

THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 25 Issue 06

June 2025



A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



Commander Staci Boyer



Heading into June and reflecting on May - I started to write, and thought, wait a minute - my Commander Installation speech says exactly what I want to say! So I will share it for you here.

I am truly honored to accept the position of Commander for a second year. Thank you for placing your trust in me once again.

I still remember walking into my very first meeting here. I often joke that someone handed me the microphone—and I haven't put it down since! But in all fairness, I have learned to put it down... occasionally.

You see, when I was a little girl, my father used to say, "Staci Lynn, you have two ears and one mouth—Listen twice as much as you speak." I'd like to think I've grown in that area. At least, I hope I have! Over the past few years, I've learned so much—not just about the workings of our Post and the mission of the VFW, but about our amazing members, our veteran initiatives, and myself.

And let me say—what a team we have here! With the incoming leadership, our passionate members, dedicated volunteers, and the unwavering support of our community, I feel another incredible year ahead of us.

I want to take a moment to highlight one of our proudest traditions: our Honor Guard and Color Guard. These teams are called upon often, and the feedback we receive consistently praises their professionalism, precision, and deep respect. They represent the heart and soul of our Post in every appearance—and we thank them sincerely.

And to our officers and committee members—you are the engine behind everything we do. From poppy distributions to classic car shows... from ruck marches and turkey raffles to fish fries... from Memorial Day and Veterans Day events to plant sales, blood drives, media spotlights, casino nights, and even refurbishing veteran graves—you've helped make our Post not only active and relevant in Illinois, but admired across the nation.

As we look ahead, I'm reminded of something President Ronald Reagan once said: "We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone." That's what this Post is about. Community. Collaboration. And never giving up on the good fight.

Thank you all for your trust, your service, and your continued support. I'm proud to be on this journey with each and every one of you.

Let's make this another unforgettable year—together.

Thank you.



Senior Vice Commander
Jennifer Slown



It's Just Around the Corner - The 12th Annual Juddathon!

With our Post celebrating the achievement of "All American" this year, we've earned a moment to catch our breath (briefly). You'll need to be well rested to take on one of our Post's favorite traditions, the 12th Annual Juddathon!

Mark your calendars and dust off your running shoes, because "The Judd" is back and ready to make a big impact over a short distance. This 0.1K "race"— all 328 feet of it—is a post tradition that raises thousands of dollars each year in support of the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan.

The National Home provides vital services and housing to Veterans and their families and every dollar raised via the Judd-a-Thon directly supports its incredible mission.

All participants receive the following: A custom event t-shirt, 0.1K car sticker for bragging rights, swag bag, and the warm and fuzzy feeling of supporting an incredibly worthy cause.

How can you support this amazing race? We're in need of participants, sponsors, raffle donations, and of course cash donations if your heart obliges. Participants of all ages and fitness levels are welcome (sprinters, walkers, cartwheelers, stroller-pushers—you name it!). Sponsorships starting at the \$500 mark will have your business or name featured on the back of this year's t-shirt. We also are in search of raffle donations like gift cards, baskets, or unique items to help us raise even more for the Judd. If you want to encourage a friend or colleague with a business to sponsor, you can click on the Sponsor sheet above and send them the link.



SPONSOR THE JUDD-A-THON!
 IT'S A 0.1K FUN RUN AND FUNDRAISER
 A short run that will go a long way to help Veteran and Military Families at the VFW National Home for Children!
 (Learn More About The VFW National Home at: www.vfnationalhome.org)

Sunday, September 15th, 2024
Race Time: 10:01 AM Sharp

Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873
 908 W. Jackson Avenue
 Naperville, IL 60540

Sponsor Name: _____

Sponsor Email & Phone Number: _____

Amount of Donation: \$500.00 (circle) Other Amount: _____

Shirt Size(s): _____

\$500.00 Guarantees you TWO shirts, \$1,000.00 FOUR, \$1,500.00 SIX, \$2,000.00 EIGHT, \$2,500.00 TEN, etc.
 A Donation of \$500, or more, Guarantees your name, or company's name, on the exclusive event T-Shirt if received before Noon, September 1st!
 Note: Any T-Shirts NOT picked up by race time, will be distributed on a first come first served basis immediately following the race!

The Juddathon may be short in distance, but it goes a long way in supporting those who've served!

