

THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 23 Issue 07

July 2023



A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



Commander Leo Jaime



Happy Birthday America!

This is, by far, our favorite month of the year: The weather in the Midwest is perfect for backyard gatherings and for getting to know your neighbors and our community.

It is also the month we celebrate our nation's birthday on July 4th. Congress declared this day a national holiday in 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the American Revolution. In the pre-Revolutionary years, the colonists held annual celebrations of the king's birthday, which traditionally included the ringing of bells, bonfires, processions, and speechmaking. By contrast, during the summer of 1776 (the summer of Independence) some colonists celebrated the birth of independence by holding mock funerals for King George III as a way of symbolizing the end of the monarchy's hold on America and the triumph of liberty. These early celebrations showed the resolve and confidence the new nation had in itself, its leaders, and its people, since the war actually went on for years after.

My favorite anecdote is the story of George Washington serving double rations of rum to all his soldiers to mark the anniversary of independence in 1778, and again in 1781, several months before the key American victory at the Battle of Yorktown, as Massachusetts became the first state to make July 4th an official holiday. I think we should continue that tradition at the Post!

Since those early days, the more traditional celebrations include festivities ranging from fireworks, parades, and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues. Today, for many Americans, the meaning of this holiday expands to the celebration of personal stories of struggle and of freedom from modern oppressive environments. But let's not forget the reason we can celebrate the 4th of July 247 years later: the sacrifice made by many generations of Americans who since have served or are serving in our military, as well as the sacrifices of our Gold Star and Blue Star families. So, when you light that firework, or raise your cup, let's thank and say a prayer for our nation's best.

I'd like to close by thanking our members for an exemplary 2022-2023 fiscal year. As many of know, we were recognized at the State Convention with the All-State award, and many other achievements. We are well positioned for a repeat in 2023-2024 with our new slate of officers, new committee chairs, and many of our members who volunteer; all committed to the success of the Post. Please put your name in the hat, if you haven't yet, and enjoy the gift of volunteering!

Senior Vice Commander
Staci Boyer



Our post was honored to have been a part of a beautiful memorial service on 6/17/23. 7 Urns containing the ashes of Veterans from WWI, WWII & Korea were found and thus the desire to honor them in the way they deserved became the goal. Eagle Scout candidate Cooper Merrinette from Troop 99 Tall Grass district, coordinated this beautiful event as well as the woodworking of the elegant boxes for each Veteran. Let's honor Charles Doswell, Frank Bonfield, & Stanley Ohlman WWI / William Hruska, Stanley Moldenhauer, & Edwin Forsberg WWII / and Floyd Haynes Korean war. The Villa Park VFW / Lombard Honor Guard & our Naperville Color Guard were proud to be a part of this!

I have two particular projects in the works that I want to create some awareness: First, I'm working on an Adopt a Veteran Grave project, please ask me how it's going! Second, we have a plan to revamp the fish fries. More to follow!

REMINDER! Veterans only free workout at my gym on Tuesday mornings! 8am-9am. 1707 Quincy Ave #107. This is open to ALL veterans and you need not be a member of the VFW or Legion. All ability levels are welcome. I will modify and work with you as needed. Please RSVP to me at 773-351-4646.

We have officially started our VFW/Legion athletic team, 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)
FIRST EVENT is July 2: 5 mile local Naperville Salute Ruck March!

Quote of the month:

"This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave." - Elmer Davis

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.

Junior Vice Commander
Jillian Langer



I'm excited and honored to take over the Position of Junior Vice Commander.

I'm looking forward to serving our community and to fostering camaraderie within the Post.

Service Officer Updates Dennis Lukavsky



I know that as veterans we are sort of semi proud of the motto "hurry up and wait". It showed some of the pain the military hit us with. It has become somewhat of a "red badge of courage". As a result we sort of carried that forward to today and spent time (some folks) complaining that our veteran resources are not doing enough or are inadequate to handle the work load of the aging veteran population. Here is your opportunity to be heard and offer you views and offer your input about what the IDVA should be doing for us. If you don't bother to offer your input, you have no reason to complain.

Speak up and be heard, improve the support Illinois Veterans deserve. (You even get a \$50 gift card)

Dennis Lukavsky, Service Officer, VFW Post 3873/Legion Post 43
cell:630 272 9064
email: dlukavsky@yahoo.com



We are seeking feedback from veterans and their family members about accessing veteran services and benefits. Participation entails:

- 1-hour interview by phone or video call
- Findings will remain anonymous
- Participants that complete an interview will receive a \$50 Amazon gift card

Interested? Use the QR code or the link below to fill out your information.



<https://tinyurl.com/ILVetResearch>

About this research
The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA) is working with a group of researchers at the University of Illinois Chicago to better understand the needs of veterans throughout Illinois.

The results of this study will help the IDVA better serve veterans and their families in Illinois.

Questions?
Contact the team at ilvetresearch@uic.edu



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.



Taps

No new names to report.

Please submit name, age, service, and service dates or conflicts to kendallgramvfw3873@gmail.com.

Please contact Phil Maughan at the Post for mailing addresses if you wish to send a sympathy card.

Key links for the VA

VA organizations

- [Veterans Health Administration](#)
- [Veterans Benefits Administration](#)
- [National Cemetery Administration](#)
- [VA Leadership](#)
- [Public Affairs](#)
- [Congressional Affairs](#)
- [All VA offices and organizations](#)

Innovation at VA

- [Health research](#)
- [Public health](#)

[VA open data](#)

- [Veterans analysis and statistics](#)
- [Appeals modernization](#)
- [VA Innovation Center](#)
- [Recovery Act](#)

Learn about VA

- [About VA](#)
- [History of VA](#)
- [VA plans, budget, finances, and performance](#)
- [National cemetery history program](#)
- [Veterans legacy program](#)
- [Volunteer or donate](#)

More Memorial Day Photos

Photos courtesy of Jim Hoch. Click photos to go to full size version on his [SmugMug](#) page.



**National Home Chairman
Mike McGrath**



June at the National Home

Every year in June, the Home has a "community dinner" to recognize and honor National Home kids who are graduating from school. We greatly enjoyed attending this event on June 14 and thought you'd like to know about it.

And as the Home has sponsored a 4-H Program for many years, we thought you'd enjoy a few pictures. This year's entries are pigs and rabbits which will be entered at the Eaton County fair in August.

Thank you all for the great support and may God bless our National Home.



Every VFW member shares a powerful legacy of serving in combat to defend our nation. By choosing to join the VFW, we also extended that legacy through our commitment to assist veterans, their families, and our communities. The VFW has a unique program which enables us to further our legacy in another important way. **Legacy Life Membership** allows you to upgrade your life membership for a fixed amount of money that will create a perpetual income stream to the VFW at the Post, State and National levels. There are three levels (Bronze, Silver, and Gold) that range from \$400 to \$1,200. Donations can be made all at once or over time until you reach your desired amount. The various benefits associated with Legacy Life Membership include a tax deduction, discounts on purchases from the VFW Store, and more. The greatest benefit, however, is the knowledge that you are helping to provide a perpetual source of income to ensure the important work of the VFW in assisting veterans, their families, and our communities will continue forever.

Please contact Post QM Phil Maughan at (630) 383-1974 or plmaughan@pobox.com for additional information.

Auxiliary President

Maryann Groner



The Auxiliary is beginning a new year, and I am so pleased to be working with our officers and members. I look forward to having members join us for our monthly meetings on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 upstairs at the Post.

Sisters Bernie Budny, Fran McGrath, and I attended the State Convention and enjoyed connecting with other Noisy Nineteen post members.

The 4th of July is just around the corner, with Naperville Salute again honoring our Veterans with music, food and friends. Proudly fly the flag as you celebrate with family and friends.

We are still in need of volunteers to water the plants during July and August. Please call me if you are able to help.

Auxiliary members continue to meet the first Tuesday of the month in the Canteen at 5:00. Why not stop in and socialize with us?



Auxiliary members at the State Convention

News Nation Interviews at Rosie's Diner, June 27, 2023

Photos courtesy of Jim Hoch. Click photos to go to full size version on his [SmugMug](#) page.



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
kendallgramvfw3873@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

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	Staci Boyer	(773) 351-4646
Jr. Vice Commander	Jillian Langer	(773) 732-2172
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	Dom Guerrieri	(630) 207-3100
Surgeon	Ingrid Kanady	(847) 951-3300
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	Pablo Araya	(312) 505-4377
2-Year Trustee	Roger Budny	(630) 205-8745
3-Year Trustee	Craig Frier	

Committees

Americanism	Tom Parker	(630) 280-9347
Blood Drive	Ingrid Kanady	(847) 951-3300
Buddy Poppy	Bob Colby	(630) 301-2664
Building		
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	Staci Boyer	(773) 351-4646
Legislative	Frank Haynes	(630) 357-2906
National Home	Mike McGrath	(630) 357-2680
Patriot's Pen	Mark Overstreet	(773) 517-7346
Safety	Mike McGrath	(630) 357-2680
Scout Liaison	Todd Schuneman	(815) 791-4178
Social Media	Dave Angelus	(630) 596-3245
Voice of Democracy	Mark Overstreet	(773) 517-7346

Auxiliary Officers

President	Maryann Groner	(630) 363-8138
Sr. Vice President	Bernadette Budny	(630) 717-9471
Jr. Vice President	Tita McLaughlin	
Treasurer	Leo Hart	(630) 816-0506
Chaplain	Marti Linnert	
Guard	Carol Gloor	(630) 778-6873
Conductress	Lucy Hoy	



VFW Post 3873

Upcoming Events

[\(PDF Calendar Available\)](#)



July 2023

Fri 6/30-Mon 7/3: Naperville Salute!

Sat 7/1: **10:00am**, Monarch Landing Visit

Sun 7/2: 5 Mile Ruck (part of Naperville Salute), see Senior Vice's report about joining the team

Tues 7/4: 4th of July! Watch social media, Instagram [@NapervilleVFWpost3873](#), Facebook [VFWNaperville](#).

Wed 7/5: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post

Sat 7/8: **10:00am**, Brookdale Retirement Home Visit

Wed 7/12: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post

Thurs 7/13: **7:00pm**, VFW Post Meeting, VFW Post

Sat 7/15: **10:00am**, Tabor Hills Visit

Mon 7/17: **8:00am**, Veteran Business meeting, Rosie's Diner
(POC [Jennifer Slown](#))

Wed 7/19: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post

Thurs 7/20: **7:00pm**, Auxiliary Meeting, VFW Post

Sat 7/22: **10:00am**, Story Point Retirement Home Visit

Wed 7/26: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post

Monthly Recurring Events

First Tuesday: Hines Outreach; Auxiliary Social

Every Wednesday: Yoga

Second Thursday: Post Meeting

Third Thursday: Auxiliary meeting

Every Saturday: Retirement home visit

August 2023

Tues 8/1: **10:00am**-2:00pm, Hines Outreach, VFW Post; **5:00pm**, Auxiliary Social, Canteen

Wed 8/2: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post

Sat 8/5: **10:00am**, Monarch Landing Visit

Fri 8/18: **4:00pm** muster to volunteer for Naper Nights Beer Tent, Naper Settlement (POC [Nadia Baran](#))

September 2023

Mon 9/11: Patriot Day

Sun 9/17: Judd-a-Thon (tentative)

Mon 9/18: US Air Force Birthday

Sat 9/30: Illinois Day at National Home (anticipated)

October 2023

Sat 10/14: Time TBD, VFW Post, Blood drive / Health fair event. (POC [Ingrid Kanady](#) and [Staci Boyer](#)).