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Commanders Message

December 2009

Commander Bobby Jeans - Much has passed since our last edition. We have had several events and I will try to cover them all along with the events that we have scheduled in the upcoming future. Remember always check our calendar on www.kenilworthveterans.com so that you are up to date on what is happening at the post. Once again it's the holiday season. Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah and New Years is that time of the year that we as Veterans hold very near to our hearts because we have all spent time during the holiday season away from our loved ones while serving our country. Remember to take the time during your celebrations to keep our service men and women in your prayers and thoughts. Here at the post we have been sending letters to our adopted unit, care packages and in conjunction with operation "Up-Link" we have been providing phone cards and Satellite hours for the troops in the field. Please make an effort to join in with these programs. On behalf of Lenore and myself I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our KVC/VFW post members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Special Thanks go out to Ed Miller for our Veterans Day Cards and candy packets distributed at Lyons VA Hospital on Veterans Day. Additionally his coordinating the holiday needy baskets for the post. He added a few special features this year that was well appreciated by those who received these items. Ed we could not have done this without you. On behalf of the post ***JOB WELL DONE.***

Post Flag Program - Co-Chairman Harold Scheidegger and Ed Miller successfully ran our flag program with the replacement of 108 four by six embroidered American Flags. The program was a great success. Thanks to both for their hard work and time in making this program a success.



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Maintenance Chairman Ed McDyer As most of you know I have been absent from the KVC for several weeks but I am feeling a lot better and each day feel stronger and stronger and getting back to my old self. Thank you all for your prayers and thoughts they were greatly appreciated. May I take this opportunity to wish all of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

BOY SCOUTS – Our Boy Scout Troop 83 will, once again, be selling Christmas trees and Christmas Wreaths at the Post. All proceeds from the sale of the trees go to our own Boy Scout Troop to help pay for many of the activities that they participate in throughout the year. If you intend to purchase a live tree this year stop by the KVC and take a look at the trees that the boys will be selling. Trees will be on sale Friday 12/04/09, Saturday 12/05/09, Sunday 12/06/09, Thursday 12/10/09, Friday 12/11/09, Saturday 12/12/09 and Sunday 12/13/09.

Our second Boy Scout who attained the rank of Eagle Scout will be promoted and honored at his “Court of Honor” at the post on Saturday January 30th. Anyone wishing to attend please contact Scoutmaster John Kozak at (908-276-8167).

Bus Trip to Citi Field - Our Met trip to Citi Field on Sunday August 16th was a great success. Two buses loaded with eager fans to see the new stadium departed for Citi Field from the KVC at around 1pm. Plenty of snacks, beer and soda were available to all both to and from the game. Choice seats at Citi Field added to the pleasure of attending the game between the San Francisco Giants and the Mets. Of course the icing on the cake was a Met victory in the ninth inning. A great game right up to the last at bat.

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.

Sr. Vice Commander – Brian Hirth – Another record year for the post in delivering “Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets” to the deserving. Of course Mr. Tom Turkey was the star of the event followed by a cast of yams, veggies, cakes, cranberry sauce, gravy mix, stuffing and much much more. A big thanks to all those who made this happen. It brought a lot of smiles to the faces of those, who for one reason or another, were not as fortunate as us this year. Many thanks to Kathy Curren, Ed Johnson, Richie Banks, Joe Weaver and all those foot soldiers who helped with the 25 food baskets that were assembled and delivered.



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Jr. Vice Commander Jerry Dobbins: Merry Christmas everyone! I really can't believe that another year has come and gone. A lot of new faces at the post, many new members in both the VFW and the KVC. We sure are growing. I am extremely proud to walk among all of you. In your service to our country you were brave and honorable and that did not stop with your Military discharge. It continued in your way of life and it is because of you that we are the post that we have become. Thank you one and all for your hard work, dedication and support to VFW Post 2230 and our Kenilworth Veterans Center.

Chaplin – Bill Boll – We all have things in our life that we give thanks to. In our own way we celebrate during the holiday season in remembrance of the best that life gave us. Sometimes we forget that the real giver of what we enjoy is Jesus Christ. This year on his birthday let us all take a minute from our celebration and remember those who are fighting in foreign lands away from their families. You know when you think of it many of us were walking in their boots all not that long ago. We speak from experience. God bless our troops and may all of you enjoy a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sick Call - Our prayers and thoughts continue to go out to Comrade Bill Boll, Rob Schielke and Ed McDyer.

TAPS: Our prayers to the family of our fallen comrade Arthur Hodapp at age 91 passed away on Thursday October 1, 2009 at Trinitas Regional Medical Center. Arthur became an active member of Post 2230 after serving in the US Navy during WWII.

Quartermaster – Richard Banks – Again this year it appears that we will reach our membership goals. Our post continues to excel in membership. We are also expected to have another record year with our Scholarship Programs, supporting our Boy Scouts and all other Community activities. There is no question that we are a Post of action not words. From the Vietnam Wall in DC, the Memorial at Holmdel, the VA hospital at Lyons, the Battleship New Jersey Museum, the Police and Fire Departments of Kenilworth, the Historical Society, the local schools system and to all the other Kenilworth Community Service Programs we are there and we will continue our support thanks to all of you that make this happen. Merry Christmas everyone and enjoy a peaceful and happy New Year.



