

# THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 23 Issue 05

May 2023



**A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873**



## Commander Leo Jaime



May is perhaps our busiest month as we honor our fallen on Memorial Day with presence at the parade and at ceremonies at various sites that commemorate our heroes.

There will also be two very active tasks for our Post: The placing of American Flags on every veteran gravesite at the Naperville Cemetery on Saturday, May 27th, and the Buddy Poppy fundraising campaign from May 24th through May 28th (Buddy Poppy details on page 4 and the [Post web site](#)). We will need all hands-on deck to accomplish our missions. Please look out for separate communication via email-blast from our service officer with additional details and instruction on how to sign up to volunteer.

Also on Saturday May 27th, the [Woody Williams Foundation](#) will hold its official dedication of the Naperville Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, which was erected at Naperville Veterans Park at 303 East Garner Road, Naperville. The dedication ceremony will start promptly at 2 PM and will be preceded by a Gold Star Family Luncheon (invite only) at noon. If you know of a Gold Star Family that should be recognized during the ceremony, please contact Jennifer Slown at [jenniferslown@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferslown@gmail.com) or 630-803-2251. Please be ready to provide the following: Name of the fallen service member, number of persons in the party, your plans to attend one or both events, any special assistance needed for guests in your party.

At the April Post Meeting, we nominated and voted on our new slate of officers for the upcoming fiscal year. I am proud to report we have a full roster, thanks to the commitment of our returning officers and the initiative of our fresh electees. As such, I am pleased to introduce our 2023-2024 Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873 Officers as follows:

Commander: Leo Jaime (returning)	Surgeon: Ingrid Kanady (new)
Sr Vice Commander: Staci Boyer (promoted)	Service Officer: Dennis Lukavsky (returning)
Jr Vice Commander: Jillian Langer (new)	Officer of the Day: Lou Kuelczo (returning)
Quartermaster: Phil Maughan (returning)	Guard: Roger Budny (returning)
Asst. Quartermaster: John Shaw (returning)	Chaplain: Bob Grember (returning)
Asst. Quartermaster: Tom Parker (returning)	1 Year Trustee: Pablo Araya
Adjutant: Matt Hoyt (returning)	2 Year Trustee: Roger Budny
Judge Advocate: Dominic Guerrieri (new)	3 Year Trustee: Craig Frier (re-upped)

Please join me in congratulating and thanking our electees, new and returning, and please plan to attend the Installation Dinner planned for June 4th at 5 PM at the Post. More details forthcoming.

## Junior Vice Commander Staci Boyer



Congratulations to the American Legion Citizen of the Year Jim Hoch! Such a well deserved recognition!

On 4/18 we were honored to accept the Wear Purple Proclamation to help the community remember the sacrifices military families (both parents and children make) in serving our country! Memorial Day is fast approaching and this means we will be looking for volunteers to assist with placing flags on our fallen hero's graves. Please reach out to me if you would like to be a part of this event!



We have officially started our VFW/Legion athletic team. We have multiple sponsors a co-coach, 9 members and a team name! If you are interested in participating in endurance/obstacle course races like the Spartan Race, Paintball, bowling, or being part of numerous 3 person sprint triathlon teams please reach out to me! (Text me-773-351-4646)

### Coming up soon:

5/6 11am-3pm - Honor Flight Fundraiser <https://www.dupageveteransfoundation.org>

5/6 - Phoenix Natural Body Building Competition (colorguard, military tribute, VFW & Legion Booth-<https://phoenixproductions1.com>)

5/6 - VFW (PePe's) after party for Veterans families that competed in the Phoenix Natural - at the Post.

5/14- Mother's Day raffle of a beautiful quilt. Made and donated to the post by the Gardening Sew and Sews (on display at the post 5/5)

5/16 530pm-830pm - Veteran Health Fair - Contact Staci or Ingrid Kanady for details.

5/16-5/20 Armed Forces Week at Mission Bbq

5/22-Veteran owned business networking monthly meeting at Rosies Diner 8-9am. For Vet business owners and those wanting to start one and seek mentorship. (3rd Monday each month)

5/27- Gold star family memorial ceremony

5/29 - Memorial Day parade

### Stay tuned for:

6/1 - Naperville Municipal Band Salute to Our Armed Forces

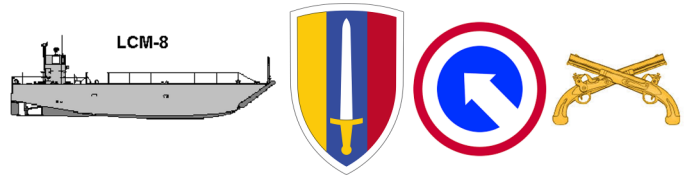
6/4 -VFW Officer Installation Dinner 5pm

6/17- Hospital Corps Birthday

Quote of the month:"It's not the load that breaks you down, it's the way you carry it." - Lou Holtz

Please take the time to follow us on Instagram @NapervilleVFWpost3873 and on our Facebook page VFWNaperville. If you attend any of our events and post on social media please tag our pages so we can repost and share. Additionally, please use the hashtag #VFWpost3873 in posts that feature us so we can create more of an online presence. If you have event information that you would like featured or marketed on social media please reach out to Staci Boyer via text 773-351-4646.

**Service Officer Updates**  
**Dennis Lukavsky**



Usually in this section, I highlight VA benefit information or VA health care news I think would be of interest to all of you. I'm going to step away from that this month.

Since we are about to observe Memorial Day this month, I wanted to share a personal Memorial Day experience. This happened about six or seven years ago. A friend of mine had an old 1946 Chevy pickup and he decided to drive it in the Memorial Day parade. He asked if I would care to ride along, I reluctantly agreed. We got down to Jackson and got in line. The folks there asked me my name and made a sign that said "SGT Dennis Lukavsky." They mounted it on the side of the truck along with a sign for my friend. As we slowly made our way along the parade route something happened I will never, ever forget. I became very, very emotional, and it became impossible for me to hold back the tears. To put it simply, I cried like a baby. It was caused by the outpouring of gratitude, the shouts of "thank you" and "thank you for your service," and of course the cheering of the parade viewers. Clearly, I did not know most of these people but here they were, cheering me along as if they had known me their whole lives. As we turned down Benton, the cause of my tears dawned on me. This was the first time in 50 some years the public ever said "THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE" to me. It touched my heart deeply and was one of the best experiences of my life. Besides honoring the fallen, Memorial Day also helps to lift up those of us who remember our collective experience while serving.

If you have not participated in the parade in the past this would be a great time to start. You never know, you may find some long lost feeling surfacing in you that you have missed.

**Service Officer Email Blast Distribution List**

Our Service Officer sends out several emails per month with updates on events at the Post, important details from the State and National VFW offices, and other information of interest to members of the Post. If you would like to receive the Blasts, please send an email to [dlukavsky@yahoo.com](mailto:dlukavsky@yahoo.com).

**Naperville's Gold Star Family Monument**  
**Dedication Ceremony**

Saturday, **May 27th** promptly at **2pm**  
Veterans Park, 303 E Gartner Rd, Naperville, IL



**2023 Summer Concert Series**  
Thursdays, 7:30pm  
Community Concert Center  
Central Park Naperville  
**June 1 "A Salute to Our Armed Services"**

**National Home Chairman  
Mike McGrath**

The VFW National Home offers families of veterans, active-duty military, and members of the VFW and its Auxiliary opportunities for growth and development in the National Home Community in Eaton Rapids, Michigan.

Eligibility requirements, for National Home residents are as follows:

1. Actively serving military on an unaccompanied tour or deployment, single or married, with dependent children. Drilling National Guard and Reserve.
2. Military veteran who was Honorably discharged from Active Duty, the Guard or Reserve. Surviving widow or widower with dependent children, parent / guardian, single or married with dependent children.
3. VFW / Auxiliary Members, parent or guardian or applicant has a parent in the VFW or Auxiliary in good standing or, if the member is deceased, in good standing at the time of death, single or married with dependent children.

