

THE

A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



# KENDALL-GRAM



Volume 11, Issue 1,  
January, 2007

## Around the Post with Commander Mike McGrath

Wow, what a GREAT holiday season we've had at our post. The Thanksgiving eggnog was very tasty and got us off to a great start for the holidays and on 12/1 we were all very proud to offer our congratulations to comrade Silas Bowman who was promoted to Major in the United States Army! ...Well done, Silas, and well deserved. We thank you for all you do!

And don't the Christmas decorations look terrific! We thank all of the Judd Kendall "elves," who helped out both upstairs in our Hall and in our Canteen as well. We've gotten many compliments and it again shows the pride we all take in our Post... Seeing everyone working together for the benefit of the post and for each other is very heartening indeed.

Our Blood Drive was held on Saturday 12/2 and was very well supported. Thank you to all who participated and helped out. Charlie Vladika's pancakes sure hit the spot. The Army Navy game party was held later that afternoon and our congratulations to the Midshipmen who pulled away in the 4th quarter. The food was great and everyone had a good time. Our thanks to Scott Holley who cooked up some truly tasty chili & many other goodies.

And speaking of good times, even the Dragon and the ATM machine had a rockin good time at our Post Christmas Party on 12/9. Our thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make it a success. It was well attended and well enjoyed. Our congratulations to both Dave Hollander and Randall Smith who won our post "Citizenship Teacher of the Year Award." Truly Awesome guys! The food was just great thanks to all the gals in the Ladies Auxiliary and our thanks to Scott Holley for the Slide Show. The pictures were lots of fun and well enjoyed.

Among our guests were State Commander Matt Claussen, District Commander Jerry Goeb, and State Service Officer Carl DiGrazia. Our Quartermaster Terry Jelinek presented a check for \$1006.00 to Mr. DiGrazia to help fund the many programs which help our Veterans. Commander Claussen announced that our post is now at 100% membership. Our thanks to everyone especially to Sr. Vice Commander Chuck Vladika for your efforts and for remembering what membership in our VFW is all about. At the heart of it all we must NEVER FORGET our troops; all the men and women who are defending our freedom around the world every single day of the year. We owe them enormous thanks for all they do.

The Hines Christmas visit was great as we all sang along with Don Hennessy. The guys at Hines really appreciate the camaraderie, especially at Christmas. Thank you again to all the great folks on our Hospital Committee. Thank you and Merry Christmas to Pete Dixon who drives us to Hines and to George Porter and all the folks at Naperville Township for all they do for us.

And now GI before you go and hibernate this winter, please remember there's always lots to do at our post.... we'll be having a super duper Super Bowl party coming up on Super Bowl Sunday.... GO BEARS! and please come to our monthly meetings and join us for our monthly Hines Hospital visits.

THIS IS YOUR POST, GI! So get involved and bring a buddy with you. Thank you all for all you do and we'll be seeing you, "Around the Post"

**Together Then, Together Again**  
**Senior Vice Chuck Vladika**

Thank you! Thank you all for making our membership goals this past month. We are currently at 100.75%. We were the first Post in the 19<sup>th</sup> District to make 100%. A good number of you also decided to take advantage of the Life Membership opportunity by paying for your Life Membership before the increase took effect, January 1, 2007.

With our 100% goal met, we will continue to seek new members to join our Post. Again, we ask our current members to "talk up" becoming a member of Judd Kendall with their acquaintances and friends. If you come across an individual who had served in our country's Armed Forces, or who is currently serving, ask them to consider becoming a member. Either pass their information (home phone, or email address) to me or any of the officers. We will follow up and ensure they get an application and the necessary information to become a member.

Pass on to the prospective member that our members give to the Post whatever time and effort they can offer. That is, we do not fault or demand full participation. You do not have to attend all the meetings or events. Give what time you can. Our goal is simple, we take whatever anyone offers.

Veterans helping veterans has and always will be our main direction. In the world we live in, numbers are a driving force in getting results or attention. In order to minimize Congress cutting veterans benefits, we need to speak up. Numbers (membership) talk the talk that Congress pays attention to. Veterans do vote in large numbers and candidates come looking for these votes. It is time they listened to our battle cry "Stop cutting our benefits, we earned them".

Check out our Commander's comments and those of our Junior Vice. Volunteer to help with upcoming events. Participate if you are able. We remember the dead by serving the living.

