

# THE KENDALL-GRAM



Volume 19 Issue 12  
December 2019

**A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873**

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**FLY NAVY**

## Commander Pablo Araya



The year was 1987 and our Squadron Skipper had made arrangements to celebrate Thanksgiving in the ship's "Bowling Alley." No, the carrier did not have an actual bowling alley on board - that was the name given to the Captain's dining quarters aboard USS Midway (CV-41). We were a few months into our six-month Indian Ocean cruise and our C.O. had secured the Old Man's dining room for an HS-12 turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Not bad for a helicopter squadron surrounded by F-18 Top-Gun Go-Faster jockeys. Maybe the Navy Cross that our Skipper, Bill Young, earned during a combat SAR mission in Vietnam sealed the deal. Maybe it was because we had recently won the Top Torpedo Award among all the other WestPac helo squadrons. Or, maybe the Midway's Skipper just liked us! I don't know the reason, but I do know it was an unforgettable dinner. The camaraderie that night, combined with the blood, sweat, and tears of that long cruise, forged bonds that to this day, hold fast and firm. The petty gripes and grudges that develop among men in close quarters who are at sea for too long were nothing but bad memories that evening. A few weeks prior, we had lost AW2 Joe Pflaagar at sea after a catastrophic gearbox failure forced one of our helos into the drink on a moonless night in the middle of nowhere. A few weeks later, the boat's EA-6 Prowler squadron launched a plane with four pilots aboard and it was never heard from again. Ensign Dan Shanower was that squadron's Intel Officer. Dan would go on to pen a memorable article for the Navy magazine "Proceedings" in which he would memorialize his shipmates and coin the phrase, "Freedom isn't Free." But that Thanksgiving dinner seemed to turn the tide for us. We had new orders to relieve the Kitty Hawk and enter the Persian Gulf to join the largest Naval Battle Group since WWII. The Iranians were making trouble and President Reagan would have none of it. On Christmas Eve, Lee Greenwood landed on the Midway's deck, delivered backwards by a C-2 Greyhound. He performed a great USO show for the ship's crew and when he sang his signature song, "God Bless the USA," there was not a dry eye on the hangar deck.

Thirty-two years later, how different things are. My daughter, who was three years old and living on base with Renae in Atsugi, Japan back then, hosted Thanksgiving dinner at her home this year. Her husband and our one-and-a-half-year-old granddaughter helped whip up a sumptuous feast. And when we went around the table and gave thanks for the things we cherish, Joe, Dan, and the Prowler crew were front and center on my list of gratitude. They gave their last full measure of devotion, serving their country and their fellow countrymen. So, during this season of thanks, remember those that have served us proudly. Keep your family, your friends, our Post, and this country in your hearts. Give the rancor a day off.

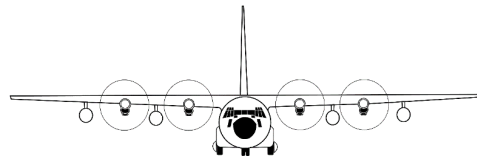
*And oh, by the way, **Fly Navy!** And **BEAT Army!***

**Senior Vice Commander****Brian Byrne**

December and the holidays are upon us. While many of us are focusing on completing the many tasks required to get ready for winter and the holiday season, let's not forget to pause and remember those who are deployed. They will be defending us and our way of life in many locations and countries that are far from home, instead of celebrating with their families here in the United States. I am sure we all remember Christmas while we were away. For me, I remember an unforgettable lamb roast in Iraq and because the CG would not let us patrol outside the wire, it was a double bonus for those of us in located in east Baghdad. I also remember the snow in Korea and how the thin air seemed to make my dental work freeze.

While you are out doing your holiday shopping and preparing for get togethers with friends and family, remember to keep an eye out for other veterans who may be interested in joining the Post. We are at 87% to our goal for membership this year, which means we still have some work to do to reach our goal.

I hope it's a Merry Christmas for everyone and Happy New Year to all!

**Junior Vice Commander****Todd Schuneman**

In 2013, the VA released a study that analyzed suicides from 1999 to 2010. The study determined that roughly 22 veterans were dying by suicide per day. This equates to roughly one suicide every 65 minutes. Some sources suggest that this rate may be undercounting suicides. Suicide is a complex, national, public health issue that affects communities nationwide, with more than 45,000 Americans, including over 6,000 veterans, dying by suicide every year.

