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### Commanders Message

**March 2017**

**Commander Bobby Jeans** – St. Patrick's Day Parade is upon us again, soon we will be celebrating Memorial Day weekend and the start of our Poppy Drive for 2017, It is important that you make every attempt to make our March meeting for a final briefing on St. Patrick's Day parade and festivities, the Poppy Drive, Flag Deployment, Special Mass and Memorial Day Festivities at the Post. It was just one of those great nights when everyone was singing and dancing. Elvis was surely in the house that night. I would also like to thank all those who made Elvis Night a successful Fundraiser for the Post. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all of you and your families a very Happy Easter from Lenore and myself.

**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 9th, 2017 at the Kenilworth Veteran's Center. Anyone wishing to nominate a comrade to hold an elected office please attend our next meeting. Elections of those nominated will take place at our April VFW meeting which will be held on Thursday April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**KVC/VFW Monthly Meetings:** The next monthly meeting of the KVC/VFW Post 2230 will be held on Thursday March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017. April's meeting will be held on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017, May's meeting will take place on Thursday May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and June's meeting will be held on Thursday June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017. All meetings start at 7:00pm and are usually completed by 9:00pm. Refreshments are served at all meetings and usually always in the Kennedy Room (Lower Hall) of the KVC.

**VVA 688 Rick Harrison:** Again, the chapter will be participating in the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday March 11<sup>th</sup>. Anyone wishing to join our Color Guard and other members of VVA 688 are certainly welcome! There will also be a float sponsored by the VFW if anyone wishes to ride. Hopefully, Irish eyes will be smiling down with good weather.

**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 Thursday March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 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.



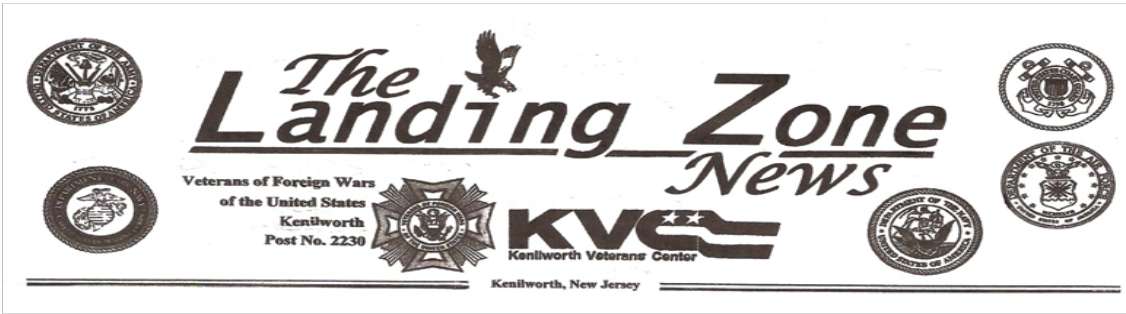
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**St. Patrick's Day Parade:** The Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held on Saturday March 11, 2017 start time will be 1:00pm in Union, N.J. As in past years transportation to and from the Kenilworth Veteran's Center will be provided with 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](http://www.unioncountystpatricksdaysparade.com) for additional information. The 2017 Union County Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee announced that Joe Nolan of Westfield has been named Grand Marshal of the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Union County Saint Patrick's Day Parade. 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 on our float which will be located at the intersection of Morris Avenue and Jeanett St. Union, NJ.

**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 27th, 2017 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.

**VFW Poppy Program:** Chairman Ed Sulenski is already preparing for this year's 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.



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**Memorial Day Services:** Please join us at Commander Robert Jeans Memorial Park which is adjacent to the Kenilworth Veterans Center on Monday May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 11:00am for our annual Memorial Day services. Upon completion of our services you are all invited for light refreshments at the Kenilworth Veterans 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. The holiday recognized both the Union and Confederate soldiers.

**Sick Call –** Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of our brother and sister members George Klose, Tony LaFerrara, Tony Lepore, Harold Scheidegger and Jerry Dobbins. Hope you are feeling better today than yesterday.

**TAPS:** Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Bob Dobbins, brother of President Jerry Dobbins, who passed peacefully on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016, also to the family of Robert Springsted, the family of Walter Ridge who passed peacefully at age 83 on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the family of Gary King who passed peacefully at age 68 on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and to the family of Burton Lamont who passed peacefully at age 88 on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**Valentine with affection by Ed Miller –** Everyone knows that Valentine's Day is that day of the year when friends and lovers express affection for one another with 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 eager to get home and see. There could be no better time than Valentine's Day to give that special lady a big hug and warm embrace to show her that she was the one. Remember, sharing is caring.

**ELVIS AT THE KVC -** On Saturday February 18<sup>th</sup> Elvis entered the KVC. What a show. There was a standing room only attendance to watch Jim Barone's Tribute to Elvis. If you were there you know how great of a time we all had. Thanks to Bob and Cheryl Vesselli for putting this show together and spending the time to coordinate everything.

**NJ Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation-Rick Harrison:** The 2017 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.



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**Scholarship Programs** - Established in 1947 the “Voice of Democracy” essay program provides high school students with the opportunity to express themselves in regards to a democratic and patriotic-themed essay this years theme is “My Responsibility to America” The National 1<sup>st</sup> place winner will receive \$30,000.00 scholarship paid directly to the recipient’s American University, College or Vocational/Technical School. Various other scholarship awards in amounts from \$1,000.00 to \$16,000.00 will be given to State winners.

VFW Patriot’s Pen essay competition is open to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students enrolled in a Public, private or parochial school in the United States. This years theme is “The America I Believe In”. Winners of both the Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen Essay Scholarship Programs will be announced in April 2017 and presented to the winners in June of 2017. Anyone wishing additional information on the VFW Scholarship Programs can contact the National VFW at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)

## **KVC NEWS:**

**KVC President Jerry Dobbins** – Veterans Day Poster Contest: The 2017 Veterans Day Poster Contest is now open for submissions from all artists. The selected poster will be distributed to all VA facilities and military installations, as well as serve as the cover of the official Veterans Day program at Arlington National Cemetery. The submission deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 for details visit [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and click on Veterans Day Poster Contest.

**Vice President Robert Vesselli** - The Department of Defense (DOD) is renewing its efforts to make more veterans aware of military discharge and records review opportunities. In a press release, DOD said it is reviewing and consolidating all related policies to reinforce its commitment to ensuring fair and equitable review of separations for all veterans. Whether the discharge or other correction is a result of PTSD, sexual orientation, sexual assault, or some other consideration, the department is committed to rectifying errors or injustices and treating all veterans with dignity and respect. Veterans who desire a correction to their service record or who believe their discharge was unjust, erroneous, or warrants an upgrade, are encouraged to apply for the review. For additional information on this process visit [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).



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**Secretary – Bill Salzmann** The Department of Defense has made a policy change to broaden who it will allow to shop ONLINE for discounted military exchange products. Effective Veterans' Day 2017, the benefit will add 16 million honorably discharged veterans to the rolls of eligible shoppers, joining several million vets who already shop in exchanges on base or online. Because they are active or reserve component retirees, 100 percent disabled from service-connected injuries or ailments, or Medal of Honor recipients. Not only does the change reward those who have served by giving them a 20 percent savings over commercial department stores, but it will also increase exchange revenues to offset recent declines.

**Kenilworth Veterans Web Page -** KVC/VFW Post 2230 has a new web page design. Our web can be accessed at [www.kenilworthveterans.com](http://www.kenilworthveterans.com) or [www.kenilworthvfw.com](http://www.kenilworthvfw.com). I welcome all of you to visit our new web page browse the site and then go to Contact Us and click on Guest book. Please sign our guest book and make any comment you feel necessary. A lot of effort and work went into this new design by our webmaster Bill Tipton. Thanks Bill for all you have done for the post.

**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](http://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](mailto: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 New Members:** Welcome aboard to Post 2230 new members Thomas Bertolotti, Keith Thompson and William Diaz. We look forward to making long and lasting friendship with all of you.

**Veterans' Scam Alert** – Veterans' benefits, including their pensions, are being targeted in a new scam. The bad guys claim to be veterans' advocates, and show up at assisted living facilities and senior centers. The scam involves convincing the veteran to transfer their assets into aq special trust account, then charging them exorbitant fees to help complete lengthy, complicated paperwork associated with the transfer. The veteran is told the asset reallocation will allow the person to qualify for aid and attendance benefits. But, this is NOT true. If you are approached by scammers, contact your local police or sheriff's Department immediately.



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**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 ones denomination, race, nationality or cultural distinction. Each of us have 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:



# *The* **Landing Zone** *News*



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



**KVC**  
Kentworth Veterans Center



Kentworth, New Jersey

