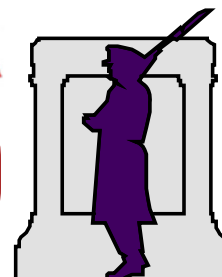




KEEPING POSTED

American Legion Post #43
Naperville, IL
www.naperlegion.org



Volume 25 Issue 11
DEC 2023

Celebrating 104 Years of Service to Veterans, U.S. Military, Youth, & Community

COMMANDER'S CALL

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires:

Wow, what a November! From the Vietnam Wall of Remembrance, Veterans Day, the Marine Corps Birthday to the North Central College football game honoring Veterans, November was a great month – plus the weather held out and it felt like we had an extended Summer!

As we embrace the festive spirit of December, American Legion Post 43 extends warm wishes to you and your loved ones. Please join us for our **December 16th Christmas Party** - Delicious food & refreshments and good company await as we reflect on the year gone by and celebrate the bonds that make our Legion family special.

Please be mindful, as we approach the holiday season, that we not forget our fellow veterans who may be facing challenges. If you know of a Legion member who could use a helping hand or if you yourself are in need, please reach out. Our Legion family is here to support one another.

I look forward to the new opportunities and experiences that the coming year holds for us as individuals and as a Legion family. Together, we will continue to uphold the principles of the American Legion and make a positive impact on our fellow Veterans and community.

Thank you for your continued dedication to American Legion Post 43. Have a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!
Semper Fidelis!

Tom Jorstad
Commander Post 43
(630) 215-3592
Tom.jorstad@yahoo.com

Please note that the Newsletter will be going Digital. They can be found at
www.naperlegion.org



Tom Jorstad

Sr. Vice Commander

T'S A BOY

OUR SENIOR VICE COMMANDER HAS FINALLY GIVEN BIRTH TO A BEAUTIFUL BABY BOY. MAN HE KEPT US WAITING. THIS YOUNG DEVIL PUP MADE HIS APPARANCE ON NOVEMBER 18. LET US ALL CONGRATULATE OUR SENIOR VICE COMMANDER AND HER BEAUTIFUL FAMILY.

Jennifer Slown
Senior Vice Commander, Post 43
(630) 215-3592
jenniberbslown@gmail.com



Jennifer Slown



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 43

The Riders had a busy Veterans Day schedule:

Our Savior's Church – Veterans Day Breakfast 7:30-10am, the Ceremony at The Wall at 11am, Mission BBQ at 11:30 for the National Anthem and lunch.

Back to the VFW to set the hall up for the Dinner at 2pm. Then back to the VFW for the Veterans Day Dinner Social at 5pm.

Our big Fundraiser Prime Rib Dinner on Saturday, October 14 was a huge success! Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!

Steve Strickland
Director
American Legion Riders



Steve Strickland



Jr. Vice Commander

I hope this newsletter finds you all in good health as we continue with our beautiful fall weather. Our next social activity will be our **Christmas Party / Gift Exchange on Saturday, December 16, 2023 from 7pm to 9 pm** - this is a joint American Legion & VFW Christmas party. Put on your ugliest holiday sweater and bring an inexpensive wrapped gift if you want to participate in the white elephant gift exchange. (Bring a gift you want to steal)

Our next dinner social will be on Saturday, January 20th where we will be swearing in officers for our Legion Riders and Sons of the American Legion.

We are **looking for volunteers** to assist with replenishing the serving trays as well as some clean up after the dinner.

For reservation, please contact Kristen Jungles at kristenjungles@kw.com Kristen Jungles Junior Vice Commander Post 43 and also mention if you can volunteer to assist during the dinner.

Kristen Jungles
Junior Vice Commander Post 43
kristenjungles@kw.com



Win a Dance with a Hero

Thank you to all who attended our second annual "Win a dance with a Hero."

Your generosity helped us raise \$4000 dollars for Toys for Tots DuPage County. We thank both our sponsors and all of you who attended or donated from the bottoms of our Hearts.

Rita Kollias
Toys for Tots Coordinator



Coffee With Vets

Saturday Morning 10 AM



The DEC dates are:

DEC 2- Monarch Landing
DEC 9- Brookdale - Lisle
DEC 16- Tabor Hills
DEC 23 - Story Point-Naperville

Don't forget our monthly visits with Veterans at Monarch Landing, Brookdale - Lisle, Tabor Hills, and Story Point-Naperville. Join us on the 1st Saturday at Monarch Landing, 2nd Saturday at Brookdale in Lisle, 3rd Saturday at Tabor Hills and 4th Saturday at Story Point-Naperville. All are welcome to Attend!!

