

**THE**

A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



# KENDALL-GRAM



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**Commander Pablo Araya**



**FLY NAVY**



Thanks to a vibrant and patriotic Naperville community, and an abundance of willing Veterans, we enjoyed a fantastic Veterans Day week! Bravo Zulu to everyone that participated. Speaking with the students of our community is important in helping them understand the meaning of service above self, civic duty and commitment. They are the future, and we can blame only ourselves if we don't do our part to cultivate those values.

If you haven't already done so, I urge you to get your tickets for the Post's 75th Anniversary Celebration. We will also be honoring the 100th Anniversary of the death of our namesake, Oliver "Judd" Kendall who was killed in action in Cantigny in WW I. The celebration will be held at the Post on January 11 starting at 1800. There are fliers and tickets in the Canteen and if you have any questions, Nina Petru is the celebration's committee chairperson, and you can email her at [petru1520@comcast.net](mailto:petru1520@comcast.net). The cost will be \$25.00 per ticket and the dress is Military Mess Dress or cocktail attire.

I have been dared, then double dared, by the planing committee to wear my Navy Mess Dress uniform. As it appears to have shrunk in the closet from disuse, I will either cut back on my caloric intake or send it to the tailor for "unshrinking manipulation," but I will wear it. The committee is working hard to make this jubilee celebration a success, and many resources are being tapped for its success. Because of this, we have decided not hold a Commander's Christmas Party this year.

December will, however, see my beloved Navy, once again triumph over Army at our annual Canteen viewing party on December 8. Kickoff is at 1400, but you need to come early for a good seat. Fly Navy and Beat Army!

And to all of you I wish a Happy Holiday Season filled with love and peace. And thank you for all you do for the Post and for your fellow Veterans.

### **Editor's farewell by Marcy Maughan**

When Phil was the Post commander in 1998, his newsletter editor took a job transfer and left Naperville. I was working at that time for the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce and doing their newsletter every month. So Phil handed me the Post newsletter and asked if I would do it until he found someone else. I think he stopped looking years ago.

Fast forward 20 years and Tom Parker has stepped forward to do the newsletter so I can finally retire. In those twenty years I only missed one issue. I had the Kendall Gram done and saved (but not yet backed up) and the hard drive crashed. When that happens, you can't do much of anything. Over the years I have had lots of computers and my share of hard drive crashes and other computer problems. But the Kendall-Gram was always there.

I have put the Kendall-Gram together in countless hotel rooms and from our flat in London. I have dragged my laptop everywhere. I have no idea how many officers have led this Post and auxiliary during my tenure. But I enjoyed working with all of them. It has been fun (for the most part) and I enjoyed putting together a quality product. And it has been nice that the Kendall-Gram has won so many awards!

My thanks to all the commanders I have worked for, thanks to the post and auxiliary members who have sent me articles, thanks to the people who have sent me pictures from the various events and a big thanks to Minuteman press and all the people I worked with there. Please send all future articles to our new editor, Tom Parker at [tomparker60@gmail.com](mailto:tomparker60@gmail.com). Thank you, Tom, for taking over.

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### **VFW National Home for Children by Mike Mcgrath**

Yes indeed, Christmas is right around the corner at the National Home. Santa and the Cooties will be visiting in December and bringing lots of goodies on their sleigh ( actually on fire trucks) and *Santa's Christmas Shop* for the kids will be opening up soon too. We'll have some pictures for you next time.

National Home Life memberships make great gifts, so pick up an application over at the post. They're still only \$40.00 including a life member pin. It's a great way to become aware of and informed about all the wonderful things going on at the home.

Ho ho ho, Merry Christmas to all and thank you !

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### **Quilts of Valor Presentation by Peggy Beata**



Friday, October 26th was a special day for veterans Frank Haynes, Lou Kuelzto and John Shaw when they were awarded Quilts of Valor to honor them for their service to our country. Veterans of the Navy and Army, the gentlemen received their quilts from Illinois Q of V Coordinator, Rita Pennington. Each of the recipients took the opportunity to share a few memories while offering gratitude to our VFW for giving them the chance to serve those currently deployed. Family members along with post and auxiliary officers honored our post members with their attendance and camaraderie.

**HELP YOUR FAMILY by Mike Barbour**

Over the last 2 months I have been involved with helping family members find discharge papers or DD-214s for a deceased Veteran. Some searches were successful, some not. What did that mean? In order to get VA burial benefits those documents are mandatory. For those that we couldn't find the necessary paperwork it meant the funeral home could not provide a casket flag. It also meant that the deceased couldn't have active duty soldiers present at their funeral. A tragedy because the Veteran served with honor. Unfortunately the law is the law.

