

# THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 25 Issue 03

March 2025



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



**Commander  
Staci Boyer**



I want to take a moment to congratulate all of you for being outstanding representatives of what a VFW can do in a community. We have surpassed 100% in membership and successfully raised funds for the National Home, OSAT, and other important causes. Our Veteran-Owned Business Fair was once again a huge success!

Alongside our Auxiliary, we had the honor of presenting a plaque at a city council meeting, recognizing our fire department for 150 years of exceptional service.

The next few months will be busy, so keep an eye out for upcoming events:

- The **Fish Fry** returns on **March 7th**
- The [Plant Sale](#) orders are due **March 31st**, and pick up is May 2nd.
- Our newest event, the [Be the One Ruck March](#) (in collaboration with the American Legion and Support Over Stigma) takes place on **March 22nd**
- **Healing Fields** flag sales will be opening soon—please reach out if you have any questions
- **Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony** is set for March 29th—save the date and participate!

Additionally, I encourage everyone to stay informed about how our representatives in Washington are handling recent changes. Before engaging in heated debates or social media discussions, take the time to research the facts. I pass along information directly from our National Commander-in-Chief and urge you to represent the VFW with professionalism and honor. These are challenging times, and while the call to advocate for what we believe is strong, we must remember that we are stronger together.

Thank you all for your dedication and support. Let's continue making this year one to remember!

Please note all upcoming events are on this [Ticket Source](https://www.ticketsource.us/naperville-vfw-3873) link! Please save this link and join us.  
<https://www.ticketsource.us/naperville-vfw-3873>

I have the new calendar in the works throughout 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: "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another." – Vietnam Veterans of America Motto

**National Vietnam Veterans Day, Saturday March 29th, 2025**

**Submitted by Wayne Fischer**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

This day marks the 52nd Anniversary of our departure from Vietnam. While this has been a well-kept secret, we will be holding a program honoring all that served back then in our United States Military. This will be our 4th year honoring this memorable occasion. We plan to start promptly at 10:30am regardless of weather.

This is not just limited to those that served in Vietnam, but to “All Who Served” our Great Country during the Vietnam War.

In addition, we will recognize our “11 Naperville Fallen” as they each paid the ultimate price to protect our Freedoms, and we recognize all the Men and Women that paid the ultimate price because of their Service in Vietnam.



Also, we will be laying a wreath at the Veterans Park wall and after this Service we will move to our “Gold Star Family Memorial” to lay a wreath at our Memorial in honor of all that paid the “Ultimate Sacrifice” while serving in All Wars.

As in the past, this will be open to the public, especially all Veterans. Seating will be available for those that need to sit and there will be ample parking available across the street at Grace United Methodist Church.

**Business of the Post**

**Post Meeting 2/13/2025 Highlights**



At 1900, Commander Staci Boyer opened the meeting according to Ritual. The Post approved two new members, both Army. Quartermaster reported a good month with strong Hall rental. There were no unexpected expenses. We need to work on filling Sunday rentals. Service Officer clarified that if you want the County to have your DD214 for future use you have to submit it to them to get it on file. Membership is at 101%, we only need 8 more new members to reach All American threshold of 102%. Honor Guard reported 3 services in January and Color Guard reported 6 upcoming events. The Hines visit was particularly hopping, with 17 participants and 29 patients. We played Bingo for 3 hours. Trustees recommended two donations for total of \$1200. Moved and approved. The meeting was closed according to ritual by Commander Boyer at 1945 hours. Next Post meeting will be Thursday, March 13, 2025.

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

On March 1st we observe Asiatic Fleet Memorial Day, commemorating a comparatively little known element of US Naval History.

As of 1831, American trade routes were disrupted by pirates, amongst other dangers, in Asia seas. As a result, in 1835, President Andrew Jackson established the East India Squadron to protect American interests.

Captain Lawrence Kearny, Commander of the East India Squadron, arrived the Far East on his flagship, the USS Constellation, along with the sloop of war, USS Boston. His primary mission was to safeguard American lives and property during the first Opium War. Secondly, he was to negotiate trade agreements. When Great Britain and China signed the Treaty of Nanking in 1842, opening more trading ports for the British, Captain Kearny sought the same privileges for the U.S. It was 1845 when Commodore Biddle presented ratified copies of the Treaty of Wanghia to the Chinese. However, Biddle failed to secure a trade agreement with Japan in 1846.

It wasn't until March of 1854 that Commodore Matthew Perry was able to secure the Treaty of Kanagawa, opening two ports for refueling and supplies.

In 1856, the second Opium War broke out forcing France to side with Great Britain. Although America remained neutral through the war with the Qing dynasty, the American consul had concerns for the safety of Americans living in China. Commander Andrew Foote, Commanding Officer of the USS Portsmouth, dispatched a landing party of sailors and Marines to secure the American compound. It was November when the Chinese violated the peace agreement, attacking Americans on the Pearl River. Commander Foote led another force of sailors and Marines to overtake the Pearl River Forts. After a week of fighting, Foote's men succeeded in the capture of the four forts and destroyed them.

**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

Mike Davis, 82. Army, Vietnam.

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





### Service Officer Updates Dennis Lukavsky



#### VA Staffing

VA dismisses more than 1,000 employees, was a headline in a recent news release from the VA. This of course spawned the rumor mills. The most recent being the VA will start limiting services and reduce the overall level of current service.

Let me try to allay your fears. Keep in mind the VA organization is very, very large. A quick google search reveals there are currently approximately 473,000 employees serving veterans.

