

THE KENDALL-GRAM

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A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



**Commander
Staci Boyer**



Last week I had the honor of representing Illinois and our Post as part of the VFW National Legislative Committee in Washington, D.C. In just a few days, I participated in 15 congressional meetings advocating for Veterans on critical issues, including the following:

- **Community Care Reform** through the ACCESS Act of 2025, H.R. 740 / S. 275
- Expanding care for **Veterans living abroad** via H.R.467.
- Exploring **alternative PTSD Treatments** and **ensuring transparency** in risks and benefits of prescribed medications through the Written Informed Consent Act H.R. 4837 and H.R. 2623 Innovative Therapies Centers of Excellence Act of 2025.
- We also encouraged support with H.R. 1845 that focuses on improving the **Transition from Service process** by mandating an accredited VSO (Veteran Service Officer) be present during TAP classes.
- We continue to champion and request support and insight on passing S.1032 /H.R. 2102 Major Richard Star Act. Our **retired disabled Veterans** have earned both and deserve both.
- We discussed the ongoing issue of **Claim Sharks** and our opposition to the CHOICE for Veterans ACT H.R. 3132. This is misleading and Veterans should never be given an option to choose someone that will lie, steal, manipulate and put them unnecessarily into debt.
- Finally the **Post 9/11 GI Bill improvements** via H.R. 1423 / S. 649 which create equity for the National Guard through the GI Bill Parity Act of 2025.

I personally feel all of our conversations were well received and I left DC feeling like we were definitely heard. The work is never done, and we will always use our voices. These are only a few of the ongoing crusades that the VFW prioritizes daily as we fight for ALL Veterans. I am, as I always say, grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this process and pray I can make a difference. Please let me know if you would like information on how to be more informed and use your voice to help create positive change through legislation!

And for those looking to help create positive change closer to home, please look into our Volunteer opportunities sign up!

[Veteran Breakfasts](#)

[2026 Fish Fry](#)

Quote of the month: "When veterans use their voice in the halls of legislation, they carry more than their own story — they carry the weight of service, sacrifice, and the power to shape a better future for all who follow."



**Senior Vice Commander
Jennifer Slow**



12th Annual Juddathon Recap!

On Sunday, September 14th, the Naperville VFW hosted the 12th annual Juddathon 0.1k race! This year’s event welcomed roughly 200 participants, who showed up ready to tackle the legendary 0.1K course with energy and plenty of good humor. See page 6 for some photos from the day.

Racers warmed up under the direction of Post Commander Staci Boyer, leading service-inspired exercises like the “Army Grenade Throw”, "Navy Bobs", and Space Force “Spacewalk.” The weather could not have been more perfect for the crowd as we enjoyed the incredible Lima Lima Flight Team flyover. Competitors of all ages and abilities made their way arduous course, running, walking, crawling, and even “wheelbarrowing” their way to the finish line. Alongside the race, attendees enjoyed delicious brats and burgers generously donated by Hugo’s Frog Bar, while raffle baskets and a 50/50 drawing kept the energy high throughout the morning. Awards capped off the fun, recognizing racers who truly captured the Juddathon spirit including best costume and most creative way to run the race awards.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to the VFW Auxiliary, whose hard work made the day possible. From organizing and distributing shirts and race packets ahead of time, to donating raffle baskets and selling tickets on race day, their efforts were central to the event’s success. This years Juddathon could not have happened without the many volunteers, sponsors, and participants who contributed their time, energy, and resources. Please be sure to check out this year's sponsors and support those businesses when able.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, this year’s Juddathon raised an impressive \$23,000 for the VFW National Home which was presented at the September Illinois Day event at the National Home.

If you didn't get a shirt this year, please let me know as I have a few extras for sale (monies contributed to next years goal!).

We look forward to seeing everyone again next year for the 13th annual Juddathon!

Business of the Post

Post Meeting September 11, 2025 Highlights



Meeting was opened according to ritual at 1930 hours by Commander Boyer.

New Members: 4; New Members sworn in: Zachary Stack

Quartermaster: Rental income is favorable

Service Officer: VA website login is changing to ID.me

Membership: Keep forward momentum

Honor Guard: 5 services: James K, Korea; Francis Gill, Air Force; William Newell, Air Force

Poppy: September starts the plans for 2026

Trustees: Total of \$1870 for three organizations

The meeting was closed according to ritual by Commander Boyer at 2018 hours. The next post meeting will be Oct 9, 2025



**Junior Vice Commander
Josh Warner**



On February 7, 1974, Grenada achieved its independence from the United Kingdom, however, it was not an easy transition. Prime Minister Eric Gairy ruled with an iron fist. Backed by his paramilitary Mongoose Gang, his term in office was defined by corruption and unwarranted violence against his political opponents. In the 1976 election, the New Jewel Movement (NJM) was able to reduce the PM’s parliamentary majority.

