

THE

A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



KENDALL-GRAM



Volume 11, Issue 2
February, 2007

Around the Post with Commander Mike McGrath

WELCOME!

We welcome our newest Post members, Michael and Tessa Beresheim, who are currently serving our country in the United States Army in Iraq. Welcome Michael and Tessa and thank you for your service to our country.

And what else is new? In the near future our Post will be working on a program here in Naperville to honor and recognize all of the young men and women from Naperville who are serving our country overseas. We'll have the details for you in the coming months.

IT'S JUST SUPER!

Yes G.I, it's February and the biggest football game of the year, the Super Bowl is about to KICK OFF. Don't PASS up our fabulous extra special Super Bowl extravaganza on Super Bowl Sunday, February 4. You'll have a BALL so don't FUMBLE this one. The GATES open at our Post at 4:30 pm and TICKETS are just \$15.00 per person. Take a RUN over and we'll HAND OFF some great food and fun. You'll score a TOUCHDOWN for sure!

AND SPEAKING OF SUPER!

Our Fabulous Friday Fish Frys will start on February 16 this year so we'll look forward to seeing you all on Friday nights.... What a great way to shake off the winter blahs... and you won't even need to bring your Fishing Pole!

On Dec 29, OSOT made a generous donation of \$15000.00 to Hines Hospital. This came from our Wheaton/Cantigny Lt. Dan Band concert last July. The money will be used for computer enhancements for the guys at Hines and they really appreciated it. I attended the ceremony and it made me feel good that all our efforts last summer with the concert made such a difference.

Congratulations to Phil Maughan who was picked as a National Aide de Camp by the VFW National Commander. Phil is our Assistant Quartermaster, a Post trustee and a CPA who files the Post income tax forms. Phil is a Past Commander of our Post and the District VOD chairman, and Assistant Department VOD chairman. He is also head of the District Finance Committee. Thank you for all you do for the VFW and congratulations on your appointment.

AND THANK YOU

Thanks again to everyone who faithfully participates and helps out at Our Post. 2006 was a great year for us. We are truly blessed to have some great people here who have set a great example. It's plain to see that "YOUR INVOLVEMENT IS A MUST." It's just so important for you to be a part of it all. There is both great enjoyment and great satisfaction to be gained in knowing you are doing something eminently worthwhile through your participation in Our Post. It's how we can all show our support for our courageous fighting men and women who defend our Country and our freedom every day around the world. So be sure to read the Kendall Gram, come to the meetings and get involved in the Post activities.

AND SPEAKING OF PARTICIPATION....

Don't forget to vote in our upcoming Naperville primary mayoral election.. This is your town, G.I,so let's get out and vote.

Last but not least, please note this correction... our next Hines Hospital visit will be on Tuesday Feb. 13.

Thank you all for all you do and we'll be seeing you "AROUND THE POST."

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

"Well...Isn't this special?" Our membership percentages keep going up. We are now at 102% and still going. Thanks again to all of you who made our membership goals possible. With current world events again taking on urgency for the call up of more troops, we veterans need to pass the word to talk up joining a Veterans' organization. We never want our Veterans to feel unwelcome or unappreciated. Talk with your friends, work associates and anyone who may know of a Veteran who may be interested in checking out if this might be the time to consider joining a veteran's organization. Tell them they are welcome to come check us out. Have them check out our website. Bring them down to the Post. Let us make them feel welcome. As I wrote last month....

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 one has to offer.

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 vote in large numbers and candidates need those votes. It is time they listened to our battle cry. "Stop cutting our benefits!" We earned them.

Do check our Commander's comments and those of our Junior Vice. To all of our recent members, (those joining the Post in the past year) we say "Get involved."Join one of our committees. Sell Poppies. Give whatever time you can. We appreciate the help.

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

I hope everyone is enjoying the New Year so far and the mild winter. We are heading into a busier time of year at the Post with the Super Bowl coming, the Fish Fry's and the Ham Raffle. I look forward to seeing everyone out and participating. We can always use some help at the Fish Fry and we usually have a great time and have an opportunity to chat and catch up.

The Super Bowl is early in the month on February 4th, but you'll want to make sure and come early to get a great spot. Food, drinks, and a great football game will make for another fun night out at the Post. I am still hoping the Bears will be there and Silas's Seahawks had to fly back to wherever Seattle is. Watch for more details to be posted in the Canteen.

Over and Out

Dates to Remember

February 4th - SuperBowl 4:30 PM
 February 7th - Jr. Vice Scott Holley's B-Day
 February 8th - Post Meeting at 7:00 PM
 February 10th - State VOD Banquet in Springfield
 February 13 - Hines Hospital Visit, 6:30 PM
 February 15th - Auxiliary Meeting at 7:00 PM
 February - 16th Fish Fry (Pre-Lent) 6 - 8
 February 18th - Life Members Breakfast at 9:30 AM
 February 19th - President's Day
 February 23rd - Fish Fry (All Branches) 5:30 - 8 PM
 March 2nd - Fish Fry (Army) 5:30 - 8 PM
 March 8th - Post Meeting, 7:00 PM
 March 9th Fish Fry (Navy) 5:30 - 8 PM
 March 13th - Hines Hospital Visit, 6:30 PM
 March 15th - Auxiliary Meeting, 7 PM
 March 16th - Fish Fry (Air Force) 5:30 - 8 PM
 March 23rd - Fish Fry (Marines) 5:30 - 8 PM
 March 30th - Fish Fry (Women's Auxiliary) 5:30 - 8 PM
 March 31st - **Ham Raffle 6 PM**

Dates of Interest

February 5th 1951 - Battle of Hill 440 Began
 February 8th 1910 - Boy Scouts of America Founded
 February 12th 1973 - Operation Homecoming Began
 February 15th 1898 - Sinking of the USS Maine
 February 16th 1951 - Siege of Wonsan Began
 February 19th 1945 - US Marines landed on Iwo Jima
 February 22nd 1967 - Operation Junction City Began
 February 23rd 1945 - US Marines Raised Flag on Mt. Suribachi (Battle of Iwo Jima)
 February 23rd 1969 - Post-Tet Offensive Began
 February 24th 1991 - Operation Desert Storm Ground Campaign Began
 February 26th 1991 - Battle of 73 Easting
 February 27th 1991 - Battle of Norfolk
 February 27th 1991 - Battle of Medina Ridge

VETERANS AND POPPIES
The Poppy Prince and Princess

Comrades, these are the times that try men's souls. The United States is waging two campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq. I would have loved to volunteer to serve my country again but I realize that my body is a wreck. How can you and I help? It's very simple. We can get out when we are called and help sell more Buddy Poppies. We can help the disabled veterans that have served and we can also help those in the armed forces now. **ALL THIS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BY TAKING A FEW HOURS OUT OF YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE TO SELL BUDDY POPPIES.**

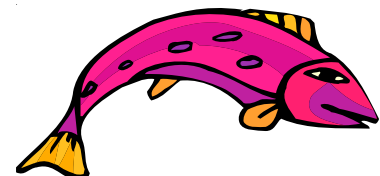
I realize that Memorial Day is 3 months away but the time to start thinking about what you can do for your country is now. We have 10% of our membership sell Buddy Poppies. A large number of those comrades are getting up in years and can't support the Buddy Poppy drive the way they used to. New blood is needed! **IT IS TIME TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!!!!!!** Naperville supports its veterans. It is our duty to not only educate the general population but also show them that we once again are answering the call by supporting disabled veterans and also those who are currently serving in the military.

We will never have an opportunity like this again to promote our cause. It is up to the VFW to let those who haven't served see us out selling Buddy Poppies. Starting in March you will be getting called by the area captains. I urge you to set time aside over the Memorial Day weekend to help the disabled veterans. If you don't do it who will?

During the remaining time before Buddy Poppy time, think about how lucky we are to be living in the USA. Also, say a prayer for our armed forces who are ferreting out the terrorists.

GOD BLESS AMERICA!

The Friday Night Fish Frys are here!



Auxiliary Report**Kathy McNally**

Was one of your New Year's resolutions to clear out the clutter? We can help! Did you know that we collect "trash" for "treasures"?

- tab tops from aluminum cans mean cash for the Ronald McDonald house
- Campbell's soup product labels (just the UPC code) equal donations to the VFW National Home
- cancelled stamps are sold for support in a convent up North.

So remember us when you tackle your New Year's resolution. Perhaps your church or youth group can help to collect. Bring your "trash" to a meeting, or drop it off at the Canteen. We'll thank you for your "treasures."

January found us attending the Voice of Democracy banquet at the Batavia Post. We were proud to send our first place winner, Sharika Sanku, to the District level. Sharika, a junior tied for fourth place at the District level and promised to return next year for the contest. Congratulations also to second and third place Post winners Robert Zimmerman and Danielle Hlava. VOD is an essay and speech contest open to high school students in our area. Without the sponsorship of the District director, Phil Maughan, and Committee Chairs Jan and Mike Barbour, none of this would be possible. Thanks also to our judges, one of whom I am particularly fond (Scott McNally).

It may seem as if we're in the middle of a fairly warm but still cloudy winter, but the promise of Spring is just around the corner. How do we know that? FISH FRY TIME! Our "practice" Fish Fry will be held on Friday, February 16th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Please volunteer to be our guinea pigs that night. We'd love to have you! We'll also be reaching out to you to help bus tables and seat patrons during the rest of the Lenten season Fish Fries, which for us begin officially on February 23rd. This is a Naperville tradition - and a great excuse to get out of the house and out of the winter doldrums!

Also don't forget our annual Plant Sale which will be held May 8th this year. Forms will be available online and also in next month's Kendall-gram. There will be no price increase this year so your flowers are an even bigger bargain!

Don't forget our June 16th 60th Anniversary Party! We're looking for help for the decorating, kitchen, invitation and program committees. Call me at (630) 305-8196 if you can help or if you have any memorabilia we can display.

Our next meeting is on February 15th. And there's some big sporting event being celebrated at the Post on February 4th at 4:30 PM. Oh right, Super Bowl. Hope to see you "Around the Post" soon!

Help Wanted

My company is looking for a number of helpers for the spring season to work in the Lawn and Garden area of Wal-Mart stores in Addison, Villa Park, Darien, Glen Ellyn, Forest Park, and Northlake, among other locations.

The assignments would begin in April and probably end in the latter part of June. They would work for the local Wal Mart Lawn and Garden Mgr. and me as their overall supervisor for hours tracking (there is a budget) and training purposes.

The job would be to unload flowers and shrubs, display them, and tend to them during the course of the season. I have more details. This is a Wal Mart sponsored program new to this area. The pay rate is \$10.00 per hr. Hours would vary as the season progresses but may average out to right around 25-30 hrs per week at peak times. It is not "easy" work but requires continuous activity at peak times.

My company is MID American Growers
14240 Greenhouse Avenue
Granville, IL 61326

For more information contact Ed Nuzbach, 630-369-9651, or e-mail to emnuzbach@sbcglobal.net.

Our Post sponsors the annual Voice of Democracy Speech Contest for high school students. This year's Post winner, Sharika Sanku, who is a junior at Naperville Central, placed fourth in District competition. Here is her essay.

Freedom's Challenge

To us, visions of smoking guns at Lexington and a crowded signing of the Declaration of Independence in early America, are sealed memories of a war that we fought and own. Some hundreds of years later, it seems that there aren't any more challenges to face; there is no threat to our liberties that need to be defeated. There are no British kings, or red coat soldiers hindering our rights. In our modern world, we face a very different challenge than our forefathers did. Our battle is to understand and exercise the rights, privileges, and obligations that our freedom provides us with.

In the beginnings of our country, the outcasts of a society banded together to create a place where no one would be among the expatriated. These few gentlemen worked towards defending and creating a haven where they could grow their magnificent idea, Freedom. They designed a constitutional framework so grand, that today more than two centuries later, it still protects the rights of its citizens. Our forefathers thought of a place where the single word would ring throughout a nation with the concinnity of millions of souls. Today we rejoice in the tenacious victory that our forefathers fought for and dreamed of having.

