

THE

A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



# KENDALL-GRAM



Volume 11, Issue 6  
June, 2008

## Around the Post with Commander Mike McGrath

### Welcome

Welcome to our newest Post member, Jesse Martinez. We thank you for your service to our country. All of our Post members and our Auxiliary members join together in extending the hand of friendship to you and your family.

### Congratulations

Our congratulations go to Quartermaster Terry Jelinek, this year's recipient of the Frank Stromberg Buddy Poppy Award. Thank you Terry for all you've done for our Post and thank you for your friendship. Your dedication is exemplary and all your efforts are much appreciated.

### Veterans Oral History Project

Our thanks goes out to Chuck Geitner for all his great work on The Veterans Oral History Project. Because of Chuck's great efforts, students of Naperville Central and Naperville North High Schools have interviewed approximately 375 Veterans over the 7 years of the program. And based on comments from teachers and students there is no doubt they have gained a new and enlightened perspective on veterans and their contributions to our country. During the last 3 years the students have interviewed about 50 more Veterans at Hines Hospital from the Blind and Spinal Cord units. Chuck has done just a great job for Veterans and has contributed greatly to educational awareness for the students. We've been delighted to work with him for the last several years and we wish Chuck all the best as he moves to Wisconsin.

### Poppies and Parade

Thank you to everyone who is working so hard on our "Buddy Poppy" drive. Due to the timing of the Kendall Gram deadline, the final results are not yet in and will be posted next month. Our Memorial Day Parade and activities have been just a great tradition in our community for over 80 years and we thank all who participate in our activities. Congratulations to our Parade Marshal, Mike Barbour, and his wife Jan, who have volunteered countless hours to veterans causes, to the Officer of the Day Charlie Vladika, our newly elected Commander, and to our Grand Marshall and guest speaker, Brigadier General Marcia Anderson.

### Just Around the Corner

Don't forget our upcoming Golf Outing June 7. Sign up in the Canteen ... Happy Fathers Day ... and please attend our Life Members breakfast on June 15.

### Sgt Rock Says

Even a little bit of exercise every day is good for you...take care of yourself GI.

### And Safety Man Says

Ease up off that gas pedal GI... there are kids playing and they don't always see you. Well that's about it for now GI, Thank you for all you do and we'll be seeing you "Around the Post."

## Together Then, Together Again Senior Vice Commander Chuck Vladika

We end our Posts 2007-2008 this month. We start our new 2008-2009 year on July 1, 2008. We Officers want to especially thank our members for the hard and dedicated work you did in making this one of our best years.

- We achieved our 100% membership renewal goal.
- We are now 700 plus members.
- You got the word out there enabling us to recruit many Veterans including reaching out to Iraq, Afghanistan, Desert Storm, and the War on Terrorism Veterans.
- We increased our female members, making this a truly diverse membership.
- Our participation growth encompasses many areas including VOD, school seminars, poppy sales, and many more.

There is always room for more; Make plans to go to Hines VA Hospital this year, partake in more Post functions.

- Join or participate in any of our committees. Give what time you can. Any is appreciated.

Of course, we will continue with these and many more goals this upcoming year. This is after all YOUR POST. Thanks for your on going help. We will always be "Veterans Helping Veterans."

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

Thank goodness Spring finally came upon us. The **Plant Sale** was a huge success with a ton of orders coming at the last moment. I believe I heard a record year. Thanks to all who volunteered, ordered and got the word out. Much thanks to **Marcy** for all of her efforts in coordinating this and making the Post grounds beautiful during the summer months. If you check out the website, you can see Judd smiling just a little bit more when the grounds of the Post are spruced up for the summer. [www.napervfw.org](http://www.napervfw.org)



Please try and make it out to the **Hines Hospital** visit on June 10<sup>th</sup> as there are no visits in July and August. This is a wonderful and rewarding thing to be a part of and participate in.

Don't forget to fly your flag on June 14<sup>th</sup> (**Flag Day and Army Birthday**). If my math is correct, that equates to 1 Garhan, 1 Shiffler and a Junior Vice.

Unfortunately, I cannot make the **State Convention** this year, but promise to make it next year as Senior Vice Commander so I can report all of the "goings on" in the Kendall-Gram. There always seem to be some pretty good stories that need to be shared. This is a free press and the people need to know! Stay tuned.

