

THE KENDALL-GRAM



Volume 21 Issue 02
February 2021

A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



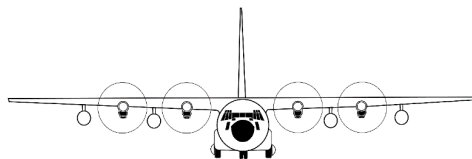
Commander Tom Parker



Usually this time of year, I'm digging around in the closet looking for my Post Fish Fry Chairman hat as we eagerly look forward to one of our biggest fundraising activities of the year. Sadly, there will be no need for the hat this year. The current mandates regarding group gatherings and dining, combined with the persistent health crisis, make it all but impossible to start our fish fries in a few weeks as we would normally be preparing to do and for maybe the first time ever, the Post will not be hosting our weekly fish fries during Lent. With restrictions starting to ease and vaccines on the way, though, I'm optimistic that we'll be able to resume next year and as quickly as this past year flew by, I know the fish fries for next year will be here in no time.

I'm also optimistic that as we continue to move forward this year, we will be able to resume many of the functions we normally enjoy at the Post. Along with that comes a need for us to fill several vacancies we have on our committees. Perhaps you've been thinking about becoming more involved at the Post or becoming more involved with our patriotic endeavors in the community, but just never had the time to do so. If you have, let us know. As things begin to return to normal, we'll need people in these positions to help us pick up where we left off. And what better time to get started than while we are ramping back up. Most positions don't require a lot of time, but they are key to what we do and the work you'd do is very rewarding. If you haven't thought about getting more involved, I'd ask that you take a minute to do so. I and the Post leadership team would be happy to answer any questions you might have regarding areas where we need help.

I realize it's been a slow month or two for us, but now that there's light at the end of the tunnel, I look forward to getting back out and running in to all of you again. Hopefully, we'll be able to resume in person meetings soon and yes, we'll keep the Zoom option for those that would like to attend through that medium. Also, the Hines Community Outreach Team will resume their monthly visits to the Post beginning this month so we are starting to get back to normal. At a minimum, the Canteen continues to be a great place to meet up with fellow veterans and friends, so if nothing else, stop by for a few minutes just to say hi.

Senior Vice Commander**Todd Schuneman**

This past January marked the 30th anniversary of the First Gulf War, Desert Shield /Desert Storm.

After the Iran-Iraq War of the 1980s, Iraq was in debt to Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), who had financed its war efforts. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein insisted both countries cancel that debt because he felt they owed him for protecting them against Iran, but both countries refused. In response, Hussein threatened Kuwait, which had a weak military and was oil rich. This move reignited a decades-old border dispute over Kuwait itself. In July 1990, Saddam claimed that Kuwait and the UAE were over producing crude oil thus driving down prices and depriving Iraq of critical oil revenues. Saddam Hussein accused Kuwait of stealing from an oil field on the Iraq-Kuwait border and he accused the U.S. and Israel of encouraging Kuwait to lower its oil prices. Relations deteriorated with all parties, which led to Hussein invading and annexing Kuwait on August 2, 1990.

On August 7, the U.S. government set in motion what it code-named Operation Desert Shield, a plan to deter an attack and contain the damage if it did come. Airpower was the first and most potent striking force in theater. The overwhelming requirement for Operation Desert Shield in August 1990 was to build up enough airpower to deter attack, to provide a response option, and of course, move other forces into position. The first Air Force C-141 touched down in Saudi Arabia on August 8, followed by F-15 fighters. Meanwhile, U.S. Navy aircraft carriers steamed into position. Airlift control elements fanned out to airfields across the Persian Gulf to direct the influx of air and ground forces. On November 29, 1990, the U.N. Security Council authorized the use of "all necessary means" of force against Iraq if it did not withdraw from Kuwait by January 15, 1991. Hussein defied the Security Council, and at 4:30 p.m. EST on January 16, 1991, Operation Desert Storm began with a massive U.S. led air offensive. The U.S. was accompanied by troops from NATO allies as well as Egypt and several other Arab nations. The coalition effort benefitted from the latest military technology, including Stealth bombers, Cruise missiles, and "Smart" bombs with laser-guidance systems and infrared night-bombing equipment. The Iraqi air force was either destroyed early on or opted out of combat under the relentless attack.

After forty-two days of relentless attacks by the allied coalition in the air and on the ground, President Bush declared a cease-fire on February 28. By that time, most Iraqi forces in Kuwait had either surrendered or fled. The Persian Gulf War was considered an unqualified success for the international coalition that had been formed to combat Iraq. To our Desert Storm veterans/members, thank you for your service during our nation's call during this conflict.

Hines Community Outreach Team

The Hines Community Outreach Team will resume its monthly assistance visits to the Post beginning in February. The team will be in the upstairs hall of the Post on February 2 from 9:30 am until 1:30 pm. As in the past, the team will plan to be at the Post on the first Tuesday of each month to assist veterans with VA related issues. If you or anyone you know needs assistance, feel free to stop by to meet with these individuals.

