

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to all our VFW and Auxiliary members!

We have had great success this past year bringing in new members, celebrating the 250th anniversary of our four original services, and celebrating Floyd's 100th birthday.

We also continue to see success with our new website, www.VFW7264.org. If you are thinking about giving a yearly donation to our Post, it is best to go through the website so that your donation stays at the local level.

Thank you for all your support this past year.

As 2026 rolls in, it's time for us to plan our schedule for the upcoming year. Please see the Upcoming Events page in this issue for info on some of our 2026 plans. Among them are the annual Flying Doctors event in March, the beginning of the Post election cycle in April, and what is sure to be a grand celebration of our nation's 250th birthday on July 4th.

The meals scheduled for January 2026 are listed on the Calendar page in this issue.

If you are a VFW member and have any ideas or comments, please either come to our monthly meeting (the 1st Saturday of each month at 10am) or send us an email to info@vfw7264.org; additional post contact emails can be found under Contacts on our webpage (www.VFW7264.org) or in this issue on the Post Info & Veteran Resources page.

As your Commander, I look forward to another happy and prosperous New Year.

— CDR Anne
Cmd@vfw7264.org



ANNE LEAR
COMMANDER

IN OUR JANUARY 2026 ISSUE:

- + COMMANDER'S MESSAGE
- + AUXILIARY NEWS
- + CHAPLAIN'S CORNER
- + COMMITTEE UPDATES
- + NEW MEMBERS
- + UPCOMING EVENTS
- + CALENDAR
- + POST PROGRAMS & FUNDRAISING REPORT
- + SPONSORS
- + AROUND THE POST
- + A LOOK BACK
- + POST INFO & VETERAN RESOURCES
- + RECENT EVENTS

AUXILIARY NEWS

DANIELLE TAYLOR, AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

2026 arrives with a bang.

In the Auxiliary, we are of two minds. One is "New Year, New Goals" — how might we improve and expand the Auxiliary's efforts in the year to come? At the same time, we think "If It Ain't Broke, Don't Fix It" — let's not change the great things already underway and working well.

Balancing those two impulses, we have some goals for 2026... but we reserve the right to change our minds by Spring.

— The Auxiliary would like to increase our membership by 5% in 2026. If you know someone who would be an asset to our organization, please let us know so we can arrange an introduction.

— We'd also like to increase participation by existing members who have been less involved. We value all our members, and we hope you will be inspired to bring your talents and positivity to our philanthropic efforts. If you're an Auxiliary member who hasn't been by the Post in a while, we hope you'll join us at our monthly meeting (Saturday, January 10 @ 10am at the Post) for a special treat.

— The Taco Belles would love to have a few more regular Taco Wednesdays volunteers. The kitchen on Wednesdays is Joshua Tree's #1 hot spot and the place to be for the latest dish — with fresh salsa and a side of sour cream. We can coordinate to accommodate pretty much any schedule, and you can even work just a few hours one or two Wednesdays a month. Please contact Dani for more information.

— Most importantly, in 2026, the Auxiliary hopes to increase our financial support of area veterans' charities by 10%.

Here's to the New Year and the adventure that lies ahead. — Dani

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER


MARK GRDEN, CHAPLAIN

Greetings....

As I write this on December 21, I'm thinking how many look forward to this day because it is the lowest turn of the wheel. When this day passes the days slowly become longer. This gives people hope for more light, and spring is on the horizon.

In a few days comes Christmas. This too gives people hope for the Christ was born. I dig both days!

I hope you had a joyous Christmas and will have a healthy and happy year ahead of you. God bless. — Mark



IN LOVING MEMORY

3.13.1945 - 11.21.2025

MICHAEL SABOL

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
7495 Church St., Yucca Valley, CA 92284
Monday, December 22, 2025
10:30am Rosary, 11am Funeral Mass, Reception to Follow

RIVERSIDE NATIONAL CEMETARY
22495 Van Buren Blvd., Riverside, CA 92518
Tuesday, December 23, 2025
12:30pm Arrival, 1pm Committal Service

We remember Post member Mike Sabol, who passed away on November 21st. Please remember his family in your prayers.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

FLAG COMMITTEE ED SHIMKO, CHAIRMAN

The Flag Committee collected and retired a whopping 153 flags this month, including the flag on Park Avenue.

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

It's a quiet month for the House Committee. Employing our motto — "use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without" — we spent about \$400 on a new ice machine behind the bar. The old one was repaired several times but finally gave up the ghost.

NEW MEMBERS

The Post is pleased to have welcomed these new members in December.

KYLE HUDSON USMC

Kyle joins us with noted service honors, including the Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal. Welcome, Kyle.



DAMON MAX FARRIS USAF

Damon is a veteran of the Vietnam War. Damon, we're pleased to have you among our ranks.

ERIC MEADOR USMC

Eric's service includes the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and he is a member at large transfer. Welcome to #7264, Eric.



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

FROM CDR ANNE:

Here is a general overview of events for the first half of calendar year 2026:

January 2026

Dinner and Lunch meals return. Please see the Calendar page in this issue for details.

March 2026

The annual Flying Doctors two-day event will be March 7-8, held at Yucca Valley High School.

April 2026

A new election cycle begins for our Post. Please consider volunteering as an Officer.

