

THE KENDALL-GRAM



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May 2021

A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



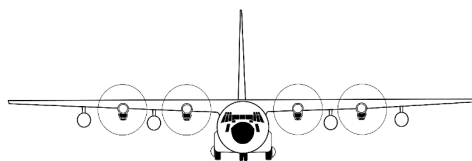
Commander Tom Parker



As we enter May, it appears that Spring may finally be here. Along with that comes one of our busiest months of the year. Near the end of the month, we will observe Memorial Day and plan to participate in the many activities that we are so well known for in the community once again. Our Poppy Drive will kick off the week and will be followed by the placing of American flags at the gravesites of veterans in our local cemeteries. Then on Memorial Day we will have a Memorial Day parade, conduct numerous ceremonies throughout Naperville, hold a short ceremony at the band shell, and conclude with lunch at the Post. It will be a full week and details about our Memorial Day activities are included in another article in this edition of the Kendall-Gram.

Recently I was reading about some of the Naperville residents that lost their lives while serving in the military. A common thread in each story was that these people were living normal lives here in town, going about their daily activities much like we do every day. Then at some point, they answered the call to serve our Country and found themselves in foreign lands fighting to preserve the ideals of our Country and the Constitution. As our Past Chaplain Maj Gen Mark Anderson once remarked, these people had something in their DNA that compelled them to step forward to answer the call to duty. And even though they knew the risks, they chose to serve anyway. I couldn't help but to think of the men I personally knew who lost their lives while serving. They were much like me in many ways, but extraordinary in so many others. I feel honored to have served with them and will be thinking of them on Memorial Day as I remember to treasure the life they and others have provided for us through their sacrifice.

As I indicated at the beginning of this column, we have a busy time ahead of us in May and I ask that all of you make an effort to come out to help. Sign up for a block of time during the Poppy Drive, join us for the ceremonies on Memorial Day morning, or just come out and walk in the parade with us. And if you find that you can't make it out to one of the events, I ask that you take some time this month to remember our many brothers and sisters in arms who are no longer with us. They probably weren't very different from you and me, yet they did something that even today only a small percentage are willing to do. For their service and sacrifice, we can give them a little of our time on Memorial Day.

Senior Vice Commander**Todd Schuneman**

In May we observe Memorial Day on the last Monday of the month to honor the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings, and participating in parades.

The Civil War, which ended in the spring of 1865, claimed more lives than any conflict in U.S. history and required the establishment of the country's first national cemeteries. By the late 1860s, Americans in various communities had begun holding springtime tributes to these countless fallen soldiers, decorating their graves with flowers and reciting prayers. Waterloo, New York is recognized as celebrating the first Decoration Day on May 5, 1866. It was chosen because it hosted an annual, community wide remembrance event during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags. On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan, who was the leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month. May 30, 1868 was designated for the purpose of scattering flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the war. The date of the first Decoration Day was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle. Memorial Day originally honored only those lost while fighting in the Civil War. But during World War I, the United States found itself embroiled in another major conflict and the holiday evolved to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars.

For decades, Memorial Day continued to be observed on May 30. In 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees. The change went into effect in 1971. The same law also declared Memorial Day a federal holiday.

For those of us in the VFW and the friends and family of the fallen, Memorial Day is much more personal. It is a day when we especially remember our buddies, comrades, brothers, sisters, moms, dads.... The memories of the good times and of their loss is very real to us. They live in our hearts and minds every day, where we memorialize them. It is our duty to ensure the rest of our country truly understands the meaning of Memorial Day.

Junior Vice Commander**Leo Jaime**

May is Military Appreciation Month. During the month, there are a number of patriotic and military-related subcategories that emphasize its importance. Below is a short list; pick a day and show support for our military!

May 1, 2021- Loyalty Day - A day set aside for American citizens to reaffirm their loyalty to the United States and to recognize the heritage of American freedom. The nation's founders are remembered on Loyalty Day, which is a day when people celebrate their freedom while remembering their responsibilities to continue the legacy of liberty.

