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Commanders Message

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November 2018

Commander Bobby Jeans – After an extensive rehab program here at the KVC we were able to complete several major projects that were on our “TO DO LIST” but there are still a few more that need to be done. We aggressively move into our veteran’s projects. Flag Deployment, Veterans Day and the Scholarship programs have been completed. We move on to the Thanksgiving Holiday with our baskets for the needy, casino night at the Westfield Armory that we attended on November 17th and sending the packages overseas to our troops on deployment over this holiday season. We will be assisting our newly appointed VFW Adopt a Unit with their needs and the sending of packages to the 102nd CAV (Westfield Armory) who will be deployed in January 2019. As you all have heard this and many more things continue to be on our agenda with our active military personal that are or will soon be on deployment. Anyone wishing to donate items please drop them off at the KVC/VFW Lounge. Kathy Curren will be happy to assist anyone who has questions. On behalf of my wife, Lenore and myself, we would like to wish all of you a happy holiday season. May God bless you all and the United States of America.

Flag Deployment Veterans’ Day - Flag Deployment kicked off our Veterans’ Day Ceremonies on Saturday 11-03-2018 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 were served. Thanks to chefs Tom Campbell, Mike Vitale, Tony Dobbins and Tony Vetuschi. Off to Graceland Cemetery at 9:00am to place over 1300 American Flags on our departed Veterans’ Grave sites. Despite the threat of heavy rain and winds 39 brave men and women got the job done. Upon completion at the cemetery all were invited to return to the KVC for hot dogs and beer.

Veterans Day Memorial Services – Commander Jeans began the ceremonies on Sunday 11-11-2018 at 11:00am. Upon completion of the ceremonies all were invited to the KVC for lunch.

Thanks Comrade Bob Vesselli - It was brought to Bob’s attention that a Tattered, worn and torn American flag was being displayed at an abandoned Gas Station in Kenilworth. Bob began an investigation found the owner of the property. After securing the owners phone number Bob gave him a call and as a result of that call Bob was given permission by the owner to enter the property and remove the tattered flag, which Bob did. With flag in hand Bob transported the flag to the VFW where it was properly and honorably put to rest. Good job Bob and well done.



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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.

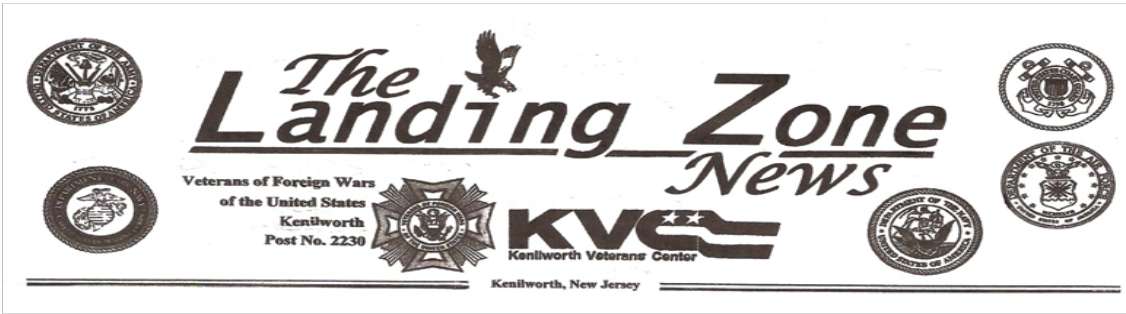
Sick Call: Our thoughts prayers and well wishes for a speedy recovery to Tony Lepore, Harold Scheidegger Anthony LaFerrara, Vincent Cerciello and Ed Miller.

TAPS: Our condolences go out to the family of Bobby Jeans Jr. the son of Commander Robert and Lenore Jeans on his tragic passing on Friday June 15, 2018. Our condolences to the family of William G Lemke who passed in January 2018 at age 90. Our condolences to the family of Lawrence J. Rotolo who passed on July 19, 2017 at age 94. Our condolences to the family of Albert J. Miller Jr. who passed on August 31, 2018 at age 96. Our condolences to the family of Michael Zalinski who passed on September 29, 2018 at age 73. Our condolences to the family of John "Jack" Lane who passed on November 6, 2018 at age 76.

Boy Scout Troop 83 Christmas Tree Sale: Again this year the Boy Scouts from our VFW Sponsored Troop 83 will be selling Christmas Trees. The trees are scheduled to arrive at Robert Jeans Memorial Park adjacent to the Kenilworth Veterans Center on November 27 and will go on sale on November 28 until they are sold out.

Christmas Party for PTSD Unit at Lyons VA Hospital: VFW Post 2230 and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 688 will co-host together a Christmas Party for the Veterans in the PTSD Unit of Lyons Veterans Hospital on December 6, 2018. Anyone wishing to participate contact Commander Jeans or VVA President Rick Harrison for additional information.

Christmas Care Packages for our Military: Kathy Curren is putting Christmas packages together to be sent to our troops currently deployed or preparing to deploy. If you are interested in donating items or can help Kathy in this project please give her a call at the post to see what she needs or how you can help 908-276-9769.