Let's do some simple math:  $1000 / 473000 \times 100 = 0.2\%$

Keep in mind the staff released were all probationary people. All still in the early stages of learning their jobs.. So, if the departed staff are all new and way less than 1% of the staff are released, I think the VA performance in the coming months will remain unchanged.

Be the one to stop the rumors and thus scaring and angering your fellow veterans.

#### 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

**SOUND MEDITATIONS AT THE POST**

Join us for a meditative experience in a cosmic soundscape of singing bowls, drums, rattles, didgeridoo, flute, gong and handpan to feel balanced and recharged.

*This is a donation based event open to veterans and the community.*

Scan the QR for more details

SUNDAYS 5PM-6:30PM

- 3/23/25
- 4/27/25
- 6/29/25
- 9/21/25
- 10/19/25
- 11/23/25
- 12/14/25

**Painting on the Porch...  
at the Post (VFW)**

All are welcome!

Thursday, May 8, 2025  
Doors Open at 6:30 PM

Open to the public. Auxiliary Fundraiser

Cost is \$45.00 per Picasso. Bring a favorite appetizer.  
Contact Pinot's Palette 331.457.5440 to RSVP  
Specific painting to be decided upon at a later date.

PAINT. DRINK. HAVE FUN.



**National Home Chairman  
Mike McGrath**



Did you know?

National Home program eligibility requirements are the following from the [VFW National Home Website](#):

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

**ACTIVELY SERVING**

- Unaccompanied Tour or deployment
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s)
- Single or Married with dependent child(ren)
- Drilling National Guard & Reserve

**VETERAN**

- Honorably discharged Active, Guard, or Reserve Veteran
- Surviving widow or widower with dependent child(ren)
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s)
- Single or Married with dependent child(ren)

**VFW/AUXILIARY**

- Parent(s)/Guardian(s)
- Applicant has a parent in the VFW or Auxiliary in good standing or if deceased, in good standing at the time of death.
- Single or Married with dependent child(ren)

If you are interested in learning more, the National Home's Helpline 800-313-4200 is staffed Monday through Friday between 8am and 4:30pm EST. Could this help someone you know?

The VFW National Home, 100 years of supporting veteran and military families. Thank you all for your great support!

Live Links to National VFW Resources. Click on the image to the right or below.

**#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.



**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](mailto: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) acrossed above.\*\**



**Auxiliary President  
Kathy Thornton**



At our last district meeting (2/18/25), our district auxiliary members gave a special shout out and a rousing birthday chorus to our chaplain, Mar-yann Groner whose milestone birthday was the same day as the 19th district meeting.

Also sending belated birthday wishes to Dorothy Garhan who celebrated her own milestone birthday on 2/23.

Did we cover PLANT SALE? Order forms [online](#) Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873 and are due Monday, March 31. Looking for teams of volunteers to assemble orders on plant pick up date Friday, May 2. Grab a friend and help with this important step in the plant sale process. Email me at [kmrthornton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kmrthornton@sbcglobal.net) for more details. Lunch will be served.

Please remember not only our veterans in your prayers, but their families as well.



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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.

**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         | Leo Jaime         | (773) 441-3887 |
| Blood Drive         | Ingrid Kanady     | (847) 951-3300 |
| Buddy Poppy         | Bob Colby         | (630) 301-2664 |
| Building            | Mike Rechenmacher | (630) 244-3747 |
| Color Guard         | Dennis Regan      | (630) 361-4644 |
| Communications      | Dennis Lukavsky   | (630) 272-9064 |
| Eighth Grade Awards | Tom Benton        | (630) 579-8514 |
| 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 | (630) 244-3747 |
| Membership          | Jennifer Slown    |                |
| Legislative         | Staci Boyer       | (773) 351-4646 |
| National Home       | Mike McGrath      | (630) 357-2680 |
| Patriot's Pen       | Mark Overstreet   | (773) 517-7346 |
| Safety              | Mike McGrath      | (630) 357-2680 |
| 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



## March 2025

- Sat 03/01 : Monarch Landing Visit, 10:00am
- Tues 03/04 : Hines Outreach, 10:00am, Post; Veteran Business Connection After Hours, 6:00pm, Canteen; Auxiliary Social, 5:00pm, Canteen
- Wed 03/05 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Fri 03/07 : Fish Fry
- Sat 03/08 : Brookdale Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am; Disney Karaoke
- Wed 03/12 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Thurs 03/13 : VFW Post Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post
- Fri 03/14 : Fish Fry
- Sat 03/15 : Tabor Hills Visit, 10:00am; Veteran Owned Business Fair, 12:00pm-4:00pm, Post
- Mon 03/17 : Veteran Business Connection Meeting, 8:00am, Rosie's
- Wed 03/19 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Thurs 03/20 : Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post
- Fri 03/21 : Fish Fry
- Sat 03/22 : Story Point Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am; [Be The One / Ruck March \(POC Linda Whaley\)](#)
- Sun 03/23 : Lotus Vibrations Sound Meditation, 5:00pm
- Wed 03/26 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Fri 03/28 : Fish Fry
- Sat 03/29 : Monarch Landing Visit, 10:00am; Vietnam Veterans Day, 10:00am Ceremony
- Mon 03/31 : Plant Sale Order Deadline

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!](#)

**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

 

  

## Upcoming Events

- 4/1 Veteran Business Connection After Hours
- 5/2 Plant Sale Pickup
- 5/26 Memorial Day Parade and Ceremonies
- 5/30 [Post 3873 Officer Induction Dinner](#)