



The Landing Zone News



Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States
Kenilworth
Post No. 2230



KVC
Kenilworth Veterans Center



Kenilworth, New Jersey

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Commanders Message

June 2017

Commander Bobby Jeans - Greetings to one and all. As you are all aware this has been an extremely busy first six months of 2017. We have elected all of our officers for 2017 and 2018, all delegates have been elected or appointed and all the District and State officers have been notified. All our fees have been paid and we are about to attend our State Convention in Wildwood. We have been involved in many community service activities to mention a few. The VA Hospital at Lyons, American Cancer Society fundraisers, our scholarship programs for Grammer school, Middle school and High school etc. just to name a few. We continue to donate clothing, toiletries and cosmetics to State and Federal Hospital's in our arera. All our holiday fundraisers have been successful and we continue to remain one of Union Counties premier Veteran's Post. None of this could have been accomplished if we did not work as a team. I am extremely proud to have been elected for the 19th consecutive year to represent you on the County and State level.

Building and Grounds Bo Haniak: Our seasoning lawn care is now underway and the grounds are really looking good. Just a reminder that we are still accepting pavers of respect and recognition at the KVC to be installed among the other pavers at Robert Jeans Memorial Park adjacent to the KVC. We are now in the process of removing and replacement of the floors in the Lounge and Foyer and should be completed by the end of the summer. The removal of the oil tank has been completed without incident and the area has been reseeded. We are hoping to have the upstairs bar replaced over the summer.. Gerry Grasso and Bobby Vesselli repaired the sewer machine and all should be working without any problems. Brian Hirth and Art Russo of ANA Landscaping donated and secured in place the two statues in front of the KVC. Thanks to Mike Ceceri for repairing the outside door completing the repairs to the Lounge Door and offering to complete the repairs on the driveway door and stage door.

VFW Membership Drive – If you know any veterans and they are not members of the VFW now is the time for recruitment. You can start by having the prospective member fill out the information box on the last page of this newsletter and get it to Bobby Jeans or Bill Salzman. If you have any questions feel free to contact us at any time.



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VVA 688 Bus Trip – VVA Chapter 688 Bus Trip to Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC. On Saturday October 28, 2017 bus will depart from American Legion Post #3 located at 1003 North Avenue West, Westfield, NJ at 6:30am to Lincoln Memorial. At 11:30am we will place a Weath at “The Wall”. Day will be unstructured and you can do what you please in DC. The bus will depart from Lincoln Memorial at 4:30pm with a stop at Baltimore Inner Harbor on the way home for dinner. Dine at the restaurant of your choice at your own expense. This is always a sold out affair so get your tickets as soon as possible. Cost per person \$55.00 which includes Deluxe Tour Bus with Movies and Restroom, coffee, juice, rolls, bagels on the bus in the morning. Make all checks payable to VVA Chapter 688 and mail to VVA Chapter 688 P.O. Box 1 Westfield, NJ 07091. Payment must be made no later than September 28, 2017 for additional information caa Rick Harrison at 908-416-5930

Union County St. Patricks Day Committee – Another successful St. Patrick’s Day Parade and after party. The parade went off on schedule and without a hitch. We were joined by VVA Chapter 688 and Kenilworth American Legion Post 470. We marched and honored our flag yet again. The weather this year did not stop anyone from marching and the proof was a large turn out of people cheering us on. At the after parade party the volunteers of the KVC/VFW Post 2230 cooked and served over 800 lbs of Corned Beef with sides of potatoes and cabbage. For those that liked hot dogs, kraut, mustard and relish another 40 lbs. cooked and served. Thanks to all that made this event the success that it was.

Flag Deployment - Starting at 8:00am on Saturday May 27, 2017 with breakfast at the Kenilworth Veterans Center consisting of scrambled eggs, pancakes, bacon, sausage, toast, hash brown potatoes, juice, coffee, tea and milk. At 9:00am we will deploy to Graceland Cemetery and placed American Flags on over 1,000 Veteran’s graves. Thanks to all that participated. God bless our departed heroes.

