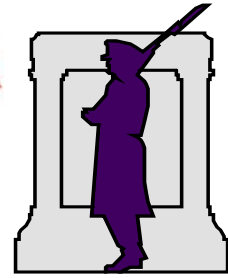




# KEEPING POSTED



American Legion Post #43  
Naperville, IL  
[www.naperlegion.org](http://www.naperlegion.org)

Volume 29 Issue 14

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

## COMMANDER'S CALL

Greetings Legion Members, Sons of the Legion and Legion Riders,

**We made it to Spring, Congratulations!** Thank you to everyone who attended our March dinner social where we honored several of our local educators and support staff. We were entertained by the

McNulty Irish Dancers and shared in a traditional Corned Beef & Cabbage and Shepherd's Pie dinner prepared by some of our very own Post 43 members and friends – thank you to those involved!

We are seeking applications for our **Boys State** and **Girls State** Programs. Applicants must be current high school juniors entering their senior year in the Fall of 2024. These are **two separate programs** that provide **scholarship opportunities** as well as impactful **leadership experiences** for those who attend. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please direct them to the following websites for more information.



Tom Jorstad

**Boys State Program details: <https://illinoisboysstate.org/>**

**Girls State Program details [www.alaigs.org](http://www.alaigs.org)**

As always, your continued support and participation are vital to the success of American Legion Post 43. Together, we continue to honor, celebrate, and support the four pillars of our community: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism and Children & Youth.

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming events, and please spread the word among fellow members.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our shared mission and the values we hold dear.

**Semper Fidelis!**

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

## Sr. Vice Commander

Dear Fellow Legionnaires,

Please check that you have a current membership ID card. **If your ID card doesn't show 2024 across the top, please contact me.**

Reflecting on the service and camaraderie of our organization, **I am reminded of the profound impact each one of us has in upholding the legacy of honor, duty, and sacrifice.** Our mutual membership is a steadfast commitment to the principles that have guided us for generations. Our membership in the American Legion allows us to be an integral part of our collective mission to support veterans, advocate for veterans rights, and serve our community with unwavering dedication.

Renewing your membership is not just a transaction; it's a testament to your ongoing pledge to stand alongside your fellow veterans in solidarity and support. With your renewed membership, you reaffirm your allegiance to the values of patriotism, service, and sacrifice that define us as Legionnaires.

**Your membership ensures that our voices remain strong, our actions impactful, and our legacy enduring.**

Please renew your membership with American Legion Post 43 Naperville today! **Together, let us continue to honor the past, serve the present, and inspire the future.**

Jennifer Slown  
Senior Vice Commander, Post 43



Jennifer Slown



# Jr. Vice Commander

Greetings Fellow Veterans,

Mark your calendars for **April 20th between 6pm and 8pm** for our upcoming April dinner where we will be presenting our prestigious **Citizen of the Year Award!** It promises to be an evening brimming with inspiration and pride as we recognize one outstanding individual who has made significant contributions to our community. We will also be **honoring and acknowledging the dedication of our past commanders**, whose leadership has paved the way for our continued success. This will be our last dinner social until September – so please **RSVP to me at your earliest convenience.**

Warm regards,  
Kristen Jungles  
Junior Vice Commander

[kristenjungles@kw.com](mailto:kristenjungles@kw.com)



## AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 43

### Riders Report–

The 1st Event on our calendar was the **St Patrick's Day Parade on March 9th**. That's an iffy time, but we were ready to ride, the weather was chilly but dry. The first **Honor Flight Chicago is Wednesday April 10th**, The Rider's will be in the Flag Line greeting the Veterans as they return home.

Respectfully submitted,

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



Steve Strickland



## 2024 DuPage Veterans Foundation Fundraiser

Please mark your Calendar for **Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**. We will be holding our Annual Fund-raiser for Honor Flight Chicago. It will be held again at the **DuPage County Fairgrounds starting 11am through 3pm**. As in years past, we will be having live entertainment, lunch, and a Silent Auction. Parking will be in the west lot next to the Fair-grounds. More details will follow.

