

# THE KENDALL-GRAM



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



## Commander Tom Parker

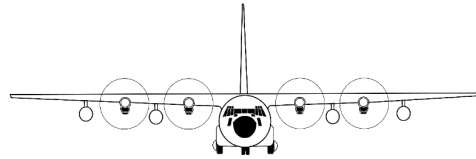


Last weekend I helped my son move out of his apartment at college. It was nice to spend time with him, but it was even nicer having someone to carry the heavy stuff and to reach the stuff on the top shelves. On more than one occasion, I found myself marveling at how he's turned into a young man with a pretty good head on his shoulders since we dropped him off a few years ago (apparently something he picked up from Denise). With three hours of windshield time on the drive back to Naperville, I thought about what I was doing at his age. I had just graduated from the Academy and was beginning the Aviation Officer Basic Course at Ft. Rucker. As my mind wandered, I remembered what my graduation ceremony from West Point was like. Michie Stadium was filled with family, friends, and almost 1,000 graduating cadets. Then Vice-President George H.W. Bush gave the commencement address. We received our diplomas, threw our white hats into the air just as a multitude of young children were allowed on to the field to scoop them up, and we rushed off to don our Army Class-A uniforms so that we could pin on our brand new gold 2LT bars. It was definitely a different time 36 years ago.

I also thought about the graduation at the Academy this year. Due to the pandemic, the graduation class was seated on the Plain (the large parade field in front of the barracks area) as they listened to their commencement speaker, President Donald Trump. They did so while observing social distancing protocols and wearing masks. Each member of the class had received their commissions as Army Officers weeks earlier. While different in many regards, there were still many similarities. Each graduate joined the Long Gray Line and even more importantly, joined the brotherhood and sisterhood to which we belong. They became members of the United States military, sworn to defend our Constitution and our way of life. Each year, generally after high school and college graduations, thousands of young men and women become soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines. It's often easy to overlook or forget this fact, especially this year when there seems to be so much else going on. It's reassuring to know there continue to be young men and women willing to recite the same oath we once took and to take up the mantle to keep our country the envy of every other nation.

Hopefully, things will start to get back to normal soon and we can add more events to our calendar. The Canteen is open for business and we've resumed our monthly meetings in person. It will be nice to see and socialize with fellow veterans as we're able to do additional things - simply because there's nothing like being around brothers and sisters from the military fraternity/sorority. Hope to see you all soon.

Senior Vice Commander  
Todd Schuneman



This August marks the seventy fifth anniversary of the first and only time an atomic bomb was used in war. By August 1945, the Allies' Manhattan Project produced two types of atomic bombs, a uranium gun type device, and a plutonium implosion type device. To deliver these devices, the 509<sup>th</sup> Composite Group (USAAF) was equipped with specialized Boeing B29 Super Fortresses. The aircraft were to deliver the devices from Tinian in the Mariana Islands to Japan. The aircraft modification and training program was named the Silver Plated Project, and subsequently shortened to Silverplate.

The orders for the atomic bombs to be used on four Japanese cities were issued on July 25. The cities of Kyoto, Hiroshima, Yokohama, Kokura, Niigata, and even Tokyo were identified as potential targets. Nagasaki was selected as a secondary target due to weather over Kokura on the day of the drop.

On August 6, one of the modified B-29s, the Enola Gay, dropped a uranium gun type device nicknamed "Little Boy" on Hiroshima. Three days later, on August 9, a plutonium implosion type device nicknamed "Fat Man" was dropped by another B-29, Bockscar on Nagasaki. Each of the bombs immediately devastated their targets. Six days after the bombing of Nagasaki, on August 15, 1945, Japan announced its surrender to the Allies thus eliminating the need to drop any additional devices. Then on September 2, 1945 aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, the Japanese government signed the instrument of surrender, which effectively ended World War II.

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## Dates to Remember

Aug 9 – Family Breakfast, 9:00 am

Aug 13 – VFW Meeting, 7:00 pm

Aug 16 – District 19 Meeting, 1:00 pm (Villa Park)

Aug 20 – Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00 pm

**\* Note: As restrictions continue to be lifted, some events will start to resume. Please confirm all events to determine if you can attend in person or join virtually. Many of our monthly events continue to be prohibited.**

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## Adjusted Canteen Hours

The Canteen continues to be open for business. Opening hours on some days have been adjusted to accommodate those wanting to come in a little earlier. Why just sit around the house when you can come down to the Canteen to share a drink with other members while you get through the pandemic?

The Canteen opens at:

|                               |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday | - 1:00 pm  |
| Wednesday                     | - 3:00 pm  |
| Friday, Saturday, and Sunday  | - 12:00 pm |

**Junior Vice Commander****Leo Jaime**

I joined the Corps in 1989 and went to boot camp at MCRD San Diego. I'm a "Hollywood" Marine, as they say, happy to have had the privilege of walking (humping) the beautiful hills of Camp Pendleton, and even happier that I didn't have to battle the sand fleas of the beaches of Paris Island. For those that are not familiar with the Corps' boot camp split, all recruits that sign up east of the Mississippi go to Paris Island and those west go to San Diego.

