

# THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 25 Issue 07

July 2025



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



## Commander Staci Boyer



I continue to be amazed and inspired by the dedication of our Post 3873 members. Your commitment, passion, and teamwork were on full display at the VFW Department of Illinois State Convention—and I'm proud to share some incredible achievements with all of you.

Together, we brought home numerous awards, including:

- Most Money Donated to the VFW National Home
- First Place Among Large Posts for Youth Activities
- Most New Legacy Life Members
- Plaque for Highest-Level Contribution to the Veterans Service Officer Fund
- Membership Growth Awards
- Recognition for Our Hines VA Hospital Visits
- All-State and All-American Post Honors

These accomplishments are not the result of one person—but of many. It truly takes a village. I'm deeply honored and blessed to serve as your Commander and to work alongside such a strong, service-driven community.

### Stay Tuned!

We have many events on the horizon. You can find full details on our website, social media pages, flyers and TV slideshows in the canteen, and via our TicketSource link: [www.ticketsource.com/naperville-vfw-3873](http://www.ticketsource.com/naperville-vfw-3873)

### ICYMI – Adopt a Veteran's Grave Update

If you missed it, I had the opportunity to speak with Ramblin' Ray on WLS 890 to discuss our Adopt a Veteran's Grave project and the recent law we helped pass. Two more refurbished headstones were just installed, and the before (top) and after (bottom) images speak volumes.

🔊 Listen here: [WLS 890 Military Monday Interview](#)

Stay tuned for updates on two additional headstone restorations happening in early July—we'll be sharing more around the 26th.

Thank you for all you do. Let's keep showing what it means to be Still Serving.

"Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it... it flies with the last breath of every veteran who died defending it."





## Senior Vice Commander Jennifer Slown



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

Our Post is celebrating the achievement of "All American" this year, so we've earned a moment to catch our breath (briefly). You'll need to be well rested to be ready for the 12th Annual Judd-a-thon!

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.

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

## Business of the Post

### Post Meetings 6/10/2025, 6/12/2025 Highlights



#### June 10th:

Meeting was opened at 1904 according to ritual by John Davin, Past State Commander, for purposes of merging Naperville Post 3873 and Lisle Post 5696. Representatives from both Posts were present. Based on the vote of those present the Posts merged, the location will be 908 W. Jackson St, Naperville, the name and number will be Judd Kendall Post 3873, and the slated officers of Post 3873 will continue their duties.

The meeting was closed per ritual at 1937 hours.

#### June 12th:

The meeting was opened 1905 according to ritual by Commander Staci Boyer.

Four new members were sworn in: 2 Army, 1 National Guard, 1 Navy

Membership: 40 new members gained with Lisle merger. Increases our numbers for next year's All American, start recruiting now!

QM reported good canteen, ~\$7,000 net from plant sale, but unusually low hall rentals. Pig Roast and Installation Dinner both helped to make up for that difference.

Americanism: Memorial Day 2025 went very well. Starting planning for Memorial Day 2026.

Honor Guard: 7 graveside services and 2 military funeral events.

Buddy Poppy: Donations totaled \$21,800.

Trustees recommended a total of \$3,000 in donations to the following: USS Illinois 786 Club, OSOT, Districts 203 and 204 Educational Foundations.

Meeting closed at 2005 according to ritual. The next post meeting will be Thursday, July 10th, 2025 at 1900.



**Junior Vice Commander**

**Josh Warner**



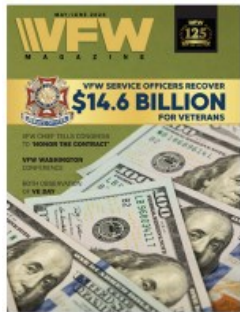
In the early 1900s, the expansion of industrialization gained a strong foothold in Europe. Germany commenced with its militarization and envied the powerful English Navy. As Germany made its offensive plans to invade France and Russia, respectively, the French made plans of their own. Tensions ran high on the small continent. It was a powder keg. Then, the match was lit.