Suicide is preventable and special training is not required to prevent it. Everyone can play a role by learning to recognize the warning signs, showing compassion to veterans in need, and offering support. Warning signs include:

- Hopelessness or feeling like there is no way out
- Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, or mood swings
- Increasing alcohol or drug use
- Withdrawing from family and friends

In addition to reaching out to veterans to show them you care, there are many resources available to help better recognize the warning signs of suicide and how to assist veterans who may have suicidal thoughts. The S.A.V.E. training video and Social Media Safety Toolkit both address suicide prevention and are available at the [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) website. Additionally, information on how to reach out and be there for veterans and service members in their communities is available at [www.BeThereforVeterans.com](http://www.BeThereforVeterans.com). Of course, veterans who are in crisis or having thoughts of suicide, as well as those who know a veteran in crisis, can call the Veterans Crisis Line. Confidential support is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year. Call 800-273-8255 and Press 1, text to 838255, or chat online at [www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](http://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat).

## **Auxiliary Report from President Kathy McNally**

November was a very busy month for all of us! Wasn't it great to see all the patriotic salutes to our veterans? Did you get a chance to visit the Healing Field of Honor at Rotary Hill? Each time I passed the downtown area, the scene of those many flags waving in the wind just took my breath away. After the Veterans Day Ceremony, the Post and Auxiliary were proud to host a luncheon for Naperville families of World War I veterans. Another reason to be thankful that we are members of a Post and Auxiliary that cares for our veterans and their families - past and present.

As of press time, it seems that our 2019 Turkey Raffle was one to brag about! We'll report more on that next month. Meantime, many thanks to our Turkey Raffle Committee Chair and veteran Kristen Jungles for once again managing our Auxiliary's effort for this major fundraiser.

Now that the really cold weather is upon us, it's time to think about Christmas! The Hall is merrily decorated and ready for the festivities of the month.

You need not audition to accompany the caroling volunteers at the Hines Hospital Visit on Tuesday, December 10th. Meet at the Post by 6:15 pm to ensure a bright and merry time for our hospitalized veterans.

The Commander and I will welcome all our Sisters and Brothers and their spouses and significant others to the annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 7th. Join us for this lovely cocktail party, the conviviality of your Post and Auxiliary peers, and a great time to show off your sparkly Christmas sweater!

Don't forget the Commander's Children's Christmas Party from 2:00 to 4:00 pm on Sunday, December 8th. Good little boys and girls will be entertained with crafts, games, snacks, and a visit from Santa. To ensure your children or grandchildren are included, please email their names, genders, and ages to [kmrthornton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kmrthornton@sbcglobal.net) or call or text Kathy Thornton at (630) 667-6704. We don't want to miss anyone!

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## **National Home for Children by Mike McGrath**

HO, HO, HO! Christmas is coming and Santa is already loading up his sleigh to bring lots of toys and goodies for the kids at the National Home. Friday and Saturday, December 6 and 7, are the dates for Santa and the annual Christmas Party. It's always a great sight to see when Santa arrives to see the kids. The "Santa's Store" will also be open to allow the kids who have earned credits through the year with their volunteer hours to obtain gifts for family members.

We are again looking forward to attending and will hopefully bring back some photos for you to see, as well. Don't forget, the National Home Helpline number is (800) 313-4200. Perhaps this helpline could be of benefit to someone you know, especially during the holidays.

Best wishes and Merry Christmas to all!

