



# SAN CLEMENTE SENTINEL

George E. Smith Post #7142, VFW

P.O. Box #1251

San Clemente, CA 92674-1251

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2012

VOLUME I ISSUE 2012/13-2

## COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



My first quarter as Commander has gone by much too quickly. As you read this newsletter you will see what an active Post we have here in San Clemente. We have said our final farewells to too many of our World War II Comrades, but we will never forget any of them and the service that they gave to our country for the price of freedom. We have been blessed to be able to recruit new members who have hit the ground running to participate to make this Post active in the community and make a difference. They have also added their wives who are great cooks.

Congratulations to Past Commander George Key and Quartermaster Alex Neil for attaining for the Post in 2011—2012, All State Status. Both have received the White All State Caps awarded by the Calif. Dept. of VFW.

A highlight of this summer was participating in the Welcome Home Parade for the Marines of the 5th Regiment. What a day of patriotism in downtown San Clemente. Thank you to Selma's for providing free lunches for the returning troops and their families, and discounts for the retired military personnel. Another major highlight has been getting to know some of the members of our Adopted Marines from the 1st Battalion, 4th Regiment, Alpha Company, 2nd Platoon under the leadership of Lt. Devin Fultz and S/Sgt William Ludwig. Did you know the Post adopted this unit back in 2003? Our first BBQ was such a success that Lt. Fultz and I are planning another one soon at Camp Bornio, their Camp Pendleton home. Many of these Marines will be here, alone, over the holidays. If you would like to open your home for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas to one or more of these young men, please let me know and I will arrange it with Lt. Fultz. You can reach me at: Dturtl1@cox.net or (949) 361-8999.

Our Post membership; is 110, with approximately 15 -20 participating in meetings. I know the majority of our membership have come to the time in their life that getting out to meetings and functions is difficult. However, if you ever want to come to a meeting or attend a Poppy Day Program, or BBQ please call me if we can help get you there. I am also the Post Service Officer and my job description is included on page #4. Please call me if you need help in filing a claim. For those of you that haven't attended a meeting in some time, please try us out again. I'm sure you will enjoy the comradeship and the fellowship of our old and new members. I promise not to put you on a committee, but if you ever want to give an hour or two to Poppy Days, during Veterans, Memorial and Patriots Day, it would be welcomed.

Here's to another successful quarter. Let's not forget, "Freedom is not free"



## ***Post Happenings:***

Senior Vice Commander, Francis Reyes, attended the 113th National Convention in Reno, Nevada, representing our Post. The convention was held from July 20th to July 26th. Comrade Reyes was filling in for Commander Dee Padgett who had a prior commitment and was unable to attend. Comrade Reyes felt he learned quite a bit about VFW operations from attendance at workshops and felt the experience was rewarding.

On July 28th, Saturday, Commander Padgett and Quartermaster Neil attended the School of Instruction hosted by District 2, VFW, at the Anaheim Post. Rules and regulations are reviewed for Post understanding and complying with the Manual of Procedure prescribed by National Headquarters. This meeting was mandatory for all Posts within Orange County.

Commander Padgett conducted an Obligation Ceremony to six members by presenting each with a Cross of Malta Pin for their service caps. Those inducted were Barry Trauger, Jim Ferguson, Marc Gold, Rod McChesney, Richard Wheeler and Mike Wiechman.



The Post welcomes the following new members: Marc Gold (Navy), Edward Moore (Marines), Gary Findlay (USAF), Lee M. Beck (Navy) and Rich Montoya (Army); great additions to our Post.

A "first" for our Post was their entry in the San Clemente Salsa Contest sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Once again, Comrade Reyes stepped up to the plate, getting up at 5:00 AM to prepare three gallons of Salsa for the contest; then having to dash off to catch a flight from JWA to start a short vacation with his family. A total of \$29.00 was gained through Buddy Poppy donations during the event. Many thanks to the Post members who braved the hot sun all day to cover the Post's Salsa table.

The Post held a Poppy drive on Patriot's Day (9-11-12) but the weather wasn't very cooperative for the event. We had hoped to man the station from 9 AM to 5 PM but had to call it off at 1 PM. The Post did realize Poppy donations of \$95 for their efforts and a big thanks goes out to Sr. Vice Commander, Reyes for setting up the program and to those brave souls that worked the table.

**DATES TO REMEMBER:** Post meetings for the quarter on the 2nd Wednesday of the month will be: Oct 10th, Nov 14th and Dec 12th, at 1700 hours at the Elk's Club.

We are also planning for the semi-annual dinner, tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, Dec 19th at the Irons-in-the-Fire Restaurant. You will be kept posted if this date and place changes. Remember, Post members must have attended 4 out of 6 meetings (June through Nov.) to qualify for a free dinner. Those that do not meet the qualification are still invited but the cost will be \$25 per person. The Post intends to host the winners of the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen contest, along with their parents at this dinner. Each will present their winning essay at the Post level.

VFW Dist. #2 will hold their 2nd District meeting on Sunday, Nov. 18th at 0930 hours at the Anaheim Post. Commanders and Quartermasters are required to attend. Post members are also invited to attend to learn and see what's going on at other Posts in the county.



**Do you know this comrade?** The handsome devil is none other than Clarence (Cal) Kaleta back when he joined the Navy and served on the destroyer, U.S.S. Miller #535. He was called a “tin can sailor” and a true member of the “Greatest Generation” of WWII veterans. Cal was 19 years old when he was drafted into the Navy and served his time in the South Pacific. He was a Fireman 1/C and served for 3 years, most of it in the aft engine room. He’s been a member of the VFW for over 25 years and his most memorable occasion was his “Honor Flight” to Washington, D.C. to view the war memorials. His fondest memory of his service was “V.J. Day” when the war was over and he would be headed home. Cal has been married to his lovely wife, Dorothy, for 62 years and they have enjoyed raising two daughters and a son. Cal has run up a commendable record of attendance at Post meetings; missing only two Post meetings over the past ten years. He serves the Post as a Trustee and as the Officer of the Day. He’s always been there to volunteer for Buddy Poppy duty; a true, loyal and hardworking comrade.



**Another Dashing Marine!** If you haven’t already guessed who this comrade is.....it’s none other than our own Charles Gullett. Chuck joined the V.F.W in 1970; another long time member from the WWII era. He joined the Army right out of high school and served three years. Upon his discharge he entered college on the G.I. Bill and once he received his degree, some would say, he got smart and joined the Marines. His proudest moment was when he joined the Marine Corps and his fondest memory was being commissioned as an officer in the U.S.M.C. in June 1957. Chuck fulfilled three years of duty in Vietnam. Charles is married to his wonderful wife, Jeanine and they have two daughter, Jeanne and Nancy. He has served the Post in many capacities over the years in positions of Trustee and Officer of the Day/Guard. He has been a steadfast volunteer on Buddy Poppy days and is always available to offer a helping hand.



**IN MEMORIUM:**

**Our Post is saddened by the passing of these comrades: Ralph Belleville, Ed Iglesias, Richard Gates, Larry Purcell and Edith Williams. Their transfer to Post Everlasting will be mourned.**



Richard E Gates joined the Navy shortly after his 17th birthday in 1944, while living with his parents in San Mateo, CA. After boot-camp in San Diego he opted for the Sea-Bees and had his training in Jacksonville, FL then was promptly sent to the South Pacific with 16 NAB Air Pac Pool—Navy 939 as an Electricians Mate Third Class. His service was closely with the U.S. Marines as they moved through Saipan, Tinnian and Guam. He was honorably discharged on July 24, 1946. He moved with his parents to Alhambra in 1948 where he met his wife, Joanne Longorgan. Dick passed away on July 12, 2012 after 60 years, 8 months of marriage and left a devoted wife, two loving daughters and three admiring grandsons.

On September 7th our Post hosted a Barbeque for the Unit adopted by the Post in 2003. Comrade Jim Carson and his wife graciously offered their home and was in charge of the event and what a terrific job they did. The 1st Regiment, 4th Brigade, Alpha Company, 2nd Platoon, under the command of Lt. Devin Fultz was welcomed by Post members to show the Post’s appreciation of the Unit and its service to our country. There isn’t a finer bunch of young gentlemen and they mingled with the old vets, exchanging stories both ways. The food was absolutely out of this world, thanks to all those that brought a scrumptious dish. A big highlight of the evening was new member, Ed Moore, who stole the show with his “bag of tricks”. Ed followed his own script and handed out prizes, both BIG and small, to our Marines and they loved it....Thank you, Ed! Our Post will plan future events for our adopted Marine unit and we encourage all Post members to get involved, come out and meet these great defenders of our freedom . Platoon commander, Fultz and S/Sgt Ludwig have done a super job of molding these young men in the “Alpha Raiders” unit. (See Photos on Page #5)



# VFW Statement on Stolen Valor Case Ruling

## VFW will continue to challenge far-fetched stories, false heroes

June 28, 2012

“The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is greatly disappointed in today’s Supreme Court decision that overturns the Stolen Valor Act of 2005. Despite the ruling, the VFW will continue to challenge far-fetched stories, and to publicize these false heroes to the broadest extent possible as a deterrent to others.” — Richard L. Denoyer, Commander-in-Chief, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

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### SERVICE OFFICERS ASSISTANCE

A VFW Service Officer will:

- Offer research and advice to veterans who wish to handle their own claims.
- Assist veterans who are filing original claims for compensation and/or pension with the Department of Veterans Affairs and complete the required VA forms on behalf of the claimant.
- Assist veterans in reopening claims for service-connected disabilities and complete the required VA forms.
- Follow up on status of claims filed by veterans with the VA Regional Office.
- File Notice of Disagreement with the VA Regional Office if a veteran believes the decision made by the VA was incorrect.
- Review statements of the case from the VA regarding denials of claim and assist veterans with the preparation of responses.
- Assist veterans or surviving spouses in the preparation of appeals for denial of claims and file the appeals with the local VA Regional Office for forwarding to the Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington, D.C.
- Complete VA Forms other than for original claims.

Answer/research telephone inquiries regarding medical, death/burial and other miscellaneous benefits.

Post Service Officer: Dee Padgett

### Life Time Membership-Is It For You?

You can become a VFW Life Member by making a one-time payment as shown below. You can also pay for your Life Membership through our installment plan, with an initial \$35 payment, with the Life Membership amount billed over an 11-month period as shown in the table below.

Age	One-Time Payment	Installment Payment
18-30	\$425.00	\$38.64
31-40	\$410.00	\$37.27
41-50	\$375.00	\$34.09
51-60	\$335.00	\$30.45
61-70	\$290.00	\$26.36
71-80	\$225.00	\$20.45
81 and over	\$170.00	\$15.45

*Payment Plan Terms & Conditions* The VFW Life Membership installment plan allows any VFW member/applicant to purchase a Life Membership by making either installments after an initial payment of \$35. The member will be issued an annual membership card and can elect, upon receipt of the first monthly invoice, to pay via check, credit card or ACH Debit. The applicable Life Membership fee is to be determined from the schedule using the applicant’s age on Dec. 31 of the installment plan year in which the application is submitted, regardless of actual date of birth. A permanent Life Membership card will be issued upon completion of this agreement.

Post #7142 is proud to acknowledge that 96 of



**Did you know:** Section 803 of the Manual of Procedure specifies the official regulation cap to be worn at meetings will be the overseas type, lettered with VFW initials, Post numerals, state, rank of office (when applicable) and bearing the Cross of Malta emblem. The color shall be green, shade 51 and lettering on the cap shall be in gold. All other forms of head covering are considered “not appropriate”. Caps may be ordered thru the VFW National Store. [www.vfwstore.org](http://www.vfwstore.org) The Quartermaster will assist those wishing to order a cap.



**Now Hear This:** Our Post is supporting David Sanders—Eagle Scout, Troop 737 in his project for Eagle Scout to stock the Family Assistance Ministries with non-perishable food for the coming winter months. David will also be entering the VFW Scout of the Year Program with other members of his troop. David lives in San Clemente with his mother and father. He is a member of the St. Andrews by the Sea Methodist Church and a Senior at J. Serra Catholic High School, in San Juan Capistrano. David speaks Chinese and has visited China and loves to share his journey and pictures with others. He hopes to attend UCI and major in Aerospace Engineering or be a Physicist.

The Post's youth committee will also be accepting applications for the Voice of Democracy essay contest for high school students and the Patriots Pen essay contest for middle school entrants. First place winners and their parents will be honored at the Post's dinner in December. The winning contestants will also have their essays forwarded to VFW District #2 competition and if successful there they will enter competition at the State level, where the winner there then competes at the National level.

Our young warriors of the 1-4 Alpha Co. 2nd Platoon enjoying a moment of levity as they answer questions posed by Ed Moore (Fresh New Member of our Post) in order to win prizes that Ed provided



from his fabulous "Bag of Tricks". Ed really livened up things at the BBQ and had everyone in stitches. The best part was that Post Commander, Dee, had no idea what Ed was going to do but it took no time at all to realize that everyone enjoyed it. All this was conducted in the beautiful back yard of Jim and Teryl Carson and the day turned out to be perfect for the event. This group represents about a half of the Platoon strength and events being planned for the future will include the entire group.



Here is Mr. Entertainment, Ed Moore, discussing the rules of the road for his question and answer session. Ed is Vietnam, 1964 era, veteran who served in the Marine Corps, so he was right at home with these young men. Ed entered the Corps as Private and came out as a Captain serving as a helicopter pilot. His proudest moment was receiving his wings and being awarded with the Distinguished Flying Cross. He lives with his wife, Trish, to whom he has been married to for 36 blissful years. They have two sons, Ryan and Jason.



From L to R, we have Alex Neil, Post Adjutant/ Quartermaster, his wife Jeanne, Post Commander Dee Padgett, Platoon Commander Lt. Devin Fultz and Gene Fournier as they enjoy the events of the evening in a beautiful setting with loads of good stuff to eat. How many went back for seconds? Jim and Teryl Carson did an outstanding job of putting this all together and their hospitality was the very best.



**Veterans of Foreign Wars**  
**George E. Smith Post #7142**  
**P.O. Box #1251**  
**San Clemente, CA 92674-1251**





**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS**  
*George E. Smith Post #7142*  
*"We honor the dead by serving the living"*



**POST OFFICERS:**

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|------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Commander:</b>      | <b>Dolores J. Padgett</b> |
| <b>Sr. Vice Comdr:</b> | <b>Francis Reyes</b>      |
| <b>Jr. Vice Comdr:</b> | <b>Donald Young</b>       |
| <b>Quartermaster:</b>  | <b>Alex J. Neil</b>       |
| <b>Chaplain:</b>       | <b>Jerald Quinlan</b>     |
| <b>Judge Advocate:</b> | <b>James Carson</b>       |
| <b>Surgeon:</b>        | <b>James Ferguson</b>     |
| <b>Trustee #3:</b>     | <b>Clarence Kaleta</b>    |
| <b>Trustee #2:</b>     | <b>Charles Gullett</b>    |
| <b>Trustee #1:</b>     | <b>Barry Trauger</b>      |