In a world of rapidly advancing technologies and conveniences, we use our freedoms to live a more comfortable life. The average American spends their life in pursuit of financial strength, and material happiness. Often we are so drawn into our latest material possession, that we forget our neighbors whose husband has just left for a foreign land to fight on the borders of terrorism. The challenge of our freedom is to understand the obligations we have, and practice them as one people. It is our duty to use our rights and liberties to support one another in times of hardship as well as in those of peace. Even if we cannot physically be on the battlefield, it is our obligation to send support to our troops on the front. It is our duty to hold our neighbor's hand while her husband is away at war, and welcome him with open arms when he comes home.

Over the years, we have become immune to the word freedom, often failing to recognize that it is all around us. It is the opportunity to make mistakes and to choose from the sea of possibilities that we are presented with every day. Freedom is in the dreams of the kindergartner who wants to become President, and subsequently in the applause of the American people who celebrate on his inauguration day. As a citizen of the United States, it is vital that we know and exercise our rights of freedom. We are given the right to vote our nation's leaders into office; that is a privilege only dreamed of in many countries. However, only fifty percent of the population makes an effort to vote and actively engage in their government. That means nearly half of all Americans choose not to use their most important freedom. We need to actively use our rights in positive ways - not just as individuals, but as a whole. We need to not only go to the voting booths ourselves, but encourage and help our friends and family to do so as well. As our former president Eisenhower most eloquently said, "Freedom has its life in the hearts, the actions, the spirit of men...must be daily earned and refreshed."

It is a rare privilege to choose any product from any country in the world, and be able to take it home immediately from the store. Because we have the freedom to do so, we must use this privilege in the way most beneficial to ourselves, and our country. It is the solemn obligation of every American to be an educated consumer. Our economy is based on the work of many countries from the farthest reaches of the globe. Every choice an American makes affects people in every country. We have the power to take a stand against our dependency on foreign oil by buying environmentally friendly vehicles. We have the freedom to control our pockets, and the pocket of our country by refusing to buy imported items just because they are cheaper than American products. Corporations have the freedom to choose American workers over cheaper Chinese counterparts. They have the opportunity to give hundreds of Americans jobs and save the economy right at home. As a consolidation, we can direct our government to provide better support for our loved ones who have returned from the battlefield as guardians of our liberties. We have the right to freedom, and therefore have the power to accomplish these and many more enhancements for our country.

The battles that our forefathers fought were just the beginning. Our challenge is the challenge of understanding our obligations, and using our rights and privileges in the best, most beneficial ways possible. We must practice what our forefathers secured for us, for the betterment of lives and the escalation of our minds. Together, we can change our country, and the world, by choosing to use our most cherished freedom.

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 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

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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

Trustees

1 year	Mike Rechenmacher	961-1377
2 year	Phil Maughan	357-3440
3 year	Mike Barbour	527-0738

Committee	Chairman	Phone
Americanism	Jack Shiffler	357-4615
Blood Drive	Bernie Berkes	357-0547
Buddy Poppy	Mike Barbour	527-0738
Building	Mike Rechenmacher	961-1377
Color Guard	John Scofield	851-6229
Eighth Grade Awards	Mike Pagnano	362-6077
Grounds	Phil Maughan	357-3440
Hall Rental	Barb Crabb	357-0256
Hospital	Mike McGrath	357-2680
	John Shaw	961-3479
House	Ken Garhan	355-2493
	Silas Bowman	718-1445
	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	Donna Morsovillo	302-2638
Junior Vice	Jenny Dawley	428-3494
Treasurer	Sue Jelinek	357-5366
Secretary		
Chaplain	Ginny Arbogast	355-5406
Guard	Mildred Bradlee	355-0413
Conductress	Fran McGrath	357-2680

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L-R: Kathy McNally, Mike McGrath, Linda Kane (english teacher at Central) VOD Post Winner Sharika Sanku, Mrs and Mr. Sanku with Sharika's sister. The picture was taken at the District 19 Voice of Democracy Dinner. Sharika placed fourth in the District.