## Dates to Remember

Dec 1 – Decorate the Post, 1:00 pm

Dec 3 – Hines Outreach Team, 9:00 am - 1:30 pm

Dec 4 – Yoga for Veterans, 9:30 am

Dec 4 – Auxiliary visit to Mill Street, 2:00 pm

Dec 7 – Visit with Vets at Monarch Landing, 10:00 am

Dec 7 – Post Christmas Party, 5:00 pm

Dec 8 – Band of Brothers & Sisters Breakfast, 9:00 am

Dec 8 – Children’s Christmas Party, 2:00 pm

Dec 10 – Hines Hospital Visit, 6:15 pm

Dec 11 – Yoga for Veterans, 9:30 am

Dec 12 – VFW Meeting, 7:00 pm

Dec 14 – Visit with Vets at Brookdale, 10:00 am

Dec 14 – Army vs. Navy Football Game, 2:00 pm

Dec 18 – Yoga for Veterans, 9:30 am

Dec 19 – Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00 pm

Dec 21 – Visit with Vets at Independence Village, 10:00 am

Dec 25 – Christmas Day

Dec 28 – Visit with Vets at Tabor Hills, 10:00 am

## Honor Guard Celebrates 4 Years of Service



The joint VFW and American Legion Honor Guard recently celebrated its fourth year of service. The group has performed over 200 graveside services since its formation in 2015 and continues to receive numerous requests to provide military honors in Naperville and its many surrounding communities. Members of the Honor Guard are pictured sharing a toast to their four years of service to departed veterans of all service branches and their families. Thanks to the members of the Honor Guard for your professionalism and dedication to our brothers and sisters in arms.

## Note from the Editor

We understand that some members wish to receive a hardcopy of the Kendall-Gram via postal mail. In an effort to ensure we continue to meet that need, we are working with our printer to make sure we have accurate address information on file for you. If you are one of these members, please help us by providing your current mailing address and contact information. You may send this information to me by mail or give me a call before March 1, 2020. The address for mail is 908 W. Jackson, Naperville, IL 60540 and my phone number is (630) 280-9347. Thanks!



## Holiday Canteen Hours

Christmas Eve: 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Christmas Day: 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm

New Year’s Eve: 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

New Year’s Day: 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm



## Post Christmas Party

Saturday, December 7th

5:00 pm in the upstairs hall

**Come celebrate and enjoy the holiday spirit with other veterans and Post/Auxiliary members**



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## Youth Scholarship Programs Update

In early November, judging was conducted at the Post for this year's Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy scholarship competitions. The topic for both competitions was "What Makes America Great." There were 8 submissions from local high school students for the Voice of Democracy competition and almost 370 junior high/middle school students participated in the Patriot's Pen competition. This year's scholarship winners for the Post are:

### Voice of Democracy

- 1st Place: Allie Conwell (Naperville North)
- 2nd Place: Mia Fitzgerald (Naperville North)
- 3rd Place: Erin Alcott (Neuqua Valley)

### Patriot's Pen

- 1st Place: Sophia Wang (Scullen Middle School)
- 2nd Place: Olivia Moore (Granger Middle School)
- 3rd Place: Aaron Hunter (Kennedy Junior High)
- 4th Place: Claire Chen (Kennedy Junior High)
- 5th Place: Alex Kang (Kennedy Junior High)/Emma Orend (Kennedy Junior High) (Tied for 5th)

These winners will be formally recognized and presented with their scholarship checks within the coming weeks. Additionally, our first-place winners have been advanced to the 19th District for the competition at that level. Many thanks to Carmen Iacullo for taking the lead this year in chairing both competitions and for the hard work by both committee members and judges. Great job!



## Army vs. Navy

## Football Party

Saturday, December 14th

2:00 pm Kick-off

In the Post Canteen


**Please bring a dish/snack to share, cheer on your favorite team, and enjoy the raffles and camaraderie**





# Post 3873 Calendar of Events December 2019



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 1:00 pm - Decorate the Post	2	3 9:00 am - 1:30 pm Hines Community Outreach Team Visit	4 9:30 am - Yoga for Vets 2:00 pm - Auxiliary to Mill Street	5	6	7 10:00 am - Visit Vets at Monarch Landing 5:00 pm - Post Christmas Party
8 9:00 am - Band of Brothers and Sisters Breakfast 2:00 pm - Children's Christmas Party	9	10 6:15 pm - Hines Hospital Visit	11 9:30 am - Yoga for Vets	12 7:00 pm - VFW Meeting	13	14 10:00 am - Visit Vets at Brookdale 2:00 pm - Army vs. Navy Football Game
15	16	17	18 9:30 am - Yoga for Vets	19 7:00 pm - Auxiliary Meeting	20	21 10:00 am - Visit Vets at Independence Village
22	23	24	25 Christmas Day 	26	27	28 10:00 am - Visit Vets at Tabor Hills
29 Chanukah Begins	30	31				

**Hines Hospital Visits**

The Chairman of the Hospital Committee would like to remind everyone that the Post visits the Hines VA Hospital every second Tuesday of the month. Visits are not made in July and August. We leave the Post at 6:15 p.m. and return at approximately 9:15 p.m. Transportation is provided. Everyone is invited to attend, so why not come out to spend quality time with some very appreciative veterans?