**A 'Scoche' more from the Signal Corp**  
**Junior Vice Scott Holley**

Congratulations to the Midshipmen as the Black Knights took it on the chin again this year. Scoring first and last is always a good thing but you have to score a few in between too. The Sales Executive at my office was 6 years in the Navy, so we have a running bet on the game. The loser does 10 pushups at the winner's December meeting. Hopefully before I die, he'll have to come to one of my meetings. All in all, a great time was had by all at the Post for the annual event.

Congratulations to our very own Silas Bowman on his recent promotion to Major!

The Post Christmas Party was a very nice night out. The room looked beautiful and festive. Thanks so much to everyone who worked so hard to make this a nice evening. Kathy McNally, Jan Barbour and the Ladies Auxiliary, Terry and Sue Jelinek, Mike Barbour, Charlie Vladika, Ken Garhan, Bobby Rechenmacher, and a slew of others all contributed so much to its success. I'm sure I forget to thank someone because so many people work so hard to put these events together. I am so proud to be a part of this great post and all that we do.

I know everyone is pulling for the Bears to make it to the Super Bowl so we can root them on to victory at the Post Super Bowl party on Sunday February 4<sup>th</sup>. Food, drinks, and a great football game will make for another fun night out at the Post. Watch for more details to be posted in the Canteen.

Over and Out

**Dates to Remember**

January 1<sup>st</sup> – New Years Day  
 January 9<sup>th</sup> – Hines Hospital Visit  
 January 11<sup>th</sup> – Post Meeting at 7:00 PM  
 Jan 13- VOD Dinner at the Batavia post, 6 PM  
 January 18<sup>th</sup> – Auxiliary Meeting at 7:00 PM  
 February 4<sup>th</sup> – SuperBowl Party at the Post  
 starting at 4:30 PM  
 February 6<sup>th</sup> – Hines Hospital Visit  
 February 8<sup>th</sup> – Post Meeting, 7 PM  
 February 15<sup>th</sup> – Auxiliary Meeting at 7:00 PM  
 February – 16<sup>th</sup> Fish Fry (Dry Run) 6 – 8 PM  
 February 18<sup>th</sup> – Life Members Breakfast at 9:30 AM  
 February 23rd - Fish Fry (Branch TBD)

**Dates of Interest**

January 8<sup>th</sup> 1967 – Operation Cedar Falls began  
 January 17<sup>th</sup> 1991 – Operation Desert Storm began  
 January 20<sup>th</sup> 1968 – Battle of Khe Sanh began  
 January 25<sup>th</sup> 1951 – Operation Thunderbolt began  
 January 30<sup>th</sup> 1968 – Tet Offensive Began  
 January 31<sup>st</sup> 1968 – Battle of Hue Began

**THE POPPIES ARE GETTING READY TO BLOOM****The Poppy Prince and Princess**

It is January 2007 already comrades and now is the time to mark your calendars for the 2007 Poppy Campaign. We are supporting more veterans' projects, community projects and helping to Support Our Troops then previous years. The goal this year is \$25,000. If we all pull together I know we can easily make that goal. In Naperville it is strictly a matter of feet on the street. This community supports veterans. Last year we had 10% of the membership participate. That was about 40 VFW and Auxiliary members. If we can get 20% of you comrades and sisters to step up we will make our goal.

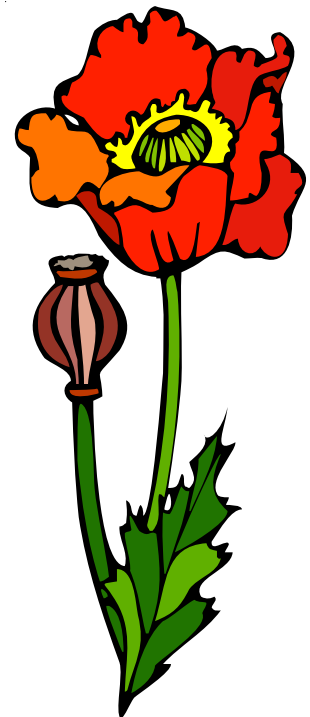
The dates of the Buddy Poppy Campaign this year are May 23<sup>rd</sup> through May 28<sup>th</sup>. We go to the train stations on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and then to the normal spots the 24<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup>. Sign up sheets will be available in the canteen. One of the Poppy Knights will be in contact with you prior to the campaign.

