

THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 24 Issue 11

November 2024



A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



**Commander
Staci Boyer**



Our first car show was a success! With more than 100 cars, we covered all classes from Hot Rods and Muscle Cars to Classic, Imports, Exotic and Rat Rods. We even had a Tesla Cyber truck. Best in show went to our very own Mike Rechenmacher! [View Jim Hoch's awesome photos.](#) We already have two car shows on the books for 2025 and have added Jeep and Motorcycle categories.

Thank you to both NNHS and NCHS for beautiful Veteran appreciation ceremonies. Seeing our next generation rushing onto the football field with 100 American flags makes my heart full. Local Veterans were recognized on the field, along with moments of silence for fallen Veteran alumni of both schools.

We are preparing for our Veterans Day ceremonies, school visits, and dinner. We look forward to Nov 11th each year to honor and remember all those who have served and who are still serving. Thank you all for continuing to support our Post efforts to make each year as memorable as possible.

Our annual Turkey Raffle will be held on Saturday, 11/23, and you know this means we are gearing up for one of our most exciting events of the year - so save the date! If you are interested in donating any raffle items please reach out to me.

Please note all upcoming events are on this [Ticket Source](#) link! Please save this link and join us. The camaraderie and fellowship we have at our Naperville Post is unmatched. I am grateful every day to be a part of the rich history of VFW Post 3873. Let us continue to collaborate with our Auxiliary, American Legion, Legion Riders and Sons. We are stronger together.

Are you interested in the Adopt a Veterans Grave project? Please text me - 773-351-4646 or look at [Motiv8nu.com](#).

Quote of the month: "Courage is almost a contradiction in terms. It means a strong desire to live taking the form of readiness to die."— G.K. Chesterton

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 on anything that you would like featured or marketed on social media please reach out to me via text 773-351-4646.

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.

Business of the Post

Post Meeting 10/10/2024 Highlights



At 1900, Commander Staci Boyer opened the meeting according to Ritual.

Three new members proposes and accepted: 2 Army and 1 USMC. One new member, a USAF Veteran, sworn in.

Quartermaster reported that the total asset balance declined this month due to expected expenses. It was a good Canteen month and also strong Hall rental month. Year-over-year Hall revenue is very strong. In addition, we saw revenue from the Golf Outing. Major expense was the payment on the new barstools, which will be delivered in a out a month. Approx 85% of the cost of the stools was covered by previous fund raisers. In addition, the Post outlaid funds for two grave markers, both of which were "pass through" funds of donations specifically given for that purpose. Finally, presented the ~\$20K donation to the National Home on Illinois Day.

Membership is strong. We are at 571 well on the way to targe of 607, which is what we need to achieve All American status. As per Senior Vice Slown's "Marine Math" that means 35 more. Everyone is a Recruiter!

There are a number of Veterans Day events and services. Please participate.

House Committee reported we will be replacing the AC units in the Canteen.

Trustees recommended three donations for total of \$3880. Motioned and passed.

Meeting was closed according to Ritual. Next meeting is November 14, 2024, at 1900hrs.

**Junior Vice Commander****Josh Warner**

Happy Birthday Marine Corps!

November 10th marks the 249th Birthday of the Corps. You just can't think of our friendly Jarheads without humming their Hymn. "From the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli..."

It's the shores of Tripoli that I want to talk about.

From 1801-1805, the [United States engaged in her first war on foreign waters AND land](#). For many years previous, the Barbary pirates of the North African states had interfered with the U.S. commerce in the Mediterranean. Most countries paid tribute to the leaders of the Barbary states to ensure the passage of their shipping, but the fledgling U.S. had no cash to spare and U.S. shipping suffered many losses in cargo, crew, and ships. Many sailors were enslaved by these states. Thomas Jefferson, as Ambassador to France, believed that tribute should not be paid and felt that military involvement was needed. This did not go over well with the Federalists or with his good friend, John Adams. Yet more years would pass as our sailors lived in slavery. In 1801, Jefferson became our 3rd President, and the new administration stopped paying ransoms.

When the Pasha of Tripoli demanded a \$225,000 (roughly \$5.59M in 2024 dollars) tribute from the United States and then declared war, President Jefferson had already sent a squadron of newly commissioned ships to the Med. The Navy had been dispatched to safeguard international shipping but soon found that they were at war. The U.S. ships battled and blockaded the pirate ships. The Navy outgunned them and outplayed them at many a turn under Commodore Edward Preble.

At this point, I'm sure you think that this is sounding more like a Navy story... Oh! The best is yet to come.

U.S. Consul General to Tunis, William Eaton, devised a plan. A plan to bring the battle from the seas to the 'shores ...' His plan was to march from Egypt with a band of up to 500 mercenaries, 8 Marines and the deposed/exiled brother of the Tripolitan Pasha Yusef. Repelling numerous mutinies along the journey, these men toppled the city of Derna. THIS was the turning point in the war, and brought on a treaty.

The Barbary War was America's FIRST foreign war and was, arguably, won by the Marines.

I recommend Brian Kilmeade's book, "Thomas Jefferson and the Tripoli Pirates"



Taps

Sharon Andrews, 71. USAF: Enduring Freedom, Kuwait Liberation.

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



Service Officer Updates Dennis Lukavsky



People frequently ask about dental benefits for Veterans. Listed to the right are the general categories that may make you eligible to receive dental health care. However, each category includes sub-criteria, so it is possible that even though you seem to qualify, you may not receive the benefit.

To better determine if you are qualified you must go to the [VA Dental Care site](#) and work through the criteria drop downs that might be appropriate for you. If you think you qualify, there is a link on the page above to fill out the 10-10EZ Health Care Application Form.

I have a service-connected dental disability or condition for which I receive compensation (monthly payments).	+
I'm a former prisoner of war.	+
I have one or more service-connected disabilities rated 100% disabling.	+
I'm unemployable (unable to work), and I get disability compensation at the 100% disabling rate due to service-connected conditions.	+
I served on active duty for 90 days or more during the Persian Gulf War era.	+
I have a service-connected noncompensable dental condition (a dental condition that you're not getting disability payments for) or a disability that's the result of combat wounds or service trauma.	+
A VA dental care provider has concluded that my dental condition is linked to a service-connected health condition and is making that condition worse.	+
I'm active in a 38 U.S.C. Chapter 31 Veteran Readiness and Employment program.	+
I get VA care or am scheduled for inpatient care for a health condition—and I need dental care for a dental issue that's making my health condition harder to treat.	+
I'm signed up to get care through the Homeless Veterans Dental Program (VHA Directive 2007-039).	+
I currently get inpatient care in a hospital, nursing home, or other supervised homelike care setting (called domiciliary care).	+

Posters for November Upcoming Events

Click a poster or go to the [Ticket Source Site](#) for events in December and beyond





**National Home Chairman
Mike McGrath**



The National Home Life Members Annual Meeting and Board of Trustees election is scheduled for October 26, 2024. The Board of Trustees oversees the management and operation of the Home. The Board consists of 12 elected, 1 appointed and 7 ex-officio members, including National VFW, Auxiliary, and Cootie Commanders and Presidents.

Trustees are elected for six-year terms by the Life Members of the National Home. The Department of Illinois, located in National Home District 8 will vote next in the 2026 election cycle. It's important to note that, only National Home Life Members are eligible to vote or run for a trusteeship, and ballots will be sent out to the National Home Life Members from our District 8 in mid-2026

The purpose of the upcoming Life Member Meeting is to certify the election and to install the newly elected trustees. So, if you are not already a Life Member of the National Home, we would encourage our VFW and Auxiliary members to obtain Life Membership in the National Home!

Life membership is available for a one-time fee of \$50.00. Application forms are available at our monthly meetings or online! Details can be found on the National Home's [<https://vfnationalhome.org/>] home page and I'll be glad to answer any questions you may have.

