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Commander's Message

March 2022

<u>Commander Bobby Jeans</u>: We have our St. Patrick's Day celebration within the next few 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 28th and Memorial Day Services on Monday May 30th. Let's have a great turnout to support our Military and Veterans. I would like to thank all those who have jumped in and lended a hand with our events. 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.

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 10th at the Kenilworth Veterans 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 14th.

KVC/VFW Monthly Meetings: The next monthly meeting of the KVC/VFW Post 2230 will be held on Thursday March 10th. Then April's meeting will be held on April 14th, May's meeting will take place on Thursday May 12th, and June's meeting will be held on Thursday June 9th. All meetings start at 7:00pm and are usually completed by 9:00pm. Refreshments are served at all meetings and as always in the Kennedy Room (Lower Hall) of the KVC.

St. Patrick's Day Parade: The Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held on Saturday March 12, 2022. Start time will be 1:00pm in Union, NJ. As in past years transportation to and from the Kenilworth Veterans 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 and the Elizabeth police and fire departments 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 for additional information at www.unioncountystpatricksdayparade.com. 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 you can ride our float.

This is our busiest day of the year and we can surely use your help. Please volunteer some of your time to help make it a successful event. This will be done in three shifts. The morning shift helps set up the event by arranging the tables, chairs, etc. and by helping our cooks prepare the food. The middle shift will support our KVC staff. The evening shift will help clean up. The day will end at 7pm.

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 Veterans Center on Thursday March 17th, 2022 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.

Flag Deployment: Flag Deployment will start off on Saturday May 28th 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.

Memorial Day Services: Please join us at Commander Robert Jeans Memorial Park which is adjacent to the Kenilworth Veterans Center on Monday May 30th at 11:00am for our annual Memorial Day Services. On 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.

<u>VFW Poppy Prog</u>ram:

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.



<u>Sick Call</u>: Our thoughts and prayers go out to those members of the post who are having health issues and to the families of those members. Our best wishes to our executive board member Al Fiorillo and member Ted Meadowcroft in their speedy recoveries.

NJ Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation-Rick Harrison: The 2022 NJVVMF Scholarship applications are now available. If you are or know of anyone who is interested in participating in the program, submit your application and essay online at njvvmf.org/college-scholarships. The deadline is Friday, April 15th at 5pm.

KVC NEWS:

<u>Vice President Robert Vesselli</u>: 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 online. It takes several weeks to process your application and receive the confirmation email 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.

<u>Secretary – Bill Salzmann</u>: As of January 27, 2022 our post has reached our goal of making all it's members LIFE MEMBERS. We currently have 58 KVC members and 288 VFW members. All but one are life members, and the only reason that we have 1 VFW member who is not a life member, it's because we are unable to locate him. Commander Jeans started this project 3 years ago and didn't stop until the job was done. Well done!

Building and Grounds – Bo Haniak: As we go through the heart of the most busiest part of our annual schedule the building has been holding fairly well.



<u>Kenilworth Veterans Web Page:</u> 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 <u>www.kenilworthvfw.com</u> and is updated daily.

<u>Kenilworth Veterans Facebook Page:</u> Come and visit us on our facebook page you can join us by entering this address <u>www.facebook.com/kenilworthveterans</u> click the like button and become part of our facebook community.

<u>E-mail Addresses:</u> If you have access to a computer and have an email address send it to me by emailing me at <u>kvc.secretary@gmail.com</u> I send out notices and alerts as they occur.

<u>Service officer Ray Fuschino</u>: Kathy Curren reports a successful trip to the Menlo Park VA hospital. The group was able to donate most of the personal items needed by the disabled vets. They also contributed to their seven angels, which are a group of seven families in need. Neal Coleman and Al Pochepka dedicated great time and effort at the Plaza nursing home in Elizabeth. The home reported that it was their best event ever, and the vets really enjoyed the pizza lunch given.

Thank you all for your service.

<u>Congratulations New Members:</u> Welcome aboard to Post 2230 new members Matthew Padlo, Robert DArecca, Marco Marques, Patrick Courtney, Frank Horvath, Frank Martin, Keshia McCray, Michael Ortmann, Robert Mancini, Alfred Parker, Edwin Cardenas, Devin Kato, Frederick Soos, Antonio Garcia, Eugene Mineweaser, Robert Dugan, and Jeremy Scarborough. We look forward to making long and lasting friendships with all of you.

<u>Congratulations</u>: Congratulations to Gerry Grasso on the marriage of his daughter Jennifer to Jaime Vasquaz. May the bride and groom enjoy a life of happiness and eternal love. Also congratulations to Robert & Cheryl Vesselli on their son Bobby and new daughter Nadia on their recent marriage.

Easter Message: Easter is a time for all of us to unite with our families and celebrate. 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. 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.



A brief note from the newsletter editors.

You may have noticed on the first page that the newsletter editor has changed. Bill Salzman did a great job and carried that responsibility for eight years. It's not an easy thing to accomplish. What he's done for us has been a great service.

The torch is passed on to Thomas Lynaugh and Rob Reyes. We are honored to assume the duty and will try to perform as Bill Salzman did. As we continue to step into the role, we welcome your suggestions, corrections, contributions, and anything else that can add to our newsletter.

Thank you Bill Salzman for your service!

<u>Membership Drive</u>: Please sign up a new member with this form. Advise all new members that first year's dues are paid by the post. A copy of DD-214 is required with the application.

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