

THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 23 Issue 11

November 2023



A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



Commander Leo Jaime



November is a special month with perhaps the most significant dates we celebrate as Americans. On Nov 10th we celebrate our beloved Corps' 248th birthday, yes I may have a slight bias, then on the 11th we gather to recognize the sacrifices of all veterans and their families, and on the fourth Thursday we meet with our friends and loved ones to give thanks for our good harvests, both physical and moral.

This November, however, is even more significant as we honor those who served during the Vietnam War. From November 9th to 13th, the Naperville Park District, together with our Post, the American Legion Post 43, and Naperville Responds for Veterans, will jointly display a replica of the Vietnam Wall of Remembrance in the lawn area near the Riverwalk Grand Pavilion and will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the departure of the last U.S. combat troops from South Vietnam. Please take a moment to enjoy the display and pay respects.

November is also a very busy month, with a number of events that will need everyone's participation. If you are interested in participating or volunteering for any of the following, please reach out directly to me and I'll put you in touch with the team:

- As last year, we are expecting an increased number of requests to visit schools and assisted-living facilities. These are opportunities to support our community with interaction with our young future leaders and the generations that built our great nation.
- We will also need volunteers to help during our Veterans Day Dinner, hosted jointly by the VFW and the Legion on the evening of the 11th.
- On Saturday the 18th, we'll conduct our annual Turkey Raffle. Of all the events, the Raffle is one of our biggest fundraisers. Our local community looks forward to it, knowing they are supporting a worthy cause and they will take a turkey home to share with their families. This event takes a lot of work to put together but is equally as rewarding, with all proceeds go directly to our efforts to help our veterans in the months to come. We will need volunteers to help set up the event, sell raffle tickets, and make sure winners get their prizes. Please contact me to add you name to the list of volunteers and make this event a success.

November will go fast and, before we know it, we will be in the middle of the holidays, so I want to take this opportunity to pause and thank you for all you do for the Post and the veteran community. As I navigate my second year as commander, I realize how fortunate I am to be part of such a dedicated team.

Senior Vice Commander
Staci Boyer



As we head into November, we will be full of opportunities to showcase all we do at our Post and within our community and beyond! Please use these times to offer information about what we offer with our activities and community involvement. Let us give prospective members a “why” for joining. Invite them to our events, fundraisers, and dinners.

If you are unsure of what we have planned - look in the Kendall Gram! Follow us on our social media platforms on Instagram and Facebook. Look for highlight buttons for what we have been doing and what is upcoming labeled by the month. On Facebook, we pin upcoming events to find easily. You can also find past KendallGram links on all of our social media channels as well.

Remember we are all recruiters here and the future of our Post depends on all of our efforts! I am attaching a QR code here that will take you to the October 2023 Kendall Gram where I answered 9 important membership questions. Please save this or the link in your notes on your phone so when someone has a question we can answer them!

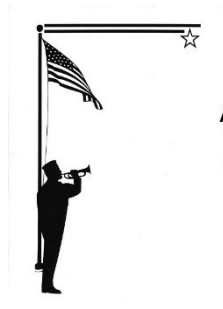


Jennifer Slown and I are organizing a Veteran-owned business job fair in conjunction with a membership event to educate and inspire new members! Look for this in December. May 4, 2024, will be a combo recruitment event and community outreach for still serving - with the Phoenix Natural competition.

REMINDER! Veterans, spouses and friends of the post- 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

Interested in the Adopt a Veterans Grave project? Please text me - 773-35-4646

Quote of the month: "Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear." - Mark Twain



Taps

Al DeGeeter, 83. Army, MP with Korean Defense service.

Please submit information to the Post at vfwpost3873@sbcglobal.net or call (630) 355-7664.
Contact the Quartermaster for mailing addresses if you wish to send a sympathy card.

Junior Vice Commander

Jillian Langer



As Veterans Day approaches, it is crucial to reflect on its expansive meaning and consider how it resonates with us in times of international conflict. Amid the ongoing tensions in Israel and Gaza, the significance of this day becomes even more profound. Veterans have a unique perspective, having experienced the hardships and sacrifices of war firsthand. Now, as veterans, we have the power to support and unite with one another, fostering a sense of camaraderie and understanding in a world torn apart by conflict.

Veterans Day serves as a reminder that the bonds forged on the battlefield transcend national borders and political differences. It is a day to honor the courage, resilience, and sacrifices of those who have served their countries, regardless of the conflicts they were involved in. As the international community grapples with the ongoing strife in Israel and Gaza, veterans can draw upon their shared experiences to foster unity and empathy.

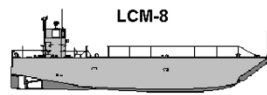
In times of conflict, veterans play a crucial role in supporting one another. We understand the physical and emotional toll that war can have on individuals. By reaching out to fellow veterans, we can provide a listening ear, a supportive shoulder, and a network of understanding. Whether it is through local veteran organizations, online support groups, or simply reaching out to a veteran friend, our collective support can make a significant difference in the lives of those who have served.

As veterans, we can also contribute to the resolution of conflicts by advocating for peaceful solutions and diplomacy. We have witnessed firsthand the devastating consequences of war, and our voices carry weight when we speak out against violence and promote dialogue. By engaging in constructive discussions, raising awareness, and promoting peacebuilding initiatives, we can strive to make a positive impact on the international stage.

Veterans Day holds a profound meaning for us in times of international conflict, such as the ongoing tensions in Israel and Gaza. It reminds us of our shared commitment to service, sacrifice, and unity. As veterans, we have the power to support one another, drawing upon our experiences to foster empathy and understanding. By advocating for peace and engaging in dialogue, we can contribute to the resolution of conflicts and strive for a more peaceful world. Let us use this Veterans Day as an opportunity to reflect on our role in promoting unity and supporting our fellow veterans, both at home and abroad.

Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism? – Would you like to support the VFW's life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families without receiving all of the unwanted mail? The VFW has developed an option that lets you support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate National's mailed solicitations for donations. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact the VFW Development Department Donor Services at 816-756-3390, ext. 6318, or email partners@vfw.org with "Partners in Patriotism Application" in the subject line.

Service Officer Updates Dennis Lukavsky



Let's talk, yet again, about Veteran Scamming. I believed that once your monthly benefits were set up and you are receiving them routinely, your concerns about scammers would vanish. Well, forget that myth. You still have to be vigilant. Scammers have found a new option: payment redirection.

Payment redirection occurs when a bad actor obtains a Veteran's Personal Identifiable Information (PII) and uses the information to unlawfully access and gain control of personal information (email or bank accounts, va.gov, etc.). Once the information is compromised, the scammer redirects the victim's VA benefits payments to accounts or prepaid debit cards the scammer controls. Veterans' personal information is vulnerable to phishing attempts and an array of email scams.

Bad actors are leveraging publicly available information from internet sources, social media, dark web, etc., to gather PII. With enough demographic information, they can call the National Contact Center and change Veterans' bank accounts to redirect their payments. With stolen passwords and credentials, they can access Veterans' information through VA.gov.

So what sorts of things can you do to protect yourself? See the following:

- Be alert! Identity theft is not always committed by strangers
- Frequently change and maintain strong passwords and never use PII in the password
- Verify your identity—obtain a VA Security PIN to secure direct deposit accounts from theft and protect PII
- Be cautious of companies claiming to contact you on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or presenting itself as having an affiliation with VA
- Contact VA immediately at 1-800-827-1000 if you find a payment discrepancy or suspicious activity within your direct deposit account.

If you have questions about any of these services feel free to get in touch with me :
Dennis Lukavsky, Service Officer, VFW Post 3873/Legion Post 43
cell:630 272 9064, email: dlukavsky@yahoo.com

Vietnam Wall of Remembrance, November 9-13, 2023 Submitted by Wayne Fischer

Please make your calendars for Thursday, November 9th through Monday, November 13th as we will have our **"Vietnam Wall of Remembrance"** up at our Park District Grand Pavilion along the Riverwalk and west of Centennial Beach. We will have Veterans overseeing the **"Wall"** from 6am to 10pm each day. On Thursday, we are planning an **"Opening Day Program"** starting at 10am and we will have our **"Veterans Day Program"** on Saturday, November 11th here at the **"Wall"** starting at 11am. Both Programs are open to the public. Also, we are working on having the Veterans Art Museum of Chicago have on display Vietnam Artwork in the banquet hall at the VFW on Friday, November 10th.



National Home Chairman Mike McGrath



Illinois Day 2023 at the National Home!

September 23 was a beautiful sunny day and well enjoyed as the new playground was officially dedicated and the kids loved it! Pictures are on the national home's website under "news and events."

We were especially proud of the contributions made by our Post and Auxiliary as the Judd Kendall Post presented checks for almost \$41,000 to the home.

Thanks again especially to all who participated in our 10th Annual Judd-A-Thon!

We visited the graves of National Home children at the local Rosehill Cemetery and toured the campus and our Illinois Homes 1 and 2. Both the campus and Homes looked great!

We thank the Home and dedicated staff for their efforts for military and veteran families and look forward to the 100th anniversary in 2025.

Thanks again to everyone and "may god bless our national home."

Business of the Post Post Meeting 10/12/2023 Highlights



The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm.

