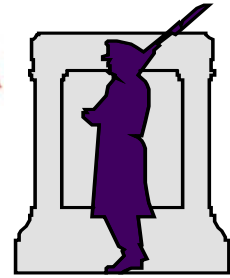




KEEPING POSTED



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

Volume 30 Issue 15

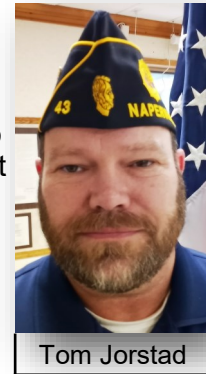
Celebrating 105 Years of Service to Veterans, U.S. Military, Youth, & Community

COMMANDER'S CALL

Dear Legion Members, Sons of the Legion, Legion Riders and Friends of Post 43,

As I reflect on the past year at American Legion Post 43 in Naperville, IL, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for each and every one of you. Thank you to all of our Post 43 officers and all of our members for making this a truly great year.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Commander, and I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you for entrusting me with this responsibility. Your confidence in me means the world, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to continue serving you in the year ahead.



Tom Jorstad

As we head into the summer months, I want to wish each of you a wonderful and relaxing time. Whether you're traveling, spending time with family and friends, or simply enjoying some well-deserved downtime, I hope your summer is filled with joy and happiness.

Don't forget to check the calendar in this newsletter for the exciting events we have planned throughout the summer. From our Burgers, Beer & Bags night on June 14th to the various community service projects we have scheduled, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Your participation and support make these events possible, and I look forward to seeing many of you at these events throughout the Summer. **Please note that we do not have a meeting in July but will resume our monthly meetings on August 1st (at 7PM).**

Thank you once again for a fantastic year.

With deepest respect and gratitude.

Semper Fidelis!

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

Sr. Vice Commander

Fellow Legionnaires,

Congratulations on a job well done! We have officially reached our 2023-2024 membership goal of 555 members. Through your dedicated efforts in recruiting new members and retaining current members, we met our membership. Those \$50 yearly dues go a long way. Some members choose to be heavily involved in the day to day activities of Post 43, attending events and volunteering for fundraisers. Others are unable to commit their time due to family commitments, work obligations, or health issues. Both members are equally important to our post as their yearly membership dues go directly towards supporting Veterans and our local community. Without a strong membership base, we would not be able to do everything we do.

Much like cleaning a house, laundry, and yardwork, recruiting never ends. The upcoming 2024-2025 membership year runs June 2024 through May 2025. Our goal will be to surpass 555 members. Celebrate and enjoy the coming summer months so that we can hit the ground running come August. My sincere thanks to you all for your commitment to our Post membership mission.

Thank you for your support and dedication to Post 43 Naperville.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Slown
Senior Vice Commander, Post 43



Jennifer Slown



Jr. Vice Commander

Greetings Fellow Veterans,

It was my absolute pleasure to have served as your Junior Vice for the past two year. I hope you guys enjoyed our dinner and entertainment. Thank you to all of you who help made these dinner successful. A very special thank you goes out to the Legion Riders for being on hand to help set up for the dinner on Saturday Mornings. This has been a team effort. A team that I was glad to be a part of. I hope to see all of you next year.

Kristen Jungles
Junior Vice Commander

kristenjungles@kw.com



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 43



Steve Strickland

The Riders were on hand at Midway on May 15th to Welcome Home Chicago to meet the Veterans on their return home from Washington, DC. 3 of our own will be on the flight.

The Riders will be participating in the Carillon Lakes Memorial Day Parade on May 25th to honor the Veterans that live in the community.

We also made an appearance at the Naperville Memorial Day Parade and the Events that morning.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Strickland
Director
American Legion Riders
Post 43, Naperville, IL



American Legion Post 43 2024 Poppy Program

For this year, we still do not have a Poppy Chairman. If anyone wants to step up or if you know of anyone that might be interested, please let Commander Tom Jorstad know.

We are looking for Volunteer for Salute to Veterans Festival July 5th to July 7th We need 6 Individual to hand out Poppies. The Shift will be 5:00PM to 7:00PM. Two Per shift. If you are interested in helping out please email Tom Jorstad.

Again, this year we will be donating all our proceeds to the American Legion **“Operation Comfort Warriors”** Program. “This Program (OCW) gives comfort items to our Veterans that are confirmed to VA Hospitals. OCW is a Program dedicated to meeting the needs of wounded, injured, or ill military personnel by providing them with comfort items not usually supplied by the government. OCW ensures that patients at U.S. military hospitals and warrior transition units are given items like sweat suits, DVD’s, puzzles, electronic devices, books, calling cards and more. OCW also provides larger items such as ping pong tables, entertainment centers, computers, kayaks, and other recreational goods for use by wounded warriors in common areas”.

We will have poppies available at upcoming events, including our May Post meeting. Also, you can donate online to “<https://www.naperlegion.org/poppy-day>” or send a check to-

Naperville Post #43
PO Box 4
Naperville, IL 60566

Any amount is appreciated. Thank you for considering this Program. Feel free to pass this onto your friends and your workplace.

Thanks-Wayne Fischer
wayne.L.fischer@gmail.com

630-240-8868



Historian Report

June Marks Two WWII Turning Points

- ◇ June is the anniversary of two key battles that marked turning points in WW II in both the Pacific and European theaters.
- ◇ On June 4, 1942, the Battle of Midway began. Because cryptanalysts had broken the Japanese communications codes, the U.S. knew Japan would be launching an air assault on its Midway Island base. As a result, a U.S. aircraft carrier task force was waiting east of the island. Following the expected attack, the Japanese aircraft returned to their carriers to re-arm and refuel.
- ◇ At that point, aircraft from the USS Enterprise, USS Hornet and USS Yorktown attacked the Japanese fleet, catching many of the enemy planes on deck. Torpedo and dive bombers destroyed three Japanese carriers, one cruiser and hundreds of aircraft. The Yorktown was hit and severely damaged by planes flown from the fourth, surviving Japanese carrier, the Hiryu. However, by day's end planes from Enterprise sank the Hiryu.
- ◇ Two days later, a Japanese submarine torpedoed the Yorktown while the ship was undergoing salvage operations as well as sinking an accompanying destroyer, USS Hammann. The Yorktown itself sank on June 7.
- ◇ The Battle of Midway continued through June 6 at sea and on the island, eventually forcing a Japanese retreat. The Japanese lost more than 3,000 men, four carriers, a heavy cruiser and hundreds of aircraft. U.S. losses were 360 men, one carrier, one destroyer and 144 aircraft. The battle crippled the Japanese fleet and ended that country's expansion in the Pacific as the island-hopping campaign by Allies shrank the empire to its home islands.
- ◇ Two years later, on June 6, 1944, troops from the U.S. and its Allies launched an amphibious assault on the beaches of Normandy in the largest land, sea and air invasion in history. The D-Day landings were preceded by paratrooper landings to block key approaches to the beachhead and prevent German reinforcements.
- ◇ A huge naval bombardment began at 5:30 am on D-Day before wave after wave of landing vessels carried more than 150,000 ground troops to storm five beaches: Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword. The Germans placed their heaviest defenses at Omaha, which combined with coastal cliffs to make it the site of the day's bloodiest fighting. In all, more than 4,000 Allied troops died, including more than 2,500 Americans.
- ◇ In addition to troops, D-Day landed more than 50,000 vehicles and 100,000 tons of equipment.
- ◇ Following June 6, Allied forces broke out from the Normandy beaches and fought fiercely through the area hedgerows – walls of thick vegetation that hindered progress and provided ideal defense positions. Ground efforts, plus a massive air assault, broke German resistance. By August, the Allies had liberated Paris and continued a relentless push that ended with Nazi defeat in May of the following year/

Remembering.....

By the time you are reading this, Memorial Day is past. But it is never too late to **“Thank”** all that make this a most **“Honorable and Memorable”** week here in Naperville. Starting with Jim Hoch and all the volunteers that place well over 3,000 flags at all our area Veterans gravesites and Memorials; The City of Naperville; Our Police Department; Our Fire Department; Our many Scout and Cub Pack Troops; Our Area School Bands; local Businesses; Our very special Naperville Municipal Band; All Our Area Veterans; and especially Our Gold Star Families. I have been in our Parade for over 40 years and each year it just gets better.

Memorial Day is to **“Honor Our Fallen”**. We **“ALL”** can enjoy not only the day, but all the Freedoms we enjoy in large part because of the **“Sacrifice our Fallen”** made for each and everyone one of us.

As many of you know, I served in the United States Marine Corps, flying the H-34 Helicopter in Vietnam in 1967-1968. We flew every kind of Mission that came up for our fellow Marines; The Vietnamese Arvins and Civilians; and the South Korea **“ROK”** Marines. But our last Mission of the Day was to bring our Fallen Marines back to the base morgue. That was their 1st leg home to their families. **Remembering.....**

Semper Fidelis-

Wayne Fischer, USMC





AMERICAN LEGION POST 43 CALENDAR



June 6, 2024
 June 8, 2024
 June 14, 2024

Thursday
 Saturday
 Friday



Post Meeting 7:00pm
 10 AM Coffee at Monarch Landing
 Burger, Beer and Bags Night at the Post 5:30 PM

June 15, 2024
 June 18, 2024
 June 22, 2024
 June 26, 2024
 June 29, 2024

Saturday
 Tuesday
 Saturday
 Wednesday
 Saturday

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



July 5, 2024
 July 6, 2024
 July 6, 2024
 July 7, 2024
 July 13, 2024
 July 13, 2024
 July 20, 2024
 July 27, 2024

