

THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 25 Issue 09

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A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



Commander Staci Boyer



More Than a Post, A Purpose.

Because service doesn't stop—it evolves.

I often get asked, “Why should I join the VFW?” My answer is simple: Service didn’t end when we took off the uniform. It just changed its shape.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars isn’t just an organization—it’s a living legacy of those who raised their right hand and said, “Send me.” When you join your local post, you’re not signing up for endless meetings or dusty halls. You’re stepping into a place where camaraderie lives on, where laughter over a cup of coffee feels like a long-lost formation, and where your story matters because everyone here has one too.

At Naperville VFW Post 3873, our mission is clear:

- To serve veterans. Whether it’s helping with benefits, providing a listening ear, or honoring those who’ve gone before us, we have each other’s backs.
- To serve our community. We honor graves, support youth programs, partner with local organizations, and remind our neighbors that freedom is never free.
- To serve with purpose. Wearing the VFW cap means carrying forward the values we defended—duty, honor, loyalty, and sacrifice.

Joining isn’t about reliving the past—it’s about shaping the future. It’s about showing the next generation that veterans aren’t just a chapter in history books, but a vital part of our community’s heartbeat.

So why join? Because your voice makes us stronger. Because your presence ensures the stories of service continue. And because together, we prove that while our battles may be behind us, our mission is far from over.

We are more than a post.

We are a family.

We are Naperville VFW Post 3873.

Thank you to Kristen Jungles, her team, family, our VFW Auxillary, Bartenders and volunteers - for making the 8/17 Freedom Tailgate such a memorable event! You guys are outstanding. I can not thank you enough for all you ALL do for our post!

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Volunteers Needed!

Veteran Breakfasts – [Sign Up Here](#)

VFW Golf Outing – [Sign Up Here](#)

2026 Fish Fry – [Sign Up Here](#)

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Please note all upcoming events are on this [Ticket Source link](#)! Please save this link and join us. 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 lets 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 Auxillary, American Legion, Legion Riders and Sons. We are stronger together.

Quote of the month AGAIN: “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

Business of the Post

Post Meeting 7/10/2025 Highlights



Meeting was opened according to ritual at 1906 hours

New Members: 1 new member

New Members sworn in: Christian Kelly

Quartermaster: No unusual expenses, good canteen. 3K of Juddathon sponsorship money is in. 8900.00 spent on the renovation so far.

Service Officer: Ask about the free app from the VA for the hard of hearing that types out your conversations. Talk to George Kramer if you need help filing a VA claim.

Membership: We have received our All-American banner for our flag

Blood Drive: 10/4 is the next blood drive

Honor Guard: 7 graveside services – 2 were from the Adopt-a-grave program

Color Guard: 8/27 – presentation of colors for Naper Settlement for garden plot

Hines: Begins again Sept 9

Trustees: Discussed the process of motions. \$200 to the MAP program, \$200 to the homeless vets program, and \$200 to the service officer program – motions approved after they were dismissed last meeting.

The meeting was closed according to ritual by Commander Boyer at 2016 hours. The next post meeting will be Thursday, September 11th, at 1900.

Download the VA Health and Benefits App
It's not complicated.
March 4, 2025
Jesse Flores
Director of VA Health and Benefits Mobile Apps Office

GET STARTED WITH THE VA HEALTH AND BENEFITS APP TODAY

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

The United States Air Force earliest beginnings go back to the use of reconnaissance balloons during the American Civil War. However, it wasn't until August of 1907 that the Army's Signal Corps' Aeronautical Division was created. In 1911, the first appropriations for aeronautics were passed by Congress. It was 1914 when the Aviation Section of the Signal Corps was established.

The first U.S. use of military aircraft was against Pancho Villa in 1916. The 1st Aero Squadron flew eight Curtiss JN-3 Jenny biplanes on reconnaissance missions during the 1916 Punitive Expedition into Mexico. These early "Flying Jennies" were underpowered, and their limited success was hampered by poor maintenance and the rugged Mexican terrain. Despite these challenges, the missions provided valuable experience for American aviation and demonstrated the potential for military applications of aircraft.

In 1917, when the U.S. entered the war in Europe, the Appropriations Act of July 24, 1917, increased funds for the aviation wing of the Signal Corps. Woodrow Wilson signed an Executive Order May 20, 1918, removed the Air wing from the Signal Corps and established the Army Air Service. By the end of World War I, the Army Air Service consisted of 195,000 officers and men, 45 squadrons, and 740 aircraft. After the war, there was a draw down of forces to a fraction of what it once was.

Brigadier General William "Billy" Mitchell, the American combat air commander to whom much of the success of U.S. military air actions can be attributed, became a forceful proponent of creating a separate air force on par with both the Army and Navy. The Army Reorganization Act of 1920 made the Air Service a combatant unit within the Army. In 1926, the Air Service was replaced by the Army Air Corps, responsible for training and logistics, however the Army maintained tactical control until 1941, when the Army Air Force was established during the build up to World War 2.

Following the National Security Act in 1947, the U.S. Air Force was established September 18, 1947. Happy Birthday to our beloved Airmen!

#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, #StillServing: 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.

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



Important Log-in Changes to VA.gov!!

The VA is changing their login procedures to improve security.

You can no longer use your My HealthVet ID and password to sign in to VA.gov, VA apps, or other online VA services. In addition, after September 30, you won't be able to use your DS Logon username and password.

