

THE

A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



KENDALL-GRAM



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March 2018

Commander Tom Parker



In addition to the work we do each year to help veterans and to maintain a visible presence in the community, there are programs we sponsor that promote patriotism in our schools. These programs receive much less fanfare than the visits to schools we conduct on Veterans Day, but they are no less important. Two of those programs are Voice of Democracy (VOD) and Patriot's Pen. For those that aren't aware, both of these are scholarship competitions where winners receive monetary awards beginning at the Post level and they can receive higher awards if they progress to the District, State, and National level. The VOD audio essay competition is for high school students and the Patriot's Pen written essay competition is for junior high/middle school students. Both programs have patriotic themes each year and they are designed to allow our young people to reflect on the heritage and sacrifices that have been made to make this country so great. Each year our VOD Chairman, Thys Vandervelde, and our Patriot's Pen Chairman, Hugh Boger diligently work behind the scenes with their Auxiliary counterparts to ensure local schools are aware of the programs, know the eligibility criteria, and understand how easy it is to participate. We had 15 entries for VOD this year, which is a record number and as in the past, there were hundreds of Patriot's Pen entries. I participated in the judging of these programs and was in awe of the quality of the essays submitted and the students' understanding of the patriotism and sacrifices that occur to make America what it is today.

Another program we sponsor in the schools is a Teacher of the Year program. This program recognizes teachers for their commitment to include Americanism and Patriotism into their daily curriculum. Like the scholarship programs mentioned above, we select winners at the Post level and forward their information to District where they will be included in the State and hopefully, National level competitions. This year we recognized an outstanding high school teacher from Metea Valley High School and two teachers from Kennedy Junior High School. All three do a tremendous job of incorporating Americanism and Patriotism into their daily studies for their students.

When I first joined the Post many years ago and was looking for a way to help out, these are the programs I chose to become involved in. They allowed me to make a contribution to the organization and with two younger kids, they allowed me to be involved with something in the schools that my kids attended. For anyone looking for a way to help out at the Post and to make a difference with our youth, think about getting involved with these programs. It doesn't require a great deal of time and the rewards far outweigh any work that's required.

Senior Vice Commander Pablo Araya

By the time this edition of the KendallGram hits the newsstands in March, I expect to be very close to 99% of our membership goal. Why? Because as I write this column, we are nearly at 97%, and I know that many of you who have not renewed will do so in the coming weeks. Consider upgrading to a Life Membership, and never having to worry about renewing dates and goals again. Ninety-seven percent is a good number this early in the year, though not nearly good enough to hit goal early, as I'd like to see us do. Listed below are new members in our Post. If you happen to run into them, please take the opportunity to introduce yourself and to welcome them to Judd Kendall Post 3873:



Fernando Chacon, USA OIF
Oliver Dugard, USMC Desert Storm/Desert Shield
William Collins, USAF Vietnam
Richard Jodlowski, USN Vietnam

Junior Vice Dave Angelus

I am being optimistic and welcoming 2018 with open arms. Our annual Lenton Fish Fries are underway. They will run every Friday through March 30. As usual each week will feature a service night. We will also host the Blind Unit as well. For 2018 we do not have any early bird specials and have changed the time to 4:30-7:30 PM. To assist with the work each week we will be coordinating again with local high schools, Boy Scout troops, Sea Cadets, and local soft ball teams. The Post was able to make some changes last year and increase profitability and we hope to keep up the trend for 2018.

Citizen of the Year

Naperville American Legion Post 43 began naming a Citizen of the Year in 1986. Three years ago the program was expanded to consider naming a Citizen of the Year in up to three categories— Service to the Community, Service to Youth, and Service to Veterans.

We are again asking for community assistance to identify deserving candidates in each category and we especially want input from our own Legion and VFW members.

Nominees must be Naperville residents; and their service must have been performed in a volunteer capacity, rather than as part of compensated employment.

Anyone may nominate a candidate by sending a letter or email that includes a comprehensive description of the services the nominee performed, the time frame, duration, and significance of the service to others, and the category they are being nominated for, along with the name and contact information for the nominee and the person offering the nomination. Letters from others endorsing the nominee are encouraged.

Naperville is blessed with people who serve their fellow citizens. Typically, the judges have a very difficult task. Comprehensive information-attachments and endorsements may be included-are of great help to them in selecting the winners. They may be mailed to American Legion Post 43, Citizen of the Year, Post Office Box 4, Naperville, 60566 or emailed to vahlej@comcast.net to arrive by March 27, 2018.

Winners will be announced in the local media and honored at the Legion's Awards and Recognition Banquet on April 21, 2018.

So, fire up your keyboard; sharpen your pencil; and make sure the selection committee knows about your candidate.

Questions? Contact *Jim Vahle* (630) 864-7183 vahlej@comcast.net



Name: Douglas R. Deetjen,

Rank: BT-3

Branch of Service: U. S. NAVY

Age: 71

Total Years Served: 3 yrs 8 mon. 21 days

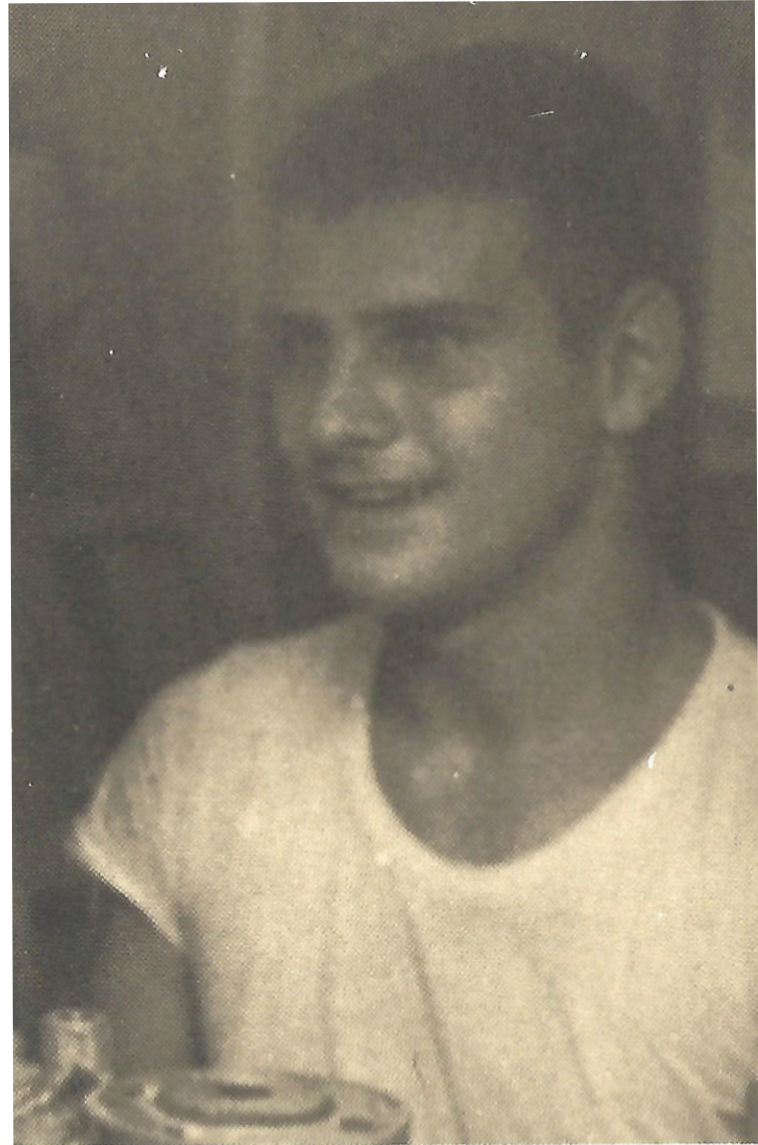
Served From: 10-28-63 to 7/18/67 28 OCT 1963

Places Served: Great Lakes Boot Camp, graduated 24 JAN 1964. 28 JAN 1964 USS left Great Lakes and flew to San Diego to Clark Air Force Base. Bus to Subic Bay Philippines. Oiler to Oriskany, highlined in basket ship to ship – Oriskany to Subic Bay back to San Diego, arrived March 10, 1964. Left for Bremerton, Washington for overhaul. Took bricks from boiler boxes, rebricked, clean tube and repacked valves, fixed pumps, complete overhaul in dry dock. End of August completed. Back to San Diego, then off to Hawaii for operation readiness inspection, left for first mission to Viet Nam arrived May 8, 1965. Left Viet Nam on November 26, 1965. Within that cruise we did 12,000 combat sorties. Arrived San Diego on December 16, 1965, small overhaul in California. April 1966 amphibious exercise. May 26, 1966 left for 2nd tour of Viet Nam. South Viet Nam Coast to Yankee Station between the Red Chinese Island of Hainan and the Coast of North Viet Nam near Haiphong. October 26, 1966 Ship Fire, 44 shipmates died. Went to Subic Bay on October 28, 1966 – sent bodies to the States. Ship returned to San Diego, CA on November 22, 1966 for extensive repair. May 27, 1967 to Independence Day. Got out July 18, 1967

Job or Specialty: My Job was boiler tender and boiler repair and station 7 refueling, top watch, smoke watch and main control watch over boilers.

My fondest memory was working with the great men I served with.

Quote: “GOD BLESS AMERICA”



Editor's Note: Due to a computer hard drive crash, I could not produce a February Kendall-Gram. First time in 19 years I missed an issue. Hopefully it will never happen again. We are playing catch up with this issue.

Dates to Remember

March 1 - Legion Meeting 7 PM	March 16 - Fish Fry 4:30-7:30 PM, USMC and Navy to assist
March 2 - Fish Fry 4:30-7:30 PM	March 17- St Patricks Day
March 3 - Visit Vets at Monarch Landing, 10 AM	March 17 - Visit vets at Independence Village 10 AM
March 6 - Hines Community Outreach here - 9-1:30 PM	March 17 - Legion Dinner, 6 PM
March 7 - Free Yoga for Vets, 9:30 AM	March 21 - Free Yoga for Vets 9:30 AM
March 7 - Auxiliary Visit to Mill Street 2 PM	March 23 - Fish Fry 4:30 - 7:30 PM, Army and Air Force to assist
March 8 - VFW Meeting 7 PM	March 24 - Visit Vets at Harbor Chase 10 AM
March 9 - Fish Fry 4:30-7:30 PM, Air Force to assist	March 28 - Free Yoga for Vets 9:30 AM
March 10 -St. Patrick's Day Parade	March 30 - Fish Fry 4:30 - 7:30 PM - All Services assist
March 11 - Daylight Savings Time Begins	March 31 - Passover
March 13 - Visit to Hines Hospital 6:15 PM	March 31 - Easter Egg Hunt 11 AM
March 14 - Free Yoga for Vets, 9:30 AM	
March 15 - Auxiliary Meeting, 7 PM	

National Home by Mike McGrath

The beginning: In 1922 a young girl named Amy Ross asked the VFW to help find jobs for the then many thousands of veterans who were walking the streets looking for work. Subsequently through her efforts along with the Cootie Organization, 5000 soldiers found jobs. In 1924, millionaire Cary Spenser donated land near Eaton Rapids MI for a National Home to help veterans and their families. The articles of incorporation were signed on January 7, 1925. The National Home was a place where families left behind by war could remain together when their servicemen did not come home.

The first residents : Unfortunately when a retired Sgt. named Edward Pollett was killed in an traffic accident in Detroit on March 2, 1925, his wife and their 6 children ages 2 - 15 were left destitute as Sgt. Pollett's retirement pay stopped upon his death. Fortunately for them on March 9, 1925, Mrs Pollett and her 6 children were able to enter the new National Home as the first residents. And thus the VFW National Home for Children began its tradition of honoring the dead by helping the living.

The present: Although Amy Ross tragically passed away in 1924 her dream lives on today. Veterans and their families who face difficulties are receiving help today as they did in the past. And as today's families face challenges like reintegration, P.T.S.D. , unemployment and rehabilitation from battlefield injuries, the VFW National Home for Children continues to meet the changing needs of today's military and veterans families.

Thank you all and we are grateful for your support

Past National Officer passes away

Dr. Raymond Schlueter was a two time National VFW Surgeon General and 25 year State Surgeon with the Dept. of IL VFW, who recently passed away. He was currently a Life Member of Judd Kendall VFW #3873 in Naperville, IL. Our sympathy goes out to his family.

Post Member Recognition

On a brighter note, Past State Commander Phil Maughan was recently elected as President of the State VFW Foundation. The foundation is a 501c3, associated with the VFW State office and proceeds are used to help Veterans. Phil is a life member of our Post and is also the post Quartermaster.

Post Past Commander and current Service Officer Mike Barbour will be the featured speaker at the Strength and Honor Luncheon sponsored by Naperville Responds for Veterans. Tickets are available on the Naperville Responds website.

Quilts of Valor

Since 2003, more than 178,000 handmade Quilts of Valor have been presented “to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing.” Three quilts were presented at our post to WWII veterans in their nineties, George Hogrewe, Bill Howland and Dick McLaughlin. A small luncheon was prepared for the special guests and also welcomed post officers Tom Parker, Pablo Araya and Phil Maughan plus veterans Mike McGrath and Ron Beata.