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KVC NEWS:

President Jerry Dobbins – I would just like to take a moment to thank all of you for the outstanding job in bringing the KVC to another level. Our Center sparkles and shines because of the time and efforts of our membership. Our building and grounds look better and better with each passing day. You should all be proud of the results of your work. I am confident that this effort by the membership will not only continue into the year 2010 but in the years to follow. It is because of you that our post attracts so many new members and instead of filtering down we are filling up. Our halls are rented continuously and our commitment to the Community goes unchallenged.

Vice President – George Klose The third annual “Rib Night Cook Off” was held at the post on Monday November 23rd. What a great way to kick off the holiday season. Great Ribs with Yams that melted in your mouth and for all of us Veterans, you guessed it, baked beans. What a bargain at \$15.00 per person all the ribs you can eat and all the beer you can drink along with wine, soda and coffee. It just gets better and better every year. If you couldn’t make it this year put on your list of places to go for next year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from my house to yours.

Bar Chairman – Gerry Grasso Tickets on sale at the lounge for our Annual “Valentines Day Dance” on Saturday February 13th starting at 8pm at the post. Tickets on sale at the post \$25.00 per person. Music for you dancing pleasure by “DJ ED” as usual bring your own snacks with beer, wine and soda supplied. Stop by the lounge and see Kathy Curren or Doreen Gunther co-chairs of this event. Thanks gals for you time and efforts planning this event. Once again this year I will be offering free hugs and kisses to all available men and women at our annual lounge party on December 23rd. So come on in and give me a big hug and a kiss and I promise it will be at no charge. But donations will be graciously accepted. *Seriously!* To all my fellow veterans and their families Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and may God bless all of you.



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Treasurer - Bob Schielke As you may or may not know this is going to be a very special holiday season at the Schielke household. I would like to thank all the well wishers, senders of all those get well cards, phone calls and baskets of fruits, flowers and good cheer. The operation was a success, I am feeling a lot better and getting stronger each day. On behalf of my family I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

The Treasurers report is up to date and all copies are on file with the post secretary. All of our bills are paid and all accounts are balanced.

I had the pleasure of co-chairing the post annual Golf Outing with Dan Sims and Robert Jeans Jr. The event was held on September 28th at Picatinny Arsenal. A total of 80 golfers participated in the event and although all of our post professional golfers did not hit a hole in one on the greens they sure did make up for it at the buffet luncheon. Our special project attached to this outing the "Battleship of New Jersey Museum" will benefit from our donation of \$1,000.00. Thanks to all that made this a success.

Trustee's Bob Vesselli & Al Fiorillo Our scholarship programs "Voice of Democracy" and "Youth Essay" have been completed for the year 2009. Contestants on the "Voice of Democracy" for post 2230 are: Nick Fields, Kelli Anne Seibert, Nicole Lodato, Rob Schielke Jr., Dominick Vitale and Zachary Kozak. Contestants for "Youth Essay" are: Allysa Preya Kemraj and Marcos Recio. All of the contestants are representing Post 2230 on the County Level. Good luck to all. Our Scholarship Programs are required programs of the National VFW. We are always looking for members to help assist us in full filling our National commitments. Anyone interested in chairing next years committee on our Scholarship Program see Commander Jeans.

National Veterans Service Committee - Fred Gorman Annual Holiday Lighting Ceremony At the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Holmdel, NJ. The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 800 from Bergen County and the Jewish War Veterans, Department of New Jersey, will host the annual Holiday Lighting Ceremony at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Holmdel, NJ, on Saturday, December 5, 2009, at 6:00 PM. The ceremony will include the lighting of the Christmas tree and Menorah, and readings about Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. The Brick Memorial High School Caroling Choir will lead the singing of patriotic and holiday songs. The festivities are open to the public at no charge, and hot chocolate and cookies will be offered. The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans'



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Memorial and Vietnam Era Educational Center are located on the grounds of the PNC Bank Arts Center, off the Garden State Parkway at exit 116. The Memorial is open 24 hours, 7 days a week. The Educational Center is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Regular admission to the Educational Center is free for veterans and active-duty military personnel. Regular adult admission is \$4.00; student and senior citizen admission is \$2.00; and children under 10 are admitted free. Please call (732) 335-0033 for additional information or to RSVP your attendance.

Secretary – Bill Salzmann *Important news for Veterans* There is a special pension for Veteran's aid and attendance, it pays up to \$1,644.00 per month, \$19,732.00 Annually, toward assisted living, nursing homes or in-home care for Veterans 65 and older who served at least 90 days and one day during wartime-stateside or overseas. Veterans and their spouses can receive up to \$23,396.00 annually and spouses of deceased Veterans, \$12,681.00. For information contact: Arthur Foster-Volunteer Director, Retired Activity Office MCAS Beaufort, P.O. Box 55023, Beaufort, SC 29904 by phone, Office number 843-228-6222, fax number 843-228-7273.