Instead, you will have two options for signing in: **Login.gov** or **ID.me**. These services are VA's secure sign-in partners that protect your information and benefits.

To create a Login.gov or ID.me account, visit the [Creating an Account for VA.gov webpage](#) and follow the registration instructions for the secure sign-in option of your choosing. If you need help feel free to contact me.

If you are an active user of VA.gov don't wait until Sept 29th to take action. Get this taken care of NOW!

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 on Friday) from 12:00
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Name: _____ Check # Under \$K: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
T-Shirt Size (Circle One Size Per Entry Form): _____
SML Med Lrg XL XXL XXXL

Signature: _____ Date: _____

*SHIRTS WILL NOT BE MADE, ASSIGNED OR DELIVERED AFTER THE RUN IS COMPLETED. ALL SHIRTS LEFT OVER WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO OTHERS AT A LATER DATE. THANK YOU!

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 IL 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)
**\$15 car/truck/bike entry fee (for trophies and expenses)

To register, visit the table below, or visit www.ticketsource.com/naperville/cfs-2025

*Raffle tickets on day
Sundays, September 28
10 pm - 3 PM



**National Home Chairman
Mike McGrath**



Illinois Day VFW National Home; September 20, 2025!

2025 marks the National home's 100th anniversary - Join the celebration!

The event runs from 9:00am-2:00p. There will be guided tours from 10:00am-12:00pm and a lunch at 12:00pm, with a program to follow.

A detailed program will be available closer to the event.

Location

VFW National Home, 3573 Waverly Road, Eaton rapids, Mi 48827

Phone - 800-424 8360

Activities

We will begin with a visit to the local (Rosehill cemetery) - National Home section at 9:00 am local time. Campus activities begin at 10am. Lunch is at noon followed by the program and Silver march. Departure will be at approximately 2pm.

We will visit the National Home's beautiful campus with 43 homes on over 600 acres, Illinois home 1and 2 as well as the museum, gift shop, and the Montana farmstead. There will also be lots of food, fun, games, prizes and good information about the home available in the gym.

Welcoming dinner

For those comrades arriving on Friday, September 19, we will have a welcoming dinner at local VFW post 2406, In nearby Charlotte, Michigan, at 695 Lansing street. (517-543 1719). Cold beverages and camaraderie start at 5:00pm with dinner starting at 6:00pm.

Healing Fields Flag Disassembly and Preparation

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





Auxiliary President
Maryann Groner



Many Auxiliary members had a great time at the Freedom Tailgate fund raiser, and we are excited to see the changes made to Kendall Hall by the efforts of the committee and those supported the event.

You will see Auxiliary members involved in the upcoming Judd-a-thon working on shirt distribution as well as selling raffle tickets for our famous Bertha's Baskets at the event. We are so grateful to Bertha for her very generous donation of baskets that will help us to support the National Home. Just a week later look for us at the Car Show again, with some more Berth's Baskets as well a lottery board. All your support for our fundraising will be greatly appreciated.

Our membership is approaching 300 members! I would like to invite those of you who haven't been to a meeting lately to join us. We are a group of men and women who are interested in working to support our Veterans and community and would love to have you become more involved in working with us. Our next meeting is on September 18 at 7:00 upstairs at the Post. Come to the meeting, see the renovations in the hall and join us in the Canteen for fellowship after the meeting.



Freedom Tail Gate

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
Adjutant	Jason Sharpton	
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	Craig Frier	(630) 373-1186
2-Year Trustee	Leo Jaime	(773) 441-3887
3-Year Trustee	Jan Schrader	

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
Chaplain	Gerry Tice
Guard	Mary Ellen DiMatteo
Conductor	Kathy Thornton
3 yr Trustee	Brenda Hasler
2 yr Trustee	Julie Cunningham
1 yr Trustee	Amy Ownby



VFW Post 3873 Upcoming Events



September 2025

- Mon 09/01 : Labor Day Parade; Last Fling Veterans Tend
- Tues 09/02 : Veteran Business Connection After Hours, Canteen 6:00pm-9:00pm
- Sat 09/06 : Monarch Landing Visit, 10:00am
- Sun 09/07 : Member Family Breakfast, 9:00am, Post
- Mon 09/08 : Auxiliary Bingo, Arista Healthcare, 2:00pm
- Tues 09/09 : Hines Outreach, 10:00am, VFW Post; VFW Golf Outing, Springbrook.
- Wed 09/10 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Thurs 09/11 : VFW Post Meeting, **7:30pm**, VFW Post, **NOTE TIME CHANGE**
- Sat 09/13 : Brookdale Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am
- Sun 09/14 : Judd-A-Thon
- Mon 09/15 : Veteran Business Connection Meeting, 8:00am, Rosie's
- Wed 09/17 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Thurs 09/18 : USAF Birthday; Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post
- Sat 09/20 : Tabor Hills Visit, 10:00am; Illinois Day at the National Home
- Sun 09/21 : Lotus Vibrations, Post
- Wed 09/24 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Sat 09/27 : Story Point Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am; VFW Car Show

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

- 10/03 Pig Roast with lounge singer (3:00pm-9:00pm)
- 10/04 Blood Drive
- 10/25 VFW/VAC/VA Resource event
- 10/30 Joe Cantafio
- 11/07 Healing Fields Opening Day
- 11/11 Veterans Day/School Visits/Ceremonies
- 11/30 Decorating the Post

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