



FEBRUARY 2026

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



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 7907



Never Forget

## POST MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

*Please Join Us*

**Event Planning Meeting**  
No meeting this month

**Auxiliary General Meeting**  
6:30 PM | Tuesday - Feb. 10

**VFW Post Officers/House Committee  
Chair Meeting**  
6:00 PM | Monday - Feb. 16

**VFW 7907 Post Meeting**  
7:00 PM | Thursday - Feb. 19

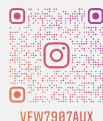
**House Chairman Clean Up/Working Party**  
8:00 AM | Saturday Mornings



VFWPost7907



VFWPost7907Aux



VFW7907AUX

**Have an article for *The Patriot*?** Please submit your articles no later than the 21<sup>st</sup> of each month. Send your submission to [VFW7907@gmail.com](mailto:VFW7907@gmail.com) with *Newsletter Submission* in the subject line.

### COMMANDER'S CALL:

Greetings All,

Ok, January is in the rearview, and we have some work to do to complete our 2025/2026 year. We still have a lot of great events coming up. However, our membership goal has not been met, and I am asking if you know of a Veteran or active duty person who can qualify to join the VFW and is looking to be part of a Post that really wants to make a difference in our veteran community, then please help your Post by getting the word to your friends, local community, or anywhere you might be visiting. We are all part of the Membership Team, so have an application with you or give them our info. Looks like we need 50 new members to make our goal.

Our meal turnout for breakfasts, lunches, and Friday dinners could have been better; I think that was due to all the holiday celebrating. Let's all make an effort to pick up the support for those meals this month; the food is great, and the price is more than fair.

As always, thank you to all those hard-working volunteers who show up, time after time, to make our Post the best in District One.

I would like to personally thank Dawn and her Auxiliary Team for making the First Responders' lunch a huge success; the hamburgers and hot dogs were outstanding, as were all the fixings.

Thanks to Jason and his Saturday crew, the bar surround is now completed. It really makes the canteen pop. Bravo Zulu Team Jason.

Ok, all you Chili Cooks, it that time again to break out your best chili recipe and enter it into our annual Super Bowl Chili Cook-Off. Oscar is hoping for a little friendly competition this year. He states he is the Man to beat! So check the flyer for all the details and come and have some fun.

If there is anyone who knows of a Veteran or Veteran's family member in need, please contact Chaps, Ed, or me.

Bob's your uncle.

*Commander Bill Kimble*

## 2025-2026 Officers



Post Commander – Bill Kimble  
Sr. Vice Commander – Butch Beltrain  
Jr. Vice Commander – Deanna Kimble  
Quartermaster – Tim Ragnar  
Chaplain – Don Biadog, Jr.  
Surgeon – Chuck Grady  
Service Officer – Ed Ozmun  
Adjutant – Paula Jansen  
Judge Advocate – Paula Jansen  
Guard – Henry Flores  
1<sup>st</sup> Year Trustee – John Schiltz  
2<sup>nd</sup> Year Trustee – Bryan Gust  
3<sup>rd</sup> Year Trustee – Paul Swanson  
House Committee Chairman – Jason Widmer  
Membership Chairman – Bill Kimble  
Officer of the Day – Jim Cook  
Canteen Manager – Vern DuMolt

## Auxiliary Officers

President – Dawn Ragnar  
Sr. Vice President – Leanna Brown  
Jr. Vice President – Noel Gilchrist  
Secretary – Kacyenne Barber  
Treasurer – Kacyenne Barber  
Chaplain – Christy Schiltz  
Guard – Rachel Rocha  
Conductor – Karen Kimble  
1<sup>st</sup> Year Trustee – Connie Houk  
2<sup>nd</sup> Year Trustee – Patty Wolinski  
3<sup>rd</sup> Year Trustee – Erin Gilchrist



### FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT:

February marks only 5 months left of this fiscal year and only 4 more newsletter articles from me as Auxiliary President. Our Senior Vice President, Leanna Brown, is intending on moving into the seat of President. I know she has a few positions that need to be filled, so please show her the same enthusiasm you have shown me and come to our next meeting to fill those positions.

February kicks off with our Super Bowl & Chili Cook-Off, and we will also have BUNCO on Tuesday, February 24. BUNCO will start at 6PM and will cost \$10 per person. Snacks will be provided.

Another event that I would like to promote is called Brothers After War. It is a showing of the movie and seminar that is FREE to Veterans of war, active duty, and their spouses. This is provided by the Gary Sinise Foundation and takes place on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> (see page 5 for details).

Planning ahead to March, our Auxiliary Department President, Kathie Okolski, is having her homecoming on March 14<sup>th</sup> at the San Diego Air & Space Museum. Since she is a member of 7907, all members of our Auxiliary and Post are encouraged to attend. Reservations are required, so please be sure to go to [vfwauxca.org/news/homecoming](http://vfwauxca.org/news/homecoming) to register (see page 7 for details).

Last but certainly not least this month, **TICKETS FOR OUR SPEAKEASY CASINO NIGHT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>** (see page 6 for details)!

Be sure to **SAVE THESE DATES** on your calendar with these events:

February 8 – Super Bowl Party & Chili Cook-Off

February 24 - BUNCO

March 14 – Auxiliary Department President Homecoming  
at San Diego Air & Space Museum

March 28 – Casino Night – tickets available Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>

April 5 – Easter Brunch

May 16 – Auxiliary District 1 President's Homecoming at  
our Post

May 30 – Volunteer Appreciation Day

I hope to see all you Auxiliary members at our next meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

*Dawn Ragnar*

Lic# 984653

# KIC

## Restoration Inc.

Jason Widmer  
President

Main (858) 859-1998 Ext. 103 | Mobile (858) 956-4545 | [jason@kicrestoration.com](mailto:jason@kicrestoration.com)

Join us for our  
**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cook-off &  
Super Bowl Party**



**Feb. 8, 2026**

Our contestants will be competing to  
see who has the best chili in town and  
we need you to be the judge!

*(Bring a friend or two)*

**\$15 gets you sample bowls of  
ALL the entries!**

*(While supplies last)*

Canteen opens at 1:30PM • Chili served at 3:00PM  
**WINNER ANNOUNCED AT HALFTIME**

FROM THE CANTEN MANAGER

Happy New Year, and welcome back to the Canteen!

During the two weeks we were closed, maintenance and our annual deep cleaning were performed. The walk-in cooler was the Canteen's focus, which meant all bottles, cans, and kegs were moved out of the cooler. Then the shelves were scrubbed, walls wiped down, and floors swept and mopped. The easy part was returning everything back to its place. Thank you, Ernie Ortiz (a long-time friend of the Post), for assisting me in this project. In addition to cleaning and maintenance, Jason and his crew of House Committee volunteers added corrugated siding to the bar for a face lift, which turned out great. In addition, new hooks for hanging bags and canes were added for your convenience.

We're having a new special during February. The bartender on duty will randomly select a number (0-9) and write it on the "Volunteer Bartender" board by his/her name. If that number matches the last digit of your membership number (VFW and Auxiliary Members), you'll receive your first drink compliments of the Post. You must have your membership card in hand in order to participate. So, drop in and see if you can score a complimentary cocktail.

Please don't forget to mark your calendar for the Super Bowl Party and Chili Cook-off on Sunday, February 8. The Canteen will be open at 1:30PM.

Also, if you're interested in becoming a bartender, please see me or Dawn for details on how to get started. It's a great way to meet other members, and it's easy to learn.

Looking forward to serving you! I look forward to serving you all.

*Vern DuMolt*



CDR Kimble & Bob from VFW Post 7420.



**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](mailto:timragnar@gmail.com)



# Two Combat Veterans Meeting in the Rain

*Ramona Grasslands & Hawk Ranch—January 24, 2026*

The Ramona Grasslands greeted me this morning with a cool breath of winter—partly cloudy skies, a gentle drizzle, and the kind of quiet that invites the soul to listen. The light rain softened the earth, deepened the colors of the grasslands, and wrapped the hills in a peaceful gray. It was mid-morning when I arrived, and the land felt alive with God's presence.

Almost immediately, the sky and fields began to reveal their treasures. A Ferruginous Hawk, broad-winged and majestic, circled overhead—its winter migration bringing it once again to this sacred stretch of California. A Peregrine Falcon flashed across the sky with breathtaking speed, while a Red-tailed Hawk soared with steady confidence. The American Kestrel, small but fierce, perched like a sentinel on a weathered post.

Down near the earth, the Burrowing Owl stood watch at the entrance of its den, blinking calmly in the drizzle. A Barn Owl drifted silently from a grove of trees, and the deep, unseen presence of a Great Horned Owl lingered in the shadows. Even the California ground squirrels played their part—darting in and out of the grasslands with the simple joy of being alive.

Around them, the land itself testified: grapevines resting in winter stillness, grasslands breathing under the soft rain. Creation was not loud today; it was reverent, gentle, and full of God's fingerprints.

But the most meaningful moment of the day was not a bird in flight—it was a man.

