

THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 24 Issue 08

August 2024



A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



**Commander
Staci Boyer**



August was a very successful month. Governor Pritzker signed Illinois Law HB4934, which we worked very hard to pass! Thank you to State Representative Stephanie Kifowit for helping to champion another Veteran cause. Law HB4934 helps us to overcome significant barriers to Veteran grave refurbishment. CBS covered our story for the past year and produced a [beautiful story](#) that showcases our efforts and our post.

If you are interested in participating, please reach out to me directly. NNHS Veterans club raised the money to refurbish the grave of Edward Hiltz WWI Army and that was installed, along with 28 engraved bricks to honor those with illegible grave markers and unreachable next of kin. Stay tuned for more on the next 2 graves we are working to refurbish.

Also in August, Post 3873 hosted the District 19 meeting. Rosie's provided food, and I want to express thanks to Bob & Robin Rechenmacher, BJ, Julie, Matt Schiffer & his wife Jenn. You were so much help in pulling all the food and details together. The Freedom Tailgate as another success and enabled us to replace our bar seating. Another huge thank you to Kristen Jungles and her group, who continue to show up with creative fundraisers to help give our Post a much needed and deserved facelift.

Additionally, I am loving the ideas that so many of you bring forward. From food fundraisers, to 125th anniversary and recruitment marketing pieces, to a 2.2 mile Ruck march on 3/22. I love ideas and will help you get volunteers to get your efforts rolling! For the latest information, stay tuned to Dennis's E-Blasts and look at the TV monitor in the canteen. We have at least 17 events happening in September. Everything is fun and important to our mission and priorities. Stay connected!

Please continue to help with our post membership recruiting efforts. You can always just connect someone interested directly with me or direct them the QR code. We have two upcoming recruitment events: the [Resilience Tactics Workshop](#) at Little Friends on 9/7 and at our [125th National VFW Anniversary Party](#) on 9/26!

We have a [new link](#) to use to access tickets for our events including the Resilience Tactics Workshop, Judd-A-Thon, VFW Annual Golf Outing, 125th VFW Anniversary, the VFW Car Show, and the January Veteran-Owned Business Showcase.

Quote of the month: "The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new." – Socrates

Senior Vice Commander**Jennifer Slown****Engaging Events That Inspire**

One of the most effective ways to attract new members is to hold exciting and engaging events. Our full roster of yearly activities showcases just how vibrant and impactful our Post is. In August, we hosted the Veteran Business Showcase Fair which allowed us to connect with fellow Veteran entrepreneurs, offering a platform to demonstrate their products and services. Our members also volunteered at NaperNights "Taylor Swift Night" at the beer tent in support of DuPage and Kane County Toys for Toys. In September, we have the 11th annual Judd-a-Thon 0.1k race which raises money for the VFW National Home. We also have the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony, Resilience Tactics Workshop, Golf Outing, and other events ALL IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER! Thanks to our fun, engaging, and memorable experiences, Veterans and their family members are naturally drawn to our Post and want to get involved.

We Need Your Support

Hosting these incredible events and engaging Veterans is half the battle. Once a Veteran experiences how we serve Veterans and our community, we still have to get them across the finish line as a dues paying member. Meeting our membership goals depends on each of us. Your enthusiasm and involvement are crucial in helping us reach out and welcome new members into our VFW family. This year the mark is 623 members. That number will only be achieved through a concerted effort by all of us to bring new Veterans into our fold. Together, we can make a significant impact and continue our tradition of service and community support. Let's work together to make this year our most successful yet!

Business of the Post**Post Meeting 8/8/2024 Highlights**

1900 Commander Staci Boyer opens the meeting according to ritual.

Four new members proposed: Two New Members and two by transfer. Motion made and approved.

Quartermaster reported a strong month with overall increase in funds on hand. This past month was an all time high for Canteen revenue. Received \$3,000 in donations and \$2,500 from the Auxiliary to fund new bar stools.

Recruitment is already going strong for 2024-2025. We don't have the final numbers for 2023-2024, but we have set our goal to meet the All-American standard. We see consistent interest in joining the post via the QR code form. Everyone is a recruiter so look for ways to help us find new members.

