

# THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 23 Issue 12

December 2023



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



## Commander Leo Jaime



As I write my column for the month of December to communicate some of the upcoming events and wishing you a restful holiday season, I can't help but mention how proud I am to be the commander of our Post. This past month, our members, together with the Auxiliary, the American Legion, and our Naperville community, have demonstrated a level of volunteerism and dedication to our veterans that never ceases to amaze me.

Where to begin... we kicked it off with the celebration of the 248th Marine Corps birthday, hosting more than 400 guests, including 180 active-duty Marines, and our very own Lynn Lowder as the guest of honor. If you have not heard the story about Lt Lowder meeting General "Chesty" Puller, please stop buy him a drink next time you see him at the canteen, and you'll hear a piece of American history.

Then, between Nov 9th and 13th, we touched history at the Vietnam Wall of Remembrance at the Riverwalk Grand Pavilion. This was perhaps the most humbling display of patriotism I have ever experienced, thanks to the selfless efforts of the members of Naperville Response for Veterans organization, the members of the Post and Legion that stood guard, our combined Honor Guard rendering honors daily, the Naperville Municipal Band, as well as the Naperville Park District and the City of Naperville for providing the real estate and logistical support. Because of the Wall, our Veteran's Day ceremony and dinner had a heightened level of solemnity that left a lasting patriotic impression on all who attended. And if this wasn't enough, our members also provided support of various Veterans Day activities throughout our community, including multiple school visits, and retirement home visits. For this, to all those who organized and executed this 5-day event, thank you, and job well done!

I am also proud to report that we conducted a successful Turkey Raffle, with record attendance both at the Hall and Canteen. This event does not just fund a large part of our annual operating budget, but it brings the VFW to the community, showing how our veterans are still serving. Please join me thanking our volunteers, bar staff, patrons, and most importantly our generous donors and sponsors.

Now, before we welcome 2024, we will see you at the Canteen to watch the Navy beat Army on December 9th, and then again at our Holiday Party held at the Post on Dec 16th.

Lastly, we re at 93% membership, not bad but a long way to go! We are all recruiters!

### Senior Vice Commander Staci Boyer



November was a great success with all of our Veterans Day activities. I love how our members join with the members of our community to celebrate and honor all those that have served and have given the ultimate sacrifice. I talk about establishing a "Why" for a prospective member looking to join our VFW. I look around this past month and my heart is full. How could anyone not see the "WHY"? The love and camaraderie that we have for each other is remarkable and add that to the honor and respect we show for those that have served and passed that we may not even know - I say, how can anyone not want to be a part of this!

QR Code links to an information form for recruitment



If you know of someone that may be interested in joining please share this QR code so we may gather information and reach out to them. Take a photo and carry it on your phone!

If you are looking for a great Military Christmas gift, please check out our Kendall Depot offerings! Text me with questions as we have a lot of inventory! I will have it set up during the Army/Navy game but you can inquire and purchase items at any time from me!

I would like to send a shout out to NNHS and NCHS Veterans clubs for really stepping up over the month of November to honor Veterans, participate in projects, fundraisers and show up for the Vietnam Wall of Remembrance. Thank you!

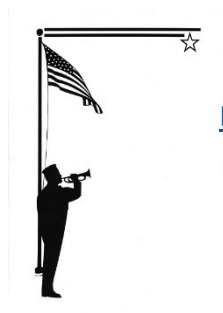
Follow us on our social media platforms on instagram and Facebook. Look for highlight buttons for what we have been doing and what is upcoming labeled by the month. On Facebook we pin upcoming events to find easily. You can also find past Kendall Gram links on all of our social media channels as well.

Please refer back to the OCTOBER Kendall Gram if you have membership questions. Or reach out to me@ Remember we are all recruiters here and the future of our post depends on all of our efforts!

