

THE

A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



KENDALL-GRAM



Volume 17, Issue 8
August 2017

Commander Tom Parker



My wife and I will soon reach that point that many others have told us they can't wait to reach. We will soon be "empty nesters." Our youngest, my son, will be heading off to college this fall and will join his older sister at the University of Iowa. As the summer has progressed, the kids have been working or off doing things with their friends and my wife and I have had more and more occasions where we realize that being the only two in the house every day is about to become a reality. Along with that has come more and more opportunities to take a stroll down memory lane. As I'm sure most parents do at this point, I have thought back to when the kids were much younger and thought about many of the things they did over the years with their friends. Now I see a group of young adults heading out into the world to experience many of the wonders we all experienced at that age and I wonder how they'll figure it all out. I also see a new generation of young adults who are volunteering to be soldiers, airmen, sailors, and marines. Some of these are the same kids I watched grow up and cheered for at Park District soccer games and little league games. Now they are heading off to serve our country just as I did so many years ago.

These young people have made the same commitment we all made at some point. A commitment to serve our country, to defend our way of life, and to be willing to make sacrifices and decisions that the majority of Americans may never have to consider. For their willingness to take on such responsibility, we owe these young men and women a great deal of gratitude and support. That's one of the things we do best in our organization. Our door is always open to fellow veterans whether they just joined the military or served decades ago. For me, personally, I feel a bond with fellow veterans regardless of their age or branch, because we share something that people outside of the military will never know. There's a camaraderie that you don't experience in the civilian world. There's a certain ease of discussion when talking about places served, things that were done, and the obligatory inter-service taunting. There's also a special respect among fellow veterans that I don't think many feel in their 9 to 5 jobs.

The reasons for serving in the military are as varied as the individuals who serve. To us, it really doesn't matter. What does matter is that you are a fellow veteran and you'll always find friends at the Post. As the summer comes to an end, the kids head back to school, and life starts to calm down a little, please consider joining us for some of the events this fall, especially our younger members. Try to attend one meeting in the coming months or just stop by the canteen one evening after work or school. I know life gets pretty busy sometimes, but taking a few minutes to hang out with fellow veterans can be fun and can restore that sense of camaraderie that you may not have felt in a while.

Sr. Vice Commander Pablo Araya

As I write this month's Kendall-Gram submission, my mind is occupied with all the anxieties that come with anticipated international travel. Renae and I head out tomorrow for a week in London, followed by a week in Ireland. I'd like to say I'm visiting the 'Old Sod,' but I'd be about 7,500 miles off course! Regardless, it should be a good break from the routine, and we hope to see a lot of historical sites and make new friends along the way. When we return, it will be back to business. I will be hitting the new membership year goals with vigor. The Post came up short last year by a measly 2 (plus) percent. That ain't going to happen this year! As Harry Truman famously stated, "The Buck Stops Here." I took last year's miss personally, and can tell you, I will do everything to not only achieve 100%, but surpass that figure, and get it done well short of the June deadline. So gird yourselves now, and prepare to be contacted by me personally to pay your dues, convert to a Life Member or bring in a new recruit, or two. Together, we can do this. Fly Navy!



Combined Marine/WWII Veteran Color Guard:

On June 30, just as the Exchange Club was about to kick off this year's RibFest with their headliner, and country great, Toby Keith, three Judd Kendall WWII Veterans quietly assembled at the Post. They were early, as expected, and dressed in their VFW colors and covers. At 1900 sharp, they were outside Toby's trailer at Knoch Park. Several of his "roadies," and other folks came up to the three, and shook their hands, thanking them for their service.

Fifteen minutes before his scheduled opening number, the USMC Recruiting Command Color Guard, made up of four young Marines, were staged just off to the side of the main stage. Bill Howland, George Hogrewe and Don O'Reilly were introduced to the Marines and a quick plan was formulated to include the WWII Veterans with the Marines on stage. With ten minutes to go, the Color Guard was announced and onto the stage they marched. The crowd of about 30,000 went crazy.



Then the three Post 3873 Life Members marched out and stood in between each Marine. The crowd really showed some enthusiasm! The emcee then introduced Bill, George and Don to the screaming crowd, and the roar was deafening. The National Anthem was sung, the Marines stood at attention and the three WWII Vets saluted smartly. After marching off stage, Toby Keith introduced himself to each Veteran, said a few choice words and handed them his Challenge Coin. The Coin is inscribed on one side with the words, "Big Throw Down Tour, Shock'n Y'all," and "Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue," on the other side. It was a night to remember for all who witnessed it.

Judd-A-Thon:

In only two short months, we will once again be holding the world famous 0.1K Judd-A-Thon. If you haven't begun training, you need to start. But more importantly, we need to stave off complacency. Yes, this will be our fourth year, and each of the previous years has been more successful than the prior year in the amount raised for our National Home. But this year we are well behind schedule. So please, if you signed up a sponsor last year, ask them for their 2017 donation. Remind them of all the great work the National Home does, and what a sense of accomplishment they get when crossing that mobile Finish Line! And don't just sign yourself up for the event, but spread the wealth - register your grandparents, your kids, your co-workers, your spouses and your friends and neighbors. Let's make the check that the Cdr. Tom Parker presents to the National Home in September the biggest one yet!

Promotion for Mark Overstreet

On July 1, 2017, LtCdr. Mark Overstreet, a life member of Judd Kendall Post 3873, was promoted to Commander, US Navy. He is the Commanding Officer, Office of Naval Intelligence 0682, a 35-person Reserve Unit drilling in Millington, TN, which supports the Office of Naval Intelligence, in Suitland, MD. The newly minted Commander makes his home in Naperville, and as a Reservist, his actual Unit, and members are not readily available in Naperville.

Subsequently, Cdr. Overstreet asked the Judd Kendall's Sr. Vice Commander to administer the Oath of Reaffirmation of Office. The ceremony was held at the Dan Shanower Memorial, appropriately, as Commander Shanower was also an Intelligence Officer. Dan Shanower's mother and brother, Pat and Jon, also attended the brief ceremony.

Afterwards, Commander Overstreet hosted a "wetting down" of sorts, at a nearby restaurant. So the next time you see Commander Overstreet at the Post, give him a congratulatory salute, and ask him, "Can I buy you a beer, Skipper?"



Natalie Overstreet, daughter of the Commander, and his wife Paula place the Commander's epaulets on Mark's uniform.

Dates to Remember

Aug 1 - Hines Community Outreach at Post 9-2 PM
 Aug 2 - Yoga for Vets 9:30 a.m.
 Aug 3 - Legion Meeting 7 PM
 Aug 4 US Coast Guard Established, 1790
 Aug 5 -Visit Vets at Monarch Landing 10 a.m.
 Aug 6 - National Home .1K in Michigan
 Aug 7 - Purple Heart Medal established in 1782
 Aug 9 - Yoga for Vets 9:30 a.m.
 Aug 10 - VFW Meeting 7 p.m.

Aug 12 - Visit Vets at Brookdale 10 a.m.
 Aug 16 - Yoga for Vets 9:30 a.m.
 Aug 16 - NATIONAL AIRBORNE DAY
 Aug 17 - Auxiliary meeting, 7 p.m.
 Aug 19 - Visit Vets at Independence Village
 Aug 20 - Life member breakfast 9 a.m.
 Aug 23 - Yoga for Vets 9:30 a.m.
 Aug 26 - Visit Vets at Harbor Chase 10 a.m.
 Aug 29 - Taco Tuesday, 5:30 - 7 p.m.

**Veterans Complaint Line by Mike Barbour**

The new White House Veterans Complaint Line went live on June 1st. What will it do? The phone line **855-948-2311** is designed to collect, process and respond to the complaints of individual Veterans in a responsive, timely and accountable manner according to Dept. of Veterans Affairs officials.

VA Secretary David Shulkin described the initial roll out of the line as a soft launch, with "live answer agents" receiving and processing some of the calls. He promised that by August 15th, the hotline will have continuous coverage from a live operator 24 hours a day, every day of the week.

If you have problems with the VA and feel it is not being handled through normal channels such as the Patient Advocate at Hines, Jesse Brown or the VA facility in the area, you live call the hotline number and express your concerns or complaint.

Junior Vice Commander Dave Angelus

On Sunday we dropped off my oldest at Girl Scout camp for the week. I was pleasantly surprised to find out that they make them clean the lodge daily, make their beds, clean up camp, and practice good personal hygiene. While not quite the same level of stress as Marine Corps boot camp, I was happy to hear that they do instill some discipline in the campers at an early age and make them work as a team. I am completely convinced that some discipline at an early age sets the stage for success later in life. I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and has plenty of actives planned to stay active.



Before we know it, the annual Judd-A-Thon and Turkey raffle will be here. We are looking to top the amount last year for donations but need everyone's support. We have gone to great lengths this year to make it easier for sponsors and individuals to sign up this year. We have combined all the forms into one pamphlet this year. Please encourage all your friends, family, neighbors, companies to sign up. The forms are at the Canteen and on our website.

The VFW National Home for Children Community Celebration by Mike McGrath

As another school year has come to a close, a great time was had at the annual Community Celebration in June at our National Home. The kids had a great time and earned lots of awards for their efforts during the school year. Please visit the web site for pictures and details. www.vfwnationalhome.org

And get ready for the National Home's first annual .1K FunRun which will be on Sunday, August 6, at the Home. Sounds like a fun time to me. You can sign up on the National Home's website.

Our own Judd- a-Thon will be on Sunday, September 17 at 10:01 a.m and Illinois Day at the National Home will be on Saturday September 23. Information and sign up sheets are available at the post. for the Judd-aThon, or you can sign up online at napervfw3873.org. under Judd-a-thon.

Auxiliary Member of the Month

The success of any volunteer organization of course is due to the commitment of its members. Our VFW Auxiliary continues to grow and evolve in large part due to people like this month's Auxiliary Member of the Month, Dorothy Garhan. An Auxiliary member for over 30 years, Dorothy has worn many hats and at one time or another filled most of the officers' chairs while declining the role of President. She has kept our records and progressive direction through her historical knowledge and good old common sense. You will find her and her veteran husband, Ken, at nearly every post event and when the names of the raffle winners are called, she will most likely be among them. Thank you, Dorothy for all you do for our veterans.

**Midwest Shelter**

On July 11, 2017, Dorothy Kulir of the Judd Kendal VFW Auxiliary's Veterans and Family Support Committee delivered another car load of goodies to the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans in Wheaton. Items included brand new turbo convection ovens, a toaster, drying mats, and much more as seen in a photo taken at the facility. Our June Auxiliary collection for the shelter included the much need boxes of trash bags. This was the first time we included 9-bags of gently used clothing. The shelter is once again thankful for all the contributions brought to them.



Kathy Thornton, President of VFW Post #3873 Auxiliary

I recently had the honor of attending the dedication of the Homeland Security Education Center at the College of DuPage (COD). The building is dedicated in memory of SSG Robert J. Miller, who grew up in Wheaton and attended Wheaton North High School. The ceremony on July 6 was attended by Robert’s parents, Philip and Maureen Miller, as well as Gold Star families, families of COD alumni who have fallen while serving their communities in the military or as first responders, students, faculty, staff and members of the community.

Robert joined the U.S. Army in 2003. In 2007, he received 2 Army Commendation Medals of Valor for courage under fire after an eight-month deployment in Afghanistan. In January 2008, 8 months into his deployment in Afghanistan, he was killed in action. His final act of bravery saved the lives of 7 comrades and 15 Afghan soldiers. President Barack Obama awarded him the Medal of Honor posthumously in October 2010.

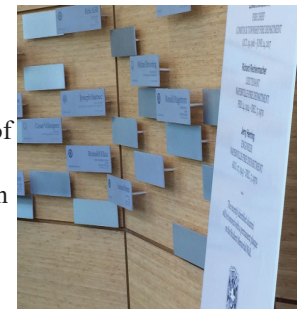
The SSG Robert J. Miller Homeland Security Education Center is a state-of-the-art facility that houses the College’s Criminal Justice and Fire Science/EMS programs. The College of DuPage Police Department and the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy are housed there as well. Additionally, a wall of honor (housed in the Education Center) listing COD alumni who gave their lives in service to country and community was dedicated. Among those alumni listed on the wall of honor were Naperville firefighters Richard Rechenmacher and Jerry Herring (who died in the line of duty in 1970). For more information about Robert and this memorial go to cod.edu and click on “News and Events”.

The quote “These acts shattered steel, but they cannot dent the steel of the American resolve” is etched on the wall next to an actual ibeam from the World Trade Center . The quote was from President George W. Bush’s address to the nation following the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

The Wall of honor depicts all COD alumni that have lost their lives in the line of duty.

The Firemen’s Color Guard presented the colors at the dedication of the SSG Robert J. Miller Homeland Security Education Center on July 6, 2017.

Out with the old and in with the new: I would normally be sending out renewal forms for 2018 Auxiliary dues, but there is a new online system in place that has replaced how we pay annual dues: the MALTA System. Stay tuned for more info on how to pay online via MALTA.



Kudos Due! Both the VFW Post #3873 Kendall Gram, edited by Marcy Maughan and the Noisy 19th newsletter , edited by George Craamer took first place at state in June at the VFW Convention. Kudos to our very own Auxiliary member Marcy Maughan. The award were very well deserved. Save the Dates: Flip Flop Dave returns October 7 at the Post. More info to follow in the next Kendall-Gram. Watch this space for our next “Painting on the Porch” night as well!!!!



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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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 Kueltz	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 Beatta	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	

Chairman

Phone

	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	

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

PRESORT STANDARD
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The flower beds at the VFW have done especially well this year and the lily blooms were profuse. They also gave off a wonderful fragrant aroma.