



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

POST 9650 – ANDERSON, CA

September – October 2026

NEWSLETTER

VFW9650.ORG

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Trevor Brooke, Post Commander



Greetings Comrades,

The last few months have been busy for the VFW and the Post. I want to thank everyone who showed up to the 4th of July parade as well as the City of Anderson for their help in getting the flags set up on North Street and East Center Street. The District also held our meeting in Susanville. There our Post was honored to receive our "All State" award as well as an award from Department of California for placing third overall for community service. In addition, our post was also awarded "All American" by VFW National. These awards are for the 2025 – 2026 fiscal year. I want to extend a very special thank you for everyone who has helped make these achievements possible and I hope that we are able to match and beat these achievements this coming year. I also had the honor of attending the VFW National Convention in Reno, NV.

As students head back to the classroom, I would like to remind drivers to prioritize student safety. Essential safety practices include stopping for school buses with flashing red lights, slowing down in active school zones, and eliminating driving distractions to protect children.

Recruiting is forever a key consideration for any Post, and, of course, for the VFW as an organization. People see how we interact with each other, how we interact with them. What attracts people is wanting to be a part of something that can benefit them and in turn, something they can believe in, feel they are a part of, and then want to share with others. Remember, every member is not only a recruiter but also an ambassador of our Post.

Last month we started our monthly arts and craft fair. We had a decent turn out for our first event and hope to keep growing it as the months progress. I want to thank our venders and our guests who showed up. This event will be hosted the second Saturday of every month alongside our monthly breakfasts. We also have our “Stage 7” concert series, every Saturday in the hall beginning at 8pm with doors opening at 7:30pm. Come hang out and have some fun.

The next few months will be busy for our post as we have our annual Department of California inspection, officer trainings and preparation for hosting the District meeting in October. We have some events that we are planning, so keep your eyes out for further information. Thank you everyone for all that you do. I hope to see you at the post. – Trevor



Pictured Left to right

District 8 Commander, JC Cladopulos - Post 9650 Commander, Trevor Brooke - Post 9650 Quartermaster, Greg Wilson - California Department Commander Paula Jansen - District 8 Adjutant, Ed Ellert

MESSAGE FROM THE AUXILIARY

Marsha Kelley, President



Fall is in the air, and students have returned to school. Please watch for children while out driving ... especially in and around schools.

Members and friends of the Auxiliary continue to assist the Post with its monthly breakfasts. The tip monies received help us donate to several community groups, many of which are Veteran affiliated. Here are just a few benefactors of this program: Nations Finest Veteran Services; Preston Sharp's Flags & Flowers; VFW Post 9650's K9 Dog Training.

At the quarterly District 8 Auxiliary meeting held in Alturas, we were encouraged to update our membership lists. Many of our Auxiliary members were Lifetime members of the Redding Post's Auxiliary which Anderson absorbed when the Redding Auxiliary dissolved. We had 126 paid members in the 2025-26 year. Unfortunately, we only have about 15 "regulars" that attend monthly meetings and participate in Post events. In an effort to ensure that our membership mailing address is current, in addition to sending out dues letters last month we sent cards to Lifetime members. Did you receive yours?

We are happy to welcome new member Hailee Warpula, who will be initiated at our September 14th meeting.

The Post is hosting the next District 8 Quarterly meeting on October 17th. The Auxiliary will have its quarterly meeting that day, as well. All paid members are welcome to attend.

It is going to get spooky! Are you a fan of Halloween? Post and Auxiliary members are planning a Halloween party and possibly a dance on October 31st.

Follow the Anderson VFW Post 9650 Facebook page ... VFW Anderson CA for more information on the District meeting, Halloween party, and other upcoming activities that may not be mentioned in this newsletter.

Not a member on Facebook and if you have questions or are interested in activities, please call the Post at 530-365-9650.

WE NEED NEW MEMBERS!

If you know anyone interested have them call me @ 530-355-9574.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE POST

SEPTEMBER

Sep 12 – Craft Fair (7:30 – 11:00 am)
Sep 12 – Post Breakfast (8 am)
Sep 12 – House Committee (11 am}
Sep 12 – Cuttlefish (12:00 pm)
Sep 12 – Cooties Scratch (1 pm)
Sep 14 – Membership & Auxiliary Meeting (6 pm)

OCTOBER

Oct 12 – Membership & Auxiliary Meeting (6 pm)
Oct 14 – Craft Fair (7:30 – 11:00 am)
Oct 14 – Post Breakfast (8 am)
Oct 14 – House Committee (11 am}
Oct 14 – Cooties Scratch (1 pm)
Oct 17 – VFW District 8 Meeting (11 am)

WEEKLY

TUESDAYS

Cornhole – 5-10pm

WEDENSDDAYS

Country Swing Dance – 6-10pm

FRIDAYS

Pool – Open to public

SATURDAYS

STAGE 7 – Starts at 8pm

Lisa's Tacos –11:30–1:30

SUNDAYS

K-9 Service Dog Training – 11-1

BINGO – Starts at 2:45pm



MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIES

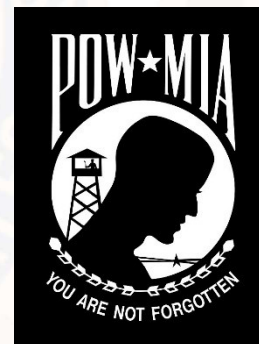
Cooties are the 'honor' degree of the VFW and being one requires you to commit to serving veterans with a focus on the hospitalized or ill veterans as well as surviving spouses and children of veterans. In fact, the Military Order of the Cooties and our Auxiliary started the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan 100 years ago to support Military Families, Surviving Spouses and their Children! To learn more about the National Home and their mission please follow this link: <https://vfwnationalhome.org/>

Our next regular Scratch/Meeting is September 12th and again on October 10th.

Hope to see you there

Keep Them Smiling in Beds of White!

COMMEMORATIONS - SEPTEMBER 2026



On September 2, we observe V-J Day, marking the end of World War II in 1945. Let us take a moment to honor the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives for our freedom.

Additionally, Recognition Day will be held on the third Friday of September (Sept. 18th), in observance of National POW/MIA Recognition Day. This is a solemn occasion to remember those who were prisoners of war and those still missing in action.

As we approach the anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, we also take time to remember and honor all those who lost their lives that day, and the heroic efforts of those who gave their lives to help others.

VFW POST 9650 HONOR GUARD



The main purpose of the VFW is to honor our veterans, both living and deceased. The Honor Guard of Post 9650 strives to achieve this goal by providing military honors to our fallen warrior brothers and sisters. The Firing of the Volley, Playing of Taps, Folding and Presenting of the flag to the next of kin is always emotional for us. Our veterans earned this honor for their service and dedication to Duty, Honor, and Country. We hope this brings some sense of closure to their grieving family.

To date this year, our honor guard has had the honor to remember 94 families.

If any VFW veteran is interested in helping us achieve our goal, please contact Honor Guard Captain Dale Huffman, or any Honor Guard member. You may also leave your contact information at the Canteen and you will be contacted.



Pictured Left to Right

Dale Huffman (USAF), Ed Adams (USA), Tom Schnieder (USN), Dennis Crosby (USAF)

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Courage is not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear." – Nelson Mandela

EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Ronald Seacrest
Hailee Warpula (Auxiliary)

POST CANTEN HOURS OF OPERATION

SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT ADVANCE NOTICE.

Call the Post at
(530) 365-9650 for more details

THE POST WILL OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS HOURS:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
4 pm – Close	4 pm – Close	4 pm – Close	CLOSED
FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
4 pm – Close	10 am – Close	10 am – Close	

NOTE: *The Post Closing Time is Dependent Upon Attendance and Varies Per Day.*

VFW POST RULES

Reminder, while marijuana is legal, VFW Post 9650 is a Drug Free Zone. **Drug use of any kind, is NOT allowed on our property** and puts our ABC liquor license in jeopardy, as well as our Post Charter with the National VFW. Alcohol is also not allowed outside the building or in the parking lot, per ABC, State and County rules and regulations.

Please report any violations of drug or alcohol use immediately to the bartender or a Post officer. Law enforcement may be called, and the offender may be subject to criminal and legal consequences. Offenders can lose their Post Membership.

TRIVIA QUESTION

What is the name of the first military medal awarded by the United States?

WE WANT YOU - TO JOIN THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

You don't have to wear uniform anymore to keep serving.

Every day, veterans in our communities need someone willing to step up—a ride to an appointment, help navigating VA benefits, a flag placed on a veteran's grave, support during a difficult time, or simply someone who understands.

When you join the VFW, you're not just becoming a member of an organization. You're becoming part of a team committed to making a difference in the lives of veterans, service members, their families, and our communities.

