Walk-In	Post Members	Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 4048
• Walk-In	Post Members	American Legion Post 857
• Color Guard	Navy Sea Scouts	Seal Beach Battalion
• National Anthem	Pastor Don Shoemaker	Grace Community Church
• Invocation	Br. Gen. George B. Vogel	U. S. Army (Retired)
• Pledge of Allegiance	Dan Schmaltz	Sr. Vice Commander, VFW Post 4048
Opening Address	Jim Alexander	Commander, American Legion. 857
Commentary	Bill Thomas	Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars, 4048
In Memorial	Jim Mueller	Past Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars
Special Announcement	Juanita Townsend	President, VFW Ladies Auxiliary
POW / MIA Service	Peter Ormsby	Historian, American Legion
Memorial Wreath	Post Commanders	American Legion & Veterans of Foreign War
“TAPS”	Rob Roy	SBTV-3
Patriotic Songs	Pastor Don Shoemaker	Grace Community Church
Introduction of Speakers	Jim Alexander	Commander, American Legion Post 857
• Dana Rohrabacher	Congressman	46th District, California
• Gordon Dillow	Vietnam Veteran	Columnist, Orange County Register
Benediction	Br. Gen. George B. Vogel	U. S. Army, (Retired)
Retire the Colors	Navy Sea Scouts	Seal Beach Battalion
Closing Remarks	Jim Alexander	Commander, American Legion
Invited Guests	Council Members	City of Seal Beach
• Jo Ann Adams	President	S. B. Chamber of Commerce
• Robert Hammermeister	Lt. Commander	U. S. Navy (Retired)
• Ms Jo Dawson	Studio Cafe, SBTV-3	Seal Beach
• Ms Robin Fort-Linke	Studio Cafe, SBTV-3	Seal Beach
• Volunteers	Police Department	City of Seal Beach
Sponsored by:		
• American Legion Post 857 and Ladies Auxiliary		
• Veterans of Foreign Wars 4048 and Ladies Auxiliary		
• Chamber of Commerce, City of Seal Beach.		

If you enjoy your freedom, thank a Veteran

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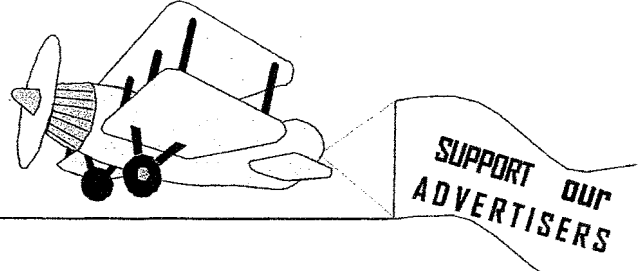
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THE STORY OF THE VFW "BUDDY" POPPY (from VFW brochure)

The Poppy has become recognized as the Memorial Flower in countries around the world. It is distributed by Veterans organizations in Europe, in America, and in most of the countries of the British Commonwealth.

Since 1922, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has conducted an annual distribution of "Buddy" Poppies to raise funds for its charitable programs on behalf of the needy and disabled Veterans, and the widow and orphans of deceased Veterans.

POPPIES EVERYWHERE

Today, Buddy Poppies are distributed by Posts and Auxiliaries of the VFW in every state of the union and in dozens of other countries. Some 14 million are distributed annually, most of them during the period preceding Memorial Day and Veterans' Day, but many of them at other times of the year.

More than 15 million dollars is raised each year through the distribution of Buddy Poppies all of it strictly accounted for and dedicated entirely to Veterans welfare.

WHEN YOU DROP A DONATION IN A POPPY CANISTER.. you have contributed to the VFW National Home for Children of deceased or disabled Veterans in Eaton Rapids, Michigan... to the National VFW Rehabilitation Service in Washington, D. C., to the VFW Rehabilitation Service in your own state... and to direct assistance programs for needy and disabled Veterans in your own community.

