

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone, welcome to May. This will be a busy month for many. Our **VFW meeting** is on **May 2nd**. Our Post is only as good as our members make it, so I encourage all veterans to attend and be an active member of our Post. As we have done in the past, in respect for Memorial Day we will place a table in the dining room during the month of May and encourage families to bring photos of their service members who have passed.

We will have our first California Cadet Corps scholarship candidate(s) from Yucca and 29 Palms High Schools in June and will establish a selection committee. This top graduating senior will also become our Voice of Democracy candidate. We look forward to a promoting leadership and patriotism in our youth of today.

May 9th is our **Day of Service**, a required program established by the National VFW. We will set up our information booth at the 29 Palms Farmers Market between **9am-1pm**. We will help to answer veteran and family questions, provide information on transportation in the Morongo Valley to Loma Linda Medical Center, and distribute information on Riverside National Cemetery, burial and cremation services, and Benefit claims. If there is anything else you would like to see included, please let me know.

May 10th — Happy Mother's Day to our Post moms. I hope the day will bring love and happiness to all of you.

May 16th at 4pm we will have **Mike Fay's Celebration of Life**. I highly encourage everyone who can to come and participate. We will begin with opening remarks, prayers, and storytelling, so bring your favorite memories of Mike. There will be food and music until whenever! Please note there is no Amore dinner that evening.

May 25th is the **Memorial Day Holiday**. We will be open and as part of our remembrance we will meet at the flag pole at **12pm** to salute the flag and provide a prayer for our fallen. This will be followed by a **Pot Luck**, so bring your favorite munchies. If you are traveling that weekend, please be safe. Please look at the event calendar carefully this month as there are a few changes which may have moved a Saturday lunch.

— CDR sends
 Anne Lear
 Cmd@vfw7264.org



ANNE LEAR
COMMANDER

IN OUR MAY 2026 ISSUE:

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AUXILIARY NEWS

DANIELLE TAYLOR, AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

The Auxiliary is rolling into Spring with the best of old and new. In our April meeting, we were pleased to vote to financially support one of our favorite recurring events: the National Veteran Wheelchair Games, promoting sports and recreation as preventative medicine for spinal cord injured, amputee, and traumatic brain injured veterans by enhancing their cognitive, social, physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. The 2026 Games will be held in Detroit July 9-14, and we are proud to help underwrite costs for the team from the Loma Linda VA.

The Auxiliary also voted to match the Post's funding for the new VFW 7264 Scholarship to recognize and support a top graduating student from a high school California Cadet Corps program. We're excited about this new endeavor to celebrate young leaders, and to support those who demonstrate dedication to service, honor, and community.

The Auxiliary held elections for the 2026-2027 term, with most returning to their positions. I am honored to have been asked to continue in my role as President. Also continuing are: Anita Link, Sr. Vice; Candy Jo Keserich, Jr. Vice; Karen Kluge, Treasurer; Sandy McDaniels, Chaplain; Elizabeth Link, Conductress; Marilyn Link, Guard; Sue Shannon, 1 Year Trustee; Susan Lee Smith, 2 Year Trustee; another Trustee position is pending. As for appointees: Candy Joe Keserich is continuing as Secretary, Ellie Sherwin is continuing as Patriotic Instructor, and Susan Lee Smith was appointed Historian. In her new role, Susan is creating a digital archive of the Auxiliary's materials going forward, in hopes of providing a secure, searchable repository of the Auxiliary's history. At the culmination of our meeting, officers and appointees were sworn in by Department Commander John Pellior, always a welcome guest at our meetings. Thank you, John.

At the Auxiliary, we believe the 2026-2027 term is going to be our best yet.

— Dani

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

MARK GRDEN, CHAPLAIN

Greetings, Ladies and Gentlemen of Post 7264. The time has come to move on. After being the Post Chaplin for 2 1/2 years, I will be leaving that assignment. We have a new Chaplin, Paul Lakin, please make him feel welcome and assist him in any way you can. Welcome, Paul.

It's been a pleasure serving the post. God bless.

— Mark

Editor's note: Folks, it should be noted that Mark did much more work at the Post than just fill the Chaplain position and write a bit of monthly encouragement for the newsletter.

For over four years, Mark has tirelessly volunteered to cook food, clean the Post, wash dishes, and tend bar. Behind the scenes, he offered sound advice to people, and provided practical solutions for the many situations that non-profits like ours deal with year to year.

In the course of his volunteer work, Mark organized and coordinated with countless bands for Post events, was responsible for organizing the weekly cleaning crew, and began the now routine fundraiser of cooking burgers for lunch at least once a month. Most recently, he was responsible for designing and ordering our new batch of t-shirts! More importantly, he aspired to and encouraged those around him to maintain a high standard of character and performance.

If nobody does more for Veterans than the VFW, part of the reason is that people like Mark step up to serve. Thanks for all that you have done over the years, Mark. We'll see you around the Post!

HONORS FOR OUR OWN

The District 3 Homecoming Dinner held March 28th at Riverside Post #9223 was a great success. John Pellior was honored and good-naturedly roasted by our very own Post Comedian, Gary Link.

This June, John will relinquish District 3 to a new Commander, but will continue serving as our Post Quartermaster. John is a man of many hats and has a heart for serving Veterans.



Congratulations on a successful District tour, John, and we are looking forward to seeing you around the Post a bit more now! Pictured above is John with our intrepid Auxiliary President (and his wife), Dani!

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

NEW MEMBERS

The Post voted in three new members during our April meeting.



**TIMOTHY COLEMAN
USMC**

Tim served in 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, and is a veteran of Desert Shield/Desert Storm with overseas service in Central America and the Persian Gulf. Welcome, Tim!