Care-Giver Information - The VA has a number of programs to aid family caregivers; many involve direct or indirect financial support. The VA also has been piloting additional avenues of help, such as respite care, case management, education and home-safety evaluations. Study results will be analyzed starting this year to determine which programs should be implemented.

Membership Committee - Harry Scheidegger We currently have 148 members registered with National in the VFW. As of this date 30 VFW members are still in arrears. If you are one of them please send your dues to either Harry or the National. For your convenience you can also leave your dues payment at the post. Dues notices for our KVC members will be in the mail this month for 2010.

Kenilworth Veterans Web Page - Thanks to Bill and Gina Tipton our web page at "<http://www.kenilworthveterans.com/>" is up and running. A calendar of events now keeps everyone up to date with things that are happening at the KVC.



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CONGRATULATIONS TO PFC. BILL ORLANDO JR. - Grandson of KVC member Bill Salzmann on graduating Helicopter Mechanics School in Fort Eustis Virginia. Bill finished first in his class and as a reward was offered the pick of duty assignments. Bill chose Fort Drum New York to serve with the 10th Mountain Division with his father who is First Sergeant with the 10th Mountain Division. Bill Jr. is currently at Fr. Drum as a Crew Chief aboard a Black Hawk Helicopter and is awaiting the 10th Mountain Division's next deployment in October 2010 to Afghanistan. Congratulations Bill and we will keep you, your dad and all those in the 10th Mountain Division in our prayers.



CONGRATULATIONS KVC HAPPY EVENTS - Our own Mike Wojcio has run in 119 marathons displaying our American Flag and representing our Military Veterans. This year Mike ran in his 19th New York City Marathon and crossed the finish line after 4 hours forty five minutes and thirty three seconds (4:45:33) which is a 28 minute improvement over last years time. Mike is a Viet Nam Vet and is 61 years old. His best marathon time was 3:17:05 in 1980. Mike says that the military actually got him into running after he was drafted in 1968. He spend most of his time on Okinawa. He started running marathons in 1978 and his first NYC marathon was in 1981. He loves carrying the American flag while running and dedicating his marathons to the Servicemen and women who died for us and those from 9/11. Great job Mike we are all very proud of sharing your accomplishments.



CONGRATULATIONS BOB AND CHERYL - on the marriage of their daughter Lauren to Gerardo Roman. The lucky couple were married on July 31st at St. Theresa's Church in Kenilworth and the marriage ceremony was followed by a gala reception at Mayfair farms. After a honeymoon in the Greek Islands Lauren returned to the KVC on Friday nights a married women. Now you know why all those single men at the KVC are crying in their beers..... Congratulations Lauren and Gerardo and the best of luck and happiness in your future from everyone at the KVC/VFW.

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 688 - Rick Harrison President Chapter 688 - On behalf of VVA Union County Chapter 688, I would like to wish everyone a joyous Christmas and Chanukah season as well as a Happy & Healthy New Year. I would also like to express my appreciation to President Dobbins, Commander Bob Jeans and everyone at the KVC/VFW for the tremendous loyalty and support, not only this past year but throughout the years that have been shown for various Chapter functions and activities. It is truly an honor to be a member of this fine organization. Thank you again



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Kenilworth VFW/KVC #2230 Awards Presentation Night - Chairperson Cheryl Vesselli announces that our annual Awards Presentation Night Dance will take place on Saturday January 23rd, 2010 from 8pm to 12am. Those being honored for their devotion and dedication to the Kenilworth Veterans Center and VFW Post 2230 are Barbara Bilger, Kathi Fiamingo, Lewis Giordino, Edward Miller and Daniel Sims. Tickets \$35.00 per person are on sale at the KVC in the Lounge call 908-276-9769 for more information. Beer, wine and soda are included and a cash bar is offered. Bring your own snacks and for you dancing, sing-a-long and listening enjoyment the live band "Olde City Band" will be providing the entertainment.

Meaning of Christmas - Ed Miller - To my fellow KVC and VFW members the holiday season has arrived. Christmas the center of our holiday season is the busiest time of the year for us all. People scurrying about buying gifts for loved ones. Parties and dinners are being planned and holiday trips scheduled. With all of these things on or calendars let us not forget the true meaning of Christmas. The birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He was born to save the world. Gift giving and parties are secondary to this fact. Christmas is faith, Christmas is love, Christmas is a gift from heaven above. On behalf of my family I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. Also on behalf of the post a special thank you and best wishes to all of our men and women currently serving in our Armed Forces and protecting our borders so that we can enjoy a peaceful holiday season at home. May our good Lord protect all of them.

REMINDER: Thursday December 10th 7pm. VFW/KVC Christmas meeting and buffet. Members and their families welcome. Come and join us plenty of refreshments and food.