Friday
 Saturday
 Saturday
 Sunday
 Saturday
 Saturday
 Saturday
 Saturday



Salute to Veterans
 Salute to Veterans
 10 AM Coffee at Monarch Landing
 Salute to Veterans
 Kane County Cougar Game 6:00PM
 10 AM Coffee at Brookdale
 10 AM Coffee at Tabor Hills
 10 AM Coffee at Story Point

Aug 1, 2024
 Aug 3, 2024
 Aug 10, 2024
 Aug 17, 2024
 Aug 17, 2024

Thursday
 Saturday
 Saturday
 Saturday
 Saturday



Post Meeting 7:00PM
 10 AM Coffee at Monarch Landing
 10 AM Coffee at Brookdale
 Coffee At Tabor Hills
 Naper Night Concert Series
 Volunteer Night.

Aug 20, 2024
 Aug 24, 2024
 Aug 28, 2024

Tuesday
 Saturday
 Wednesday



S.A.L Squadron Meeting 7:00PM
 10 AM Coffee at Story Point
 Legion Riders Meeting 7:00 PM

Sons of the American Legion

Sons of the American Legion Squadron 43
Our stated S.A.L. meeting is every third Tuesday at 7:00PM. We meet in the lower level "patio" at the VFW hall. Our next stated meeting is scheduled for June 18th and all members of the Legion and Legion Riders are welcome and encouraged to attend. We will be going "dark" for the summer as there are a lot of Legion activities and family outings.

We are always welcoming new members and transfers. Many Legionnaires hold dual memberships in S.A.L. All male descendants, adopted sons, and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in Service, are eligible to join. The S.A.L. Squadron 43's main goals are to support our Post and support our Community.

Respectfully,
Regards,
SAL Commander, Post 43
Chris Lance
630.926.1177
chrislance@gmail.com



Coffee With Vets Saturday Morning 10 AM



The JUNE dates are:

JUNE 1st—Monarch Landing
JUNE 8th—Brookdale - Lisle
JUNE 15th—Tabor Hills
JUNE 22th—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



VA Claim Processing

Lets talk a bit about VA's claim processing. When we file a claim it seems forever before we have a decision.

We wait and wait and the response never comes. Its very easy to say the VA is a big bu-reaucracy that is bogged down to a crawl in red tape.

The reality is pretty much the opposite. The VA has processed more than one million Veteran benefit claims in fiscal year 2024, the fastest rate in VA history. Through February of this fiscal year, the VA provided \$69 billion in earned compensation and pension benefits to 6.5 million Veterans and survivors.

The PACT Act has brought a whole new dimension to the scene. Veterans apply for benefits at record rates, with VA receiving 4.5% more claims thus far in fiscal year 2024 than at this point in 2023. Since the PACT Act was signed into law, Veterans and their families have filed more than 3.5 million claims.

As a result of this record pace, Veteran claims pending over 125 days – known as the backlog – has decreased by more than 42,000 claims over the past three months. Due to the record number of claim applications, the backlog is still expected to grow in 2024 before decreasing at the end of this year.

It seems to me we have to give the VA a little credit for working hard to keep up with the demand caused by the PACT ACT. Remember, patience is a virtue.

Honor Flight Fundraiser 2024

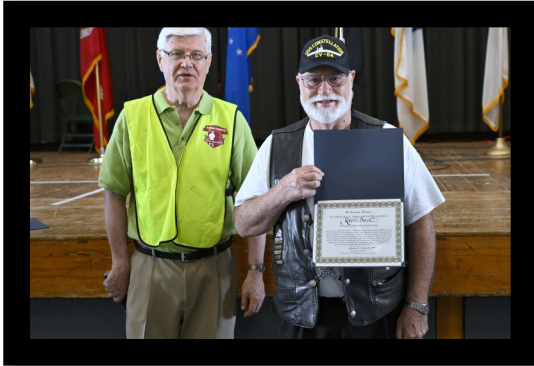


Photo Credit by Jim Hoch



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 | 630-215-3592 |
| 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 |
| Bugler | |
| 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 | |

Newsletter Editor

The American Legion Post 43

Jason Baran 630-768-9805
 E-mail: jason.baran@gmail.com

Please send your reports to Jason by JUNE 15th for JUNE Newsletter

Post 43 Webmaster

Nadia Baran
 E-mail: Rios.Nadia@gmail.com

JUNE 2024

Activities - Opportunities

- JUNE 6th Post Meeting 7pm
- JUNE 1st Coffee-Monarch Landing
- JUNE 8th Coffee-Brookdale in Lisle
- JUNE 15th Coffee-Tabor Hills
- JUNE 22th 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

Naperville North American Legion School Awards Winners



Maggie Fitzgerald and Lukas Boynton
Photo by Joanna Berg