Start making your plans to come to the Post for the Fireworks on the **Fourth of July** as it is the best spot in town. You get plenty of space to throw down your blanket or chairs, a grill ready for your use, wonderful bartenders and accessible restrooms. Try and get all that at Ribfest! So pack your coolers and come down and enjoy a wonderful evening at the Post that includes the simulcast on the radio during the fireworks.

Please continue supporting our Troops and keeping those in harms way in your prayers and never forgetting the ones who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Over and Out

## Dates to Remember

June 5<sup>th</sup> – First Summer Concert by the Municipal Band, Central Park, 7:45 PM  
 June 7<sup>th</sup> – Golf Outing  
 June 10<sup>th</sup> – Hines Hospital visit, 6:30 PM  
 June 12<sup>th</sup> – Post Meeting, 7 PM  
 June 12<sup>th</sup> – “Meet The Band” concert by the Municipal Band, Central Park, 7:45 PM  
 June 14<sup>th</sup> - Army Birthday and Flag Day!  
 June 15<sup>th</sup> – Life Members Breakfast , 9 AM  
 June 15<sup>th</sup> – Father’s Day!  
 June 19<sup>th</sup>– Auxiliary Meeting, 7 PM  
 June 19<sup>th</sup> – Game Day” concert, Municipal Band, Central Park, 7:45 PM  
 June 26<sup>th</sup> – “Robert Hoffman Night”, Municipal Band, Central Park, 7:45 PM  
 June 27<sup>th</sup> - State Convention  
 June 28<sup>th</sup> - State Convention  
 June 29<sup>th</sup> – State Convention  
 July 3 – “Salute to the USA” concert, Municipal Band, Central Park, 7:45 PM  
 July 4<sup>th</sup> – Fireworks at the post  
 July 8<sup>th</sup> – **NO** Hines visit  
 July 10 – “Children’s Night”, Municipal Band, Central Park, 7:45 PM  
 July 10<sup>th</sup> – Post Meeting  
 July 17<sup>th</sup> – Auxiliary Meeting  
 July 17<sup>th</sup> – Naperville Big Jazz Band, Central Park, 7:45 PM

## Dates of Interest

June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1942 – Battle of Midway Began  
 June 6<sup>th</sup> 1944 – D-Day: Allied Invasion of Europe  
 June 6<sup>th</sup> 1952 – Operation Counter Began  
 June 10<sup>th</sup> 1951 – Battle for the Punchbowl Began  
 June 10<sup>th</sup> 1953 – Siege of Outpost Harry Began  
**June 14<sup>th</sup> 1775 – US Army Founded**  
 June 22<sup>nd</sup> 1942 – Pledge of Allegiance Recognized by Congress  
 June 22<sup>nd</sup> 1944 – GI Bill signed into Law  
 June 25<sup>th</sup> 1950 – Korean War Began  
 June 29<sup>th</sup> 1950 – First US Ground Forces Arrived in Korea




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## Auxiliary Report by Kathy McNally

It was terrific to see all our Veterans marching in the parade last month. And equally terrific to see so many at the luncheon afterwards. May always proves to be a busy month for us — starting with decorating our Sisters’ graves, selling Buddy Poppies and preparing for the Parade. Thanks to all the many hands that made light work. We are indeed fortunate to live in such a supportive community.

Thanks also to all my Sisters for your confidence in me. I am honored to serve as your President for the next year. As we look back, it seems as if this year has flown by! Yet we have so much more to accomplish. Following the Commander’s lead, we reached out to the Blind Unit at Hines Hospital and hosted them for the second time at Lenten fish fry this year. We’ve also increased the number of lap robes we’ve sent to the Spinal Cord Unit during our monthly visits, thanks to our talented Sisters who knit and to our friends at the Township offices who donated lap robes. We increased proceeds from the raffle, and no-bake sale, and our charity donations also increased by a great percentage this year. And we’ve invited many new Sisters to join the Auxiliary. We are indebted to Sue Jelinek, for her direction to our new Treasurer, Debbie Obourn. Debbie hasn’t yet run screaming and has graciously agreed to accept the position again for next year. Thanks also to Jan Barbour, Secretary, for her always appropriate advice and guidance.

And when you see them next, please congratulate: Fran McGrath, Senior Vice President; Jenny Dawley, Junior Vice President; Dorothy Garhan, Chaplain; Guard, Mary Lou Miller; Conductress, Sue Jelinek; and our Trustees: Miriam Ferguson, Dorothy Garhan and Melba Scofield. As the old coach always said, “There is no I in TEAM” and so it’s due to the hard work and dedication of this team that we are able to accomplish so much for our Veterans and their families.

We also owe our thanks to everyone who helped at the annual Plant Sale. We planted almost \$700 worth of plants around the building. We appreciate everyone's orders and especially the Sisters who encouraged sales during those cold winter fish fries (we received several orders that way). Our grateful thanks to Marcy Maughan, our ever faithful gardener, who each year heads up this committee. When you drop by the post and admire the flora and fauna, think of our very own garden grandma, Marcy, who puts her heart and soul into the grounds keeping.

Marcy deserves our kudos, too, for our Kendall Gram is edited by her alone. She is another of the silent ones behind the scenes who seek no personal glory - only for our Veterans and their families.

We are planning to send a Fourth of July box to send overseas to troops. We are asking for appropriate patriotic items to donate (no firecrackers!). Look for the decorative donation box in the Canteen. Deadline for collection of items is June 19th.

Congratulations to our Sister Marie Maughan Egan on the birth of Michael Edward on April 29th. Michael weighed in at 4 pounds and developed some problems and spent time in the neonatal intensive care in Massachusetts General but is home and mother and son are doing fine.

When we return from the Convention this month in Springfield, we'll have lots of new program ideas to share — perhaps there's a committee or effort that may interest you this year? Hope to see you at a meeting or around the Post soon!

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## **Run With a View**

Coming off a successful outing at the Cantigny 5K last fall, the Judd Kendall Racing Team has decided to add the Memorial 8K race to its annual schedule. The Illinois Tollway and the VA are combining to sponsor an 8K race on June 15 on I-355's new Des Plaines River Valley Bridge. That section of the Veterans Memorial Tollway will be closed to vehicles that morning and we will have more time to enjoy the expansive views from bridge than we do at our usual driving pace. The race starts at 8:00 AM on June 15<sup>th</sup> at I-355 and 127<sup>th</sup> St. in Lemont. Proceeds from this race will benefit Salute, Inc. which supports various veterans initiatives in this area. You can find more information and a registration form at [www.saluteinc.org](http://www.saluteinc.org) or register on line at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com). All post and auxiliary members and their families and friends are invited to participate. The event is open to walkers but do note that at 8K (almost 5 miles), this is a longer distance than most walking events. Call team captain Phil Maughan (630-357-3440) for car pooling details.

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## **Operation Support our Troops IL**

This is an exciting time for OSOTIL! Our Rockin kickoff was successful beyond our wildest expectations with many of our key sponsors attending and learning more and more about our organization and what we are doing. Gary Sinise didn't just pop in but took the time to learn more about us and talk about what else we might be doing and discuss our long term goals.

Over the last year I, along with the Board of Directors, have begun to seriously consider our long term direction. When we began back in 2003 we saw ourselves as a little group who would send some care packages for six months or a year until "the troops all came home." With the passing of time and as a result of the hard work and dedication of so many, we have grown into an organization that has done far more than that simple goal and has potential to do more than we had ever imagined in the early days.

I have met with our key sponsors over the last several months to talk about how we can grow and develop further, and along with our Board of Directors have looked with more focus at our long term strategy. The sponsors and our board have agreed with my assessment that the best way for us to continue to grow and fulfill our mission is to hire an Executive Director to help manage the organization's growing resources and programs.

Having made that decision, we were able to find what we consider to be the perfect candidate for the position. Joe Stevenson, one of our very own OSOTIL members, had recently made a life change. Some of you may know Joe and his wife Barb. Joe and Barb's son, LCPL Joe Stevenson, passed away suddenly in October after returning from Iraq and while in Marine Recon Training. In the wake of his son's death, Joe decided to leave his position as an IT specialist and pursue a position in a non profit organization with a strong dedication to a mission that he could feel passionate about. It is a perfect fit for both of us.

Joe brings a high level of skill and a wealth of experience from the many roles that he has held in a variety of companies and he is looking forward to adapting these experiences to fit our organization. We are fortunate to have him take on this challenge. I will continue in the role of President and I see Joe and I working as a team along with our VP, Betty Krupp and Treasurer, Maureen Keener and the rest of the Board of Directors, to lead this organization toward bigger challenges and accomplishments. I hope you understand that the role of the volunteer will not change - we continue to be a volunteer based organization with you, our member/volunteers being our most valuable asset.

Please join me in welcoming and supporting Joe in this new role.

Deborah Rickert  
President  
Operation Support our Troops - IL., Inc.

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## **United Way Sculptures**

Summers come alive in Naperville each year with the United Way's sculptures that are placed around the town. This year Carolyn Finzer was commissioned as the artist for the Naperville Visitors and Convention Bureau sculpture. The frog chair is dedicated to World War II veterans and is entitled "Rosie the Riveter." The chair is on display at the corner of Jefferson Street and Webster. Stop by and take a look! Carolyn's father, the late Royal Lauing, was a long time Post member.

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## **Rockin For The Troops Volunteers**

Operation Support our Troops, Illinois needs volunteers to help direct traffic flow at the external parking lots for the OSOT-IL Gary Sinese Concert on July 19, 2008.

We will have two external lots within about two miles of Cantigny Park in Wheaton, one North and one South. The first is at International Truck Lot @ I-88 and Winfield Rd, while the other is at County Complex Lot on County Farm Rd., just north of Roosevelt Rd. There will be free shuttle buses between these lots and Cantigny Park. The Park opens at 12:00 noon and the concert ends at 9:30PM. We expect to move all attendees back to the external lots by 10:30 or 11:00PM. There will be about six shifts throughout the day.

The responsibilities are simple:

- a. Ability to handle crowd control: direct people from their cars to the buses and vise-versa. Detail instructions will be given; night shift will have night jackets & flash lights; will direct traffic only on private property.
- b. Be familiar with lot layout to direct traffic,
- c. Will take ticket stub prior to bus entry and answer simple concert questions.
- d. Should have cell phone for communication of possible issues

All volunteers will be trained. For more information, call Al Keener, event coordinator at 63-355-0310.

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Editor's Note: This month's Kendall-Gram is late, especially if you get it by mail. Don't blame the Post Office. The editor was on vacation out of the country and we have no assistant editors to take over. Next month we should be back on schedule.

**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**

	<b>Open</b>	<b>Close</b>
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,  
908 W Jackson  
Naperville, IL 60540

**POSTNUMBER 420-9820**

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

**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	978-2143
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

**Trustees**

1 year	Phil Maughan	357-3440
2 year	Mike Barbour	527-0738
3 year	George McKissick	

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Americanism	Jack Shiffler	357-4615
Blood Drive	Bernie Berkes	357-0547
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	Mike McGrath	357-2680
	John Shaw	961-3479
House	Ken Garhan	355-2493
	Mike Rechenmacher	961-1377
	Bob Tallon	357-8134
Kitchen	Ken Garhan	355-2493
Life Membership		
Membership	Charlie Vladika	357-8615
Legislative	Frank Haynes	357-2906
National Home		
Nursing Home		
Public Relations	Mike Barbour	527-0738
Safety	Jim Morsovillo	204-0599
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  
908 W Jackson  
Naperville, IL 60540



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## Grounds Committee

A special thanks to the eighth graders at Kennedy Jr High School who came to help us plant the VFW. Also thanks to all the volunteers, and to the boy scout and cub scout troops who helped us spread mulch on the flower beds. Thanks to Mike and Jan Barbour for filling in and coordinating this endeavor. Working together, we have the Post looking great. We are still having some problems with poison ivy and are vigilantly spraying each new plant as it pops up. Hopefully we can eradicate this weed this year.

A special thanks to the Cress Creek Garden Club volunteers who planted Veterans Park and got it ready for the Memorial Day ceremonies. Thanks to the Park District for their help in watering the plants at the park. Veterans Park is on Gartner Road east of Washington. It is a very beautiful and serene location and well worth a visit.