During his visit to Sarajevo in Serbia, heir to the Austro-Hungarian empire, Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie were assassinated on Sunday June 28, 1914. Gavrilo Princip was a member of Young Bosnia. He convinced other members to join a plot to assassinate the heir of the Austrian Empire. The Black Hand, a secret nationalist organization bent on the unification of all Serbs, provided the conspirators with training and weapons.

The Archduke’s motorcade left the train station in Sarajevo at around 10 a.m. bound for Sarajevo Town Hall, to deliver a scheduled speech. Just 15 minutes later, a hand grenade was hurled at the motorcade. The Archduke’s driver accelerated and the grenade detonated under the car behind him, seriously wounding two of its occupants.

Ferdinand delivered his speech and decided to visit the victims of the grenade attack. His driver, unaware of the change in plans, continued along the planned route. He was informed of the change and stopped to correct his route. He happened to stop just 5 feet away from Gavrilo. Two shots rang from Princip’s semi auto pistol striking Franz and Sophia. They died shortly later.

Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia just one month later on July 28, 1914. The Great War had begun.



May/June 2025

- Chief Calls on Congress to 'Honor the Contract'
- 'We Always Do it for Free'
- Advocating On The Hill
- Remembering Victory in Europe
- Listen to the 2025 May/June issue of VFW magazine [here](#).

\*\*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) accessed above.\*\*

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.



### Service Officer Updates Dennis Lukavsky



#### Hidden "Gems" in Helping Veterans

Every once and a while, you get a little unexpected thank you when working for Veterans. Here is my wonderful example. Two of our grand children go to a Jefferson Junior High here in town. I know there is always a need at the end of the school year for us Veterans to attend end of school year assemblies and present awards to worthy students.

This year, I thought it would be a neat thing to present awards at Jefferson and "hang" with my grand kids. When I got to the event I was very surprised that the event was not what I had thought. It was actually the school's "Moving on" ceremony. For those of you not in the know "Moving on" = Graduation from 8th grade.

Since I had to do a little speech and present awards I was sitting in the middle of the stage. I had a prime view of the events.

As a result, I was privileged to see my grand daughter close up and personal on stage when she received her diploma. Even got the best "High Five" of my life from her on that stage.

Here is the point. Don't be afraid to volunteer in the activities going on at the post. You might find some hidden gems of your own and really begin to enjoy the "work".

#### 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 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 [Stack@MedVFW.com](mailto:Stack@MedVFW.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**  
908 W. Jackson Avenue, Naperville, IL 60540

To Register, make your check (or cash) payable for \$20 (\$25 on Race Day) to:  
**908 W. Jackson Avenue, Naperville, IL 60540**

<b>EARLY REGISTRATION:</b> Entries received by Friday Sept. 10 guarantee a complete packet (map with T-shirt, race bib, & 0.1K race sticker).	<b>DAY OF RACE:</b> Registration and packet pick-up is from 8:00-9:30 AM	<b>EARLY RACE PACKET PICK-UP:</b> Pre-registered racers can pick-up their race packet at the site Post 908 W. Jackson Ave. (908) (at or Friday) from 12:00
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Check # Under \$K: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
T-Shirt Size (Circle One Size For Entry Form): \_\_\_\_\_  
S/M/L Med Lrg XL XXL XXXL

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

IF SHIRT WILL NOT BE MADE, ASSIGNED OR DELIVERED AFTER THE RUN IS COMPLETED ALL SHIRTS LEFT OVER WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO OTHERS IN A FIRST-COME FIRST-SERVED BASIS!

**VFW Naperville**  
**2nd Annual CAR SHOW**  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 (12 PM – 3 PM)

FREE Entry to the Public!

