

THE KENDALL-GRAM



Volume 21 Issue 06
June 2021

A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



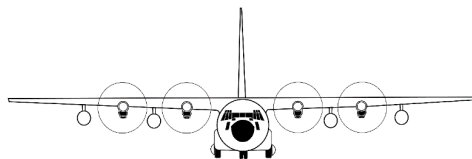
Commander Tom Parker



Once again, I find myself writing my last column as your current Commander. When I passed the gavel to Pablo three years ago, I was certain my days of being in command were done and I was happy to volunteer for whatever the Post had in store for me next. Little did I suspect that I'd be called on to serve again as your Commander this past year. Perhaps the fact that we held our Installation Ceremony on the back lawn of the Post with the incoming officers standing all over the place and wearing masks should have been an indication of what to expect. I think at that time, we all thought things would run their course in a few months and we'd be back to normal rather quickly. Obviously, things worked out a little differently.

While this past year prevented us from doing so many things, it was a year of firsts for the Post. We learned how to incorporate Zoom into our monthly meetings and the number of members taking advantage of that has continued to increase. We also figured out how to hold our Turkey Raffle and even a Ham Raffle using modern online technology. We were even able to have the annual Judd-a-Thon, albeit with masks and social distancing included – another first. None of this would have been possible without the determination, flexibility, and ingenuity of our members and the members of the Auxiliary. Thankfully, we are now seeing signs that life is getting back to normal. We can conduct meetings in person and for those that elect to do so, we can get together without wearing masks. Being able to observe Memorial Day with a parade and the many ceremonies around town was another step in being able to resume the activities that we've been accustomed to enjoying at the Post with our friends and families. I'm optimistic that as the new slate of officers assume their roles, we'll continue to have more and more opportunities to interact with each other.

For all those that supported the Post over the past year and our efforts to conduct business as usual, thank you. It was a tough year, but I think we're coming out the other side much stronger than we were going in. Thanks for allowing me another year of representing one of the best Post's in the nation and the opportunity to represent you. You're in good hands with the new officers and I know you'll provide them the same degree of support and assistance that you always provide. "06, out."

Senior Vice Commander**Todd Schuneman**

The Battle of Hill 937, Ap Bia Mountain from May 10 to May 20, 1969 was a direct assault against a heavily defended position in the A Sầu Valley. The engagement was part of Operation Apache Snow and fought by elements of the 101st Airborne Division and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) forces against the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN). The heavily fortified Ap Bia Mountain was ordered captured by the U.S. command through a frontal assault. The battle was primarily an infantry engagement, with the U.S. Airborne troops moving up the steep sloped hill against well entrenched troops. Attacks were repeatedly repelled by the PAVN defenses and hampered by bad weather. Nevertheless, the Airborne troops took the hill through direct assault, causing extensive casualties to the PAVN forces.

The battle on Ap Bia Mountain was the second part of a three-phased campaign intended to destroy base areas and damage PAVN forces in the A Shau valley. The PAVN had moved their regiments into the area to recover from losses sustained during Operation Dewey Canyon in February. This area had been an infiltration route into South Vietnam prior to 1966, when the PAVN seized the Special Forces camp during the "Battle of A Shau" after which they established a permanent presence. Subsequent U.S. efforts were aimed at damaging enemy forces in the valley rather than attempting to clear or occupy it. To accomplish the task the commander of XXIV Corps, amassed the equivalent of two divisions, substantial artillery and air support, to once again launch a raid into the valley.

The effectiveness of the U.S. forces was limited by narrow trails that funneled attacking companies into squad or platoon points of attack, where they encountered PAVN platoons and companies with prepared fields of fire. Thus, most small arms engagements were conducted at close range. U.S. fire support was also severely restricted. Units frequently pulled back and called in artillery fire, close air support, and aerial rocket artillery. The PAVN bunkers were well sited and constructed with overhead cover to withstand bombardment. During the course of the battle, the foliage was eventually stripped away and the bunkers exposed. They were so numerous and well-constructed that many could not be destroyed by indirect fire. Napalm, recoilless rifle fire, and platoon-level actions eventually accounted for the reduction of most fortifications.

