

THE

A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



KENDALL-GRAM



Volume 17 Issue 7,
July 2017

Commander Tom Parker



Recently, I've taken some time to reflect back on the previous year and honestly, it seemed to fly by. I'm not exactly sure what caused it to pass so quickly, but I feel fairly certain it was due in large part to the quantity and scope of activities we as a Post participated in during the past 12 months. I won't get into a blow by blow account of all of our activities, but suffice it to say that as we completed one project, we found ourselves moving right into the next one. Whether it was community oriented (Fish Fries), patriotic (9/11 Service), youth oriented (8th Grade Awards), or veteran related (Homeless Stand Downs and Veterans Day) there were plenty of events to keep us busy.

Looking forward to my second term as Commander, I already know we'll continue to have many events and demands on the Post. I want to ensure that we continue doing what we do to assist veterans and promote patriotism without missing out on opportunities to show Naperville what the VFW is all about and what kind of people we are. At the Memorial Day Parade review meeting, a comment was made that some of the parade participants didn't really understand the true meaning behind Memorial Day. I couldn't help but to think that here's an opportunity to teach some of our youth in the community about the service and sacrifices of our veteran population. This is something our younger members can help out with. If you have children, help us by volunteering to visit their classrooms to explain what it means to be a military veteran. Many of the social science classes are always looking for veterans to share their stories of time spent in the military and often times we don't have enough volunteers to cover the demand, especially around Veterans Day. It's opportunities like these that let our neighbors know that the veterans of Naperville VFW Post 3873 are fully invested in bettering our community while respecting the veterans who made our way of life possible.

I'm sure that as we move into the 2017-2018 year, we'll have numerous chances to interact with others around patriotism and there will be many opportunities to help out our fellow veterans. Just as I did last year, I'll start this year by asking every member of the Post to commit to attending or helping out with one event this year. It will only take a little of your time, but you'll have a chance to meet your fellow members, help fellow veterans or members of the Naperville community, and you'll have fun doing it.

Finally, keep your eyes open for announcements in the Kendall-Gram and the e-mail blasts for upcoming events. We are planning a few new events this year specifically for those members with younger children. Also, don't forget that we'll be watching the 4th of July fireworks at the Post again this year. The fireworks will actually be on July 3rd. Feel free to stop by, set up a few chairs, and enjoy the show from one of the best viewing locations in town. Come early if you'd like to throw something on the grill. The Canteen will be open on July 4 from noon till 5 PM.

Senior Vice Commander Pablo Araya

With our Nation's 227th birthday behind us, and all the celebrations that kick off summer in full swing, I hate to be a wet blanket and advise you that we came up about 2% short of membership this year. But the Commander has put his faith in me and the members have given me a second year to make it happen. And I will. Plan on hearing a lot more from me regarding membership goals for next year and maybe even taking on a task or two, yourself, making sure we hit well above 100%!



There's a lot of younger Vets that have returned to the area after serving in Afghanistan, Iraq and a myriad of other hot spots around the world. They will be our focus. Look for upcoming events that include Vets with young families integrating with our vibrant and current membership. Once they experience the Kendall "charm" they won't be able to refuse. Together, we can do this, and much more. Fly Navy!

Junior Vice Commander Dave Angelus

Summer has showed and it has been hotter than ever this year. I had the opportunity to attend several Memorial Day events in Wisconsin this year. It was great to see everyone's enthusiasm and respect shown that day. I can only hope that as a country we do not take for granted the large sacrifices Americans that came before and after us do to keep us safe.



Lately I have been getting a lot of calls from random numbers. Sometimes they are live sales calls, prerecorded messages, or they say nothing. According to tele-communications guidelines they are supposed to give you an option to "opt out" from receiving these calls. When possible I would opt-out but would then later get a similar call from a slightly different number. I did some checking and found out that it was the same company calling just using multiple numbers to dial out to skirt around the law. I filed a complaint with the FCC and also found that the government has setup a national do not call list. To register go to: www.donotcall.gov I decided to register and magically the sales calls seemed to vanish overnight. This site is also good for cell phone registration.

National Home Activities By Mike McGrath

After almost ten years, the kids at the National Home are starting back up a tradition in preparation for Memorial Day. Despite the rainy weather, they boarded the National Home's bus and drove to nearby Charlotte, Michigan to put flags on the graves of veterans. They were accompanied by members of the Charlotte VFW Post # 2406. Thankfully the rain held off while they searched the rolling hills for veteran graves and afterward, they went back to the Post and enjoyed a pizza party.

