

THE KENDALL-GRAM



Volume 21 Issue 01
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A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



Commander Tom Parker

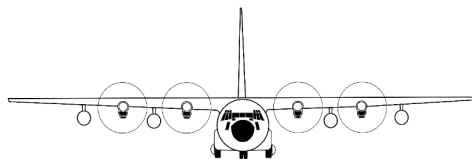


Last year is finally behind us and as much as I thought 2021 would never get here, I can't believe that it seemed to arrive so quickly. I'm not sure if it's a side effect of getting older or from having so many things on the plate, but once again, time seems to have flown by. As I look back on last year, there are so many things I could complain about, but if I take an honest look at everything that happened, there was a lot of good also. Sure, the canteen operated at reduced indoor capacity, meetings and events were often limited to Zoom participants, and even opportunities to dine together at the Post were cancelled. But we also were able to conduct half of our fish fries, have a limited Memorial Day service, and have a scaled back Turkey Raffle. We were able to have the annual golf outing, conduct a poppy drive, and participate in the grueling Judd-A-Thon. Throw in successful Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy competitions and it becomes pretty clear that we were able to accomplish quite a bit under difficult and challenging circumstances. Without the flexibility, ingenuity, and determination of our Post and Auxiliary chairpersons and members, many of these achievements wouldn't have been possible. To each of you that helped make last year a success, thank you!

As we move into this new year, I hope we are close to turning the corner that gets us back to "normal." It's unlikely we'll be able to have some of the events that occur earlier in the year, but I'm optimistic and hopeful that we'll be able to do things at least by Memorial Day. In the meantime, we'll do what we all learned in the military – we'll develop a sound plan for the year and will constantly adjust fire as necessary to get things done. One thing I will ask of everyone as we start the new year is to commit to joining us for at least one event in 2021, especially those who have been hesitant or unable to do so in the past. Join us for a monthly Post meeting, which can now be done through Zoom. Volunteer some time to help with one of our committees. Join us during one of our fundraisers as we ramp them back up. I think you'll enjoy the camaraderie with fellow veterans as much as we'll enjoy having you join us.

Let's make 2021 a great year, individually and as a Post. After last year, I think we've earned it.

**Senior Vice Commander
Todd Schuneman**



Happy New Year All!

The VFW was established to assist veterans. Our slogan, “No one does more for veterans” embodies this point. We accomplish this mission by fostering camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts through service to all veterans, active and reserve military, and our communities, as well as advocate on behalf of veterans.

To do more for veterans we need members. In December, we had a veteran come by the Post and express interest in joining our ranks. He did not have a lot of time to talk that evening but left his contact information so that we could follow up with him. After the meeting, I met a gentleman who had stopped by the canteen for a little refreshment and expressed interest in joining the Post since he was moving to Naperville. After talking with him a little while, I realized that he was eligible for the VFW. He joined that evening. The point to these anecdotes is that there are many veterans among us every day.

If you are at the grocery store or filling up your car at the gas station, try to look for people wearing clothing indicating his or her veteran status. Look at haircuts, as that is often a clue if someone is Active Duty, Guard, or Reserve. Approach them and engage them in conversation. Determine if they are eligible for the VFW and encourage them to join.

National Home for Children from Mike McGrath

On December 20, several of the current and past Post officers were able to visit at the National Home and what a great trip it was. The purpose of our trip was to personally deliver the final sponsor check from the Judd-a-Thon in the amount of \$5,000. Thanks to Junior Vice Commander Leo Jaime and Rio Tinto for their support of such a worthy cause! Executive Director Fred Puffenberger expressed his thanks for the ongoing support of all the members of our Post and Auxiliary.

During our visit, we were able to take a brief drive-through tour of the campus and the admin center while the residents of the National Home received food packages via remote delivery. The campus looked great with all the festive holiday decorations. And for those of you who were wondering, yes, Santa was able to visit the families and children of the National Home this year despite the pandemic. The following link gives a brief overview of his visit, even though he had to do things just a little differently this year.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/0mwz3xb5fp5bp9u/VFWNHC%20Santa%20Truck%20Delivery%202020%20.mp4?dl=0>

Blessings to all and best wishes for 2021!

Junior Vice Commander**Leo Jaime**

A New Year's Resolution -

This January, as we welcome 2021, most of the western world will set their expectations with hope that it will be better than the previous year. We will also set personal goals, better known as New Year's Resolutions, hoping to make up for shortcomings, improve our health, or cross off an item on our bucket list.

