THE KENDALL-GRAM

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A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873

Commander

Staci Boyer

As summer begins to wind down, I find myself reflecting on what an incredible few months it has been for Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873. Every week seems to bring another opportunity to serve, to collaborate, and to remind our community that the VFW is about so much more than meetings. We are about action.

At the Department of Illinois State Convention, our Post was honored with First Place in the Hospital & VAVS Program, Top 3 recognition for VFW National Home Donations, along with Membership, Americanism, and Red Level Supporter Awards. We were also proud to earn both **All-State** and **All-American** honors for the second consecutive year.

While those recognitions are certainly appreciated, they simply reflect the dedication of the people behind them. Each award represents countless time spent with volunteer hours, hospital visits, youth programs, patriotic ceremonies, legislative advocacy, and community partnerships. These honors belong to every member, every Auxiliary member, every volunteer, and every community partner who continues to answer the call to serve.

July also brought one of our largest community collaborations as many of our members volunteered at the sold-out Gary Sinise Lt. Dan Band concert. The event raised funds for more than 20 veteran-focused nonprofit organizations while showcasing what can happen when organizations work together toward a common mission. Thank you to everyone who gave their time and energy to make it such a tremendous success.

We're also grateful to NCTV17 for continuing to shine a spotlight on the work happening at our Post. Sharing the stories of veterans, volunteers, and community service helps others understand the impact we're making together.

Congratulations to our newly installed officers who have already hit the ground running. Your leadership, fresh ideas, and willingness to serve ensure our Post continues moving forward while honoring the traditions that brought us here.

I also invite you to watch my recent **Freedom Sings Project** video posted on our social media pages. Music has a remarkable way of helping veterans tell stories that are often difficult to put into words. This songwriting and music therapy program reminds us that healing comes in many forms, and sometimes the most powerful conversations begin with a song.

As always, thank you for everything you do for this Post and our veteran community. Please stay connected through our social media pages, email updates, and upcoming events. There is always another opportunity to serve. We are stronger because we do it together.

Commander Reflections: ““The Truth is on our side” - Boyer.”

Senior Vice Commander
Josh Warner

On July 15, 1990, an Iraqi Republican Guard division of 10,000 men and 300 tanks moved into position just north of Kuwait. Four days later, an additional three divisions of 35,000 men were staged 16 kilometers from the border. In just twelve days, eight divisions, numbering 100,000 troops were on Kuwait's doorstep.

Keep in mind, Saddam Hussein got smoked for eight years in a war with Iran, and, by the late eighties, Iraq's economy was in the toilet. What better way to promote nationalism and distract his populace from economic woes than to reclaim a lost oil-rich province held by Kuwait? The common wisdom was that this was a bluff for his internal audience. There was no way Saddam would invade, right? The common wisdom was wrong.

On August 2, 1990, two Republican Guard Armored units, Medina and Hammurabi Divisions crossed the border. One day later, Tawalkana Division moved to the Kuwaiti- Saudi border to secure it. 140,000 troops and 1,800 tanks flowed into Kuwait with little resistance. President George H. W. Bush ordered Operation Desert Shield on August 7, 1990, just five days after the invasion. The stated intent was to defend Saudi Arabia, the most prominent member of OPEC, from Iraqi hostilities. Kuwait had been a buffer between the oil-rich country and its antagonists. Additional western and Arab states were quick to respond with forces in defense.

In response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, USAF 1st Tactical Fighter Wing sent forty-eight F-15s from Langley AFB to Saudi Arabia. Upon arrival, they performed combat air patrols along the Saudi/Iraqi border. The U.S. Army's 82nd and 101st Airborne soon followed.

On August 28, 1990, Kuwait was formally annexed as Iraq's 19th province, the Kuwaiti Governorate. "Kuwait is now ours, but we might have refrained from taking such a decision if US troops were not massed in the region with the threat of invading us," claimed Alaa Hussein Ali.

President Bush addressed a joint session of Congress on September 11, 1990, regarding the launch of Operation Desert Shield.

Business of the Post
Post Meeting July 9, 2026 Highlights

Commander Boyer opened the meeting at 1903 according to ritual.

Adjutant. Presented three new member applications, all Navy. All three moved, voted, and approved. One new member, USN, sworn in.

Quartermaster. Reported $15K increase in net assets month over month. Poppy very good, lower than previous years. Good canteen month; particularly good Hall rental month. New chairs in the party room. No unexpected expenses.

Service Officer. Reported a contrary view to the comfort of the chairs in the party room. In addition, he reported the Hines visit was successful with 10 members visited. Pointed out that free TSA precheck for disabled veterans, not all veterans. Spread the word even if you aren't eligible.

Membership. Meeting, led by Senior Vice Josh Warner and Membership Chair Michael Kidd, upcoming soon.

Blood drive scheduled for Saturday, October 3.

Honor Guard. One Service in June, USN. Four in the first week of July. 630th ceremony performed on July 10.

Color Guard. Brightside Car Wash opening. Salute to Service Lisle. Flag Raising at Ogden Manor.

Buddy Poppy. $18K total collected. Lots of repeat volunteers to thank; Looking for ideas to increase Post participation.

Trustees. Requested total of $1K that are standard donations. All count towards achieving All American. All approved.

Commander Boyer closed the meeting at 1932 according to ritual. Next meeting Thursday, August 13th, 1900 hrs.

Junior Vice Commander

Laela Sharrieff

COMRADE SPOTLIGHT

Comrades, let me (re)introduce our Post's Service Officer, Dennis Lukavsky (Vietnam veteran).

Dennis was Illinois born and raised, living in Oak Park. Cicero and Berwyn. After one college semester, he took charge of his future and looked for his own military job since th draft was in high gear. He decided on the Army, stating "my Army recruiter PROMISED me that the MOS I chose would keep me in the U.S."

Of course, one year after enlisting, Dennis was operating a 75-foot landing craft on the coast of Vietnam. Returning to the states with a year left on his enlistment, he became a Military Police (MP), finishing three years total in the Army, stationed at Fort Polk, Louisiana; Fort Eustis, Virginia; and of course Vietnam. Proud of his Vietnam service, Dennis worked hard and feels they "did a good job moving all sorts of 'stuff' around the coast of the country." He recalls 24/7 boat operations, so the troops worked long hours without a break.

Dennis joined the VFW with the noble goal "to help, in some way, other veterans who have served their country." His favorite recurring activities are the solemn Memorial Day parade, which "make(s) all veterans feel good because of the outpouring of support we get from the everyday public." On the other end of the spectrum, he enjoys the Judd-A-thon, where he hands out goodie bags, and he describes it as a "combination circus and wild west show" where everybody is in a good mood and relaxed. "It's a great time for all who attend."

Probably best known for his VFW and Legion, Dennis also serves by coordinating Hines VA Hospital outreach and funeral home walk throughs, and attending veteran coffees at assisted living facilities.

His Legacy? "My personal legacy is my family. We have 3 married children and 6 grandkids. They mean the world to me."

Dennis, thank you for your service to our country and your military comrades!

Posters for Upcoming Events

Click on the image to go to the TicketSource page

Benefits Advisor Updates
Dennis Lukavsky

A VA Post Card Scam

The scammers are at it again.

Have you received a "Veterans Savings Program" postcard? It's not from VA. It's a scam! The latest scam circulating involves fraudulent postcards claiming you (or your spouse) are entitled to "extra VA benefits" or additional payments, including CHAMPVA, TRICARE, and dental coverage, regardless of a VA disability rating.

These scammers misrepresent themselves as being affiliated with VA. They might instill a sense of urgency, pressuring you to contact them within five days, or as soon as possible. Their goal is to get you to call the number provided. Once you do, they will often use flattery and praise of your military service to gain trust. The scammer will attempt to obtain personal identifying information like your Social Security number and other sensitive information.

The VA urges you to remain vigilant against these fraudulent attempts to steal personal information.

Refuse to engage with bad actors. Do not call unverified numbers. Hang up immediately if you are contacted by unsolicited numbers.

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.

Honor Flight July 29, 2026: Glenn Granat and Jim Persin

Photos courtesy of Jim Hoch. See the full gallery on his SmugMug page.

Taps

Gilbert Teclaw, age 96, Navy, Korean War.
James McKeever, age, Army, Vietnam.

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

National Home Chairman
Mike McGrath

VFW NATIONAL HOME

VFW National Home Dynamos!

The National Home Dynamos had a good fair week despite the hot weather and the wildfire smoke! The hogs all sold for at least $3.00 per pound with three kids showing hogs this year.

The rabbit kids did an excellent job in rabbit showmanship with one 1st place, 3 third places and 2 fourth places. The Dynamos have a veteran supporter who attends the small animal auction to support our rabbit kids, so all the rabbits sold for at least $100.00.

Congratulations to all of the kids for their hard work and achievements!

National Home Leadership and Elections News

Congratulations to Dr. Jerred Johnson who has been elected as Executive Director of the National Home.

In the upcoming Board of Trustees election, I encourage you to vote for Kyna Simpson, the Illinois Comrade who is running. Remember, you must be a National Home Life Member to vote. Ballots will be out after August 18th.

Please do check out the National Home's website! Lots of good things happening at the National Home!

Don't forget the National Home's Helpline 1 800-313-4200. Could this help someone you know?

Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism? – Would you like to support the VFW's life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families without receiving all of the unwanted mail? The VFW has developed an option that lets you support VFW programs on a regular basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate National's mailed solicitations for donations. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of $10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account.

Auxiliary President

Maryann Groner

We were excited to welcome 3 new members at our last meeting. Welcome Brian, Katie and Lilian! We are looking forward to getting to know you better and seeing you at meetings. This is a great Auxiliary and you will find many opportunities to become involved in our events.

As a reminder to annual members, your dues are due now, so please either drop them off to the Auxiliary box in the bar or send them to the Post. It's important to not let your membership lapse.

Berni, Bob, Kathy L and I attended School of Instruction on July 21 at the West Chicago VFW post. We enjoyed a fun Jeopardy game finding out what we knew about our bylaws. So interesting to find out that some of the things we thought we knew were wrong. Ask one of us about the official Auxiliary look. I got this one partly right and partly wrong.

Thank you, District President Kathy Cumbee for a fun and informative meeting.

Look forward to seeing you at our regular meeting on August 20 at 7:00 at the Post.

July 4 Salute Ruck March 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	Josh Warner	
Jr. Vice Commander	Laela Sharrief	
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 Kueltzo	(630) 898-8760
Guard	Roger Budny	(630) 205-8745
Chaplain	Bob Grember	(630) 960-1998
1-Year Trustee	Leo Jaime	(773) 441-3887
2-Year Trustee	Jan Schrader	
3-Year Trustee	Brett Nila	(630) 988-9453

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	Laela Sharrieff	
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	Matt Schiffer	
Membership	Michael Kidd	
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

August 2026

Sat 08/01: Monarch Landing Visit, 10:00am
Sun 08/02: Members Family Breakfast, 9:00am-12:00pm, Post
Mon 08/03: Auxiliary Bingo, Arista Healthcare, 2:00pm
Tues 08/04: Hines Outreach, 10:00am-2:00pm, Post; Veteran Business Connection After Hours, 6:00pm, Canteen
Wed 08/05: Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
Sat 08/08: Brookdale Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am
Sun 08/09: Members Family Breakfast, 9:00am-12:00pm, Post
Wed 08/12: Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
Thurs 08/13: VFW Post Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post
Sat 08/15: Tabor Hills Visit, 10:00am
Sun 08/16: Freedom Tailgate
Mon 08/17: Veteran Business Connection Meeting, 8:00am, Rosie's 2155 City Gate Lane Naperville
Wed 08/19: Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
Thurs 08/20: Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post
Sat 08/22: Story Point Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am
Wed 08/26: Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
Sat 08/29: Independence Village Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am
Sun 08/30: Lotus Vibrations

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

9/3 Legion Golf Outing
9/6 Member and Family Breakfast
9/7 Labor Day Parade
9/8 VFW Golf Outing
9/11 Ceremonies
9/13 Judd A Thon
9/19 National Home Illinois Day

10/4 Member and Family Breakfast
10/17 Car Show