Attached is our flyer for this year. Be sure to read the 2<sup>nd</sup> page as it covers:

### How You Can Help!!!!

Here we list many ways to donate: Tickets; Silent Auction Items; Sponsorships; and Monetary Donations. Please keep in mind that this is a “Fundraiser” with “ALL” Pro-ceeds going to Honor Flight Chicago. Being on the Board of this great organization since its beginning, I have noticed that we have more Naperville Veterans going to see their Memorials than in the early years and we want that to continue. It’s a day our Vet-erans will never forget and appreciate the opportunity to go.

**See you all on May 4<sup>th</sup>**

Thank you and see you then-  
Wayne Fischer; VN '67-68-USMC

**DUPAGE VETERANS FOUNDATION**  
**2024 Fundraiser**  
**Benefiting Honor Flight Chicago**

*Please Join us to Honor ALL Veterans from ALL Eras at this FAMILY FRIENDLY Event on May 4, 2024 from 11AM - 3PM!*

**LIVE MUSIC!**

**DUPAGE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS** 2015 Manchester Rd. Wheaton, IL 60187

**FEATURED EVENTS:** Period Military Vehicles • Patriotic Program • Lunch • Bagpipers • Vintage Military Memorabilia • Silent Auction • Family Friendly Fun!

**WWII, Korean War Era Vets & Kids Under 12: FREE ENTRY**  
\$35 in Advance • \$45 At The Door • \$10 Kids 13-18 • Kids 12 & Under FREE!

**MAY 4, 2024 • 11 AM - 3 PM**

**HERE IS HOW YOU CAN HELP**

**TO PURCHASE TICKETS**  
The ticket price includes lunch, entertainment, featured events and most importantly an opportunity to thank our veterans in person.  
Visit our website: [dupageveteransfoundation.org](http://dupageveteransfoundation.org)  
By mail: P.O. Box 299, Wheaton, IL 60187

Checks payable to: **DuPage Veterans Foundation**  
(Please indicate how many adult/child tickets you wish to purchase, your address and your phone number.)

DONATION LEVEL	TICKETS	TABLE RECOGNITION	WEBSITE
5 Star: \$10,000	30	Yes	Yes
4 Star: \$5,000	25	Yes	Yes
3 Star: \$2,500	20	Yes	Yes
2 Star: \$1,000	15	Yes	Yes
1 Star: \$500	10	Yes	No

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

**Donate Auction Items:**  
If you would like to donate an auction item, please call us at: (630) 668-2050 or EMAIL: [dupagevets@gmail.com](mailto:dupagevets@gmail.com)

**Sponsorships:**  
If you would like to be recognized as a sponsor for this important cause, refer to our website: [dupageveteransfoundation.org](http://dupageveteransfoundation.org) for levels of charitable giving, or feel free to call us at: (630) 668-2050. Sponsors will be posted on our website and in our event's electronic materials.

**Monetary Donations**  
If you are unable to attend but still would like to make a charitable contribution, go to our website: [dupageveteransfoundation.org](http://dupageveteransfoundation.org) and click "Donate" to pay by credit card. For a donation via check, make it payable to: **DuPage Veterans Foundation** and mail to: P.O. Box 299, Wheaton, Illinois 60187.

The mission of this DuPage Veterans Foundation event is to raise enough money for one HONOR FLIGHT CHICAGO flight for WWII, Korean and Vietnam Heroes to fly to Washington D.C. for a day of honor and thanks.  
DuPage Veterans Foundation is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization, EIN 32-0253381

[dupageveteransfoundation.org](http://dupageveteransfoundation.org) • (630) 668-2050 • P.O. Box 299, Wheaton, IL 60187

## American Legion Post 43 State Oratorical Contest Winners

**April Zhang**, a senior at **Neuqua Valley High School** took first place at the 2024 American Legion Department of Illinois Constitution Oratorical Contest held 1-2 March in Springfield, IL. The Oratorical Contest is designed to give students a greater appreciation of the Constitution of the United States, while developing leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, rights and privileges of American Citizenship. Winners can earn college scholarship money at the local, District, Division and State competitions. April was sponsored by **American Legion Post 43**, Naperville IL and as last year's Department of IL winner, will represent Illinois for the second year in a row at the American Legion National Contest, May 17-19 in Hillsdale, Michigan. Taking Second Place at the Department of Illinois contest was **Harshee Shah**, a senior from **Naperville Central High School**, also sponsored by Naperville's American Legion Post 43.

