

# THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 26 Issue 06

June 2026



**A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873**



## Commander Staci Boyer



As Memorial Day weekend comes to a close, I find myself incredibly humbled and grateful — not only for the overwhelming support shown throughout our community events, ceremonies, wreath layings, flag placements, and parade... but for the deeper meaning behind every single moment.

Memorial Day is not simply a long weekend or the unofficial start of summer. It is a sacred time of remembrance. A time to pause. To reflect. To honor the brave men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country and our freedoms.

Over the past week, members of our VFW and our Auxiliary, the American Legion, students from NNHS, NCHS, NVHS, and WVHS, Young Men's Service League, local Boy Scouts, volunteers, families, and community members came together to place thousands of flags throughout our cemeteries. As each flag was placed, every veteran's name was read aloud and every grave was saluted in honor of their sacrifice and service. Quiet moments like those matter. They remind us that behind every name is a story, a family, a life given in service to something greater than self.

Thank you to everyone who stood with us throughout Memorial Week and during today's incredible Naperville Memorial Day Parade. The turnout from this community was absolutely amazing and deeply moving. Naperville continues to show what it means to truly honor and remember.

A special thank you to Leo Jaime and the Memorial Day Parade Committee for the tremendous amount of work, coordination, and heart that goes into making these ceremonies and events possible year after year. Your dedication to honoring our fallen and serving this community does not go unnoticed.

Special thanks as well to the Great Lakes RTC Band and Choir for their outstanding performances and patriotic spirit throughout the ceremonies. Thank you to the Kendall cooks, volunteers, and our Auxiliary for providing an incredible luncheon for nearly 200 attendees following the parade and ceremonies. Your hard work and dedication helped create meaningful fellowship and community connection after a day filled with reflection and remembrance.

I also want to recognize and thank the State American Legion Oratorical winner for the truly outstanding guest speech given during the final ceremony. Your words were powerful, heartfelt, and beautifully delivered. You represented the next generation with grace, patriotism, and deep respect for those we honor today.

Thank you again to every volunteer, organization, student group, veteran, family member, and community leader who gave their time, effort, and heart this past week. We could not do this without you.

Memorial Day reminds us that freedom has never been free — and remembrance is not passive. It requires us to show up, to speak their names, to tell their stories, and to ensure their sacrifice is never forgotten.

Commander Reflections: "Honor is not found in words alone. It lives in the moments we choose to remember, the stories we continue to tell, and the actions we take to ensure sacrifice is never forgotten."

### Officer Installation Dinner 2026

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



---

### Memorial Day Flag Placements 2026

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





Junior Vice Commander  
Josh Warner



During the Civil War, the antebellum plantation known as the Arlington Estate was seized from Robert E. Lee by the U.S. government in a tax dispute... Hold up... Let's start over.

Eighteen months after the passing of her first husband, Martha Dandridge Custis married a young George Washington. Martha moved to Mount Vernon with her 2 surviving children. The Washingtons were unable to conceive children themselves and George adopted the two children, John and Patsy, as his own. In 1773, Patsy died at the age of 17, leaving John Parke Custis the only living child from Martha's previous marriage, and therefore the sole inheritor of his father's estate. In 1774, at the age of 20, John married Eleanor Calvert. He sold some land from his inheritance to purchase 1,100 acres for his wife and family in northern Virginia to be near his mother and stepfather. He named the estate Arlington.

John and Eleanor had six children, four of whom reached adulthood. In September 1781, John persuaded General Washington to allow him to serve as a civilian aide-de-camp despite protests from his mother. John Parke Custis died of "Camp Fever" November 5, 1781. After his death, Custis's widow sent their two youngest children, Eleanor (Nelly) and George (Washy), to be raised at Mount Vernon.

In 1831, George Washington Parke Custis's only daughter, Mary Ann Randolph Custis, effectively President George Washington's great-granddaughter, married her childhood sweetheart, a young U.S. Army Lieutenant Robert E. Lee. Mary inherited the Arlington estate upon her father's death in 1857. Lee left Arlington on April 22, 1861, to join the Confederate Army. It wasn't long before the federal troops occupied Arlington and set up camp. Although Lee's wife paid property taxes, the government seized the property because Lee, himself, did not pay in person. In 1864, the national cemetery was created.

After the war, Lee's eldest son, George Washington Custis Lee sued the federal government for the confiscation and won. The Supreme Court ruled in his favor, compelling the government to officially purchase the land. [Ed. Note. There is an excellent book by Anthony Gaughan, *The Last Battle of the Civil War: United States versus Lee, 1861-1883*, that tells this part of the story. Prof. Gaughan is a Navy Reserve veteran who was mobilized to Iraq.]

### 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 12TH  
MAY 10TH | JUNE 7TH  
JULY 12TH | 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!**




**13TH 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 13, 2026**  
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**

To Register, make your check (or cash) payable for \$20 (\$25 on Race Day) to:  
**908 W. Jackson Avenue, Naperville, IL 60540**

<b>EARLY REGISTRATION:</b> Starts reserved by Friday. (\$20). A guarantee a complete goodie bag with T-shirt, race bib, & 0.1k race stickers.	<b>DAY OF RACE:</b> Registration and packet pick-up is from 8:00-9:30 AM	<b>EARLY RACE PACKET PICK-UP:</b> Pre-registered runners can pick-up their race packet at the VFW Post 3873 from 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM on Sunday, Sept. 13th.
---	---	---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Check if Under 18: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
T-Shirt Size (Circle One Size Per Entry Form):  
SML Med Lrg XL XXL XXXL

By signing below, I agree not to hold the VFW Post 3873 responsible for any injury occurring as a result of my participation in this event.  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
T-Shirts WILL NOT be held, reserved or delivered after the Run is completed. All shirts left over will be distributed/sold on a first come first served basis.



## Benefits Advisor Updates

**Dennis Lukavsky**



### A Digital Resources on the VA App

We all rely on our phones for all sorts of daily activities, scheduling, texting, emailing, driving directions, and much more. (Not to mention games). But have you ever thought of your phone as a direct line to the VA through the VA App and website? The capability is not unique; Many medical providers have the same capability. It's not the capability that makes it good, it's the convenience.

You can be riding in your car and quickly make a doctor's appointment as you're going to McDonalds for breakfast.

Easy as it can be!

### Consider some of these resources:

- Refill Prescriptions
- Video telehealth
- Access Medial records
- Make doctor appointments
- Check status of VA claims and benefits information

### 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](mailto:dlukavsky@yahoo.com).

#### 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](#)



**National Home Chairman  
Mike McGrath**



**VFW National Home Programs and Services**

Located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, the VFW National Home offers a variety of programs and services designed to support military and veteran families, including rent free housing (for up to 4 years), educational resources (including scholarships), child care, life skills training and recreational activities.

Founded in 1925, the Home has helped countless families now for more than 100 years.

**National Home Life Memberships and Commemorative Bricks**

National Home Life Memberships are available to qualified VFW and Auxiliary members. Commemorative bricks are also a great way to remember the Home. Forms for both are available at the Post.

**Convention**

We're looking forward to our Department Convention and thanks to Jennifer Slown and team and sponsors as well for their great work. Get ready to "lace-up" for our next Judd-A-Thon September 13!

Thank you to Commander Boyer and all of our VFW and Auxiliary officers and members!

"Blessings" to all and may "God Bless Our National Home."

**Please do check out the National Home's [website](#)!** Don't forget the National Home's Helpline 1 800-313-4200.

**Memorial Day Ceremonies and Parade 2026**

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





**Auxiliary President**  
**Maryann Groner**



Our Auxiliary continues to grow. We currently have 286 members. I had been asked by a few people, “How do I become a member of the Auxiliary?” Our process takes a few easy steps. First determine your eligibility by the relationship to a related Veteran who served in a foreign war. Next, fill out an application form. The forms can be found at the Post or simply google VFW Auxiliary application and you will be directed to a site where you can download the sheet. Fill in the information being sure to include the documentation about your Veteran. Then decide on the dues you are going to join as, either annual or lifetime. Our annual dues are \$16.01 and the payment schedule for life members is located on the right side of the application. Finally enclose your application documentation and dues check and leave it in the Auxiliary mailbox. Your information will be checked and voted at the next meeting. Our secretary will invite you to come to a meeting to be initiated. I hope this makes the process easy and I look forward to welcoming you at a future meeting. This coming year, I would like to challenge every member to commit to doing just one thing, either coming to our monthly meeting on the third Thursday, joining a committee, volunteering time to serve on an Auxiliary sponsored function, encouraging a friend to join the Auxiliary, or going on our monthly visit to Hines. Just imagine what we can achieve with everyone participating!



Our secretary will invite you to come to a meeting to be initiated. I hope this makes the process easy and I look forward to welcoming you at a future meeting. This coming year, I would like to challenge every member to commit to doing just one thing, either coming to our monthly meeting on the third Thursday, joining a committee, volunteering time to serve on an Auxiliary sponsored function, encouraging a friend to join the Auxiliary, or going on our monthly visit to Hines. Just imagine what we can achieve with everyone participating!

Many thanks to all who worked on the Memorial Day projects, whether helping to distribute poppies for donations, placing flags at veteran graves flags, walking in the parade, or serving at the Post lunch. It wouldn't have happened without you!

---

## Memorial Day Post Parade 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



### June 2026

- Mon 06/01: Auxiliary Bingo, Arista Healthcare, 2:00pm
- Tues 06/02: Hines Outreach, 10:00am-2:00pm, Post; Veteran Business Connection After Hours, 6:00pm, Canteen; Hines Hospital Visit, 6:15pm Meet at Post, back by 9:00pm
- Wed 06/03: Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Sat 06/06: Monarch Landing Visit, 10:00am
- Sun 06/07: Member and Family Breakfast
- Wed 06/10: Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Thurs 06/11: VFW Post Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post
- Sat 06/13: Brookdale Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am
- Sun 06/14: Members Family Breakfast, 9:00am-12:00pm, Post
- Mon 06/15: Veteran Business Connection Meeting, 8:00am, Rosie's 2155 City Gate Lane Naperville
- Wed 06/17: Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Thurs 06/18: Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post
- Sat 06/20: Tabor Hills Visit, 10:00am
- Wed 06/24: Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Sat 06/27: Story Point Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am
- Sun 06/28: National Home 100th Anniversary Celebration, Eaton Rapids, MI

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

- 7/4 Naper Salute Ruck March
- 7/11 Lt Dan Concert at Cantigny
- 7/12 Member and Family Breakfast
  
- 8/2 Member and Family Breakfast
- 8/30 Lotus Vibrations