

**THE**

A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



# KENDALL-GRAM



Volume 18 Issue 7,  
July 2018

## Commander Pablo Araya



Fly NAVY



May, 2018 will be one for the books, at least the Araya Books! It started out with news that Judd Kendall hit, and then surpassed membership goal of 100%. My youngest daughter's graduation from Illinois State followed, indicating that perhaps I'll hit household budgetary goals for the first time ever in 2019!

A few days later I traveled to Norfolk, Virginia to celebrate the first reunion in thirty years of my old Helicopter Squadron (HS-12). It had been so long since I'd seen most of my shipmates, I initially didn't even recognize many of the pilots and crewman I had logged so many hours with in the cockpit, flying off the deck of USS MIDWAY (CG-41). However, after a round of golf, a few drinks and a delicious dinner, it was as if we were all back on the boat, exchanging tall tales of our latest port visit and aviation derring-do.

Upon my arrival at ORD, I drove straight to the Post, where the Retired FBI Agents' Association honored dozens of past and current agents who had served in the military prior to a career in law enforcement. Four days later I quietly celebrated my 35th anniversary of walking through the gates of NAS Pensacola, the Birthplace of Naval Aviation, where my unforgettable Navy journey began; a journey that on May 20th, had me take the oath of office as your new Commander at the Post's Installation Dinner.

The following week I was once again overwhelmed by the patriotism and respect that Naperville shows its Veterans as the long, hot Memorial Day weekend ensued. Then, smack dab in the middle of the most somber weekend of the year, Alma, our first grandchild made her debut. The juxtaposition of honoring all those that gave the last full measure so that we could live free in the greatest nation in the world, with the arrival of an infant, so innocent and dependent, whose name literally means Soul, was not lost on me.

The month closed with an invitation from my alma mater, North Central College, to participate in their Student Veterans Association's Hail and Farewell...so much potential and promise!

If I haven't already said it to you personally, I will try to in the coming year: Thank you for your confidence in me and trusting me with the Command of the best VFW Post in the country.

**Senior Vice Commander Brian Byrne** Passing the Torch. . .And Running with It

It has been nearly 10 years since I left the US Army, honestly when I left I never thought I would use the term “head gear” or “your six” again. As I drove on I-70 east out of Fort Riley, I didn’t know what direction life would take me. Honestly, I didn’t even have a job lined up yet, I just knew I was fortunate to be back from Iraq and glad to be reunited with my wife and then three year-old daughter. Almost a decade later (which it does not feel that far removed) I found my destination, I found a new career and I found a new home here at the post.

Coming on board I new I would be the “FNG” (we have all been that at one point in life or another) and probably one of the less senior members of the post. However, I am greatly appreciative of the way I was welcomed on-board and had faith and trust placed in me from the day I walked in the post. It’s truly an honor.

If you look at the television, the internet and social media we are in crisis globally and nationally. All of us at one point answered the call. We all did our part in many a crisis, we all did what we had to do and our experience here spans generations. There are members of the Greatest Generation still with us who subsequently experienced a golden age of prosperity in our nation that history had never seen. We still have many Veterans who fought in the Korean Conflict (and some who served under the active armistice), and there are a number of Vietnam Vets who answered the call and did not begin getting recognized until around 20 years or more later. Then a group of folks Stormed the Desert in the largest international coalition ever assembled since World War II.

Then on September 11, 2001 the world changed quite a bit and brought my generation (Generation X) to the forefront. We had all been raised with video games, more flavors of snacks and began the shift toward shopping on Amazon. On that day that will live as a historical reference for centuries to come we were just beginning our journey into the workforce. We are now the bridge between generations. We are the binding force that holds steady in between the Baby Boomers and the new Millennial generation. The torch has been passed to us and I feel as if the Post torch has been handed to me – it’s my pledge that I will not falter and much like that point when I answered the call of duty, I will do the same here.

Thanks for your confidence and trust in me. I am looking forward to serving as your Senior Vice Commander!

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**Junior Vice Commander Jose Jimenez**

There is no better spot for watching the fireworks on the third of July than the lawn of the Post. Bring your lawn chairs and or blanket. The grills will be fired up if you want to cook a picnic supper. So come on down and enjoy the Independence Day celebration, July 3, with all your friends. We hope to see you there.





**Veteran of the Month**

**Name:** Douglas Barbitzke

**Rank:** Private First Class

**Current Age:** 92

**Total Years Served:** Two

**Served From:** 1944-1946

**Places Served:** Camp Roberts in CA for Infantry Training and then the Philipines. received the Combat Infantry Badge; Bronze Star; and Philippine Liberation Medal and Expert with the M1 Rifle.

**Fondest Memory While Serving:** VJ Day

**Quote:** “Security is mostly a superstition. It does not exist in nature, nor do the children of me as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure or nothing”. Helen Keller



**Dates to Remember**

- July 3 - Fireworks
- July 4 - Independence Day
- July 5 - American Legion Meeting 7 PM
- July 5 - Naperville Municipal Big Band Concert 7:30 PM
- July 7 - Visit Vets at Monarch Landing, 10 AM
- July 10 - Hines Community Outreach here
- July 11 - Free yoga for Vets 9:30 AM
- July 12 - VFW Meeting 7 PM
- July 12 - Naperville Municipal Band Concert  
*A night at the Oscars 7:30 PM*
- July 13 - Kendall-Gram deadline
- July 14 - Visit the Vets at Brookdale 10 AM

- July 19 - Naperville Municipal Band  
*Foward March 7:30 PM*
- July 20-25 National Convention in Kansas City
- July 21- Visit with the Vets at Independence Village 10 AM
- July 25 - Free Yoga for Vets 9:30 AM
- July 26 - Naperville Municipal Band  
*Audience Request, 7:30 PM*
- July 28, Visit with the Vets at Harbor Chase 10 AM

Please Note: There is no visit to Hines Hospital in July or August.

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**Buddy Poppy Committee Report by  
Bob Colby, Nancy Marinella, Julie Berkowitz**

The Buddy Poppy Days are over for 2018, and the committee wanted to express our sincere thanks to all those who participated in this important fundraising effort. We had roughly 175 volunteers who together staffed over two hundred different two-hour slots, many of whom were first time volunteers. Members of Judd Kendall post and our auxiliary members, along with spouses, children, grandchildren, relatives and friends, all did a spectacular job. We also want to thank the local Knights of Columbus who helped us this year. Our total collections for this year were up significantly from last year, and that is due both to the generosity of our towns people and the hard work of our volunteers. We believe the fact that many members who had not participated in past years stepped up to the plate definitely provided the boost in our collections.

Together we raised over \$35,000, up 30% from last year. These funds will be fused throughout the year to support veteran rehabilitation efforts, contributions to charities helping veterans, our Hines Hospital visits as well as to provide some support for the VFW National Home for Children. We are always interested in your feedback and suggestions. We would welcome your input. Contact any member of the Buddy Poppy Committee with your ideas. We are always looking to make things better where we can. Once again, thank you!



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**The VFW National Home for Children ... Mike McGrath****IT'S PIGS AND RABBITS FOR THE DYNAMOS**

As you may remember, our National Home 4 - H club is known as, *the Dynamos*. And this year's 4 -H project is in full swing as ten of the children are raising pigs ( 12 feeder pigs arrived on March 21) and we also have seven children showing rabbits ( eight rabbits arrived on April 14).

Several of the kids also participate in non livestock projects like multimedia paintings, acrylic paintings, and other arts and crafts projects and all are preparing for the upcoming County Fair in Eaton Rapids in July.

On a recent visit I had a chance to take a few pictures of the activities for you. Hope you enjoy the pictures and thanks again to everyone for your great support.



## **Auxiliary Report by Kathy McNally**

Upon return from a wonderful and enthusiastic June State Convention in Springfield, your new slate of Officers is ready to serve you for the next Auxiliary year:

President Kathy McNally  
Senior Vice Kristen Jungles  
Junior Vice President: Lucy Hoy  
Treasurer Kathy Thornton  
Secretary Peggy Beata  
Chaplain Bernadette Budny  
Guard Margaret Linnert  
Conductress Bertha Novaczyk  
1st Trustee Maryann Groner  
2nd Trustee Sheila Freund  
3rd Trustee Brenda Hasler

Many of these names are familiar to you...some have stepped up to lead in new roles; others are totally new to leadership. I am humbled and pleased to have been elected President for the sixth time in my life, and grateful for these strong women who will work alongside me this year.

Commander Pablo has fresh, new ideas for invigorating our organization and, on your behalf, I have pledged to him our complete support in his mission. We as an Auxiliary serve at the pleasure of the Commander, his officers, and The Post.

One wonderful example of this relationship is our Poppy Distribution: many Posts do not share proceeds with their Auxiliaries. Our Post graciously allows us to collect and add to our own Relief Fund the donations we receive when distributing Poppies. We are grateful to all the "Poppy Pushers" and the generous citizens of Naperville. It's a warm feeling to know that we are beginning our year with a huge pocketful of funds to be used exclusively for our Veterans and their families.

We thank former President Kathy Thornton for her enthusiastic support for the past two years...she is a one-woman fund-raising machine (re-read her "Member of the Month" accolades from May)! I hope we can continue with her example and together, next year at this time, say we have accomplished the mission. We also thank our long-time conductress, Dorothy Kulir, for her many, many years of devotion to our cause. Current circumstances do not allow her to continue in this role; however, we are happy to see Dorothy at our meetings when she is able!

Will we see you on the lawn to watch fireworks again this year? This year the Exchange Club will celebrate on Tuesday, July 3rd. Our Post is a fabulous place to spread out a blanket (or bring a lawn chair) and enjoy the show. It's really a great, family-friendly time. See you then!

