

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

'Tis the season for holiday parties and enjoying family and friends. As 2025 is coming to an end, it wouldn't be the holidays without saying thank you to all those who keep our post clean and thriving. There certainly have been challenges, but it seems that God has continued to answer my prayers. Thank you to Stacey, Mark, Jeff, and Cindy for bartending and keeping our patrons happy this past year; to Dani and the Taco Belles for their hard work every Wednesday; and to our House Committee, Jeff, Mark, Miles, and Ben for keeping our post clean and for all the repairs needed to maintain an old building. Thank you to John Masterson (Wonder Electric) and John Magurn (Freedom Mechanical Solutions) who have donated their time to help our Post.

Our Marine Corps birthday celebration was a great success, thanks to Cindy, Troy, and Lauri for cooking up a delicious prime rib dinner. Thank you to Major Ed Creamer and Mike Harris who participated in the cake cutting ceremony as the oldest and youngest Marine respectively. We celebrated Veterans Day on November 11, and appreciate all who came out to participate and enjoy prime rib steak sandwiches for lunch. Our Post conducted a Membership Drive at the 29 Palms Farmers Market on October 23, and a successful Poppy Drive at the Yucca Valley Stater Bros. on November 10 and 12, raising approximately \$400 to contribute to the VFW National Home.

As we enter into December, please keep an eye on our Calendar for special dates. Fish Dinner on December 6, and our Christmas Party on Friday, December 12 at 6 pm. Bring a dessert and a gift to exchange, and enjoy the evening with friends. Ugly sweaters are welcomed. Wear your colors for the Army-Navy game at noon on the 13th. Elton will be making his steak sandwiches! The canteen is open on the Christmas Eve but closed on Christmas Day. New Year's Eve, pizzas will be served from 5-7pm so we can get you home before the crazies come out for the night. Come in on New Year's Day and keep Stacey company — a great way to begin 2026.

Thank you all for your patronage of VFW Post #7264. Happy New Year! — CDR Anne



ANNE LEAR
COMMANDER

IN OUR DECEMBER 2025 ISSUE:

- + **COMMANDER'S MESSAGE**
- + **AUXILIARY NEWS**
- + **CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**
- + **COMMITTEE UPDATES**
- + **NEW MEMBERS**
- + **UPCOMING EVENTS**
- + **CALENDAR**
- + **POST PROGRAMS & FUNDRAISING REPORT**
- + **POST INFO & VETERAN RESOURCES**
- + **RECENT EVENTS**

AUXILIARY NEWS

DANIELLE TAYLOR, AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

The Auxiliary has been busy the last two months with range of activities and charitable efforts.

We were pleased to welcome District Auxiliary President Brenda Wardrip to our October meeting. She praised the Post #7264 Auxiliary — which she described in her report as “small... but mighty” — for our robust slate of veteran and community outreach, and for our high standards of fiscal responsibility. The Auxiliary was also recognized at the District 3 October meeting with 1st place medals for our membership enrollment standing in Division 4, with a 99.67% rating. We are proud to come in 1st for the third year in a row, and hope you will admire our medals on display on the bulletin board by the kitchen passthrough.

At our November meeting, the Auxiliary voted to again help fund the upcoming VFW & Auxiliaries Holiday Luncheon for Active Duty Troops, Veterans, and their families, on December 6th, 12noon-3pm at the Coachella Masonic Lodge. We are pleased to help make the season merry and bright for those who give so much for their country.

The Auxiliary is also collecting pet supplies to help make the holidays special for our furry friends. Through December 20, you can support Christmas for Dogs & Cats by stopping by the Post with your gift donation of pet toys, beds, food and water bowls, and other pet essentials. Or you can make a cash donation and our #1 animal lover/ bargain shopper Candy K. will do the shopping for you. All items will be distributed locally, via the Joshua Tree No-Kill Shelter and the Animal Action League.

Please note that due to Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve both falling on a Wednesday this year, there will be no Taco Wednesdays lunch service on December 24 or on December 31. As always, we are eager for more volunteers, so if you have a few hours you can spare on a Wednesday, we hope you'll join us in the kitchen. — Dani

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

MARK GRDEN, CHAPLAIN

Seasons Greetings!

For some, this is a very happy time of the year and for others, not so. We must remember to take it in stride.

