



Editor: William J. Salzmann, 941 Madison Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ 07201-1309
E-Mail - wmsalz@optonline.net or kvc.secretary@gmail.com

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Commanders Message

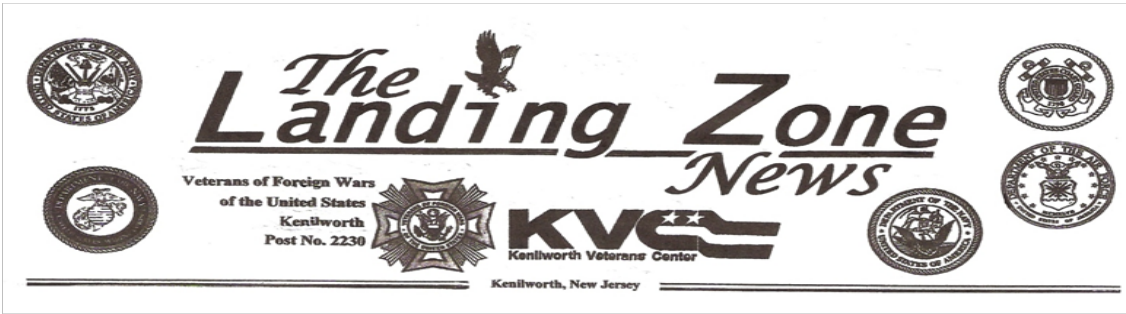
March 2020

Commander Bobby Jeans – We have our St. Patrick's Day celebration within the next 3 weeks please stop by and see if you can give us a helping hand. Our annual Poppy Drive begins May 1st, if you can volunteer just a few hours the Executive Board and especially Ed Sulinski would greatly appreciate your efforts. Don't forget Memorial Weekend Flag Deployment on May 23rd and Memorial Day Services on Monday May 25th. Lets have a great turnout to show for our Military and our Military Veterans. It has been an extremely hectic season and I would like to thank all those who have jumped in and lent a hand. This post and center would not have survived without those individuals who gave of their time and expertise to keep this post running at a level of excellence for which we are known. Please DON'T FORGET to stop by the post and see Kathy or me for our 50/50 raffle drawing tickets for the Brian Hirth Memorial Scholarship Awards. As important as this is to our students it is equally important to us as a veterans organization to remember and honor Brian Hirth's legacy. We need your help in selling these raffle tickets.

Nominations and Election of VFW Executive Board: Nominations for positions on the VFW Post 2230 Executive Board will be accepted at our March VFW meeting which will be held on Thursday March 12th, 2020 at the Kenilworth Veteran's Center. Anyone wishing to nominate a comrade to hold an elected office please attend our April meeting. Elections of those nominated will take place at our April VFW meeting which will be held on Thursday April 9th, 2020.

KVC St. Patrick's Day Party: Keeping with tradition Commander Jeans and President Dobbins will host a St. Patrick's Day party at the Kenilworth Veteran's Center on Tuesday March 17th, 2020 from 4pm to 8pm. Plenty of corned beef and cabbage and all the trimming will be served. All members are invited to attend and invited to bring your spouse and family. As in the past the post will be picking up the cost and no charge to members and their guest.

VFW 50/50 drawing for the Brian Hirth VFW Memorial Scholarship Award. Tickets are now available from Kathy Curren at the Kenilworth Veterans Center 33 South 21st Street Kenilworth, NJ. Winners will be picked on Memorial Day May 25th, 2020 at the Kenilworth Veterans Center during our Memorial Day Services. All proceeds go to the Brian Hirth VFW Memorial Scholarship Award. Books of tickets are \$10.00 per book of 10 tickets (\$1.00 each ticket). For tickets or additional information call Kathy 908-276-9769.



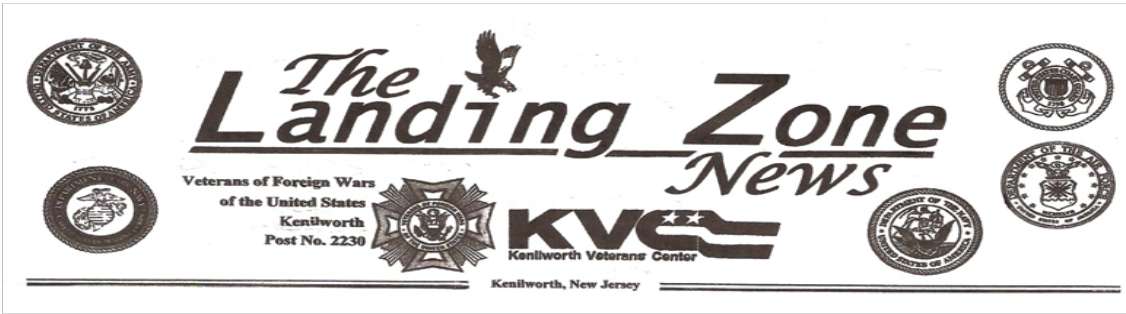
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VVA 688 Rick Harrison: VVA 688 has many events planned for the next several months. Of course there are our visits to the PTSD Unit at Lyons Hospital (every 4th Thursday). We have can shakes scheduled around the local area. We will be participating, along with Kenilworth VFW Post 2230, in the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 14th, 2020. Other projects are also being discussed and planned, which I will keep everyone informed as they develop. VVA 688 is always looking for new members so if you're a Vietnam Veteran get in touch with me or Ted Meadowcroft who is the Chairman of the membership committee for VVA 688. Until the next time please be safe and well. See you at the post.

St. Patrick's Day Parade: The Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held on Saturday March 14th, 2020 start time will be 1:00pm in Union, N.J. As in past years transportation to and from the Kenilworth Veteran's Center will be provided with buses departing for the parade from the KVC at 11:00am and returning to the KVC 15 minutes after the parade ends. The Union County Emerald Society will be holding their after parade party at the KVC starting after the end of the parade to 7:00pm. Please visit the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee webpage www.unioncountystpatricksdaysparade.com for additional information. The Grand Marshall is Michael McNany. Any member of VFW Post 2230 their family or guest can march with VFW Post 2230, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 688, American Legion Post #470 or if you are unable to march ride our float.

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.

Flag Deployment: Flag Deployment will start off on Saturday May 23rd, 2020 at 8:00am with our usual full breakfast consisting of scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, home fries, toast, fruit, juice, doughnuts, coffee, tea and milk. It will be a great start for a meaningful morning. At 9:00am we will muster at Graceland Cemetery near the Parkway exit on the Kenilworth Blvd. and begin to place flags on our veteran's resting places. As in the past there will be about 1100 flags placed on the gravesites. At 11:00am all those wishing to return to the Kenilworth Veterans Center will be invited for hot dogs and beverages.



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Memorial Day Services: Please join us at Commander Robert Jeans Memorial Park which is adjacent to the Kenilworth Veteran's Center on Monday May 25th, 2020 at 11:00am for our annual Memorial Day Services. On completion of our services you are all invited for light refreshments at the Kenilworth Veteran's Center. Memorial Day is an American Federal Holiday held every year on the last Monday in May. The American Federal Holiday memorializes all men and women who have died while serving in the United States Military. Originally, Memorial Day, was called Decoration Day. Decoration Day was founded as a way to commemorate all the lives that were lost during the American Civil War.

VFW Poppy Program: Chairman Ed Sulenski is already preparing for this years annual Poppy Drive. Our post Poppy Program will begin the first week in May and run through the month of May. Anyone that can help with the Poppies please let Ed know. Just a couple of hours during the month will be greatly appreciated by Ed and his committee.

Sick Call – Our thoughts and prayers go out to those members of the post who are having health issues. Ed Miller we have not forgotten you, Bobby Vesselli, Tony LaFerrara and Vincent Cerciello.

TAPS: Our condolences to the family of VFW Member Vincent Marotta who passed on 12-29-2019 at age 87.

NJ Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation-Rick Harrison: The 2020 NJVVMF Scholarship applications are now available. If you are or know of anyone who is interested in participating in the program I will have applications with me at our KVC-VFW monthly meeting.

Scholarship Programs - Entries for this years Patriots Pen Youth Essay Contest have been submitted the theme is "What makes America Great" and the Voice Democracy Scholarship Contest the Theme is also "What makes America Great". Good luck to all who submitted

St. Valentine's Day Dance: Our annual St. Valentine's Day Oldies Dance, again this year, was a huge success. It just gets better and better every year. Special recognition to Cheryl Vesselli, Kathy Curren and Mary Morley for all their time, effort and hard work which made this event so special. From ticket sales to the last song of the event everything was perfect. You would think that after the last song of the night their job was over but it wasn't. As everyone was leaving Cheryl, Kathy and Mary could be seen cleaning up the tables and throwing out bags of garbage. On behalf of all of us thank you for all you do. An organization cannot survive without dedicated volunteers and we have the best.



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KVC NEWS:

KVC President Jerry Dobbins – As I said at our monthly meeting in January I would like to see more people involved in the KVC operation. My first thought would be to implement a KVC auxiliary that would open our registry to all relatives of our KVC/VFW members. Those wishing to become auxiliary members in the KVC would qualify off of the DD214 of a veteran who is a member of our KVC. We can also qualify auxiliary members off of the DD214 of a veteran who is a non member of our KVC. The purpose, of the auxiliary, would be to promote and support veterans and our military and to support initiatives and programs of our KVC. I will be discussing this option at our March KVC meeting. I am interested in hearing from all of you.

Vice President Robert Vesselli - If you haven't already done so take a minute and file your application for the NJ State Tax Veteran Exemption. This can be done on line. It takes several weeks to process your application and receive the confirmation e-mail that the State of NJ finds that you are eligible for the exemption.

VA Identification Card – If you are not registered and do not have a VA Health Card, Government Drivers License or Government Retirement ID Card you may apply for a Veterans Identification Card by calling 855-574-7286 or online at www.va.gov. This card can be used when asking for a veteran discount at various stores or eateries.

Adopt a Unit – Thanks to Kathy Curren for an outstanding job sending our care packages to our troops in Korea. The National VFW credited our program with sending over 500lbs. of goods that were distributed to over 1,000 troops serving in Korea. Well done Kathy.

Secretary – Bill Salzmann VA benefits are changing all the time. If you have any questions regarding your benefits you can contact Joe Weaver our Post Service Officer or call Commander Jeans for the contact information for the VFW State Service Officer. Your benefits are not a charity, gift or reward. Yours were earned by you and they are your right for serving your country. Learn what your benefits are and use them, if needed.

Building and Grounds – Bo Haniak As we go through the heart of a most busiest part of our annual schedule the building has been holding fairly well. Snow removal by Dans Landscaping has been on time and complete. Several issues still remain with regards to bathroom doors and plumbing issues. Electrical issues are dealt with on a “as happen” basis. We have been able to keep pace with this issue thanks to the help of Cliff Martello and his partner Rich Lauer. We have hired a new lawn treatment company and hope to get better results in the coming season.



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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 facebook page you can join us by entering this address www.facebook.com/kenilworthveterans click the like button and become part of our facebook 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. Things at the VA are changing all the time especially with the current administration whose goal it is to make it easier and quicker to obtain treatment for our veterans. You have to stay on top of all the changes. These benefits are for you take advantage of them. First you need to know what they are and how effect you and how it effects the care you receive.

Congratulations New Members: Welcome aboard to Post 2230 new members Albert Bartholomew, John Thompson Jr., John Barton, Jacques Acloque, Farrah Cadestin and Luis Sanchez.

Congratulations: VFW Member Paul Campanelli for the third year in a row was awarded the “New Jersey Realtor’s Circle of Excellence Award”. Job well done Paul and much deserved.

Thank you: We always have events going on at the Kenilworth Veteran’s Center and a lot of these events are to our, as members, best interest. Along with the events there are many that help prepare our rental halls and food. The kitchen staff are an important group of volunteers who prepare the food for these events and keep our kitchens clean and serviced. Sometimes they are in the kitchen preparing the menu for the days rentals from early in the morning and continuing to late in the evening especially if we have double rentals. A good example of the time that is not uncommon for the staff to be in the kitchen for an event that is starting around 3:00pm on a Saturday or Sunday is 4:00am or 5:00am in the morning to prepare for the “St. Patrick’s Day Parade Committee After Parade Celebration.” Other examples are both flag deployments and all the Christmas Season parties from Thanksgiving to New Years and the list goes on. On behalf of the membership and the Kenilworth Veteran’s Center Executive Board we would like to acknowledge and thank our kitchen chefs and staff. Mike Wilson, Rich Vitale, Art Vitale, Anthony Dobbins, Mike Vitale, Tom Campbell and Billy Lueddeke. We appreciate all that you do to keep our kitchens clean and serviced and the food that you serve.



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Saint Valentine's Day Message – Ed Miller: everyone knows that St. Valentine's Day is that day of the year when friends and lovers express affection for one another through cards, candy, flowers or whatever means the imagination can find. On this day it would be most appropriate for us as Veterans to wine and dine that special lady in our lives. A simple card would express your heartfelt feelings and show her that you care. We must remember when we, as Veterans, were away, there was a special someone we were longing to get home and see. There could be no better time than St. Valentine's Day to give that special lady a big hug, a warm embrace and shower her gifts to show her that she was the one. Remember "sharing is caring."

Easter Message – Ed Miller: Easter is the first Christian High Holiday. No Holy Day or festival in the Christian year can compare in importance with Easter Sunday. To all Christians, Easter is the greatest day on the church calendar because it celebrates our Lord's greatest miracle – His Resurrection. With the coming of Easter it brings to us the spirit of the Pre-Lenten Season when penance, devotion and prayer are observed. Regardless of one's denomination, race, nationality or cultural distinction. Each of us has the privilege of worshipping God in anyway one wishes which is indeed a choice blessing and precious right of all people. With Lent, Holy Week and Easter Sunday. It gives us as veterans an opportunity to worship and pray for our fallen comrades who served our country and our precious flag. Please remember them in your prayers. The feast of Easter, as we probably all know brings to us an abundance of events. It heralds the beginning of spring, the time for us to show off our new clothes in the Easter Parade, the coming of the Easter Bunny and his colored eggs, the blossoming of the Easter Lilly, vacations for the children, their Easter Baskets and all the goodies to last them for the year. Most of all, Easter is a time for all of us to unite with our families and celebrate this holy day together. We, as veterans, should be thankful for being blessed with the gift of life that enables us to share this joyous occasion with our families and friends. Last, but not least, let us bear in our hearts and minds "The Lord is Risen", Alleluia. On behalf of all the officers and members of the KVC and VFW Post 2230 and Kenilworth American Legion Post #470, we would like to wish all our friends and families a very happy and blessed Easter.

A special thanks and best wishes to our service men and women presently serving around the world. 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.



Membership Drive- Please sign up a new member. Here is the form advise all new members that first year dues is paid by the post:

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:

