

# THE KENDALL-GRAM



Volume 21 Issue 12  
December 2021

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



## Commander Todd Schuneman



Reflecting on the November 2021 veteran events, I would like to thank all of our members who have personal relationships with the Naperville schools and took time to speak with the students about freedom, citizenship, and their experiences while serving our country. This year's events were still restricted. The District 203 breakfast was not held and our contact with the schools was limited. But we prevailed.

At the Veterans Day dinner, I had several members of our Post and the American Legion compliment me on my opening remarks. They articulated their poignancy and caused them to reflect on their own service. Several members requested copies of my remarks, so I have included them in my column this month. Full transparency, a friend of mine that I served with in the Marine Corps sent them to me and I massaged them a bit.

To understand a Military Veteran, you must know:

We left home as teenagers or in our early twenties for an unknown adventure.

We loved our country enough to defend it and protect it with our own lives.

We said goodbye to friends and family and everything we knew.

We learned the basics and then we scattered in the wind to the far corners of the Earth.

We found new friends and new family.

We became brothers and sisters regardless of color, race or creed.

We had plenty of good times, and plenty of bad times.

We didn't get enough sleep.

We smoked and drank too much.

We picked up both good and bad habits.

We worked hard and played harder.

We didn't earn a great wage.

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**Commander's Column (Continued from Page 1)**

We experienced the happiness of mail call and the sadness of missing important events.

We didn't know when, or even if, we were ever going to see home again.

We grew up fast, and yet somehow, we never grew up at all.

We fought for our freedom, as well as the freedom of others.

Some of us saw actual combat, and some of us didn't.

Some of us saw the world, and some of us didn't.

Some of us dealt with physical warfare, most of us dealt with psychological warfare.

We have seen and experienced and dealt with things that we can't fully describe or explain, as not all of our sacrifices were physical.

We participated in time honored ceremonies and rituals with each other, strengthening our bonds and camaraderie.

We counted on each other to get our job done and sometimes to survive it at all.

We have dealt with victory and tragedy.

We have celebrated and mourned.

We lost a few along the way.

When our adventure was over, some of us went back home, some of us started somewhere new and some of us never came home at all.

We have told amazing and hilarious stories of our exploits and adventures.

We share an unspoken bond with each other, that most people don't experience, and few will understand.

We speak highly of our own branch of service, and poke fun at the other branches.

We know however, that, if needed, we will be there for our brothers and sisters and stand together as one, in a heartbeat.

Being a Veteran is something that had to be earned, and it can never be taken away.

It has no monetary value, but at the same time it is a priceless gift.

People see a Veteran and they thank them for their service.

When we see each other, we give that little upwards head nod, or a slight smile, knowing that we have shared and experienced things that most people have not.

So, from myself to the rest of the veterans out there, I commend and thank you for all that you have done and sacrificed for your country. Try to remember the good times and make peace with the bad times. Share your stories. But most importantly, stand tall and proud, for you have earned the right to be called a Veteran.

I'm a VETERAN!

Take an opportunity to spend time with family and friends this holiday season. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

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

Membership! Comrades, we are at 91.5% on membership, a respectable increase since last month but still a long way to go. Thank you all for the efforts and please, continue to promote the good work we do at the Post and bring new members to our ranks.

December and the holidays are upon us. This is my favorite time of year, sharing the spirit of Christmas with our loved ones and friends. As we reflect on the accomplishments and shortcomings, I also invite you to pause and remember everyone deployed. They will be absent from their family table, defending us and our way of life in many locations around the world, far from home.

I am sure we all remember Christmas while we were away. I've spent many on board navy ships. One in particular ranks as one of my favorites. Christmas 1990 aboard the USS Tarawa (LHA1). I was a young LCpl attached to A Co., 4th Marine Tank Battalion on our way to the Persian Gulf. As we approached the Philippines, the replenishment ship took a turn to assist other ships in the fleet and left us without fresh food. We celebrated Christmas with canned beans, powdered milk, and stale pound cake! Not bad. After all, we were dry, warm, and with our best friends.

From our family to yours, we wish you safe, joyous, and happy holidays. And as we share the warmest moments with our loved ones, remember to reach out to our veterans and service members that may need your company and the spirit of the season.

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

Turkeys and more, what a blast! Yes, it was fun, prizes, and camaraderie in abundance at our recent Judd Kendall Turkey Raffle. Our thanks to everyone who came out to support the raffles and to everyone who helped with the events.

Now, for some upcoming events. We hope to see you all at our Annual Christmas Party on December 4th. Be on the lookout for an e-mail blast with all the details.

Now that the turkeys and leftovers are all done, it's time for America's Game. That's right, the Army-Navy game will be played on December 11th and we're planning to have our usual get together in the canteen that day to join in the festivities. There will be food, fun, and prizes throughout the game. Doors open at noon and kick-off is at 2:00 pm. Come on out – it's always a great game!

Blessings to all our comrades and Auxiliary members this holiday season. We wish you peace and happiness during the Christmas and for 2022. Lest we forget, our military forces are still "guarding the gates of freedom" for us around the world. Let's remember these brave people during the holidays.

Stay informed and stay connected by reading the Kendall-Gram and the e-mail blasts. Thanks for all you do and see you around the Post!

## Dates to Remember

Dec 1 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am

Dec 4 – Post Christmas Party, 6:00 pm

Dec 5 – Children’s Christmas Party, 1:30 pm

Dec 7 – Hines Outreach Team Visit, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Dec 8 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am

Dec 9 – VFW Meeting, 7:00 pm

Dec 11 – Army-Navy Game, 2:00 pm

Dec 15 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am

Dec 15– Painting on the Porch, 6:30 pm

Dec 16 – Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00 pm

Dec 18 – Visit Vets at Independence Village, 10:00 am

Dec 22 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am

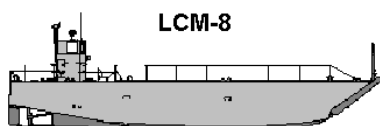
Dec 25 – Christmas Day

Dec 29 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am

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## Service Officer Updates

**Dennis Lukavsky**



The Post seems to be coming back to life after Covid, seemingly overnight. There has been a lot of activity and it will continue into December – which is a wonderful thing. Here are some of the key things going on:

1. The outreach team from Hines VA Hospital continues to come to the Post each month. We’ve been able to help many veterans with various needs and I’d encourage you to let other veterans know about this. You don’t have to be a member of the Post to take advantage of this, but we’d be happy to talk to any veteran about possibly joining as they get their assistance needs handled.
2. I’d like to extend a huge thank you to the intrepid folks who came out on a very rainy day to help spread mulch and complete other landscaping tasks, especially Kathy Thornton and the Armanino Company. Thanks to their hard work, the Post grounds look great and are ready for the upcoming winter.
3. Some of us learned a great deal about cyber security thanks to the recent coffee and workshop hosted by Russ Harwood and Our Saviors Lutheran Church.
4. We had several excellent activities around Veterans Day this past November. While the free food and Wolves hockey tickets were nice, it was even better to be able to pay tribute to all of our nation’s men and women who have served in uniform. The ceremony at Veterans Park, while a little shorter, was very meaningful and the dinner that evening was especially rewarding as we celebrated the 100th birthday of WWII veteran Don O’Reilly. We still aren’t sure if he was really surprised, but we did work especially hard to keep his celebration during the dinner a secret.

I’ll continue to keep you apprised of other events and opportunities that arise in the coming year so you can get any assistance you may need. And don’t forget, sometimes the best assistance we can offer to our fellow veterans is friendship, support, and a chance to interact with other veterans. If you need help with VA claims or anything else through the official channels, feel free to reach out to me at (630) 272-9064 or [dlukavsky@yahoo.com](mailto:dlukavsky@yahoo.com).

## Auxiliary Report from President Kathy Thornton

Thanks to all who were able to join us at our Turkey Raffle on 11/20. A great time was had by all. My thanks to all the volunteers and donors, too numerous to mention. A successful fundraiser!

Check out all that is happening the month of December. Please join us if you are able.

- 1. Saturday, 12/4:** Post Party from 6p to 9p upstairs at the Post. Join fellow Post and Auxiliary members as we ring in the Christmas Holiday.
- 2. Sunday 12/5:** Auxiliary Children's Christmas Party (on the porch) starts at 130p to 3p, Santa arrives at 2p. MUST RSVP (need names and ages). Please email me if your children or grandchildren are able to attend. Also looking for volunteers to help out. Let me know...
- 3. Tuesday, 12/7:** Auxiliary Social hour (actually 1.5 hours) at the Canteen, starts at 5p. Join fellow Auxiliary members at our monthly social time (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month).
- 4. Wednesday 12/15: Open to the public.** Pinots Palette Paint Night on the Porch from 630p to 830p. Join us for paint night at the Post. Sign up online [All is Calm - Wed, Dec 15 6:30PM at Naperville](#), call 331.457.5440 or email me. Cost is \$39. The Auxiliary gets \$10.00 for each painter. At October's paint night, we received a check for \$250.00 for 25 painters! It adds up.
- 5. Thursday 12/16:** Auxiliary meeting starts at 7p. We will have a short Auxiliary meeting, followed by our annual Christmas party. Those planning on attending, please join us for the Yankee Trader gift "exchange". Bring wrapped gift (approx. value \$15-\$20) and a dish to pass. President will provide pulled pork for sandwiches. A not-to-miss event-this is always a fun night of gifting, stealing, gifting, and stealing again. Join us!

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas. Christmas blessings on our veterans, especially those currently serving.



*Happy Holidays*  
*And Best Wishes for 2022*  
*From Your Post and Auxiliary*  
*Leadership Teams*





**VFW Auxiliary Fundraiser**  
**“All Is Calm”**  
A No Experience Required Art Class  
With Step by Step Instructions  
Wednesday, December 15th  
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm  
\$39 per painter  
Register online at  
<https://www.pinotpalette.com/naperville/event/576080>  
or call (331) 457-5440



**Post Christmas Party**

**Saturday, December 4th**

**6:00 pm in Kendall Hall**

**Come celebrate and enjoy the holiday spirit with other veterans and Post/Auxiliary members**



**Children’s Christmas Party on Sunday, December 5th at 1:30 pm**  
**RSVP to Kathy Thornton if planning to attend the Children’s Party**

**Army vs. Navy**

**Football Party**

**Saturday, December 11th**

**2:00 pm Kick-off**

**In the Post Canteen**


**Please bring a dish/snack to share, cheer on your favorite team, and enjoy the raffles and camaraderie**





# Post 3873 Calendar of Events December 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9:30 am - Yoga for Vets	2	3	4 6:00 pm - Post Christmas Party
5 1:30 - Children's Christmas Party	6	7 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Hines Community Outreach Team Visit	8 9:30 am - Yoga for Vets	9 7:00 pm - VFW Meeting	10	11 2:00 pm - Army-Navy Football Game
12	13	14	15 9:30 am - Yoga for Vets 6:30 pm - Painting on the Porch	16 7:00 pm - Auxiliary Meeting	17	18 10:00 am - Visit Vets at Independence Village
19	20	21	22 9:30 am - Yoga for Vets	23	24	25  Christmas Day
26	27	28	29 9:30 am - Yoga for Vets	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	Matt Hoyt	(630) 362-5564
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	Dennis Regan	(630) 361-4644
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