One new member was voted: Nicole Lahanis, Army, Iraq.

Quartermaster reported slightly lower cash on hand, mostly due to the amount of donations that were in our accounts last month pending the Judd-a-Thon. All donations have now been made to National Home. The hall rental and canteen are still showing strong revenue.

Committees:

Membership Committee discussed several initiatives. Reminded us that we are all recruiters and we have a lot of work to do all year round to maintain our membership numbers.

Honor Guard conducted 3 graveside services and participated in 9/11 Memorial Service at City Hall.

Color Guard also participate in 9/11 Memorial Service at City Hall.

Hines Hospital visit went well and included students and a teacher from NNHS. Definitely looking to build up the number of Post members who attend. Next date is November 14th.

Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year all due Oct 31. Judging for VOD and PP on Nov 4.

Building Committee needs a Superintendent volunteer. Contact Commander Jaime.

Trustees proposed donations to Adopt a Veteran Headstone Project. Voted and approved.

Next meeting is November 9th.

Auxiliary President

Maryann Groner



November is a busy month for the Auxiliary. Our Turkey Raffle committee is compiling donations for another chance to win great prizes. We will have pull tabs, a booze basket, and a hotel package for our walk around raffle with tickets (1 for \$5 and 3 for \$10). We'll have baskets by Bertha and friends as well as gift cards selling at 12 for \$20. Be sure to check out all these amazing prizes. See you at the Turkey Raffle!

The week of Veterans Day has opportunities to visit the Wall and to participate in memorials being held. In 1954 Congress passed a bill and President Eisenhower signed it proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day. In 1968 Congress passed a law changing the observation of Veterans Day to the third Monday in October. This change was not supported by most Americans, so in 1978 Congress passed a law returning Veterans Day back to November 11.

Mission BBQ is again offering a free sandwich for Veterans, so stop in with your favorite veteran and enjoy their hospitality on the 11th.

Thanksgiving is a time to spend with your family and friends. The very best to you and yours this holiday season from your friends at the Auxiliary.

Honor Guard



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

Hines Hospital Visits

Hines Hospital visits will take place on the second Tuesday of each month from September through June. Due to Hospital requirements face masks will be required for all participants when they enter. The bus will leave from the Post promptly at 6:30PM and we should return before 9PM.

Questions: John Shaw, theshawsjb@aol.com

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. Photos MUST include location, date, event, names. All submissions may be edited for length and content as needed.

Kendall-Gram Link Policy: Live links are provided for convenience and information only and are consistent with the mission of the Post and VFW. However, the appearance of external hyperlinks does not constitute endorsement by the Post or the VFW of the information, products, or services contained therein.

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) 253-3318
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) 253-3318
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	Staci Boyer	(773) 351-4646
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



November 2023

- Wed 11/1: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post
 Sat 11/4: **10:00am**, Monarch Landing Visit
 Tues 11/7: **10:00am-2:00pm**, Hines Outreach, VFW Post; **5:00pm**, Auxiliary Social, Canteen
 Wed 11/8: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post
 Thurs 11/9: **10:00am**, Opening Program, Vietnam Wall of Remembrance, Riverwalk Pavilion; **7:00pm**, VFW Post Meeting, VFW Post
 Fri 11/10: USMC Birthday
 Sat 11/11: **10:00am**, Brookdale Retirement Home Visit; **5:00pm**, Veterans Day dinner at the Post
 Tuesday 11/14: **6:30pm-9:00pm**, Hines Hospital Visit (POC [John Shaw](#))
 Wed 11/15: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post
 Thurs 11/16: **7:00pm**, Auxiliary Meeting, VFW Post
 Fri 11/17: Toys for Tots Win a Dance with a Hero
 Sat 11/18: **10:00am**, Tabor Hills Visit; **6:00pm**, Turkey Raffle
 Wed 11/22: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post
 Sat 11/25: **10:00am**, Story Point Retirement Home Visit
 Wed 11/29: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post

December 2023

- Sun 12/3: 1:00pm-4:00pm, Christmas Arts and Crafts Fair (POC Carey, (630) 420-9820)
 Fri 12/8: Fish Fry run through
 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
 Second Tuesday: Hines Hospital (Sept thru June)
 Every Wednesday: Yoga
 Second Thursday: Post Meeting
 Third Thursday: Auxiliary meeting
 Every Saturday: Retirement home visit

All Day, Every Day: Recruitment

Use the QR Code below to take prospective members to a form about joining our Post.



Vietnam Wall of Remembrance

Thursday, November 9: **10:00am** Opening Program

Nightly, Thursday through Monday, Nov 9-13: **8:00pm** Taps