Pictured left to right, Neal Kemp, Harshee Shah, April Zhang, Wayne Fischer



## Historian Report

### Historian's Report: Teddy Roosevelt forms the Rough Riders

This month in 1898, Teddy Roosevelt resigned as Assistant Secretary of the Navy to organize the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Volunteer Cavalry, which became better known as the Rough Riders.

The unit was part of the mobilization for the Spanish American War. That war grew out of tensions between the U.S. and Spain largely over the latter's colonization of Cuba. Matters came to a head when the USS Maine blew up in Havana harbor. War was declared in April 1898 after the U.S. blamed Spain for the explosion.

With war declared, Roosevelt envisioned organizing a volunteer regiment made up of frontiersmen from the southwest but his reputation instead attracted a group of Ivy League athletes, glee club singers, polo players and hunters. Originally led by Colonel Leonard Wood, Roosevelt assumed command after Wood's promotion.

The Rough Riders left for Cuba in June 1898. However, despite their name, they deployed without horses, except for Roosevelt's mount, Texas. Later that month the horseless Rough Riders fought the Battle of Las Guasimas and recorded a victory. Roosevelt reportedly narrowly avoided several bullets as he led his troops in a flanking movement that forced the Spanish troops to flee.

The Rough Riders are best known for the later battle of San Juan Hill that occurred on July 1. Roosevelt had what he termed "the great day of my life," leading a series of charges and urging his men upward until the U.S. flag was raised over San Juan Heights.

Shortly after that battle, fighting ended as the Spanish fleet sailed from Cuba and an armistice was declared. The four-month conflict officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Paris in December of 1898. Under the treaty's terms, the U.S. assumed sovereignty of Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippine Islands as well as other territory.

The experience with the Rough Riders greatly enhanced Roosevelt's reputation and led to his election to the U.S. Presidency three years later. Because of his exploits with the Rough Riders, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor on January 16, 2001. The citation described his "conspicuous gallantry," specifically his leadership of charges up San Juan Hill despite heavy enemy fire.

Roosevelt's experience with the Rough Riders typified a life of adventure and courage. Another example is described in the book, *River of Doubt*, by Joyce Millard, an account of his troubled exploratory expedition in Brazil. Bravery apparently was part of the Roosevelt genes. His son, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., was the only general to land with the first wave of troops at Normandy on D-Day and grandson, Quentin was in the first wave at Omaha Beach. Theodore, Jr., who helped found the American Legion, was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1944.



**AMERICAN LEGION POST 43 CALENDAR**



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

Thursday  
 Saturday  
 Saturday  
 Tuesday  
 Saturday  
 Saturday  
 Wednesday  
 Saturday



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

May 2, 2024  
 May 4, 2024  
 May 4, 2024  
 May 11, 2024  
 May 14, 2024  
 May 18, 2024  
 May 22, 2024  
 May 25, 2024  
 May 27, 2024

Thursday  
 Saturday  
 Saturday  
 Saturday  
 Tuesday  
 Saturday  
 Wednesday  
 Saturday  
 Monday



Post Meeting 7:00PM  
 10 AM Coffee at Monarch Landing  
 Honor Flight Chicago  
 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  
 Memorial Day Parade

June 6, 2024  
 June 8, 2024  
 June 15, 2024  
 June 18, 2024  
 June 22, 2024  
 June 26, 2024  
 June 29, 2024

Thursday  
 Saturday  
 Saturday  
 Tuesday  
 Saturday  
 Wednesday  
 Saturday



Post Meeting 7:00pm  
 10 AM Coffee at Monarch Landing  
 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

## Sons of the American Legion

On behalf of the SAL Squadron 43, I would like to thank all of our friends and families that were able to come out and support our annual Pancake Fundraiser. It was another huge success. **Not only did everyone leave FULL, but we were able to raise OVER \$2,000.00 for local Veterans organizations!**

Our stated SAL meeting is every **THIRD** Tuesday at 7:00PM. Our next stated meeting is **4/16/2024**. We met in the lower level "patio" at the VFW hall. All members of the Legion and Legion Riders are welcome and encouraged to attend.

