

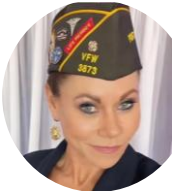
THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 26 Issue 03

March 2026



A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



Commander Staci Boyer



As we move into March, I want to bring your attention to an issue that directly impacts veterans across this nation:

On February 17, 2026, the Department of Veterans Affairs enacted a change to how disability ratings are evaluated. Under this new rule, a veteran's disability rating could be lowered if medications or treatment improve symptoms — even though the veteran still depends on those medications to function.

I want to be clear: I strongly disagree with this approach.


Being heavily medicated simply to exist in daily life is not ideal, nor is it healthy. The need for ongoing treatment is directly tied to the sacrifice a veteran made in service to our country. A disability rating should reflect earned benefits from sacrifices given — not how a veteran presents in a medicated state.


The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has publicly demanded that the VA rescind this disability rating rule change. I encourage you to read our [National Commander in Chief's statement](#).

The VA is currently accepting public comments on this rule through April 20, 2026. Your voice matters. Your comment could influence this policy. You can submit a comment via the [Federal Register](#).

This is about protecting earned benefits and ensuring that treatment dependence does not diminish the recognition of service-connected sacrifice. I strongly encourage you to take a few minutes to make your voice heard.

While we advocate at the national level, we continue building strength right here at home.


 Fish Fry Fridays begin February 20 and run through April 3, 4:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Bring your friends, family, and neighbors — this is one of our favorite community traditions. Volunteers needed! Sign up at the following link:  [2026 Fish Fry Volunteers](#)

 Prevent Veteran Suicide Ruck March on March 22

Join us as we stand together to raise awareness and take action for one of the most critical issues facing our veteran community.

 Free Membership Breakfast March 1, 2026, 9:00 AM

A great opportunity to connect, welcome new members, and strengthen our Post. Volunteers Needed! Sign up at the following link:  [Veteran Breakfast Volunteers](#)

All event details and tickets can be found here: <https://www.ticketsource.com/naperville-vfw-3873>

Commander's Reflections "Together, we advocate. Together, we serve. Together, we lead."



**Senior Vice Commander
Jennifer Slown**



Dust off your combat boots and saddle up your ruck sack for the **Second Annual 2.2-Mile Ruck March** in support of fighting Veteran suicide.

The 2.2 miles symbolize the heartbreaking statistic of 22 veterans a day who take their own lives. This event is dedicated to raising awareness, preventing suicide, and providing fellowship and connection between our Veterans and the great community. While the mission is serious, the walk itself is meant to be an uplifting and powerful show of unity, strength, and hope.

Participants are encouraged to “carry” what represents their commitment to the cause. That might mean an empty fanny pack and a full heart, or a 60-pound ruck. You choose. Walk, run, ruck, or stroll at your own pace. This event is open to the public and designed for everyone. Awards will be presented for the largest participating team, so gather your friends, family, gym partners, or coworkers and join us.

Last year’s event was incredibly well attended, and we look forward to an even greater turnout this year. This year’s event is on **Sunday, March 22:**

Check-In: 8:30–9:20 a.m.; Opening Ceremony: 9:45 a.m.; Step-Off: 10:00 a.m.

Pre-registration is \$25 online through our [TicketSource](#) page. Day-of registration is \$30. To receive an event T-shirt, participants must register prior to March 13 and indicate their size shirt at registration.

Following the ruck, please join us for food, drinks, and fellowship. All profits from this event will be donated to "22 Until None" through Naperville VFW Post 3873 and Naperville American Legion Post 43.

We are actively seeking sponsors, raffle donations, and monetary contributions to help make this event an even greater success. Together, we can stand united to ensure no Veteran fights alone.

Business of the Post

Post Meeting February 12, 2026 Highlights



Commander Staci Boyer opened the meeting according to ritual at 1903 hours.

Two new members voted in, both Army. One of them was present and sworn in.

Quartermaster: Increase in net cash balance, but we are overall a little behind total revenue year over year due to renovation down time. Hall rental is up overall, though seeing an increase in no-alcohol parties (i.e., lower revenue). Patrons appreciate the updated look and have not pushed back on updated price point.

Service Officer: Reminder regarding the Million Veteran Program, the whole process including paperwork and blood draw takes about an hour and fifteen minutes. Also, your VA card is a Real ID for domestic flights.

Membership: Designing a challenge coin to be used during recruitment and a new checklist to help new members navigate the Post. We need 10 new members by June 30.

Americanism: First meeting March 18th if you want to help plan the Memorial Day Parade. Contact Leo Jaime.

Honor Guard: Last month had 4 graveside services.

Color Guard: Upcoming events: 3/14 Parade, 3/19 Joe Burrow Retirement, 3/29 Vietnam Veterans Day

Trustees: Requested two donations for a total of \$3400. Motioned, voted, and passed.

New Business: Proposal to add decorative lighting outside of the Post building at cost of \$14,000. Goal to raise profile of the Post. Motioned, voted, and passed.

Commander Boyer closed the meeting according to ritual at 1956. Next meeting is Thursday, March 12, 2026.



Junior Vice Commander
Josh Warner



In 1940, with war looming, the US Navy realized that logistics and infrastructure could be a challenge across the globe. Despite the need to build bases, especially in the Pacific, civilian workers could not be used as they were not permitted to resist military attacks. In December 1941, Rear Admiral Moreell requested authority to create a special construction force to support the Navy and Marines in remote locations and defend themselves if attacked.

On March 5th, 1942, the Construction Battalion personnel were officially designated as Seabees (CB) by the Navy. Admiral Moreell provided them their motto: "Construmus Batumius" or We Build, We Fight! Their logo, the Fighting Bee, was created by a civilian file clerk. By June 1942, the Seabees Advanced Base Depot at Davisville was operational; On August 11th, the Naval Construction Training Center, or Camp Endicott, was commissioned. More than 100,000 Seabees were trained there during the Second World War.

In July 1942, the first Naval Construction Battalion (Seabees) landed on Midway Island to begin construction of the new airstrip on Sand Island and to clean up damage caused by Japanese bombing. The Seabees participated in every major amphibious assault during the war, from the construction and defense of Henderson Field on Guadalcanal to the invasion of Normandy. The Seabees quickly earned a reputation for their resourcefulness and ingenuity. If they didn't have materials available, they used whatever they had at hand to get the job done.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SEABEES! CONSTRUMUS BATUMIUS.

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
MARCH 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!

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

VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION RUCK
22
 VETERAN LIVES A DAY

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT TWENTY TWO UNTIL NONE
I WILL HELP CARRY THE LOAD!
VFW **AMERICAN LEGION**
 March 22, 2026
 10AM - 2.2 MILES

Carry anything from an empty fanny pack to a 60lb back pack. Your Choice.
 Sign up to participate and sponsor via QR code or TicketSource link
 Register prior to 3/14 to guarantee an event t-shirt
 \$25 pre registration | \$30 race day
 Check in 8:30am - 9:20 | Opening ceremony 9:45am
 Nagserville VFW 908 Jackson Ave



Benefits Advisor Updates
Dennis Lukavsky



Free VSOs vs Attorneys with Fees

Last month I sent out a VA News article talking about the fees VA accredited attorneys can charge for assisting veterans with filing claims with the VA. If you read through the article, you can see that it can become rather pricey....

In the past, veterans may have had a valid reason to pay someone, but I do think times have changed in this area over the last few years. Previously, there were not as many Veteran Service Organization Representatives (VSOs) as there are today. I think it's important to feel at home (or comfortable at least) with your VSO. You want to feel the person who is guiding you knows what they are doing and are doing so in your best interest.

The [VA website has a site that finds VSOs](#) in your area. I did a search in a 25-mile radius and found 80 VSOs in the area.

If you are considering filing a claim, you can also come to the Post the first Tuesday of each month and get help from VSOs on site (we usually have three). If you are not happy with them, you still have a large group to choose from.

The bottom line is I think it is a mistake to give a portion of your claim to an attorney when you have sacrificed for your country and certainly deserve the entire claim.

DON'T PAY WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO SO.

Benefits Advisor 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.

Vietnam War Veterans Day: March 19th, 1:00pm, Veterans Park, Naperville

Submitted by Wayne Fischer, USMC, VN 1967-1968

Sunday, March 29th, marks "Year-53" of our nation's departure from Vietnam. For the 5th year, we will hold a special program honoring all who served in our United States Military during that timeframe. The program will start promptly at 1:00 pm regardless of the weather.

We will lay a wreath at the Veterans Park wall and then move to our Gold Star Family Memorial to lay a wreath in honor of all that paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving in all wars. In addition, we will specifically recognize our 11 Naperville Fallen, as they each paid the ultimate price to protect our freedoms, and we recognize all the men and women that paid the ultimate price because of their service in Vietnam. This is not just limited to those that served in Vietnam, but to "All Who Served" our country during the Vietnam War.

As in the past, this will be open to the public, especially all Veterans. Seating will be available for those that need to sit and there will be ample parking available across the street at Grace United Methodist Church. Note that Sunday, March 29th, is Palm Sunday, so parking at Grace United Methodist Church is unavailable in the morning.



National Home Chairman
Mike McGrath



Watch out for the Dynamos!

The National Home's famous 4-H Club Dynamos will soon be hard at work for the coming year and we'll be sure to let everyone know how they're doing.

National Home board of trustees election

Do keep in mind that only National Home Life Members will be eligible to vote or run for office. Please let us know if you're interested. The deadline for filing for candidacy is April 30 and ballots will be mailed out in mid-August.

The VFW National Home Board of Trustees serves as the governing body of the corporation. It is comprised of 12 elected district trustees, one Board appointed Secretary/Treasurer and 7 ex-officio trustees. Dedicated, hardworking individuals are encouraged to seek election to these esteemed positions to promote awareness, understanding and support of the VFW National Home. Candidates with expertise in business, fundraising or social work as well as previous Board member experience are especially encouraged.

And here is the [National Home Trustee Candidate Application](#)

Residents on campus

Currently there are 85 children and 53 parents on campus, for a total of 138 residents.

Female Veterans at the Illinois Department Council of Administration and Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Banquet, Feb 7, 2026.

Patsey Schreiber, National Women's Program Chair, second row, fifth from right.

Staci Boyer, Post Commander, first row, third from right



Taps

William McCarthy, age 96, Air Force, Korea

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



Auxiliary President
Maryann Groner



This spring finds the Auxiliary ready to welcome guests and Post members as well as to serve as cashiers for the Fish Fry. You will see us at the table ready to get you started on your way to a delicious fish dinner. Thanks to Trish for getting the shifts filled, sending reminders, and keeping us organized.

We recently donated to [Operation Sweet Life](#), the charitable project of Department of Illinois Auxiliary President, Diane Aherns. According to the website, "At Operation Sweet Life Inc., our mission is to support veterans in creating their "Home Sweet Home" by providing essential home furnishings and resources. We offer a range of services tailored to meet the needs of veterans." Operation Sweet Life provides gently used furniture and household items free of charge to Veterans, assists with organizing baby showers for Veterans to have essentials for growing families, and collaborates with other nonprofits to expand support services and opportunities. The organization also operates a resale shop that is open to the public with the proceeds directly benefiting veterans in need. As you can see, this is an organization worthy of your support. Many Veterans exiting homelessness were being helped by the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans in Wheaton.

Thanks to the efforts of Leo and Kathy our Auxiliary has reached 285 members and achieved the goal of 100 percent membership. This is a personal invitation to those many members who I have never met and would like to get to know as well as members we have not seen for a while to join me at our monthly meeting on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00. Hope to see some more of you on March 19!

First Fish Fry 2026, Feb 20, 2026

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



March 2026

Sun 03/01: Members Family Breakfast, 9:00am-12:00pm, Post

Mon 03/02: Auxiliary Bingo, Arista Healthcare, 2:00pm

Tues 03/03: Hines Outreach, 10:00am-2:00pm, Post; Veteran Business Connection After Hours, 6:00pm, Canteen

Wed 03/04: Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post

Fri 03/06: Fish Fry

Sat 03/07: Monarch Landing Visit, 10:00am

Tues 03/10: Hines Hospital Visit, 6:15pm Meet at Post, back by 9:00pm

Wed 03/11: Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post

Thurs 03/12: VFW Post Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post

Fri 03/13: Fish Fry

Sat 03/14: Brookdale Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am

Sun 03/15: Lotus Vibrations

Mon 03/16: Veteran Business Connection Meeting, 8:00am, Rosie's 2155 City Gate Lane Naperville

Wed 03/18: Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post

Thurs 03/19: Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post

Fri 03/20: Fish Fry

Sat 03/21: Tabor Hills Visit, 10:00am

Sun 03/22: Veteran Suicide Prevention Ruck March

Mon 03/23: Lotus Vibrations

Wed 03/25: Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post

Thurs 03/26: Joe Cantafio, Canteen

Fri 03/27: Fish Fry

Sat 03/28: Story Point Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am

Sun 03/29: Vietnam Veterans Day

Mon 03/30: Plant Sale Ordering Deadline

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

4/3 Last Fish Fry 2026

4/5 Members Family Breakfast

4/19 Easter Egg Hunt

5/1 Plant Sale pick up

5/10 Members Family Breakfast

5/25 Memorial Day events