

# THE KENDALL-GRAM



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



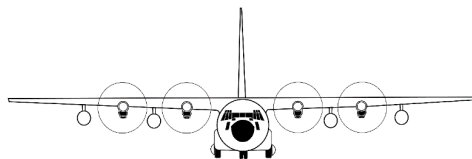
## Commander Tom Parker



As we find ourselves coming to the end of what has clearly been one of the craziest years most of us have ever experienced, I hope you are looking forward to the upcoming holiday season and what I hope will be a better 2021. It's also time to look forward to what is clearly one of the year's biggest days. That's right, the Army-Navy football game is right around the corner. In true military fashion, the academies have found a way to persevere during the pandemic and are planning to meet for the annual rivalry on December 12. I'm sure that this year will be the same as previous years in that members of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps will start sharing their videos touting the superiority of their respective teams and the trash talking should be in full force within a few days. It is a little-known fact that each cadet and midshipman has their DNA altered to subconsciously want to finish each sentence with "Beat Navy" or "Beat Army." At this time of the year, we give in to that urge and utter those phrases to everyone we meet, including random strangers on the street.

While many things will remain the same, there will be differences this year. We will not be able to gather at the Post to share in the revelry that accompanies this event. Instead, we must follow the rules for social distancing and group gatherings. Additionally, the game will be played at West Point with only the cadets and midshipmen present. This will be the first time the game has been played at one of the academies since 1943 when WWII travel restrictions precluded the game from being played elsewhere. Even though this rivalry is one of the longest running and most intense, there is a shared bond and profound sense of respect for each other. We also see this within our service branches. There will always be the usual trash talk and we certainly won't miss opportunities to remind others why our branch is better than theirs. But deep down, we share a common respect for each other and a common bond. We respect each other's decision to place country before self and we respect the service and sacrifices made by our brothers and sisters in arms, regardless of their branch.

Unfortunately, it currently doesn't look like we'll be able to have our usual Christmas gathering at the Post this year. If that changes, we'll be sure to let everyone know. With that in mind, I want to wish everyone a very safe and joyful Christmas and holiday season. Like many of the other challenges we've faced in our military and civilian lives, we will get through this and will eventually be sharing stories of how we weathered the pandemic of 2020. Here's to a better 2021 and oh yeah, BEAT NAVY!!!

**Senior Vice Commander****Todd Schuneman**

During the holiday season, we take time to reflect on the year and enjoy the company of friends and family. However, this year is considerably different. Most of us have been living in varying states of isolation and unfortunately, this holiday season will not be much different from the rest of the year. We are social creatures. We need human interaction and socialization. Without it, we can become depressed and introverted. Some people regularly become depressed during the holidays. This year it may be exacerbated by Covid restrictions on gatherings. Take time to reach out and check in on friends and family. We all get busy, but a caring kind word can work wonders on a person's outlook on life.

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 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. The following are actions anyone can take to **Be There**:

- Reach out to veterans to show them you care. Send a check-in text, cook them dinner, or simply ask, "How are you?"
- Learn the warning signs of suicide:
  - Hopelessness, feeling like there is no way out
  - Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, or mood swings
  - Feeling like there is no reason to live
  - Rage or anger
  - Engaging in risky activities without thinking
  - Increasing alcohol or drug use
  - Withdrawing from family and friends
- Watch the free [S.A.V.E. training video](#) to equip yourself to respond with care and compassion if someone you know indicates they are having thoughts of suicide.
- Check out the [VA's Social Media Safety Toolkit](#) to learn how to recognize and respond to social media posts that may indicate emotional distress, feelings of crisis or thoughts of suicide.
- Contact VA's [Coaching Into Care](#) program when worried about a veteran or loved one. A licensed psychologist or social worker will provide guidance on motivating your loved one to seek support.

To learn more about the **Be There** campaign and access resources to help support veterans, visit [www.BeThereForVeterans.com](http://www.BeThereForVeterans.com).

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).

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

December 7, 1941 – “a date which will live in infamy” - These were the words of President Franklin D. Roosevelt after learning that Japanese planes attacked the United States Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Territory, killing more than 2,300 Americans. The U.S.S. Arizona was destroyed, and the U.S.S. Oklahoma capsized. A total of twelve ships sank or were beached in the attack and nine additional vessels were damaged. More than 160 aircraft were destroyed with more than 150 others damaged.

“ I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve...” These were the (unconfirmed) words of Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto regarding the attack. The Japanese admiral was right. The months that followed demonstrated America’s resolve. The very next day after the cowardly attack, we declared war on Japan, abandoning the nation’s isolationism policy and launching the United States into World War II. Within days, Japan’s allies, Germany and Italy, declared war on the United States and the country began a rapid transition to a wartime economy by building up armaments in support of military campaigns in the Pacific, North Africa, and Europe.

“Patriotism” was not a political talking point, as it seems to be today; it was a way of life. From “Victory Gardens” to the tank factories, every American played a role to fight off the aggressors. American women led the home front. From the beginning of the war, it was clear that enormous quantities of airplanes, tanks, warships, rifles, and other armaments would be needed. And as hundreds of thousands of men joined the armed forces and headed into training and battle, women began securing jobs as welders, electricians, and riveters.

This December 7th we will pause to honor our fallen comrades that made the ultimate sacrifice 79 years ago and all those who fought abroad and those who worked at home during the next 4 years. Remembering not only honors the men and women of our greatest generation, but ensures our young Americans understand the sacrifices made back then, so that we can be free today.

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## Dates to Remember

Dec 10 – VFW Meeting, 7:00 pm

Dec 12 – Army vs. Navy Football, 2:00 pm

Dec 17 – Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00 pm

Dec 25 – Christmas Day

**\* As events resume, please continue to observe all required mask and social distancing requirements. Please confirm events are occurring before arriving.**

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## National Home for Children from Mike McGrath

As the Christmas holidays approach, we are reminded of how important it is to help our fellow veterans. One way we can help is through the National Home's Military and Veteran Family Helpline. This is a free service that offers information, creates connections, and gives hope to struggling military and veteran families. The number is (800) 313-4200.

Although the pandemic has been a challenge for us all, rest assured that the National Home will continue its mission of helping families and children, as it has for over 95 years. Do check out the website at [www.vfwnationalhome.org](http://www.vfwnationalhome.org) for some great stories about the residents and their families. You may also want to check out the Amazon Smile link for the National Home at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-1359597> while doing your holiday shopping this year.

Special thanks to Race Director Pablo Araya and all of our Judd-A-Thon participants and sponsors as we recently presented a check for over \$22,500.00 to National Home for Children Executive Director Fred Puffenberger.

Illinois Day for next year is already scheduled for September 25, 2021. Be sure to mark your calendars and let's hope we can present an even bigger check next year.

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## In Our Thoughts...

The members of Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873 and its Auxiliary would like to extend their sympathies to:

*The family of Charles Henczel, member of VFW Post 3873 and Korean War veteran, on his recent passing.*

*The family of Tom Scott, Past Post Guard of VFW Post 3873 and Desert Storm veteran, on his recent passing.*



### Remembering 1LT Oliver "Judd" Kendall

As part of the Post's observance of Veterans Day, flowers were placed at the grave of our namesake, 1LT Oliver "Judd" Kendall. 1LT Kendall is buried in the Somme American Cemetery located in Northern France. The cemetery contains the graves of 1,844 of our military dead. Most lost their lives while serving in American units attached to British Armies or in operations near Cantigny.

## Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Update

Despite local students learning from home, the Post had quite a few entries for this year's Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy scholarship competitions. There were over 225 Patriot's Pen submissions and 5 Voice of Democracy entries. Judging was conducted at the beginning of November with the following Post winners being selected.

### Patriot's Pen

- 1st Place: Anwita Vemana (Scullen Middle School)
- 2nd Place: Tristan Fary (St. Raphael)
- 3rd Place: Grace Zhong (Kennedy Junior High School)

### Voice of Democracy

- 1st Place: Henry Hong (Waubonsie Valley High School)
- 2nd Place: Shreya Joshi (Waubonsie Valley High School)

Both Anwita and Henry will now compete at the District level and if chosen as first place winners, they will advance to the State level. Thanks to Junior Vice Commander Leo Jaime for chairing both programs this year and to Auxiliary members Bernadette Budny and Bertha Novaczyk for their assistance. Also, thanks to everyone who participated in the judging.



**Above:** Illinois National Home Director Mike McGrath and Post QM Phil Maughan present National Home for Children Executive Director Fred Puffenberger with a check for \$22,500 in front of one of the Illinois homes.




**Right:** Mike and Fran McGrath transporting donations from the Post's food drive to the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans and Loaves and Fishes. The Post received over 550 pounds of food during the drive. Thanks to all who donated.



# Post 3873 Calendar of Events December 2020



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY                                       | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY   |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|--|--|--|
|        |        | 1       | 2         | 3  | 4  | 5  |
|        |        | 8       | 9         | 10<br>7:00 pm - VFW Meeting<br>Chanukah Begins | 11   | 12<br>2:00 pm - Army vs.<br>Navy Football Game<br>(no event at the Post) |
|        |        | 15      | 16        | 17<br>7:00 pm - Auxiliary<br>Meeting           | 18   | 19   |
|        |        | 22      | 23        | 24   | 25<br>Christmas Day<br> | 26   |
|        |        | 29      | 30        | 31   |  |  |
| 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 | 1:00 p.m. | 10:00 pm |
| Friday   | Noon      | Midnight |
| Saturday | Noon      | 10:00 pm |
| Sunday   | Noon      | 6:00 pm  |

The bartender may elect to close the Canteen early due to low patronage. 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     | Dennis Lukavsky | (630) 272-9064 |
| Officer of the Day  | Lou Kuelto      | (630) 898-8760 |
| Guard               | Roger Budny     | (630) 205-8745 |
| 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 |
| Communications      | Nina Petru        | (630) 871-9596 |
| 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               | 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       | Leo Jaime         | (773) 441-3887 |
| Safety              | Mike McGrath      | (630) 357-2680 |
| Scout Liaison       | Todd Schuneman    | (815) 791-4178 |
| Social Media        | Dave Angelus      | (630) 596-3245 |
| Voice of Democracy  | Leo Jaime         | (773) 441-3887 |

**Auxiliary Officers**

|                    |                  |                |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|
| President          | Kristen Jungles  | (630) 816-6841 |
| Sr. Vice President | Bernadette Budny | (630) 717-9471 |
| Jr. Vice President | Darlene Kwarta   |                |
| Treasurer          | Maryann Groner   | (630) 363-8138 |
| Secretary          | Nancy Marinello  | (630) 464-3696 |
| Chaplain           | Tita McLaughlin  |                |
| Guard              | Carol Gloor      |                |
| Conductress        | Marti Linnert    | (630) 857-9707 |

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