We are always welcoming new members and transfers. Many Legionnaires hold dual memberships in SAL 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 SAL Squadron 43's main goals are to support our Post and support our community.**

Regards,  
SAL Commander, Post 43  
Chris Lance  
630.926.1177  
[chrislance@gmail.com](mailto:chrislance@gmail.com)



### Coffee With Vets Saturday Morning 10 AM



The APR dates are:

APR 6th—Monarch Landing  
APR 13th—Brookdale - Lisle  
APR 20th—Tabor Hills  
APR 27th—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





## The VA's "Math": Calculating a Combined Rating

If you are receiving VA benefits for more than one disability and don't understand your cumulative rating, you are probably not alone. It is not exactly straight forward.

Here is what I'm talking about:

If you have been given a 20% and 40% disability rating, you would expect the cumulative rating to be 60%. Wrong!!! The "VA Math" is explained below.

Dennis Lukavsky

Service Officer:

VFW Post 3873

American Legion Post 43

### VA Math for Combined Ratings

- Combined rating is the rating that the VA uses to determine compensation payments and access to other benefits when there are two or more disabilities.
- Combined rating, NOT an accumulative or added rating. *(That's why 50% + 50% doesn't equal 100%.)*
- Combined rating starts with the highest rate and then what is left of the percentage, the final % is rounded to the nearest 10%.

**Example** Joe Veteran has a disability for PTSD at 30% then is awarded other ratings. back injury for a 20% rating left knee injury 10% and then a right knee injury 10%.  
**30+20+10+10=70% Well NO not with VA math!**

100% X 30% = 30% **70% is New Efficiency Rating**

70% X 20% = 14% **56% New Efficiency Rating**

56% X 10% = 6% **50% New Efficiency Rating**

50% X 10% = 5% **45% New Efficiency Rating**

Rounded to **40% New Efficiency Rating**

**100% - 40% Efficiency Rating  
 = 60% New Combined Rating**

### 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](https://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits/index.asp)

Jim Oftedal - Honor Guard





**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](http://www.naperlegion.org)

**Post Officers**

<b>Commander</b>	
Tom Jorstad	630-215-3592
<b>Sr. Vice-Commander</b>	
Jennifer Slown	630-803-2251
<b>Jr. Vice-Commander</b>	
Kristen Jungles	630-816-6841
<b>Sgt.-At-Arms</b>	
Glenn Granat	630-209-2834
<b>Finance Officer</b>	
John Noll	630-881-6718
<b>Service Officer</b>	
Dennis Lukavsky	630-272-9064
<b>Chaplain</b>	
Tom Richert	630-921-4511
<b>Historian</b>	
Joe Strebel	630-369-3846
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	
Don Hennessy	630-355-4679
<b>Adjutant</b>	
Rita Kollias	630-362-7210
<b>Immediate Past Commander</b>	
Nadia Baran	630-728-7519
<b>Public Relations Officer</b>	
Jennifer Slown	630-803-2251
<b>Bugler</b>	
Rich Yndestad	630-698-6444
<b>Legion Rider Director</b>	
Steve Strickland	630-453-0095
<b>Honor Guard Commander</b>	
Jim Oftedal	630-357-4030
<b>Color Guard Coordinator</b>	
Dennis Regan	630-361-4644
<b>Sons of the American Legion</b>	
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](mailto:jason.baran@gmail.com)

**Please send your reports to Jason by APR 15th for MAY Newsletter**

**Post 43 Webmaster**

**Nadia Baran**  
 E-mail: [Rios.Nadia@gmail.com](mailto:Rios.Nadia@gmail.com)

**APR 2024**

**Activities - Opportunities**

- APR 4th Post Meeting 7pm
- APR 6th Coffee-Monarch Landing
- APR 13th Coffee-Brookdale in Lisle
- APR 20th Coffee-Tabor Hills
- APR 27th 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

## March Legion Dinner

