

THE KENDALL-GRAM

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A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



Commander Staci Boyer



Be the Change You Seek

Change looks different for each of us. Whether it's stepping into a new role, offering a fresh idea, or simply showing up with a positive mindset — it all matters. I encourage you to bloom where you are planted — and truly bloom.

October brought us many reasons to celebrate! We had the opportunity to welcome new members, honor birthdays, and extend a heartfelt thank you to our Freedom Tailgate Committee for their tremendous efforts in raising funds and championing the betterment and beautification of our Post. Your dedication and teamwork continue to make a visible difference — thank you for leading by example!

As we continue to grow and thrive, I am seeking members who are interested in leadership roles on committees or in future officer positions. Your input and feedback have shaped many of our new events and improved existing ones — please, keep it coming! This Post's success is built by all of us, together.

If you're reading this and can't make our monthly meetings or find it hard to fit in extra activities, reach out to me directly. YOU tell me what YOU can do and how much time you're able to give. My goal is to get to know each of your unique gifts and place us in the right spots to keep this VFW machine running at full throttle.

As we head into November and our Veterans Day celebrations, please see our Ticket Source link and social media pages for agendas and event timelines. Be sure to note the updates to ceremony locations and don't miss the beautiful Vietnam Memorial Wall and Healing Fields display opening on November 6th — a moving tribute to those who served and sacrificed.

But I can't do it without you — so speak up. Let me know your thoughts, your ideas, and your passions. I want to hear what you have to say!

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 Slown



Comrades,

November is a special month for all of us with so many events and activities honoring Veterans. It’s a time when our community and the greater civilian community takes time to recognize the sacrifices and service of the men and women who have worn the uniform. But beyond the ceremonies and parades, it’s an ideal time for each of us to reach out and connect with other Veterans in our daily lives.

Every one of us knows what it means to serve, and we also know that not every Veteran feels connected once they hang up the uniform. Strike up a conversation with a neighbor flying a branch flag, a fellow patron wearing a service hat, or a coworker with a Veteran license plate. Find out their story of service. Those small moments of connection mean more than we often realize.

And when the time feels right, ask the question: “Are you part of the VFW?” You might be surprised how many Veterans don’t know what we do or how they can be involved. Invite them to visit our post, attend an event, or just stop by the canteen for a beverage and good company.

Together, we can continue to grow our ranks not only in numbers, but in meaningful relationships. Let’s continue to honor our shared service by making sure no Veteran feels alone this November.

Business of the Post

Post Meeting October 9, 2025 Highlights



Before the meeting, Commander Boyer led a brief recognition ceremony for the Jungles group in honor of everything they have done to raise funds for the Post.

The meeting was opened by Commander Boyer according to ritual.

New member voted for admission: 1 Navy

Two new members sworn in: 1 Army, 1 USMC

Quartermaster: Fundraisers included Judd A Thon, Car Show, and Golf Outing. Major expenditures were the Hall renovation, which came in just over \$47,000, restrooms, and the foyer floor. In addition, made the donation of \$23K to National Home.

Membership: 96.2%, current membership is 583, with goal of 613, so we need 30 more new members. Everyone is a recruiter!

Americanism: Memorial Day Parade planning is underway. Permits done, committee meetings start in Jan.

Honor Guard: 4 Graveside services: 2 Navy, 1 Air Force, 1 Army.

Color Guard: Almost weekly events. Looking to recruit new members, contact Staci Boyer or Dennis Regan.

National Home: Donation of \$23K from Post and \$2,300 from Auxiliary made on Illinois Day. Excellent programs during Illinois day. You can see photos and read more on the [National Home Blog](#).

Scholarship Programs: Scoring for VOD and PP will be held on Saturday, November 15th. Please contact Mark Overstreet to get on the list: scholarshipsvfw3873@gmail.com.

Trustees requested \$3325 in support of four recipients. Moved, seconded, and approved.

Closed according to ritual at 2007.



Junior Vice Commander

Josh Warner



At 0545, November 11, 1918, in Compiegne, France, an armistice was signed. The suspension of hostilities on the Western Front would take effect at 1100, officially ending World War 1. “The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of eleventh month...”

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the first Armistice Day although it was not formally recognized until 1926 by Congress. In May 1919, Edward George Honey (himself a veteran of The Great War,) wrote to the London Evening News. Honey suggested that 5 minutes of silence should be included in Armistice Day ceremonies. Two minutes was decided upon. Honey was invited to Buckingham Palace for that year’s ceremony.

Red Poppies have been a mainstay in Armistice Day events in English-speaking countries; France and Belgium traditionally displayed cornflowers. The poem “In Flanders Fields”, written by Canadian Lt. Col. John McCrae, was so moving for University of Georgia professor Moina Belle Michael that she campaigned to make the poppy a national symbol of remembrance. Anna Guerin, a Frenchwoman, had bigger plans for the poppy. She convinced the newly founded British Legion to make the flower the center of its first charity drive, the “Poppy Appeal” where volunteers exchanged artificial poppies for donations.

It was hoped that World War 1, “the war to end all wars,” and Armistice Day could serve a warning to the world to never repeat the ravages of the past. Unfortunately, that warning was ignored by the advent of World War II. On June 1, 1954, the United States changed the name of the holiday to Veteran’s Day to honor veterans of the U.S. military in general.

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



Naperville Legion Riders

I had the pleasure of attending the Riders Fundraiser Dinner the second weekend in October. It was an event filled with smiles, happiness, and good cheer. Which is fitting, since, to me, that is the perfect image of the riders. They are always smiling while doing good in the hood.

Their efforts cover many areas and always yield good things for a needy charity somewhere. Whether it is selling "RED" baseball caps at a VFW fish fry, working at the "Last Fling" or Riding in one of the City parades, they are always doing good with an intense smile on their faces.

One of my jobs is to coordinate the Funeral "walk throughs" we support. I know I can always count on the Riders to support this sort of community outreach. They never miss a walk through, ever...

I want to take a minute here, on my "bully pulpit" and thank them for the work they do and and the wonderful attitude they have while doing it. Riders, keep up the great 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.

Key links for the VA

VA organizations

[Veterans Health Administration](#)

[Veterans Benefits Administration](#)

[National Cemetery Administration](#)

[VA Leadership](#)

[Public Affairs](#)

[Congressional Affairs](#)

[All VA offices and organizations](#)

Innovation at VA

[Health research](#)

[Public health](#)

[VA open data](#)

[Veterans analysis and statistics](#)

[Appeals modernization](#)

[VA Innovation Center](#)

[Recovery Act](#)

Learn about VA

[About VA](#)

[History of VA](#)

[VA plans, budget, finances, and performance](#)

[National cemetery history program](#)

[Veterans legacy program](#)

[Volunteer or donate](#)



September/October 2025

- 'A Different Perspective'
- Sept. 19 is POW/MIA Day
- 'Show-Me State' Posts Beckon Visitors
- VFW Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

"Obtain the VFW members if you have online link or use a third party on LinkedIn, submit a reasonable app for a link to the e-book with a brief description (published as a Microsoft Word doc or docx on cover page) to magazine@vfw.org. Define the link as fiction, non-fiction, or memoir; and include VFW number number. The author's name, first, last and crew, publisher, and ZIP will appear in the online VFW magazine (subject to our three month) covered above."



National Home Chairman Mike McGrath



National home fast facts and who we can help...

Military families

The National Home's community is open to families of Active Duty military personnel and drilling National Guard and Reserve members. The family can be one or both parents with one or more children.

Veteran families

Honorably discharged, active, guard or reserve veteran, surviving widow or widower with dependent child (ren), parent(s), guardian(s), single or married with dependent child(ren).

VFW Auxiliary

Parent(s) / guardian(s) applicant has a parent in the VFW or auxiliary in good standing or, if deceased, in good standing at the time of death, single or married with dependent child(ren).

If you know a military or veteran family who is struggling, encourage them to call our toll-free helpline at 800-313 4200.

The helpline is answered Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30p.m. Eastern. Or visit <https://vfnationalhome.org/get-help/> for more information and eligibility requirements. This free service offers information, creates connections and can give hope to struggling families.

Could this help someone you may know?

Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism? – Would you like to support the VFW's life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families without receiving all of the unwanted mail? The VFW has developed an option that lets you support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate National's mailed solicitations for donations. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact the VFW Development Department Donor Services at 816-756-3390, ext. 6318, or email partners@vfw.org with "Partners in Patriotism Application" in the subject line.

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.



**Auxiliary President
Maryann Groner**



District 19 welcomed National Auxiliary President Lois Callahan and Department of Illinois Auxiliary President Diane Aherns to the annual steak fry. Besides a delicious meal, the community supported our fund-raising efforts with chances to win baskets and a 50/50 drawing as well as purchase tasty bake sale items. District Jr. Vice President/Auxiliary Sr. Vice President Berni Budny's table decorations made the event more festive. Berni (right) and Auxiliary President Maryann Groner (left) are pictured with Lois (center).

November will start off with Bingo at Arista Health care. Each month Lucy Hoy and volunteers Kathy Lukavsky, Kathy Thornton, and Maryann Groner spend an hour of community outreach with the residents who enjoy cash prizes and cookies. Join us on the first Monday of the month at 2:00.

The Veterans Day ceremonies will be held on Rotary Hill this year. Besides a field of American flags, the moving Vietnam wall will be on display. Our usual visit to the Veterans at Hines will be on November 12 this month. Arrive at the post at 6:15 for bus transportation, and spend an evening with the men and women in the spinal ward assisting in bingo.

The Turkey Raffle, our biggest general fund raiser, is being held on November 22 at 6:00. The Auxiliary will again have an array of baskets as well as our popular lottery board, booze basket, 50/50 drawing and gift cards. Please consider signing up to help to make this evening a success for us.

Finally, think about contributing to the OSOT Holiday Stocking for the Troops (contact me for the flier/list). You can bring anything you would like to donate to our next meeting on November 20 at 7:00. See you there!



**October Meeting: Celebrating the Jungles Group, New Members,
and Lou's Birthday Present**



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 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



November 2025

- Sat 11/01 : Monarch Landing Visit, 10:00am; Blood Drive
- Sun 11/02 : Member’s Breakfast, 9:00am-12:00pm NOTE next month goes back to second Saturday
- Mon 11/03 : Auxiliary Bingo, Arista Healthcare, 2:00pm
- Tues 11/04 : Veteran Business Connection After Hours, Canteen 6:00pm-9:00pm
- Wed 11/05 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Thurs 11/06 : Healing Fields Opening Ceremony, 5:00pm, Rotary Hill
- Sat 11/08 : Brookdale Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am; Resilience Tactics Workshop, 11:00am-2:00pm,
27555 Diehl Rd
- Mon 11/10 : Meet and Greet with SSG Shilo Harris, Speaker/Author, 6:00pm-8:00pm, VFW Post
- Tues 11/11 : Veterans Day Dinner, 5:30pm, Social Hour, 6:00pm Dinner, VFW Post
- Wed 11/12 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Thurs 11/13 : VFW Post Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post
- Fri 11/14 : Costume Party/Toys4Tots
- Sat 11/15 : Tabor Hills Visit, 10:00am; Illinois Day at the National Home
- Mon 11/17 : Veteran Business Connection Meeting, 8:00am, **POST** (Note change!)
- Wed 11/19 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Thurs 11/20 : Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post
- Sat 11/22 : Story Point Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am; Turkey Raffle, 6:00pm-9:00pm, VFW Post
- Sun 11/23 : Lotus Vibrations Sound Meditation
- Wed 11/26 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Sat 11/29 : Independence Village Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am
- Sun 11/30 : Decorate the Post, 2:30pm

Upcoming Events

- 12/2 Veteran Business Connection After Hours
- 12/6 Breakfast with Santa
- 12/13 Army/Navy Game
- 12/20 Combined Post Holiday Party
- 12/21 Kids Holiday Party (Auxiliary)

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!](#)