Antique/Classic Cars, Supercars, Hot Rods, Trucks, Motorcycles, Jeeps  
Feed Trucks, Drinks, Music, Silent Auction, Raffles, Crafts Show & More!  
Vote for your Favorites! \*\* Top 25 cars win trophies  
Best in Show, 1st Place (10), Commander's Choice, Winners (12)

**Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873**  
908 W. Jackson Ave., Naperville 60540  
Event and Registered Show Cars @ VFW South Parking Lot  
Public Parking @ Commercial beach lot (shuttle avail.)

\*\*Free entry to public (donations to VFW Post accepted)  
\*\*\$25 car/truck/tube entry fee (for trophies and expenses)

To register, visit [CarShow](http://CarShow) below, or visit [www.vfwpost3873.com/naperville/cfs](http://www.vfwpost3873.com/naperville/cfs) 3873-Events

\*Raffle tickets: 100 for \$10  
Sunday, September 28  
12:00 pm – 3:00 pm



**National Home Chairman  
Mike McGrath**



"Congratulations!"

A job "well done," as our Post has again won the top award in Illinois for the VFW National Home!

Thank you to all of our donors and especially to Jennifer Slown, the Judd-A-Thon Committee!

"Awesome!"

As we go to press, we are eagerly anticipating the National Home's 100th Anniversary Celebration to be held on June 28. It promises to be a great success and we'll have some great pics for you very soon!

Illinois Day 2025 will be held on September 20 and our 12th Annual Judd-A-Thon is set for September 14.

In the meantime, the kids are out of school and working around the campus. And the National Home's "Dynamos" are getting ready for the upcoming Eaton County Fair.

Be sure to check out the National Home's Website for more Info and remember the Help-Line at 800-313 4200.

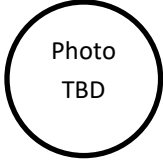
Thank you to all of our Post and Auxiliary officers and members and may God bless our National Home!

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### Honor Flight Photos

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





### Auxiliary President

Maryann Groner



Members of the Post and Auxiliary were joined by members of the Naperville Central Football team (left photo) on our monthly visit to the Veterans in the Spinal Ward at Hines. Half of the group played bingo and awarded prizes to winners while the rest of us visited with the men and chatted with them. At the end, we were able to leave them with some cash for goodies.

We are thankful for all our students who join in spreading cheer to our Vets. We will resume our visits to Hines in September and hope you will join us. Transportation is provided and you are welcome to join in fellowship in the Canteen when we return. (Mark, please enclose the picture of the team here.)

Newly elected and returning officers and planning to make this another great year for the Auxiliary. We strive to again achieve Circle of Excellence as we support the post and our Veterans. We hope you will be joining us at our fundraising activities as well as attending our monthly meetings (right photo).



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.



## Download the VA Health and Benefits App

It's not complicated

March 4, 2025

Jesus Flores  
Creative Task Force Writer and Marine Corps Veteran

**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



## July 2025

Tues 07/01 : Hines Outreach, 10:00am, VFW Post; Veteran Business Connection Business after Business, 6:00pm, Canteen

Wed 07/02 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post

Fri 07/04 : Ruck March; BBQ

Sat 07/05 : Monarch Landing Visit, 10:00am

Mon 07/07 : Auxiliary Bingo, Arista Healthcare, 2:00pm

Wed 07/09 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post

Thurs 07/10 : VFW Post Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post

Sat 07/12 : Brookdale Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am; Lt Dan Band plays Cantigny

Sun 07/13 : Members Family Breakfast, 9:00am-12:00pm, VFW Post

Wed 07/16 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post

Thurs 07/17 : Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post

Sat 07/19 : Tabor Hills Visit, 10:00am

Mon 07/21 : Veteran Business Connection Meeting, 8:00am, Rosie's

Wed 07/23 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post

Sat 07/26 : Story Point Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am

Wed 07/30 : 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

08/09-14 VFW National Convention

08/17 Freedom Tailgate

08/29-09/01 Last Fling

09/01 Labor Day Parade

09/01 Last Fling Veterans Tent

09/09 VFW Golf Outing

09/11 Ceremonies

09/14 Judd-a-Thon

09/20 Illinois Day at National Home

09/27 Car Show