Veterans honor veterans.

picture by Stephanie Pennick

Our VFW Auxiliary awarded the quilts crafted and given by the National Quilts of Valor as a small thank you for the veteran’s patriotism, courage and military service. Each quilt was specially designed with patriotic themes. Lucy Hoy wrapped a quilt around Dick McLaughlin who enlisted in the Navy at age seventeen. Tita McLaughlin presented a quilt to Bill Howland for his years of service in the Army. Marcy Maughan bestowed a quilt to George Hogrewe who also served in the Navy.

Our post Auxiliary plans to award quilts to other deserving veterans in the future.

Auxiliary Report by Kathy Thornton, President

Each year, more than 3,500 high school students from across the country participate in the VFW Auxiliary’s Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. Students in grades 9-12 (public, private, parochial high school and home schooled students) are eligible to enter. Draw (no pun intended) your inspiration from someone you are related to or use your patriotic imagination. Applicants/artists do not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate, but the student must attend school in the same state as the sponsoring VFW Auxiliary. The first place winner from each state competes for national awards totaling \$21,000!

Go to vfwauxiliary.org and click on “scholarships” for more information on requirements and submission to this exciting opportunity. Entries are judged on the originality of concept, presentation and patriotism expressed; content of how it relates to patriotism and clarity of ideas; design technique; total impact of work; and uniqueness. Last year’s winners are displayed on the Auxiliary site.

There are some incredible entries that you must view for yourself. Our youth today have a lot of patriotic spirit that is revealed in their works of art! March 31, 2018 is the deadline to enter/hand in your artwork to your local VFW Auxiliary. Any questions, contact kmrthornton@sbcglobal.net or go to the website vfwauxiliary.org.

Ready Vet Run

This is a late submission from November’s Naperville Noon Lions 5K Turkey Trot. The Post was once again represented by Judge Advocate Jeff Martinez, Quartermaster Phil Maughan and Sr. Vice P. Araya.

The next team event will be the St. Paddy’s Day 5k on March 10.





Egg-citing News! Easter Egg Hunt at the Post!

When: Saturday, March 31 at 11 a.m.

Where: Starts on the porch at the Post.

Will have pizza on the porch,
followed by egg hunt on the front lawn!

Who is invited? family of Post/Auxiliary members

Please RSVP by March 26 to kathymcnally@wowway.com

Or call her at 708.642.5986

Sponsored by VFW Post and Eggs-iliary #3873!

Auxiliary Member of the Month-March

It's only fair that our March Auxiliary Member of the Month be half of a wonderful love story. Since leaving a successful career in Environmental law, **Nancy Marinello** has found more than one way to stay busy. She has taken on the monumental task of Auxiliary Secretary (and believe me, I know what I am talking about) and has moved us into the 21st century, by taking minutes on her laptop and sending them out by email. She also shouldered the job of Poppy Princess and has increased the program in size and donations. Each weekend she joins husband Joe and other veterans as they have coffee with the veterans living in local senior care facilities. But her biggest responsibility seems to be keeping Joe out of mischief. Who can forget his dancing to "I'm Just a Love Machine". Great work, Nancy.



VFW Auxiliary by President Kathy Thornton

Are you on Facebook?? So are we! Do a search for VFW Post #3873 Auxiliary and LIKE US, please! We will also post events on this site as well (this will cut down on my emails haha). Why wouldn't you join? Special shout out to Auxiliary member, Kristen Jungles for designing and promoting our Facebook page. Fish Fries at the Post have starting up again. from 430 to 730 PM., through March 30. ALL ARE WELCOME. You don't have to be a member to attend our Friday night fish fries.

Are you related to someone who served in the military on foreign soil? Perhaps your spouse, parent(s), grandparent(s), child(ren), grandchild(ren) or sibling(s)? If you are, then please consider joining the VFW Post #3873 Auxiliary. Applications are online (napervfw3873.org, click on Auxiliary bullet on the left side). Or stop by the bar, as there are applications there as well. What a wonderful way to honor your family member's service.

Belated thanks: thank you to all who donated to our very successful Turkey Raffle Auxiliary Raffle. And thanks to those who attended. Lots of turkeys at the Post that night!

Keep in mind our monthly events: Bingo (1st Wednesday) at Mill Street 2 pm; Hines visit (2nd Tuesday), bus leaves the Post at 6:15 PM Yoga (Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am); Auxiliary meeting (3rd Thursday) 7 PM upstairs at the Post; and Life Member Breakfast (2nd Sunday – even months only) at 9:30 am upstairs.