May 1, 2021 - Silver Star Service Banner Day - A day set aside to honor our wounded, ill, and dying military personnel by participating in flying a Silver Star Banner. The tradition of a service banner with a blue star covered with silver threads to represent wounded service personnel began in 1917 following the suggestion of Women's Committee of the Council of National Defenses. Today it's recognized along with the Blue Star and Gold Star Service Banners.

May 7, 2021 - Military Spouse Appreciation Day - A day set aside to acknowledge the contributions and sacrifices of the spouses of the U.S. Armed Forces. On May 23, 1984, President Ronald Reagan declared the first Military Spouse Day with Proclamation 5184, dated April 17, 1984. He recognized the profound importance of spouse commitment to the readiness and well-being of military members.

May 8, 2021 - VE (Victory in Europe) Day - A day which marks the anniversary of the Allies' victory in Europe during World War II on May 8, 1945.

May 13, 2021 - Children of Fallen Patriots Day - A day to honor the families our Fallen Heroes have left behind – especially their children. It's a reminder to the community that we have an obligation to support the families of our Fallen Patriots.

May 15, 2021 - Armed Forces Day - A day set aside to pay tribute to men and women who serve in the United States' Armed Forces. On August 31, 1949, Louis Johnson, who was the United States' Secretary of Defense, announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy and Air Force Days. The event stemmed from the armed forces' unification under one department – the Department of Defense. The Army, Navy and Air Force leagues adopted the newly formed day. The Marine Corps League declined to drop support for Marine Corps Day (Oorah) but supports Armed Forces Day too.

May 31, 2021 - Memorial Day (Decoration Day) - A day set aside to commemorate all who have died in military service for the United States.

National Home for Children from Mike McGrath

Since 1925 the VFW National Home for Children has been providing help to military and veteran families. The Home provides a broad range of benefits and services designed to help families recover from unfortunate circumstances caused by war and war related service to our country.

The benefits provided include basic needs like food, clothing, shelter, education, daycare, an early education center, recreation, and case management for up to four years. In return, families need to commit to making the positive changes needed in their lives to achieve their full potential.

Remember, the Help Line is available, so please call (800) 313-4200 for details or visit the National Home's website at <http://www.vfwnationalhome.org>.

As always, thank you for your continued support and assistance for the National Home.

Honoring Our Fallen Veterans for Memorial Day

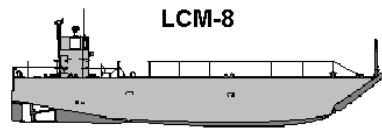
We will again be placing flags at veteran gravesites prior to Memorial Day in honor of their service to our country. This will begin on Thursday, May 27 as we go to all of the smaller cemeteries and memorials in the Naperville area. We will need 5-6 volunteers to help with this. If you can help, please plan to meet at the Post by 8:30 am. We will start at Big Woods and will proceed to the other locations after that.

On Friday, May 28, please plan to be at the Ss. Peter and Paul Cemetery no later than 9:00 am to render honors to those veterans interred at that cemetery. On Saturday, we will place flags at the Naperville Cemetery beginning at 9:00 am. We will do this, rain or shine, and can always use help at all locations.

There are currently close to 3,000 gravesites where we place flags. Thanks to Jim Hoch, all the veteran gravesites have been identified and are listed according to cemetery sections. This makes them easy to find.

On Tuesday, June 1, we will pick up the flags beginning at the Ss. Peter and Paul Cemetery at 9:00 am. Afterwards, we will pick up flags at Naperville Cemetery. We will be working in small groups each day, so please be sure to follow the Covid-19 guidelines.



Service Officer Updates**Dennis Lukavsky**

Here is some information you might find useful:

1. COVID-19 - Hines VA is now offering vaccines to veterans of all ages, as well as spouses. Also, some CBOC's are now offering the vaccine. Call the Central COVID-19 Scheduling number (708) 202-2027 or (708) 202-7000 to make an appointment. A major change in policy is that you no longer need to be enrolled in VA Healthcare to receive the vaccine.
2. Hines Out Reach - As a reminder, the Hines Outreach Team is now back in operation the first Tuesday of every month from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. If you need help enrolling in VA Healthcare, the Hines team can make it happen. Also, a representative from the State VFW Service Office department will be on hand to answer questions regarding benefits and claim applications. The next Outreach will be on Tuesday, May 4th. The team that comes to the Post every month is both knowledgeable and dedicated to serving veterans as most of them are vets. Make sure you take advantage of this opportunity to get in-person and real time responses to your questions.
3. Mission BBQ, a tireless supporter of veterans, active military, and law enforcement, is honoring all veterans this year for Armed Services Week! Check the dates below for your branch of service to receive your FREE sandwich!

