

# THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 24 Issue 06

June 2024



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



## Commander Leo Jaime



Hasta la vista!

In June 2020, as we were starting to grapple with the realities of a long-drawn pandemic, Past Commander Pablo Araya called me the “FNG” and nominated me for Junior Vice. Who can say no to Pablo’s enthusiasm?

Then, a year later when we were still wearing full masks and holding contactless meetings, I moved up to Senior Vice. I served both those billets in what can only be called the “Fog of COVID”: no events, no canteen, very little contact with comrades, and so on. In other words, no way to build up the level of experience necessary to lead a Post. Nevertheless, two years ago, I accepted the nomination to be the Commander, agreeing to serve for two years. It seems like yesterday. But that’s what we all say when we are having fun, right?

Well, it truly was a remarkable two years for me. First, because I got the opportunity to work alongside an incredible, dedicated, and patriotic group of Americans, while executing perhaps the most important of missions in my military life: volunteering for the benefit of my fellow veterans. But most importantly because, regardless of my lack of VFW-experience, that group of patriots (you) never let me down. Never let me fail, and most importantly, never made it boring! I am grateful to all of you for helping me lead the best Post in the state!

Now, as we welcome the newly elected officers and I join the ranks of past commanders, I am keenly aware that my leadership responsibilities are not over but have likely increased, as I will need to ensure those new officers receive the same level of support I had for the past two years. The success of our Post hinges on our ability to pass what we learn to the next group of leaders. It also hinges on our participation and response to volunteerism when help is needed; be it in one of our many committees, special events, or just simply showing up to our monthly meetings. Just like what a salty major once said to me after I smoothly auto rotated a Huey onto a grassy field: “again, lieutenant, you are only as good as your next landing...”

We are a very strong Post with many dedicated members. We endured through the pandemic with the FNG at the helm but let us not take it for granted. Our new leaders will need support, just as I did, so please join me in ensuring our Post’s next landings are never the last one.

I look forward to seeing you at the Installation Dinner on June 30th.

### Senior Vice Commander Staci Boyer



May is a beautiful month for honoring and celebrating our Armed forces in full. Especially as we closed out with remembrance of those that paid the ultimate sacrifice. Our Memorial Day ceremonies with community support are unmatched. Heading into June we celebrate the passing of bill HB4934 through the house & the senate. As of writing this we await lastly the Governors signature! This law will help remove barriers to refurbishment of 100 year old veterans graves.

June brings us to the 125th anniversary of the VFW & the 80th anniversary of D-Day. The D-Day operation of June 6, 1944 brought together the land, air and sea forces of the allied armies in what became known as the largest invasion force in human history.



Use this QR code to go to a form to input your information regarding joining VFW post #3873! We will get back to you within 24 hours!

Click this link to RSVP for our upcoming June 30th Officer Induction Dinner for the VFW and Auxiliary:

<https://www.ticketsource.us/naperville-vfw-3873>.

If you are looking for great Military gifts, please check out our Kendall Depot offerings! Text me with questions as we have a lot of inventory! I have everything set up at my studio and will setting up the store at the Post for events.

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.

Interested in the Adopt a Veterans Grave project? Please text me - 773-351-4646. The Illinois State Legislature passed legislation that will be exciting for this project. NNHS Veterans club has raised the money to refurbish the grave of Edward Hiltz WWI Army and we are installing 28 engraved bricks to honor those with illegible grave markers and unreachable next of kin. Stay tuned for more on this.

Quote of the month: "There is no freedom without bravery, and those we honor on Memorial Day were brave when it counted most. There is no better way to honor those who gave all than to remember them, honor their service, mourn their loss, and show gratitude to the families they left behind." VFWHQ

### Honor Flight May 15th, 2024

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



## Business of the Post

### Post Meeting 3/14/2024 Highlights



Prior to the meeting, VFW Post Safety Officer Mike McGrath recognized District 203 and 204 Crossing Guards for their dedication to the safety of school children.

The meeting was opened at 1913 hrs by Senrio Vice Commander Boyer according to ritual.

Two new members were proposed and accepted.

Membership reported that we were still very close to the goal but that a last push would be essential for the Post to meet the goal. Contact Senior Vice Boyer with recruiting ideas. Everyone is a recruiter!

Honor Guard reported 3 services: 2 Army, 1 Marine.

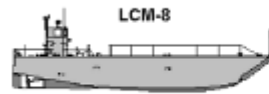
Color Guard has several upcoming events to include NNHS Lacrosse, Mission BBQ, Tabor Hills.

Hines Hospital have happened two months in a row! Reach out for more information.

Poppy committee laid out basics of plan and mentioned new QR code for donations in lieu of cash.

Meeting closed at 1951 hrs. Next meeting Thursday, June 13th, 1900 hours.

## Service Officer Updates Dennis Lukavsky



What you need to know to guard Veteran data

As Veterans, caregivers and family members, protect your personal data online by:

- Securing your information with multi-factor authentication: it's easy to do!
- Being alert to and report phishing and smishing attempts.
- Encrypting your data using a VPN.
- Not saving your passwords to your browser.
- Regularly updating the software on your devices and computers; many updates include security protections against the latest threats.
- Avoiding using public Wi-Fi.
- Not clicking on unknown or unfamiliar attachments and links.
- Shopping only on legitimate, secure and trusted websites.
- Protecting your benefits against Payment Redirection Fraud.
- Deleting rarely used or unused applications and using a browser instead.
- When it comes to protecting Veteran data online, it takes multiple defenders working side by side to guard the galaxy of Veteran information. Check out [VA's Cybersecurity Spot](#) for the resources you need.

### 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 [dhlukavsky@yahoo.com](mailto:dhlukavsky@yahoo.com).

# Memorial Day Activities 2024

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



## Taps

- Frank Haynes, 93, May 3. US Army, Korea.
- William Howland, 99. US Army, WWII.
- Joel F. "Jay" Johnson, 84, April 26. USMC.

Contact the Quartermaster for mailing addresses if you wish to send a sympathy card.

## National Home Chairman Mike McGrath



### Current Residents

There is a total of 156 residents at the National Home, 96 of whom are children. Both Illinois homes are filled and Poppy Child Layla and family live in Illinois Home II.

School will soon be done for the year and the 4-H program is in full swing. This year there are pigs, rabbits, and arts projects. The Eaton County Fair will be held in mid-July and some of the kids will have lawn maintenance jobs around the campus for the summer as well.

### Illinois Day

Illinois Day is Saturday, September 21. Details to follow for this heartwarming event.

### Thank you!

Thank you all for the great support and don't forget the help line 800-313 4200. Could this help someone you know?

## Reflection on Memorial Day Submitted by Wayne Fischer

Remembering.....

By the time you are reading this, Memorial Day is past. But it is never too late to "Thank" all that make this a most "Honorable and Memorable" week here in Naperville. Starting with Jim Hoch and all the volunteers that place well over 3,000 flags at all our area Veterans gravesites and Memorials; The City of Naperville; Our Police Department; Our Fire Department; Our many Scout and Cub Pack Troops; Our Area School Bands; local Businesses; Our very special Naperville Municipal Band; All Our Area Veterans; and especially Our Gold Star Families. I have been in our Parade for over 40 years and each year it just gets better.

Memorial Day is to "Honor Our Fallen". We "ALL" can enjoy not only the day, but all the Freedoms we enjoy in large part because of the "Sacrifice our Fallen" made for each and everyone one of us.

As many of you know, I served in the United States Marine Corps, flying the H-34 Helicopter in Vietnam in 1967-1968. We flew every kind of Mission that came up for our fellow Marines; The Vietnamese Arvins and Civilians; and the South Korea "ROK" Marines. But our last Mission of the Day was to bring our Fallen Marines back to the base morgue. That was their 1st leg home to their families.

Remembering..... Semper Fidelis, Wayne Fischer

## Spring Thing...Clean up at the Canteen Submitted by Mike Rechenmacher and the Building Committee

So much happening at the Post this Spring. I wanted to give a big shout out to all who helped to spruce up the grounds of the VFW (both inside and outside).

Thank you to Kristen Jungles and the Jungles Group at Keller Williams, Kathy Thornton and her Armanino Team, Marcy Maughan and her Garden Club, American Legion, Auxiliary members, Karl Weber, Dan Rehs, fellow Post members and friends of the Post. And to anyone I may have missed, thank you. The place looks awesome!

Stop by and see for yourself!



**Auxiliary President**

**Maryann Groner**



First, thank you to my line officers, trustees, secretary and all the members who worked so hard on so many projects and fund raisers to make this a great year for the Auxiliary. I depended upon many of you and you stepped up to complete tasks. You made this a memorable year for me as your President. Next year's officers, including me as Chaplain, have been installed and I know we will have another successful year.

These past few days have been very busy for us with Poppy donations at the businesses around town, placing flags on the graves of our departed brothers and sisters, and getting ready for the parade as well as providing and helping to serve desserts at the luncheon.

