

# THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 25 Issue 01

January 2025



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



## Commander Staci Boyer



As we close out 2024, I'd like to reflect on some memorable moments that have defined our year. From revitalizing our beloved fish fry into the community-centered event we strive for, to hosting meaningful Memorial Day ceremonies, and participating in the Naper Salute, Last Fling, every parade in town, and our 9/11 remembrance ceremonies, this year has been filled with purpose. Our Honor Guard has been tireless, always showing up to honor those who have passed and offering comfort to their loved ones. My heart is full knowing their dedication continues to bring peace to families during painful times, as evidenced by the many heartfelt letters of gratitude we've received.

We conducted another successful Judd-a-Thon, raising funds for the National Home, and our athletic group again joined the Naper Salute Ruck March. On the legislative front, we worked to pass a law to support veterans' burial rights and launched the "Adopt a Veteran's Grave Project," helping to restore graves at Naperville Cemetery. Our Turkey Raffle was one to remember, and the Marines of our Post, along with the Legion, did an incredible job with Toys for Tots.

This year marked a milestone for our Post as we celebrated our 125th anniversary with a proclamation from Mayor Wehrli and a street sign rededication, earning us recognition as a [125th Anniversary Commemorative Post!](#)

We introduced new events, such as the Resilience Tactics Workshop in partnership with Rotary, Little Friends, CAPS, and Support Over Stigma, as well as our inaugural (and now annual) Car Show and Freedom Tailgate, both of which brought the community together to celebrate and give back.

Our youth programs thrived as we continued cultivating Veterans' clubs at NNHS and NCHS. NNHS worked alongside us to develop an ancillary Color Guard and built 100 Christmas trees for the veterans' assisted living home in Quincy. NCHS kept our Hines VA visits and "Coffee with Vets" alive and launched a new initiative, "Cookies for a Cause." Both clubs consistently volunteer at Post events and create their own to honor and recognize the military community.

We've been blessed with many new members this year, and I've made an effort to connect with each one. If you're reading this and we haven't had the chance to meet, please don't hesitate to reach out—I'd love to hear from you!

While this year has been extraordinary in many ways, we have also said goodbye to too many dear friends. Each one held a special place in our hearts and contributed to honoring our post and our country's history in ways that words cannot fully capture. Please take a moment now to honor them with a moment of silence. They will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Quote of the month: "As we say goodbye to the past year, let us carry forward the lessons of perseverance, unity, and hope that define our nation. By honoring where we've been, we recommit to building a brighter future for all."



Senior Vice Commander  
Jennifer Slown



I hope you and your family had a wonderful holiday season and enjoyed quality time together. With the New Year upon us, we shift focus to new adventures, exciting opportunities, and the goals we have set for ourselves.

One of the goals set this upcoming 2025 year is to reach "All American" status for our Post. We are currently 20 members shy of reaching this goal. Twenty may seem like a lot, but with more than 500 members in our post, that number is a drop in the bucket if we work together. Whether you are an active member attending every social event we host, or a dues paying member that may not have the time to attend, you are valuable to our organization. I ask that each one of you take the initiative to talk to the next Veteran you encounter. Whether it's at the hardware store, at a restaurant, or in passing somewhere else, make a connection with them and ask if they are a member of the VFW. If the answer is no, ask if you can have their contact info (name and number) so that one of our post officers can reach out to them to share more about all our organization does to support Veterans and Veterans causes.

I know that with our dedicated members out and about in the community that we can and will reach this goal of "All American" status. Let's make it happen!

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## 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.

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

In 1986, it became clear to Americans that their Panamanian ally, military dictator Manuel Noriega was a drug trafficker and money launderer. Even worse, he was a double-agent working for Cuban Intelligence and the Sandinistas. Federal grand juries in Miami and Tampa indicted Noriega 1998, and he responded by increasing the size of the Panamanian Defense Force (PDF). This build up, and the dictator's annulment of the democratic election of President Guillermo Endara, increased tensions between Panama and the U.S.

In 1989, newly-elected President George H. Bush ordered additional troops to the zone and commenced live-fire war game exercises, causing consternation among the dictator and his PDF. Tensions continued to grow as U.S. troops and civilians were antagonized and, in some cases, assaulted by members of the PDF.

On December 16, 1989, a U.S. Marine was gunned down at a roadblock. The following day, President Bush authorized "Operation Just Cause." Nine thousand additional troops joined the existing 12,000 U.S. military personnel in Panama and the Operation commenced. The mission? Establish a democratic government and depose/arrest Manuel Noriega for drug-trafficking. Two days after the invasion began, all 27 U.S. tactical objectives had been achieved. These included destroying the dictator's speed boat and private plane and taking control of the major airfields. By December 24th, the United States controlled most of the country. The U.S. efforts were all made possible by the inauguration of President Endara and the dissolution of the PDF.

At this point Manuel Noriega sought asylum at the Vatican's embassy, and, by international law, the U.S. was not able to apprehend him. Negotiations continued, but the embassy would not give him up under church law. On January 3, 1990, Manuel Noriega stepped out from the embassy in surrender. He was detained by U.S. troops and immediately turned over to the DEA for arrest. On January 12, 1990, Operation Just Cause officially ended.

Panama is an interesting campaign as it was riddled with so much backdoor dealings and some controversy. The UN actually felt the U.S. invasion violated international law and condemned her for it. But I find the nuances of the buildup and the eventual invasion quite intriguing and worth watching a documentary or two.

**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.

## Taps



Paul Lonnergan, 101. Army, WWII

Butch Saylor, 83. USMC, Vietnam

John Lichter, 99. Navy, WWII

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



### Service Officer Updates Dennis Lukavsky



#### Your DD-214

Many years back, there was a Public Service Announcement that read: " It is 10:30 at night, do you know where your teenagers are?". Here is a sequel for veterans: "It is 10: 30 at night , do you know where your DD 214 is?"

Recently a Veteran passed away with a last request to be buried at Abraham Lincoln Cemetery. The family could not locate his DD 214. The ensuing scramble to quickly get a copy was a real nightmare. There is a hot line number at the St Louis National Archives for these situations, but I am not confident in its reliability. To protect your benefits and put your families' mind at ease, make sure your safeguard this very important military record.

Store several copies to be safe. Make sure one of the copies is in a fireproof safe or safe deposit box. Also make sure your family members know where it is stored. If in a safe deposit box, make sure someone in your family has access to it.

You really don't know when it will be needed so it is best to always be ready. Save you and your family unnecessary headaches, plan ahead.

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

### Posters for Upcoming Events

Click a poster or go to the [Ticket Source Site](#) for events farther in the future

You're invited to our FOURTH annual Disney Karaoke fundraiser in support of the VFW National Home!

Date:  
**Saturday, February 8th**

Event Time:  
**6-9 pm**

Location:  
**The Naperville VFW  
908 Jackson Ave  
Naperville, IL 60540**

**Event Features:** DJ, Facepainter, Balloon artist, Crafts Silent Auction / Raffle, Heavy Appetizers & Snacks, & OPEN BAR!

Costumes are HIGHLY encouraged (both Star Wars and Marvel fall under the Disney universe)!

Tickets are \$20 if prepurchased or \$25 at the door.

To ensure enough food and items for kids, please prepurchase your tickets!




**2/15/25 12-4PM**

**VFW & VBC**  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
Naperville Post 2072  
Veteran Business Connection

**VETERAN OWNED BUSINESS**

**VETERAN RESOURCES BUSINESS**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:  
908 JACKSON AVE  
NAPERVILLE, IL 60540  
2025 FEBRUARY 15

**FAIR**

FOR MORE CONTACT:  
VFW: 630.353.7100  
VBC: 630.353.7100  
WWW.VFWVBC.COM





**National Home Chairman  
Mike McGrath**



It's frosty and snowy in Eaton Rapids as we begin the New Year. The kids are back in school and looking forward to spring and beginning to celebrate the home's 100th birthday.

The first of many fun events being held this year is the 100th Birthday Celebration on January 7, the date the was founded in 1925 to honor the dead by helping the living.

In March 1925, the home welcomed its first residents in an old frame farmhouse near Eaton Rapids. A widow, Mrs. Pollett with her 6 children were in need due to the death of husband and father, Army Sergeant William Pollett. And unlike today, there were no benefits then for military widows. But thanks to the efforts of a young lady named Amy Ross, local cattleman Corey Spencer donated 472 acres to help military and Veteran families in need. Thus, the VFW National Home was born and continues to help veteran and military families.

Thank you all for your great support, blessings in the new year and don't forget the Helpline, 800-313 4200. Could this help someone you know?