On March 13, 1979, while Gairy was at the United Nations making his case for an international committee on UFOs, the NJM staged a coup and proclaimed a People’s Revolutionary Government led by Maurice Bishop as Grenada’s new Prime Minister. Grenada received aid from Cuba, rebuilding the economy. Bishop built relationships with the Soviet-bloc. However, Bishop found opposition from western countries over his socialist principles. The United States feared that the construction of a new airstrip would host Soviet aircraft. An airstrip built and secured by some 800 Cuban troops.

In 1983, the Reagan administration decided to calm anxieties with the Caribbean Basin Initiative, a trade and development agreement. Bishop appeared to welcome closer ties with the U.S. and met with officials in June. This did not sit well with the hard-liners of NJM and on October 13, 1983, Bishop’s deputy prime minister removed Bishop as PM and placed him under house arrest.

On the October 19th, supporters freed Bishop and marched to Fort Rupert (now Fort George) and along the way found themselves face to face with coup supporters. They were fired upon and Bishop was executed. Grenada’s Governor-General, Queen Elizabeth’s Senior Representative, Sir Paul Scoon asked for “military action by friendly states.” On October 25, 1983, the U.S. launched Operation Urgent Fury.

Posters for Upcoming Events

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



#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.



Service Officer Updates Dennis Lukavsky



Veteran Resource Fairs

I was having a hard time coming up with a topic for this month's newsletter.....But scanning through some emails I found what I think is a fine topic for this month. It's something that might be helpful to you at some point, so listen up. Please....

As a service officer I visit Veteran Resource fairs looking for new "stuff" that will help our veterans. If you haven't been to one, here is some idea of what is involved: There are usually about 70 or 80 vendors covering every aspect of life's needs. Some vendors are there to sell you something, others to help. Make sure you concentrate on the helpers.... If I find something I think is a benefit to other veterans I spread the word. Today, it occurred to me that I can not possibly make everyone happy with my finds. So, I encourage you to visit one for yourself and see what help is out there. We all need some kind of help and it is usually a little different for everyone.

Post 3873 will be holding a Veteran Resource Fair on October 25 from 9AM to 2PM. Mark it on your calendar. You never know what you might find while attending.

Honor Guard 10 year Anniversary, October 6, 2025

Jim Oftedal



The Honor Guard will recognize its 10-year anniversary on October 6, 2025. The Honor Guard is certified by the Department of Defense to perform Military Funeral Honors (Graveside Services). We started at the 2014 Veterans Day Breakfast at District 203 office, when I asked Phil Maughan why Naperville did not have an Honor Guard. After a brief discussion, Phil said – “why don’t you start one”! (Since 2014, I’ve never asked Phil why we don’t have something at the VFW.) After a few months of planning, in May 2015, members from both the VFW and AL were invited to attend the initial training session. Phil secured training support from Sgt Jacob Martin, IL National Guard. Martin provided instruction the rest of the summer in military protocol and trained us to serve as an official Honor Guard performing Military Funeral Honors. After the first few training sessions, Rich Yndestad and I were enjoying a drink at the Canteen when we looked at each other and agreed...“This (Honor Guard) will never happen!” We were wrong! October 6, 2015 we completed training and were “Certified” by the Department of Defense as a formal Honor Guard to perform graveside Military Funeral Honors. Both VFW and AL Posts received certificates granting DOD approval to conduct Honor Guard services. Certification is significant as Honor Guards do not have to be “Certified” to perform graveside services for veterans. With D.O.D. certification, we follow military protocols to provide veteran graveside services. Our initial membership consisted of 10 Honor Guard Members; and we have grown to 20 members from the combined Veterans of Foreign Wars & American Legion. Special recognition to our Honor Guard members now in “Heaven’s Honor Guard”:

Guy Fraley, Lloyd McKee, Don O’Reilly, Ron Petry

The Honor Guard has performed 588 Military Funeral Honors services.
We have also performed 86 Military Events (Ceremonies: Special Services, Parades, etc.)

Regarding our nation’s veterans: **“We don’t know them all, but we owe them all.”**

To the right you see our “Honoring Those Who Served” D.O.D. pin designating us as a trained Honor Guard.





**National Home Chairman
Mike McGrath**



"The Story of Elgie Hanna"

Our thanks go out to Kyna Simpson, Illinois VFW National Home Director for Research the life of one of the National Home's past residents, Elgie Hanna.

Elgie George Hanna was born on January 23, 1949. Elgie's father, a disabled WWII veteran, brought Elgie and his three siblings to live at the National Home in 1955 after their mother became too ill to care for them. Elgie was only 6 years old.