Information: Jim Stoffregen 630-430-4966 or Jerry Cooney 630-995-5053

Historian Report

Significant dates in military history

Lt, John Paul Jones unfurled a flag for the first time aboard an American man-of-war on Dec. 3, 1775.

On Dec. 23, 1783, General George Washington resigned his commission to retire to his Mount Vernon home, saying "I here offer my commission and take my leave of all employment of public life." Despite this declaration, Washington went on to serve as U.S. President from 1789 to 1797.

The regular, daily ration of whisky to soldiers ended on Dec. 8, 1830, because of the liquor's "pernicious effect upon their health, morals and discipline."

Congress authorized the Medal of Honor on Dec. 21, 1861. The medal initially applied only to Navy and Marine Corps members with an Army version following a year later.

The last major battle between U.S. troops and Native Americans occurred on Dec. 29, 1890, at Wounded Knee, S.D.

On Dec. 5, 1929, Marine Reserve Capt. Alton U. Parker became the first pilot to fly over the Antarctic continent as a member of Admiral Richard Byrd's South Pole expedition.

On Dec. 7, 1941, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor – a "day that will live in infamy." The attack destroyed 19 U.S. ships and 188 planes. More than 2,400 personnel were killed or wounded.

The U.S. declared war on Japan the following day with Germany and Italy declaring war on this country on Dec. 11.

Major Glenn Miller, director of the Army Air Forces band and previously, as a civilian, was one of the country's leading band leaders, disappeared on Dec. 15, 1944, during a flight from England to Paris.

The last Civil War veteran, Walter Williams, died at the age of 117 on Dec. 19, 1959.

On Dec. 11, 1961, the first direct military support of South Vietnam took place with the arrival of two Army helicopter companies assigned to ferry the Asian country's troops in combat.

Gerardo Hernandez, the leader of a Cuban spy ring, received a life sentence in a Miami federal court on Dec. 12, 2001, for his role in infiltrating U.S. military bases and the deaths of four Cuban-Americans.



AMERICAN LEGION POST 43 CALENDAR



Dec 2, 2023
Dec 7, 2023
Dec 9, 2023
Dec 9, 2023
Dec 16, 2023
Dec 16, 2023
Dec 23, 2023
Dec 25, 2023

Saturday
Thursday
Saturday
Saturday
Saturday
Saturday
Saturday
Monday



10 AM Coffee at Monarch Landing
Post Meeting 7:00PM
10 AM Coffee at Brookdale
Army Vs Navy Game at the Canteen
10 AM Coffee at Tabor Hills
Second Annual Holiday Gift Exchange
10 AM Coffee at Story Point
Christmas Day

Jan 4, 2024
Jan 6, 2024
Jan 13, 2024
Jan 16, 2024
Jan 20, 2024
Jan 20, 2024
Jan 24, 2024
Jan 27, 2024

Thursday
Saturday
Saturday
Tuesday
Saturday
Saturday
Wednesday
Saturday



Post Meeting 7:00 PM
10 AM Coffee at Monarch Landing
10 AM Coffee at Brookdale
S.A.L. Squadron Meeting 7 PM
10 AM Coffee at Tabor Hills
Legion Dinner 6:00PM
Legion Riders Meeting 7:00PM
10 AM Coffee at Story Point



Feb 1, 2024
Feb 3, 2024
Feb 10, 2024
Feb 13, 2024
Feb 17, 2024
Feb 17, 2024
Feb 21, 2024
Feb 24, 2024

Thursday
Saturday
Saturday
Tuesday
Saturday
Saturday
Wednesday
Saturday



Post Meeting 7:00 PM
10 AM Coffee at Monarch Landing
10 AM Coffee at Brookdale
S.A.L. Squadron Meeting 7 PM
10 AM Coffee at Tabor Hills
Legion Dinner 6:00PM
Legion Riders Meeting 7:00PM
10 AM Coffee at Story Point



Naperville “Vietnam Wall of Remembrance”

On November 9th through November 13th, we had our own “Vietnam Wall of Remembrance” on display in our Naperville Park District Grand Pavilion area. All items, including the “Wall” printing (Blooming Color); installation (NRFV) and take down; building supplies (84 Lumber); etc., all donated by local businesses and individuals. Also, we had 130+ Veterans doing 4 hours shifts from 6am-10pm daily to assist the public in answering questions; help find names on the “Wall”; and sharing their personal stories from serving in Vietnam. I want to personally thank each of them for coming and sharing their experiences and to help others find a “Name on the Wall”. We made a lot of people happy to experience that.