May 2026

VFW Day of Service is May 6; please see my note at right. Also: May 10 is Mother's Day; May 25 is Memorial Day.

June 2026

Flag Day and US Army Birthday is June 14. Also: Father's Day is June 21; VFW State Convention TBD.

July 2026

4th of July celebration, this year commemorating the 250th anniversary of our country's founding.



Special events for our Birthdays, Memorial Day, and the 4th of July will be announced closer to the date.

ANNE'S NOTE ON VFW DAY OF SERVICE, MAY 6, 2026

For our VFW Day of Service in May, I would like to discuss a Veterans Stand-Down. I would appreciate your feedback as to what you would like to see included in the event.

Examples: free Veteran lunch; community partnership with Flying Doctors; booths that include Morongo Basin Health Care, Reach Out mental health/ substance abuse, DAV ride sharing information; a clothing drive, portable showers; how to participate in funeral ceremonies; how to prepare for burial at Riverside National Cemetery; what your Spouse needs to know about benefits and burial expenses; how to begin a Service-related benefit claim.

You can share your suggestions at info@vfw7264.org.

MEALS @ THE POST IN JANUARY (SEE CALENDAR PAGE FOR MORE INFO)

Fish Dinner

1st Saturday of the month, 5-7pm

Steak Hoagie Lunch

2nd Saturday of the month, 11:30am-1:30pm

Amore Dinner

3rd Saturday of the month, 5-7 pm

Burgers & Fries Lunch

4th Saturday of the month, 11:30am-1:30pm

(Please note: 5th Saturdays are left open for the possibility of a Post Pot Luck)

Karaoke & Pizza Night

2nd Friday of the month, 5-7pm

Taco Belles Taco Lunch

Every Wednesday, 11am-1pm (chicken tacos available on the 3rd Wednesday of each month)

VFW Post #7264

JANUARY 2026 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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 Fish Dinner 5-7pm
4	5 Post CLOSED	6 Post CLOSED Volunteer Post Cleanup @9am Boy Scout Troop 77 Mrg. @6pm	7 Taco Belles' Tacos 11am-1pm (open to public)	8	9 Karaoke & Pizza 5-7pm	10 Auxiliary Mtg. @10am Steak Hoagies 11:30am-1:30pm
11	12 Post CLOSED	13 Post CLOSED Volunteer Post Cleanup @9am Boy Scout Troop 77 Mtg. @6pm	14 Taco Belles' Tacos 11am-1pm (open to public)	15	16	17 Amore Dinner 5-7pm
18	19 Post CLOSED	20 Post CLOSED Volunteer Post Cleanup @9am Boy Scout Troop 77 Mtg. @6pm	21 Taco Belles' Tacos (this week w/ chicken) 11am-1pm (open to public)	22	23	24 Burgers & Fries 11:30am-1:30pm
25	26 Post CLOSED	27 Post CLOSED Volunteer Post Cleanup @9am Boy Scout Troop 77 Mtg. @6pm	28 Taco Belles' Tacos 11am-1pm (open to public)	29	30	31 Post Mtg. @10am

POST PROGRAMS & FUNDRAISING REPORT

Good news to report this month: we have met all but one of our requirements to be eligible for All American this year! Our last requirement is to participate in a Day of Service, which we have plans to do next Spring.

Additionally, we have contributed 328 volunteer hours to our community, equating to over \$12,000.

Our fundraiser to reduce the cost of meals at the Post received a very generous donation of \$500 from the Simi Dabah Sculpture Foundation! We have reached 6% (\$755.00) towards our goal of raising \$12,000.00! If you know anyone who would like to make a TAX DEDUCTIBLE donation to our Post, please direct them to our fundraiser on the VFW7264.org homepage.

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.**



AROUND THE POST

You might have noticed that we have a relatively new face behind the bar! Stacey volunteers regularly to brighten our days and sling drinks.



Stacey is a Jets and Michigan State fan, and she is a member of the Yucca Valley Elks Lodge. Her son is currently serving our country in the Army. Stop in and give Stacey a big thank you for volunteering at our Post, have a drink, and tip well.



Need a ride to the Loma Linda VA?
Contact Darrell Bush at 909-583-6116
to make arrangements;
Ed Shimko is our volunteer shuttle driver.

A LOOK BACK

Ben Lawless is in the process of digitizing old photos taken at Post events. We will share them in the newsletter over the course of the year to come. If you have old photos to share for scanning into the collection or that are already digitized, please contact Ben via email at Adj@vfw7264.org.

This issue: a look back at past celebrations of Christmas and New Year's Eve, circa 1978-1985.



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)
Get the 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

COMMITTEES/CHAIRMEN

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

POST #7264 (cont'd)

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

TRANSPORTATION RESOURCES

Need a ride to the Loma Linda VA?
Contact Darrell Bush at 909-583-6116
to make arrangements; Ed Shimko is
our volunteer shuttle driver.

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



Comrade Dan Kral mans the booth at a community event reaching out to the Veteran homeless population in Twentynine Palms.



Honoring cherished Auxiliary member Cindy Leonard for her generous volunteer work at the Post.



Opening presents at our Post Christmas Party.



Commander Anne Lear meeting with Reach Out in Yucca Valley to discuss Veteran issues in our community.