

THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 23 Issue 08

August 2023



A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



Commander Leo Jaime



Thirty-four years ago, this month, I signed on the dotted line to Join the Marine Corps. It seems like yesterday, but I'm sure many of our readers will chuckle comparing to when they signed many years earlier. In any case, while this is not a competition, I do feel how quickly the years have gone by and how different my life is today from what I envisioned 34 years ago.

If you had asked back then what I would be doing today, I would have told you I'd be retired with my toes in the sand at some Caribbean beach sipping on margaritas. Little did I know the Marine Corps would take me in all different directions, from the uncertainties of a battlefield to the uncertainties of a bar in Olongapo (not sure which one was the riskier one...), to getting a crash course in aeronautical engineering and aircraft maintenance at Pensacola, to learning not to kill my flight instructor at Whiting Field, to shooting rockets off the side of a Huey (aiming with a grease pencil on the windshield), to leading Marines on missions in the field and behind the desk.

The one skill the military taught me overall, and one I practice every day since, was to prioritize my life. Early in bootcamp I learned I could not do everything I was asked to do. I learned to adapt, overcome, and most importantly, to delegate.

Today I share my day between my family, my work, and my volunteerism. Work, if you let it, will take all 24 hours of the day leaving you with nothing but headaches and disappointments. So, I prioritize and adapt, and decide to address what's important and what's not so important, and guess what, the work still turns. I'm in a constant quest to find a work-life-balance that fits my family, work, and volunteerism, and challenge you to do the same.

Where am I going with this? Simply put, the Post needs fresh volunteers. We cannot continue to rely on the same actors doing it all year after year. With this in mind, **let's make this the year of volunteerism.**

Last year we tackled membership with great results. Now, it's time to step up, and to put each other on notice: Unless we tackle the work to keep the Post running, we may not have a Post to run in a few years; I hate to be negative, but it's a reality we all need to face. Please approach Staci, Jilian, or me with your fresh ideas and volunteerism!

**Senior Vice Commander
Staci Boyer**



We are coming out of an amazing year with new memberships and membership retention. This is all due to the combined efforts of everyone at the post. Every event we do where we invite new people really makes a difference. The camaraderie and fellowship that we show at our post is phenomenal. Our post awards reflect the hard work of all of you. Thank you!

We have a lot of creative events for recruitment planned for 2023, please join us and reach out to me with ideas! Well done everyone.

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

If you are interested in participating with our VFW/Legion athletic team 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) Uniform shirts are on the way! Team members please submit event ideas 6 weeks in advance!

Quote of the month: "Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." - Confucius

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**



We have a ton of upcoming events and opportunities to volunteer. Please see the back page for a calendar of the events. We list all events

If you are interested in volunteering at an event or for a committee, please reach out.

Service Officer Updates
Dennis Lukavsky



As I think most of you know, besides being the Service Officer for the Post, I also send out the Post Blasts. As a result, I get a good feeling about what the trends are in the news I send out. I have been noticing lately that there are a goodly number of fundraisers looking for support. It is clearly impossible to support all of them because there are just too many. We have everything from Car Shows, to Golf Outings, to BBQ's, to Naperville Salutes. And then there are the fundraisers we are obligated to support like the Judd-a-Thon, Buddy Poppy, and the Turkey Raffle.

It seems to me we do well supporting our own fundraisers (of course, we could always use more help!), but not as good working with the external fundraisers. It also seems a good idea to try helping out other groups that are working toward the same end goal we are: Helping our fellow veterans. Most of us have been blessed in many ways.

There are others who seem to run consistently short on blessing. I think it is up to us to help them out. Giving a little of your time, energy, and funding will go a long ways in helping others achieve some of the blessing most of us take for granted.

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

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

Kirk Scott, 75. Service in Vietnam.

[David "Dave" Szablewski](#), Master Gunnery Sergeant, USMC. Vietnam era, Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom I and II.

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.

Honor Guard Jim Oftedal



As a reminder to our membership, once a veteran has passed, another important aspect of our government's "Allowed Benefits" comes into play for which the veteran's family must apply. These benefits (burial and plot costs) are offered to help cover some burial costs. The Veterans Family/Next of Kin (NOK) must apply for these allowances. Use the link for description and steps to request benefits up to 2 years after death of your veteran.

<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/veterans-burial-allowance/>

The items for verification which the family/NOK must provide are:

- DD-214 and Death Certificate.
- Receipts of expenditures paid.
- Statement of Account (preferably with the letterhead of the funeral director or cemetery owner)

It is imperative that you, the VFW/AL veteran, provide this information to someone in your family to apply for these benefits. Our government has a 2 year limit, from date of death, for these allowances to be paid to the deceased veterans family/estate.

If the veteran is to be buried at Abe Lincoln National Cemetery, or any other national cemetery, review their requirements at https://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits/index.asp



Magazine going Digital Only

VFW magazine will be moving to a new schedule beginning in 2024. **Starting with the January 2024 issue, VFW will begin a gradual process to transition the magazine to a digital-only publication, with transition scheduled to be completed in 2028.**

However, VFW understands that a printed VFW magazine is important to many of its members, so VFW will accommodate those who want to continue receiving a printed version of those digital issues through the end of 2027. **If you want to receive a printed version of every issue, you will need to notify VFW by October 1, 2023.**

To do so, you may call VFW's Member Service Center at 1-833-839-8387 or write to Member Service Center, VFW, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111



Army Sergeant Robert Latowski (aka Friday Bob, Leprechaun Bob, etc) was awarded the first ever Silver Spoon Award tonight, by Phil Maughan, for his role in feeding over 200 people after the Memorial Day Parade this year (and for the past couple years if memory serves).