I faced many new experiences once I got off the bus and onto the yellow foot prints, such as departing with all personal possessions and receiving GI gear, running to everywhere I had to go (still drive my kids crazy when I run around the house), starting and ending all sentences with "sir " sandwiches (this one got me off a few speeding tickets in my lifetime) , unconsciously responding to the word "Ears" yelled by a drill instructor with a resounding "Open", mixing Jell-O with mashed potatoes to ensure a got a full meal in 30 seconds, and not having to worry about combing my hair ever again. But, the most impressive experience was the slew of new words, or jargon, I was learning. One such jargon is the expression OORAH!!

I'll never forget one of the first times I heard it. It was the end of mass at the depot chapel when the more senior recruits slammed the hymn book shut and as a well-trained choir all barked from the bottom of their lungs, "OORAH!." If you ever heard this at a bar or any gathering, you'd know there is a Marine around. Even our fellow civilians associate its use with the Marines, thanks in part to recent movies such as Jarhead, where Jamie Foxx explains why he loves his job, ending with a quiet but affirmative "oorah". But what does it mean, or where does it come from? Early accounts point to the word "Aarrugha", or the sound of the Klaxon alarm of a submarine. According to several sources, including Lcpl Paul Hirseman (2004), writing for the Marine Corps website: *Marines and historians have determined the true origins of "Oorah" lie with recon Marines stationed in Korea in 1953. During this time, reconnaissance Marines in the 1st Amphibious Reconnaissance Co., found themselves traveling via submarine to where they were needed. The memorable call of "dive, dive!" would be called on the intercom and a klaxon alarm, which made a very distinct "Aarugha" sound, would announce the descent of the sub below water. The recon Marines, who heard this sound often, started using it as a motivational tool during runs and physical training. Over time, the word "Aarugha" came to be too much of a mouthful, and eventually molded itself into the familiar "Oorah," according to Maj. Gary Marte, a retired Marine.*

OORAH! is a use-dependent expression. It replaces other expressions of happiness, motivation, sarcasm, obedience, and even love for God, Country and Corps. If you ask a Marine what it means to him or her, you may get: Cheers!; I am (we are) a Marine; I enthusiastically accept your orders; I am excited to be here; Pleased to meet you; What you ask of me, not only will I do, I will do in a manner befitting a Marine; I have confidence in you; Good job; I love being a Marine; I am about to destroy something.

As with our sister services' battle-cries of HOOYAH, and HOOAH!, this expression never leaves you. I recently tuned my car with a race-chip and after testing with my son on a back road and feeling the added HP, all I could say was: OORAH!

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## National Home for Children from Mike McGrath

As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to impact our entire nation, the National Home community is doing its part to “flatten the curve” by following the CDC guidelines for social distancing and yes, masks must be worn at the Home, as well. Although we follow the State of Michigan mandate of “Stay Home, Stay Safe,” we are able to continue to support our children and families in creative ways due to the generous and ongoing support of the VFW and Auxiliary. Uncertain times like these call for creative solutions as we move toward the “new normal.”

Sadly, Illinois Day scheduled for September 26 has been cancelled. Instead, the National Home is working on a virtual fundraising event and details of this will be provided in the near future.

Did you know you can help the National Home for Children through the Amazon Smile program in addition to going directly to the National Home website? Details on the many ways you can help can be found at <https://www.vfnationalhome.org/other>. And remember, the National Home Help Line is always available for those in need. The number is (800) 313-4200.

As always, thank you all for your ongoing support of our National Home for Children.

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## Honor Guard - Still On Duty

Throughout the greater part of this year, we have become accustomed to a different way of doing things. Handshakes and group gatherings have been replaced with Zoom meetings, social distancing, and essential workers. One group that has not waived from their role and responsibilities is the members of our combined Honor Guard. As you all know, the Honor Guard has been performing Military Funeral Services for military veterans since 2015 and even in these uncertain times, they continue to render final honors for our departed brothers and sisters. Their contributions have a significant impact on the families of these veterans and family members often send cards to the Honor Guard with moving comments such as:

*“... my father passed away and there was an honor guard ceremony for him at the funeral home, as well as at the church (21 gun salute). The flag that covered his coffin was neatly folded and framed for my mother. Thank you so much for all you did.” -- July 2019*

*“... your Honor Guard was kind enough to attend this funeral mass and present an honor ceremony for my dad, complete with the folding of the flag and a rifle salute. I wanted to tell you how much I appreciated this ceremony and the honor given my dad. It was the most memorable thing I have ever witnessed and it will stay with me and my family forever.” -- April 2020*

While so many of us contend with pandemic related concerns each day, members of the Honor Guard continue to perform their duties. And in true military fashion, they have adapted in order to complete the mission.



