

THE

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KENDALL-GRAM



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Commander Pablo Araya



FLY NAVY



As the lazy, hazy days of August are upon us, and we catch up on our summer reading, knock out a few projects around the house, soak up the sun's warming rays and generally kick back and take it easy, I can't help but reflect on July's birthday celebration of our great nation.

In 1960, at the age of 32, with a rank of Inspector in his country's federal police force, my Dad finally received his visa to the United States after a six year wait. When he originally sought the visa, he was single, and had about five years of burgeoning career under his belt. But by the time the US Embassy alerted him of his approved visa, he was an eleven year law enforcement veteran, with a wife and three children. I was almost one year old when he made the decision to follow his American Dream. Winding up in NYC like so many immigrants, he toughed it out for nearly a year, bouncing from one laborer job to another. His sponsor had promised him a place to live temporarily, but not a livelihood. He wrote my Mom back in Santiago, and let her know that the streets in the US were not, after all, paved in gold, with opportunities knocking on every door. He was ready to throw in the towel. My Mom, a university professor, urged my Dad to contact a former schoolmate of hers that had settled in Chicago. He did, and a few weeks later boarded a Greyhound to the Windy City.

My Mom's friend helped him land a janitorial job at St. Procopious College, now known as IBC. Within a few months, he had saved enough to relocate his family to Naperville, where he had rented the first floor of a two flat on Washington Street. A few weeks later he was hired by Edward Hospital as a lab tech. My Mom, meanwhile, found work in the hospital's kitchen, until a dean at North Central College "discovered" her and hired her as a Spanish Professor. In 1964, my parents bought their first home in Naperville: a three bedroom ranch located in the East Highlands for a cost of \$12,000, which required a mortgage from the Naperville National bank.

My parents both passed away a couple of years ago, but not before raising two sons who both served in the US Navy, and two daughters that raised successful families of their own. And as I sit in my backyard, enjoying a warm breeze and sipping an ice cold beer, I understand why my Dad's favorite holiday was July 4th. So I ask all of you to reflect on our incredible fortune to live the American Dream everyday, and to remember our mission at the Post and never forget those that gave us this gift.

The Judd-a-Thon is coming!!!!

Sign up at napervfw3873.org or pick up an entry in the canteen!

Senior Vice Commander Brian Byrne

I can't believe it's August already and we are talking about the winding down of summer. I know the subject of back to school clothes has already been mentioned at my house and I am delaying having that discussion. All of that being said it's a new fiscal year with new challenges. In the near future I will be reviewing membership numbers and if we as a post all bring in one new member it's not only a recruiting goal – it's a seed planted for a sound future. The more we grow the more set up we are for the long term. The post is already State and Nationally recognized in so many ways. What an opportunity we have to share with fellow Veterans and facilitate growth for years to come. Remember its not just a number, and you never know what that person may bring to the table so please, the next time you see that license sticker or someone with a hat on please make sure you have that conversation. I look forward to the Post's continued success and am grateful for the trust that has been put in me!

**The VFW National Home for Children by Mike McGrath****Illinois Day**

Our upcoming visit to the VFW National Home for Children will be on Saturday, September 22, with Illinois Day activities beginning at 10 a.m. (Michigan time) with lunch at noon, followed by the program at 1 p.m.

Also as in the past, there will be a “get together“ on Friday evening September 21, at the nearby VFW post in Charlotte Michigan, for those comrades arriving on Friday. Festivities start at 5 p.m. (Michigan time.) Local motels are available but are filling up fast as this is a very popular trip, a great time of year, and a beautiful area !!! Don't wait

Local motels are as follows ... please make your own accomodations ... ask for the VFW(military) discount.

HOLIDAY INN ... 517 541 5000
 COMFORT INN ... 517 543 7307
 AMERICA INN ... 517 543 8288

**CALLING ALL GOLFERS. . . .****SAVE the DATE!!!**

The 2018 Judd Kendall VFW Golf Outing will be held on Saturday, September 8th at the Springbrook Golf Course right here in Naperville. The fee remains the same at \$100 per golfer which includes 18 holes with a cart, lunch at the turn, buffet dinner, a couple adult beverages and PRIZES>>>PRIZES!!

Mark your calendars.

The sign-up sheet will be posted in the canteen the first week in August. We're looking for 12 foursomes this year!!



Veteran of the Month

Name - Jose Jimenez
Rank - Cpl
Branch of Service - USMC and ARNG
Current Age - 44
Total Years served - 7

Places Served - Domestically I was deployed up and down both coasts; Internationally I was deployed to: Somalia, Cuba, Okinawa, Indonesia, Malaysia, Phillipenes, Singapore, and Thailand.

Fondest Memory while Serving: 4th of July, 1994, we had just gotten back from Mogadishu and were able to enjoy some much needed time off and “beverages” in Virginia Beach.

Quote:
 If the mind can perceive it, the body can achieve it.



Dates to Remember

Be sure to put this year’s Judd-a-Thon on your calendar for September 16. You won’t want to miss this fabulous .1K race to benefit the VFW National Home for Children

- Aug 1 - Free Yoga for Veterans, 9:30 AM
- Aug 2 - American Legion Meeting 7 PM
- Aug 2 - Naperville Municipal Band Concert 7:30 PM
A Melodic Caravan
- Aug 4- Coffee with the Vets at Monarch Landing, 10 AM
- Aug 7 - Hines Community Outreach Program 9 - 2 PM
- Aug 8 - Free Yoga for Veterans 9:30 AM
- Aug 9 - VFW Meeting 7 PM
- Aug 9 - Municipal Band Concert, 7:30 PM
Thanks for the Memories
- Aug 11 - Visit with the Vets at Brookdale, 10 AM
- Aug 12 - Life Member Breakfast 9:00

- Aug 15 - Free yoga for Vets 9:30 AM
- Aug 16 - Auxiliary Meeting 7 PM
- Aug 16 - Naperville Municipal Band and the Big Band Concert 7:30 PM
- Aug 18- Coffee with the Vets at Independence Village 10 AM
- Aug 22 - Free Yoga for Vets 9:30 AM
- Aug 25 - Visit with the Vets at Harbor Chase 10 AM