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

First VFW Post 3873 Car Show

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





**Auxiliary President
Kathy Thornton**



Some interesting information to recognize Veteran’s Day:

1. Which branch of the U.S. military was the first to allow women to serve in combat roles?
2. Which military rank is the highest?
3. What is the highest military decoration awarded for valor in action against an enemy force?
4. Which U.S. president was a five-star general in the U.S. Army?
5. Which U.S. president served as a fighter pilot during World War II?

(See end of article for answers)

As we enter busy months (November: Veteran’s Day and dinner 11/11, Turkey Raffle 11/23; December: Army/Navy Game, Christmas parties, etc.), let’s also look back on our past month:

- We celebrated the VFW’s 125th Anniversary by hosting a party at our Post. Way to go, Staci, for planning such a wonderful event! See picture of all those from the Auxiliary that were present.
- And our first Car Show was a great hit. So many came out to check out cars from years past. Congrats to all the winners! Already planning for next year.



Reminder, our meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month at 7pm upstairs at the Naperville VFW. Please join us! At our December meeting, we usually try to cover our meeting in record time, as we will have dinner following, as well as a “rob your neighbor” gift exchange.

Another reminder, as we sit around our Thanksgiving table with family and friends, let’s not forget those serving our country. May God bless them all.

Answer key:

1. Army; 2. General/Admiral; 3. Medal of Honor; 4. Dwight D. Eisenhower; 5. George H. W. Bush

Click link to the monthly magazine

Lou Kuelczo’s 90th Birthday



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:

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Post Information

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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	Bob Colby	(630) 301-2664
Building	Mike Rechenmacher	
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



November 2024

- 11/2 Monarch Landing visit, 10:00am; Marine Corps Birthday Ball
- 11/6 Yoga for Vets, VFW Post
- 11/8 Color Guard Tabor Hills; WVHS Academy Alumni panel
- 11/9 Brookdale Retirement Home visit, 10:00am
- 11/10 USMC Birthday
- 11/11 Veterans Day dinner/ School Visits
- 11/12-11/13 - 150 Christmas trees with RCN & NNHS Vet Club
- 11/13 Yoga for Vets, VFW Post
- 11/14 VFW Meeting
- 11/15 Costume Party/Heros T4Tots Legion
- 11/16 Tabor Hills visit, 10:00am
- 11/18 Veteran Business Connection Meeting at Rosies 8am
- 11/20 Yoga for Vets, VFW Post
- 11/21 Veteran Business Project 5-8 Matrix Club Fundraiser (POC Lynn Lowder)
- 11/23 Story Point Retirement Home visit, 10:00am; Turkey Raffle
- 11/27 Yoga for Vets, VFW Post
- 11/29 Rotary Parade of Lights

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 KendallGram links on all of our social media channels as well. ALL upcoming events are also on this [Ticket Source link!](#)

Upcoming Events

- 12/1 Decorate Upstairs Hall at 230pm
- 12/3 Painting on the Porch with Pinot's Palette
- 12/7 Breakfast with Santa (POC Jennifer Slown)
- 12/8 Gong wash meditation
- 12/12 VFW Meeting
- 12/14 Army /Navy Game
- 12/14 Combined Post Holiday Party
- 12/15 Kids Holiday Party (POC Auxiliary)
- 12/16 Veteran Business Connection Meeting at Rosies 8am
- 12/26 Joe Cantafio at the Canteen

Painting on the Porch is back!

Join us Tuesday, 12/3/24 at the Noperville VFW (908 Jackson). Enjoy a "no experience required" art class with step by step instructions. Cocktails at 6:30p (cash bar). Painting from 7p to 9p. Bring appetizer. Cost is \$45.00 per Picasso. Sign up on event calendar (12/3) at pinotspalette.com/Noperville or call 331.457.5440. All are welcome to join us!



"Jolly Peekabee Santa"

Consider your Christmas shopping now! This would make an awesome (and personalized) gift!



Past years painting on the porch at the VFW:

