

THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 25 Issue 02

February 2025



A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



**Commander
Staci Boyer**



We are starting off the new year with so many exciting things in the works! We have a packed calendar of events, fundraisers, community collaborations, and new resources available through our VSO and VAC. I'm proud to share that our membership is at 100%—a big thank you to everyone who made this possible! If you're reading this, you are part of what makes all of this come together, and I'm incredibly grateful for your involvement.

We were honored and impressed to present awards to our academic program winners: Hayden Linnert (Voice of Democracy), Samarth Agrawal (Patriot's Pen), Jaqueline Reid from All Saints Academy (VFW Teacher of the Year). Recognizing these individuals reminds us of the importance of supporting and celebrating our community's future leaders and educators.

As we grow as a Post, I'm looking for individuals interested in taking on leadership roles or contributing more to our efforts. If you'd like to learn more about available positions, be part of an event committee, or share ideas to enhance our initiatives, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. Your input and support are invaluable!

A few key dates to note:

- Veteran-Owned Business Fair & Veteran Resource Fair: February 15, 12–4 PM (downstairs).
- City Council Recognition Event: February 18, 7 PM. The VFW and Auxiliary will be honoring the Naperville Fire Department's 150 years of service. Please join us to show your support!
- Upcoming Events: Keep an eye out for details on the Fish Fry and Plant Sale—we're excited to bring these back!

Thank you again for your continued support. Let's make this year one to remember!

Please note all upcoming events are on this Ticket Source link! <https://www.ticketsource.us/naperville-vfw-3873> Please save this link and join us. I have the new calendar in the works for all of 2025. If you are a new member, please look at all of our options and find something that is of interest to you. If you have an idea - please connect with me and let's make some magic happen. We bring something special to the Veteran community at our Naperville post and I am grateful everyday to be a part of the rich history of #3873. Let us continue to collaborate with our Auxiliary, American Legion, Legion Riders and Sons. We are stronger together.

Quote of the month: Love is the bond that holds us together, loyalty is the foundation that makes it unshakable, and together, they form the strength to weather any battle.

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 1/9/2024 Highlights



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

The Post swore in three new members: One USMC and two Navy.

Quartermaster reported a good month. Good Canteen revenue. No unexpected expenses or large upcoming expenses. QM reminded the group about Legacy Life Membership (see page 5).

Membership is currently at 100%, including two members who have recently transferred out. We still have the goal of achieving All American Status with 102%, which would mean a total of 607. We need 12 more...remember, everyone is a recruiter!

Buddy Poppy: Maplebrook Elementary School raised \$435 while teaching students about the significance of the Poppy. Commander Boyer is working on an award to recognize their efforts.

Trustees requested funds to sponsor a Little League Team, motioned and approved.

The meeting was closed according to ritual by Commander Boyer at 1950 hours. Next Post meeting will be Thursday, February 13, 2025.

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.



Junior Vice Commander

Josh Warner



On January 29, 1943, USAT Dorchester departed St. John’s, Newfoundland on its voyage bound for Greenland, known as “Torpedo Junction, ” as part of Convoy SG-19.

Aware of SG-19’s progress, 4 deployed U-boats tracked their route. Among the subs was U-233, on her maiden voyage, which had survived an attack by depth charge attack. U-boats were detected by sonar when submerged, but lack of radar allowed the subs to remain undetected on the surface in the treacherous seas and accompanying fog. This allowed U-233 to track the troop convoy.

Knowing of U-boats in the area, Captain Danielsen of the Dorchester ordered all soldiers to sleep in uniform and life jackets. Hoping to make it through the night, they would be covered by air support until making port. In the early hours of February 3rd, 1943, USAT Dorchester was struck by one of three torpedoes fired from U-233 tearing into the starboard side below her waterline, killing nearly 1/3 of those aboard in a few moments. The Dorchester listed 30 degrees preventing deployment of life boats.

Aboard were The Four Chaplains: Father Washington, a Catholic Priest, Rabbi Goode, Pastor Fox and Pastor Poling, two Protestants. Washington was denied entry to the Navy because of his eyesight but gamed the system to become a chaplain in the army by “cheating” the eye exam, knowing God would forgive his deceit. Rabbi Goode, served in the National Guard to make ends meet, but was denied entry in the Navy. After December 7, 1941, the Army Air Forces were happy to have him. George Fox served in World War I as a medic, earning numerous awards. He was ordained a Methodist Minister in 1934. Like his peers, he was called back to the military after Pearl Harbor at the age of 42. Reverend Poling volunteered for the Army Chaplain Corps after the attack on Pearl to the chagrin of his father.

Father Washington gave absolution to soldiers as they escaped the holds of the sinking ship. Chaplain Fox gave up his life jacket to a panicking soldier. Chaplain Goode gave his gloves to a lieutenant to endure the cold. These brave men gave all to their soldiers in the face of death, and in the name of the Lord. They gave all and went down with the ship.

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 with “Partners in Patriotism Application” in the subject line.