Elgie, a patriotic young man, was inspired by the service of all those who made the National Home possible. After his high school graduation in June of 1967, he enlisted in the Army in September and served as a private first class in the 1st Cavalry Division. He was assigned to B Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th cavalry regiment. He began his Vietnam tour in February of 1968, and tragically, only 33 days later, he gave his life as the ultimate sacrifice while on patrol near Quang Tri, Vietnam.

Just as his own life took many turns, a local road bearing his name, (the Elgie Hanna Memorial Highway) winds through the countryside past the VFW National Home. Elgie is just one example of many brave service members buried both at the Rosehill Cemetery in Eaton Rapids and throughout the world. May their selfless sacrifice and dedication to the freedoms we hold dear never be forgotten!

As we mark the 50th year anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War and the 100th Anniversary of our National Home, may we always remember to make a good account of our lives, just as they did and celebrate the heroes still among us with honor and deep respect.

Thanks again to Kyna, blessings to all and "May God Bless our National Home."

2025 Judd A Thon

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





**Auxiliary President
Maryann Groner**



This has been a busy month for the Auxiliary starting with our participation in the Judd-a-thon. Trish and the "A team" worked to fill race bags and distribute shirts on Friday and Sunday. Many thanks to Berni, Brenda, Dennis, Fran, Maryann, Maureen, and our guest helper Samarth, last year's Patriots Pen winner who kept the bags filled on Sunday morning. Without the help of our booze cooler tickets sellers, Berni and Roger, our basket ticket sellers, Lucy and Geri and lottery board seller Kathy, we would not have reached a donation of \$2,350.00 for the National Home. Many thanks to everyone who supported this fund-raising event.

Our monthly meeting had representatives from the Fort Paine DAR chapter give us an overview of Constitution Week, which is celebrated Sept 17-23. We learned some interesting facts about the Constitution as well as receiving bookmarks. Thank you to Julie and Ren for the presentation. We also initiated two new members, Beth and Kathy, and look forward to getting to know them.

We were saddened to learn about the death of our friend and Auxiliary member Darlene Kwarta who passed away this August. Dar was a loyal supporter of Honor Flight.

Jenny, Kathy, and Maryann joined family and friends of Auxiliary member Audrey Bueche at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery on September 19 for her internment. We have found memories of Audrey and extend sympathy to those who knew her.

Finally, join us at our next meeting on October 16 at 7:00. District President, Vicki Cobbet, will be here for our annual inspection. Please wear an auxiliary shirt or anything red, white or blue.



Last Fling Labor Day Parade and Veterans Lunch

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
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Post Information

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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 Kueltzo	(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	(630) 363-8138
Sr. Vice President	Bernadette Budny	(630) 717-9471
Jr. Vice President	Debbie Smith	
Secretary	Nancy Marinello	(630) 420-1717
Treasurer	Leo Hart	(630) 816-0506
Chaplain	Geri Tice	(630) 201-4852
Guard	Mary Ellen DiMatteo	(630) 664-1612
Conductor	Kathy Thornton	(630) 667-6740
3 yr Trustee	Brenda Hasler	
2 yr Trustee	Julie Cunningham	
1 yr Trustee	Amy Ownby	



VFW Post 3873 Upcoming Events



October 2025

- Fri 10/03 : Pig Roast with lounge singer Ross, 3:00pm-9:00pm
- Sat 10/04 : Monarch Landing Visit, 10:00am; Blood Drive
- Tues 10/07 : Veteran Business Connection After Hours, Canteen 6:00pm-9:00pm
- Wed 10/08 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Thurs 10/09 : VFW Post Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post
- Sat 10/11 : Brookdale Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am
- Sun 10/12 Members Family Breakfast, 9:00am-12:00pm
- Mon 10/13 : US Navy Birthday; Auxiliary Bingo, Arista Healthcare, 2:00pm
- Tues 10/14 : Halloween Party, Canteen
- Wed 10/15 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Thurs 10/16 : Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post
- Sat 10/18 : Tabor Hills Visit, 10:00am; Illinois Day at the National Home
- Sun 10/19 : Lotus Vibrations Sound Meditation
- Mon 10/20 : Veteran Business Connection Meeting, 8:00am, Rosie's
- Wed 10/22 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Sat 10/25 : Story Point Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am; VFW/VAC/VA Resource event upstairs and downstairs, 9:00am-2:00pm
- Wed 10/29 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Thurs 10/30 : Joe Cantafio in the Canteen

Upcoming Events

- 11/07 Healing Fields Opening Day
- 11/10 Meet and greet in Canteen with SSG Shilo Harris /
Speaker / Author
- 11/11 Veterans Day/School Visits/Ceremonies
- 11/22 Turkey raffle
- 11/23 Lotus Vibrations Sound Meditation
- 11/30 Decorating the Post
- 12/6 Breakfast with Santa
- 12/13 army /navy game

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!](#)