

THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 25 Issue 08

August 2025



A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



**Commander
Staci Boyer**



I hope this message finds you well and enjoying the heart of summer. As always, thank you for all that you do to support our mission of service to veterans, their families, and our community. We've had a busy and impactful month, and I'd like to share some important updates and opportunities with you.

Adopt-a-Veteran Grave Project – Progress and Pride

I'm proud to report that our Adopt-a-Veteran Grave initiative continues to gain momentum. We recently honored two newly refurbished graves at Naperville Cemetery in a moving ceremony alongside Mayor Wehrli, our Post Honor Guard, and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). These moments of remembrance underscore why this project is so important.

LT Dan Band Concert – A Resounding Success

What a night! The LT Dan Band concert was a huge success—and it was even better seeing so many of our members out in force. Your support is what brings these events to life. Special thanks to all who volunteered to make it run smoothly.

Volunteers Needed!

As we head into late summer, there are several events and opportunities to get involved. We have created SignUpGenius pages for [Veteran Breakfasts](#), the [VFW Golf Outing](#), and [2026 Fish Frys](#). Whether you're flipping pancakes, teeing off, or helping with event logistics—we need you! Every volunteer hour makes a difference.

Welcome to Our Lisle VFW Family

We're excited to share that the merger between Ross Bishop Lisle VFW Post #5696 and Post 3873 is almost officially complete. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to our Lisle comrades when you see them! This merger is an opportunity to grow our impact, enhance our programming, and continue to have a strong VFW presence in the Lisle community. Stay tuned—we will be announcing a "Meet & Greet" welcome event soon to bring everyone together.

As always, thank you for your dedication to our mission and our Post. Let's keep building on the momentum we've created—together, we are stronger.

Quote of the month: "Veterans never stop serving—we just shift our mission. Today, that mission is showing up for one another, standing together, and making sure no one feels forgotten once the uniform comes off."
— Commander Staci Boyer



Senior Vice Commander
Jennifer Slown



Why the Judd-a-thon Matters

Every year, people from across our area come together to support "The Judd-a-thon", our annual fundraiser for the [VFW National Home](#). Located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, the National Home has served as a lifeline for veteran and military families since 1925. Your donation, no matter the amount, helps to provide stability, healing, and hope to families facing tough times.

Imagine a Veteran parent, struggling to find their footing after deployment, or a military widow trying to raise children on her own. The National Home gives these families a safe and supportive community where they can rebuild and look forward to a brighter future. It's not just a place to live, but a place to heal and grow.

When you contribute to the Judd-a-thon, you're changing lives, not just writing a check. You're helping children stay in school, giving parents a second chance, and ensuring that no Veteran's family faces life's challenges alone.

The Judd-a-thon is not just about raising funds, it's about reaffirming our commitment to those who strive to support: Veterans, service members, and their families. Set on more than 600 acres, the VFW National Home offers a range of programs including housing, education assistance, counseling, daycare, and life skills training for families in need. The families who reside at the National Home form a close community with their fellow Veterans and Veteran family members. All services are provided free of charge, thanks entirely to donations from VFW members, Auxiliaries, and supporters like you.

The VFW is more than a group of likeminded people, it's a family. Please consider donating to this year's Judd-a-thon and help us carry forward a tradition of compassion, camaraderie, and commitment.

To donate, please visit the Judd-a-thon ticketsource page: <https://www.ticketsource.com/naperville-vfw-3873>
Or contact Sr Vice Jennifer Slown at JenniferBSlown@gmail.com or 630-803-2251

Business of the Post

Post Meeting 7/10/2025 Highlights



The meeting was opened at 1903 by Commander Staci Boyer according to ritual.

Six new members, 3 new to VFW and 3 transfers were proposed and approved: Army 4, Navy1 , Coast Guard 1.

Two new members were sworn in: Army 1, Army/Air Force 1.

Quartermaster reported no unusual expenses. Good canteen and hall rental. A chunk of funds was invested in a CD to take advantage of current interest rates. We recognized and celebrated our extremely strong financial growth since COVID.

Blood Drive had 15 donations. We have another upcoming on October 4.

Honor Guard reported 6 graveside services: Army 3, Marine Corps 1, Navy 1, Air Force 1.

Color Guard reported two events in June and eight events upcoming in July, August, and September.

Retirement Homes visits are going well and the involvement of the Young Men's Service League has really added a ton of value for everyone.

Buddy Poppy program is looking to next events working with Maplebrook Elementary and on Veterans Day.

Trustees recommended a total of \$6700 in donations. Only \$5700 were approved: Midwest Shelter for Veterans, Hessed House, Naperville Responds, VFW Service Officer. The remaining \$1000 was deferred to August pending more information about how those funds will flow through to the target programs.

Meeting was closed at 1958 by Commander Staci Boyer according to ritual. The next meeting is Thursday, August 14, 2025 at 1900.



Junior Vice Commander

Josh Warner



On August 8, 1945, the Soviet Union declared war against the Japanese empire, just two days after Colonel Tibbets and his crew loosed an atomic bomb from the Enola Gay over Hiroshima.

At 11:02 a.m. on August 9th, when the second bomb dropped over Nagasaki, the Japanese government finally appreciated the power of the new Allied weapon. The following day, Japan agreed to the terms of surrender in accordance with the Potsdam Declaration, allowing the Emperor to retain his sovereign status. The Allies countered. The Japanese Emperor would be subject to the directives of the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers in the Pacific. On August 14, 1945, Japan agreed to these terms, marking the end of the war in the Pacific.

The formal surrender would not come for nearly three weeks, because the Japanese leadership needed the time to prepare for the peaceful transition and to quell the fears of diehard opponents of surrender. Defeat was 'out of the realm of possibility' to many Japanese forces and citizens. Fear of attacks on Allied occupational forces loomed until September 2nd.

August would end with the landing of Allied troops at Yokosuka naval base and various forts overlooking Tokyo Bay and the arrival of the USS Missouri (BB-63). From her foremast, the 'Mighty Moe' flew the flag that had flown over the US Capitol on December 7, 1941. Over the course of the campaign, US forces suffered more than 100,000 killed in action along with the deaths of almost 6,000 civilians, most of whom were members of the merchant marine. The Japanese lost an estimated 2,000,000 in military action and hundreds of thousands from disease and starvation.

According to once-classified Soviet archives, the atom bombs were key to reversal of Stalin's plans to invade Japan from the north and spared Japan the fate North Korea had suffered.

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.

Taps



John Baber, age 92, Army

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



Service Officer Updates Dennis Lukavsky



Celebrating 20 Years of Honor Flights With Honor Flight!

In May of 2005, the very first Honor Flight brought a handful of WWII veterans from Ohio to their newly opened Memorial in Washington, D.C. The trip was so impactful that a nationwide movement soon took root. Now, as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the very first Honor Flight, 130 active hubs across the country have combined to fly more than 320,000 senior war heroes to our nation's capital.



So if you have not taken an honor flight yet, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? Many veterans are waiting their turn to go, the waiting list is pretty long. The sooner you get on the list, the sooner you get one of the best experiences of a lifetime. For those of you who came home from the military and did not get the welcoming you expected or felt you deserved, your Honor flight will fix all of that... Here is the link to get started. DO IT TODAY, RIGHT NOW! Get the application in!

<http://www.honorflightchicago.org/how-to-apply/veteran>

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 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

EARLY REGISTRATION: Entries received by Friday Sept. 10 guarantee a complete packet (map 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 same Post 908 W. Jackson Ave. (908) (at 9:00 AM on Friday) from 12:00-1:00 PM.
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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: _____

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/bike entry fee (for trophies and expenses)

To register, visit the table below, or visit www.2ndannualcarshow.com/naperville/cfs-3873 (online)

*Bike table: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Car Show, September 27 (12 pm - 3 PM)



**National Home Chairman
Mike McGrath**



Hooray for the Dynamos, celebrating growth and grit

The National Home's 4-H Club has been hard at work and recently participated in the Eaton County Fair. For many years the 4-H program has given the kids a great opportunity to develop leadership skills like resilience, teamwork, and commitment. This year was no exception as the dynamos took home several awards.

Congratulations to Hailey, Aurora, Damon, Ellee, and Rin for their award-winning work with the hogs! And congratulations to Alex, Jude, Charlotte, Bri, Logan, Blake, and Justice for their awards for the rabbits!

Please do check out the [National Home's webpage](#) for full details and pictures, under news and events!

Illinois Day: Illinois Day is set for Saturday, September 20 and details will soon be posted.

Judd-A-Thon

The 12th Annual Judd-A-Thon is set for Sunday, September 14, and I'm sure everyone is gearing up with extra training for this great event.

Our thanks to Senior Vice Jennifer Slown, to the committee, to our many donors and to all of our Post and Auxiliary members for your great support.

Ruck March 2025

Photos courtesy of Jim Hoch. See the full gallery on his [SmugMug](#) page.





Auxiliary President
Maryann Groner



Auxiliary members learned about Fisher House during our most recent meeting. Diane Kelley, who is the President of [Friends of Fisher House Illinois](#), spoke to us about the organization’s mission.

The Fisher House foundation builds comfort homes where military and veteran families can stay free of charge when a loved one is in the hospital. The homes are located at military and VA medical centers around the world including one at Hines and another at the Lovell Health Care Center. After learning more about what Friends of Fisher House does to support our veterans and their families, the Auxiliary voted to give a donation to help support the organization. Sr. Vice President, Berni Budny was instrumental in inviting Ms. Kelley to speak with us.



**FRIENDS OF
FISHER HOUSE
ILLINOIS**

The Auxiliary is beginning to plan for our fall fundraising season participating with the Post at the Golf Outing, Car Show and Turkey Raffle. We are also working on the District 19 Steak Fry fund-raiser, where our Auxiliary National and Department Presidents are planning on attending.

Veteran Headstone Replacement Project

Photos courtesy of Jim Hoch. 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	Maryann Groner	
Sr. Vice President	Bernadette Budny	
Jr. Vice President	Debbie Smith	
Secretary	Nancy Marinello	
Treasurer	Leo Hart	(630) 816-0506
Chaplain	Gerry Tice	(630) 363-8138
Guard	Mary Ellen DiMatteo	
Conductress	Kathy Thornton	



VFW Post 3873 Upcoming Events



August 2025

- Sat 08/02 : Monarch Landing Visit, 10:00am
- Mon 08/04: Birthday of the US Coast Guard
- Mon 08/04 : Auxiliary Bingo, Arista Healthcare, 2:00pm
- Tues 08/05 : Hines Outreach, 10:00am, VFW Post; Veteran Business Connection After Hours, 6:00pm, Canteen
- Wed 08/06 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Sat 08/09 : Brookdale Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am
- Sun 08/10 : Members Family Breakfast, 9:00am-12:00pm, VFW Post
- Wed 08/13 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Thurs 08/14 : VFW Post Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post
- Sat 08/16 : Tabor Hills Visit, 10:00am
- Sun 08/17 : Freedom Tailgate, VFW Post
- Mon 08/18 : Veteran Business Connection Meeting, 8:00am, Rosie's
- Wed 08/20 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Thurs 08/21 : Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post
- Sat 08/23 : Story Point Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am
- Wed 08/27 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Sat 08/30 : Independence Village Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am

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

- 08/29-09/01 Last Fling
- 09/01 Labor Day Parade, 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
- 10/4 Blood Drive

Monthly Recurring Events

- First Tuesday: Hines Outreach
- Second Tuesday: Hines Hospital POC John Shaw (not July, August)
- Every Wednesday: Yoga in the morning
- Second Thursday: Post Meeting
- Third Monday: Veteran Business Network
- Third Thursday: Auxiliary meeting
- Every Saturday: Retirement home visit