Taps

None reported

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





Service Officer Updates Dennis Lukavsky



The VA has recently released its annual handbook. The book is a "cliff Notes" version of the VA web site and contains many links to often used sections of the website. Here is an example:

- VA Home Page www.VA.gov
- Benefits and Services Overview www.choose.va.gov
- Burial and Memorial Benefits..... www.cem.va.gov
- Caregiver Support www.caregiver.va.gov
- Center for Minority Veterans www.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans
- CHAMPVA www.va.gov/communitycare/programs/dependents/champva

You get right to where you want to go WITHOUT dreaded searching. Additionally, the Handbook contains almost all the VA phone numbers you could need all in one place. The Handbook is 120 pages long, so printing a copy would be a mistake (besides the links would then be of no use). My suggestion is store the link to the book itself and download it when you need it. Here is the link:

<https://department.va.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2025-Federal-Benefits-for-Veterans-Dependents-and-Survivors.pdf>

The book is helpful in many ways to all veterans. Make sure you keep a copy of the link. You never know when you might need.

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 2022
Veteran Business Connection

VETERAN OWNED BUSINESS

VETERAN BUSINESS CONNECTION

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





**National Home Chairman
Mike McGrath**



Did you know about the National Home's 4-H Club Dynamos?

It's blue ribbons and lifetime lessons for the National Home's 4-H Club and they are called the Dynamos and for good reason. For nearly 40 years, the Home's 4-H Club Dynamos have participated in the nearby Eaton County Fair in July and have won several blue ribbons through the years. They show pigs, rabbits, and art projects. Children from age 9 to 19 participate. Team leader Nancy Bowers feels that the 4-H Program gives the kids a chance to learn patience and teamwork.

The animals are raised at the campus' Montana Farmstead and beginning in March the kids must care for them daily during the spring and summer months. The chores include feeding the rabbits, feeding and walking the pigs, as well as cleaning out the pens. They must also learn and practice how to show their animals at the fair. Being a part of 4-H helps get the kids away from computers and cell phones and get outside!

They learn that hard work pays off with blue ribbons and lifetime lessons! During the years the 4-H program has continued to be a big favorite activity for the kids. It's something they can take pride in.

"Hooray for the Dynamos!"

Cootie Christmas Photos from the National Home



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



There is still time to enter this year’s VFW Auxiliary’s Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest (March 31, 2025 deadline). Go to Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest – VFW Auxiliary for more details on how to enter. First place winner from each state competes for national awards totaling \$37,000. Be sure to pass this information onto your budding Picasso.

Pictured at right is our Auxiliary’s Voice of Democracy winner, Hayden Linnert. Hayden is the grandson of Auxiliary member, Marti Linnert. Congratulations, Hayden!



Plant Sale is right around the corner (and so is Spring!). Always looking for volunteers to help out on plant pick up day (Friday, May 2). Please email me if interested in assisting that day (kmrthornton@sbcglobal.net). For more information and pictures of plants, go to 2025 PLANT SALE.

Fish Frys are back, starting Friday, March 7. Another sure sign of spring!

Just a reminder, the Auxiliary, meet on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 7:00pm in Kendall Hall. We are steadily increasing our attendance at our monthly meetings. Love this!

Links to National VFW Resources (click an image)



January/February 2025

- [‘Destination Post’ Visits Rhode Island](#)
- [VFW National Home Celebrates 100 Years](#)
- [Helping Hurricane Survivors in North Carolina](#)
- [Sturgis Motorcycle Rally Welcomes VFW](#)

Attention VFW members: If you have written a book or an e-book bearing an ISBN or ASIN, submit a nonreturnable copy (or a link to the e-book) with a brief description (submitted as a Microsoft Word .doc or .docx; no cover quotes) to magazine@vfw.org. Define the book as fiction, nonfiction, or memoir; and include VFW member number. The author's name, book title and cover, publisher, and ISBN will appear in the online VFW magazine (expect to wait two-three months) accessed above.

#StillServing: The VFW Podcast®

#StillServing: The VFW Podcast® is a show for veterans, by veterans. The VFW is in the midst of a paradigm shift and it’s an exciting time to be a part of this transformational change within our organization.

As one of our newest communication platforms, #Still Serving: The VFW Podcast works to highlight critical issues, challenges and legislation affecting veterans, service members and military families worldwide.

Join us as we chat with congressional leadership, Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs senior officials, and everyday veterans as we tackle tough issues affecting our military veteran community.

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	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



February 2025

- Sat 02/01 : Monarch Landing Visit, 10:00am
- Mon 02/03 : Auxiliary Bingo at Arista Healthcare, 2:00pm
- Tues 02/04 : Hines Outreach, 10:00am, Post; Veteran Business Connection After Hours, 6:00pm, Canteen; Auxiliary Social, 5:00pm, Canteen
- Wed 02/05 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Fri 02/07 : Ross Sings the Classics, 7:00pm, Canteen
- Sat 02/08 : Brookdale Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am; Disney Karaoke
- Wed 02/12 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Thurs 02/13 : VFW Post Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post
- Sat 02/15 : Tabor Hills Visit, 10:00am; Veteran Owned Business Fair, 12:00pm-4:00pm, Post
- Mon 02/17 : Veteran Business Connection Meeting, 8:00am, Rosie's
- Wed 02/19 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Thurs 02/20 : Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post
- Sat 02/22 : Story Point Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am
- Wed 02/26 : 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

- 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
- 3/31 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