In addition, we had special 13 plaques on display to highlight the 11 Men from Naperville that died in Vietnam and all those men and women that died due to their service in Vietnam. We estimated our attendance between 1500 and 2000 based on the number of Programs given out. These were beautifully designed and printed by our American Legion Department Print Shop.

Finally, the purpose of having this “Vietnam Wall of Remembrance” here, is that 2023 represents the 50th anniversary of our departure from Vietnam. It is not necessarily a celebration, but a “Remembrance” for all that Served their Country, especially those that Paid the Ultimate Sacrifice.

It has truly been a very honorable experience being part of this and again-

“THANK YOU TO ALL THAT MADE THIS A VERY MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE”!!!!

Semper Fi-Wayne Fischer
US Marine Corps '66-'71





Well the Hines Outreach program made a transition this past month. Derek Giffin, our reliable, trustworthy, and very knowledgeable Veteran's Service Officer has moved on to a new career. I want to take this opportunity to thank Derek for his loyal service to our post. He has served our veterans well for many years.

For those of you who have used The Outreach program services in the past, you should know that the transition to a new VSO has taken place. Russell Meridith will continue the tradition of coming to the post the first Tuesday of the month. Russell, comes to us after serving

in the Navy for many years and has also serviced in Iraq. He has 8 years of practical experience as a VSO and I want to officially welcome to our post.

As a reminder, if you have questions about your VA benefits (the VA website is not always user friendly) come visit the first Tuesday of the

month. Please bring a copy of your DD 214. It helps find your information in the VA data base. Many folks are interested in filing a claim

with the VA, If that is your interest, in addition to a DD 214, also bring any personal records to support your claim (ie. personal medical records). If there is related information in you military records the VA will retrieve them as part of the claim search.

We are very lucky to have a VSO coming to us each month. Come and visit us and get your questions answered the first Tuesday of the month.

Dennis Lukavsky
Service Officer:



VA Hotline
1-855-948-2311



Burial Allowance

Vietnam Wall of Remembrance



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Veterans Day 2023



Photo Credit by Jim Hoch

**American Legion Post #43**

PO Box 4, Naperville, IL 60566

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS are the first Thursday of every month at 7 PM, at the VFW Hall, 908 W. Jackson Naperville, IL
 Special Meetings are held at the Post Home, 10 W. Chicago Av., Naperville, IL

www.naperlegion.org
Post Officers**Commander**

Tom Jorstad 630-305-8803

Sr. Vice-Commander

Jennifer Slown 630-803-2251

Jr. Vice-Commander

Kristen Jungles 630-816-6841

Sgt.-At-Arms

Glenn Granat 630-209-2834

Finance Officer

John Noll 630-881-6718

Service Officer

Dennis Lukavsky 630-272-9064

Chaplain

Tom Richert 630-921-4511

Historian

Joe Strebel 630-369-3846

Judge Advocate

Don Hennessy 630-355-4679

Adjutant

Rita Kollias 630-362-7210

Immediate Past Commander

Nadia Baran 630-728-7519

Public Relations Officer

Jennifer Slown 630-803-2251

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Rich Yndestad 630-698-6444

Legion Rider Director

Steve Strickland 630-453-0095

Honor Guard Commander

Jim Oftedal 630-357-4030

Color Guard Coordinator

Dennis Regan 630-361-4644

Sons of the American Legion

Chris Lance 630-926-1177

Legion Trustees of Post #43

Nadia Baran

Richard Karbarz

John Noll

Tom Jorstad

Wayne Fischer

Don Chasteen

Todd Bertulis

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The American Legion Post 43

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**Please send your reports to Jason by
 DEC 15th for Jan Newsletter**

Post 43 Webmaster

Liz Michalski

E-mail: lizmichalski@yahoo.com**DEC 2023****Activities - Opportunities**

DEC 7- Post Meeting 7pm

DEC 2- Coffee-Monarch Landing

DEC 9- Coffee-Brookdale in Lisle

DEC 16- Coffee-Tabor Hills

NOV 23- Coffee-Story Point

Selected Thursdays & Saturdays:
 Help OSOT America sort & pack
 boxes at the Lisle warehouse.





American Legion Post #43
PO Box 4, Naperville, IL 60566

Win a Dance with a Hero



Photo Credit by Jim Hoch