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## Mission BBQ VIP and Toys For Tots Event

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



Every VFW member shares a powerful legacy of serving in combat to defend our nation. By choosing to join the VFW, we also extended that legacy through our commitment to assist veterans, their families, and our communities. The VFW has a unique program which enables us to further our legacy in another important way. **Legacy Life Membership** allows you to upgrade your life membership for a fixed amount of money that will create a perpetual income stream to the VFW at the Post, State and National levels. There are three levels (Bronze, Silver, and Gold) that range from \$400 to \$1,200. Donations can be made all at once or over time until you reach your desired amount. The various benefits associated with Legacy Life Membership include a tax deduction, discounts on purchases from the VFW Store, and more. The greatest benefit, however, is the knowledge that you are helping to provide a perpetual source of income to ensure the important work of the VFW in assisting veterans, their families, and our communities will continue forever.

Please contact Post QM Phil Maughan at (630) 383-1974 for additional information.



**Auxiliary President  
Kathy Thornton**



Reflecting on 2024, and all the Auxiliary has accomplished for our veterans. Looking ahead to 2025 and excited to plan events to assist our deserving veterans. Please feel free to forward your ideas to me for fundraising, or if you hear of a veteran/veteran's family in need. We aim to help our veterans with our efforts. The Auxiliary meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month at the VFW upstairs at 7pm and we are reinstating the Auxiliary Happy Hour on the first Tuesday of each month. Please consider a New Year's resolution to attend one or both!



Our Post/Auxiliary/Legion members caroling at Hines Hospital during our December visit, singing Christmas carols to veterans in the spinal cord unit. Such a fun event, and so much talent! Thanks to students from NCHS who were part of our chorus. Consider joining our monthly visit to Hines, held the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Photo on the right was taken at our annual Christmas party for children (sponsored by Auxiliary/Post and American Legion). One of the projects the children worked on at the party was to write letters to our veterans at Hines. Santa will make sure those letters get delivered. Thank you, Santa!

Lastly, pictures above represent our own Auxiliary efforts (labors of love) for Wreaths Across America. Jenny Dawley was at Arlington Cemetery (left) and Maryann Groner at Abraham Lincoln Cemetery (center photo) as they both pay their respects to the veteran in their life. An unbelievable experience performed at military cemeteries across the country, laying wreaths on graves of our beloved veterans.



**Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy Award Presentation**



On December 12th, we presented the Post winners of Patriot's Pen (Samarth Agrawal, left, with his parents) and Voice of Democracy (Hayden Linnert, right, with Commander Boyer and Mark Overstreet) with their certificates and monetary awards. They both went on to the District competition. The VOD dinner will be on January 11 and the PP party will be on January 26. Wish them luck!



**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	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



## January 2025

- Wed 01/01 : New Year's Day
- Sat 01/04 : Monarch Landing Visit, 10:00am
- Tues 01/07 : Hines Outreach, 10:00am, Post; Veteran Business Connection After Hours, 6:00pm, Canteen; **RESTARTING! Auxiliary Social**, 5:00pm, Canteen
- Wed 01/08 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Thurs 01/09 : VFW Post Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post
- Sat 01/11 : Brookdale Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am
- Wed 01/15 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Thurs 01/16 : Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post
- Sat 01/18 : Tabor Hills Visit, 10:00am
- Mon 01/20 : Veteran Business Connection Meeting, 8:00am, Rosie's
- Wed 01/22 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Sat 01/25 : Story Point Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am
- Wed 01/29 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post

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

- 2/4 Veteran Business Connection after hours
- 2/8 Disney Karaoke
- 2/13 VFW meeting
- 2/15 Veteran owned business fair / resource fair
- 2/16 19th District Meeting - Batavia
- 2/17 Veteran Business Connection Meeting
- 3/4 Veteran Business Connection after hours
- 3/13 VFW meeting
- 3/15 Saint Patrick's Day Parade
- 3/15 Legion Social Dinner
- 3/7-4/18 Fish Fry
- 3/17 Veteran Business Connection Meeting
- 3/30 Plant sale deadline to order (March - April PLANT SALE)

**VFW FISH FRY**  
 Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873  
 wants you to get ready for our  
**Fish Fry!!**  
**Fridays beginning March 7th - April 18th**  
 4:30pm - 7:30pm  
 Located at 908 W. Jackson Ave  
 Naperville  
 \$15 a plate | 4 pieces of Fish & Fries  
 \$5 added for pizza or shrimp

BURGERS  
DRAFT PICKS  
PIZZA + BEER