It is easy to get over-the-top excited, but it is a good time to practice patience as well. Some may not be as excited as you, and it would be good to understand that. I recently experienced great loss, so I am not very chipper this holiday season. For others, it can be the challenge of short days and cold weather, or the stress of trying to meet others' expectations for the best Christmas ever. I try to concentrate on the reason for the season and not get caught up in the hype of the commercialism.

So to all I wish the best, and I'm sure we will try our best. It's a good time of year to reach out to one another, and try to understand one another.

I hope you're having a happy Thanksgiving and a blessed Christmas season. — Mark



**ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL.
WE REMEMBER AND HONOR
OUR KIA, POW, MIA,
AND WOUNDED.**

COMMITTEE UPDATES

FLAG COMMITTEE ED SHIMKO, CHAIRMAN

The Flag Committee recovered 97 Flags for retirement this month! If you know someone with an unserviceable United States flag, encourage them to drop it off at a flag collection box so we can retire our Nation's colors with honor.



HOUSE COMMITTEE JEFF BRUMMER, CHAIRMAN

The House Committee continues to work on projects to maintain the Post's facilities. This coming month we expect to replace a bathroom fan, winterize our swamp coolers, and wrap some of our water pipes with insulation. We will also be shoring up some of the sand in areas around our property that tend to flow into common areas during rainstorms.

Thank you to everyone who routinely supports the weekly cleanup, which has officially moved from Mondays to Tuesdays 9-11am.

NEW MEMBERS

The Post is pleased to have welcomed new members to the ranks in October and November:

JERRID J. SEVART USN

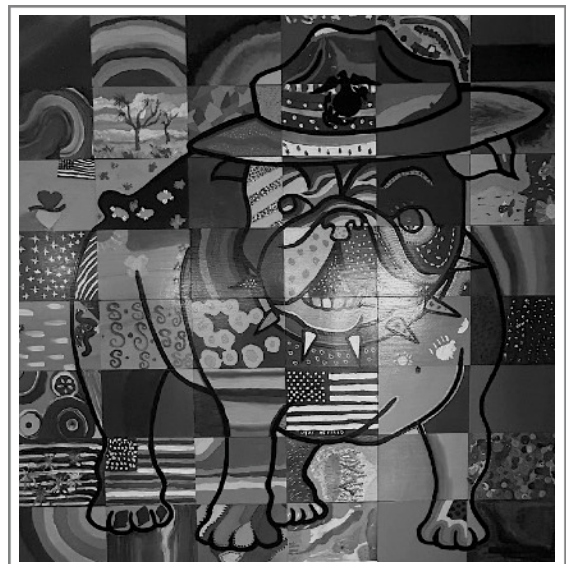
Jerrid proudly served in Iraq and in the Strait of Hormuz. Welcome, Jerrid.



TONY D. SWARTZ USMC

Tony is veteran of the Iraq War. Tony, we are so pleased you've joined us at #7264.

If you know a qualified person who would be an asset to the organization, we hope you will reach out to them and connect them with a Post Officer.



UPCOMING EVENTS

THANKSGIVING POT LUCK THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH, 2PM @ THE POST

Squeaking in to the December newsletter is one late November event: our Thanksgiving Pot Luck.

Join us on Thanksgiving Day at the Post for a pot luck holiday meal starting at 2pm.

Please bring a traditional (or not so traditional) Thanksgiving dish to share with others — there's a sign-up sheet posted by the Post Calendar Bulletin Board.

There's so much to be grateful for — including a good meal, and the camaraderie of others. We hope to see you on Thanksgiving Day.



ARMY-NAVY GAME WATCH SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH, 11AM @ THE POST

Go Navy, Beat Army! Go Army, Beat Navy!

On Saturday, December 13, the 126th playing of America's Game honors the 250th Anniversary of each service! The Midshipmen lead the series 63-53-7.

Come down to the Post and cheer on your team. The Canteen will be open for business, and Elton will be making his famous Steak Sandwiches. Watch party starts at 11am and the game kicks off at High Noon.

POST #7264 CHRISTMAS PARTY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 6PM @ THE POST

Come celebrate Christmas with your friends at the Post. Our Christmas Party will be Friday, December 12 at 6pm.

Please bring a dessert to share. The evening will also feature a White Elephant gift exchange — please bring a wrapped gift (\$25 maximum value) to participate in the gift exchange.

Come join the holiday celebration!

PLEASE NOTE:

The Auxiliary's Taco Belles would like to thank our very patient customers from the lunch service on November 19, when equipment issues caused orders to be delayed. Please accept our apologies. We pride ourselves on good food, served expeditiously, with a smile. That day, we were lucky to manage one out of three.

If you felt slighted by the delayed service, please come again soon and mention to Karen when you order that you'd like to claim your free corn taco — a small gesture of our gratitude for your patience and understanding.

Taco Wednesdays will only be open this month on December 3, 10, and 17. (Chicken tacos will be available on December 17.)

Due to Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve both falling on a Wednesday this year, there will be no Taco Wednesdays lunch on December 24 or December 31. We'll see you again for tacos in 2026. Thank you again for your support.

VFW Post #7264

DECEMBER 2025 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1 Post CLOSED	2 Post CLOSED Volunteer Post Cleanup @9am Boy Scout Troop 77 Mtg. @6pm	3 Taco Belles' Tacos 11am-1pm (open to public)	4	5 Pub Grub 5-7pm	6 Post Mtg. @10am Fish Fry 5-7pm
7	8 Post CLOSED	9 Post CLOSED Volunteer Post Cleanup @9am Boy Scout Troop 77 Mrg. @6pm	10 Taco Belles' Tacos 11am-1pm (open to public)	11	12 Post Christmas Party @6pm (please bring a dessert to share & a wrapped gift for White Elephant gift exchange)	13 Auxiliary Mtg. @10am Army-Navy Game Watch @11am; Steak Sandwiches 11:30am-1:30pm
14	15 Hanukkah (1st day) Post CLOSED	16 Post CLOSED Volunteer Post Cleanup @9am Boy Scout Troop 77 Mtg. @6pm	17 Taco Belles' Tacos (this week w/chicken) 11am-1pm (open to public)	18	19 Karaoke 5-7pm (no pizza this week)	20
21	22 Post CLOSED	23 Post CLOSED Volunteer Post Cleanup @9am Boy Scout Troop 77 Mtg. @6pm	24 Christmas Eve No Taco Belles	25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa	27
28	29 Post CLOSED	30 Post CLOSED Volunteer Post Cleanup @9am Boy Scout Troop 77 Mtg. @6pm	31 New Year's Eve No Taco Belles Pizza 5-7pm	1 New Year's Day	2	3 Post Mtg. @10am

POST PROGRAMS & FUNDRAISING REPORT

Folks, our Post is on track to exceed last year's impact on our High Desert community! We currently have recorded 224 volunteer hours at a dollar value of over \$8,000.00. Some of this work is simply manning a recruiting booth at a Farmer's Market or participating in a Buddy Poppy Drive to share the story of the Buddy Poppy and the VFW National Home. Other times it is our Chaplain and members visiting Veterans in the hospital, or our Flag Committee collecting and retiring US Flags.

Regardless of the activity, we are making an impact in our community and advocating for our Veterans. If you would like to volunteer in our community, talk to a Post Officer — we'd love to get you on the front lines to represent our Post!

New Fundraiser: We have started the most ambitious fundraiser this Post has ever attempted — it's a doozy! **We want to raise \$12,000.00 to offset meal costs at the Post.** Not counting the Auxiliary's Taco Lunches, our Post serves over 100 meals a year, ranging from formal dinners to fish fries, spaghetti dinners, holiday meals, and pub grub. Did you know that an average 3000 veterans and their families enjoy one or more meals each year at our Post? We would like to lower the cost of these meal to \$5 or less per plate.

To do this, we need all hands on deck! Please spread the word to family, friends, and businesses that might like to offset the cost of Veteran meals at our Post. We hope to meet this fundraising goal by April 2026. As soon as we do, our meal prices will reflect the change.

To donate: go to our webpage at [VFW7264.org](https://www.vfw7264.org) and scroll down to click the donate button, which will take you to our fundraiser page. Donors will receive a personalized thank you email and a receipt documenting that the donation is TAX DEDUCTIBLE for tax purposes.

Website Sponsorships: We are soliciting sponsors for our website, [VFW7264.org](https://www.vfw7264.org). We currently have two sponsors — FMS, and Wonder Electric — and we are grateful for their support! If you visit our website, you will see their logos at the bottom of the page. Click on a logo to read more information about their businesses, and a link to their business website.

Sponsorship spots are \$250.00 each for 365 days of advertising, and each sponsor spot is managed by the individual business.

If you know a business that would like to sponsor our Post, have them email info@vfw7264.org for further details.

SPONSORS

We are grateful to our sponsors for their support of our website and newsletter. Please visit the Post website (<https://www.vfw7264.org>) to read more about these fine companies and show your appreciation.



Freedom
Mechanical
Solutions Inc.
(FMS)

Wonder Electric
Co. Inc.



POST INFO & VETERAN RESOURCES

POST #7264

OPEN 11am - Closing TBD
Wednesdays thru Sundays
CLOSED Mondays & Tuesdays

6402 Veterans Way
Joshua Tree CA 92252
Phone: 760-366-2717
Email: info@vfw7264.org
Website: <https://www.vfw7264.org>
Instagram: [@vfw_post_7264](https://www.instagram.com/vfw_post_7264)
Latest news on our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/vfw7264JT

OFFICERS

Commander: Anne Lear
Contact: Cmd@vfw7264.org

Sr. Vice: Jeff Brummer
Contact: Svc@vfw7264.org

Jr. Vice: Vacant
Contact: Jvc@vfw7264.org

Quartermaster: John Pellior
Contact: Qm@vfw7264.org

Chaplain: Mark Grden

Judge Advocate: John Pellior
Contact: Qm@vfw7264.org

Resource Officer: Anne Lear
Contact: Cmd@vfw7264.org

Adjutant: Ben Lawless
Contact: Adj@vfw7264.org

Surgeon: Mark Grden

1 Year Trustee: Gary Link
2 Year Trustee: Ed Shimko
3 Year Trustee: Michael Harris

POST #7264 (cont'd)

COMMITTEES/CHAIRMEN

House: Jeff Brummer
Membership: T. J. Charles
Buddy Poppy: Jeff Brummer
Flag: Ed Shimko

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President: Danielle Taylor
Sr. Vice: Anita Link
Jr. Vice: Candy Jo Kesperich
Treasurer: Karen Kluge
Chaplin: Sandy McDaniels
Guard: Marilyn Link
Conductress: Elizabeth Link
Secretary: Candy Jo Kesperich
Patriotic Instructor: Eleanor Sherwin
Historian: Cindy Leonard
1 Year Trustee: Susan Lee Smith
2 Year Trustee: Cindy Leonard
3 Year Trustee: Sue Shannon

CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS

Ken Charles
Mark Grden
Danielle Taylor
John Pellior
Stacey Haas
Jeff Brummer

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Ben Lawless
Layout/design/b&w photography:
Susan Lee Smith

Email submissions of articles, information,
events, or photos to: adj@vfw7264.org
All submissions will be reviewed with Post
Commander, and the editor reserves the
right to edit articles for space and content.

Deadline: the 21st of the month
for the following month's newsletter.

AREA RESOURCES

HELP FOR HOMELESS VETS
1-877-4AID-VET
(1-877-424-3838)

VETERANS CRISIS LINE
Dial 988 & select option #1
Deaf/Hard of Hearing
1-800-799-4889
Or text 838255

CMC VETERAN SERVICES
Lisa Infante
minfante@cmccd.edu
760-366-3791 x0226

VFW TALK RADIO
Mondays @ 5:30pm
[TheNationalDefense.com](https://www.thenationaldefense.com)

VA NEWS
veteransaffairs@messages.va.gov

VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICES
1-909-825-7084

San Bernardino
356 E. Vanderbilt Way
San Bernardino CA 92408
Mon-Fri 8am - 4:30pm

Victorville
15095 Amargosa Road, Suite 107
Victorville Ca 92394
Mon-Fri 8am - 4:30pm

VETERANS CLINICS

Palm Desert
72700 Dinah Shore Dr.
Palm Desert CA 92211
Mon-Fri 8am - 4:30pm

Victorville
14598 Seventh Street, Suite B
Victorville, CA 92395
Mon-Fri 8am - 4:30pm

RECENT EVENTS



Cutting the Marine Corps Birthday Cake! Happy 250th US Marine Corps! (Photo by Al Owens (aka Uncle Butch))



Pre-Veterans Day Poppy Drive



Commander Anne leads our Veterans Day Ceremony



Boy Scout Troop 77 joined the Veterans Day Ceremony