Monday, May 10th: Army

Tuesday, May 11th: Marine Corps

Wednesday, May 12th: Navy

Thursday, May 13th: Air Force & Space Force

Friday, May 14th: Coast Guard

Saturday, May 15th: Armed Forces Day (all branches welcome for a 2nd FREE sandwich!)

Note: be sure to arrive before noon as you won't want to miss the National Anthem! Hope you'll join us on your service branch day and ARMED FORCES Day!

4. OSOT Golf Outing - Operation Support our Troops is sponsoring a golf outing at the Zigfield Troy Golf Course in Woodridge. The event will be on May 15th. If you have any interest and missed the email blast on this, let me know and I will give you the information.

GI Yoga to Resume at the Post

GI Yoga classes will resume at the Post on Wednesday, May 5th. Classes will start at 9:30 am and CDC guidelines will be followed. Masks must be worn in the building but may be removed while you are on your yoga mat. There is no need to sign up ahead of time for the class. Please bring your own equipment.

Dates to Remember

May 2 – Auxiliary Fundraiser - Painting on the Porch, 3:00 pm

May 4 – Hines Outreach Team Visit, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

May 5 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am

May 7 – Plant Sale Pick-up, 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

May 12 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am

May 13 – VFW Meeting, 7:00 pm

May 15 – Post Blood Drive, 7:30 am - 12:30 pm

May 15 – Visit Vets at Independence Village, 10:00 am

May 16 – District 19 Meeting, 1:00 pm

May 19 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am

May 20 – Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00 pm

May 26 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am

May 26 – Poppy Days Begin

May 28 – Flags at Ss Peter & Paul, 9:00 am

May 29 – Flags at Naperville Cemetery, 9:00 am

May 31 – Memorial Day

*** As events resume, please continue to observe all required mask and social distancing requirements.**

Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873 Spring Blood Drive**In the upstairs hall of the Post****Saturday, May 15th****7:30 am - 12:30 pm**

Donors are requested to schedule an appointment ahead of time.

Call Vitalant at (877) 258-4825 or log on to Vitalant.org to schedule your appointment.

Walk-ins will be accommodated as social distancing guidelines allow.

38,000 blood donations are needed each day.

Will You Help?

**In Our Thoughts...**

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

The family of Sue Houser, Past Post Judge Advocate for VFW Post 3873 and Desert Storm veteran, on her recent passing.

The family of Paul Hogan, member of VFW Post 3873 and WWII veteran, on his recent passing.

The family of Sandy Ruta, member of VFW Post 3873 and Vietnam veteran, on his recent passing.

Memorial Day Activities

At the request of the Naperville Memorial Day Parade Committee, members of VFW Post 3873, American Legion Post 43, and the Naperville Municipal Band will participate in Memorial Day activities this year. Many of you may recall that our parade and visits to various memorials was cancelled last year, but we were able to conduct a brief ceremony at Veterans Park. This year, we will be resuming our ceremonies at the numerous memorial locations around town and there will be a shortened parade consisting of only military veterans and a small group of Boy Scouts who will carry the banners for Naperville's 114 fallen service members.

The day will begin with a parade that will start at 9:00 am at the VFW Post and will end at the Dandelion Fountain on Jackson Avenue. All veterans wishing to be part of this parade should be at the Post by 8:30 am. Parking will be available in the lot behind the Post. Due to the shorter parade route, we will not be using the antique cars, however, those desiring to be part of the parade who wish to ride may do so in one of the Naperville Trollies that will accompany us that morning. We will then conduct memorial ceremonies throughout Naperville, concluding with our usual Memorial Day ceremony at Central Park. Upon conclusion of this ceremony, there will be a lunch for veterans at the Post.