What can be done to avert this chaos? Veterans make sure your family members and caregivers have access to all your pertinent records. My wife has a file that includes my DD-214, medical records, VA disability rating letter, medical power of attorney, will and **passwords to all my accounts.**

If the Veteran's pertinent information is in a lockbox at a bank what happens if it is the weekend? The same goes if the DD-214 is registered at the County Recorder's office. If you have exhausted all avenues you will need to contact the National Archives in St. Louis. How do I do that? Go to [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) and at the bottom of the homepage is a Quick List. Scroll down to VA forms. Click on that link, when the forms page comes up under "search" type in SF-180. The form is the **Request Pertaining To Military Records.** It is a 3 page form which asks for basic information. On their homepage they state that it will take at least 10 days to process the form. As you can tell that is not the answer for immediate access to the Veteran's records

I realize this is not my usual scintillating column but ladies and gentlemen no one gets out alive. It both frustrates and hurts me personally when we know the Veteran did serve but we can't prove it. They deserve the honor and respect of the nation for their service.

Veterans you can make it easier on your family in their time of grief if you make sure you give them information. Family members you can make it easier by asking, no nagging your Veteran to give you that information.

**Dates to Remember**

Dec 1 - Visit with the Vets at Monarch Landing 10 AM  
 Dec 2 Hanukkah begins  
 Dec 4 - Hines Outreach 9:30 - 1:30 PM  
 Dec 5 - Yoga for Vets 9:30 AM  
 Dec 5 - Auxiliary Visit to Community Conv 2 PM  
 Dec 6 - American Legion Meeting 7 PM  
 Dec 7 - Pearl Harbor Day  
 Dec 8 - Visit the Vets at Brookdale 10 AM  
 Dec 8 - Army Navy Game (Go Army) 2 PM  
 Dec 9 - Free breakfast for Veterans 9 AM

Dec 11 - Visit to Hines Hospital 6:15 PM  
 Dec 12 - Free Yoga for Vets 9:30 AM  
 Dec 13- VFW Meeting 7 PM  
 Dec 15 - Visit with Vets at Independence Village 10 AM  
 Dec 16- Children's Christmas Party 2-4 PM  
 Dec 19- Free Yoga for Vets 9:30 AM  
 Dec 20- Auxiliary Meeting 7 PM  
 Dec 22 - Vist with Vets at Harbor Chase 10 AM  
 Dec 25 - Christmas  
 Dec 26 - NO YOGA  
 Jan 2 - NO YOGA

**Holiday Hours at the Post:**

Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve: Noon till 5 PM  
 Christmas Day and New Year's Day: Noon till 3 PM

**Blood Drive by Nina Petru**

Blood Drive Update. . . .the post was ready, and the phlebotomists reported on time. Unfortunately, the young man that is responsible for driving the truck with all the supplies and equipment overslept. LifeSource sends their apologies for the failure on their part. We all know things can happen. I do apologize for any inconvenience this snafu caused our members and donors. Our next blood drive is Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars.

**Auxiliary Report by President Kathy McNally**

November was a very busy month for all of us! Wasn't it great to see all the patriotic salutes to our Veterans? Did you get a chance to hear any bells at 11:00 am on November 11th? I found it interesting that many of the news outlets reported on the history of this Armistice Day and its 100th Anniversary.

As of press time, it seems that our 2018 Turkey Raffle will be one to brag about! We'll report more on that next month.

Now that the really cold weather is upon us, it's time to think about Christmas! The Hall is merrily decorated and ready for the festivities of the month.

You need not audition to accompany the caroling volunteers at the Hines Hospital Visit on Tuesday, December 11th. Meet at the Post by 6:15pm to ensure a bright and merry time for our hospitalized Veterans.

Don't forget the Post's Children's Christmas Party from 2 to 4pm on Sunday, December 16th. Good little boys and girls will be entertained with crafts and a visit from Santa. To ensure your child or grandchild is included, please email to me their names and ages at [kathymcnally@wowway.com](mailto:kathymcnally@wowway.com) or call or text me at (708) 642 5986. We don't want to miss anyone!

And we will wrap up our month with our annual Auxiliary Christmas Party at our meeting on Thursday, December 20th at 7 PM. We curtail business and enjoy holiday warmth with snacks and a gift exchange (no more than \$10). We play Yankee Trader - and you need to see our Sisters and Brothers in action here, scheming for the best gift. That alone is worth the price of admission!

Finally, I would like to join the Commander in wishing everyone in our embrace a most Blessed and Merry Christmas - to you, your family, and all our Veterans and those currently serving. And of course, all the best in the New Year!

**Veterans Day Ceremony, pictures by Jim Hoch**

The Honor guard waits to salute their fellow veterans.



Mike McGrath, Dick McLaughlin and Bill Archer.



Commander Pablo Araya speaks to the crowd.



Veterans stand together in the cold during the ceremonies.