



# 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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## Page 1

### Commanders Message

**June 2018**

**Commander Bobby Jeans** - Greetings to one and all. As you are all aware this has been an extremely busy first six months of 2018. We have elected all of our officers for 2018 and 2019, 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.

**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. We do one major expenditure that we had not anticipated. The three door refrigerator in the main kitchen is no longer with us. Along with some of the staff we said our last farewells. We have received bids from four different mfg. companies ranging from \$4,500.00 to \$10,000.00. If you recall we budgeted \$8,000.00 at our April meeting and we will open the floor for discussion at our June meeting so that we can replace the unit. We have several other projects including but not limited too. The main hall floor has to be resurfaced, the concrete steps on the south side of the building needs to be repaired, we are in the process of replacing all our light fixtures with LED bulbs to help with maintenance and electrical cost. There are many smaller less expensive projects that we can use help with so if you have some spare time drop by and see me I am sure I can find something not to demanding to put you on. Thanking you in advance.

As a special note worth repeating many times over I would like to thank Ed Sulenski and his committee for the outstanding job on the National VFW Poppy Program. It was a slow start on May 1<sup>st</sup> but our members came out and made this program a success. We again this year had a record breaking season with our poppies. Thanks again to all who participated what a successful season we had.



## Page 2

**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** - commenced at 8:00am on Saturday May 26, 2018 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 deployed 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** – Veterans were honored with a special mass at St. Theresa’s Catholic Church on Sunday May 27, 2018 at the 9:00am Mass. As in the past at the end of the mass all Veterans were asked to stand and be recognized then they were invited to join the celebrant on the Altar for a special blessing. Upon completion of the services light refreshments were served. All Veterans, their families and friends were invited to attend.

**Memorial Day** - Celebrations commenced at Robert E. Jeans Sr. Memorial Park at 1100 hours on Monday May 28, 2018. 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.



### Page 3

**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 VVA. It is greatly appreciated. Chapter 688 will be celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a combined Christmas Party in December. More information on this will be provided as the plans are made.

**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.

**Poppies – Ed Sulenski** Our 2018 poppy drive started May 1<sup>st</sup> and ended on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Chairman Ed Sulenski reports that we had another great year and thanked all the post members who helped him with this VFW annual project.

**Sick Call:** Our prayers and best wishes go out to Zoltan Szalay Post member and brother in law of post member Fred Gorman. Our prayers for a speedy recovery to Al Fiorillo, Ron Burkhardt and Terry Dempsey. Get well soon.

**TAPS:** Our sincere condolences to the families of Joseph Perona Jr. who passed at age 88 on 02-10-2017, Raymond Zigray who passed at age 93 on 04-05-2018, Thomas McHugh who passed at age 84 on 04-09-2018, Richard Kulgemann who passed at age 92 on 04-26-2018, Richard Stiles who passed at 898 on 05-15-2018 and John Wilson who passed at age 88.

**New members:** Welcome aboard new members Raymond Fuschino Jr., Carlos Hernando, Harry Dolye, Arthur Green and John Rembish we are proud to have you as members and thank you for your service. We now have a total membership of 367 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 2018-2019 are: Commander Robert Jeans, Senior Vice Commander Rick Harrison, Junior Vice Commander Ron Burkhardt, Quartermaster Richard Banks, 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 Shusterman. Congratulations to one and all.



## Page 4

### KVC NEWS:

**President Jerry Dobbins** – Elections for the KVC Executive Board were held in January and the new 2018 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.

**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.





## Page 5

**Kenilworth Veterans on Face Book:** This time last year we hadn't yet reached 210 likes on our facebook page. I am happy to report that our following is growing and we now have 255 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 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 11, 2018 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. See all of you in October.



**Page 6**

**Veteran's Benefits:** The House of Representatives recently voted to support veterans by passing the VVA MISSION Act 2018. Now it's the Senate's turn to show they support veterans and their caregivers. The VA MISSION Act would make significant improvements to the VA health care system, such as improving VA's ability to hire and retain high-quality health care professionals, expand caregiver benefits to pre 9/11 veterans, and establish a process to evaluate and improve VA buildings across the country to better serve veterans. TAKE ACTION call your Senators and urge them to vote YES on the important and urgently needed VA MISSION Act of 2018.

**GI Bill Comparison Tool:** For any service member or veteran looking to pursue their educational goals through the use of the GI Bill, there is an important tool offered by VA. The GI Bill Comparison Tool allows users to compare different programs and institutions that accept the GI Bill. In the past few years, some student veterans have been impacted by the abrupt closures of the schools they were attending. These schools were using predatory business practices and had numerous complaints against them. The GI Bill Comparison Tool Gives users the ability to check on the schools they wish to attend and provides up to date data received from current and past students, helping GI Bill users make better, more informed decisions about where to attend school and hopefully avoid programs that offer little to no value.

**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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