



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



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Post 7907



POST MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

Please Join Us

VFW/AUX Roundtable & Social Planning Meeting

6:00 PM | Thursday - May 4

VFW Post Officer Meeting

6:00 PM | Monday - May 15

VFW 7907 Post Meeting

7:00 PM | Thursday - May 18

Auxiliary General Meeting

No Meeting this Month

Post House Chairman Clean Up/Working Party

8:00 AM | Saturday Mornings



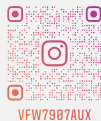
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VFWPost7907



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:

Greetings all,

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve Lieutenant Fred L. Kent Post 7907 for the last three years. I want to thank everyone who supported me and our beloved Post. The last three years have been challenging to say the least. I know we have made this a better Post and that is 100% due to our outstanding team and the members that support us. I wanna give a special thanks to the Post Auxiliary, we could not have achieved all our many goals without their support. Bravo Zulu.

Here are your new team of officers for 2023-2024

Commander: John Carson

Senior Vice Commander: Paul Swanson

Junior Vice Commander: Jason Widmer

Quartermaster: Clint Dawson

Chaplain: Don Biadog, Jr.

Adjutant: Deanna Smith

Officer of the Day: Pat Anamosa

House Committee Chair: Tim Ragnar

Trustees: Vernon DuMolt

Mark Burdette

Oscar Rocha

Service Officer: Ed Ozmun

Membership Chairman: Aaron Spaulding

Guard: Adison Fernandez

Please give them the same support you gave me. I am looking forward to a great year. This is not goodbye. I'll see you around the Post. Commander John will be doing the newsletter for June.

If there's anyone out there who knows Veterans or a Veteran's family in need, please contact the Post or any of the officers.

Cheers,

Commander Bill Kimble

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
MEMORIAL DAY
REMEMBER AND HONOR

Monday, May 29 ★ 11:00 AM
Dearborn Memorial Park, Poway

*Join us in honoring our fallen comrades at
this year's Memorial Day Ceremony.*



2022-2023 Officers



Post Commander – Bill Kimble
Sr. Vice Commander – Don Hadix
Jr. Vice Commander – Pablo Facun
Quartermaster – Clint Dawson
Chaplain – Don Biadog, Jr.
Surgeon – Fred DiCarlo
Service Officer – Ed Ozmun
Adjutant – Pat Anamosa
Judge Advocate – Bill Morrison
Guard – Adison Fernandez
1st Year Trustee – Mark Burdette
2nd Year Trustee – Vern DuMolt
3rd Year Trustee – Oscar Rocha
Officer of the Day – Jason Widmer
House Committee Chairman – Tim Ragnar
Canteen Manager – Dawn Ragnar
Maintenance Manager – Jason Widmer
Membership Chair – Aaron Spaulding

Auxiliary Officers



President – Dawn Ragnar
Sr. Vice President – Suzanne Kohlbrecher
Jr. Vice President – Evelyn Hummel
Secretary – Jericho Nevitt
Treasurer – Deborah Sellers
Chaplain – Christy Schlitz
Conductress – Karen Kimble
Guard – Linda Miller
1st Year Trustee – Christina Swanson
2nd Year Trustee – Patti Caniglia
3rd Year Trustee – Shari Dunbar



FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT:

Our elections took place on April 11, 2023. Our 23/24 officers are:

President, Deborah Sellers
Sr. Vice President, Suzanne Kohlbrecher
Jr. Vice President, Evelyn Hummel
Chaplain, Christy Schlitz
Conductress, Karen Kimble
Guard: Linda Miller
Trustees: Patti Caniglia
Shari Dunbar
Connie Houk
Treasurer: Dawn Ragnar.

Our appointed chairs are:

Secretary: Christina Swanson
Membership: Jericho Nevitt.

There are still several committee chairs that need to be filled and if you're interested in helping out in any of the Veteran or community work that we do, please feel free to email me for more details.

Please remember, **we do NOT have an Auxiliary meeting in May**. Also, at our April meeting, we voted to move our JUNE meeting to June 6th. At that meeting we will have a fun game with prizes and our installation for our new officers. I hope everyone can join us!

Dawn Ragnar

Put These Dates On Your Calendar Now!

May 5 – Cinco de Mayo & Karaoke
May 7 – Breakfast 10AM – 1PM
May 29 – Memorial Day at Dearborn Memorial Park
June 24 – Volunteer Appreciation Day

WE'RE LOOKIN FOR PLAYERS!

JOIN OUR 1ST EVER BUNCO NIGHT

TUESDAY, JUNE 27TH * 5:30PM - 8:30PM

WE'RE HOPING TO GET A MONTHLY GAME GOING BUT
IT REQUIRES A MINIMUM OF 12 PLAYERS
WITH ADDITIONAL SETS OF 4

If you're interested, please email us at
vfw7907events@gmail.com



MAY 7, 2023

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

10AM TO 1PM

PANCAKES / EGGS / CHOICE OF SAUSAGE OR BACON \$8

BOTTOMLESS MIMOSA \$15
CARAFE BLOODY MARYS \$15

May 7, 2023 | 10:00 AM - 1 PM
VFW Post 7907, 12342 Old Pomerado Rd

Canteen Specials & Notable Dates -

A HUGE thank you to everyone that helped, contributed and attended our Casino Night on April 22nd. It was just as amazing as the last one! We had 39 silent auction items and everyone had a great time at the tables. I can honestly say, the number of people that contributed to this event was outstanding. From baskets to donations to set up to night of the event work and clean up, THANK YOU to EVERYONE that contributed!

ALL VOLUNTEERS, please be sure to put June 24th on your calendar! We are having food catered and bartenders from other Posts come so ALL of us can enjoy the day. Of course, the food and drinks are FREE! See page 7 for flyer.

In not so good news, unfortunately, we are losing Kelly Eastmead in June (they're moving to South Carolina). This means I need TWO more bartenders to fill my Friday night vacancies (since John will be Commander, we lose him as a bartender too). Candidates MUST be Post or Auxiliary members for more than 1 year; must be available to open at 3PM and/or work til 11PM on Friday nights. PLEASE see myself or John if you fit this description and are willing to volunteer.

Upcoming Events - Taking Place AT the Post

- May 5 - Cinco De Mayo festival (we will be serving taco's NOT burgers)
- May 7 - Breakfast 10AM - 1PM
- June 24 - Volunteer Appreciation Day

Canteen Specials

THE DRINK SPECIALS ARE NOW POSTED ON THE BAR AT EACH STATION We no longer have the white board with specials written on them.

- Apple Jack (shot) \$4 {sour apple, butterscotch & cinnamon schnapps}
- Budweiser (bottles) \$3
- 805 (bottles) \$4

MAY 5TH DRINK SPECIALS*

- *MEXICAN SUNSET \$5 (Patron, peach schnapps, pineapple juice & grenadine)
- *MARGARITA (well) \$4, Cadillac \$5



I WANT YOU FOR THE SATURDAY MORNING WORK PARTY

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

A Memorial Day Message: Red Poppy Flower, Symbol of Sacrifice and Freedom

Short Story and Photos by Chaplain Don Biadog, Jr.

For more than thirty-four years, Memorial Day has brought (and continues to bring) surreal experiences for me as a former active-duty service member and now as veteran and serving as a VFW Post 7907 Chaplain. It seems unreal to think of so many, many braved warriors giving their lives including the ones I had an honor to serve with in combat zone and in garrison. Each one holds a special memory and will always be in my heart.

One of the places I had an honor to serve was Naval Support Activity (NSA) Naples, Italy. During my service in NSA Naples, I lost my fellow active duty and good friend, **Chaplain John Keith**, a Southern Baptist chaplain that I recruited and helped in his Navy service. John's final resting place is at **Riverside National Cemetery**. I try to visit him and **George Thornton**, MGYST, USMC Ret., during special holidays or services.



I thanked the LORD for giving me a chance to visit and pray for Chaplain John Keith family at his final resting place Monday 26 March 2018 at Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, CA.



Internment of George Thornton, MGYST, USMC Ret., Vietnam Combat veteran, co-founder of CINA, on 26 March 2018, Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, CA.

Every springtime in southern Italy is one of my favorite times of the year. Perennial plants that have been quiescent during winter months begin to feel the warmth of the spring weather. Various varieties of beautiful and colorful flowers begin to bloom. Bulb plants launch above the ground ready to face the blue sky. Native European and migratory birds sing and enjoy the rising of the sun and the flowers all around the meadows and mountains. Almost overnight new leaves appear in the Italian cherry tree, a common spring flowering tree of the garden. Beautiful flowers of countless colors begin to bloom including the **red poppy**.



Riverside National Cemetery (RNC) is a cemetery dedicated to the internment of United States military personnel. RNC covers 1,250 acres, making it the largest cemetery managed by the National Cemetery Administration. Photo captured on 26 March 2018, Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, CA.



The red poppy is one of the easily recognizable floras adorning the fields and the roadsides throughout southern Italy around May-June. During springtime in the United States of America, the red poppies show up as well. Photo captured on 12 May 2014, Sicily-Rome American Cemetery, Nettuno, Italy.

The red poppy is one of the easily recognizable floras adorning the fields and the roadsides throughout southern Italy around May-June. During springtime in the United States of America, the red poppies show up as well. The red poppy is not just an ordinary variety of flower. The red poppy (Scientific classification as "Papaver rhoeas") known as common poppy, corn poppy, corn rose, field poppy, and Flanders poppy, decorates the Italian landscapes.

For me the red poppy has a patriotic meaning and spiritual symbol. Red symbolizes the blood of warriors who fought for freedom from the ancient era to modern times.

From a Christian standpoint, the red symbolizes the blood of the Savior Jesus Christ. He served, suffered, shed His blood, and died to save mankind from their sins.

The Apostle Paul said to the Romans: "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life." Romans 5:10 KJV. The Apostle John the Beloved said, "My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. ² He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world." 1 John 2:1-2 NLT. The Apostle Peter said, "Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit. 1 Peter 3:18 NLT

From a patriotic standpoint, red symbolizes the blood of warriors who fought for freedom from the ancient era to modern times. Throughout the ages, soldiers fought, shed blood, and many, many died fighting for freedom.



Capua, modern Santa Maria Capua Vetere, in ancient times, the chief city of the Campania region of Italy; it's located 16 miles (26 km) north of Neapolis (Naples). Photo captured on 20 July 2013, Santa Maria Capua Vetere, Italy.



Rome's Coliseum was modeled after the arena in Capua, the training ground of the famed Thracian gladiator Spartacus who together with fellow gladiators shed blood fighting for their freedom against the slave-owning oligarchy during the Roman period. Photo captured on 14 October 2013, Rome, Italy.

Thirty minutes north of Naval Support Activity Naples, Support Site, is the place called "**Capua.**" **Rome's Coliseum** was modeled after the arena in Capua, the training ground of the famed Thracian gladiator Spartacus who together with fellow gladiators shed blood fighting for their freedom against the slave-owning oligarchy during the Roman period.

Fast forward to World War I, the "War to End All Wars," claimed the lives of 9 million combatants and 7 million civilians. More than a hundred years ago the red poppies adorned the war-torn areas all over Europe including France. Honoring and remembering his friend Lieutenant Alexis Helmer who was killed during WWI on May 2, 1915, near Ypres, France, Doctor, Poet, and Artillery Commander Major John McCrae wrote a poem:

"In Flanders fields"
In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow.
In Flanders fields.

In the United States, Americans usually wear red poppies as the symbolic red flowers on Memorial Day—the last Monday in May (it's 29 May in 2023)—to commemorate the sacrifice of so many men and women who have given their lives fighting for their country.

Every time I see each red poppy, it represents a precious soul of warrior/veteran who sheds his or her blood for freedom's sake. We must never forget their sacrifices for freedom's sake.

Today, hundreds of thousands of our troops serve on the home front and around the globe. When you visit the **Poway Veterans Park**, you can see in a circle at the middle of the Park the saying, "All gave some, and some gave all!" Our brave warriors fought for flag, family, and faith.

This year, some of us celebrate Memorial Day on foreign soil. Let us always be mindful of the warriors who left America's shore and never return. They gave their lives! Italy has two National Cemeteries



Poway Veterans Park "serves as a permanent tribute to the past, present, and future veterans of the United States Military who have provided unselfish and honorable service to this country." Photo captured on 29 Mar 2023, Poway, CA.



Manila American Cemetery (MAC) is one of 26 cemeteries and 30 memorials, monuments, and markers under the care of the American Battle Monuments Commission. It is indeed an honor remembering more than 17,206 buried on this hallowed ground and remembering the more than 36,286 MIAs whose names are inscribed on rectangular Trani limestone piers within the hemicycles made of marbles from Italy. Photo captured on Sunday 28 May 2023 at MAC, Taguig, Philippines.

operated by the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC). 7,861 are buried and 3,095 names of Missing in Action (MIA) are etched on the memorial walls at Sicily-Rome American Cemetery, Nettuno, Italy, about three-hour drive from Naples.



At the time of writing this short article, Chaplain Don Biadog is scheduled to say a Memorial Day Prayer on Sunday 28 May 2023 at the Manila American Cemetery (MAC). He participated and prayed during the Memorial Ceremony on 27 May 2018 at MAC, Taguig, Philippines.



In our local area, our VFW Post 7907 joins with the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) and honors the fallen every Memorial Day at the Dearborn Memorial Park Pomerado Cemetery District in Poway, CA.

At the time of writing this short article, I am scheduled to say a **Memorial Day Prayer** on Sunday 28 May 2023 at the **Manila American Cemetery (MAC)**. I had the honor of participating and praying during the Memorial Ceremony on 27 May 2018 at MAC. MAC is one of 26 cemeteries and 30 memorials, monuments, and markers under the care of the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC). It is indeed an honor remembering more than 17,206 buried on this hallowed ground and remembering the more than 36,286 MIAs whose names are inscribed on rectangular Trani limestone piers within the hemicycles made of marbles from Italy.

In our local area, our VFW Post 7907 joins with the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) and honors the fallen every Memorial Day at the **Dearborn Memorial Park Pomerado Cemetery District** in Poway, California. **VFW Post 7907** participated every year including last year's (30 May 2022) ceremony.



VFW 7907 participated every year including last year's (30 May 2022) ceremony. "Dearborn Memorial Park was founded in 1885 by Dr. Louis Hilleary, the first physician in Poway, CA. The park was named after John Dearborn, the first person to be buried in the cemetery. Originally, the cemetery consisted of only a few acres of land located along what is now known as Tierra Bonita Road."



Thousands of family members visit the National Cemeteries on Memorial Day weekend such as the Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, resting place of Senior Chief Tyrone Woods, USN SEAL. Photo captured on 24 May 2020, Point Loma, CA.

I also visited the **Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, Point Loma, CA**, on 30 May 2022 following a special event remembering Petty Officer Telesforo Trinidad, a WWI-era MOH recipient, at Liberty Station, former U.S. Naval Recruit Training Center.

One of the Memorial Day observances I participated was serving as Chaplain during the **Patriots at the Beach** event, a gathering of Special forces and their families on 31 May 2021 at Myrtle Beach, SC.

When you see a red poppy in springtime or someone wearing a Buddy Poppy given by a VFW veteran, always remember the supreme sacrifices of our warriors. As for me and other combat veterans, the red poppy can also mean the supreme sacrifice of our LORD!

As we gather honoring our Nation's heroes sacrificing themselves for Freedom, for Faith, and for Family, let us say a brief, solemn prayer of thanks for their faithful service.

Let us pray, "Almighty God, our heavenly Father, in whose Hands are the living and the dead, we give you thanks for all those of your servants who have laid down their lives in the service of our country. Grant to them your mercy and the light of your presence, and the assurance of your Peace. This is our prayer that we offer in your Holy Name (Jesus Christ), in memory of those of the past and in the Hope for a future of Peace, O God our Father. Amen."

Have A Blessed and Safe Memorial Day Weekend! May God Bless you and May God bless the United States of America! END

Don Biadog, Jr.



Thousands of family members visit the National Cemeteries on Memorial Day weekend such as at Miramar National Cemetery, San Diego, CA, resting place of SSGT WESLEY KROENUNG, WWII Veteran. Photo captured on 23 May 2020, San Diego, CA.



One of the Memorial Day observances I participated was serving as Chaplain during the Patriots at the Beach event, a gathering of Special forces and their families on 31 May 2021 at Myrtle Beach, SC. Photo: Gorgeous Beach on 31 May 2021, Myrtle Beach, SC.



One of the Memorial Day observances I participated was serving as Chaplain during the Patriots at the Beach event, a gathering of Special forces and their families on 31 May 2021 at Myrtle Beach, SC. Photo: Early morning, 31 May 2021 moon shot, Myrtle Beach, SC.

Eternal Honors

Helping Our Veterans & Families - April 17, 2023



Eternal Honor for CPL Ernest John Sherrif, was rendered on Monday 17 April 2023, Miramar National Cemetery, San Diego, CA.



Chaplain Don, Biadog, Jr. praying and providing comfort to Maria Sherrif.



Chaplain Don, Biadog, Jr. with the Patriot Guard Riders & Sherrif family.

Around the Post

Casino Night - April 22, 2023



We had a lot of great prizes.