The Helpline

Please reach out to the Helpline with questions at 800-313 4200, M-F 8:00am to 4:30pm Eastern Time.

Could this help someone you know?

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**2023 Buddy Poppy Days—Poppy Volunteers Needed!**

It's time once again for our annual Buddy Poppy fundraiser. We need volunteers to sign up for the two hour slots at the various locations that have graciously allowed us to distribute poppies. The signup will use the same tool as the previous years. Go to <https://volunteersignup.org/XMJFX> and look for a location, day, and time that suits you. Feel free to sign up for multiple slots. **We need all the help we can get. Signups are much lower than previous. Please don't wait to sign up.** This is the major fundraiser for our Post and it relies on you volunteering your time to help make it a success.

Remember that you need to come to the Post to get what you need for your shift in advance of your time slot. You need a collection jug and one bag of poppies per shift. Each bag contains 150 poppies, which is enough for a two hour slot at a busy location. Masks are optional this year, as is the use of styrofoam boards to hold poppies for distribution (i.e., you can hold them in your hand if you prefer). Please return your supplies and funds collected as quickly as possible. Collection jugs are a shared resource, so we need these returned for others to use. Please get your money, poppies, and jug back to us as quick as you can. Jugs and unused poppies should be returned to the conference room. Money collected should be given to the bartender.

Once again, please sign up for slots now, so we can plan our coverage of locations. The signup sheet [link](#) is live now. The information on 'how to' will also be on the [Post web site](#).

For questions, contact one of the committee members:

VFW:

Bob Colby - bobcolby888@gmail.com

Tom Richert - tom.richert@gmail.com

Auxiliary:

Nancy Marinello - nancymarinello@yahoo.com

Julie Berkowicz - julie@berkowicz.net

**Auxiliary President**

**Bernadette Budny**



May is our busiest month at the Post. Memorial Day is set aside to mourn those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. Here at the Post, we set aside a 4-day weekend to show our respect. Please help to show your support for our fallen service men and women by participating in the various activities at our Post and around Naperville over the Memorial Day weekend.

- Wednesday, 5/24 through Sunday, 5/28: Poppy Days – We need you! Please help us raise funds for the Post/Auxiliary by being part of the Poppy Campaign. Sign-up online at <https://volunteersignup.org/XMJFX>, look for a location, day, and time that suits you. Feel free to sign up for multiple slots.
- Friday, 5/26 at 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, 5/27 at 9:00 a.m.: We need volunteers to help place Auxiliary flags on the graves of our deceased members at both Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery and Naperville Cemetery. Please contact me if you would like to participate ([budfam1@att.net](mailto:budfam1@att.net)).
- Monday, 5/29 at 9:30 a.m.: Auxiliary members please consider joining us in the Memorial Day Parade. We will meet the trolley at the Centennial Beach parking lot. You can either ride the trolley or walk alongside. Wear navy shirt and white pants, if possible. We need flag bearers, walkers, and riders.
- Monday, 5/29: Looking for volunteers to provide desserts for the veteran luncheon at the Post following the parade. Contact me, if interested.

I hope to see you at an event or at the Post soon!

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Photos from [Naperville Responds for Veterans Strength and Honor](#),  
[Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony](#), and [22 A Day Painting Fundraiser](#)

(courtesy of Jim Hoch. Links to his SmugMug site, click images to go to full image on site)





## VFW Post 3873 Calendar of Events May 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	01	02	03	04	05	06
			Yoga for Vets, 9:30am			Monarch Landing Visit, 10:00am; VFW Day of Service
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
		Hines Outreach, 10:00am-2:00pm; Auxiliary Social, Canteen 5:00pm	Yoga for Vets, 9:30am	VFW Post Meeting, 7:00pm		Brookdale Visit, 10:00am
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
			Yoga for Vets, 9:30am	Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00pm		Independence Vil- lage Visit, 10:00am
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
			Yoga for Vets, 9:30am; Buddy Poppy Days	Buddy Poppy Days	Buddy Poppy Days	Story Point, 10:00am; Gold Star Family Monument, 2:00pm Buddy Poppy Days
28	29	30	31	01	02	03
Buddy Poppy Days	Memorial Day		Yoga for Vets, 9:30am	Naperville Municipal Band Salute to Armed Forces		

**Hines Hospital Visits**

The Chairman of the Hospital Committee would like to inform everyone that **Hines Hospital visits are on IN-DEFINITE HOLD due to COVID**. We will share more information and the new schedule once we are able to restart the visits.

**Canteen Hours**

	Open	Close
Mon—Thur	1:00 p.m.	10:00 pm
Friday	Noon	Midnight
Saturday	Noon	10:00 pm
Sunday	Noon	6:00 pm

The bartender may elect to close the Canteen early due to low patronage. The bartender will give a last call and close the Canteen 15 minutes later.

NO ONE is allowed behind the bar except the Bartenders.

**THE BARTENDER IS BOSS**

**Kendall-Gram Submission Policy**

Post members are encouraged to submit articles and photos. Send articles and photos to the email address below. All photos MUST include where and why it was taken and the names of those in the picture. Photos without captions will not be used. Articles/photos submitted by the 10th will be eligible to appear in the next Kendall-Gram. Articles/photos submitted after the 10th of the month will be considered for the following month.

**Kendall-Gram Editor:**

Mark Overstreet  
mark.overstreet@gmail.com

**Post Information**

Mailing Address: Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873  
908 W. Jackson  
Naperville, IL 60540

Phone Number: **(630) 420-9820**

Website Address: [napervfw3873.org](http://napervfw3873.org)

Facebook: Naperville VFW Judd Kendall 3873

**Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm in the upstairs hall of the Post.**

**Judd Kendall Post 3873 Officers**

Commander	Leo Jaime	(773) 441-3887
Sr. Vice Commander		
Jr. Vice Commander	Staci Boyer	(773) 351-4646
Quartermaster	Phil Maughan	(630) 383-1974
Ass't Quartermaster	John Shaw	(630) 961-3479
Ass't Quartermaster	Tom Parker	(630) 280-9347
Adjutant	Matt Hoyt	(630) 362-5564
Judge Advocate	Lawrence Goss	(630) 728-9641
Surgeon	Bill Howland	(630) 369-0087
Service Officer	Dennis Lukavsky	(630) 272-9064
Officer of the Day	Lou Kuelto	(630) 898-8760
Guard	Roger Budny	(630) 205-8745
Chaplain	Bob Grember	(630) 960-1998
1-Year Trustee	Craig Frier	
2-Year Trustee	Pablo Araya	(312) 505-4377
3-Year Trustee	Roger Budny	(630) 205-8745

**Committees**

Americanism	Tom Parker	(630) 280-9347
Blood Drive	Ingrid Kanady	(847) 951-3300
Buddy Poppy Building	Bob Colby	(630) 301-2664
Color Guard	Dennis Regan	(630) 361-4644
Communications	Dennis Lukavsky	(630) 272-9064
Eighth Grade Awards	Tom Benton	(630) 579-8514
Facilities Manager		
Grounds	Phil Maughan	(630) 357-3440
Honor Guard	Jim Oftedal	(630) 357-4030
Hospital	John Shaw	(630) 961-3479
House	Mike McGrath	(630) 357-2680
House	Bob Tallon	(630) 561-9902
House	Tom Parker	(630) 280-9347
Membership		
Legislative	Frank Haynes	(630) 357-2906
National Home	Mike McGrath	(630) 357-2680
Patriot's Pen		
Safety	Mike McGrath	(630) 357-2680
Scout Liaison	Todd Schuneman	(815) 791-4178
Social Media	Dave Angelus	(630) 596-3245
Voice of Democracy		

**Auxiliary Officers**

President	Bernadette Budny	(630) 717-9471
Sr. Vice President	Maryann Groner	(630) 363-8138
Jr. Vice President	Darlene Kwarta	(630) 885-1770
Treasurer	Leo Hart	(630) 816-0506
Secretary		
Chaplain	Nancy Marinello	(630) 464-3696
Guard	Carol Gloor	(630) 778-6873
Conductress	Lucy Hoy	

# Veterans of Foreign Wars

