

THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 26 Issue 01

January 2026



A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



**Commander
Staci Boyer**



This month we continue our CALL TO ACTION as we prepare for 2026. Our Post is thriving and growing, and we need all of you to help keep this momentum going. Below is a list of committees where we're looking to add members. Please reach out to me at <mailto:StaciVFW@gmail.com> if you'd like to get involved or if you're interested in eventually stepping into a leadership role.

Committees and Volunteer Opportunities:

- Hines Hospital Visits
- School Visits/Veterans Day Events
- Blood Drive
- Poppy Program
- Color Guard/Honor Guard
- Fish Fry
- Car Show
- Golf Outing
- Army–Navy Game
- Membership Team
- Assisted Living Home Visits/Events
- Memorial Day
- Americanism
- Voice of Democracy / Patriot's Pen
- Teacher of the Year
- Turkey Raffle
- New ideas welcome!

As we conclude the holiday season please reflect on what truly matters most — family, community, and the memories we created together. The holidays give us beautiful opportunities to reconnect, to reach out to loved ones, and to remind the people we care about how much they mean to us. Even a simple connection can make a lasting difference.

It's also important to remember that the holidays may have been difficult for some. A little patience, kindness, joy, and understanding go a long way — especially during social events and family gatherings. Let us lead with compassion and look out for one another, just as we do throughout the year.

As we head into the new year, I encourage us to take on a positive perspective — to focus not only on the challenges of 2025, but on what we have gained, learned, and accomplished together. Let's carry that forward and lean into 2026 with optimism, unity, and a mindset focused on growth and possibility.

Thank you to everyone who showed up — for each other, for our veterans, and for VFW Post 3873 — throughout this entire year. Your dedication, service, and community spirit are what make this Post so special.

Quote of the month "January reminds us that resilience is not forged in comfort, but renewed each time we choose to stand again."



**Senior Vice Commander
Jennifer Slown**



We're excited to host the [5th Annual Disney Karaoke Fundraiser on Saturday, February 7, from 6:00pm - 8:00pm](#) at the Post. This fun, family-friendly event supports the VFW National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, MI, which provides stability and care for military and Veteran families.

Last year, we raised \$5,616, and this year we're aiming even higher! Costumes are highly encouraged, and Disney creativity is welcome in all forms—from princesses and villains to Marvel and Star Wars favorites anything in the Disney universe is fair game!

The evening will feature Disney karaoke with a DJ, face painting, balloon artistry, crafts, silent auction items, raffle prizes, and an OPEN BAR. We're also excited to welcome cosplayers from the Chicago League of Enchantment, who will be available for photos and fun throughout the night.

Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door, and this event is expected to sell out. Secure your spot early by purchasing tickets through the post [TicketSource](#) link.

We are also seeking sponsors for food, the bar, the DJ, and overall event support. Sponsors will receive name recognition during the event, making this a great opportunity for businesses and individuals to contribute.

We are also in need of silent auction and raffle donations. If you're unable to attend but still want to support this important cause, donations can be made via [TicketSource](#) or through Zelle at VeteranTeamFundraising@gmail.com (Jennifer Slown).

We can't wait to celebrate with you!

Business of the Post

Post Meeting November 13, 2025 Highlights



Prior to the meeting, we conducted the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen recognition (see page 4).

At 1906 hours meeting was opened according to ritual by Commander Staci Boyer.

New members: One member was voted in, Army; One new member sworn in, Air Force.

Quartermaster Report: Turkey raffle was successful. Good canteen month. Hall rentals were a little low due to construction. Good reviews on the room lead us to expect a quick return to normal renting levels.

Membership Report: 635 current members is 98.5%. We need 652 to make All American. Membership chair reviewed programs for recruitment and member retention.

Teacher of the Year Report: Record number of nominees with 15. Submitted one per grade category: elementary, junior high, high school. District event on January 10th to announce the winners.

Honor Guard: Total of 7 graveside services this month. Army: 4; Navy: 2; Marine Corps: 1. Color guard: Participated in the Parade in November. Many upcoming events in 2026.

Retirement Home Visits: Monarch Landing was our team plus three NNHS students and parents. Independence Village requests more visits; They have 11 vets in residence.

Safety: Careful with winter driving! Check batteries, slow down. Cyber safety: Watch scams don't click if you aren't sure. Safest option is to delete the email and go directly to a website.

National Home: Cootie Christmas was the Saturday prior to the meeting. Santa arrived on the fire truck as he does. Photos to come.

Trustees: Have reviewed the financials and they look in great condition. Requested a single donation for \$500. Motioned, voted and passed.

At 1959 hours the meeting was closed according to ritual by Commander Boyer.



**Junior Vice Commander
Josh Warner**



On July 17, 1990, Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein launched into a televised tirade against Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for exporting more oil than what was allowed by OPEC agreements. Just a day later, Saddam accused Kuwait of stealing oil from the Al-Rumaylah oil field, a field straddles the border between Iraq and Kuwait. The countries held diplomatic talks in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, but those broke down on August 1. Saddam unleashed his armored divisions against Kuwait on August 2, 1990.

The invasion lasted approximately 50 hours and the takeover of Kuwait City faced little resistance. On August 4, the occupation forces appointed Col Alaa Hussain Ali as head of state of Kuwait, while Sheikh Jabir al-ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah and his cabinet fled to Saudi Arabia to establish a "government-in-exile." The United Nations Security Council responded on the 6th, passing Resolution 661, which imposed a ban on all trade with Iraq. It also called upon UN member countries to protect the assets of the legitimate government of Kuwait. The Iraqis established the Provisional Free Government of Kuwait on August 8th, claiming the invasion was at the behest of Kuwaitis opposed to the Sabah dynasty. Twenty days later Saddam declared Kuwait the 19th province of Iraq.

Saddam appeared to have his eyes on Saudi Arabia next. With the Iraqis knocking at the door, King Fahd invited Western and Arab forces to deploy in the kingdom to support Saudi defense forces, launching Operation Desert Shield. On November 29, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 678, sanctioning use of force should Iraq not abandon Kuwait by January 15, 1991. The first operations of Desert Storm began January 17, 1991.

Posters for Upcoming Events

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

**MEMBERS FAMILY
BREAKFAST**
1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
9AM-12PM | KENDALL HALL
VFW AMERICAN LEGION

JAN. 4TH	FEB. 1ST
APRIL 5TH	MAY 10TH
JUNE 7TH	JULY 5TH
AUG. 2ND	SEPT. 6TH
OCT. 4TH	NOV. 1ST
DEC. 6TH	

Breakfast includes eggs, bacon/or sausage biscuits & Gravy & Milk, Water, Orange Juice & Coffee
Free for Members & Families
ENJOY COMARADERIE WITH FELLOW VETERANS, MAKE NEW FRIENDS & SHARE STORIES IN A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT!

**Disney Karaoke Fundraiser
for the VFW National Home
for Children**
February 7, 2026

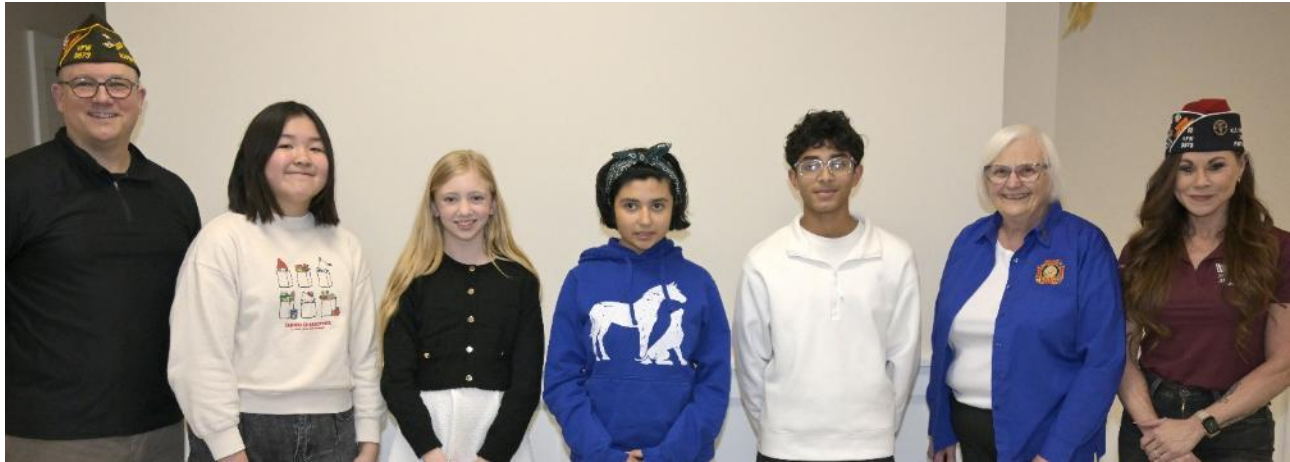
VFW FISH FRY
FOOD PROVIDED BY
DRAFT PICKS
Fridays 2/20 - 4/3
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!
\$15 a plate | 4 pieces of Fish & Fries
\$5 added for pizza or shrimp

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.

2025-2026 VOD and PP Winners

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



Honor Guard

Jim Oftedal



The [VA Burial Benefits and Memorial Items website](#) provides comprehensive information about the benefits available.

Some of these benefits include:

- Opening/closing of the grave in a national cemetery; Reimbursement of expenses at local cemetery
- A grave liner (vault)
- Perpetual care and maintenance
- A headstone, marker, or medallion for any eligible veteran
- A Presidential Memorial Certificate
- A Veterans Legacy Memorial page
- A burial flag
- Military Honors (Flag-fold from veteran’s service branch)

The documents needed for funeral home and cemetery which the family must provide are:

- Veterans DD-214 and Death Certificate.
- Receipts of expenditures paid.
- Statement of Account (Letterhead of the funeral home.)

Reminder to all veterans:

1. The veterans family has 2 years from date of death to apply for benefits.
2. Share this information with your family members who will submit requests for reimbursement.
3. Place a copy of this information with your DD-214 and other legal documents.



National Home Chairman
Mike McGrath



*Note, important information about the National Home Board of Trustees and upcoming election!

The National Home Board of Trustees serves as the governing body of the corporation and works to oversee the management of the Home.

Elected Trustees represent one of 12 National Home Districts and serve a 6 year term. Illinois is part of National Home District 8, along with Indiana, Missouri and Kentucky, and our District will elect a new Trustee this year.

For further information and eligibility requirements to run for Trustee, please go to the national home's website. And do reach out if interested, I'll be glad to help you.

Once again, our thanks go out to all of our Post and Auxiliary officers and members for your great support for all these many years. Blessings to all and may god bless our national home.

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.

#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.

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



As I look back on 2025, I am so thankful for those men and women who are officers, trustees and committee chairs. The Auxiliary wouldn't be as successful if you had not chosen to share your time, talents and efforts. Thank you to all those who sat at the Fish Fry cashier table and those who donated to the Bake Sale. To all the members who helped in so many ways by standing on corners seeking Poppy donations, know that we would not have a relief budget to support our Veterans without you. The Auxiliary made a generous donation to both North Central College and College of DuPage that directly benefits Veteran students thanks to your efforts. To all who helped with the Judd-a-Thon, you were the reason race shirts and swag bags were distributed, and we were able to present the National Home with a generous check by your selling of basket raffle tickets. The Turkey Raffle also was a successful fundraiser for us. Thank you to everyone who gave time planning, setting up, selling and helping with the cleaning up. There is still one basket that hasn't been picked up. A call was made and a voice message was left on November 22. Please check your voice mail and arrange to come and get your prize!

A special shout-out to the members of the Naperville North and Naperville Central High School Veterans clubs for their support in attending the monthly visits to Hines. Your voices in caroling made our December visit special for the Vets.

Our friends at Arista look forward to Bingo and cookies with us once a month. If you would like to join us, our next date is January 5th at 2:00.

Another opportunity to visit with the Veterans at Hines will be January 14th . Bus transportation is provided. Plan to arrive at the Post by 6:15. We usually arrive back at the Post by 9:00

Wishing you and your loved ones a glorious new year filled with all that fills your heart with joy!

John Prescott's 100th Birthday

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



Post Information

Mailing Address: Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873
908 W. Jackson
Naperville, IL 60540

Phone Number: **(630) 420-9820**

Website: <https://www.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.

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 Email: kendallgramvfw3873@gmail.com

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

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 Kueltz	(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



January 2026

- Sat 01/03 : Monarch Landing Visit, 10:00am
- Sun 01/04 : Members Family Breakfast, 9:00am-12:00pm, Post
- Mon 01/05 : Auxiliary Bingo, Arista Healthcare, 2:00pm
- Tues 01/06 : Hines Outreach, 10:00am-2:00pm, Post; Veteran Business Connection After Hours, 6:00pm, Canteen
- Wed 01/07 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Thurs 01/08 : VFW Post Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post
- Sat 01/10 : Brookdale Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am
- Tues 01/13 : Hines Hospital Visit, 6:15pm Meet at Post, back by 9:00pm
- Wed 01/14 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Thurs 01/15 : Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post
- Fri 01/16 : Naperville Settlement 250th Anniversary Flag Raising, 12:30pm-1:30pm
- Sat 01/17 : Tabor Hills Visit, 10:00am
- Mon 01/19 : Veteran Business Connection Meeting, 8:00am, Rosie's 2155 City Gate Lane Naperville
- Wed 01/21 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Sat 01/24 : Story Point Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am
- Wed 01/28 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Thurs 01/29 : Joe Cantafio, Canteen
- Sat 01/31 : 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

- 2/1 Members Family Breakfast
- 2/3 Veteran Business Connection after hours - Canteen 6-9pm
- 2/6 Ross sings the classics
- 2/7 Disney Karaoke - National Home Fundraiser (Slow POC)
- 2/16 Veteran Business Connection Meeting at Rosies 8am
- 2/20 Fish Fry 2026 Starts. Other dates: 2/27,3/6,3/13,3/20,3/27,4/3
- 2/28 Riders Chili fundraiser for Special Olympics

Members and Family Breakfast Recognition
 Sent by Mike Rechenmacher
 A big thanks goes out to the Member and Family Breakfast cooks for cooking a wonderful free breakfast on Sunday. Not only did they cook and arrange tables and chairs for the breakfast but then helped take down and store away the Christmas decorations. They also super cleaned the kitchen and the main hall. Thanks again to all who helped.