

# THE KENDALL-GRAM



Volume 21 Issue 07

July 2021

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



## Commander Todd Schuneman



Last month I was invited by the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts to participate in a flag retirement ceremony. The event began around 1500 with the scouts raising the flag. It was moving to see all the scouts in formation saluting as Old Glory was hoisted briskly up the pole by the Scout Honor Guard. After the opening ceremonies, the scouts broke into groups and proceeded to a variety of skill stations. As you can imagine, some of the stations were knife and axe skills, knot tying, sailboat regatta, and others. I and another dad were at the flag retirement station. There, we talked about how to retire a flag, the meaning of the stars, stripes, and colors. We also talked to the scouts about the history of our flag. Things such as the name "Old Glory" and who made the first flag. The day culminated with the Flag Retirement Ceremony. Once again, the scouts were in formation watching intently as the ceremony unfolded. As I watched the scouts, my heart swelled with hope and joy that patriotism in our country is not waning.

As we prepare to celebrate our nation's 245th birthday, I reflect on what patriotism means to me. Patriotism is defined by Webster's dictionary as "love for or devotion to one's country." But to me, it means so much more. To me, patriotism means supporting and loving our country in good times or bad, to never lose faith in our country, flying the flag to show respect and devotion to our country, and honoring those who have served in the defense of our great nation.

One still loves our country, even when things are not as you desire or as you would like. Devotion to our country means standing with it, no matter what, and working to make it better. It means never losing faith in our country. You know the ideals that our country is founded on and hold them true, and you stand by them. You don't give up just because something isn't going the way you think it should go. You trust our country to get back on the right path when it has strayed. Patriotism is demonstrated by flying our country's flag, whether at home, at work, at school, or at events. Flying the flag shows that you respect our country and that you are devoted to our country. Standing as it passes by. Reciting the pledge of allegiance. Patriotism is also demonstrated by how you treat those who have served this country and preserve their memory.

We are so very fortunate that our ancestors had the foresight to create a nation in which we have the freedoms to live the way we want and become who we desire to be. I am truly blessed to live in the greatest nation on earth! Happy birthday and God bless America.

**Senior Vice Commander**  
**Leo Jaime**



Moving up in the ranks... It seems like it was just yesterday that I thanked everyone for extending me the honor to be your Junior Vice. Today, I am even more humbled and honored to accept and step into the role of the Post's Senior Vice Commander. Thank you and I will do my best to ensure the success of our Post endures. But enough of the sappy stuff...

My primary duty as your Senior Vice is to promote and achieve 100% membership. We have one of the most successful Posts in the state and nation, all because of the dedication and volunteerism of our members. In order to continue to build our legacy (and the best watering hole in town), we need to ensure we grow our membership, particularly with the young lads returning home and coming off active duty. Not that there is anything wrong with us old folks, but the young vets are the ones that will lead the Post with new and energetic ideas, and keep our Mission and Vision intact:

**OUR MISSION:** To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military, and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans.

**OUR VISION:** Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.

With this in mind, I challenge every one of you to recruit a new member this year. Hard, you think? Not quite. The hard part of serving is behind us, and with it we have stories, experiences, and character – all traits our young population looks up to. We are all natural-born salesmen of our own stories. What's more, with the Fourth of July celebration taking place this month, the sense of patriotism and service is front and center in many vets' minds - let's tap into it. Email me at [leo.jaime@gmail.com](mailto:leo.jaime@gmail.com) or call me at 773-441-3887 if you need membership applications, assistance with the membership process, or help with a vet that may need a nudge.

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## Dates to Remember

Jul 1 – Post Virtual Blood Drive Begins (all month)  
Jul 4 – Independence Day  
Jul 6 – Hines Outreach Team Visit, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Jul 7 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am  
Jul 8 – VFW Meeting, 7:00 pm  
Jul 14 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am

Jul 15 – Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00 pm  
Jul 17 – Visit Vets at Independence Village, 10:00 am  
Jul 21 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am  
Jul 24 – Visit Vets at Story Point, 10:00 am  
Jul 28 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am

**Junior Vice Commander****Mike McGrath**

Congratulations to our Post for once again winning the plaque given to the number one Post in the State of Illinois for donations to the National Home for Children. Our Judd-A-Thon raised just over \$27,500.00 and the Post has won the award for 7 years in a row. What an awesome achievement! We are grateful to our Post and Auxiliary members, our officers, our sponsors and participants, and especially to our Race Director, Pablo Araya. Thank you all for your continued support and remember, the next Judd-A-Thon is right around the corner.

Illinois Day at the National Home is scheduled for September 25th this year. As in years past, this promises to be a great trip and I hope many of you will be able to join us. Details are forthcoming and I'll be sharing information at our next Post meeting. As you begin your planning to join us, remember the National Home is in Eaton Rapids, Michigan which puts it in the Eastern time zone.

The Fourth of July is more than just beer and picnics. As we celebrate Independence Day this year, let us remember the sacrifices of those who made it all possible for us. God bless our military, who even today are guarding the gates of freedom around the world. And God bless their families for the sacrifices they make on a daily basis to support their loved ones in uniform.

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## **Auxiliary Report from President Kathy Thornton**

I'm so glad to see things getting back to a semblance of normal. The Post grounds look beautiful. Stop down at the Canteen sometime!

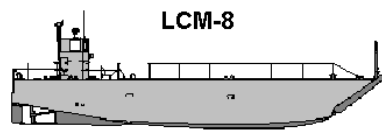
As your new Auxiliary President, I want to thank the outgoing officers, especially Kristen Jungles. She did an amazing job as President during the pandemic. Well done, Kristen!

I appreciate the vote of confidence in electing me your President for this next year. With your assistance, I hope to stay the course for our veterans and their families. Let me introduce the rest of the officers:

President Kathy Thornton  
 Senior Vice Berni Budny  
 Junior Vice Dar Kwarta  
 Chaplain Mary Ann Groner  
 Secretary Nancy Marinello  
 Treasurer Leo Hart

Conductress Lucy Hoy  
 Guard Mary Davidowski  
 1 Year Trustee Brenda Hasler  
 2 Year Trustee Joseph Stacho  
 3 Year Trustee Joanna Cook

Please remember the Auxiliary meets the 3rd Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm upstairs at the Post. We would love to see more attendance at our meetings. I welcome ideas or comments openly for this upcoming year. Feel free to reach out if every you have questions.

**Service Officer Updates****Dennis Lukavsky**

Now that society is slowly returning to normal, our Post is increasing in activity proportionally. We are starting to get out and serve our veteran brothers and sisters. Here are some of the important happenings around the Post recently:

1. The first thing that comes to mind are the walk-thru's. Now that Covid is slowly losing its grip, families are starting to have memorial services for their loved ones who passed during the pandemic. As a result, they are happening at a much greater rate than in the past and the requests come with very short notice. Honoring our brothers and sisters is a significant part of our work. So, when you get an email blast announcing a walk-thru, if you are at all able to attend, please do so. I'd like to thank any of our members who are part of the Legion Riders, as they have helped immensely recently with the number of walk-thru requests we have received.
2. A reminder that coffee with the vets at the local retirement homes is also restarting. We now go to Independence Village on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 10:00 am and to Stoney Point on the 4th Saturday, again at 10:00 am. This is an opportunity to bring a little joy to veterans who have trouble getting out. The conversation and friendship are contagious. Try it some time.
3. For those of you who knew Sue Houser, I can report that the VFW, the Legion, the Legion Riders, and the Honor Guard had a strong presence and distinguished themselves in her honor at her Memorial Service on June 4th.
4. The Hines Outreach team comes to the Post on the first Tuesday of each month to help folks sign up for VA Health Care and to answer questions about benefits, including new and in process claims. If you have questions, come get them answered between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm on July 6th (our next session).
5. Thank you to those who attended Clayton Wange's 105th Birthday at Tabor Hills. There was a wonderful party out on the lawn, and all certainly enjoyed themselves. And best of all, Clayton and his family were very appreciative.
6. The Legion Riders are still selling RED t-shirts to raise funds to help complete the building of the Gold Star Family Monument. If you need information on how to help out, please contact me.
7. Finally, there is absolutely NO EXCUSE for not having been vaccinated against Covid if you want to be. The vaccine is readily available to everyone. If you need help getting vaccinated, please contact me.

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**Request for Help**

Every Memorial Day we place wreaths at various veterans memorials around Naperville. The following day we pick them up to be reused the next year. This year, the two wreaths placed at the Doughboy Statue and Sailor Statue in Burlington Square Park were missing from where they were placed on Memorial Day. If you have any information on where they went or who might have them, please contact Bob Colby at [bobcolby888@gmail.com](mailto:bobcolby888@gmail.com). Thank you.

**In Our Thoughts...**

The members of Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873 and its Auxiliary would like to extend their sympathies to:

*The family of Joe Marinello, member of VFW Post 3873 and WWII veteran, on his recent passing.*

*The family of Thys VanderVelde, member of VFW Post 3873 and Vietnam veteran, on his recent passing.*

**Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873 Virtual Blood Drive**

**July 1st through July 31st**

Donors who weren't able to join us at our recent in-person blood drive can still donate on behalf of the Post by scheduling an appointment with Vitalant at (877) 258-4825 or register at

[Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873 Virtual Blood Drive](#)

When you receive an e-mail, schedule your appointment for July at any Vitalant location

Use Code: 073C to make sure the Post gets credit for your donation

Thanks to all who donated at our last blood drive, we collected 24 donations which will help save 72 lives.

Please remember that blood is in constant demand and there is currently a critical shortage due to the reduction in donations during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**BLOOD DRIVE**



**Naperville VFW Post 3873 Virtual Blood Drive**

**July 1, 2021 through July 31, 2021**



All presenting donors with a confirmed e-mail address on file will receive a T-shirt (Choice Blood Donor vs. Platelet Donor) June 30 – July 7

You can schedule your appointment by calling Vitalant at 877. 258.4825. Make sure to mention group code: **073C** at the time of donation.



Masks are required. Appointments Recommended.

1. To get your emailed invitation to schedule your appointment for our Virtual Blood Drive- **CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**

2. When your email arrives, click "Schedule Now" to book your appointment at any convenient blood donation location. Be sure to use the same email address you used to sign up. This is important because it helps Vitalant connect your donation to our organization's virtual blood drive.

3. Provide the same email address at the time of donation.


 **GIVE BLOOD | vitalant.org**

**vitalant.** 



# Post 3873 Calendar of Events July 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Post Virtual Blood Drive Begins		3
4  Independence Day	5	6 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Hines Community Outreach Team Visit	7 9:30 am - GI Yoga	8 7:00 pm - VFW Meeting	9	10
11	12	13	14 9:30 am - GI Yoga	15 7:00 pm - Auxiliary Meeting	16	17 10:00 am - Visit Vets at Independence Village
18	19	20	21 9:30 am - GI Yoga	22	23	24 10:00 am - Visit Vets at Story Point
25	26	27	28 9:30 am - GI Yoga	29	30	31

**Hines Hospital Visits**

The Chairman of the Hospital Committee would like to remind everyone that the Post visits the Hines VA Hospital every second Tuesday of the month. Visits are not made in July and August. We leave the Post at 6:15 p.m. and return at approximately 9:15 p.m. Transportation is provided. Everyone is invited to attend, so why not come out to spend quality time with some very appreciative veterans?

**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. Give the article and/or your photo to the on-duty bartender. It is important to put your name and phone number on the item in case there are any questions. All photos MUST include where and why it was taken and the names of those in the picture. Photos without captions will not be used. Please submit all articles by the 10th of the month. Items submitted after the 10th will be considered for the following month.

**Kendall-Gram Editor:** Tom Parker  
(630) 280-9347

**Post Information**

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

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

Website Address: [napervfw3873.org](http://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	Todd Schuneman	(815) 791-4178
Sr. Vice Commander	Leo Jaime	(773) 441-3887
Jr. Vice Commander	Mike McGrath	(630) 357-2680
Quartermaster	Phil Maughan	(630) 383-1974
Ass't Quartermaster	John Shaw	(630) 961-3479
Adjutant	Nina Petru	(630) 871-9596
Judge Advocate	Lawrence Goss	(630) 728-9641
Surgeon	Bill Howland	(630) 369-0087
Service Officer	Dennis Lukavsky	(630) 272-9064
Officer of the Day	Lou Kuelto	(630) 898-8760
Guard	Roger Budny	(630) 205-8745
Chaplain	Bob Grember	
1-Year Trustee	Bob Bronson	(630) 886-9102
2-Year Trustee	Craig Frier	
3-Year Trustee	Pablo Araya	(312) 505-4377

**Committees**

Americanism	Tom Parker	(630) 280-9347
Blood Drive	Ingrid Kanady	(847) 951-3300
Buddy Poppy	Bob Colby	(630) 301-2664
Building	Mike Rechenmacher	(630) 961-1377
Color Guard	Jim Sarns	(630) 234-6292
Communications	Dennis Lukavsky	(630) 272-9064
Eighth Grade Awards	Tom Benton	(630) 579-8514
Facilities Manager		
Grounds	Phil Maughan	(630) 357-3440
Honor Guard	Jim Oftedal	(630) 357-4030
Hospital	John Shaw	(630) 961-3479
House	Bob Colby	(630) 301-2664
House	Bob Tallon	(630) 561-9902
House	Tom Parker	(630) 280-9347
Membership	Leo Jaime	(773) 441-3887
Legislative	Frank Haynes	(630) 357-2906
National Home	Mike McGrath	(630) 357-2680
Patriot's Pen	Leo Jaime	(773) 441-3887
Safety	Mike McGrath	(630) 357-2680
Scout Liaison	Todd Schuneman	(815) 791-4178
Social Media	Dave Angelus	(630) 596-3245
Voice of Democracy	Leo Jaime	(773) 441-3887

**Auxiliary Officers**

President	Kathy Thornton	(630) 667-6704
Sr. Vice President	Bernadette Budny	(630) 717-9471
Jr. Vice President	Darlene Kwarta	
Treasurer	Leo Hart	
Secretary	Nancy Marinello	(630) 464-3696
Chaplain	Maryann Groner	(630) 363-8138
Guard	Mary Davidowski	
Conductress	Lucy Hoy	

Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Judd Kendall Post 3873  
908 W. Jackson  
Naperville, IL 60540



Thanks to all the Post members who came out to help spread mulch last month. A special shoutout to the Royal Raiders, a youth group from Calvary Church who showed up and helped us spread 14 yards of mulch. And a big thank you to our next-door neighbor Rick who saw us working and pitched in to help. With all the help, we were able to spread the mulch in a record 39 minutes. Thanks to everyone!!!

As a reminder, the plants in the back flowerbed next to the Purple Heart are old fashioned cottage garden Hollyhocks. They should be blooming shortly and the variety we are using is a perennial that comes in shades of pink, red, and white. They are not weeds.