**DAVID C. HAWLEY
USMC**

David served in the Marines during the Vietnam War. We're pleased to have you aboard, David!



**JOSHUA J.
STONEBACK
USMC**

Joshua is a Marine and a Veteran of the Global War on Terror. He served in Iraq. Welcome to Post 7264, Joshua!

COMMITTEE UPDATES

HOUSE COMMITTEE

JEFF BRUMMER, CHAIRMAN

Folks, not much to report from the House Committee this month. We appreciate everyone helping to keep our Post clean and ship shape!

FLAG COMMITTEE

ED SHIMKO, CHAIRMAN

The Flag Committee collected and retired 571 flags from the 29 Palms cemetery this month. If anyone would like to help the Flag Committee with its work, reach out to the Post to get in touch.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

T.J. CHARLES, CHAIRMAN

Good news! We have exceeded our membership goal by six members! Well done. We have one remaining membership drive this May. This will complete our recruitment plan for the year. However, don't stop recruiting!

More importantly, once a member is recruited, be sure to invite them into the Post for a cold beverage or hot meal. Encourage them to spend time at the Post and to lend a hand where able. Each new member not only strengthens the national VFW's ability to advocate for Veteran causes in Washington, DC, it strengthens our Veteran community in the high desert.



Need a ride to the Loma Linda VA?
Contact Darrell Bush at 909-583-6116
to make arrangements.

POST PROGRAMS & FUNDRAISING REPORT

The Post's programs are all complete with the exception of our Day of Service which will be held this May.

The Post's fundraiser to offset meal costs remains at \$800.00.

Our Post has served a total of 433 volunteer hours and has donated \$997.00 to Veteran causes resulting in an annual combined monetary value of \$16,061.00.

Keep on doing great things Post 7264!

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.



Freedom Mechanical Solutions Inc.



Wonder Electric Co. Inc.

SPECIAL LOCAL EVENT

★★★★★
**VETERANS
ENGAGEMENT**

AT THE COMBAT CENTER
WITH THE
20TH SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE MARINE CORPS
SGTMAJ CARLOS RUIZ



OPEN TO ALL VETERANS
IN AND AROUND THE MORONGO BASIN



TOWN HALL STYLE MEETING
FOR MILITARY VETERANS TO
ENGAGE WITH THE SERGEANT
MAJOR OF THE MARINE CORPS



DATE:
FRIDAY,
MAY 8TH, 2026



TIME:
1300-1400



LOCATION:
MESA ROOM AT
MOJAVE LANDING,
BLDG 1573

★ **RSVP REQUIRED** ★
NO LATER THAN 5 MAY



CONTACT NICOLE HITCH
COMMUNITY LIAISON
NICOLE.HITCH@USMC.MIL



760-401-7884

TO SIGN UP AND RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION.



★★★★★ **SEMPER FIDELIS** ★★★★★

VFW Post #7264 MAY 2026 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27 ALL MONTH ON THURSDAYS & SUNDAYS:	28 Ask about our \$8 Brat, Chips, & a Beer Special!	29	30	1	2 Post Mtg. @10am Fish Dinner 5-7pm
3	4 Post CLOSED	5 Post CLOSED Volunteer Post Cleanup @9am Scout Troop 77 Mtg. @6pm	6 Taco Belles' Tacos 11am-1pm (open to public)	7	8 Karaoke & Pizza 5-7pm	9 Day of Service @29 Palms Farmers Market 9am-1pm Auxiliary Mtg. @10am Steak Hoagies 11:30am-1:30pm
10 Mother's Day	11 Post CLOSED	12 Post CLOSED Volunteer Post Cleanup @9am Scout Troop 77 Mtg. @6pm	13 Taco Belles' Tacos 11am-1pm (open to public)	14	15	16 Mike Fay's Celebration of Life 4pm - TBD
17	18 Post CLOSED	19 Post CLOSED Volunteer Post Cleanup @9am Scout Troop 77 Mtg. @6pm	20 Taco Belles' Tacos (w/ chicken) 11am-1pm (open to public)	21	22	23 Burgers & Fries 11:30am-1:30pm
24	25 Memorial Day Remembrance @12noon @Post Flagpole, then Pot Luck	26 Post CLOSED Volunteer Post Cleanup @9am Scout Troop 77 Mtg. @6pm	27 Taco Belles' Tacos 11am-1pm (open to public)	28	29	30
31 Scout Troop 77 Brunch 11:30am-1:30pm						

A LOOK BACK

May brings Memorial Day, and fond memories of old friends who have served our nation with honor.



(Left) Marine Color Guard on Memorial Day circa 1990.



(Below) Marine Band at a local Memorial Day celebration circa 1990.



(Left) Ike Kelley, World War I Veteran and Post Member. Photo taken October 25, 1993.



(Below) Post representation on Memorial Day 2006 at a local ceremony.



(Left) Post Commander makes remarks circa 2006 at a public Memorial Day Ceremony.

POST INFO & VETERAN RESOURCES

POST #7264

OPEN 11am - Closing TBD
Wednesdays thru Saturdays
12noon - Closing TBD on 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
Contact: Auxiliary@vfw7264.org
Sr. Vice: Anita Link
Jr. Vice: Candy Jo Keserich
Treasurer: Karen Kluge
Chaplain: Sandy McDaniels
Guard: Marilyn Link
Conductress: Elizabeth Link
Secretary: Candy Jo Keserich
Patriotic Instructor: Eleanor Sherwin
Historian: Susan Lee Smith
1 Year Trustee: Sue Shannon
2 Year Trustee: Susan Lee Smith

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 Susan (while Ben's on hiatus) at: vfw7264auxiliary@gmail.com. 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.

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

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