VFW Post 3873 Silver Spoon Award - Bob Latowski - July 19, 2023

National Home Chairman Mike McGrath



Congratulations, 10 in a row!

Congratulations and thank you to all of our Post and Auxiliary leaders and members!

As our Judd Kendall Post 3873 has again won the Illinois VFW National Home Award.

Our latest plaque will soon be on display at the Post and we'll be looking forward to the upcoming Judd-a-Thon on September 17 and Illinois Day at the Home on September 23.

If you are interested in participating in the trip to the Home for Illinois Day, please reach out to Mike McGrath, mackcav1@sbcglobal.net.

Business of the Post Post Meeting 7/13 Highlights



Attendees voted to accept three new members:

- Steve Cavanaugh, USMC, Afghanistan, Life Member
- Blas Esquivel, Army, GWOT, Life Member
- Terry Kauffman, Air Force, Vietnam, Life Member

Quartermaster Report shows we are in good financial shape. Biggest expense was replacement of brick wall; biggest income was Plant Sale, with highest sales to date. Poppy receipts, Hall rentals, Canteen all contributed well.

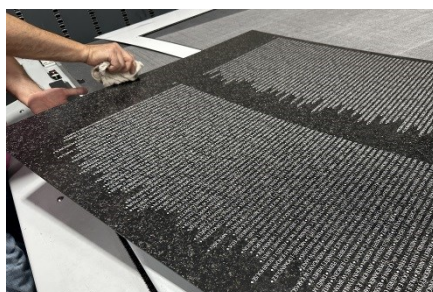
House committee submitted request to retire 10-person tables and purchase new 8-person tables. Voted and approved.

Trustees submitted three donation recommendations: District 203, District 204, USS Illinois Submarine. Voted and all three approved. Vietnam Wall Panel display requires financial commitment, to be split between Post and American Legion Post 43.

Next Post meeting will be 7:00p.m. on August 8. If you are unable to join in person and would like to join via Zoom, please contact the Post for the link and passcode.

Vietnam Wall Printing

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



Auxiliary President

Maryann Groner



Spotlight on Legacy Ranch

Taking the Reins is an eight-week horse therapy program where participants learn to tack and groom their horse. They also learn various riding skills including drill team maneuvers. "Why horses?" you may wonder. Winston Churchill would answer, "There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man."

Horses can help participants focus on the here and now which is often a challenge, can help participants develop and utilize tools to maintain healthy relationships in the community, and can respond to non-verbal communication which can help participants assessing and managing their own behavior. Working with horses helps participants recognize their strengths and develop coping skills. Finally, physiological benefits include decreased blood pressure and improvement in neurobiochemical markers.

Each session is supervised by a licensed mental health therapist. Legacy Ranch is a 501.c non-profit organization that provides opportunities for those in need to receive the help they deserve even if they are unable to afford the service on their own. As you can imagine this program is expensive.



As a veteran, this is the ONLY therapy that has ever been successful in treating my Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. These horses are amazing!"

MILITARY OFFICER

Auxiliary co-chairs Marti Linnert and Kathy Thornton are looking for your support to provide funding for this program for 4 to 6 needy Veterans through a fund raiser to be held on August 19 from 6:00 to 8:00 in the Canteen. Pepe's will be here for your food purchases with a DJ taking your requests for Karaoke. There will be awesome raffle basket donated by Auxiliary member Bertha Novaczyk. We hope you will join us in reaching our goal of sponsoring a session at the Ranch!

Naperville Salute Photos

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



Hines Hospital Visits

Visits will be starting again soon! Please watch this space for additional details from the Committee Chair.

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 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	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

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



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**, The Springs (2308 Illinois Rte 59, Naperville), in lieu of Monarch Landing.
- Wed 8/9: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post
- Thurs 8/10: **7:00pm**, VFW Post Meeting, VFW Post
- Sat 8/12: **10:00am**, Brookdale Retirement Home Visit
- Sun 8/13: **2:00pm-6:00pm**, Freedom Tailgate, Fundraiser for Post Bathrooms (POC Kristin Jungles)
- Wed 8/16: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post
- Thurs 8/17: **7:00pm**, Auxiliary Meeting, VFW Post
- Fri 8/18: **4:00pm** muster to volunteer for Naper Nights Beer Tent, Naper Settlement (POC [Nadia Baran](#))
- Sat 8/19: **10:00am**, Tabor Hills Visit; **Evening**, Karaoke in the Canteen
- Mon 8/21: **8:00am**, Veteran Business meeting, Rosie's Diner (POC [Jennifer Slown](#))
- Wed 8/23: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post; **Afternoon**, Summer Raffle for Weber II 210 Gas Grill (Tickets available **NOW!** Need not be present to win).
- Sat 8/26: **10:00am**, Story Point Retirement Home Visit
- Wed 8/30: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post

September 2023

- Mon 9/11: Patriot Day
- Sun 9/17: Judd-a-Thon (POC Pablo Araya or [Jennifer Slown](#))
- Mon 9/18: US Air Force Birthday
- Thurs 9/28: **7:00pm**, Joe Cantafio, Canteen
- Sat 9/23: Illinois Day at National Home

October 2023

- Sat 10/14: Time TBD, VFW Post, Blood drive / Health fair event. (POC [Ingrid Kanady](#) and [Staci Boyer](#))
- Tues 10/31: DEADLINE for Teacher of the Year submissions (POC Jillian Langer, Jr Vice)

November 2023

- Sat 11/18: Turkey Raffle (details coming)

December 2023

- Sat 12/9: Army Navy game!
- Sat 12/16: VFW Post / American Legion combined Christmas party

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