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New Members: Welcome aboard to new VFW/KVC Members Robert Vento,, Caatherine Pecana, Ricardo Carrera, Arthur Green, Patience Okhuofu and Haneef El-Amin.

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 year’s theme is “Why our Vote Matters”. 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.

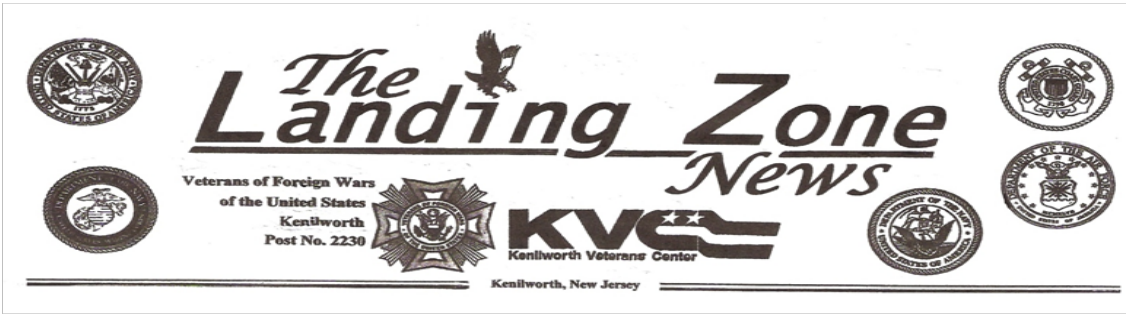
Our “Patriot’s Pen” youth essay attracts over 132,000 students in grades 6-8 to submit their essays. The national 1st place winner wins \$5,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. the 1st place winner from each state competes for national awards totaling \$54,500, with each 1st place state 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 “Why I honor the American Flag.”

For additional information and/or applications visit your nearest VFW Post or visit www.vfw.org. Please remember to tell your grandchildren to pick up their applications at the School Council Office or the KVC in the lounge.

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 were held at our November meeting and elections for those positions will take place at our December meeting. Also at our December meeting we will call for additional nominees from the members present before the election.



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Maintenance Chairman Bo Hanik - This year we have aggressively addressed the floors at the post. We had the wooden floors refinished, carpeting which was procured by Jerry Dobbins and was installed by members of the post. Bathroom fixtures have been repaired and a few of the lighting issues were corrected. Electricity problems persist and should be addresses in the near future. I would like to thank all of you who have donated your time and efforts to complete these projects.

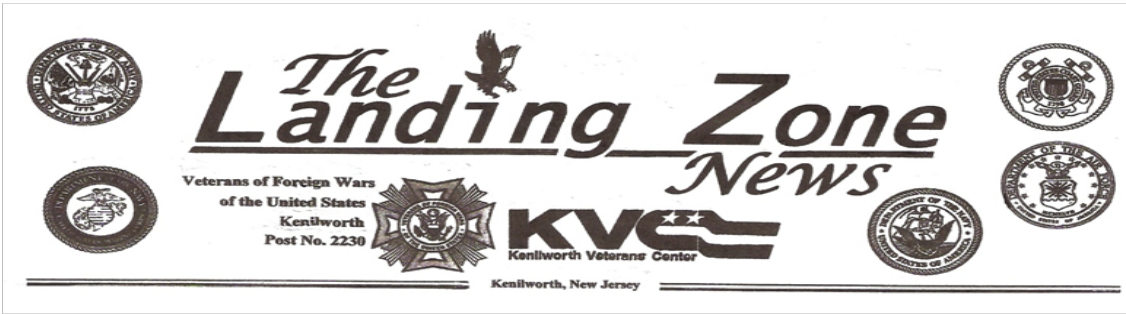
Thanksgiving Baskets for the needy - Ed Miller Again this year we will put together and deliver Thanksgiving Day baskets of food to our needy. A total of 40 baskets will be delivered in time for Thanksgiving this year. I am working closely with the management team from Costco for a donation of the turkeys 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 364 VFW/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



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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 13th, 2018 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 Thursday December 20, 2018 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.

VVA 688 Holiday Party Rick Harrison- Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 688 will be hosting their annual Christmas Parrrty at the Kenilworth Veteran's Center on Saturday December 8th, 2018 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.



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“ELVIS AT THE KVC” Vice President Robert “Bob” Vesselli reports that “ELVIS” will be returning to the Kenilworth Veterans Center. “A tribute to Elvis thru the years”, featuring award winning Elvis tribute artist Jim Barone, who remarkably brings to life the voice, passion and style of the legendary Elvis. Celebrate Valentines Day with us and enjoy a repertoire of favorite Elvis songs from the early 1950’s through the 1970’s performed live by Jim Barone on Saturday February 16, 2019 at the Kenilworth Veterans Center from 7:00pm to 11:00pm. Admission is \$30.00 per person and includes beer, wine & soda (bring your own snacks”. Tickets are available in the lounge. Don’t wait until the last minute to purchase your tickets because this event always gets sold out.

US Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Alex Beirao son of VFW Post 2230 member Carlos Beirao is now off to see the pacific being deployed for a 7 month West Pac deployment aboard a US Navy Destroyer. Our best wishes, good luck and a safe return. Semper Fortis!!

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

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:
