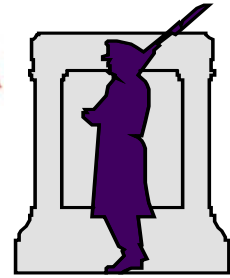




KEEPING POSTED



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

Celebrating 105 Years of Service to Veterans, U.S. Military, Youth, & Community **COMMANDER'S CALL**

Happy New Year American Legion Post 43!

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, and American Legion Riders members. 2024 was a remarkable year for our Post and your dedication, camaraderie, and support have been the cornerstone of our success.

Reflecting on the past year, we have achieved so much together. From all of our usual activities to our first-ever golf outing to our community outreach programs and sponsorship of the Naperville Central High School Veterans Club, every moment has been a testament to our collective spirit and commitment to service. Your contributions have not only strengthened our Post but also made a significant impact on the lives of many in our community.

As we move forward in 2025, I am filled with excitement and optimism. This year promises to be even more dynamic and fulfilling. We have some new initiatives and events that will continue to honor our veterans, support our community, and foster the bonds that make our Post a family – so stay tuned for more details on these in the coming weeks and months.

Let us embrace this New Year with the same enthusiasm and dedication that have brought us this far. Together, we will continue to uphold the values of the American Legion and make 2025 a year to remember.

Let us make 2024 a year of growth, service, and unity. Together, we can continue to honor the legacy of our veterans and strengthen the bonds that make American Legion Post 43 exceptional.

Semper Fidelis!

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



Tom Jorstad



Sr. Vice Commander

Strengthening Our Ranks: A Call to Action

As we continue to honor the proud traditions of the American Legion, it is crucial to focus on growing our membership to sustain our mission of supporting veterans, engaging youth, and serving our communities. Recruiting new members is essential for continuing our legacy and expanding our impact.

Membership in the American Legion offers many benefits, including:

- ◆ **Advocacy:** A collective voice for Veterans' rights and benefits.
- ◆ **Support Services:** Assistance with VA claims, healthcare, and employment opportunities.
- ◆ **Community Engagement:** Opportunities to participate in local events and volunteer projects.
- ◆ **Youth Programs:** Involvement in mentoring, scholarships, and leadership development for young people.

If you are on social media, when participating in Legion activities, I urge you to take a picture and share some words about where and what you are doing. Our veterans need to see that we are more than just a club. They need to see that as veterans we are still family, that we care and that we will continue to help. Exhibiting the many engaging activities we participate in is key to reaching a larger pool of new members.

As Senior Vice Commander, I am dedicated to leading our recruitment efforts. Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant Naperville Post 43 that continues to honor and serve our Veterans, our communities, and our Nation. We are always looking for suggestions on activities. Please keep a look out on our social calendar for the exciting events we have coming up.



Jennifer Slown



Jennifer Slown
Senior Vice Commander, Post 43

Jr. Vice Commander

Dear Post 43 Membership,

I hope everyone has a joyous new year! Thursday January 2nd is our Post meeting at 7:00 p.m. The Post Dinner is Saturday, January 18, 2025



Dan Sullivan

In 2025 we will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the start of the Revolutionary War and the 250th birthday of the United States Army. Also, in January of 1962 President Kennedy established the Navy Sea Air and Land teams (SEAL teams). These teams replaced the UDT or Underwater Demolition Teams which were created during WW II.

Sincerely,

Dan Sullivan
Junior Vice Commander
American Legion Post 43, Naperville



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 43

The Riders were on hand to "Ring the Bells" for the Salvation Army on Monday December 23rd from 11am to 5pm, both doors at the Jewel on Ogden and Washington.



Steve Strickland

Happy Holidays from the Naperville American Legion Riders!

Don't Forget our installation Dinner on Saturday January 18th

Respectfully submitted,





2025 Illinois Premier Boys State

“A WEEK THAT SHAPES A LIFETIME”

Post 43 has been a major sponsor of sending our young men to Illinois “Premier” Boys State for years and we want to continue this tradition. This year's Program starts Saturday, June 7th and goes until Saturday, June 13th and is held at Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL. All costs associated with this Program, including bus transportation, are covered by Naperville Post 43.

Attending Illinois Premier Boys State helps to enhance their college applications. Each year, attendees are admitted into top colleges and universities in the country. In addition, we offer nearly \$20,000 in scholarships, plus attendees from Naperville will be eligible to receive 1 of 3-\$3,000 college or trade school scholarship.

During this fantastic week, attendees gain first-hand experience by:

- *Campaigning for elected offices
- *Running the 3 branches of government
- *Meeting other talented students from around the State
- *Opportunity to participate in intramural sports and other activities like band, broadcasting and lobbying

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Any male student who has completed his Junior Year in High School. Home Schooled Students are also eligible. There is no limit to how many can attend.

For more information go to www.illinoisboysstate.org or

contact Tom Rickert @ 630-921-4511 or email @ tom.rickert@gmail.com.

“Let’s Fill the Bus”!!!!

Veterans Burial Allowance

As a reminder to our membership, once a veteran has passed, another important aspect of our government's "Allowed Benefits" comes into play for which the veterans family must apply. These benefits (burial and plot costs) are offered to help cover some burial costs. The Veterans Family/NOK (Next of Kin) must apply for these allowances. Use the link for description and steps to request benefits up to 2 years after death of your veteran.

<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/veterans-burial-allowance/>

The items for verification which the family/NOK must provide are:

DD-214 and Death Certificate.

Receipts of expenditures paid.

Statement of Account (preferably with the letterhead of the funeral director or cemetery owner)

It is imperative that you, the VFW/AL veteran, provide this information to someone in your family to apply for these benefits. Our government has a 2 year limit, **from date of death**, for these allowances to be paid to the deceased veterans family/estate.

If the veteran is to be buried at Abe Lincoln National Cemetery, or any other national cemetery, review their requirements at:

https://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits/index.asp

Jim Oftedal

Honor Guard



Historian Report

1 witnessed shock and awe

On January 17, 1991, the United States announced that Operation Desert Storm had begun. The real-time video of air attacks from fixed wing aircraft and attack helicopters, illuminating the nighttime skies over Iraq, introduced the phrase “shock and awe” into the vocabulary.

Operation Desert Storm was the second phase of Operation Desert Shield. The latter was initiated as a response to Iraq’s invasion under Saddam Hussein of neighboring Kuwait. Iraq’s August 1991 invasion resulted from a dispute between the countries over oil drilling as well as an attempt by Iraq to cancel its large debt to Kuwait.

The United States led a 42-country coalition in response to the invasion. The initial phase of the response consisted of a military build-up that extended from August 1990 to the January 1991 launch of Desert Storm.

On February 24, 1991, the ground war began. Although not as visually spectacular as the aerial attack, the fighting on the ground was exceedingly successful. As described by General Colin Powell: “Our strategy to go after this (Iraqi) army is very simple. First we’re going to cut it off, and then we’re going to kill it.”

That strategy was on full display from the onset of combat. In simultaneous attacks, coalition forces struck the right flank of the Iraqi army while other allied forces fought directly north toward Kuwait City and other forces launched from Saudi Arabia. By mid-afternoon on the first day of battle, coalition forces had penetrated to within 24 miles of the Euphrates River or about 60 miles from Bagdad.

The swiftness and effectiveness of the coalition forces quickly demoralized the Iraqi troops. That morale blow was intensified on the second day of combat when the U.S. Army’s 24th Infantry Division blocked a major enemy supply route and possible escape route.

Also on February 26, coalition forces smashed through the lines of the elite Republican Guards employing accurate tank fire and Apache helicopter gunships. As resistance crumbled, a cease fire was declared two days later. Nevertheless, elements of the Republican Guard – in violation of the armistice -- made a last ditch attack on the 1st Brigade of the 24th Division. As a result of that failed attack, the Iraqis lost 185 armored vehicles and 400 trucks within a few hours.

In all, during a mere 100 hours of combat, U.S. and allied forces soundly defeated the Iraqis. In the course of combat, an estimated 20 to 50,000 Iraqi soldiers died and some 75,000 were wounded. Coalition forces destroyed some 3,000 tanks, 1,400 armored personnel carriers and 2,200 artillery pieces. A key factor in the military success was the implementation of the Army’s Total Force concept, which employed Reserve forces on the battlefield. Approximately 147,000 Reservists were called to active duty and some 74,000 were deployed to the combat theater.



AMERICAN LEGION POST 43 CALENDAR



Jan 2, 2025
Jan 4, 2025
Jan 11, 2025
Jan 18, 2025
Jan 18, 2025
Jan 22, 2025
Jan 22, 2025
Jan 25, 2025

Thursday
Saturday
Saturday
Saturday
Saturday
Wednesday
Wednesday
Saturday



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

Feb 1, 2025
Feb 6, 2025
Feb 8, 2025
Feb 15, 2025
Feb 15, 2025
Feb 19, 2025
Feb 19, 2025
Feb 22, 2025

Saturday
Thursday
Saturday
Saturday
Saturday
Wednesday
Wednesday
Saturday



10 AM Coffee at Monarch Landing
Post Meeting 7:00PM
10 AM Coffee at Brookdale
10 AM Coffee at Tabor Hills
Post Dinner at 7:00PM
S.A.L Squadron Meeting 7:00PM
Legion Riders Meeting 7:00PM
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Mar 1, 2025
Mar 6, 2025
Mar 8, 2025
Mar 15, 2025
Mar 15, 2025
Mar 19, 2025
Mar 19, 2025
Mar 22, 2025
Mar 29, 2025

Saturday
Thursday
Saturday
Saturday
Saturday
Wednesday
Wednesday
Saturday
Saturday



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



Sons of the American Legion

Sons of the American Legion Squadron 43,
Our stated S.A.L. meeting is on a NEW DAY. We are combining our stated meeting with the American Legion Riders. The new meeting day is every fourth Wednesday at 7:00PM. We will still meet in the lower level "patio" at the VFW hall.

Congratulations to the 2025 SAL Officers:

- Commander – Chris Lance
- Senior Vice Commander – Bill Hollis
- Junior Vice Commander – Joe Vanden Houton
- Treasurer / Adjutant – Mike Calabrese
- Sgt of Arms – John Kunsch
-

Our next stated meeting is scheduled for January 22nd and all members of the Legion are welcome and encouraged to attend. 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.

Regards,
SAL Commander, Post 43
Chris Lance
630.926.1177



Coffee With Vets Saturday Morning 10 AM



The NOV dates are:

Jan 4th—Monarch Landing
Jan 11h—Brookdale - Lisle
Jan 18th—Tabor Hills
Jan 25th—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



Do you know where your DD-214 is?

Many years back, there was a Public Service Announcement that read: " It is 10:30 at night, do you know where your teenagers are?". Here is a sequel for veterans: "It is 10: 30 at night , do you know where your DD 214 is? "Recently a Veteran passed away with a last request to be buried at Abraham Lincoln Cemetery. The family could not locate his DD 214. The ensuing scramble to quickly get a copy was a real nightmare.

There is a hot line number at the St Louis National Archives for these situations, but I am not confident in its reliability. To protect your benefits and put your families' mind at ease, make sure your safeguard this very important military record. Store several copies to be safe. Make sure one of the copies is in a fireproof safe or safe deposit box. Also make sure your family members know where it is stored. If in a safe deposit box, make sure someone in your family has access to it.

You really don't know when it will be needed so it is best to always be ready. Save you and your family unnecessary headaches, you should plan ahead.

Dennis Lukavsky
Service Officer:
VFW Post 3873
American Legion Post 43

To truly understand a Military Veteran, you need to know:

We left home as teenagers or young adults, embarking on an adventure we couldn't fully comprehend. We loved our country so deeply that we were willing to defend it, even at the cost of our own lives. We said goodbye to our families, friends, and everything familiar, stepping into the unknown. We mastered the basics and were then scattered across the globe, carried by the winds of duty. We found new friends who became family.

We became brothers and sisters, united beyond color, race, or creed.

We learned to adapt quickly to every situation, no matter how foreign or uncomfortable.

We pushed ourselves further than we thought possible, discovering strength we didn't know we had. We learned to live with what we carried, whether it was a pack on our backs or the weight in our hearts.

We spoke a language of acronyms, codes, and unspoken glances that others didn't understand.

We found humor in the darkest moments, knowing it was sometimes the only way to survive.

We trained hard, because we knew our preparation could mean life or death.

We were taught to make decisions under pressure, when hesitation wasn't an option.

We learned the value of discipline and the importance of selflessness.

We endured extreme heat, biting cold, and environments that tested every part of us.

We built homes wherever we landed, no matter how temporary or improvised they were.

We were often lonely, even when surrounded by people, yet we pressed on.

We celebrated the little things, like a care package from home or a few extra minutes of rest.

We held ourselves to standards that others might find impossible, because failure wasn't an option. We became a part of something bigger than ourselves, a legacy that stretched back generations. We learned to cherish the silence between the chaos, because calm never lasted long. We shared meals, stories, and sometimes tears, bonding in ways words can't describe.

We stood in formations under the stars, feeling both proud and humbled by our purpose. We sacrificed time, comfort, and sometimes our health, knowing the mission came first. We

learned to trust each other with everything we had, including our lives. We carried photos, letters, and mementos, reminders of who we were fighting for. We embraced rituals and traditions that connected us to those who came before us. We stood guard while the world slept, often wondering if anyone noticed. We learned to respect authority, but also questioned it when it mattered. We saw beauty in unexpected places, even in the middle of hardship.

We adapted to constant change, knowing plans were made to be rewritten. We carried our stories home, but not all of them could be told.

We knew that freedom had a cost, and we were willing to pay it.

We came home to parades, quiet handshakes, or sometimes just silence.

We returned as different people, forever shaped by what we experienced.

We live with memories that visit us in the quiet moments, unbidden but unforgettable.

We have a pride that runs deep, not in what we earned, but in what we gave.

We know that being a Veteran isn't just a title, it's a lifelong brotherhood and sisterhood.

We learned that true service never really ends, because the lessons and bonds stay with us forever.



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	
Dan Sullivan	
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	
Nadia Baran	630-728-7519
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	
Rich Frantz	630-300-8189
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 NOV 15th for December Newsletter

Post 43 Webmaster

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

Jan

Activities - Opportunities

- Jan 2nd Post Meeting 7pm
- Jan 4th Coffee-Monarch Landing
- Jan 11th Coffee-Brookdale in Lisle
- Jan 18th Coffee-Tabor Hills
- Jan 25th 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

Mission BBQ Breakfast