We are very thankful that these young people recognize the sacrifices of all veterans and the importance of remembering them.

Illinois Day at the VFW National Home for Children will take place on September 23. Please put this on your calendar. If you have never been to the National Home, you really do need to make the trip and see where your donations go, and what an impact the National Home has on those who need a safe secure environment to get back on their feet.

Dates to Remember

July 1 - Visit with Vets at Monarch Landing 10 a.m.
 July 3 - Fireworks! Party from 3 - 10 PM
 July 4- Independence Day Canteen open noon to 5 PM
 July 5- Free Yoga for Vets, 9:30 a.m.
 July 6 - VA unit at the Post -9:30 - 1:30
 July 6 - American Legion Meeting 7 PM
 July 8 - Visit with Vets at Brookdale 10 a.m.
 July 12 - Free Yoga for Vets, 9:30 a.m

July 12- Honor Flight
 July 12 - County Standdown
 July 13 - VFW Meeting, 7 PM
 July 15 - Visit with Vets at Independence Village, 10AM
 July 19 - Free Yoga for Vets, 9:30 a.m.
 July 20 - Auxiliary Meeting, 7 PM
 July 22 - Visit with the Vets at Harbor Chase, 10 a.m.
 July 22 -Rockin For the Troops, Kane County Cougar Stadium
 July 25 - Taco Tuesday
 July 26 - Free Yoga for Vets, 9:30 a.m.

**Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873 – Veteran of the Month**

Name: Russell B. Petry

Rank: Lieutenant Colonel

Branch of Service: U.S. Army

Current Age: 69

Total Years Served: 13 Active 14 Reserves

Served from: 1969 - 1996

Places Served:

- o Ft. Benning, GA
- * Ft. Wolters, TX
- * Ft. Buchanan, PR
- * Ft. Bragg, NC
- * Ft. Jackson, SC
- Ft. Lee, VA
- * Cu Chi, RVN
- Phubai/HUE, RVNC

Job or Specialty: 1542 – Small Unit Leader; 81542 – Instructor; 1154A – Operations, Plans, Training

Fondest memory while serving:

Bronze Star, 25th Infantry Division (Tropic Lightening) (Cu Chi, RVN Bronze Star 1 (Oak Leaf Cluster); 101st Airborne Division, (Screaming Eagles) PHUBAI/HUE, RVN;

**Members Present the VFW 8th Grade Citizenship Awards at Naperville Schools by Tom Benton**

The Judd Kendall VFW Post continues to be active in our community, as evidenced recently by the many VFW members volunteering 'above & beyond' to support the VFW Citizenship Award Program in our neighborhood Naperville elementary schools this year. In the last two weeks of May and June, members of the Naperville VFW participated in the 8th Grade Commencement Programs at all 16 of the Naperville elementary schools, presenting the coveted VFW Citizenship Awards to exemplary 8th Grade students. Making presentations at Naperville Schools this year were these esteemed VFW Members: Mike Barbour, Russ Petry, Jeffery Lady, Jeffrey Sack, Jim Oftedal, Jack Amberg, Jacqui Erwin, Sue Houser, Lou Kueltzo, Joe Stubitz, Shawn Doty, John Shaw, and Tom Benton, with Dave Dial presenting at multiple schools again this year. Quietly working behind the scenes to handcraft the award certificates was Jan Barbour with the award medals provided by the Post. These Veterans represented the VFW in a very positive and public light and their efforts are much appreciated by the VFW, the school administrative staff, and especially by the students. Thank You!

July County Standdown

The Quad County Stand Down will be held at the DuPage County Fairgrounds on July 12th. We are not accepting any used clothing this year. We are accepting **NEW** socks, underwear and T-shirts. Drop off points are at the Naperville VFW, the Aurora Vet Center and on July 11th at the County fairgrounds between 9am and noon. Any questions please contact Christine Madsen at 630-871-8387 or email her at christine@mshv.org.

Please help those Veterans less fortunate. Feel free to pass this information on to any organizations or individuals that would like to help in this worthwhile endeavor.