Junior Vice Commander**Leo Jaime**

As we navigate through “these difficult times” with pandemics, riots, capitol invasions, anarchy in the West, election results, etc., let’s not forget our nation’s toughest crisis and the impact it had, which resonates today.

160 years ago, this February 1, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas left the Union (South Carolina had already left a few months earlier) and created a new government called the Confederate States of America, electing Jefferson Davis as their President. This action ultimately led to our civil war.

President James Buchanan believed using the Army to fight a “domestic war” to bring the Union back together to be unconstitutional, so both regions waited for the inauguration of President-elect Abraham Lincoln, wondering what he would do. Most politicians at the time, including the President and President-elect, never imagined such a brutal and ferocious war would ensue. But that it did, resulting in tragedy of unimaginable proportions and lasting for four long and bloody years. Americans were killed at the hands of other Americans. One of every 25 American men perished in the war. Over 640,000 soldiers were killed, and civilians died in numbers often unrecorded. At the battle of Antietam, more Americans were killed than on any other single day in all of American history. On that day, 22,719 soldiers fell to their deaths — four times the number of Americans lost during the D-Day assault on Normandy during WWII. More American soldiers died in the Civil War than in all other American wars combined. The war was fought in American fields, on American roads, and in American cities with a ferocity evoked only in terrible nightmares. Nearly every family in the nation was touched by this war and scarcely a family in the South escaped losing a son, brother, or father. No other event since the Revolutionary War has altered the political, social, economic, and cultural fabric of the United States like the Civil War did. In the end, our country reunited and much of what we see in America today is a result of this dark period in our Country’s history.

This month, we remember the sacrifice of our Civil War veterans and their families. The United States we enjoy today is owed to them and we have the obligation to remind our young leaders of tomorrow that the fleeting political ambitions of a few do not represent the true fabric of our Union.

Dates to Remember

Feb 2 – Hines Outreach Team Visit, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Feb 11 – VFW Meeting, 7:00 pm

Feb 15 – President’s Day

Feb 18 – Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00 pm

Feb 20 – Legion Dinner, 6:00 pm

Feb 21 – District 19 Meeting, 1:00 pm

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

National Home for Children from Mike McGrath

(800) 313-4200 The National Home's Military and Veteran Family Helpline is a free service that offers information, creates connections, and can help struggling military and veteran families who are motivated and want an opportunity to build a better life. It can also serve as the first step to living in the National Home's community for up to four years. Services offered to residents include free housing and day care for up to four years, case management, education and recreational opportunities, and community resources. The VFW National Home for Children has been helping military and veteran families and children since 1925. "Could this help someone you know?"

Service Officer Updates from Dennis Lukavsky

As your new Post Service Officer, I plan to offer VA News regarding benefits and other related topics in this section of the Kendall-Gram each month. To be successful, this information has to be of interest to you, so feel free to offer feedback to me via phone or e-mail regarding its usefulness.

In a recent issue of the VFW magazine, it was noted that ACCREDITED service officers (NOT POST SERVICE OFFICERS) recovered \$9.7 Billion for Veterans in 2020, a sizable sum of money. Please, do not leave money on the table. If you think you have a VALID claim, make sure you follow up on it. If you need help getting in touch with organizations to help you with the claim, let me know. The path to positive settlement on your behalf is a long one, but it could be worthwhile.

The VA has administered over 55,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine and they will begin distributing the Moderna vaccine to an additional 128 sites. Hines has just announced the availability of the vaccine for veterans who are over 65 years old, dialysis patients, chemotherapy patients, organ transplant patients, homeless veterans program participants, inpatient spinal cord patients, community living centers, residential care facilities, and Hines VA employees. Appointments are available for veterans in these categories 7 days a week. Contact your provider or call (708) 202-2707 or (708) 202-7000 to schedule an appointment.

There will be a Zoom class on Suicide Prevention on February 16. It is called "QPR, Question, Persuade, and Respond: Ask a question and save a Life". The training is applicable to both veterans and civilians. More information will be out about it shortly.

A new Veterans Home is opening in Chicago in February. It is a brand new 200 bed facility located at 4250 N. Oak Park Avenue.

There was a recent article in the Wall Street Journal talking about a bottleneck in processing benefits claims due to COVID-19. The problem is the retrieval of certification records from the archives in The St. Louis Records Center. The VA is working on the development of a way to start the processing again. Bottom line, I'm afraid some of you with claims will have to wait a bit longer for a resolution.



Post 3873 Calendar of Events February 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	
		9:30 am - 1:30 pm Hines Mobile Outreach Team Visit				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
				7:00 pm - VFW Meeting		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
						6:00 pm - Legion Dinner
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
1:00 pm - District 19 Meeting	President's Day					
28				Purim Begins		

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