This past year has seen some of our best Poppy sellers either pass away or become incapacitated. It is time for other comrades to step forward. For those members who are somewhat inactive due to time constraints, etc now is the time to commit to 2 to 4 hours over the Poppy selling period. As I have said so many times it really makes you feel good when a child comes up to thank you for serving and puts money in the Poppy can. Naperville supports its veterans! Be a part of this worthwhile project and enjoy the respect you are given.

By the way, if you can't spend a few hours out selling Buddy Poppies we will always accept checks made out to the VFW Post 3873 Relief Fund. A rule of thumb for contributions is that for every 2 hours out selling Poppies our members collect \$75 to \$100.

**Blood Drive Report by Bernie Berkes**

Our blood drive was held on December 2, 2006. We had 37 donors and obtained 35 pints of blood. Thank you for participating. A special thanks to my caller, Virginia Arbogast and our chefs, Chuck Vladika, Bob Rechenmacher, Ken Garhan, and Bob Bohr, for a delicious pancake and sausage breakfast. Our next blood drive will be April 28, 2007.



### Auxiliary Report by Kathy McNally

Can it really be time to look forward to Super Bowl? What happened to Christmas? Here's hoping you had a wonderful and blessed season with family and friends.

If you were too busy with your preparations to stop by the Post, you missed a few fabulous events! The Turkey Raffle was the best this year with record proceeds for our Ladies Auxiliary raffles and kitchen sales. The crowds would have bought tickets to the pictures on the walls if we had let them! And there wasn't a hot dog or potato chip left over! Many thanks go to our kitchen helpers: Rita Kosla, Fran McGrath and Donna Morsovillo. And to the Raffle Queens: Jan Barbour, Dorothy Garhan and Kathy Thornton. Julie Breese did a terrific job for the walkarounds and as always, Bernie Berkes and her husband deftly managed the Bake Sale table. Thanks to all our Sisters who helped to bring in a good profit on the No-Bake Bake Sale, too! Why not come to the next meeting and let us know how you'd like to see these donations distributed to our Veterans and community?

Our Commander helped to host a magical Christmas Cocktail Party, but without our elves - The Three Amigos in the kitchen - and Sue Jelinek and Jan Barbour, we couldn't have had the food and presentation that made the party. Didn't the Post look nice that night? Almost like an Andy Williams Christmas special! We can report that a good time was had by all.

And for the first time in many years, Santa dropped by to visit the good boys and girls of the Post. Thanks to Barb McKissick for managing the activities and treats. And the great gals at Score Educational Center helped us decorate our own Christmas Cookies! Let's make this an annual tradition! (Thanks also to Santa "Bob," for without the jolly man in red, it wouldn't be a Christmas party, would it?)

It was terrific to see so many of our Sisters at our December meeting. We were able to dispense with business fairly quickly and enjoy holiday treats and a gift exchange. A great evening to celebrate all the good we've done this year for our Veterans and their families!

Looking ahead, we can't rest on our laurels. This year, 2007, is our 60th anniversary year! Our planning committee is now being formed. Wouldn't you like to be a part of our gala celebration? We have reserved Saturday, June 16th for our dinner celebration. Mark your calendars now!

And be sure to mark your calendars for our Super Bowl XLI at the Post on Sunday, February 4th. Watch for sign-up sheets in the Canteen. And of course, Fish Frys can't be far behind! We'll be tapping you on the shoulder to volunteer to bus tables during Lent (and especially on Ladies' Auxiliary night). It's a great opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbors who have been hunkered down during the cold long winter.

Why not make this year, 2007, the year you attend a meeting or two and get involved in a committee? As your mother always told you, many hands make light work - and we need your helping hands! Our meeting dates: January 18, February 15, March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21 (the third Thursday at 7:00 PM). Happy New Year and hope to see you soon!

### Citizen of the Year Award by Jim Wasson

Start thinking now about the person you believe best deserves this prestigious award. As you know this award is given to the person (s) who has done the most for our community during the past year and /or through a lifetime of service.

Last year Mickey Cadigan received the award for 25 years of service to the residents of Community Convelescent and for 25 years visiting the residents at Hines Hospital Spinal Cord Unit on a monthly basis.

Our committee will shortly launch a publicity campaign to solicit nominations for this coveted award, which will be presented at the April American Legion dinner. VFW and American Legion members and spouses are encouraged to submit nominations.

Send all nominations to: American Legion Post 43, PO Box 4, Naperville, IL 60566. They can also be emailed to [WFisher@royalcanin.us](mailto:WFisher@royalcanin.us). All entries must be received by the 16<sup>th</sup> of March. Please list the name of the nominee(s), a resume highlighting why the nominee should receive this award and you name, address and phone number. Remember, anyone in our community, veteran or not, is eligible for this award. Naperville is a special community of volunteers who do amazing things for their fellow citizens.

If you know of someone who should be considered, or if you previously nominated someone whom you want the committee to consider for this year, please let us know. If you need further information or have any questions, contact Jim Wasson at 357-5283 or Bob Bohr at 841-9147.

### **Leo Kueffler Celebrates Birthday**



Recently our WW II veteran and Silver Star winner, Leo Kueffler, celebrated his 90th birthday with a party at the Post. To honor his friend, Emil Siebert made a large donation to the Post in Leo's name. Here is the picture of Leo giving Commander Mike McGrath the check. Happy Birthday Leo! And a big thank you to Emil Siebert.

## Patriots Pen Contest

The VFW sponsors the Patriot Pen Contest for kids in Junior High. They must write an essay on a given topic, chosen by National. The essays are judged at the Post level and the winner receives a prize and is advanced to the District Level. For every 15 kids who enter, we get to advance one student. This year a total of 18 student essays out of 275 entries were advanced to the District level. Below is the Post's winning essay by Alexander Hinch of Kennedy Jr. High in Naperville. Second place was won by Sherry Y Tseng and third place went to Christine Jiang Wu. We congratulate Alexander and wish all the essayists from Kennedy good luck at the District level.

### **Citizenship in America** **by Alexander Hinch**

It is 11 PM. Christmas Day, 1776. Washington and his worn out men have been delayed by yet another storm. Many men have no boots, few have proper clothing, and all are cold. You can see it in their faces – frustration, hopelessness, and misery. But not a single soul questions why they are there. They are fighting the American Revolution, and we are at a great debt to them.

More than 200 years later, some question what led those men to keep going, to get on those boats, knowing that there was a good chance they wouldn't get off. But the answer is simple; our ancestors wanted these simple things that too many Americans take for granted; freedom and liberty. Our ancestors knew the importance of it. In the words of American statesman Patrick Henry, "...I know not what course others might take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

But what is citizenship? In a dictionary it is defined merely as being vested with the rights and privileges of a country, but here in America, it should mean way more than that.

So how does citizenship relate to freedom? All the great freedoms that we enjoy in this country demand citizenship. For example, we can express ourselves freely through speech. But we must exercise this freedom with a good sense of citizenship. Each and every one of us must self-govern ourselves and make sure our behavior doesn't interfere with the freedom of others. We as American people must guard our rights while valuing our freedoms, and stand up for others – that defines citizenship. Or put plainly in the words of President John F. Kennedy, "Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country."

Our ability to exercise good citizenship will shape America for future generations. True, we aren't in the middle of a snow storm on Christmas Day, but we are still changing history. We are all faced with choices everyday. Although these choices may not be as epic as those made by some of our ancestors, they constantly define what citizenship means in America. Remember, in the words of American scholar Thomas Paine, "An army of principles can penetrate where an army of soldiers cannot." So what will your army of principles penetrate?

**Voice of Democracy**

Each year the Post sponsors the Voice of Democracy high school speech contest, The essays are submitted at the Post level on a topic chosen each year by National. This year’s topic was *Freedom’s Challenge*. High School students must submit a 3-5 minute oral essay on the topic. The students are judged at the post, district and state and national level. Our Post winners are: First Place Sharika Rao Sanku, from Naperville Central; Second Place Robert Zimmerman from Naperville Central; and Third Place Danielle Hlava from Nequa Valley.

The first place winning essay has been forwarded on to the District for judging. District winners will be announced at the Annual Voice of Democracy Banquet to be held at the Batavia Oversees Post on January 13th. The District winner will be sent to the state level where the state’s winning essay will be announced at the Voice of Democracy dinner on February 12, in Springfield.