The schedule of events for Memorial Day is as follows:

- 0830 – Veterans arrive at the Post
- 0900 – Parade steps off along Jackson Avenue
- 0915 – Memorial Service at the Dandelion Fountain
- 0940 – Memorial Service/Flag Raising at Shanower Memorial (City Hall)
- 0950-1130 – Memorial Services at Naperville Cemetery, Veterans Park, Ss. Peter & Paul, Burlington Square Park
- 1200 – Memorial Day Ceremony at Central Park
- 1300 – Luncheon at the Post

We will adhere to applicable Covid-19 guidelines during our activities and participants are asked to come prepared to do so. While this is a little different than what we normally do, it is good to be able to resume our Memorial Day events. If anything changes regarding this schedule, we will send out an e-mail blast with updated information.

New Post Officers for 2021-2022 Term

At the April Post meeting, nominations were accepted for the Post Officers for the 2021-2022 term. The following members were elected to serve in the following positions. These officers will assume their roles at the conclusion of the Department Convention in June.

Commander	Todd Schuneman
Sr. Vice Commander	Leo Jaime
Jr. Vice Commander	Mike McGrath
Quartermaster	Phil Maughan
Asst. Quartermaster	John Shaw
Chaplain	Bob Grember
Judge Advocate	Lawrence Goss
Surgeon	Bill Howland
3 Year Trustee	Pablo Araya
3 Year House	Tom Parker

Buddy Poppy Days

As Memorial Day approaches, it is time to plan for Buddy Poppy Days. We will collect from Wednesday, May 26 through Sunday, May 30. This annual fund raiser is one of our largest and its success depends on the participation of members of Post 3873 and our Auxiliary, as well as families and friends.

As was done in November:

- Masks must be worn!
- Touchless poppy distribution – poppies will be poked onto Styrofoam sheets and people will grab one themselves
- People can send us checks or contribute electronically via link to our bank.
- Stop by the conference room next to the bar to pick up a collection jug, a Styrofoam sheet, an instruction sheet, and ONE bag of poppies for each two-hour shift.
- Give your collections to the bartender and put the jug and left over poppies back in the conference room.

The collection locations for this year are as follows: Trader Joe’s, Caputo’s, Douglas Ace Hardware, Walgreens – Main-street – downtown Naperville, Walgreens at Ogden and Raymond/River Roads, Starbucks at Jefferson and Main, Culver’s at Naper and Ogden, Hugo’s and all of Water Street by the hotel and Naperville Township offices. Douglas Ace Hardware and Water Street will only be for Friday through Sunday.

We will only use electronic signups this year. The signup sheet can be accessed at: <https://volunteersignup.org/CPAMA>. Go to this link and scroll through the list of locations, days and times. The “open” column shows how many people are needed for that slot. The first name of the current volunteer will also be listed under the location identifier. When signing up we need your name, telephone number and email address. If someone needs to have Bob Colby at bob_colby@comcast.net or Nancy Marinello at nancymarinello@yahoo.com do the entry online, please let them know.

New Auxiliary Officers


At the April Auxiliary meeting, the following individuals were elected to serve as Auxiliary Officers for the 2021-2022 term.

President	Kathy Thornton
Sr. Vice	Berni Budny
Jr. Vice	Darlene Kwarta
Chaplain	Maryann Groner
Treasurer	Leo Hart
Conductress	Lucy Hoy
Guard	Mary Davidowski
1 Year Trustee	Brenda Hasler
2 Year Trustee	Joe Stacho
3 Year Trustee	Joanna Cook



Post 3873 Calendar of Events May 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 3:00 pm - Painting on the Porch	3	4 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Hines Community Outreach Team Visit	5 9:30 am - GI Yoga	6	7 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm Plant Sale Pick-up	8
9 Mother's Day	10	11	12 9:30 am - GI Yoga	13 7:00 pm - VFW Meeting	14	15 7:30 am - 12:30 pm Post Blood Drive 10:00 am - Visit Vets at Independence Village
16 1:00 pm - District 19 Meeting	17	18	19 9:30 am - GI Yoga	20 7:00 pm - Auxiliary Meeting	21	22
23	24	25	26 9:30 am - GI Yoga Poppy Days Begin	27	28 9:00 am - Flags at Ss Peter and Paul Cemetery	29 9:00 am - Flags at Naperville Cemetery
30	31  Memorial Day					

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

