

THE KENDALL-GRAM



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A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



Commander Todd Schuneman



According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, there are approximately 19 million U.S. veterans. This represents less than 10% of the total U.S. adult population. As veterans, we are the only ones who truly understand the joys and sacrifices of serving in the military. We also have a keen understanding of the needs of veterans, whether still in uniform or after our active service is complete. Some of these needs include camaraderie and information regarding injury or toxic exposures we may have experienced while in uniform. A couple of ways in which we can acquire camaraderie and information is through social media and veteran organizations.

Even though social media can be a cesspool at times, it can be a good way of reconnecting with shipmates and battle buddies from our youth. I recently reconnected with a buddy through Facebook. We attended "A" School and subsequently were assigned to the same squadron on Okinawa, our first duty station. The last time I saw Scott was at the PX on NAS Glenview in 1985 as he was preparing to be discharged. We messaged each other, exchanging phone numbers, and finally connected after a week of texting. We reminisced about our adventures overseas and learned about each other's families and what we had done with our lives. We were on the phone for two hours. He had also found two of our other buddies and we are all planning a reunion in the near future. Another asset that social media can provide is information. Two Facebook groups that I belong to are Futenma Marines and MCAS El Toro Toxic Dumping Ground. In these groups, we discuss our exposures to agent orange, trichloroethylene, nuclear materials, and other toxins. We also discuss the hoops that we have had to jump through to get treatment and compensation from the Veterans Administration. These groups provide support, comradeship, and best practices for receiving the compensation that we deserve.

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Commander's Column (Continued from Page 1)

Another means by which we can stay informed and advocate for programs and compensation we have earned, is through veteran organizations such as the VFW Action Corps. The Action Corps is our national grassroots advocacy network. It is comprised of more than 300,000 VFW members and patriotic supporters of veterans. This group stays up to date on the issues facing our veterans, our military, and their families. The Corps stands ready to email, write, call, and visit our nation's lawmakers to make their voices heard. The VFW Action Corps is free and open to all patriotic Americans who care about the military and veteran communities.

As a member of the Action Corp, your voice is added to the thousands of veteran advocates making a difference every day. To help stay engaged and up to date, members receive an easy-to-read electronic newsletter that highlights the VFW's advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill, immediate access to a nationwide database of contact information for all elected officials, and a congressional directory. Additionally, members receive regular VFW "Action Alerts" on how to get involved when our nation's veterans, service members, and their families need their voices heard on Capitol Hill.

The Action Corps is what gives the VFW its strength in advocating for our nation's veterans. Working hand-in-hand with the VFW's National Legislative Service, members of the VFW Action Corps are armed with all of the tools and information they need to help the VFW in its mission to support our veterans.

As veterans, we have a multitude of avenues by which we can reconnect or stay connected with our old friends, such as social media and veteran organizations. We can use these same avenues to stay informed, gather information, and advocate for one another. We all need to stay connected and stay engaged. There's only 19 million of us, which really isn't that many when you consider the size of the American population.

In Our Thoughts...

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

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

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

Senior Vice Commander**Leo Jaime**

Please join me in extending a special salute to our Desert Shield/Desert Storm vets! 31 years ago on August 2, 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait to claim its oil fields, hence initiating Operation Desert Shield which later became Operation Desert Storm on January 17, 1991. It seems like yesterday...

One month earlier, I was graduating from Marine Track Vehicle Repairman School at the Aberdeen Army Proving Grounds, Maryland. I was a motivated Reservist Lance Corporal looking forward to reporting to my unit for my monthly drills and returning to college in between. Little did I know that on my first drill my plans (and life) would change forever. On August 3, a day after Saddam Husain invaded Kuwait and while the news outlets were still digesting the events, I learn that I was no longer a Reservist, and to prepare for deployment. We were activated in support of 1st Marine Division, getting ready to join the 13th Navy Fleet headed West. I later learned that I was one of 11,860 Reservists of a total Marine force of 84,498 that went to the Gulf. One out of every eight Marines that participated in the operations was a Reservist.

My unit was A Company, 4th Tank Battalion, 4th Marine Division, a bunch of long-haired Reservists in a unit that last saw combat during the Korean War. We did not even have tanks! Most Marines had the minimum amount of training. Morale, let's just say, depended on the amount of booze the gunny would show up with for drills. But when we got activation orders, it all magically changed. It was truly magical. I heard about this during boot camp and from war stories of old salty Marines - somehow, a bunch of misfits quickly turn into professional Marines. One team gelling into a powerful Tank unit ready to pot some Iraqi T55's off the Kuwaiti desert. We trained for the next 3 months in the hills of Camp Pendleton and in mid-November, loaded 18 M60A3 tanks onto the LHA 1 Tarawa and the LSD 39 Mt Vernon. A month later, we offloaded in Subic Bay, PI for further training and to await orders to go to the Gulf. On February 24, 1991, we offloaded at Al-Jebal Saudi Arabia, and proceed North to Kuwait. The rest is history.

My story is no different than that of any other veteran that answered the call. What is special, is the ability (magical sometimes) of our armed forces to train and fight together. We, as veterans, still have it. We come together at the Post to take care of those that need us most. We still serve and do so, proudly! Some serve actively and others in "reserve"; nevertheless, we all serve together. Our next mission is to perpetuate our legacy. I need you to join the main effort. Ask a vet to join our Post and grow our membership!

Dates to Remember

Aug 3 – Hines Outreach Team Visit, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Aug 4 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am

Aug 4 – U.S. Coast Guard Birthday

Aug 7 – Visit Vets at Monarch Landing, 10:00 am

Aug 11 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am

Aug 12 – VFW Meeting, 7:00 pm

Aug 15 – District 19 Meeting (in Naperville), 12:00 pm

Aug 18 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am

Aug 19 – Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00 pm

Aug 21 – Visit Vets at Independence Village, 10:00 am

Aug 25 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am

Aug 28 – Visit Vets at Story Point, 10:00 am

Junior Vice Commander

Mike McGrath



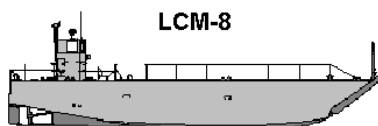
Afghanistan – A 20-year war. Our deep gratitude to the almost 800,000 American military veterans who have been deployed to Afghanistan, many with multiple deployments. It is estimated that 30,000 have been deployed up to five times or more. Approximately 20,000 veterans have been wounded and over 2,400 have paid the ultimate price for our freedom. For those returning home, “welcome home” and blessings to both our troops and their families.

There are a several key dates coming up in the future that you won’t want to miss. Be sure to mark them on your calendars and plan to join us. On July 31 at 6:00 pm, Comedy Night at the Post will take place in the canteen. There will be food, entertainment, and lots of laughs, so plan to come out that evening. There will also be a Pig Roast in August. We’re still working out the logistics and once we have everything lined up, we’ll get a blast out to everyone. I’m sure it will be as great as our past Pig Roasts, and we look forward to seeing everyone for a great time together.

If you haven’t started training yet, now’s the time to get started. The annual 0.1k Judd-A-Thon is right around the corner, set to start on Sunday, September 19 at 10:01 am sharp. Race Director Pablo Araya promises another herculean and dynamic event, so you won’t want to miss it. The very next weekend will be Illinois Day at the National Home. Plan to join us on Saturday, September 25 in Eaton Rapids, Michigan as we once again show our support for this outstanding organization. Maybe plan to arrive on Friday, the 24th to join us for a welcome dinner at the local VFW in Michigan. Additional details are available in the canteen, and you won’t want to miss this trip.

Service Officer Updates

Dennis Lukavsky



Members of the Post have been very busy this past month participating in very worthwhile services such as attending welcome home ceremonies, Desert Storm pinning ceremonies, visiting veterans in our local retirement homes, and the flag raising ceremony at Maplebrook. We also sponsored a virtual blood drive, which hopefully many of you were able to participate in and found convenient. Unfortunately, we’ve been busy with walk-thru’s for some of our long-time friends and fellow Post members. We are always saddened at the loss of our comrades, but we’re proud to be able to honor them and to offer our ongoing support for their families.

On a different note, the VA is continuing to make improvements for veterans. The list of presumptive diseases caused by Agent Orange has been expanded and support for having younger veterans sign-up for the Burn Pit Registry continues. As new or updated information becomes available, I’ll be sure to get it out to you.

Finally, we are offering more events at the Post as things continue to get back to normal. Many of these include food, entertainment, and dancing. Come out to join us and have some fun. You deserve it.

Auxiliary Report from President Kathy Thornton

It's MALTA time, meaning it is membership renewal time for all Auxiliary annual members. Please log on to MALTA (go to vfwauxiliary.org and click on MALTA member login on the right side). Login using your ID membership number, which appears on your membership card. You can pay your \$16.00 renewal here or just mail a check to me at the Post (908 W Jackson, Naperville IL 60540, my attention). Thanks for supporting not just the Auxiliary, but our veterans. We are trying to get to 100% membership by October. Please help me in reaching this goal.

Our Auxiliary is pleased to announce local Naperville North student, Olivia Rees, a junior this past year has placed 3rd in the VFW Auxiliary's 2021 Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest in Illinois. Her artwork, entitled "Unity" is on display at the VFW Post in the Canteen. Stop by the canteen to see it! More information on her award appears in this month's Positively Naperville edition online and in print.

Congratulations to Olivia! We are proud to have her represent our Auxiliary.



Do You Know Where Your DD-214 Is?

All veterans should know where their DD-214 is located. In addition to serving as proof of your military service, your DD-214 (or Discharge document prior to DD-214) authorizes your service branch to fold the American flag at your graveside service and present it to your family. It also provides documentation that allows for the payment of death benefits reimbursed by the government (payable up to 2 years after death).

If you can't find a copy of your DD-214 or would like to get additional information on reimbursement of death benefit funds, the following two government websites will be useful.

To obtain a copy of your DD-214, use the following website:

<https://vetrecs.archives.gov/VeteranRequest/home.html>

For information and a description of the steps required to request death benefits up to 2 years after the death of a veteran, use the following website:

<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/veterans-burial-allowance/>

It is the veteran's responsibility to ensure someone knows where to find his/her DD-214. Funeral homes will need this document to request flag folding ceremonies from your respective service branch. Because the funeral homes in Naperville often contact the VFW and American Legion for this document, it might be a good idea to have a copy on file at the Post in addition to ensuring your family knows where to find your copy at home.



Post 3873 Calendar of Events August 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Hines Community Outreach Team Visit	4 9:30 am - GI Yoga Coast Guard Birthday	5	6	7 10:00 am - Visit Vets at Monarch Landing
8	9	10	11 9:30 am - GI Yoga	12 7:00 pm - VFW Meeting	13	14
15 12:00 pm - District 19 Meeting (Naperville)	16	17	18 9:30 am - GI Yoga	19 7:00 pm - Auxiliary Meeting	20	21 10:00 am - Visit Vets at Independence Village
22	23	24	25 9:30 am - GI Yoga	26	27	28 10:00 am - Visit Vets at Story Point
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	Todd Schuneman	(815) 791-4178
Sr. Vice Commander	Leo Jaime	(773) 441-3887
Jr. Vice Commander	Mike McGrath	(630) 357-2680
Quartermaster	Phil Maughan	(630) 383-1974
Ass't Quartermaster	John Shaw	(630) 961-3479
Adjutant	Nina Petru	(630) 871-9596
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	Bob Grember	
1-Year Trustee	Bob Bronson	(630) 886-9102
2-Year Trustee	Craig Frier	
3-Year Trustee	Pablo Araya	(312) 505-4377

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	Dennis Lukavsky	(630) 272-9064
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	Bob Colby	(630) 301-2664
House	Bob Tallon	(630) 561-9902
House	Tom Parker	(630) 280-9347
Membership	Leo Jaime	(773) 441-3887
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	Kathy Thornton	(630) 667-6704
Sr. Vice President	Bernadette Budny	(630) 717-9471
Jr. Vice President	Darlene Kwarta	
Treasurer	Leo Hart	
Secretary	Nancy Marinello	(630) 464-3696
Chaplain	Maryann Groner	(630) 363-8138
Guard	Mary Davidowski	
Conductress	Lucy Hoy	

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