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 - 773-351-4646

QOTM: "The joy of brightening other lives becomes for us the magic of the holidays." - W.C. Jones



### Taps

[David E. Duenkel](#), 83. Air Force

Please submit information to the Post at [vfwpost3873@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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



### Holiday Resources for Veterans in the Western Suburbs

As the holiday season approaches, the west suburban communities are gearing up to show their gratitude to those who have served. This year, a wealth of resources and opportunities are available to Veterans, ranging from free community gathering events to discount shopping opportunities.

Unique in its dedication to the Veterans, the Naperville Park District Veterans Appreciation Day is a must-attend event. This free gathering, scheduled for December 2, invites all Veterans and their families to enjoy an evening of community connection, entertainment, and a complimentary meal. The event underscores the community's commitment to honoring Veterans not just on Veterans Day, but throughout the year.

Similarly, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 503 in Wheaton hosts an annual Holiday Feast, free for Veterans and their families. This event offers a shared holiday meal, camaraderie, and a chance to connect with local support networks.

On the shopping front, scores of local businesses in the area are offering exclusive discounts to Veterans during the holiday season. The Oakbrook Center launches its "Salute to Service" program every November and December, offering Veterans up to 20% discounts at participating stores.

The Yorktown Center in Lombard also has a "Veteran's Holiday Appreciation" program, providing special discounts ranging from 10% to 30% at select retailers. Both centers provide a great opportunity for Veterans to find the perfect gifts for their loved ones at a fraction of the price.

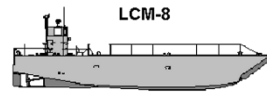
Let's not forget about the local food banks, such as the West Suburban Community Pantry in Woodridge, offering free holiday food baskets for Veterans. The pantry's "Holiday Meal for Vets" program ensures that no Veteran goes without during the festive season.

This holiday season, communities are making a concerted effort to express their gratitude to those who have served. These free events and discount opportunities are not just about savings or gifts, but are a heartfelt thank you to our Veterans, for their service and sacrifice.

**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](mailto:partners@vfw.org) with "Partners in Patriotism Application" in the subject line.

## **Service Officer Updates**

### **Dennis Lukavsky**



Well the Hines Outreach program made a transition this past month. Derek Giffin, our reliable, trustworthy, and very knowledgeable Veteran's Service Officer has moved on to a new career. I want to take this opportunity to thank Derek for his loyal service to our post. He has served our veterans well for many years.

Russell Meridith has taken on the position and will continue the tradition of coming to the Post the first Tuesday of the month. Russell comes to us after serving in the Navy for many years and has also served in Iraq. He has 8 years of practical experience as a VSO and I want to officially welcome to our Post.

As a reminder, if you have questions about your VA benefits (the VA website is not always user friendly) come visit the first Tuesday of the month. Please bring a copy of your DD 214. It helps find your information in the VA data base. Many folks are interested in filing a claim with the VA. If that is your interest, in addition to a DD 214, also bring any personal records to support your claim (e.g., personal medical records). If there is related information in you military records the VA will retrieve them as part of the claim search.

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: dluavsky@yahoo.com

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## **Vietnam Wall of Remembrance, November 9-13, 2023**

### **Submitted by Wayne Fischer**

From Nov 9-13, our own "Vietnam Wall of Remembrance" was on display near the Naperville Park District Grand Pavilion area. The "Wall" printing (Blooming Color); installation (NRFV) and take down; building supplies (84 Lumber); etc., were donated by local businesses and individuals. We had 130+ Veterans on 4-hour shifts from 6am-10pm daily to assist the public in answering questions; help find names on the "Wall"; and sharing their personal stories from serving in Vietnam. I want to personally thank each of them for coming and sharing their experiences and to help others find a "Name on the Wall". We made a lot of people happy to experience that.

In addition, we had special 13 plaques on display to highlight the 11 Men from Naperville that died in Vietnam and all those men and women that died due to their service in Vietnam. We estimated our attendance between 1500 and 2000 based on the number of Programs given out. These were beautifully designed and printed by our American Legion Department Print Shop.

Finally, the purpose of having this "Vietnam Wall of Remembrance" here, is that 2023 represents the 50th anniversary of our departure from Vietnam. It is not necessarily a celebration, but a "Remembrance" for all that Served their Country, especially those that Paid the Ultimate Sacrifice.

It has truly been a very honorable experience being part of this and again- "THANK YOU TO ALL THAT MADE THIS A VERY MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE"!!!!

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**National Home Chairman  
Mike McGrath**



Cootie Christmas! Ho! Ho! Ho!

It's time for Christmas cheer at the National Home as the 94th annual "Cootie Christmas" will be celebrated on December 1 and 2.

First, on Friday evening December 1 Santa and Mrs. Claus will be visiting the homes and instead of coming down the chimney, they'll bring gifts to the kids on fire trucks! And the kids love it!

And then Santa will celebrate with all the families on Saturday, December 2 in the community center for a morning of fun and entertainment. We hope to have some pictures for you next time and we thank you for your great support!

Blessings and best holiday wishes to all of you!

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**Vietnam Wall of Remembrance**

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



## Auxiliary President

Maryann Groner



First, thank you to all the Auxiliary members and community businesses that were so kind and generous with their donations to the Turkey Raffle. Events like this just don't happen without support. Whether you worked the night of the event or behind the scenes, you are so appreciated and valued. I especially want to thank co-chairs, Berni Budny and Tita McLaughlin for coordinating the gift cards and volunteer sign up for the event, as well as Bertha Novaczyk for another amazing collection of baskets for the raffle. This was a true team effort!

The holiday season is here and filled with so many opportunities to share in the joy getting together with other Post members for festive gatherings. Bingo at Arista will be filled with holiday cheer, prizes and cookies for the players. Come and join Lucy Hoy, Auxiliary friends and spend some time with the residents. Our monthly social on December 6 at the Post begins at 5:00 in the Canteen for libations, snacks, and socializing. Hope to see you there. You can join the Post, Legion, Riders, Sons and friends at the joint Christmas party on December 16 from 7-9 enjoying friendship and the holiday spirit. RSVP to Kristen Jungles if you are planning on attending. This is an adults only party.

While not a Post sponsored event, consider joining me and hundreds of volunteers at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery for Wreaths Across America on December 16. There will be a ceremony at 11:00, followed by the placing of wreaths. I want to invite all Auxiliary members to our next meeting on December 21 at 7:00. We will again share a pot luck meal after the meeting as well as our "like it, steal it" game. This is always a fun filled evening. Finally, I hope you enjoy the spirit of the season with your family and friends! Merry Christmas and the brightest of New Years!

## Turkey Raffle and Toys for Tots Fundraiser

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



**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**

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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	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



## December 2023

Sat 12/2: **10:00am**, Monarch Landing Visit; **11:00am-2:00pm**, Pictures with Santa, VFW Post. [RSVP to Jen Slown](#) with number of children by Nov 29.

Sun 12/3: **1:00pm-4:00pm**, Christmas Arts and Crafts Fair, VFW Post, **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** (POC Carey, (630) 420-9820)

Tues 12/5: **10:00am-2:00pm**, Hines Outreach, VFW Post; **5:00pm**, Auxiliary Social, Canteen

Wed 12/6: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post

Sat 12/9: **9:30am-5:30pm**, Army Navy game!; **10:00am**, Brookdale Retirement Home Visit

Tues 12/12: **6:30pm-9:00pm**, Hines Hospital Visit (POC [John Shaw](#))

Wed 12/13: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post

Thurs 12/14: **7:00pm**, VFW Post Meeting, VFW Post

Sat 12/16: **10:00am**, Tabor Hills Visit; **7:00pm-9:00pm**, VFW/American Legion combined Christmas party, VFW Post.

Wed 12/20: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post

Thurs 12/21: **7:00pm**, Auxiliary Meeting, VFW Post

Sat 12/23: **10:00am**, Story Point Retirement Home Visit

Wed 12/27: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post

### 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 link prospective members to an information form to join our Post.