Special Mass for Veterans - Again this year Father Joe will offer a special mass for veterans at 9:00am on Sunday May 28, 2017 at St. Theresa’s Catholic Church in Kenilworth. All veterans are invited to attend along with their families and friends. As is his custom Father Joe at the conclusion of the Mass will ask all veterans to stand and be recognized for their service to our country and then invite all veterans to join him on the altar to a special blessing. Light refreshments will be served at the end of the ceremonies.



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Memorial Day - Celebrations will begin at Robert E. Jeans Sr. Memorial Park at 1100 hours on Monday May 29, 2017. After the ceremonies light refreshments were served at the KVC. All were invited to attend. Memorial Day formerly known as Decoration Day commemorates all men and women who have died in military service for the United States.

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.

Senior Vice Commander Rick Harrison: On behalf of VVA Chapter 688 I would like to wish everyone a safe, happy, healthy summer. VVA has some projects being planned so we will keep KVC-VFW members informed of events. As summer begins it is not too late to think about the Fall and the full agenda as far as rentals, and other activities at the post go. So please think about getting involved in some way. I would like to thank those who have supported VVA. It is greatly appreciated.

Quartermaster – Richard Banks All funds raised are deposited and all outstanding bills are paid. We are in great shape and in line with all our goals.

Adopt a Unit – A special thanks to Kathy Curren for acting as Chairman of our Adopt A Unit program. Since December of 2016 Kathy has sent various packages containing stationary, writing tools, playing cards, toothbrushes, candy, deodorants, shaving razors, pretzels, trail mix and much more. These packages were sent to our troops serving in South Korea. Call Kathy at the lounge 908-276-9769 if you wish to donate any items for her next shipment.

Poppies – Ed Sulenski Our 2017 poppy drive started May 1st and will end on May 31st. Chairman Ed Sulenski reports that this is the best year ever and he thanks one and all for their continued support and help with the poppy drive.

Sick Call: Our prayers and best wishes go out to George Klose and Tony Lepore hope you guys are feeling better and you are always in our thoughts and prayers.



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TAPS: Our sincere condolences to the family of Albert Grady Jr. Past Kenilworth VFW Post 2230 Commander who passed on March 16, 2017 at age 71. Also our condolences to Comrade Tom Campbell and his family on the passing of his beloved wife Debra on March 15, 2017

New members: Welcome aboard new members Jeffrey C. Jaeckel, Damian Rivera, David Barco, William E. Lueddeke, Neeman Roghanchi and Nathaneal Lowe. Welcome aboard to all of you. We are proud to have you as members and thank you for your service.

VFW Executive Board Elections: Elections and Appointments were held in March and April, in compliance with the VFW By-laws. Your new Executive Board members for 2017-2018 are: Commander Robert Jeans, Senior Vice Commander Rick Harrison, Junior Vice Commander Ron Burkhardt, Quartermaster Richard Banks, Adjutant Bill Salzmman, Service Officer Joe Weaver, Judge Advocate Ted Meadowcroft, Chaplin Ed Sulenski, Surgeon Jerry Dobbins, Officer of the Day Paul Campanelli, Guard Bo Haniak, Trustees Brian Hirth and Garry Schwarz and Brian Gorczyca. Congratulations to one and all.

KVC NEWS:

President Jerry Dobbins – Elections for the KVC Executive Board were held in January and the new 2017 Executive Board are President Jerry Dobbins, Vice President Robert Vesselli, Treasurer Roberto Reyes, Secretary Bill Salzmman, House Chairman Robert Jeans, Bar Chairman Gerry Grasso, Building & Grounds Chairman Bo Haniak, Trustees Brian Hirth, Rick Harrison, Al Fiorillo and newly elected Trustee Robert Cermak. Congratulations to all.