2017 Buddy Poppy Report by Nancy Marinello

Thank you to all who helped distribute Buddy Poppies this year. The total collected by the VFW and Auxiliary members this year was \$26,878. This is down from last year's total of \$28,454. Your efforts help support other organizations and causes like OSOT, Candy Cane, Hines VA Hospital Trips, Homeless Veterans, and Naperville Responds. The donations also help pay salaries of VFW claims workers who assist Veterans prepare and file claims with the VA, and the unmet needs programs also helps Veterans with rent, car repairs, food and medical and much more.

Collecting over \$26,000 is an awesome achievement and certainly demonstrates how supportive our community is to Veterans. We had hoped to exceed last year's collection but fell a little short. The needs we support continues to grow and we could have put any additional funds to good use. We could have collected much more this year as many two-hour slots over the weekend at grocery stores and hardware stores were not filled. I hope more people will fill in those locations next year to allow us to help all of our local veterans in need. If you are unable to help, please ask a family member to fill in for you. We are most grateful to all those who found the time to come out and distribute poppies. With your caring, concern and dedication you set a wonderful example to all the citizens of Naperville.

This year's top collectors include Nancy Marinello, \$1,432.06; Mike McGrath, \$1,402; Phil Maughan, \$1,236.37; Mary Lou Miller, \$1,135; Lou Keltzo, \$1,084.73; Barney Siwek, \$950.00; Bill Archer, \$864.19; Armanino, \$832.38; Wayne Milligan, \$787.30; Joe Marinello, \$747.50; Julie Berkowicz, \$726.00; Nina Petru, \$646.00; George Hogrewe, \$603.38. and many more. The top teams were Team Hoy, \$5,000.87; and Team Ace, \$2,023.45. A big thank you to all who participated.

Auxiliary Member of the Month

As our Auxiliary marks 70 years since the signing of our charter, it seemed a fitting time to look back and salute those who have helped to maintain and build this organization. Each month we hope to spotlight some of these unique individuals.

For our inaugural nomination we have chosen a woman who missed signing the original Auxiliary charter by only a few months. Virginia (Ginny) Arbogast was here at the beginning and continued through the ranks to eventually serve as District President. Her husband Ed, a World War II veteran, was also very active with the newly formed Post. Ginny was one of the original stalwarts who visited the veterans at Hines Hospital and the local nursing homes, a practice which we continue even today. With a mind like a meat slicer, she could analyze any situation and come up with the perfect solution, recalling details that many of us would have forgotten. We are extremely grateful for the time and effort she invested in laying the groundwork for making this Auxiliary the outstanding and forward thinking organization it is today.

Ginny Arbogast...we salute you!



VFW Auxiliary by President Kathy Thornton

Did you know the VFW Post #3873 has a Facebook page? If you are on Facebook, search for “VFW Naperville Judd Kendall Post 3873” and JOIN us and/or LIKE us! Or use whatever emoji you can think of. Just join us! Hearts are good. Also, our district (19) has a Facebook page: VFW 19th District Illinois. The more likes, the merrier!

I would like to take this opportunity to share a recent family experience: My niece, Sara Rechenmacher Plackett (fellow Auxiliary member) is married to Maj Tim Plackett. Tim is a trauma surgeon with the US Army and was on his 3rd deployment. Sara found out last minute that Tim was scheduled to return home the first week in June. She told their sons, Thomas (9) and Ayden (6) they were going on a top secret mission on the day of Tim’s scheduled return without revealing word of Tim’s homecoming to them. She planned an afternoon for the boys collecting clues from around the base (Fort Bragg). The boy’s last clue was at the airport. It was there they learned their dad was coming home! Mission accomplished! I want to thank Tim for his service and also Sara for holding down the fort while Tim was away. We are a grateful family and a grateful community. Be assured Tim is enjoying time with Sara and the boys. He will return to Womack Army Medical Center on base.



Major Tim Plackett and sons Ayden (left) and Thomas (right).

Please let us know your story!

Do you like to walk on the Riverwalk in the evenings? Why not stop by the Canteen (downstairs bar VFW) as you are out and about on the town? Quench your thirst and support the Post ... 2 birds kinda thing.

Lastly, a belated thank you to Sue Jelinek for orchestrating the kitchen and crew for the Memorial Day luncheon at the Post following the parade. I failed to add this to my last article. Much appreciated, Sue!

Judd-A-Thon

Our annual .1K is coming up on September 17. Please mark this on your calendar. We, as a Post, have a reputation to maintain as the largest contributor to the National Home for Children for the last couple of years now. So we want everyone to come participate in our .1K race, which benefits the National Home. Come in costume, come in running outfits, come in jeans or shorts. Just come. The National Home does so much good for families in the military who need a safe harbor to put their lives back on track. And our race is so much fun! So mark your calendars now. Invite your friends!