Summer isn't a take it easy time for us. Lucy Hoy is organizing another Bingo afternoon at Arista Health on Mill Street, Join us at 2:00 on June 3. The Department Convention is coming up the first week in June. So far, Fran, Bernie and I will be representing the Auxiliary. We will be joining the Shaws for our last visit to Hines on June 11. The bus leaves from the parking lot at 6:30, so why not hop on and spend some time with the Vets? Our meetings are a good place to connect with other members. Mark your calendar for June 20 at 7:00 and spend some social time in the canteen after the meeting. Finally, the Installation dinner will be held on June 30 at the post. Have a wonderful, safe summer!



**Crossing Guard Recognition**

**Mike McGrath, Safety Officer**

As an expression of our appreciation for the faithful service they have rendered to our community and our children for many years, the school crossing guards from Districts 203 and 204 have received award citations from Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873.



**District 203 Awardees**

- Susan Reeves, Mill Street School
- Mary Kalpake, Mill Street School
- Carrie Coppe, Ellsworth School
- Kenneth Nelson, Prairie School
- Terri Jurcich, Scott School
- Nancy Bjerga, Riverwoods School
- Teresa Rogers, Washington School

**District 204 Awardees**

- Susanne Kunz and Michael Hill, May Watts School
- Patrick Lee, Fischer School
- Donna Ariola, Patterson School
- Heather Thunstedt, Brookdale School
- Susan Rodriguez, Steck School
- William Tripp and Cheryl Iraheta, McCarty School
- Anna Benkowski, Gombert School
- Sharon Roque, Cowlishaw School
- Pat Hall, Kendall School
- Staci Ruscitti and Vandana Patel, Steps School

**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](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		
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	(630) 373-1186

**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



## June 2024

- Sat 6/1: **10:00am**, Monarch Landing Visit
- Tues 6/4: **10:00am-2:00pm**, Hines Outreach, VFW Post; **5:00pm**, Auxiliary Social, Canteen
- Wed 6/5: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post
- Thurs 6/6: 80th Anniversary of D-Day
- Sat 6/8: **10:00am**, Brookdale Retirement Home Visit
- Tues 6/11: 6:30pm, Hines Hospital Visit, meet at VFW Post
- Wed 6/12: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post
- Thurs 6/13: **7:00pm**, VFW Post Meeting, VFW Post
- Fri 6/14: **530pm-930pm**, Burgers, Beers & Bags Flag Day Bash, Hosted by Legion Post 43, VFW Post
- Sat 6/15: **10:00am**, Tabor Hills Visit
- Mon 6/17: **8:00am**, Veteran Business Networking, Rosie's Diner
- Wed 6/19: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post
- Thurs 6/20: **7:00pm**, Auxiliary Meeting, VFW Post
- Sat 6/22: **7:30am-11:30am**, Blood Drive, VFW Post; **10:00am**, Story Point Retirement Home Visit
- Wed 6/26: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post
- Sun 6/30: **7:00pm**, Officer Induction Dinner, VFW Post, [Link to RSVP](#)

**Monthly Recurring Events**

- First Tuesday: Hines Outreach; Auxiliary Social
- Second Tuesday: Hines Hospital POC John Shaw
- Every Wednesday: Yoga
- Second Thursday: Post Meeting
- Third Monday: Veteran Business Network
- Third Thursday: Auxiliary meeting
- Every Saturday: Retirement home visit

### Upcoming events:

- 7/5-7/7 Naper Salute
- 8/17 Veteran Owned Business & Resource Fair, VFW Post

**OFFICER INDUCTION DINNER**  
*June 30, 2024*  
 6pm | Social hour  
 7pm-9pm | Dinner & Ceremony

SPACE IS LIMITED RSVP REQUIRED.  
 TICKETS ARE FREE ALTHOUGH A SMALL DONATION AT THE DOOR IS APPRECIATED

RSVP VIA  
[WWW.TICKETSOURCE.US/NAPERVILLE-VFW-3873](http://WWW.TICKETSOURCE.US/NAPERVILLE-VFW-3873)

POB Jackson ave.  
 Naperville, Illinois 60540

Use this QR code to go to a form to input your information regarding joining VFW post #3873! We will get back to you within 24 hours!

**SAVE THE DATE: 8/17/24**  
**12-4PM**  
 FOR THE

**VFW & VBC** Veteran Business Connection

**VETERAN OWNED BUSINESS**

**VETERAN BUSINESS CONNECTION**

**FAIR**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
 1908 JACKSON AVE  
 NAPERVILLE, IL 60540

TO REGISTER - CONTACT:  
 815-376-6100  
 815-376-6101