To register to participate, sponsor, or donate raffle items, contact Jennifer Slown at JenniferBSlown@gmail.com or 630-803-2251 or visit the [Post Ticketsource Page](#).

Business of the Post

Post Meeting 5/8/2025 Highlights

- Meeting was opened according to ritual at 1905 hours
- New Members: Brian Scopia (Navy); James Tannin (Navy). Motion passed to accept; New Members sworn in: 2
- Quartermaster: Made around \$7,000 from the Fish Fry. Strong hall rentals. \$11,000 collected from the plant sale.
- Pull tab revenue is up.
- Service Officer: We need more volunteers for Hines visits. Apply for benefits if you need them – it is not embarrassing to ask for help.
- Membership: All American status achieved
- Blood Drive: June 14th at the post.
- Honor Guard: 3 graveside services last month; Color Guard: Aurora Greek Fest – May 16th, Memorial Day Parade, June 4th – Legion
- National Home: 6/28 – 100th anniversary.
- Building Committee: 5/8 was a post cleanup day – went very well.
- Trustees: 200.00 needed for district meeting – motion passed
- New Business: National Convention Delegates wanted – motion passed
- The meeting was closed according to ritual by Commander Boyer at 1957 hours. The next regular Post meeting will be June 12th at 1900. Special meeting regarding the merger on June 10th.





Junior Vice Commander

Josh Warner



As we roll into June, I naturally want to talk about June 6th. Not only is it the anniversary of D-Day, it also happens to be my wife’s birthday. However, I’d like to speak of the Korean War, to honor those who’ve served in the “Forgotten War.”

At the end of World War II, the Korean Peninsula, a Japanese colony, was divided between the U.S. and the Soviet Union at the 38th parallel. The new leader of the North was Kim Il Sung and the leader of the South was Syngman Rhee.

On the 25th of June 1950, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, with their Soviet trained troops, invaded South Korea. The Korean People’s Army (KPA) captured Seoul three days later, and, by August, had control of nearly all of the Korean Peninsula. It was September 15th when the UN forces landed at Inchon, surprising the KPA, and cutting off its supply chain. General MacArthur, leading the Allied offensive pushed the KPA north of the 38th parallel with ease. But he did not stop there. MacArthur believed he could rid the Korean Peninsula of the communist threat, and continued to push North.

By Thanksgiving of 1950, it appeared the war was to be won. The US Marines and Army “enjoyed” a Thanksgiving meal consisting of cold turkey and mashed potatoes in the sub-zero temperatures of the highlands of North Korea. They continued their push north to the Chinese border as the PVA, or China’s People’s Volunteer Army, secretly moved south. The two forces would eventually clash in the freezing temperatures near Lake Changjin. The Battle of Chosin Reservoir would last 17 days and prove to be one of the most ferocious battles fought in US history.

Memorial Day Flag Placement

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



Abraham Lincoln Cemetery Unaccompanied Honors

Last summer, I had the privilege of attending a [quarterly](#) Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Ceremony at Abraham Lincoln Cemetery. It was an overcast/rainy day that seemed perfect for the Ceremony. There were several emotions running through me that morning, some felt good others not good at all.

I was proud to be at the Cemetery, but at the same time sad. Here were 39 veterans being laid to rest without a loved one to attend. How could there be that many folks that no one cared about? It seemed wrong on any level. I felt a veteran should be laid to rest by a family member or very close friend.

At some point, the proud emotion took over and I felt better. I witnessed what our Country does very well these days, respect its service members. I was proud to attend. The honors were done professionally, accurately, and, very importantly, reverently. The effort did not compensate for the lack of loved ones but it was satisfying to know the veterans received the proper honors. It is certainly an experience I will long remember.

I will again send out a announcing the ceremonies, but you can mark your calendar now for July 8 and October 9. This might be your chance to ride on an emotional roller coaster, too.

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.

Posters for Upcoming Events

Click on the image to go to the [TicketSource](#) page

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.
Naperville Post 3873

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

September 9th | 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
Scan QR or see link <https://tinyurl.com/2re2s424>

12TH ANNUAL JUDD-A-THON
IT'S A 0.1K FUN RUN AND FUNDRAISER

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

Sunday, September 14, 2025
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: Entries received by Friday Sept. 5th guarantee a complete goodie bag with T-shirt, race bib, & 0.1k race sticker.	DAY OF RACE: Registration and packet pick-up is from 8:00-9:30 AM	EARLY RACE PACKET PICK-UP: Pre-registered racers can pick-up their race packet at the VFW Post 3873 from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM on Friday Sept. 12th
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Name: _____ Check if Under 18: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
T-Shirt Size (Circle One Size Per Entry Form):
SML Med Lrg XL XXL XXXL

By signing below, I agree not to hold the VFW Post 3873 responsible for any injury occurring as a result of my participation in this event.
Signature _____ Date _____
T-Shirts WILL NOT be held, reserved or delivered after the Run is completed. All shirts left over will be distributed/sold on a first come first served basis!



**National Home Chairman
Mike McGrath**



A new chapter begins for our Dynamos!

It's springtime at the VFW National Home and the National Home's 4-H Club "Dynamos" are off to a great start as the National Home's Montana Farmstead has 15 new residents including six hogs and nine rabbits.

As many of the National Home kids come from urban areas, the 4-H program helps them learn about raising and caring for animals in a farm environment. The kids must learn to care for their animal and then present it to a judge at the upcoming county fair. They learn that winning blue ribbons takes hard work!

The 4-H program has been well enjoyed for many years and helps the kids build self-confidence and promotes friendship, responsibility, and teamwork.

Best wishes to the National Home "Dynamos." For more information about the impact of the 4-H program, read this [article](#) on the National Home website.

"Community Celebrations"

The National Home's 100th Anniversary will be celebrated at the campus on June 28 and promises to be a great event. Please check the [website](#) for details. Illinois Day is scheduled for September 20.

The National Home's Helpline is 800-313 4200. Could this help someone you know?

Thank you all for your great support and may God bless our National Home.

Memorial Day Ceremonies

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



As I have mentioned in the past, May is one of the busiest but most rewarding and heartfelt months at our Post. Thanks to ALL who helped at the Plant Sale on 5/2/25. It was our biggest Plant Sale to date. Our gratitude is in full bloom. Which leads me to the Watering Committee. Thanks to those who have or will have volunteered to keep said plants alive and well at our Post for the summer! The plants thank you as well.

Memorial Day weekend, the day/weekend we remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. The debt that can't be repaid ever! We remember our Gold Star families who also have given so much.

I want to thank all those who participated in the Poppy Campaign, along with assisting placing flags on the graves of our deceased members and those who marched in step (or in trolley) behind our veterans in the Memorial Day Parade. Our Post does it right!

Photos from the weekend: Upper picture-Auxiliary member Janet Rechenmacher Wehrli and her granddaughter, Ellie, collecting money for our Poppy Campaign. Lower picture-Auxiliary and their families who joined us in the Parade 5/26/25.

Did I mention our Auxiliary made Circle of Excellence this year? My thanks to all members for making this a memorable and rewarding year. Great job, Auxiliary! It's kind of a big deal.



Memorial Day Parade and Band Shell Program

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



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	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



June 2025

- Mon 06/02 Auxiliary Bingo At Arista Healthcare, 2:00pm
- Tues 06/03 : Hines Outreach, 10:00am, Post; Veteran Business Connection After Hours, 6:00pm, Canteen; Auxiliary Social, 5:00pm, Canteen
- Wed 06/04 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Sat 06/07 : Monarch Landing Visit, 10:00am
- Tues 06/10 : Hines Hospital Visit
- Wed 06/11 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Thurs 06/12 : VFW Post Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post
- Sat 06/14 : Brookdale Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am; Blood Drive
- Sun 06/15 : Members Family Breakfast, 9:00am-12:00pm
- Mon 06/16 : Veteran Business Connection Meeting, 8:00am, Rosie's
- Wed 06/18 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Thurs 06/19 : Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post
- Sat 06/21 : Tabor Hills Visit, 10:00am
- Wed 06/25 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Sat 06/28 : Story Point Home Visit, 10:00am; National Home Anniversary, Eaton Rapids, MI
- Sun 06/29 : Lotus Vibrations

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

- Sat 07/12 Lt Dan Band, Cantigny
- Mon 08/04 Freedom Tailgate
- 08/29-09/01 Last Fling
- 09/01 Labor Day Parade
- 09/01 Last Fling Veterans Tent
- 09/11 Ceremonies