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 Post Web Site: Sr. Vice Commander Dan Schmaltz
<http://www.ddsf-ent.com/vfwpost4048/>

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Dan Schmaltz	Sr. Vice Commander
James Crowley	Jr. Vice Commander:
Dave Van Aken	Quartermaster:
Robert Soto	Chaplain:
Robert Coronado	Judge Advocate:
Larry Lerno	Surgeon:
J	Service Officer:
Wayne Cunningham	Adjutant:
Robert Moore	Trustee 1 Year Term:
Bill Connolly	Trustee 2 Year Term;
Rod Carpenter	Trustee 3 Year Term:
Robert Moore	Officer of the Day:

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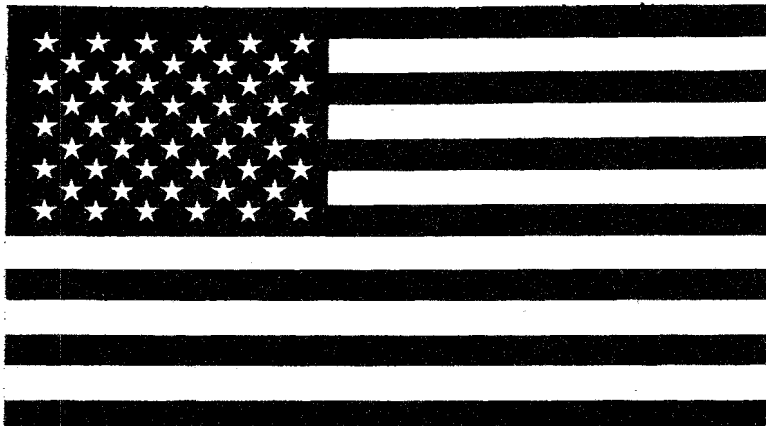
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1st Vice Pres.	Mary Crawford	562. 598-5452
2nd Vice Pres.	Alma Ferris	562. 598-0501
Secretary	Ruth Echelberger	562. 431-6238
Treasurer	Dolores Young	562. 799-1035
Historian	Rusty Cunningham	562- 431-6797
Trustee, 1st Yr.	Rusty Cunningham	562 431-6797
Trustee 2nd Yr	Joan Volden	562. 430-9300
Trustee 3rd Yr.	Georgia Crowley	562 432-9401
Chaplain	Soula Thomas	562. 431-7795

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Military Vets' Life

VFW Post 4048 Newsletter
 3161 Donnie Ann Road
 Rossmoor, CA 90720



+++ VFW Dates / Qwik-Notes +++
SEE INSIDE PAGES FOR MORE DETAILS
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Tue, May 27, Post 4048 & Auxiliary Meetings
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS & AUXILIARY
 • Social Hour: Fun, Food & Camaraderie. 6:00 pm,
 Pizza and Salad -
 • Regular Meeting,: News, Honors, Events 7:00 pm
Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station, Bldg. 6.
Enter at Gate off Seal Beach Blvd.
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Sat 5- 17 VFW Memorial Service. 1:00 p.m.
 Holiday Inn, 1240 So. Walnut St, Anaheim

Sat. 5-17 District 2 Banquet & Awards Night 6:00 p m
 Holiday Inn,

Sun 5-18 District Business meeting 9:30 a m
 Elections and Installation of District Post
 & Auxiliary Officers Same location as Banquet
 All members are encouraged to attend

May 19 through May 26 Buddy Poppy Distribution
 Pick up poppies. Call Dave to make arrangements to
 obtain your share.

Mon 5-26 MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY 2:00 P.M.
 Eisenhower Park, Seal Beach Pier

June 20 - June 25: VFW State Convention
 Double Tree Hotel, 222 N. Vineyard Ave., Ontario, Ca.

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Seal Beach Chamber of Commerce

Thu 5 15 -Big Red Bus Chamber Mixer 5:45 PM
 • Meet at Kinda Lahaina Broiler at Main & Ocean
 for Appetizers. Bus leaving promptly at 6:15 PM
 Seating is limited to 60.
 Take a tour on the bus, enjoy Mai Tais.
 Returning at 7:45 PM to the Pier.

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