As always there was great food.



Cocktail hour.

Post 7907 Members
Auxiliary 7907 Members

ATTENTION ALL VOLUNTEERS

IF YOU HELP OUT IN ANY WAY AT OR FOR THE POST OR AUXILIARY

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR AN APPRECIATION DINNER

SATURDAY

JUNE 24, 2023

4PM - 6PM

FREE DINNER & DRINKS

There is a sign up sheet with bartenders, please let us know if you're able to join us!

Join Us Fridays at 6:00 PM for

The Best Burgers in Poway

Burger (non-meat option available),
potato salad, coleslaw & dessert

12.00 Donation



Volunteers always needed & greatly appreciated!

Around the Post

Wednesday Lunches



John Schiltz serving up smiles and great food!



Richard Anderson was so excited to eat the delicious BBQ chicken lunch served on April 19.



CDR Kimble, John Schiltz, Fred Whiteman, Ray Knoll & Sal Pellerito serving up another top notch lunch at the Post.



Evelyn Hummel preparing her famous Mississippi Pot Roast that was served April 12.



CDR Kimble supervises as Ray Knoll & Fred Whiteman as they grill steaks for the steak and shrimp lunch served April 26.



CDR Kimble's last Wednesday lunch served. He says, "I am now retired."

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VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

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VFW Post 7907 COMMANDER

12342 Old Pomerado Rd. Cell: 858-722-2207
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Contact the Quartermaster for more information.

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Refer me to a friend or family member and when we Close Escrow I will give you \$500 AND donate \$500 to the VFW-Poway Post.

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Call for Details!

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1031 S. Santa Fe Avenue, Vista, CA 92084

MAY 2023



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



Drink Specials: Apple Jack (shot) \$4 (sour apple, butterscotch & cinnamon schnapps);
Budweiser (bottles) \$3; 805 (bottles) \$4;

MAY 5th DRINK SPECIALS* - *MEXICAN SUNSET \$5 (Patron, peach schnapps, pineapple juice & grenadine); ***MARGARITA (well) \$4, Cadillac \$5***

** Available when the Post is open*

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.

	1	2	3 11:30 AM Beef Stroganoff, beans & roll Donation: 10.00	4 6:00 PM VFW/AUX Roundtable & Social Planning Meeting	5 6:00-8:00 PM Cinco de Mayo Fiesta Steak or chicken taco plate Donation: 10.00 6:00-9:30 PM Open Mic Karaoke	6 8:00 AM Saturday Work Party 12:00 PM Purple Hearts Meeting
7 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pancake Breakfast Pancakes, eggs & choice of sausage or bacon: 8.00 Bottomless mimosa or Carafe Bloody Marys: 15.00	8	9 NO Auxiliary General Meeting	10 11:30 AM Lasagna, breadsticks & salad Donation: 10.00	11	12 6:00-8:00 PM Burger, potato salad, coleslaw & dessert Donation: 12.00 6:00-10:00 PM Live Music with Windjammers	13 8:00 AM Saturday Work Party
14 Canteen Closed	15	16	17 11:30 AM Pork stew, salad & roll Donation: 10.00	18 6:00 PM VFW 7907 Post Meeting Happy Hour 7:00 PM VFW 7907 Post Meeting	19 6:00-9:00 PM Burger, potato salad, coleslaw & dessert Donation: 12.00 6:00-9:00 PM Live Music with Country Crossovers	20 8:00 AM Saturday Work Party
21 Canteen Closed	22	23	24 11:30 AM Grilled chicken, potatoes & gravy, veggies Donation: 10.00	25 7:00 PM Coast Guard Auxiliary Meeting	26 6:00-8:00 PM Burger, potato salad, coleslaw & dessert Donation: 12.00 6:00-9:00 PM Live Music with Country Crossovers	27 8:00 AM Saturday Work Party 3:00 - 9:00 PM Eastmead's Going away party
28 Canteen Closed	29	30	31 11:30 AM Pot roast, mashed potatoes & veggies Donation: 10.00	Get your Birthday Drink! Are you a Post or Auxiliary Life member and is your birthday this month, then have a drink on us! 		

Canteen Hours*: Mon, Tue, Thu & Sat 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM | Wed 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM | Fri 3:00 PM – 9:00 PM | Sun Closed except for special events

**Closing hours subject to modification based on activity*

★ All Gave Some. Some Gave All. ★