



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 2019

Commander Bobby Jeans – As you are all aware, May is the busiest month on the VFW Calendar. Our added responsibility of maintaining the post, holding special events such as the dinner for the PTSD Unit from Lyons Veterans Hospital, the Memorial Day weekend activities and our Poppy fund drive. I am asking everyone who can volunteer some time to help us out would be greatly appreciated. In short we need manpower to accomplish our goals. A special note to our tap section we lost eight of our veterans and on behalf of the officers and membership I would like to offer to the families and friends our condolences. In closing, as this is our final edition until the fall I would like to wish the membership and their families a peaceful summer and a safe summer.

Building and Grounds: Just because we have suspended official operations for the summer does not mean that we will not be around. We have several projects scheduled for the summer months and hopefully we will have them all completed by September. Commander Jeans advises that the Main Hall Bar grating has been installed. We will be able to secure the bar area properly when not in use saving the crew a lot of time preparing the bar for an event. The bill for the grating has been paid.

PTSD Unit from Lyons Hospital: Rick Harrison Senior Vice Commander reports that the dinner sponsored by Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 688 and VFW Post 2230 for the members of the Lyons VA Hospital PTSD Unit will be held on Thursday May 23, 2019 and is expected, as in the past, to be a huge success as it has been since this joint celebration was started a couple of years ago. About 20 to 25 members from the unit will arrive at the Kenilworth Veterans Center from Lyons VA Hospital about 6:00pm. If you plan to attend give Bobby Jeans or Rick Harrison a call so that they are sure to have enough food for everyone. You should arrive at the Kenilworth Veterans Center no later than 5:30pm. The members of the Unit really enjoy the meal and also the conversations with their fellow veterans. Rick and Bobby are doing a great job planning these affairs and what started as a one time event has grown to 3 or 4 times a year and it's getting better all the time.



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Union County St. Patrick's 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 in memory and to honor Robert Jeans Jr. The weather cooperated with the marchers and made it a pleasant day for all. A good turn out filled our float with an overflow that marched on either side, front and rear.

Flag Deployment - will commence at 8:00am on Saturday May 25, 2019 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 deploy to Graceland Cemetery to place American Flags on over 1,000 Veteran's graves. Thanks to all who participate. God bless our departed heroes and thank you all for your support in this honorable event.

Special Mass for Veterans – Veterans will be honored with a special mass at St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church on Sunday May 26, 2019 at the 9:00am Mass. As in the past at the end of the mass all Veterans will be asked to stand and be recognized then they are invited to join the celebrant on the Altar for a special blessing. Upon completion of the services light refreshments are served. All Veterans, their families and friends are invited to attend.

Memorial Day - Celebrations commence at Robert E. Jeans Sr. Memorial Park at 1100 hours on Monday May 27, 2019. After the ceremonies light refreshments will be 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. Inclement weather ceremonies will be held inside.

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 getting involved in some way. I would like to thank those who have supported the VVA . It is greatly appreciated.



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Quartermaster – Brian Gorczyca All funds raised are deposited and all outstanding bills are paid. We are in great shape and in line with all our goals. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the membership for their support in electing me as Quartermaster for 2019-2020. Thanks to Richie Banks for an outstanding job in handling the affairs and accounts for the post. It was not an easy job keeping track of the functions of the post and I hope to continue in your footsteps.

Poppies – Ed Sulenski Our 2019 poppy drive started May 1st and will end on May 31st. Chairman Ed Sulenski reports that we having another great year and thanked all the post members who helped him with this VFW annual project so far this year. So far turnout by our membership has been bad. Ed needs HELP! Commander Jeans will explain at the meeting so be prepared to volunteer.

Sick Call: Our prayers and best wishes go out to all post members who are currently on the sick call list. We wish you speedy recoveries.

TAPS: Our sincere condolences to the families of VFW Post 2230 members Richard Manrodt who passed on July 3, 2014 in Hollywood, Fla., Joseph Maruschak who passed on February 20, 2019 at age 83, John Beninati who passed on February 10, 2019 at age 91, John Miccio who passed on April 12, 2016 at age 93, Kevin King who passed on March 21, 2019 at age 70, Robert Eckman who passed on March 31, 2019 at age 73, Terrence “Terry” Dempsey who passed on May 2, 2019 at age 70 and Alex “Kelsy” Kurlawa who passed on May 5, 2019 at age 99. We shall always keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

New members: Welcome aboard new members Craig Day, Gary Dietlmeier, Robert Bartlebaugh, Wayne Bischoff and Mark Rogers we are proud to have you as members and thank you for your service. We now have a total membership of 363 KVC and VFW members.

VFW Executive Board Elections: Elections and Appointments were held in April, in compliance with the VFW By-laws. Your new Executive Board members for 2019-2020 are: Commander Robert Jeans, Senior Vice Commander Rick Harrison, Junior Vice Commander Ron Burkhardt, Quartermaster Brian Gorczyca, Adjutant Bill Salzman, 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 Dave Schusterman. Congratulations to one and all.



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KVC NEWS:

President Jerry Dobbins – Elections for the KVC Executive Board were held in January and the new 2019 Executive Board are President Jerry Dobbins, Vice President Robert Vesselli, Treasurer Roberto Reyes, Secretary Bill Salzman, House Chairman Robert Jeans, Bar Chairman Gerry Grasso, Building & Grounds Chairman Bo Haniak, Trustees Brian Hirth, Rick Harrison, Al Fiorillo and Robert Cermak. Congratulations to all.

Vice President Robert Vesselli- Just because we have suspended our meetings for the next 3 months due to being on summer recess does not mean that the KVC is closed and locked up tight. The lounge is air-conditioned, the beer is cold and Kathy is always standing by to mix that special cocktail for you. Stop in, say hello, join in the conversation and enjoy a cool refreshing atmosphere of friends and comrades. If you have some spare time and looking for something to do contact Bobby Jeans and I am sure he will be able to find something that needs a little fixing. See you in October and I hope you all enjoy a great summer.

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 September. 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. I would also like to remind the members that we need help with closing at the end of some of these large rentals. If any of you can help out please see me.

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.



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Kenilworth Veterans on Face Book: This time last year we had reached 255 followers on our facebook page. I am happy to report that our following is growing and we now have 307 likes on our face book page. A total of 2,213 people visited our page last week and we average 1,330 people per week. So there is a lot of activity on our 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 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.

KVC/VFW Monthly Meetings: There will not be any meetings during the months of July, August and September. Our next KVC/VFW monthly meeting will be held on Thursday October 10, 2019 in the Kennedy Room of the Kenilworth Veterans Center starting at 7:00pm. The executive board wishes that all of you and your families enjoy a very pleasant summer.



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VFW POST 2230 Membership: If any of you know a veteran who is not yet a member of the VFW tell him/her about our post and sign them up. The larger our membership the louder our voices will be heard. If we don't fight for our benefits who will?

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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