



NEWS FROM LT FRED L. KENT • VFW POST 7907 POWAY, CA



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 7907



**A L L
GAVE SOME**



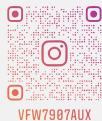
**SOME GAVE
A L L**



VFWPost7907



VFWPost7907Aux



VFW7907AUX

Have an article for The Patriot? Please submit your articles no later than the 21st of each month. Send your submission to VFW7907@gmail.com with *Newsletter Submission* in the subject line.

COMMANDER'S CALL:

Hello Comrades and Sisters,

Updates: Wow, since assuming the position as your Post 7907 Commander 2026/2027 for the past 3 months, it's been one heck of a challenge for sure. We have been hosting dinners every Friday night which bring together members and friends for enjoyable conversations and, of course, those delightful stories from long-term members. We have the New Department of California Commander, our own, Paula Jansen, and have big hopes for her in the Department. We've also had visitors such as the National Veterans of Foreign Wars Commander In Chief Cory L. Geisler, who spent a wonderful evening with the membership and visitors from all over the State. Things to look forward to are the Annual Casino Night in October, and we have opened the post for NFL Football every Sunday at 9:00AM, serving your favorite adult beverages along with various hot dogs and sides. We have seven TVs for you to watch your favorite teams and enjoy what we, Post 7907, have to offer. Please come on down and have some fun.

On another note, we just finished our annual fundraiser for the Shelter to Soldier event, serving over 100 racks of smoked ribs and Past Commander Bill Kimble's famous beans and homemade peach cobbler. I want to thank all the volunteers who showed up at the wee hours of the morning to make this event a success. These are the events that make our post "Department of California's VFW's Best Kept Secret". Once you visit, you will not want to leave.

Yours in Comradeship,

Henry "Butch" Beltran, PDCNV



**I WANT YOU FOR THE
SATURDAY MORNING
WORK PARTY**

Each Saturday at 8:00 AM at the Post
For more info, contact
Tim Ragnar at timragnar@gmail.com

2026-2027 Officers



Post 7907

Post Commander – Butch Beltran
Sr. Vice Commander – Jason Widmer
Jr. Vice Commander – Zack Walters
Quartermaster – Tim Ragnar
Chaplain – Don Biadog, Jr.
Surgeon – Chuck Grady
Service Officer – Ed Ozmun
Adjutant – Paula Jansen
Judge Advocate –
Guard – Henry Flores
1st Year Trustee – John Schiltz
2nd Year Trustee – Bryan Gust
3rd Year Trustee – Greg Miller
House Committee Chairman – Chris Johnson
Membership Chairman – Deanna Smith
Officer of the Day – Jim Cook
Canteen Manager – Vern DuMolt

Auxiliary Officers



President – LeAnna Brown
Sr. Vice President – Noel Gilchrist
Jr. Vice President – Mary Gust
Secretary – Kacyenne Barber
Treasurer – Kacyenne Barber
Chaplain – Christy Schiltz
Guard – Mike Cobb
Conductor – Karen Kimble
1st Year Trustee – Patty Wolinski
2nd Year Trustee – Erin Gilchrist
3rd Year Trustee – Carin Ozmun



★ VFW CALIFORNIA ★
HALF-OFF
LIFE MEMBERSHIP
LIMITED-TIME CAMPAIGN!
INVEST IN YOUR BROTHERHOOD. SECURE YOUR LEGACY.
★ CAMPAIGN STARTS ★
0000 OF
OCTOBER 13TH
HELP GOATIE CELEBRATE THE NAVY'S 251ST BIRTHDAY!
HONOR THEIR LEGACY. SUPPORT THEIR FUTURE.
50% OFF
REGULAR LIFE MEMBERSHIP
Pay only half of the current life membership rate and become a Life Member for life!
LIFE MEMBERSHIP MEANS:
• NO MORE ANNUAL DUES
• LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP SECURITY
• SUPPORT VETERANS FOR GENERATIONS
• A STRONGER VFW – TODAY & TOMORROW
GOING OVER & ABOVE TOGETHER
READY TO BECOME A LIFE MEMBER?
SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETED & SIGNED LIFE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION WITH CREDIT CARD INFORMATION TO:
info@vfwca.org
DO NOT MAIL APPLICATIONS.
LIMITED FUNDS AVAILABLE
OFFER EXPIRES ONCE THE \$25,000 CAMPAIGN FUND HAS BEEN EXHAUSTED.
THIS OFFER IS ONLY FOR CURRENT ANNUAL MEMBERS. NEW MEMBERS FOR THE 2026-2027 YEAR ARE NOT ELIGIBLE.

FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT:

Hello Members, Comrades, & Friends,

What a wonderful start to our year! I am so proud of everything we have accomplished already and especially proud of how well we did during our Official Visit from the District at our August meeting. Your dedication, teamwork, and support truly showed, and I want to thank each of you for helping make it a success.

As we look ahead, we have a lot of fun and exciting events planned! There will be plenty of opportunities to come together, support our veterans and our community, make new memories, and—most importantly—have some fun along the way!

I want to congratulate all of you on our Auxiliary reaching 100% in membership! Please continue to recruit new and excited members to our wonderful organization.

Please make sure you are keeping an eye on our website, social media pages, and your email for upcoming events, dates, and additional information. We don't want you to miss out on all the great things we have planned! Including Casino Night, Craft Fairs, & many more.

Thank you for making this organization so special. I look forward to continuing this amazing year together and seeing all that we can accomplish as a team.

Let's keep the momentum going and make this a fantastic year!

LeAnna Brown



FROM THE CANTEN MANAGER

NFL football is back, and the Canteen is open on Sunday morning to accommodate those of you who want to get out of the house and cheer on your favorite team with your friends.

We've upgraded our TVs and have included a football package, so with multiple TVs you should be able to watch the game you want inside or on the patio. While you're here, you can get in on the football pools and enjoy hotdogs, salads, and chips, which are available during the games, and wash it all down with a variety of cold drinks. For those of you who enjoy tea, we now carry Pure Leaf Real Sweet Brewed Tea as well as their popular unsweetened tea.

Have you noticed we've had bottles of beer on special for as low as \$2 a bottle? These are popular brands that have slowed down on sales and may be replaced later. If you have a favorite beer that you would like us to carry, let us know; if there's enough interest, we'll bring it in and see if it sells. Meanwhile, you may be able to save money with these specials.

You may have heard that the Kearney Mesa Post 3788 is closed due to construction; because of this, several of their members have stopped in for a visit and are becoming regulars. Some are our neighbors from Scripps Ranch and Rancho Peñasquitos. Please come in and get to know them.

Also, don't forget Casino Night is Saturday, October 3rd. Look for details in this newsletter.

Vern DuMolt

KITCHEN HELP NEEDED!!!

As you may have heard, **Evelyn** is hanging up her apron in the kitchen so we need a volunteer to fill her shoes to continue to offer lunches on Wednesdays.

THE JOB ENTAILS:

- Creating the lunch menu the month prior
- Shopping weekly
- Cooking on Wednesday mornings

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, PLEASE REACH OUT TO COMMANDER BUTCH ASAP.

Thank you! ♥

Lic# 984653

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Jason Widmer
President

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CANTEEN HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Please note these upcoming closures
and adjusted hours.



🍂 **Halloween** 🍂
Canteen will be closed
on Oct 31



🍂 **Thanksgiving** 🍂
Closed Nov 26 - Nov 29



❄️ **Dec 23** ❄️
Closing at 2 PM and
closed thru Jan 3

Thank you for your understanding.

★ **VFW POST** ★

— ANNUAL FUNDRAISER —

CASINO

Night

★ **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3** ★



**ADMISSION
DONATION ★**

\$40

PRE-SALE

\$45

AT THE DOOR

— **YOUR ENTRY INCLUDES:** —



HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES



ONE DRINK COUPON



\$200 IN PLAYING CHIPS

★ **ADDITIONAL BUY-IN
CHIPS AVAILABLE** ★

TABLES SPONSORED BY

★ **KIC** ★

EVENT SCHEDULE



CANTEEN OPENS: 4:30 PM



**HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES
SERVED: 5:30 PM**



**CASINO TABLES OPEN:
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

★ **ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT OUR
POST'S VETERANS IN NEED.** ★

**JOIN US FOR AN EXCITING EVENING OF
CASINO GAMES, GREAT FOOD, AND FUN—
ALL WHILE SUPPORTING LOCAL VETERANS!**



Sacred Ground, Sacred Duty: Twenty-Five Years After 9/11

I can hardly believe twenty-five years have passed since our nation endured one of the worst manmade disasters in our history. The memory of September 11, 2001, remains sharp, sacred, and heavy. For those of us who ministered in the days and weeks that followed, grief and duty were inseparable. We carried the faces of the lost, the exhaustion of first responders, and the prayers of families into places of ruin—and we learned that faith, even in the darkest hours, still holds people together.

Reflection

On the morning of September 11, 2001, nineteen men hijacked four airplanes and used them as weapons, bringing unimaginable devastation and shattering thousands of lives in a single morning. The scale of the violence and loss was staggering; the attackers were responsible for severe harm and the deaths of many innocent people.

At the time I was a NAMB-endorsed Navy chaplain serving under Coast Guard command at the United States Coast Guard Training Center in Petaluma, California. I received orders to assist victims and first responders in New York. One of the most important ministries my fellow chaplains and I performed was escorting families to the sacred site. I remember persuading a New York lieutenant to allow chaplains to accompany fifty grieving family members to Ground Zero. That moment required pastoral courage and the steady presence of civic leaders such as Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who ensured families would not be alone.

Ministry at Ground Zero was the most difficult season of more than fifty years of service. My fellow Navy chaplains ministered under Coast Guard command for more than a month—standing beside firefighters, police officers, military personnel, and civic leaders. Each day was exhausting and each night spiritually demanding. We prayed with those who had no words left, stood with those whose strength was gone, and carried home the weight of what we had seen. Yet even amid the ashes we felt a quiet assurance that God was present.

From Ground Zero to Building Zero

Three years later I found myself again on devastated ground—this time in Baghdad during Operation Iraqi Freedom-2, serving in what we called Building Zero. The heat was relentless and the battle fierce. Ministry there was equally demanding and sacred. I lived with constant fear because daily bombings targeted our lodging and work areas. Three of my neighbors lost their lives and a dozen were injured. I returned home with minor physical and emotional wounds, but by God's grace I survived.

From Ground Zero to Building Zero one truth has remained constant: we will never forget the men and women who perished on September 11, 2001. Their memory calls us to live with courage, compassion, and a renewed commitment to building a better world.

How to Keep the Memory Alive

Honor the fallen. Speak their names, tell their stories, and preserve their legacy through remembrance ceremonies and community gatherings.

Share testimonies. Firsthand accounts of courage, sacrifice, and service teach future generations the cost of freedom.

Teach the lessons. Emphasize unity, vigilance, compassion, and the importance of standing together in crisis.

Serve in their memory. Turn acts of kindness and community service into living memorials.

Pray for peace. Lift prayers for healing, reconciliation, and protection for our nation and the world.

Ways We Can Make the World Better

Practice compassion. Small acts of mercy ripple outward and heal communities.

Build understanding. Seek dialogue across cultures, faiths, and backgrounds.

Support first responders. Encourage, thank, and pray for those who protect and serve.

Cultivate hope. Speak hope boldly when the world feels fragile.

Live with purpose. Let your life be a testimony of resilience, faith, and service.

Scriptural Encouragement

Psalm 46:1—God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Isaiah 40:31—Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

John 1:5—The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Romans 12:21—Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Psalm 147:3—He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Closing Reflection

From the ashes of Ground Zero to the dust of Baghdad, God carried me—and carries us still. What we witnessed was terrible, but what we learned is eternal: faith endures, love rises, hope rebuilds, and ministry continues. As we remember the fallen and serve those who remain, let our actions be the living testimony of resilience and compassion. In honoring their memory we recommit ourselves to courage, to service, and to building a world that reflects the dignity of every human life.

Don Biadog, Jr.



A white rose dedicated to the names of the victims who died in the North Tower; passengers and crew of American Airlines Flight 11, and victims of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. Photo taken April 8, 2026 by Don Biadog, Jr.

BREAKFAST

Sunday October 25

Breakfast Served 10 - 12



**Eggs Made
to Order**



Bacon



Sausage



Hash Browns



Post and Auxiliary Members

Christmas Party

for ages over 21.

Saturday Dec 3rd

POTLUCK 5:30pm

**Please sign up in canteen
for potluck.**

We're retiring the Ugly sweater contest
and doing a **GIFT Auction** this year!

So please bring a **WRAPPED GIFT.**

How the game is played -

Guests trade their wrapped gifts for play money
or printed "auction dollars" upon arrival,
then bid competitively on the displayed items
they actually want.



**Spouses and significant others
welcome.**

Around The Post

Post General Meeting - September 17, 2026



Post CDR Beltran & Dept. CDR Paula Jansen presents Past Post CDR Bill Kimble with an All American Post ribbon for '25-'26.



Dept. CDR Paula Jansen presenting a new member with a flag pin during the initiation ceremony.

July 4th at Poway Veterans Park - July 4, 2026



Military branch flags at Poway Veterans Park.



CDR Beltran preparing to address the crowd.



CDR Beltran addressing the crowd.



Preparing for the traditional cannon firing.

OCTOBER 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Happy Birthday! To all our Post and Auxiliary Members who have a birthday this month. Come on down to the Post and celebrate with us! 				1 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM 4:00 PM - 9:00 PM Hall Rented	2 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Chicken corn chowder & cornbread 12.00	3 Canteen Closed SPECIAL TICKETED EVENT CANTEEN CLOSED 8:00 AM Saturday Work Party 5:30 PM - 11:00 PM Casino Night! Cocktails - 5:30 PM Tables - 6:30 PM
5 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM 9:00 PM - 4:00 PM Sunday Football	5 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM	6 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM	7 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM NO LUNCH	8 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM Hall Rented	9 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Baked spaghetti 12.00	10 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM 8:00 AM Saturday Work Party
11 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM 9:00 PM - 4:00 PM Sunday Football	12 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM	13 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM 6:00 PM Auxiliary General Meeting	14 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM NO LUNCH	15 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM 6:00 PM VFW 7907 Post Members Only Happy Hour 7:00 PM VFW 7907 Post Meeting	16 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Brats, kraut & German potato salad 12.00	17 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM 8:00 AM Saturday Work Party 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Vietnam Veterans Association Meeting 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM Hall Rented
18 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM 9:00 PM - 4:00 PM Sunday Football	19 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM	20 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM	21 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM NO LUNCH	22 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM Hall Rented	23 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Fish & chips 12.00	24 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM 8:00 AM Saturday Work Party 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM Hall Rented
25 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM 9:00 PM - 4:00 PM Sunday Football 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Eggs to order, sausage, bacon, hash browns, pastries & fruit; French toast sticks & pancakes for the kids 12.00	26 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM	27 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM	28 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM NO LUNCH	29 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM	30 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Chicken fried steak 12.00	31 Canteen Closed Happy Halloween! 

Please Note: We make an effort to list the meals accurately. However, menu items may change. Please check the Post menu board or call the Post to verify.