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## **Editor Notes by Marcy Maughan**

This year's Frank Stromberg Buddy Poppy Award was given to me and I am very grateful for the honor. The Kendall-gram won First Place in the Publication contest for the State and at convention I received a very nice plaque, which is now hanging with the others over my desk.

Because of ongoing computer problems, I need to change my email to: [marcymaughan@gmail.com](mailto:marcymaughan@gmail.com). Please use this email if you wish to contact me. My phone number remains the same.

The Post made All State this year and Past Commander Tom Parker was awarded a White Hat for the honor. He joins a long line of Post Commanders who have won the coveted white hat. Congratulations to Tom and to the Post members who worked hard on membership to get him this honor.

**Hines Hospital Visits**

The Chairman of the Hospital Committee, John Shaw would like to remind everyone that the Post visits the Hines VA Hospital every second Tuesday of the month. We will not be going in July and August, but our visits resume in September. We leave the post at 6:15 in the evening and return at approximately 9:15 PM. Transportation is provided. Everyone is invited. Why not come and spend some quality time with some very appreciative Veterans?

**Canteen Hours**

	Open	Close
Mon-Thurs	3:00 PM	10:00 PM/Midnight
Friday	Noon	10:00 PM/2:00 AM
Saturday	Noon	10:00 PM/2:00 AM
Sunday	Noon	5:00 PM/6:00 PM

If at anytime between the first close hour and the second close hour listed above, there are no more than four customers in the Canteen, the bartender will give a last call and close the Canteen 15 minutes later.

NO ONE is allowed behind the bar, except the Bartenders. This includes any children in the bar!

Remember: THE BARTENDER IS BOSS!

**Submission Policy**

The Kendall Gram encourages Post members to submit articles and photos. Simply give the article or photo to the on-duty bartender. It is important that you put your name and phone number on the item in case there are any questions. Please ensure that names are legible. Your article may be edited for clarity and space considerations. All photos MUST have the following information with it: where and why the picture was taken, and who is in the picture. Photographs without captions will not be used. Please submit all articles by the tenth of the month for next month's publication.

**Kendall-Gram**

Editor Marcy Maughan 357-3440

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Naperville, IL 60540

**POST PHONE NUMBER 420-9820**

**Website Address: [napervfw3873.org](http://napervfw3873.org)**

Facebook: Naperville VFW Judd Kendall 3873

**Judd Kendall Post 3873 Officers**

Commander	Pablo Araya	312-505-4377
Sr. Vice Commander	Brian Byrne	901-6758
Jr. Vice Commander	Jose Jimenez	640-4923
Quartermaster	Phil Maughan	383-1974
Ass't Quartermaster	John Shaw	961-3479
Ass't Quartermaster	Terry Jelinek	357-5366
Adjutant	Jorge Hernandez	
Judge Advocate	Jeff Martinez	205-9364
Surgeon	Bill Howland	369-0087
Service Officer	Mike Barbour	240-1645
Officer of the Day	Lou Kuelczo	898-8760
Guard	Tom Scott	815-577-7748
Chaplain	Jim Oftedal	357- 4030

**Trustees**

1 year	Bob Bronson	978-2143
2 year	Lloyd McKee	922-8804
3 year	Tom Parker	280-9347

**Committee**

Americanism  
Blood Drive  
Buddy Poppy  
Building  
Color Guard  
Eighth Grade Awards  
Facilities Manager  
Grounds  
Honor Guard  
Hospital  
House

**Chairman Phone**

Nina Petru	871-9596
Bob Colby	301-2664
Mike Rechenmacher	961-1377
Jim Sarns	234-6292
Tom Benton	579-8514
Ken Garhan	355-2493
Phil Maughan	357-3440
Jim Oftedal	357-4030
John Shaw	961-3479
Ron Beata	717-9007
Bob Colby	357-8134
Scott Holley	708-287-5590
Brian Byrne	901-6758
Frank Haynes	357-2906
Mike McGrath	357-2680
Hugh Boger	317-417-8301
Mike Barbour	240-1645
Rebecca Hirst	
Mike McGrath	357-2680
Todd Schuneman	815-791-4178
Dave Angelus	596-3245
Thys Vandervelde	708-927-0317

**Auxiliary Officers**

President	Kathy McNally	708-642-5985
Sr Vice President	Kristen Jungles	816-6841
Junior Vice President	Lucy Hoy	355-9799
Treasurer	Kathy Thornton	355-6704
Secretary	Peggy Beata	717-9007
Chaplain	Berni Budny	717-9471
Guard	Margaret Linnert	596-9930
Conductress	Bertha Novacyk	998-6186

Veterans Of Foreign Wars  
Judd Kendall Post 3873  
908 Jackson  
Naperville, IL 60540

PRESORT STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
Downers Grove IL  
Permit #477



Dancers from American Bandstand included Pablo Araya and Denise Parker at the Pig Roast.