Honor Guard reported 4 services: 2 Army, one Navy, one Air Force.

Color Guard has been busy and has a number of upcoming events, as well.

Poppy Committee reports that we distributed between 4000-4500 Poppies with donations around \$10,000.

Trustees report finances in order. No recommended donations to external organizations at this meeting.

Good of the Order included the following announcements.

- 125th VFW Anniversary coming up
- There will be a memorabilia display

Next meeting will be held Thursday, September 12, at 7:00 pm.

Junior Vice Commander

Josh Warner



Looks like it's going to be a busy September. A few golf outings, The RTC Workshop, 9/11, Judd-a-thon, and the 125th Anniversary.

The barstool fundraiser hosted by the Legion seemed to be a hit and it was nice to see everyone there.

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

When I read the Preamble, the phrase that stands out to me is "more perfect." The Founders didn't want America to be just better. She had to be better than better. "More Perfect." The failures of the Articles of Confederation were apparent to the Federalists. It was the Wild West of governance. The United States needed unity under a centralized government. The Constitution certainly did that. However, the Republican-Democrats had fears of a central government taking too much power. After all, we did just secede from England. This led to the Bill of Rights. which guarantees citizens individual rights that the federal government can not supersede. This was More Perfect.

The U.S. Constitution was approved September 17,1787.

VFW Tailgate Party 2024

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



Service Officer Updates Dennis Lukavsky



The Million Veteran Program (The MVP) was started in 2011 and now has more than 1,000,000 participants. The objective of the program is to collect data on a massive scale to better determine trends in diseases. The data collected is used in making discoveries that will lead to better detection, prevention and treatments for conditions that matter to Veterans. Below is a list of the areas where the research is being used.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Cancer | Cardiovascular Disease | Diabetes |
| Gulf War Illness | Kidney Disease | Macular Generation |
| Osteoarthritis | Parkinson’s Disease | COVID |
| Substance Use Disorders | Suicide Prevention | Traumatic Brain Injury |
| Tinnitus | Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder | |

Here is the reassuring thought on MVP:

Is it not a good feeling that your health care facility is not sitting on its laurels, but is looking ahead? It is continuing to improve the services used for their veterans. A medical facility that just sees patients becomes complacent. It's good to know our health care is working to find significant medical break throughs.

Honor Guard



The [VA Burial Benefits and Memorial Items website](#) provides comprehensive information about the benefits available.

Some of these benefits include:

- Opening/closing of the grave in a national cemetery; Reimbursement of expenses at local cemetery
- A grave liner (vault)
- Perpetual care and maintenance
- A headstone, marker, or medallion for any eligible veteran
- A Presidential Memorial Certificate
- A Veterans Legacy Memorial page
- A burial flag
- Military Honors (Flag-fold from veteran’s service branch)

The documents needed for funeral home and cemetery which the family must provide are:

- Veterans DD-214 and Death Certificate.
- Receipts of expenditures paid.
- Statement of Account (Letterhead of the funeral home.)

Reminder to all veterans:

1. The veterans family has 2 years from date of death to apply for benefits.
2. Share this information with your family members who will submit requests for reimbursement.
3. Place a copy of this information with your DD-214 and other legal documents.

National Home Chairman Mike McGrath



There are currently 81 children and 51 parents, for a total of 132 residents, living on campus at the Home. Poppy Child Layla and her family reside in Illinois Home #2 and the kids are back in school for the fall semester in Eaton Rapids.

"Judd-A-Thon" Eleven

Yes, it's that time again as we all prepare for our famous, family-fun fundraiser on September 15. We look forward to seeing everyone again this year. And I know you are all in training to get into top shape!

"Illinois Day"

Illinois day at the National Home is set for September 21 and we'll have a great trip as the home begins its 100th year of service to Military and Veterans' Families.

"Helpline"

Don't forget the National Home Helpline 800-313 4200. Could this help someone you know?

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

Remembrance Day Celebration Submitted by Wayne Fischer

On Wednesday, September 11 th , 2024, we will be holding our Naperville '9/11" 2024 Remembrance Service at our "CDR Dan Shanower/September 11 th Memorial" on the Riverwalk next to City Hall starting @ 6pm. As this is the 23rd Anniversary of the attack on our Country, this will again be a very special event as we pay homage and our respects to all those innocent men and women that were lost because of that dreadful attack on our Country and those lost fighting in harm's way to protect our Freedoms. Also, this will be the 21st Anniversary of the Dedication of our Memorial Wall. In the event of inclement weather, we will be moving into City Hall.

This year our Guest Speaker will be Elizabeth McConkie, Sophomore @ Sycamore H.S. Elizabeth was a participant in our VFW "Voice of Democracy". We will again have our Combined Post Honor Guard and Color Guard presenting Honors along with Rich Yndestad and Bob Binder Sounding Echo Taps. And, we will have our Scouts there to hand out programs and flags.

I am sure everyone remembers that awful day in our history or has a personal connection with this event. With that said, I would like to share my personal connection. The Marine H-34 helicopter pilot I flew my 1 st two Combat Missions in Vietnam as his co-pilot was lost at the Pentagon. Once he got out of the Marines, he joined the National Guard and was stationed in the Pentagon. After the attack he was able to get out but heard someone call for help and he went back in, and his body was recovered later. His name was William Ruth. We always called him "Baby Ruth" because he was short in height, and maybe weighed 120 lbs. His name is on the "9/11" Pentagon Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. I have personally checked that out.

We hope you can be part of this very special "Remembrance Day" Service.

Auxiliary President

Kathy Thornton



National POW/MIA Recognition Day

In the United States, National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed on the third Friday in September (September 20 this year). It honors those who were prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action. It is most associated with those who were POWs during the Vietnam War. Please remember our POWs, MIAs and their families in your prayers.

Mark your calendars!

September is such a busy month for the VFW and the Auxiliary. If you will be “running” the Judd-a-Thon on 9/15, don’t forget to pick up your t-shirts on Friday 9/13. This fun run supports the National Home for Children. Such a fun family event and one NOT to miss. Look for details here in this Kendall Gram.

October also is proving to be a busy month as well. Kicking off this month is our First Annual VFW Car Show. Look for more details in this Kendall Gram.

More fun on our horizon: Turkey Raffle, Painting on the porch 12/5, VFW/Auxiliary Children’s Christmas party (12/15)-Be sure to mark your calendars. More info in the next Kendall Gram on these exciting events. Stay tuned!

Posters for Upcoming Events

Click a poster to go to the specific [Ticket Source Site](#)

11TH ANNUAL JUDD-A-THON
IT'S A 0.1K FUN RUN AND FUNDRAISER

A short run that will go a long way to help Veterans and Military Families at the VFW National Home for Children!

Sunday, September 15th, 2024
Race Starts Promptly at 10:01 AM

To Register, make your check (or cash) payable for \$20 (\$25 on Race Day) to:
VFW Post 3873, and mail or drop-off form and fee to:
Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873

To Register, make your check (or cash) payable for \$20 (\$25 on Race Day) to:
908 W. Jackson Avenue, Naperville, IL 60540

EARLY REGISTRATION: \$10 (not included by VFW) Must bring appropriate identification possible bag with T-shirt, race kit, & 10.1k race bib item	DAY OF RACE: Registration and packet pick-up 8:00am 8:00-9:00 AM	EARLY RACE PACKET PICK-UP: 7:30-11:00am on 9/09/24 (not guaranteed) Check race packet at the VFW Post 3873 from 8:00 PM - 8:00 PM on Friday Sept. 6th.
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Name _____ Check #/Member ID _____
Phone # _____ Email _____
T-Shirt Size (Circle One Size For Entry Fees):
SMALL Med Lug XL XXL XXXL

By signing this registration form, I agree that I am participating in the 11th Annual Judd-a-Thon as a member of the VFW Post 3873 and I agree to the terms and conditions of the race. I understand that I am not eligible for a refund of my registration fee.

Signature _____ Date _____

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.
Naperville Post 3873

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

September 17th | Springbrook Golf Course

Request TEE TIME - we will work to accommodate 10 minute intervals | \$115.00 per golfer - due at sign up

Bring a 4 some or if single we can pair you up

In-person or online sign ups available

To Sponsor please contact Staci@Motiv8nu.com or see link https://tinyurl.com/vfw3873golf

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.
Naperville Post 3873

125
Years of Service
1909 - 2024

JOIN US
9/26/24

To celebrate 125 years of Service to our Veteran Community!

Entertainment in the canteen by Joe Cantafio | 7pm

Enjoy slide shows and a display of our VFW members proud military memorabilia in our party room!

VFW & Auxillary group photo at 6:30pm | OUTSIDE

Food in canteen - Main dish Italian Beef | Penne with Vodka sauce | Please bring a side or dessert! NO COVER

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	Staci Boyer	(773) 351-4646
Sr. Vice Commander	Jennifer Slown	
Jr. Vice Commander	Josh Warner	
Quartermaster	Phil Maughan	(630) 383-1974
Ass't Quartermaster	John Shaw	(630) 253-3318
Ass't Quartermaster	Tom Parker	(630) 280-9347
Adjutant	David Jones	
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	Roger Budny	(630) 205-8745
2-Year Trustee	Craig Frier	(630) 373-1186
3-Year Trustee	Leo Jaime	(773) 441-3887

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	Mike Rechenmacher	
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	Kathy Thornton	
Sr. Vice President	Kristen Jungles	
Jr. Vice President	Elizabeth Kuhn	
Secretary	Nancy Marinello	
Treasurer	Leo Hart	(630) 816-0506
Chaplain	Maryann Groner	(630) 363-8138
Guard	Mary Ellen DiMatteo	
Conductress	Sue Hoffman	



VFW Post 3873 Upcoming Events



September 2024

- Sun 09/01 : 10:00am, Monarch Landing Visit; Resilience Tactics Workshop, Little Friends
Mon 09/02 : Labor Day Parade (Color Guard); Last Fling Veterans Tent
Tues 09/03 : 10:00am-2:00pm, Hines Outreach, VFW Post; 5:00pm, Auxiliary Social, Canteen
Wed 09/04 : 9:30am, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post; 7:00pm Karaoke, Canteen
Thurs 09/05 : Legion Golf Outing
Fri 09/06 : Crosstown Classic: NNHS vs NCHS at North Central College (Color Guard)
Sat 09/07 : 10:00am, Monarch Landing Visit; Resilience Tactics Workshop, Little Friends
Wed 09/11 : Remembrance Day Ceremonies; 9:30am, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post; 7:00pm Karaoke, Canteen
Thurs 09/12 : 7:00pm, VFW Post Meeting, VFW Post
Sat 09/14 : 10:00am, Brookdale Retirement Home Visit
Sun 09/15 : Judd-A-Thon
Mon 09/16 : 8:00am, Veteran Business Networking, Rosie's Diner
Tues 09/17 : Proclamation/City Hall for 125th VFW Anniversary; VFW Golf Outing Springbrook
Wed 09/18 : 9:30am, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post; 7:00pm Karaoke, Canteen
Thurs 09/19 : 7:00pm, Auxiliary Meeting, VFW Post
Fri 09/20 : Toys for Tots Outing
Sat 09/21 : 10:00am, Tabor Hills Visit; Illinois Day at National Home
Wed 09/25 : 9:30am, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post; 7:00pm Karaoke, Canteen
Thurs 09/26 : 125th VFW Anniversary Celebration with curated display and Joe Cantafio
Sat 09/28 : 10:00am, Story Point Retirement Home Visit
Sun 09/29 : 125th Anniversary VFW

Upcoming Events

- Sat 10/05 : VFW CarTober Extravaganza Car Show
Fri 10/11 : Salute to Service at NNHS Football Game
Sun 10/13 : US Navy Birthday
Sat 11/2 : USMC Birthday Ball
Sun 11/10 : USMC Birthday

Follow us 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 for easy access. You can also find past Kendall Gram links on all of our social media channels as well. ALL upcoming events are also on this [Ticket Source link!](#)