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## 7th Annual Judd-A-Thon

Plans are underway to hold the 7th Annual 0.1K Judd-A-Thon next month. It is scheduled for September 20th, with a start time of 10:01 am. We know the Covid pandemic has caused many events to be cancelled this year, but that clearly means everyone has had even more time to train. No excuses. We will endeavor to make all necessary accommodations for this year's event to make it a safe one, including masks, gloves, galoshes, surgical hair nets and of course, social distancing. To that end, expect to see some amendments to our usual endurance event such as heats, in which participants will be segregated by height, weight, gender, good looks, and hair color. As always, the Judd-A-Thon coordinators base all of their decisions on science. Well, that and tea leaves. This year more than ever, we will be asking everyone to beat the bushes and find sponsors for the event. Remember, every penny goes to the National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. See you soon at the start line!

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## 2020 Census

The U.S. Constitution mandates that the country count its population once every 10 years. Over the next decade, lawmakers, business owners, and many others will use the 2020 Census data to make critical decisions that will directly affect our community. It will help determine the need for new schools, new clinics, new roads, and other services for families. The results will determine the number of seats our state has in the House of Representatives and it will also be used to allocate how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding are allocated to more than 100 programs, including Medicaid, Head Start, and block grants for community mental health services. Local businesses will utilize the data to decide where to open new stores, restaurants, or offices, and where to expand operations, where to recruit employees, and which products and services to offer.

Currently, for cities in the nation with over 140,000 residents, Naperville is leading in participation with just over 80% of households responding. This is a tremendous achievement and should help our community receive its fair share of funding and programs in the next decade. VFW Post 3873 is a member of the 2020 Census Naperville Complete Count Committee and we know that participation will benefit our veterans, as well as other members of the community. If you have not yet completed the questionnaire that was mailed to you earlier this year, you can still make your voice heard at <https://my2020census.gov/>.

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## Citizen of the Year

Since 1986, American Legion Post 43 has been naming and honoring a Citizen of the Year. This program recognizes the contributions of various Naperville residents in the areas of service to the community, service to youth, and service to veterans. On July 12th, VFW Post 3873 Chaplain and Honor Guard Commander Jim Oftedal was honored as Citizen of the Year for Service to Veterans as part of this program. Through Jim's efforts and coordination, the combined Honor Guard was formed and received Department of Defense certification. Since October 2015, they have performed almost 250 Military Funeral Services and numerous community service events. The success of the Honor Guard is due in large part to Jim's steadfast determination to provide all military veterans in our community with appropriate military honors even at the end of their lives. Congratulations Jim!





# Post 3873 Calendar of Events August 2020



| SUNDAY  | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY                       | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--------|---------|-----------|--------------------------------|--------|----------|
|   |        |         |           |                                |        | 1        |
|   |        |         |           |                                |        | 8        |
| 2   | 3      | 4       | 5         | 6                              | 7      |          |
|   |        |         |           |                                |        |          |
| 9   | 10     | 11      | 12        | 13                             | 14     | 15       |
| 9:00 am - Family<br>Breakfast                 |        |         |           | 7:00 pm - VFW<br>Meeting       |        |          |
| 16  | 17     | 18      | 19        | 20                             | 21     | 22       |
| 1:00 pm - District 19<br>Meeting (Villa Park) |        |         |           | 7:00 pm - Auxiliary<br>Meeting |        |          |
| 23  | 24     | 25      | 26        | 27                             | 28     | 29       |
| 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           | Tom Parker     | (630) 280-9347 |
| Sr. Vice Commander  | Todd Schuneman | (815) 791-4178 |
| Jr. Vice Commander  | Leo Jaime      | (773) 441-3887 |
| 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      | Lawrence Goss  | (630) 728-9641 |
| 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      | Bob Bronson    | (630) 886-9102 |
| 3-Year Trustee      | Craig Frier    |                |

**Committees**

|                     |                   |                |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Americanism         | Tom Parker        | (630) 280-9347 |
| Blood Drive         | Ingrid Kanady     | (847) 951-3300 |
| 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               | Wick Kirby        | (630) 864-7574 |
| House               | Bob Tallon        | (630) 561-9902 |
| Membership          | Todd Schuneman    | (815) 791-4178 |
| Legislative         | Frank Haynes      | (630) 357-2906 |
| National Home       | Mike McGrath      | (630) 357-2680 |
| Patriot's Pen       |                   |                |
| 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          | Kristen Jungles  | (630) 816-6841 |
| Sr. Vice President | Bernadette Budny | (630) 717-9471 |
| Jr. Vice President | Darlene Kwarta   |                |
| Treasurer          | Maryann Groner   |                |
| Secretary          | Nancy Marinello  | (630) 464-3696 |
| Chaplain           | Tita McLaughlin  |                |
| Guard              | Carol Gloor      |                |
| Conductress        | Marti Linnert    | (630) 596-9930 |

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