At Hawk Ranch, I (Operation Iraqi Freedom-2 veteran) met Tom Stark, a combat Vietnam veteran and a dedicated volunteer with the Wildlife Research Institute. His presence was humble, steady, and marked by the quiet strength of someone who has seen much and still chooses to serve. As we talked, I felt the weight of his story—decades of service, sacrifice, and resilience.

I reached into my pocket and handed him a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary "Thank You" pin, a commemorative token awarded only to living Vietnam veterans. When he received it, his face lit up with gratitude. There was a depth in his eyes—a mixture of surprise, honor, and remembrance. In that moment, under the cool Ramona sky, two veterans stood together, connected by shared service and mutual respect.

It reminded me of John 15:13:

*"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."*

And of Proverbs 27:17:

*"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."*



Tom Stark & Chap Don Biadog, Ramona, CA, Jan 24, 2026

Meeting Tom was a divine appointment—an unexpected blessing woven into a day already rich with God's creation. The hawks and owls preached their silent sermons, but Tom's presence preached another: a reminder of courage, sacrifice, and the enduring brotherhood among veterans.

As I left the Grasslands, shoes damp from the rain and heart full from the encounter, I whispered a quiet prayer:

*"Lord, thank You for the creatures of the field and the servants of our nation."*

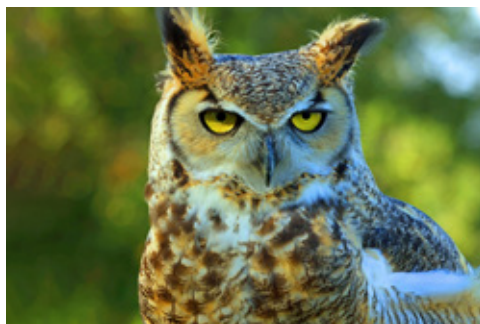
*Thank You for divine appointments, for shared stories, and for the honor of recognizing those who have given so much.*

*May my life—like today's sky, today's birds, and today's meeting—reflect Your goodness in every season."*

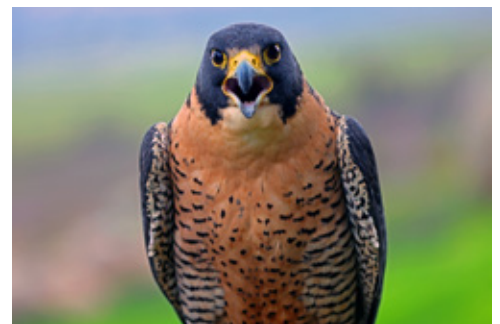
*Chaplain Don Biadog, Jr.*



Red-tailed hawk, Hawk Ranch, Ramona, Jan 24, 2026



Great Horned Owl, Hawk Ranch, Ramona, Jan 24, 2026



Peregrine falcon, Hawk Ranch, Ramona, Jan 24, 2026

FROM EXECUTIVE PRODUCER  
**GARY SINISE**



# **BROTHERS AFTER WAR**

## **MOVIE AND SEMINAR**



**RSVP SATURDAY, FEB 28**

12-4pm



**Regal Parkway Plaza**  
405 Parkway Plaza  
El Cajon, CA 92020

Please RSVP at [baw.mov/012826](http://baw.mov/012826)

**PERSEVERANCE**  
PRODUCTIONS



## **What to Expect**

- A screening of *Brothers After War*
- Guided journaling for reflection and growth
- Group discussion for discovery and catharsis
- Best tools and resources gleaned from two decades of experience
- Comradery and shared connection with others on the path

Whether you're a **Service Member, Veteran, Family Member**, or part of a **Support Network**, the **Brothers After War Seminar** invites you to be part of a conversation that matters.

Regardless of **WHEN** you served, this is more than a seminar — it is an opportunity to change the trajectory of your life!

# **FREE TO ATTEND**





# Oh How Time Flies...

After thousands of miles traveled,  
Auxiliary Department President, Kathie Okolski,  
is having her Homecoming.  
Please join her on

## March 14, 2026

## SAN DIEGO AIR & SPACE MUSEUM

located in historic Balboa Park in the heart of San Diego, this venue is an event unto itself.  
Your travel will begin with a self-guided tour of the museum starting at 4pm.  
Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served 5pm with dinner starting at 6pm.  
The fun continues after dinner with more drinks and dancing 7pm - 9pm  
(attire is cocktail/semi-formal)

Boarding Pass to attend - \$40  
Includes admission  
to museum & dinner

To RSVP, go to [vfwauxca.org/news/homecoming](http://vfwauxca.org/news/homecoming)

Please RSVP no later than March 1, 2026

*(payment instructions provided upon registration)*

### Traveling from out of town?

Discounted hotel stay is available at  
The Dextro, Little Italy.  
Please use the HOTEL link below  
to reserve a room.

