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Commanders Message

November 2016

Commander Bobby Jeans – It was a long hot summer and a very busy one at the KVC. We had an ambitious maintenance program to repair and replace many items that needed attention. For the most part all projects have been successfully completed. As we enter our new hall rental season we have found that we are in need of additional bartenders and managerial and cleanup personal. If any of you can help out please get in contact with me. The holiday season is coming upon us faster than I can recall in recent memory. Please check this issue of the Landing Zone for the times and dates of all our events and activities;. My wife, Lenore, and I would like to thank all those members who have helped this year in keeping this post and organization in fine working order and wish you all a happy holiday season.

Flag Deployment Veterans' Day - Flag Deployment will kickoff our Veterans' Day Ceremonies on Saturday 11-05-2016 with a hardy breakfast at the Kenilworth Veterans' Center at 8:00am. A great New Jersey style breakfast of eggs, bacon, toast, rolls, donuts, coffee, tea, milk and all the other things that go with a New Jersey Style Breakfast will be served. Off to Graceland Cemetery at 9:00am to place over 1300 American Flags on our departed Veterans' Grave sites. Upon completion at the cemetery all are invited to return to the KVC for hot dogs and beer.

Veterans' Special Mass – Father Joe of St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church will offer a special 9:00am mass on Sunday 11-13-2016 especially for our Veterans' and active duty military men and women. All the veterans will be asked to be recognized by stepping up to the altar where Father Joe will give each of us the blessing of faith

Veterans Day Memorial Services – Commander Jeans will begin the ceremonies on Friday 11-11-2016 at 11:00am. Upon completion of the ceremonies all are invited to the KVC for refreshments.

Holiday Wishes – On behalf of the entire Executive Board of the VFW I would like to wish all of you and your families a very Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I would also like to ask all of you to take a moment of silence or prayer at your holiday tables and think of all our military men and women who have given up their holidays so that we can enjoy ours. May God bless all of them.



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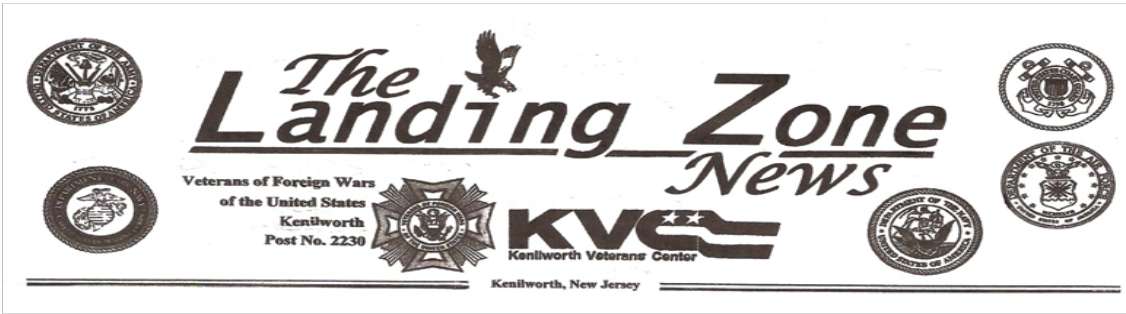
Cell Phones For Soldiers - Just wanted to remind everyone that our Cell Phones for Soldiers program is still going strong. If you are disposing of your old cell phone drop by the post and drop it in our basket in the Lounge. If you can't make it to the post call Bobby Jeans and he will make arrangements to have the phone picked up. All the used cell phones that are received go to a clearing house and Verizon call cards are then issued for use of our Military men and women who are stationed overseas. I am surprised that so many people think that our Military men and women overseas can make phone calls for free. Even in the combat areas of Afghanistan this is not true. All of our service personal must pay for their phone calls. These calling cards make it possible for many of our service men and women to call home. Please support this cause.

Sick Call: Our thoughts prayers and well wishes for a speedy recovery to Al Grady, George Klose, Brian Hirth, Mike Vitale, Joe "Tex" Weaver, Tony Lepore and Debbie Campbell wife of VFW Member Tom Campbell. Get well cards were sent from the post.

TAPS: Our condolences go out to the family of William "Bill" Severage who passed away on June 2nd, 2016 at age 84 and to the family of Art "Buzzi" Marino who passed away at home in October 2016.

Veterans Preference Restriction Opposed: Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain is now saying he will oppose a controversial proposal that would restrict veterans preference to a one-time use when applying for work within the federal government. The restriction, which the VFW has opposed since its introduction, is buried deep inside the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017*. The VFW wants the current veterans preference program kept intact. The misperception by veterans and misinterpretation by federal hiring authorities is that veterans preference is a job guarantee, wherein fact the only "guarantee" is the veteran applicant gets to advance to the interview stage where he or she must still distinguish themselves as the best qualified candidate. Congress will revisit this issue when it reconvenes after the November elections.

Mobile Apps for Veterans: VA has launched a number of mobile apps aimed at improving the lives of veterans and making VA more accessible. Currently, VA has 16 apps available through the Apple store and 6 apps available on Android's Google Play. These apps help veterans manage their PTSD, pressure ulcers, preconception care and other aspects of their health care. Many of the applications are also available for download on desktops and laptops. VA is currently field testing 11 more applications that will be released soon, including a self-scheduling application, an app to help veterans track their health care by receiving notifications from their health care team, and sending health information, such as blood pressure and other vital signs back to their health care team.



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New Members: Welcome aboard to new VFW/KVC Members Wendell Shaw, Matthew Tracy, Clint Lewis, Gregory Germain, Stanley Kaminski and Anthony Westbrook. On behalf of the entire membership we look forward to meeting you.

Scholarship Programs - Our "Voice of Democracy" audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regards to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, nearly 40,000 9-12 grade students from across the country enter to win their share of \$2 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program. This years theme is "My Responsibility to America". The National 1st place winner receives a \$30,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college or vocational/technical school. There are also many local, District and State Scholarship Program winners.

Our "Patriot's Pen" youth essay attracts over 132,000 students in grades 6-8 to submit their essays. The national 1st place winner wins \$5,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. the 1st place winner from each state competes for national awards totaling \$54,500, with each 1st place state winner receiving a minimum of \$500 at the national level. The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300-400 word essay. This years theme is "The America I Believe In"

For additional information and/or applications visit your nearest VFW Post or visit www.vfw.org.

KVC NEWS:

KVC President Jerry Dobbins – On behalf of the KVC Executive Board and myself I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving and as this begins our Christmas Season we hope that all of you and your families enjoy a very Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Vice President Robert Vesselli - Nominations for 3 positions on the KVC Executive Board will be held at our November meeting and elections for those positions will take place at our December meeting. If anyone is interested in running for a spot on the Executive board or nominating anyone for a position please come to our November meeting on Thursday November 10th, 2016.



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Maintenance Chairman Bo Hanik – reports that our age old oil burner furnaces are no longer. They have been replaced by 2 new natural gas boilers. Both boilers are ready for the coming winter months at the KVC. The floor in the main room was refinished as was the floor in the Kennedy Room. The railing on the rear steps to the kitchen was repaired and the kitchen screen door was replaced. We still have a few projects to complete and I will keep all of you up to date.

Thanksgiving Baskets for the needy - Ed Miller Again this year we will put together and deliver Thanksgiving Day baskets of food to our needy. A total of 40 baskets were delivered in time for Thanksgiving last year and we expect about the same for this year. I am working closely with the management team from Costco for a donation of the turkeys and I am sure that the school children as usual will be gathering the other food ingredients for the baskets. You can either contact me or Kathy in the lounge for the dates and times that we will be at the KVC putting the baskets together and delivering them to those families in need.

Secretary – Bill Salzmann Updating the membership we now have 298 VFW members and 61 KVC members. Remember if you are just discharging from military service you must register with the VA within 5 years of your discharge to protect your eligibility for future claims with the VA. It's easy just go online to www.va.org and follow the prompts to register with the VA. If you have any problems contact me and we will get it done.

Kenilworth Veterans Web Page - Don't forget to visit our web and sign our guest book. Check out our post calendar for upcoming events and view our photo album. Our web page URL is www.kenilworthveterans.com and is updated daily.

Kenilworth Veterans Facebook Page – Come and visit us on our face book page you can join us by entering this address www.facebook.com/kenilworthveterans click the like button and become part of our face book community.

E-mail Addresses – If you have access to a computer and have an E-mail address send it to me by e-mailing me at kvc.secretary@gmail.com I send out notices and alerts as they occur during the month between meetings and newsletters. I don't send jokes and I don't use your addresses for ads. It's just another way of me keeping all of you advised on things pertaining to the post or the VFW and most importantly the changes in veteran's benefits.

Congratulations – to VFW member Carlos Beirao and his buddies from the USMC 6th MT Bn who just celebrated their 25th Anniversary reunion deployment to Desert Storm at the Westwood Restaurant in Garwood, NJ. Job well done guys you really make us proud. Semper Fi.