**Canteen Hours**

	Open	Close
Mon—Thur	3:00 p.m.	10:00 pm/Midnight
Fri—Sat	Noon	10:00 pm/2:00 am
Sunday	Noon	5:00 pm/6:00 pm

If at any time between the first close hour and the second, 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.

**THE BARTENDER IS BOSS**

**Kendall-Gram Submission Policy**

Post members are encouraged to submit articles and photos. Give the article and/or your photo to the on-duty bartender. It is important to put your name and phone number on the item in case there are any questions. All photos MUST include where and why it was taken and the names of those in the picture. Photos without captions will not be used. Please submit all articles by the 10th of the month. Items submitted after the 10th will be considered for the following month.

**Kendall-Gram Editor:** Tom Parker  
(630) 280-9347

**Post Information**

Mailing Address: Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873  
908 W. Jackson  
Naperville, IL 60540

Phone Number: **(630) 420-9820**

Website Address: [napervfw3873.org](http://napervfw3873.org)

Facebook: Naperville VFW Judd Kendall 3873

**Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm in the upstairs hall of the Post.**

**Judd Kendall Post 3873 Officers**

Commander	Pablo Araya	(312) 505-4377
Sr. Vice Commander	Brian Byrne	(630) 901-6758
Jr. Vice Commander	Todd Schuneman	(815) 791-4178
Quartermaster	Phil Maughan	(630) 383-1974
Ass't Quartermaster	John Shaw	(630) 961-3479
Ass't Quartermaster	Paul Quinn	(312) 340-4424
Adjutant	Josh Kramer	(440) 864-6988
Judge Advocate	Leo Jaime	(773) 441-3887
Surgeon	Bill Howland	(630) 369-0087
Service Officer	Mike Barbour	(630) 240-1645
Officer of the Day	Lou Kuelto	(630) 898-8760
Guard	Tom Scott	(815) 577-7748
Chaplain	Jim Oftedal	(630) 357-4030
1-Year Trustee	Lloyd McKee	(630) 922-8804
2-Year Trustee	Tom Parker	(630) 280-9347
3-Year Trustee	Bob Bronson	(630) 978-2143

**Committees**

Americanism		
Blood Drive	Nina Petru	(630) 871-9596
Buddy Poppy	Bob Colby	(630) 301-2664
Building	Mike Rechenmacher	(630) 961-1377
Color Guard	Jim Sarns	(630) 234-6292
Eighth Grade Awards	Tom Benton	(630) 579-8514
Facilities Manager		
Grounds	Phil Maughan	(630) 357-3440
Honor Guard	Jim Oftedal	(630) 357-4030
Hospital	John Shaw	(630) 961-3479
House	Ron Beata	(630) 717-9007
House	Bob Colby	(630) 301-2664
House	Wick Kirby	(630) 864-7574
Membership	Brian Byrne	(630) 901-6758
Legislative	Frank Haynes	(630) 357-2906
National Home	Mike McGrath	(630) 357-2680
Patriot's Pen	Carmen Iacullo	(708) 969-7143
Public Relations	Mike Barbour	(630) 240-1645
Safety	Mike McGrath	(630) 357-2680
Scout Liaison	Todd Schuneman	(815) 791-4178
Social Media	Dave Angelus	(630) 596-3245
Voice of Democracy	Carmen Iacullo	(708) 969-7143

**Auxiliary Officers**

President	Kathy McNally	(708) 642-5986
Sr. Vice President	Kristen Jungles	(630) 816-6841
Jr. Vice President	Bernadette Budny	(630) 717-9471
Treasurer	Peggy Beata	(630) 717-9007
Secretary	Peggy Beata	(630) 717-9007
Chaplain	Nancy Marinello	(630) 464-3696
Guard	Margaret Linnert	(630) 596-9930
Conductress	Bertha Novaczyk	(630) 998-6186

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

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