OPTIONAL -  
upgrade your ticket to a  
VIP PASSPORT - \$60  
includes Boarding pass and  
transportation to & from hotel

Make a full weekend out of your trip  
with these nearby things to do

- USS Midway Museum
- San Diego Zoo
- Hotel Del Coronado
- Cabrillo National Monument
- Fleet Science Museum
- Maritime Museum
- and much more!



questions? email - [secretary@vfwauxca.org](mailto:secretary@vfwauxca.org)



# Around the Post

## Sports Clips Help a Hero Campaign - Jan. 12, 2026



Sports Clips presented a check for \$1.22 million for it's 2025 Help A Hero Scholarship Campaign at VFW Post 1774 in La Mesa. The Help A Hero Campaign raises funds in support of military service members and veterans pursuing higher education.



Bill Kimble, Post 7907 CDR; Paula Jansen, CA Dept Sr Vice & Post 7907 Judge Advocate; Gordon Logan, founder & chairman of Sport Clips & a U.S. Air Force veteran; Dave Kuta, CA Department CDR & Carol Whitmore National CDR.

## Vietnam Veterans Association Christmas Lunch - Jan. 17, 2026



Fred & Karen feeding the Vietnam Vets.





# Around the Post

## First Responders' Lunch & Awards Presentation - Jan. 24, 2026



Auxiliary working hard Dept. Auxiliary President, Kathie Okolski, & Aux Pres, Dawn Ragnar.



Aux Conductor, Karen Kimble, & Dept. Auxiliary President, Kathie Okolski serving our 1st Responders.



Aux member Christina Swanson; Aux Pres, Dawn Ragnar; & Dept. Auxiliary President, Kathie Okolski.



Deputy of the Year, Jaun E. Marquez (center)



Firefighter of the Year, Brandon Gray (left)



CDR Bill & the Volunteer Patrol

***We have a good time at the Post.***

***Join us in supporting veterans and their families.***

## Happy Birthday, Carin!



Our wonderful Carin Ozmun birthday celebration!

## Post Improvements - Jan. 2026



Saturday crew installing the new surround for the bar.



Canteen's new look.

# FEBRUARY 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Canteen Closed	2 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM	3 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM	4 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM <b>11:30AM</b> Lasagna, salad & garlic bread 12.00	5 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM	6 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM <b>6:00PM</b> Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, corn on cob & dessert 12.00	7 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM <b>10:00AM - 3:00PM</b> Hall Rented
8 1:30 PM - 7:00 PM <b>1:30 - 7:00PM</b> Super Bowl Party & Chili Cook-off Chili served at 3:00, winner announced at half-time 15.00	9 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM	10 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM <b>6:00PM</b> Auxiliary General Meeting	11 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM <b>11:30AM</b> Mississippi pot roast, mashed potatoes & veggies 12.00	12 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM	13 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM <b>6:00PM</b> Sweetheart Dinner Your choice of chicken or shrimp Alfredo, salad & dessert Complimentary rose & candy for your sweetheart 15.00 per person	14 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM <b>8:00AM</b> Saturday Work Party
15 Canteen Closed	16 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM <b>6:00PM</b> VFW Post Officers / House Committee Chair Meeting	17 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM	18 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM <b>11:30AM</b> Baked chicken, roasted potatoes, veggies 12.00	19 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM <b>6:00 PM</b> VFW 7907 Post Members Only Happy Hour <b>7:00 PM</b> VFW 7907 Post Meeting	20 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM <b>6:00PM</b> Burgers, hot dogs, cole slaw & tots & dessert 12.00	21 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM <b>8:00AM</b> Saturday Work Party
22 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM <b>10:00AM - 12:00PM</b> Eggs to order, biscuits & gravy, sausage, bacon, potatoes, pastries & fruit; French toast sticks & pancakes for the kids 12.00	23 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM	24 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM <b>6:00PM</b> BUNCO! Snacks provided 10 .00 per player	25 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM <b>11:30AM</b> Meatloaf, mashed potatoes & veggies 12.00	26 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM	27 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM <b>6:00PM</b> Tri-tip sandwiches, french fries, salad & dessert 12.00	28 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM <b>8:00AM</b> Saturday Work Party

## Get Your Birthday Drink!

Are you a Post or Auxiliary Life Member and is your birthday this month, then have a drink on us!



**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.

★ All Gave Some. Some Gave All. ★