

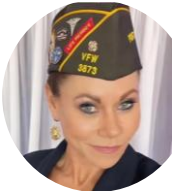
# THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 26 Issue 04

April 2026



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



## Commander Staci Boyer



This past month has been one of both honor and action.

I had the privilege of representing our Post at the 2026 VFW National Washington Conference, where I joined our Department of Illinois leadership in congressional meetings on Capitol Hill. Together, we presented our National Legislative Priority Goals directly to our elected officials—ensuring that the voices of veterans are not only heard, but taken seriously at the highest levels.

Just prior to that, I also stood alongside fellow advocates in Springfield for Veterans Advocacy Day—continuing that same mission at the state level.

These opportunities are powerful reminders that our collective voice carries weight. It is only through the strength of our more than 1.4 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary that we are able to advocate so effectively.

To each of you reading this—thank you. Your membership matters. Your voice matters.

Closer to home, our Post has been nothing short of incredible this past month. From our highly successful Fish Fry Fridays, to our Veteran Suicide Prevention Ruck March, to meaningful Vietnam Veterans Day ceremonies, we continue to show up for one another and our community.

We also celebrated the IDVA Top 25 Female Veteran Awards and witnessed the record-breaking ribbon cutting at Rosie's Home Cookin'—both proud moments that reflect the strength and impact of our veteran community.

And as always... we are already moving forward.

We are currently preparing for the Naperville Responds for Veterans Strength and Honor Luncheon on April 29, and we're excited to welcome back the WSFDV event featuring the Lt. Dan Band on July 11. There is always something on the horizon—and I wouldn't have it any other way.

If you've been thinking about getting more involved, now is the time. Our committees are growing, new members are stepping into leadership roles, and the future of this Post is being built right now by those willing to raise their hand and serve.

Thank you to our new and continuing volunteers—you are the future of this VFW, and we are incredibly grateful for all that you bring to the table.

As always, my door is open. If you have ideas, want to get involved, or are ready to step into a leadership role—please reach out.

Commander's Reflection: "We don't wait for change—we create it. Through action, through service, and through the strength of standing together."



**Senior Vice Commander  
Jennifer Slown**



We had an incredible showing of strength, community, and purpose at this year’s 2.2-Mile Ruck March. Because of your support, participation, and generosity, we were able to raise more than \$7000 for Veteran suicide prevention efforts benefiting the “22 Until None” charity. That number represents more than just dollars raised, it reflects those we’ve lost but continue to honor, while bringing our community together for a meaningful morning of purposeful ruck marching.

From the opening ceremony to the final steps across the finish, the vibe was on point. More than 200 veterans, family members, friends, and community members came together, some carrying nearly their body weight, to raise awareness. Every step of the 2.2 miles was a reminder that connection matters and none of us fights alone.

Incredible events like the Ruck don’t happen without the dedication of planners, volunteers, generous sponsors, and committed participants. To everyone who played a role, no matter how big or small: THANK YOU. You are the reason this mission continues to move forward.

As we reflect on the success of this event, I want to extend a challenge to our members (especially those we don’t see as often as we’d like). If you’ve been meaning to get more involved, start small. Make it a goal to attend just one Post 3873 event each quarter. That’s four events a year. Whether it’s a meeting, social gathering, fundraiser, or volunteer opportunity, your presence matters.

Post 3873 is more than a building, it’s a network of support, camaraderie, and shared purpose. The strength of that network depends on each of us showing up when we can.

Together, we can continue building connections, supporting fellow Veterans and Veteran causes, and ensuring that no Veteran fights alone.

**Business of the Post**

**Post Meeting March 12, 2026 Highlights**



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

New Members: 2 new, both Army; 2 transfers.

Quartermaster: Strong canteen and Hall rentals continue. Spent \$3000 on a new water heater.

Service Officer: Remember that there is a VSO at the Post Tuesdays, 10:00am-2:00pm

Membership: We are at 100.3%, striving for 103%.

Honor Guard: Conducted 4 military funeral honors, three Army, one Air Force.

Color Guard: Three events in March: St Patrick’s Parade 3/14, Retirement party at the Post 3/19, Vietnam Veterans Day 3/29.

Poppy Distribution: Arrangements made for store locations. Poppies have arrived to the Post.

Trustees: Requested three donations for total of \$2750. Motioned and Passed.

Committee for Officer nominations reported out. [Full slate of nominees on page 4]

Commander Boyer closed the meeting according to ritual at 2001. Next meeting is Thursday, April 9, 2026.



Junior Vice Commander  
Josh Warner



Within hours of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese military began military campaign in the Philippines. First, the empire bombed airfields, bases, harbors and shipyards. Their prize? The capital city Manila. Manila sits on Manila Bay and was at the time one of the best deepwater ports in the Pacific, making it a perfect resupply point for the Japanese’s conquest of the southern Pacific. The Imperial Army went ashore on December 22, 1941, in a pincer attack on the main Island Luzon. The supreme commander of the Allied Forces, General MacArthur, cabled D.C. stating he was ready to repel the invaders with his 133,000 troops. In fact, MacArthur only had a force in the tens of thousands. The American contingent consisted of 22,000 men, but not seasoned soldiers. They were inexperienced garrison soldiers, artillerymen, a handful of pilots and ground crew (without planes mind you), and sailors who happened to be in port when the Japanese bombed the Manila and its naval yards.

The Japanese quickly overcame the defenders at the landing beaches and forced MacArthur to execute a planned withdrawal into the cover of the Bataan Peninsula’s jungle. MacArthur’s poor planning left tons of stores behind. The Battle of Bataan began January 6, 1942. The allied Filipino and American forces were able to hold out, living on monkey meat and a few grains of rice, without air cover or naval support, for a remarkable 99 days, until April 9, 1943. On that day, the American and Filipino troops surrendered to General Mashuro Homma, who forced the prisoners to march 70 miles to the prison camp in San Fernando.

April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026, marks the 84th anniversary of the Bataan Death March. It is also the 38<sup>th</sup> observance of National Former POW Recognition Day, established by President Reagan in 1988 to recognize the sacrifices and immense trials of former prisoners of war.

### 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

**WFW 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!**



**VFW FISH FRY**  
 FOOD PROVIDED BY  
**DRAFT PICKS**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

4/15 a plate | 4 pieces of Fish & Fries  
 \$5 added for pizza or shrimp




**OFFICER INSTALLATION DINNER**  
*May 30, 2026*  
 6pm | Social hour  
 7pm-9pm | Dinner & Ceremony

SPACE IS LIMITED RSVP REQUIRED.  
 TICKETS ARE FREE ALTHOUGH A SMALL DONATION AT THE DOOR IS APPRECIATED

RSVP VIA  
[WWW.TICKETSOURCE.US/NAPERVILLE-VFW-5873](http://WWW.TICKETSOURCE.US/NAPERVILLE-VFW-5873)  
 908 Jackson ave.  
 Naperville, Illinois 60540



**Benefits Advisor Updates**  
**Dennis Lukavsky**



**VA May Contact You By Email and SMS Text About Your Claim - Respond Securely through the new Claim Assist Portal**

In this day and age, when scammers are an ever-present danger, we are taught over and over again to be cautious of unexpected email and text messages. That is certainly still the rule to follow but keep in mind the VA is making a little change to way they process claims: They are starting to communicate with veterans through email and/or texts. You may receive a valid email from the VA asking you for more information about your claim, provide status etc. The correspondence is safe because **you do not respond to the message itself. You respond by logging into the VA Claim Assist Portal at VA.gov**, which is, of course, secure. So, even though we all say scammers conduct their phishing through emails, these emails from the VA are legitimate and need a response via the Claim Assist Portal.

**What is the Claim Assist Portal?**

The Claim Assist Portal is a secure online tool that makes it faster and easier for you to respond when VA needs more information for your claim. You can securely provide the requested details, complete short forms, or verify information online—no printing, mailing, or scanning needed.

**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).

**2026-2027 VFW Post 2873 Officer Slate**

The Nominating Committee submitted the following list of nominees for 2006-2027.

- Commander: Staci Boyer
- Senior Vice Commander: Josh Warner
- Junior Vice Commander: Laela Sharriest
- Quartermaster: Phil Maughan
- Asst Quartermaster: John Shaw, Tom Rickert
- Judge Advocate: Dom Guerrieri
- Surgeon: Ingrid Kanady

- Officer of the Day: Lou Kuelczo
- Guard: Roger Budny
- 3 Year Trustee: Brad Nila
- 2 Year Trustee: Jan Schraeder
- 1 Year Trustee: Leo Jaime
- 3 Year House: Matt Shiffer



**National Home Chairman  
Mike McGrath**



**Great news from the National Home!**

There are 91 children and 147 total residents on campus as both Illinois homes are now occupied. And more good news! The National Home's Dynamos 4-H Club will have 8 rabbits and 3 pigs this year.

**April is "the Month of the Military Child!"**

Dating back to 1986, then Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger wanted to recognize the needs and contributions of an estimated 1.6 million military children in the United States. The color purple symbolizes the combination of all branches of the U.S. military. This year April 15 is "Purple Up Day," so please wear purple on that day to help us raise awareness and honor military-connected youth.

**Thank you!**

Thank you all for the great support for the Home and be sure to check out the [website](#) for more nfo.

The helpline is available at 800-313 4200. Could this be of help for someone you know?



**March/April 2026**

- 'We Always Do It For Free'
- Showing Off the #StillServing Work
- VFW Members Add Realism to Re-Enactments
- Honoring Revolutionary War Heroes

*\*\*Attention VFW members: If you have written a book or an e-book bearing an ISBN or ASIN, submit a nonreturnable copy (or a link to the e-book) with a brief description (submitted as a Microsoft Word .doc or .docx; no cover quotes) to [magazine@vfw.org](mailto:magazine@vfw.org). Define the book as fiction, nonfiction, or memoir; and include VFW member number. The author's name, book title and cover, publisher, and ISBN will appear in the online VFW magazine (expect to wait two-three months) accessed above.\*\**

Click image above to go to VFW Magazine website.



**Taps**

Andrew Vilcak, age 77, Army, Vietnam.

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



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



Many thanks to the Auxiliary members who volunteered to work at the cashier table at the fish fry. We couldn't do it without the time you give to help. Special shout out to Trish for keeping everyone organized again this year. On March 8, we sold bingo cards and handed out winnings to the lucky winners. Thanks to Berni, Bob, Deb and Kathy who worked with me on this project. Our participation earns the District money that it uses for awards and projects. The District VFW/Auxiliary Memorial will be held at the Addison Post on Sunday, April 26. This event is an opportunity to pay respect to members who have passed on during the year. Consider honoring our Post's departed.

Many of the officers are being nominated to return next year. We will need a guard, conductor, and trustee. If you would like to know more about these positions, check out Malta, the ritual book, or give me a call. I would like to talk with you about taking a more active role in the Auxiliary.

The Department Convention is set for June 11-14 in Springfield. A new hotel, Crowne Plaza, will be the host. Use code V1W for the special room rate. If you don't want to drive, you can take Amtrak to Springfield for about the cost of a tank of gas. Department conventions are a great time to meet with Auxiliary members from across the state and learn first hand about all the things members do to assist posts and veterans, as well as get ideas for fund raising. There are amazing displays from across the state that provide a chance to see the creative use of poppies to celebrate Americanism.

### Ruck March 2026

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



Many thanks to Joanna Navarro and Keith Contant of Mission BBQ for post-Ruck provisions!



**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



**April 2026**

- Wed 04/01: Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Fri 04/03: Last 2026 Fish Fry
- Sat 04/04: Monarch Landing Visit, 10:00am
- Mon 04/06: Auxiliary Bingo, Arista Healthcare, 2:00pm
- Tues 04/07: 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 04/08: Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post; Mayor presents KIDS Matter, 6:00pm, VFW Post
- Thurs 04/09: VFW Post Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post
- Sat 04/11: Brookdale Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am
- Sun 04/12: Members Family Breakfast, 9:00am-12:00pm, Post
- Wed 04/15: Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Thurs 04/16: Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post
- Sat 04/18: Tabor Hills Visit, 10:00am
- Sun 04/19: Easter Egg Hunt, Post
- Mon 04/20: Veteran Business Connection Meeting, 8:00am, Rosie's 2155 City Gate Lane Naperville
- Wed 04/22: Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Sat 04/25: Story Point Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am
- Sun 04/26: Lotus Vibrations Sound Meditation
- Wed 04/29: Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post; Strength and Honor Luncheon

**Upcoming Events**

- 5/1 Plant Sale Pick up
- 5/10 Member and Family Breakfast
- 5/17 Lotus Vibrations
- 5/21-5/25 Distribute Poppies
- 5/25 Memorial Day Events
- 5/30 Officer Induction Dinner
  
- 6/7 Member and family Breakfast
- 6/21 Lotus Vibrations
- 6/28 National Home 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

7/12 Member and Family Breakfast

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!](#)