Great! You may think, I set my goals, now let's wait for January 1 to magically make them happen... Unfortunately, unlike in politics, the beginning of a new time period does not magically make things happen in our lives, and as such most resolutions are not successful. Did you know that almost 88% of resolutions fail? The main reasons they fail, studies show, is because they are unrealistic, we lose interest in the pursuit, or forget we had set one altogether. I believe, however, that most resolutions fail because we set them selfishly, and we remain only accountable to ourselves. How difficult is it to chance the terms of your bargain if the counterparty is you?

This year I am not setting to lose 10 pounds, learn a new language, rearrange my sock drawer, or redo my deck. Instead, I'm going to try something new in hopes to flatten the failure curve. I am going to set a resolution to improve how I treat others, and its success or failure will be measured by how others treat me in return. I encourage you to do the same.

Our Post is in need of volunteers to carry our success forward. We need you to step up and volunteer to take on many important tasks, from officer positions to committee participants. We all know how busy we are, but I challenge you to consider making a resolution to be a greater part of our Post. And, short of guaranteeing it, I'm sure it will be a resolution you can keep and succeed!

Happy 2021 everyone! We made it!

Dates to Remember

Jan 1 – New Year's Day

Jan 16 – Legion Dinner, 6:00 pm

Jan 14 – VFW Meeting, 7:00 pm

Jan 21 – Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00 pm

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

Buddy Poppy Update from Bob Colby and Nancy Marinello

The results are in and our first November poppy drive netted us over \$13,000 for veteran relief efforts. This was the first time we held a poppy drive in November, in lieu of the drive we usually hold the week before Memorial Day, but these times demand that we be adaptable. In light of current restrictions, all volunteers wore masks, and we used a touch-less delivery system with the poppies mounted on styrofoam or cardboard sheets. We also had a significant shift in locations this time. Many of our usual stores would not let us solicit at their locations, and the train stations are almost empty. So, we found new stores, and asked the city to let us solicit on city street corners and at the libraries. Still, it was our usual locations like Casey's, Jewel-Osco, and Trader Joe's that pulled in the most money. A special thank you to Tim Rogers and the St. Raphael Knights of Columbus for getting us into a new location, Caputo's Foods, and staffing it for us.

The teams and individuals raising the most during this drive (collections plus donations) were: Ron and Peggy Beata/ Team Hoy, Tim Rogers/Knights of Columbus, Nancy Marinello, Phil Maughan, Fred Guerrero, and Mary Davidowski. Thank you to all who volunteered, collected, donated, counted, etc. This is money we need to keep our efforts going. For example, some of these funds were used to buy Christmas gift cards for the patients in Hines Hospital spinal cord unit. We can continue programs like this thanks to the funds raised and the people who helped raise them.

Honor Guard Update from Jim Oftedal

As 2020 comes to a close, the Honor Guard welcomes 2021 with hopes of relief from Covid-19. Due to the pandemic, we suspended our services beginning in mid-February and restarted in May. In October, we completed our 5th year of providing military funeral honors to veterans. The Honor Guard, comprised of 17 members of both VFW Post 3873 and American Legion Post 43, was certified by the Department of Defense on October 5, 2015. Since that time, the group has conducted 276 graveside honor services for military veterans in the Naperville area. While initially limiting ourselves to Naperville, we have expanded our services to those cities whose boundaries border Naperville. Despite the issues related to the pandemic, the Honor Guard continues to provide honors to veterans. We even found time this year to revise our Charter and to create an Honor Guard Procedure Manual.

Many thanks to the members of the Honor Guard for their professionalism, dedication of time, and service to honor our fellow veterans. The many families touched by the graveside services have been and continue to be very appreciative of the Honor Guard's respect and recognition of their loved one's military service.

What Will Your Legacy Be?

Every VFW member shares a powerful legacy of serving in combat to defend our nation. By choosing to join the VFW, we also extended that legacy through our commitment to assist veterans, their families, and our communities. The VFW has a unique program which enables us to further our legacy in another important way. **Legacy Life Membership** allows you to upgrade your life membership for a fixed amount of money that will create a perpetual income stream to the VFW at the Post, State and National levels. There are three levels (Bronze, Silver, and Gold) that range from \$400 to \$1,200. Donations can be made all at once or over time until you reach your desired amount. The various benefits associated with Legacy Life Membership include a tax deduction, discounts on purchases from the VFW Store, and more. The greatest benefit, however, is the knowledge that you are helping to provide a perpetual source of income to ensure the important work of the VFW in assisting veterans, their families, and our communities will continue forever.

Please contact Post QM Phil Maughan at (630) 383-1974 or plmaughan@pobox.com for additional information.

2020 Highlights





Post 3873 Calendar of Events January 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 New Year's Day	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 7:00 pm - VFW Meeting	15	16 6:00 pm - Legion Dinner
17	18	19	20	21 7:00 pm - Auxiliary Meeting	22	23
24	25 MLK Day	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	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

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