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Fundraiser: Friends of the Kenilworth Veteran's Center Post 2230 are having a party to raise money to replace the old heating system. An evening of music featuring "The Jersey Jukebox" at the Kenilworth Veteran's Center Saturday, November 19th, 2016 7:00pm to 11:00pm. Tickets are \$30.00 per person. Beer, wine, soda and light food will be served. Tricky Tray and Raffle. Honorees Veteran of the year 2016 Commander Robert Jeans, Law Enforcement Officer of the year 2016 Union County Sheriff Joseph Cryan and Firefighter of the year 2016 N.J. State FMBA President Ed Donnelly. Please come out to honor and support these men for their dedication to our communities and veterans. For tickets, to reserve a table or to make a donation call Kathy Curren 908-337-7152, Kevin Dowling 732-535-2212, Allison Maguire-Zuczek 908-337-6782, Tom Zuczek 908-451-6148 or e-mail nuttyirish5@aol.com.

Holiday Thoughts - Ed Miller The Holiday Season has arrived and with it comes the beginning of one of the Holist times of the year. Christmas! Christmas is a very busy time for everyone. People scurrying about buying gifts for loved ones and parties and dinners are being planned, but let's not forget the true meaning for this holiday. It is the Birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He was born to save the world. Gift giving and parties are secondary to this fact. On behalf of the officers and members of the Kenilworth VFW and the Kenilworth Veteran's Center Post #2230, I would like to extend Season's Greetings to everyone as we move into the Holidays. May your homes be blessed with joy of the Holiday Season, good times, good health and your life be filled with peace and happiness throughout the New Year. Last but not least, let us extend a special thanks and best wishes to our service men and women presently serving in Afghanistan. Ask God to watch over them and protect them from those who wish us harm. Let us remember them in our prayers and pray for a speedy reuniting with their families and loved ones. May God bless you all.

December KVC/VFW Meeting - Our December meeting which will be held on Thursday December 8th, 2016 starting as usual with an abbreviated meeting at 7:00pm will also be our Post Christmas Party. The only order of business will be nominations and election of officers which should not take long at all. All members are invited to attend and they are urged to bring their spouses, other family members and friends.

KVC Lounge Christmas Party-Gerald Grasso - Commander Jeans and President Dobbins will, again this year, host our KVC Lounge Christmas Party. Lots of food and drink on Monday December 19, 2016 from 4:00pm to 8:00PM bring a guest if you please. There are many events that will be scheduled starting with Thanksgiving and running through the first of the year as usual we will need a lot of volunteers around the post so if you are available let me know. I'm sure I can find something for you do help us with.



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KVC/VFW Christmas Holiday Meeting: The KVC/VFW December meeting will be held in the Kennedy Room starting at 7:00pm on Thursday December 8th, 2016 this will also be our annual Christmas Celebration for our members their family and guest. Looking forward to seeing all of you, your family and your invited guest at our party.

VVA 688 Holiday Party Rick Harrison- Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 688 will be hosting their annual Christmas Party at the Kenilworth Veteran's Center on Saturday December 10th, 2016 from 7:00pm to 11:00pm. Donation of \$10.00 per person includes Buffet, Refreshments (cash bar) and plenty of Holiday music. Please bring an unwrapped toy of \$10.00 or less in value for a child.. The presents will be donated to the USMC Toys for Tots program. If you are planning on attending notify Rick Harrison 908-241-9612 or rickvva688@aol.com no later than December 2nd so that he can plan on the amount of food that will be needed.

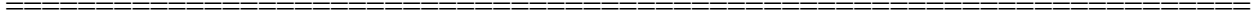
USMC Toys for Tots: Anyone wishing to donate toys for the USMC Toys for Tots program can drop the gifts off at the KVC until December 9th, 2016. The gifts should be \$10.00 or less in value and unwrapped for both girls and boys. All gifts will be donated to the USMC Toys for Tots program on December 10th, 2016 by VFW 2230 and VVA 688.

Christmas Trees: Boy Scout Troop 83 will be selling Christmas trees again this year starting the first weekend in December. If you purchase live Christmas trees visit our Boy Scouts at the KVC they always have great trees on sale and the prices are right.

Membership Drive- Please sign up a new member. For application forms see Commander Jeans at the post or contact via e-mail kvc.secretary@gmail.com

PTSD unit Meet and Greet Dinner Party: VVA688 and VFW 2230 Co-Hosted a Meet and Greet dinner party for the PTSD Unit from Lyons Veteran's Hospital in October which again was a tremendous success. Thanks Tony Dobbins for preparing the meal. No-one left the KVC hungry that's for sure.

State VVA Raffle: Rick Harrison reports that the State VVA is holding a raffle for a trip to Bermuda in May. Tickets are \$25.00 and the proceeds go to support the Veterans Service Officer Program. Tickets can be purchased from Kathy in the Lounge of the KVC.



PLEASE PRINT

Name _____ Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone# _____
E-mail: _____ Branch of Service: _____ Status: _____
Date of Birth: _____ Social Security #: _____
Dates of overseas service: From: _____ to: _____ Conflict/war: _____

Copy of DD-214 required with this application:

