

THE

A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



KENDALL-GRAM



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May 2018

Commander Tom Parker



As we enter May, it appears that Spring may finally be here. Along with that comes one of our busiest months of the year. Near the end of the month we will once again observe Memorial Day and participate in the many activities that we are so well known for in the community. Our Poppy Drive will kick off the week and will be followed by the placing of American flags at the gravesites of veterans in our local cemeteries. Then on Memorial Day we will once again conduct numerous ceremonies throughout Naperville, lead the highly attended Memorial Day parade, hold a short ceremony at the band shell, and conclude with lunch at the Post. It will be a full week and I'm sure other sections of the Kendall Gram will outline some of the events.

While attending a memorial service earlier today for members of the VFW and Auxiliary that have passed away in the past year, I found myself reflecting on who the many people whose names were read might have been and what they might have been like. I'll probably never know the answers to those questions, but I do know that they were men and women who, like me, had chosen at one point to serve in the military. Some may have made a career out of the military and others may have served for only a few years. Whatever the time frame, they did serve and made the same commitment and sacrifices for our country that we all made at one time. In speaking with veterans, I've found that most downplay what they did while serving, sharing a few stories and indicating that they didn't really do anything special. They just did their jobs and eventually moved on to civilian pursuits and raising families. I mention this because I think it's important, especially this month, to pause and think about the many veterans who are no longer with us. These men and women were very much like us. They were "ordinary" people who chose to put on the uniform and to serve wherever they were told to go. I would argue that none of them just did their job. They all played their own special part in making this country what it is today and it is because of their efforts that we enjoy the freedoms and lifestyles that we do.

As I indicated at the beginning of this column, we have a busy time ahead of us in May and I ask that all of you make an effort to come out to help. Sign up for a block of time during the Poppy Drive, join us for the ceremonies on Memorial Day morning, or just come out and walk in the parade with us. And if you find that you can't make it out to one of the events, I ask that you take some time this month to remember our many brothers and sisters in arms who are no longer with us. They probably weren't very different from you and me, yet they did something that even today only a small percentage are willing to do. For their service and sacrifice, we at least owe them that much.

As an additional note, we held elections for the 2018-2019 slate of officers at our April meeting. The Installation Ceremony/Dinner for these officers will be held at 5 PM on May 20th at the Post. Dinner will cost \$5 per person and all are invited to attend. A listing of these officers will be included in next month's Kendall Gram and they will begin their duties at the conclusion of the State Convention in June.

Senior Vice Commander Pablo Araya

By the time you are reading this, I firmly believe we will be at 100% of membership. Which is great if you are happy with making the minimums. But our goal has been this year to hit 125%, or more. We need about ten new members to make that happen. At 120% we maintain our run of All State Post...and at 125% we achieve All Universe Post. Okay, I made that last one up, but what good is being an over achieving Post, if we don't aim high!? So I need everyone to recruit a new member, and if your renewal dues are up in the next couple of months, pay up now, and you'll help achieve that goal.



Which brings me to the real reason we exist and we fight to make goal. Sure, there are bragging right, but never forget, that we are a Veterans organization made up of survivors, who have a duty to serve those that continue to serve and carry the baton of the next generation, as those that fell before us, and for us did. The 28th of May brings the most solemn day of remembrance for Veterans and this country. Make sure to take part in the many ceremonies, events and the Parade that this welcoming community holds in honor of those that have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms.

VFW National Home for Children 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. Many were homeless or in dire straits. Subsequently through her efforts, along with the Cootie Organization, a parcel of land of initially 472 acres was donated in 1924 for a National Home to help veterans and their families. The articles of incorporation were signed on January 7, 1925.

The First Residents

Unfortunately when a retired Sgt. named Edward Pollett was killed in an accident 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 need our 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

Plant Sale Pick-UP

If you ordered plants from the plant sale, pickup is Tuesday, May 8, from 1-6. Again I am appealing for help from everyone and anyone who could assist that day. The truck will arrive between 6:30 and 7 am and will need to be unloaded. We also need help from 8 am until 6 PM that night. to pull the orders and help people who are picking up to find their orders and load them in their cars.

Editor's Note: I apologize for the lateness of this month's Kendall-Gram. Computer problems including corruption in my operating system, (Windows 10) a virus, and other computer related glitches meant the computer had to go for repairs. I am hopeful this will not ever occur again.

**Veteran of the Month**

Name: Joe Bertetic
Rank: 1st Sargeant
Branch of Service: USMC
Current Age: 70
Total Years Served: 20
Served from: 1966-1989
Places Served: West Coast

Job or Specialty: Parachute Rigger
 Fondest Memory While Serving: Meeting my wife

**MEMORIAL DAY MAY 28 2018**

- SCHEDULE:**
- 0745 Services at City Hall at 911 Memorial
 - 0815 Services at Veterans Park
 - 0835 Services at Burlington Square
 - 0900 Services at S.S. Peter & Paul Cemetery
 - 0915 Pit Stop at American Legion Hall
 - 0945 Services at G.A.R. Monument
 - 1015 Advance section of parade steps off
 - Services at Riverwalk Memorial
 - 1315 Services at Blackhawk/Silver Star Memorials

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: This year we will be limited as to the number of cars available for veterans. That being the case if you do not sign up through me in advance there will not be a car for you and you will have to ride the Trolley. If you want a car, contact me (Terry Jelinek, 630-357-5366). I will need the following: Name, Branch of Service and Era. We will make every effort to get this information on a car but there is no guarantee. If you want to ride with another vet then please provide their information as well. If you have not registered by May 21st your name will not be on the list for the drivers and there will NOT be a car for you at the start of the parade.

GENERAL INFORMATION: There will be no parking in the VFW lot until after 11 a.m. Please be at City Hall by 0730 so we can get started on time. There will be trolley's there to take you to the other services (parking at City Hall will be convenient and the trolley will take you from the final service at Central Park back to your vehicle). Lunch will again be available after our final services. We will have the Fifty flag unit and honor guard from The Navy Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes. They will be given head of the line privilege so that they can get back to Great Lakes.

Hope you can all attend. Memorial Day in Naperville is a respectable and honored event.

Dates to Remember:

May 2 - Free Yoga for vets 9:30 am
May 3 - American Legion Meeting, 7 PM
May 5 - DuPage Honor Flight fundraiser, 11 a.m.
May 8 - Taco Tuesday 5:30 - 7 PM
May 8 - Plant Sale pick up day 1-6 PM
May 8 - Hines Hospital Visit, bus leaves at 6:15 p.m.
May 9- Free Yoga for Vets, 9:30 a.m.
May 10- VFW Meeting 7 PM
May 12 - Blood Drive, 0730 to 1330
May 12- Visit with the Vets At Brookdale, 10 a.m.
May 13 - Mother's Day

May 16 - Free Yoga for Vets 9:30 a.m.
May 17- Auxiliary Meeting,- 7 PM
May 19 - Coffee with the Vets at Independence Village
May 19- District Social, 5 PM Must have reservations!
May 20 - District Meeting
May 20 - Installation Dinner, 5 PM, \$5 per person
May 21-28 Poppy Days
May 23 - Free Yoga for Vets, 9:30 a.m.
May 25 - Placement of flags at SS Peter and Paul cemetery 9 a.m.
May 26 - Flag Placement at Naperville Cemetery, 9 a.m.
May 26 - Coffee with the Vets at Harbor Chase 10 a.m.
May 28 - Memorial Day
May 29- Flag pickup at SS Peter and Paul Cemetery, 8 a.m.
May 30 - Free Yoga for Vets, 9:30 a.m.

We need YOU for Buddy Poppy Days!

Memorial Day is not far away, and we need your help for our Buddy Poppy Days fund raiser. This is one of our biggest fund raisers of the year. It supplies the funds we need to support the many programs we do throughout the year, like scholarships, school awards, Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy, Boy Scout Troop 111, Sea Cadets, and many more. The contributions we make to the many veteran and community organizations that we support would also not be possible without the funds we get from our Buddy Poppy Day activities. But this fund raiser is completely dependent on YOU, the members of our post and Auxiliary, to help solicit donations from the members of our community.

We need you to sign up for as many slots as you can to help make this important fund raiser a success. You can stop by the canteen to sign up on the paper forms posted on the North wall, or you can sign up from anywhere by going online to:

<https://www.volunteersignup.org/F4MDW>

Pick up your poppies and a collection jug from the post the day before your shift. Expect to go through around 150 poppies in a two-hour shift. The day after, turn in your money to the bartender at the canteen. Please bring back your collection jug and any remaining poppies so that others may use them. See the Buddy Poppy link on the Judd Kendall web site for more information, or for contact information for the committee members: Bill Wood, Nancy Marinello, Julie Berkowicz and Bob Colby. Thank you for volunteering your precious time!

Quilts of Valor

This Friday the 13th surprised 3 of Judd Kendall's finest veterans with their presentations of Quilts of Valor. The specially created quilts by the Illinois chapter of the Q of V Foundation were bestowed to WWII vets Bill Dixon, Ken Garhan and Don O'Reilly. Wives Phyllis Dixon, Dorothy Garhan and friend Audrey Bueche bestowed the quilts preceded by a few words honoring each gentleman. Adding to the festivities, Audrey Bueche celebrated her 29th birthday that day.

It was a pleasure for Pablo Araya, Ron Beata, Lucy Hoy and Peggy Beata to participate in honoring these fine vets.





BE A WINNER !!! DONATE NOW !!!!
Saturday, May 12th from 0730 – 1330
You can call LifeSource at 1.888.427.4836
or log onto www.lifesource.org to schedule your appointment.
Of course the easiest way is to just walk in.

If you cannot make it to the drive, you can also donate at the Naperville Donor Center, which is located at 2702 Aurora Ave. (just down the street from Menard's).

By using Code 073C, the post will receive credit for your donation.

38,000 Blood Donations are needed each day. . . .See you there!

Auxiliary Member of the Month for May

May is a month to remember those who have fought and sacrificed for a worthy cause. This Auxiliary member of the month has also fought for a worthy cause...her own life. Cancer survivor **Berni Budny** now shares her knowledge and expertise with others. As Chaplain for our meetings I sometimes feel she has an extra connection when she offers the opening prayer. She also serves as our chair for the VFW Patriot's Pen contest where she organizes the judging of several hundred middle and junior high school essays and this year forwarded the essay that won second place at the District 19 level. She works tirelessly on the annual Turkey Raffle and other Auxiliary sponsored events. Berni is also responsible for Auxiliary Graves Registration and takes special care to assure that all of our departed members are honored and remembered. She consistently proves her commitment to our organization and to veterans everywhere. Thank you, Berni.



Honor Flight Report

Fifty-five Coloring contest pictures were done by kids at the Fish Fries frys, showing children holding a flag and a poppy will travel to DC on the May Honor Flight. Ages of the kids ranged from 2 years old (very Picasso-like) to 13. Once again the Naperville Fire Station 7 helped out and participated in the May Mail Call... they always come through for us. Thanks to Kathy Thorton and Kathy McNally for their ideas and help during our art work project.

Easter Egg Hunt

The weather was less than cooperative on Holy Saturday at the Children’s Easter Egg Hunt at the VFW...but our volunteers and guests enjoyed our typical Judd Kendall sunshine! Nearly 30 VFW and Auxiliary members’ children and grandchildren gathered on the Porch for Easter Egg Fun! We colored pictures to take home, we made and decorated a paper plate Easter basket which we used to gather all the eggs “hidden” on the front lawn. And there was pizza and snacks! Thanks to our Post Commander and Auxiliary President for hosting the fun party: another holiday activity for our youngsters and young family members here at the Post. Thanks to volunteers, especially Kathy McNally and Maryanne Groner, and junior helpers Aiden Delehanty and Carson McGrath. Thanks to all others who volunteered as well! Let’s do it again next year!



Karaoke Night by Kathy Thornton

Our recent Karaoke Night was a great success. A big shout out to Auxiliary member, Bertha Novaczyk who created some wonderful raffle prizes for the event. Raffle royalty rocked it! And thanks to Dar of DLN Floral Creations for her last minute addition to our raffle. My thanks to cooks: the Rechenmacher brothers, Don and Bob, and their wives, Linda and Robin, and their children for cooking and selling tickets the night of the event.

Folks sang their hearts out all night long. Some highlights of the evening: Jay Dawley’s rendition of “If I were a Rich Man” from Fiddler on the Roof. Daidle Deedle Daidle Jay, great job! And Navy Veterans (picture) singing “You’ve Lost that Lovin’ Feeling” from Top Gun. Way to rally the troops Mike Rechenmacher! Anchors Aweigh!

The event was held to raise funds to replace our existing grave flags. Since the integration of men into the Auxiliary, our grave flags had to reflect this change, which is a welcome change! (Good time to remind everyone we now accept men into our auxiliary, applications online!) Mission accomplished!

Thanks again to all who came out to play. Karaoke is good for the soul and just fun to do!



Navy Veterans



Some karaoke crooners! So much fun!

Memorial Day 2018 by Kathy Thornton

Memorial Day, formerly known as Decoration Day, commemorates all men and women who have died in military service for the United States. Please consider joining the Post and the Auxiliary for any of the activities planned for that weekend:

- Need volunteers to place flags on our deceased Auxiliary members' graves for Memorial Day. We will be doing the SSPP Cemetery on Friday, May 25 at 5p and the Naperville Cemetery on Saturday, May 26 at 830a.
- All Auxiliary members please consider marching (or riding the trolley) in the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, 5/28. Meet in the Beach parking lot at 10a to decorate the trolley. Kick off time is 10:30a. Blue shirts/white slacks attire, if you have them. We won't turn you away if you are wearing something else, just JOIN US! I would love to see our marching numbers grow!
- Poppy Sign Up at the Post. Consider donating your time for a couple of hours. 100% of all proceeds goes to the Post and the veteran's programs it supports.
- The Post is hosting an after parade luncheon for the Great Lakes cadets who marched in the parade. Need set up and clean up volunteers for this. Let me know if you can assist!

Please contact me at kmrthornton@sbcglobal.net to let me know your status for any of the above events. I look forward to hearing from you!

One last note: Congratulations to Marcy Maughan as the Kendall-Gram took first place in state (again!) this year! Well deserved, Marcy! Congratulation!

Taco Tuesday!!

When: Tuesday May 8th from 5:30PM – 7:00PM

Where: In the Canteen

What:

- Tacos from Pepe's will be sold 2 for \$5 (no single tacos)
- Beef or Chicken
- Drink Specials in the canteen! Beer and margaritas!!



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

Editor Marcy Maughan 357-3440

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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	Nina Petru	871-9596
Buddy Poppy	Bill Wood	420-2367
Building	Mike Rechenmacher	961-1377
Color Guard	Jim Sarns	234-6292
Eighth Grade Awards	Tom Benton	579-8514
Facilities Manager	Ken Garhan	355-2493
Grounds	Phil Maughan	357-3440
Honor Guard	Jim Oftedal	357-4030
Hospital	John Shaw	961-3479
House	Bob Colby	301-2664
	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	708-642-5986
Secretary	Nancy Marinello	
Chaplain	Berni Budny	
Guard	Mary Lou Miller	
Conductress	Dorothy Kulir	

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