The controversy of the conduct of the Battle of Hamburger Hill, Ap Bia Mountain led to a reappraisal of U.S. strategy in South Vietnam. As a direct result, to hold down casualties, General Abrams discontinued a policy of "maximum pressure" against the PAVN to one of "protective reaction" for troops threatened with combat action, while simultaneously the President announced the first troop withdrawal from South Vietnam.

U.S. losses during the ten-day battle totaled 72 killed and 372 wounded. To take the position, the 101st Airborne Division eventually committed five infantry battalions and ten batteries of artillery. In addition, the U.S. Air Force flew 272 missions and expended more than 500 tons of ordnance. This is yet another example of the American military's tenacity, dedication, and determination in completing its mission.

Junior Vice Commander**Leo Jaime**

This June 6th marks the 77th anniversary of the landing on the beaches of Normandy, France. Five landing beaches were selected for the assault: Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword. These sites were selected for their proximity to Great Britain, allowing for minimal time at sea and air coverage range. As dawn broke, the largest armada ever assembled began its assault on the beaches of Normandy as part of the top-secret mission called “Operation Overlord.” By the end of the day, the Atlantic Wall, which took the Germans years to build, had fallen and the invasion was a success. The events of D-Day forged partnerships and reinforced trans-Atlantic bonds that remain strong today.

The significance of the D-Day landings lies in the fact that they represented a major turning point in World War II and allows us to reflect on those who gave their lives to guarantee the freedom enjoyed today. Less than a year after the invasion, the Allies formally accepted Nazi Germany’s surrender.

Adolf Hitler launched one final unsuccessful counteroffensive in December 1944 at the Battle of the Bulge, called “the greatest American battle of the war” by Winston Churchill. While the battle was intended to split Allied lines and force negotiated peace, American forces were able to contain the battle and inflict heavier losses on the German forces. The fighting would continue for another month, but Hitler’s last chance at stopping the Allies advancing from the west was lost. The war in Europe was officially over on May 8, 1945, otherwise known as Victory in Europe Day or V-E Day.

D-Day Facts

150,000 Allied soldiers landed on the shores of Normandy.

5,000 vessels with 30,000 vehicles crossed the English Channel to France.

13,000 men parachuted into France.

11,000 planes were involved.

More than 300 planes dropped bombs.

9,000 allied soldiers (6% of the landing force) were dead or wounded after the first day.

At Omaha Beach, 9,387 Americans are buried.

The beaches were approximately 200 yards before any natural protection.

Factors to determine D-Day included the need for a long day, a day near a full moon (to guide ships/airborne troops) and strong tides.

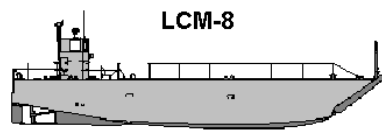
D-Day was scheduled one day earlier but due to weather concerns General Eisenhower moved the date to June 6.

Decoding Enigma, the great German code machine, intercepted German codes that helped pinpoint German fighting units in the Normandy area.

D-Day is the largest amphibious (land and water) invasion in history.

This June 6th, we remember our heroes of D-Day, of which 9,387 are still at Omaha Beach.

I’d like to also thank the leadership and members of our Post for an enjoyable year as your Junior Vice. As I move up the ranks, I’d like to re-affirm my commitment to advocating for our veterans in our community. I look forward to serving as your Senior Vice! Thank you for the opportunity and trust.

Service Officer Updates**Dennis Lukavsky**

Usually in this section, I highlight the events going on around the Post and any other newsworthy items I think are relevant. Since we just observed Memorial Day, this month I wanted to share a personal Memorial Day experience.

This happened about five years ago. A friend of mine had an old 1946 Chevy pickup and he decided to drive it in the Memorial Day parade. He asked if I would care to ride along, and I reluctantly agreed. We got down to Jackson and got in line. The folks there asked me my name and made a sign that said "SGT Dennis Lukavsky." They mounted it on the side of the truck along with a sign for my friend.

As we slowly made our way along the parade route something happened I will never, ever forget. I became very emotional, and it became impossible for me to hold back the tears. To put it simply, I cried like a baby. It was caused by the outpouring of gratitude, the shouts of "thank you" and "thank you for your service," and of course the cheering. As we turned down Benton, the cause of my tears dawned on me. This was the first time in almost 50 years the public ever said thank you to me. It touched my heart deeply and was one of the best experiences of my life.

Besides honoring the fallen, Memorial Day also helps lift up those of us who remember our collective experience while serving.

National Home for Children from Mike McGrath

Illinois Day at the National Home is scheduled for September 25, 2021 and arrangements for an exciting day are underway. We are looking forward to having a great trip and will have details to you soon so you can join us.

Highlights for the day will include a tour of the campus (over 629 acres) and visits to our very own Illinois Homes I and II. Additionally, the new museum is now open, and it offers a great chance to view the history of the National Home for Children through the years. A stop at the Gift Shop is a must, as is the nursery. The Montana Farmstead is a great attraction. It houses the 4-H activities of the children and it's always great to see what they are doing. The day includes a luncheon and program where we'll have an opportunity to meet many of the National Home residents and staff.

The National Home is in Lansing, MI, about 250 miles from our Post, and many enjoy driving over on Friday for the Illinois Day activities. We do plan to have a "get together dinner" at the local VFW outside the National Home that Friday evening and will provide a list of local hotels soon. Please mark September 25 on your calendar now and plan to join us to see the many wonderful things taking place at the National Home. And as always, many thanks to all for your continued support of this very worthwhile organization.

Dates to Remember

Jun 1 – Hines Outreach Team Visit, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
 Jun 2 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am
 Jun 9 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am
 Jun 10 – VFW Meeting, 7:00 pm
 Jun 12 – Visit Vets at Independence Village, 10:00 am
 Jun 14 – Flag Day

Jun 14 – U.S. Army Birthday
 Jun 16 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am
 Jun 17 – Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00 pm
 Jun 23 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am
 Jun 30 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am

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

Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873 Virtual Blood Drive

July 1st through July 31st

Donors who weren't able to join us at our recent in-person blood drive can still donate on behalf of the Post by scheduling an appointment with Vitalant at (877) 258-4825 or register at

[Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873 Virtual Blood Drive](#)

When you receive an e-mail, schedule your appointment for July at any Vitalant location

Use Code: 073C to make sure the Post gets credit for your donation

Thanks to all who donated at our last blood drive, we collected 24 donations which will help save 72 lives.

Please remember that blood is in constant demand and there is currently a critical shortage due to the reduction in donations during the Covid-19 pandemic.

BLOOD DRIVE



Naperville VFW Post 3873 Virtual Blood Drive

July 1, 2021 through July 31, 2021



All presenting donors with a confirmed e-mail address on file will receive a T-shirt (Choice Blood Donor vs. Platelet Donor) June 30 – July 7

You can schedule your appointment by calling Vitalant at 877. 258.4825. Make sure to mention group code: **073C** at the time of donation.



Masks are required. Appointments Recommended.

1. To get your emailed invitation to schedule your appointment for our Virtual Blood Drive- **CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**

2. When your email arrives, click "Schedule Now" to book your appointment at any convenient blood donation location. Be sure to use the same email address you used to sign up. This is important because it helps Vitalant connect your donation to our organization's virtual blood drive.

3. Provide the same email address at the time of donation.

 **GIVE BLOOD | vitalant.org**

vitalant. 



Post 3873 Calendar of Events June 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Hines Community Outreach Team Visit	2 9:30 am - GI Yoga	3	4	5 10:00 am - Visit Vets at Independence Village
6	7	8	9 9:30 am - GI Yoga	10 7:00 pm - VFW Meeting	11	12
13	14 U.S. Army Birthday Flag Day	15	16 9:30 am - GI Yoga	17 7:00 pm - Auxiliary Meeting	18	19
20	21	22	23 9:30 am - GI Yoga	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 9:30 am - GI Yoga			

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