**Ladies Auxiliary Officers**

|                    |                   |          |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------|
| President          | Kathy McNally     | 305-8157 |
| Sr. Vice President | Donna Morsovillo  | 3022638  |
| Jr. Vice President | Jenny Dawley      | 428-3494 |
| Chaplain           | Virginia Arbogast | 355-5406 |
| Treasurer          | Sue Jelinek       | 357-5366 |
| Secretary          |                   |          |
| Conductress        | Fran McGrath      | 357-2680 |
| Guard              | Mildred Bradlee   | 355-0413 |
|                    | <b>Trustees</b>   |          |
| 1 year             | Miriam Ferguson   | 983-1676 |
| 2 year             | Dorothy Garhan    | 355-2493 |
| 3 year             | Jan Barbour       | 527-0738 |

| <b>Committee</b>            | <b>Chairman</b>   | <b>Phone</b> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Americanism                 |                   |              |
| Buddy Poppy                 | Jan Barbour       | 527-0738     |
| Community Service           | Virginia Arbogast | 355-5406     |
| Graves Registration         | Virginia Arbogast | 355-5406     |
| Historian                   |                   |              |
| Hospital                    | Mickey Cadigan    | 355-4895     |
| Membership                  |                   |              |
| Patriotic Art/VOD           | Jan Barbour       | 527-0738     |
| Publicity                   | Marcy Maughan     | 357-3440     |
| Public Relations            | Donna Morsovillo  | 302-2638     |
| Veterans and Family Support | Melba Scofield    | 355-1575     |
| VFW National Home           | Melba Scofield    | 355-1575     |
| Youth Activities            | Kathy McNaly      | 983-1676     |

**Meetings are the third Wednesday of every month at 7 PM at the Post**

**Hines Hospital Visits**

The Chairman of the Hospital Committee, Mike McGrath, would like to remind everyone that the Post visits the Hines VA Hospital every second Tuesday of the month. We leave the post at 6:30 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    | 11:00 AM | 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

Post Mailing Address: Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873  
 908 W Jackson,  
 Naperville, IL 60540

**Judd Kendall Post 3873 Officers**

|                     |                 |          |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Commander           | Mike McGrath    | 357-2680 |
| Sr. Vice Commander  | Charlie Vladika | 357-8615 |
| Jr. Vice Commander  | Scott Holley    | 369-1912 |
| Quartermaster       | Terry Jelinek   | 357-5366 |
| Ass't Quartermaster | Phil Maughan    | 357-3440 |
| Adjutant            | Bob Bronson     | 527-9102 |
| Judge Advocate      | John Shaw       | 961-3479 |
| Surgeon             | John Dawley     | 428-3494 |
| Service Officer     | Ken Garhan      | 355-2493 |
| Officer of the Day  | Jack Shiffler   | 357-4615 |
| Guard               | Harry Brozynski | 961-9245 |
| Chaplain            | Jay Johnson     | 355-5522 |

- 1 year
- 2 year
- 3 year

**Committee**

- Americanism
- Blood Drive
- Buddy Poppy
- Building
- Color Guard
- Eighth Grade Awards
- Grounds
- Hall Rental
- Hospital
- House

**Kitchen**

- Life Membership
- Membership
- Legislative
- National Home
- Nursing Home
- Public Relations
- Safety
- Voice of Democracy
- Youth Activities

**Trustees**

- Mike Rechenmacher 961-1377
- Phil Maughan 357-3440
- Mike Barbour 527-0738

**Chairman Phone**

- Jack Shiffler 357-4615
- Bernie Berkes 357-0547
- Mike Barbour 527-0738
- Mike Rechenmacher 961-1377
- John Schofield 851-6229
- Mike Pagnano 362-6077
- Phil Maughan 357-3440
- Barb Crabb 357-0256
- Mike McGrath 357-2680
- Ken Garhan 355-2493
- Bob Tallon 357-8134
- Silas Bowman 718-1445
- Ken Garhan 355-2493

- Charlie Vladika 357-8615
- Frank Haynes 357-2906

- Mike Barbour 527-0738
- Jim Morsovillo 204-0599
- Mike Barbour 527-0738

**POST NUMBER**

**420-9820**

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

Kendall-Gram  
Veterans of Foreign Wars #3873  
908 W Jackson  
Naperville, IL 60540

PRSRT STD  
US Postage Paid  
Naperville, IL  
Permit #2978

Super Bowl Party  
February 4  
4:30 PM