Bar Chairman – Gerry Grasso As usual the lounge is doing great. A nice crowd can be found almost every night. The Main Room and the Kennedy Room are booked solid through June when we will close hall rentals due to being on summer recess for July and August. We have some bookings for September leaving a couple of open dates from September to the end of December. If any member is looking to use the halls don't wait see Commander Jeans and reserve your date.



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Treasurer –Roberto Reyes All of our books are in order and have been reviewed by auditors and our accountant. No problems all is well. I look forward to serving the post this coming year and with a little help we should end in great form.

Pull Tab Game I am happy to report we are doing very well and are currently ahead of schedule. For those members, who don't know, it is equivalent to the NJ lottery rub off. Many of our members play this game daily. Stop by and join in the fun remember you can't win it if you don't play it.

Kenilworth Veterans on Face Book: This time last year we hadn't yet reached 173 likes on our facebook page. I am happy to report that our following is growing and we now have 238 likes on our face book page. If you haven't done so please visit our facebook page and click the page like button. Feed back is important to me so if you don't like something on the page let me know and if you do like something please share it with us.

Remembering Memorial Day – Ed Miller I'm an American who has always taken pride in the United States of America, it's flag and great heritage. As a Legionnaire and VFW member, I've listened closely to the stories that my fellow Veterans endured on the "front lines". Especially the battles they fought in and the ribbons and medals they so prominently display on their Legion and VFW hats. They speak in reverent terms of their fallen comrades. These men and women don't consider themselves heroes. They are your average Americans who answered the call to render service to this great land in a time of war. I derived a sense of patriotism from these warriors, which lasts to this very day. As a Veteran and member of the American Legion Post 470 and Kenilworth VFW Post 2230 I remember Memorial day as a very emotional experience. The Veterans's that marched in the parades, the way "Old Glory" was prominently displayed and the playing of "Taps". If this doesn't bring a tear to your eyes, just remember those who have fallen and cannot be with us on Memorial Day. When I hear "Taps" this means that another of my brothers and sisters in the service has gone to that "Great Army" in the sky. Now, I know why I became a Legionnaire and VFW Member. It is the feeling I have in my heart that belongs to a family that displays the principles of service and sacrifices for this United States of America.

Father's Day Tribute – Ed Miller May the Blessings and Love of Our Heavenly Father be yours in abundance on this Father's Day. May your warm smile be as big as your heart. May all the love you have given us throughout the years come back to you a thousand times over on your special day. I could not think of a more appropriate time for us to look into our hearts and



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express to Dad on Father's Day, our deepest feelings by saying "I love you dad". Have a wonderful Father's Day, May God Bless all our Fathers.

Meet and Greet – On April 27, 2017 Commander Jeans of Kenilworth VFW Post 2230 and President Rick Harrison of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 688 co-hosted a Meet and Greet dinner at the Kenilworth Veteran's Center for members of the PTSD Unit from Lyons VA Hospital. Twenty Nine guest from the PTSD unit arrived at 5:45pm and were treated to a main course of a turkey dinner with all the fixings that go with it. I can tell all of you that no one went away hungry. Desert was also served which was made up of cake, cup cakes and assorted cookies. This meet and greet dinner was our second co-hosted dinner for the PTSD Unit and it went over so well that we will be making this a permanent affair by both VFW Post 2230 and VVA Chapter 688. Attending were about 26 members of the VFW and VVA. Special thanks to Commander Jeans and President Dobbins of the VFW and Rick Harrison of the VVA for putting this together and making it work.

Special Thankyou – As you are all well aware we had a special fund raiser this past November to replace and pay for both furnaces at the KVC. Post memberTomas and his wife Allison Zuczek spear headed the committee to raise the funds necessary to support and complete the project. Our own Kathy Curren and he jolly band of holligans joined in with all our friends from the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. The final check was received and the Committee audited it this past April. Our goal of \$21,000.00 was far surpassed thanks to the efforts of Sheriff Joe Cryan. Kodos to the committee. We would not have been successful without you.

PLEASE PRINT

VFW/KVC Membership Application

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:

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