Whether you can give a few hours a month or take on a larger role, your experience, your time, and your willingness to help matter.

JOIN US IN HELPING VETERANS.

TOGETHER, WE CAN CONTINUE THE MISSION OF SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED.

CALL US (530) 365-9650, OR EMAIL US AT vfwpost9650@aol.com

HAVE YOU UPDATED YOUR CONTACT INFO? LET US KNOW SO WE CAN KEEP YOU IN THE LOOP

CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER

"Almighty God, You know every veteran by name. You know their deeds, their hard work, and their perseverance. You know their needs, both material and spiritual. Please draw each one closer to you and grant them all the peace that passes understanding. Amen."

WE EXTEND GET WELL WISHES TO OUR FELLOW MEMBERS

Jeanne Schnieder (Auxiliary)
Larry Olinger

US HISTORY – SPECIAL DATES OF INTEREST



Sep 2, 1945 – VJ Day: Japan Signed Formal Surrender
Sep 10, 1962 – U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps Incorporated
Sep 14, 1814 – "Star Spangled Banner" written by Francis Scott Key
Sep 11, 2001 – Attacks on World Trade Center, Pentagon and plane crash in Pennsylvania
Sep 11, 1914 – Ladies Auxiliary VFW Organized
Sep 17, 1787 – U. S. Constitution Approved
Sep 18, 1947 – U.S. Air Force Established
Sep 29, 1899 – VFW Established
Oct 7, 2001 – Invasion of Afghanistan Began
Oct 13, 1775 – U.S. Navy Established
Oct 25, 1983 – Grenada Campaign Began

TRIVIA QUESTION ANSWER

The Badge of Military Merit, later renamed the Purple Heart

TACO SATURDAY'S WITH LISA



JOIN US SATURDAY'S FOR DELICIOUS TACOS MADE BY OUR AMAZING BARTENDER, LISA!

Every Saturday from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

3 Tacos for \$5.00 or 2 Tacos for \$4.00

SUNDAY BINGO

DOORS OPEN AT 2:00 PM

TABLE BINGO - Starts at 2:45 pm

REGULAR BINGO - Starts at 4:30 pm

GAMES PLUS SPECIALS

SPECIALS: 1st BOOK: \$12.00, 2 BOOKS: \$22.00 - \$5.00 EACH ADDITIONAL BOOK

Connie does a lot, but she can not do it all. If you or someone you know are interested in volunteering to help with Bingo, please let us know.

CALL CONNIE AT:

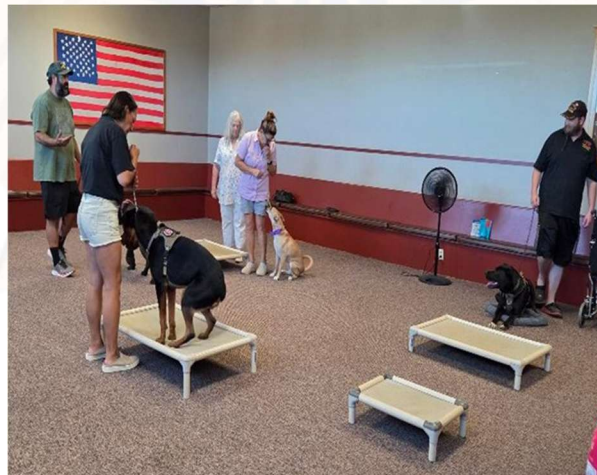
(530) 945-6871

OR EMAIL:

VFWPOST9650@AOL.COM

K-9 SERVICE DOG PROGRAM

Meeting every Sunday from 11am – 1pm



The Anderson VFW has the distinction of being one of the very first K-9 programs, and we are proud to keep that tradition alive and well to this day. Pairing man's best friend with a service member who needs them the most. Our primary objective is to give back to those Veterans who gave themselves to serve our country, sustaining injuries both visible and, especially those we can't see.



We will assist in locating, matching and training a K-9 to the level desired by the veteran to provide both assistance and companionship.

Our goal is to be involved in establishing a Veteran / K-9 bond that will result in a life-changing experience for both.

If you are interested in learning more about the program, please reach out to:

Bruce Riecke by phone at: (530) 529-4433 or email at: bariecke@gmail.com
Greg Rogers by phone at: (530) 526-5022 or email at: vfwpost9650@aol.com