Hines Hospital Visits

The Chairman of the Hospital Committee, John Shaw would like to remind everyone that the Post visits the Hines VA Hospital every second Tuesday of the month. We will not be going in July and August, but our visits resume in September. We leave the post at 6:15 in the evening and return at approximately 9:15 PM. Transportation is provided. Everyone is invited. Why not come and spend some quality time with some very appreciative Veterans?

Canteen Hours

	Open	Close
Mon-Thurs	3:00 PM	10:00 PM/Midnight
Friday	Noon	10:00 PM/2:00 AM
Saturday	Noon	10:00 PM/2:00 AM
Sunday	Noon	5:00 PM/6:00 PM

If at anytime between the first close hour and the second close hour listed above, there are no more than four customers in the Canteen, the bartender will give a last call and close the Canteen 15 minutes later.

NO ONE is allowed behind the bar, except the Bartenders. This includes any children in the bar!

Remember: THE BARTENDER IS BOSS!

Submission Policy

The Kendall Gram encourages Post members to submit articles and photos. Simply give the article or photo to the on-duty bartender. It is important that you put your name and phone number on the item in case there are any questions. Please ensure that names are legible. Your article may be edited for clarity and space considerations. All photos MUST have the following information with it: where and why the picture was taken, and who is in the picture. Photographs without captions will not be used. Please submit all articles by the tenth of the month for next month's publication.

Kendall-Gram

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Facebook: Naperville VFW Judd Kendall 3873

Judd Kendall Post 3873 Officers

Commander	Tom Parker	280-9347
Sr. Vice Commander	Pablo Araya	312-505-4377
Jr. Vice Commander	Dave Angelus	596-3245
Quartermaster	Phil Maughan	383-1974
Ass't Quartermaster	John Shaw	961-3479
Ass't Quartermaster	Terry Jelinek	357-5366
Adjutant	Brian Byrne	901-6758
Judge Advocate	Jeff Martinez	205-9364
Surgeon	Bill Howland	369-0087
Service Officer	Mike Barbour	240-1645
Officer of the Day	Lou Kuelczo	898-8760
Guard	Tom Scott	815-577-7748
Chaplain	Mark Anderson	815-806-5590

Trustees

1 year	Llyod McKee	922-8804
2 year	Bob Bronson	978-2143
3 year	Ron Beata	717-9007

Committee

Americanism		
Blood Drive		
Buddy Poppy		
Building		
Color Guard		
Eighth Grade Awards		
Facilities Manager		
Grounds		
Honor Guard		
Hospital		
House		

Chairman

Chairman	Phone
Nina Petru	871-9596
Bill Wood	420-2367
Mike Rechenmacher	961-1377
Jim Sarns	234-6292
Tom Benton	579-8514
Ken Garhan	355-2493
Phil Maughan	357-3440
Jim Oftedal	357-4030
John Shaw	961-3479
Bob Colby	
Bob Talon	357-8134
Scott Holley	708-287-5590

Membership	Pablo Araya	312-505-4377
Legislative	Frank Haynes	357-2906
National Home	Mike McGrath	357-2680
Patriot's Pen	Hugh Boger	317-417-8301
Public Relations	Mike Barbour	240-1645
Running Team	Rebecca Hirst	
Safety	Mike McGrath	357-2680
Scout Liaison	Todd Schuneman	815-791-4178
Social Media	Dave Angelus	596-3245
Voice of Democracy	Thys Vandervelde	708-927-0317

Auxiliary Officers

President	Kathy Thornton	355-6704
Sr Vice President	Jan Barbor	
Junior Vice President	Lucy Hoy	355-9799
Treasurer	Kathy McNally	305-8157
Secretary	Nancy Marinello	
Chaplain	Berni Budny	
Guard	Mary Lou Miller	
Conductress	Dorothy Kulir	

Veterans Of Foreign Wars
Judd Kendall Post 3873
908 W Jackson
Naperville, IL 60540

PRESORT STANDARD
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John Shaw distributing poppies in the rain!



Mayor Steve Chirico and his wife Julie distribute poppies.



Lloyd McKee distributing poppies



Lucy Hoy, Maureen Matuszewski, Tess and Mary Matuszewski at Casey's.



George Pradel and his daughter Carol.