

THE

A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



KENDALL-GRAM



Volume 11, Issue 7
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**Together Then, Together Again
with Commander Charlie Vladika**



I would like to start off with my first newsletter column as your Post Commander by thanking Mike McGrath for all the time and contributions he has given to our Post these past two years he has been Commander. I look forward continuing in the upcoming year the various projects and commitments that has made our Post one of the best Post's in the State of Illinois, not just in our 19th district. At our July 10th meeting we will be displaying the numerous awards our Post has earned and were presented to us at the State Convention. It has and always will be your dedicated and hard efforts that make these awards more meaningful. Thanks, Comrades.

We will also be reintroducing your Officers that will be assisting you during the 2008-2009 year. Get to know them. Join any of the many committees listed in this newsletter. Your participation is what makes this Post work so well.

A few of us were honored to have been invited to Lt. Col. Jack Amberg's change of command ceremony, and his retirement after serving his country in the Army for 26 years. Jack will be bringing much of that earned experience to his new job working with General Grange for the McCormick Foundation at Cantigny in Wheaton. We are very happy that Jack will continue his membership with Judd Kendall. Do check out the other articles for going's on at our Post.

Again, we newly elected Officers thank you, and look forward to serving our members this next year.

Reflections from Past Commander Mike McGrath

Nothing means more to those in harm's way than the knowledge that their Country appreciates their sacrifices and those of their families. General David Petraeus

I think that in these few words Gen. Petraeus offers great insight as to what the nature of our Mission is all about... and NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT. Helping our troops and their families must continue to be the number one priority for the members and officers of our Post. It's just so important that we continue to raise public awareness on their behalf.

In looking back over the last several years at our Post, I must express my sincere thanks, my abiding respect and just a great fondness for everyone who has worked so hard and done so much for our Post in this regard. Our people have just selflessly rolled up their sleeves and contributed their time and effort when needed. Because of our "Judd Kendall" spirit our Post has been selected as the Number One (#1) Post in the entire State of Illinois (out of 362 posts) for the V.F.W. National Community Service Award for 2008. My fellow comrades and sisters, this represents a great tribute to you all and I hope you all share the great pride we all have in our Post and our people. Again, thank you all so very much for your devotion and for your friendship.

Our future is very bright indeed. I'm glad to be passing the gavel to our Commander-elect Chuck Vladika and his fine group of Post Officers. I'm equally glad that we have the great support of our Ladies Auxiliary headed by Kathy McNally. With our help they will continue to do a GREAT job for our Post... and yes, I did say, "With our

Help.” Our Post now has over 700 members and so there will be an even greater need for us all to pitch in and get involved in the coming year. It’s just good to keep in mind that this Post is YOUR POST... and you can help by reading the Kendall Gram, by coming to the monthly meetings and by pitching in and helping out when you can. Believe me G.I. you’re always welcome...it just wouldn’t be the same without you. Oh and by the way...Sgt Rock says...”Don’t even think about quitting your exercise program.”

A ‘Scoche’ more from the Signal Corp by Senior Vice Scott Holley



Here’s to a great new beginning!

Big Charlie has taken command of Judd Kendall Post 3873 and will do a fantastic job. I look forward to supporting him as Senior Vice Commander and continuing all of the great things we do here at the “Judster.” (I believe McGrath may have coined the phrase “Judster” and I’d like to avoid all of his attorneys coming after me).

I’d like to take moment to thank Mike McGrath (our out-going Post Commander) for all of his time and effort over the past 2 years and representing our Post with the utmost honor and respect. It’s a good feeling when you know that you are surrounded by people who believe in our cause and instill passion, confidence, integrity and comradeship all while making it a fun and rewarding experience. Mike, we will miss you as the Commander, but look forward to seeing you around the Post and events with your passion for veterans and our troops along with your quick smile, witty banter. Despite what everyone says, don’t ever change.....that would make Garhan a lot less busy, and we certainly don’t want that.

As Senior Vice Commander, I hope to continue the trend upward with membership. I have some ideas to provide annual paying members with an incentive to renew their membership early. I know some of our members are unable to participate in a lot of what we do, but we do value their membership and support and hope to keep them in the loop with the Kendall-Gram and other communications. I believe very strongly in the things we do here and don’t want to lose momentum on any of them. Recently, I went to Hines Hospital because I see this as one of the more important things we do here. It truly is a rewarding experience to go out there and provide just a little bit of a diversion in the day of a recovering veteran. We often preach in the monthly meetings to get involved and give what you can. We also say that many hands make light work. Both of these are absolutely true.

I have some pretty big shoes to fill, (literally and figuratively) but I have all of the confidence in myself as well as our members, officers and the Women’s Auxiliary to make this another great year. I know that Charlie (as do we all) has a lot of passion for returning veterans and want to provide them with a place and a forum to come and feel comfortable around some comrades that understand. Judd Kendall Post 3873 is the place where they can do just that. Please let all veterans know that you are more than a number at our Post, they are the reason that we come together.

P.S. I was contemplating changing the name of my monthly article and have not come up with anything yet. Stay tuned....it may change and then again it may not change.

Over and Out

Aiming High by Junior Vice John Coby



I’m very excited at this opportunity and I’m looking forward to the year ahead serving as your Jr. Vice. For those of you who don’t know me I’m a Navy veteran of Enduring Freedom but I recently joined the Air Force Reserves (don’t hate me Terry and Rex).. I’m proud to be a part of this post and have enjoyed meeting the best people ever.

I have been the Liaison for the returning Iraqi and Afghanistan servicemen and women. It was an honor to meet these folks.

Come on down to the Post on the **4th of July** and enjoy the festivities. The Post provides the grill and condiments while you can bring your goodies for the grill. Usually the guys hang out at the grill and compare techniques and sample for quality. So bring enough to share a little and enjoy a great night out. Ya can't beat the parking, the view of the fireworks and the price of the drinks!

Dates to Remember

July 4th – Fireworks at the post
 July 8th – **NO** Hines visit
 July 10th – Post Meeting, 7 PM
 July 10th – Municipal Band Concert, Central Park,
 7:45 PM
 July 17th – Auxiliary Meeting, 7 PM
 July 17th – Big Band Concert, Central Park, 7:45 PM
**July 19th - Rockin For the Troops with Gary Sinise and
 the Lt. Dan Band, Cantigny. Gates open at noon.**
 July 24th – Municipal Band Concert, Central Park, 7:45 PM
 July 31st – Municipal Band Concert, Central Park, 7:45 PM

Dates of Interest

July 1st 1970 – Siege of Fire Base Ripcord Began
 July 2nd 1926 – **US Army Air Corps Established**
 July 2nd 1950 – Korean War's only US Sea Battle
 July 2nd 1967 – Operation Buffalo Began
 July 5th 1950 – Battle of Osan
 July 9th 1966 – Battle of Minh Thanh Road
 July 13th 1950 – Battle at Kum River Began
 July 13th 1953 – Battle of Kumsong River Salient
 Began
 July 16th 1967 – Operation Kingfisher Began
 July 17th 1952 – Battle for Old Baldy Began
 July 19th 1950 – Battle of Taejon Began
 July 24th 1953 – Final US Ground Combat of
 Korean War Began

Honors Continue to Grow for VFW Judd Kendall Post #3873

At the recent 19th district meeting, it was announced that our VFW & Ladies Auxiliary finished first in the Department of Illinois in community service for the current year. With 362 VFW posts in Illinois, this is quite an accomplishment and recognizes the many countless and selfless hours spent by our post and ladies auxiliary members.

Additional awards include All-State Commander honors to Mike McGrath and All-State Quartermaster honors to Terry Jelinek. The District awards the All-State White Hats to the Post commander and quartermaster whose Post has fulfilled certain requirements in the course of the year. The requirements cover membership, community service, participation in district functions and VFW programs such as poppies, VOD, and youth activities. This honor has been earned by every commander of our VFW Post since Glenn Church back in 1987. The following past commanders have all earned white hat honors thanks to the hard work and dedication of the members of Judd Kendall Post 3873: Glen Church, John Leesley, Jack Shiffler, Ron Lockhart, Phil Maughan, Mike Warner, Terry Jelinek, Doug Simpson, Lew Breese, Mike Rechenmacher, Mike Barbour, and Mike McGrath. We could be the only Post in the state who can claim this accomplishment. So congratulations to Post members and to all our officers for this tremendous achievement.

And our outstanding post Service Officer Ken Garhan was recognized in the May/June National VFW "CHECKPOINT" newspaper. Ken has served our post the past 12 years as our service officer. Ken is also our visitation leader when we pay our respect at ceremonies for deceased veterans and serves as the facilities manager for our Post. If you have a computer and would like to read the article, go to: www.vfw.org; click on "news & info" at the top; click "VFW publications" on the left side of page; and then click on "Checkpoint" on the right side of page.

The Kendall-Gram was awarded second place in the publication contest again this year.

So every member should be proud of your membership in this award winning Post!

2008 Buddy Poppy Report by the Poppy Prince and Princess, Mike and Jan Barbour

Well campers the 2008 Poppy campaign is behind us. By most standards, it was a success. Even though we didn't hit our goal, which was ambitious, we still had a very good campaign. The combined numbers collected for the Post and Auxiliary was about \$18,000 this year. Money is still coming in. We had some new folks this year step up to start to replace our old stalwarts.

We had 3 Big Dogs this year! They were Jeff Close (Navy), Barney Siwek (Army), Lew Breese (Marine). Each was over \$1,000 in sales. We had 14 members who were over \$200 and 7 members over \$100. On the Auxiliary side the Buikema-Ace team was over \$1,000.

Ladies and Gentlemen, you all did an outstanding job. If we would have had the money collected by some of our old stalwarts that couldn't do it this year we would have been very close to the goal. Everyone from the Big Dogs to the newest sellers gave an outstanding effort and the Poppy Princess and I thank you.

Ready, Set, Don't Go by Running Team Captain Phil Maughan

Three members of the post running team were able to fit participation in the Memorial 8K Salute to Veterans Race into a busy Father's Day weekend. Pablo Araya, Mike McGrath and Phil Maughan traveled to Lemont to run a course which featured running over I-355's Des Plaines River Valley Bridge. Just before toeing the starting line, a storm front moved in with extremely high winds, lightning and imminent hard rain. The prospect of running 40 minutes in the rain was not a concern, but we could not argue with the race officials who did want us out on a bridge that far above ground during a lightning storm. So we headed home with new race T-shirts but no exercise. One team member commented that our log books will show personal best times, since we finished before we started.

Next on our team calendar are our traditional races near Veterans Day, the Cantigny 5K on November 1, and the Westchester Veteran 5 and 10K on November 9. Both events feature walks as well as races and both are veteran friendly and we anticipate more post participants at these events. All post and auxiliary members and their families are encouraged to participate regardless of skill level or times.

Israel Warner Recognition

There was a special ceremony which included a new cemetery marker and gravestone dedication for Revolutionary War Soldier Israel Warner on Saturday, May 31, at 2:30 pm, at Big Woods Cemetery. VFW member Lt. Col. Jack Amberg was the featured speaker, and the VFW/American Legion Honor Guard, along with several reenactment groups from the Revolutionary and Civil Wars took part in the ceremonies.



Members of the VFW/Am Legion honor guard include: (l-r) Jim Godshall, Phil Maughan, Tom Kulack, Matt Nelson and John Coby.

A Note from Deb Rickert

Thank you for your past support of Operation Support Our Troops - II (OSOTIL). Now in our fifth year we continue to maintain a steady focus on our mission to support the morale and well being of our troops deployed in harm's way and to provide comfort and resources for the families at home. I would like to share a few of the things that your support has helped us to accomplish in the past year:

- * Ship over 5600 care packages (66 tons of goods) to troops serving in harm's way
- * Expand efforts to provide comfort, support and resources to families with deployed military members
- * Provide welcome and support to returning veterans
- * Support other organizations whose mission is similar (USO, Operation Homefront, etc.)
- * Raise \$75,000 to bring the first Fisher House to Illinois (ground breaking, June 2008!)
- * Raise \$50,000 for Hines VA Hospital to go directly to the needs of the Poly Trauma Unit for the treatment of vets returning with traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injuries and blindness

What is most notable is that all of this was accomplished by a volunteer organization with 96 cents of each \$1.00 donated going directly to program costs.

In July, 2006 we began Rockin for the Troops as a way to raise funds for the support of our programs. The event has developed into one of the area's premier outdoor summer events as well as becoming one of the largest military support events in the country. Last year's sold out event included hundreds of active duty military and disabled veterans from area VA Hospitals who were admitted at no charge

We are again excited to announce Rockin' for the Troops - 2008, featuring CSI: NY's Gary Sinise & The Lt. Dan Band. Opening Acts will include The Beatles review band, American English, the comedy of Tom Dreesen and special appearances by Dick Biondi, Cisco Cotto, John Howell and Brant Miller. The concert will be held Saturday, July 19 at Cantigny Park in Wheaton, Illinois. Gates open at 12:00 p.m., so that you can enjoy the magnificent grounds and museums of Cantigny Park. Opening acts will begin at approximately 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25, advance sales only and can be purchased by visiting participating Jewel-Osco stores, by phone at 800-594-8799, or online at Musictoday. Visit our website www.osotil.org for more detailed concert and ticket information.

Our simple vision to demonstrate to our men and women serving that we respect and value their sacrifice is carried on because of the financial contributions of people like you, and I am hoping that you will support this event. A ticket not only buys you a great evening of entertainment but also pays to send a box to a deserving military person, as well as supporting all the OSOTIL programs. If you are unable to attend but would still like to donate, please go to our website to view/printout a PDF version of the Rockin' 2008 flyer to fill out and send in your tax deductible contribution. Thank you again for your support of our military and our efforts.

Very truly yours,
Deborah Rickert, President
Operation Support Our Troops - Illinois

Taps

The Post and its officers would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the friends and family of life member Larry Crabb, and those of Howard Carlington who passed away. Their contributions to their country and to the Post will be missed.

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 will not be going during the months of July and August but our visits will resume in September. We hope you will join us then.

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 third of the month for next month's publication.

Kendall-Gram

Editor Marcy Maughan 357-3440

Post Mailing Address: VFW Post 3873,
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Judd Kendall Post 3873 Officers

Commander	Charlie Vladika	357-8615
Sr. Vice Commander	Scott Holley	369-1912
Jr. Vice Commander	John Coly	548-6104
Quartermaster	Terry Jelinek	357-5366
Ass't Quartermaster	Phil Maughan	357-3440
Adjutant	Bob Bronson	978-2143
Judge Advocate	Nina Petru	871-9596
Surgeon	John Dawley	428-3494
Service Officer	Ken Garhan	355-2493
Officer of the Day	Jack Shiffler	357-4615
Guard	Mike Rechenmacher	961-1377
Chaplain	Jay Johnson	355-5522

Trustees

1 year	Mike Barbour	527-0738
2 year	George McKissick	
3 year	Mike McGrath	357-2680

Committee	Chairman	Phone
Americanism	Jack Shiffler	357-4615
Blood Drive	Nina Petru	871-9596
Buddy Poppy	Mike Barbour	527-0738
Building	Mike Rechenmacher	961-1377
Color Guard	Jack Shiffler	357-4615
Eighth Grade Awards	Tom Benton	
Grounds	Phil Maughan	357-3440
Facilities Manager	Ken Garhan	355-2493
Hospital	John Shaw	961-3479
House	Mike Rechenmacher	961-1377
	Bob Tallon	357-8134
	Kag Cagnolia	
Kitchen	Ken Garhan	355-2493
Membership	Scott Holley	369-1912
Legislative	Frank Haynes	357-2906
National Home	Laurie Dobson	
Nursing Home	Jim Godshall	
Public Relations	Mike Barbour	527-0738
Safety	Mike McGrath	357-2680
Voice of Democracy	Mike Barbour	527-0738
Youth Activities		

Auxiliary Officers

President	Kathy McNally	305-8157
Senior Vice	Fran McGrath	357-2680
Junior Vice	Jenny Dawley	428-3494
Treasurer	Debbie Obourne	
Secretary	Jan Barbour	527-0738
Chaplain	Dorothy Garhan	355-2493
Guard	Mary Lou Miller	226-9767
Conductress	Sue Jelinek	357-5366

KENDALL-GRAM
Veterans Of Foreign Wars #3873
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Naperville, IL 60540



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The following officers were elected for District 19

Commander	Al Yankle	Montgomery
Sr. Vice Commander	Steve Miller	Glendale Heights
Jr. Vice Commander	Rick Story	Wood Dale
Judge Advocate	Kevin Duros	Glendale Heights
Surgeon	Mike McGrath	Naperville
Chaplain	Laurie Emmer	Sycamore
3 yr. Trustee	Paul Kallembach	DeKalb
Quartermaster	George Cramer	Naperville

We would like to congratulate the new officers. As you read down the list you can see our Post is well represented at the District Level. Also serving at the district level is Phil Maughan as Budget Chairman. And at the Department level Phil Maughan will also be serving as State Voice of Democracy Chairman.