



American Legion Post #43
Naperville, IL

www.naperlegion.org

Celebrating 107 Years of Service to Veterans, U.S. Military, Youth, & Community

Keeping Posted

October 2026

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It's been an exciting start to the year, and I'd like to begin by sharing some amazing news!

Our Post has been working hard behind the scenes on our **White Star Family Recognition**. If you're not familiar with White Star Families, they are the families of Veterans, Active-Duty Service Members, and First Responders who have lost their battle with suicide.

Recognizing these families is just the first step in making sure they feel seen, supported, and reminded that they will always have people standing behind them.



We are incredibly grateful to **Paul Hinderlong** for helping us with this proclamation. On **September 15th**, the **City of Naperville** officially recognized **White Star Families**. A special thank-you to **Mayor Scott Wehrli** for his support, as well as to all of the City Council members who helped make this recognition possible.

This is just a small step on the road ahead, but it is an important one as we continue working to recognize, support, and stand beside these families.

Annual Golf Outing

Our Annual Golf Outing was a great success! We are still tallying the final numbers, and we hope to announce soon how much we will be able to contribute to various charities and youth activities. If you don't know, our Post donates **everything raised after expenses** to various charities and youth programs. Through these efforts, we continue to honor our four pillars: **Children & Youth, Americanism, Veterans, and National Security**

Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, sponsored, or supported this year's outing. Your support makes a difference in our community.

Membership Renewals: If your membership card still says **2026**, it's time to renew!

Don't miss out on the many benefits that your American Legion membership provides. Visit **MyLegion.org** to see all the discounts and benefits available to you through your membership.

We have many fun events planned and would love to see you there! We had a great time at our **Prom in September**, and we're looking forward to our **Monsters Halloween Party on October 30th**.

There's a lot happening at our Post, and we hope you'll join us, get involved, and help us continue supporting our Veterans, families, children, and community.

Thank you for your continued support of our Post and everything we do!

Nadia Baran,

Commander
Naperville American Legion Post 43

Senior Vice Commander**MEMBERSHIP**

Thank you to those who have renewed their membership and a big welcome to our new members! If you have completed the membership process you should have received your 2027 membership card in the mail. If you did NOT receive your card or if you have any questions, please send me an email at sullivan-dan01@gmail.com and we will figure out how to get you your membership card.

Dan Sullivan



Please continue to encourage other veterans to consider joining Post 43. Increasing our membership will help not us not only support other veterans, but also to support our youth and other worthy service causes.

Dan Sullivan
Senior Vice Commander
Naperville American Legion Post 43

Junior Vice Commander

Dear Legion Members,

Legion Social – Saturday, September 19th

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Golf Outing, September Dinner, and Prom! We had a very busy and wonderful month, and we truly appreciate everyone who came out and helped make each event a success.

Due to scheduling conflicts, we will not be having a dinner in October. But don't you worry—we're already planning our Veterans Day Dinner!

Our next meeting is on October 1st. See you soon

Stay tuned for more details. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

For God and Country,

Kristen Jungles

Junior Vice Commander
Naperville American Legion Post 43

Riders Report – October 2026

The Riders have been busy over the past few months and September was no different. After attending our latest Honor Flight on August 26th, we went strong on Labor Day weekend. We were at the Last Fling selling Apparel for CampHomeTownHeroes on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. It started out a little hot but gradually cooled a bit. We met a lot of wonderful people. Always a pleasant experience and the Jaycees were incredible to work with. Monday we were leading the way in the Labor Day Parade. Beautiful day and great crowd. We have a few pictures posted on the American Legion Riders Facebook page for your enjoyment.



Rich Frantz



We participated in the AllenForce Ride and presented a check to Donna Allen from our Live Band event back in April.



We were also there for the 911 ceremony over by the Shanower Memorial. It was a good reminder of the American spirit we still exhibit in Naperville.



***We are always looking for veterans or affiliates who enjoy riding. We are looking for members who own a motorcycle that is 350cc or larger. If you are a member of the American Legion, Sons of American Legion or Auxiliary or know someone who would be interested, I encourage you to come see what we are about.*

Rich Frantz—Director, American Legion Riders Post 43



Naperville “9/11” 2026 Remembrance Service

This year, 2026, marked the 25th anniversary of the horrific “9/11” attacks on our country. The purpose of our Remembrance Service was to reflect on that day and honor all the innocent men and women who lost their lives. As in years past, we gathered to “Remember and Honor” our First Responders — Firefighters, Police, Service Personnel, and civilians lost that day, as well as the many who were lost in the wars that followed.

Marty Walker, Retired Firefighter, once again served as an outstanding M.C. for the Service. The Naperville Municipal Band provided musical tributes. As a special addition to Echo Taps, 12 white pigeons were released in memory of all those lost as a result of the terrorist attacks on 9/11. Special recognition and thanks were also extended to the Shanower Family; several local Gold Star Families; Naperville Responds for Veterans; Mayor Scott Wehrli and the City of Naperville; the Combined American Legion and VFW Post Color Guard and Honor Guard; and the Naperville Police and Fire Departments, including retired members.

Our speakers included Fire Chief Mark Puknaitis, Police Chief Jason Arres, and guest speaker Marine Charles “Lynn” Louder, who shared his personal reflections on what 9/11 meant to him and why our community must — and will — continue this Remembrance Service.

We also had an excellent turnout of Scouts who handed out programs and flags to the 500–600 attendees. They stood in honor of our “Fallen on 9/11” beside the Memorial Wall.

In closing, let us reflect on what all Americans lost that day endured because of the September 11, 2001 attacks. They had no time to sit, pause, or gather themselves. When the attacks came, survival was their only focus. Not all survived, but those who did carry a deep pride in being American, knowing their lives were forever changed.

Respectfully,

Wayne Fischer

USMC Vietnam

Naperville 9/11 Memorial Photos



Photo Credits:
James Hoch Photography

Post 43 Golf Outing Photos



**Photo Credits:
James Hoch Photography**



Members Sunday Breakfast

Please join us on the **1st Sunday of the month** for our **Member's, Family and Friends breakfast!**

And a continued Thank You to all who come out and make these breakfasts a success!

Teamwork at its finest!



Coffee With Vets

Saturday Morning 10 AM



The October dates are:

October 3rd - Monarch Landing

October 10th - Brookdale (Lisle)

October 17th - Tabor Hills

October 24th - Story Point - Naperville

October 31st - Independence Village

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



Instead of writing an article no one bothers to read, I thought I would share some general information some of you might be able to use in the future. You might want to think about storing these away for future reference.

Websites:

VA Home Page	VA.gov
Benefits and Services Overview	www.choose.va.gov
Burial and Memorial Benefits	www.cem.va.gov
Caregiver Support	www.caregiver.va.gov
CHAMPVA	gov/communitycare/programs/dependents/champva/
Community Care	www.va.gov/communitycare/
Dental Care	www.va.gov/dental/
Disability Claims and Appeals	www.va.gov/claim-or-appeal-status/
Education Benefits	www.va.gov/education/
Environmental Exposures	www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures
Federal Recovery Consultant Office	www.va.gov/vadodhealth/frcp.asp
Geriatrics and Extended Care	www.va.gov/geriatrics
Health Care Eligibility	www.va.gov/health-care/
Homeless Veterans	www.va.gov/homeless
Home Loan Guaranty	www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans
Life Insurance	www.benefits.va.gov/insurance
Memorial Certificate Program	www.cem.va.gov/pmc.asp
Mental Health	www.mentalhealth.va.gov
My HealtheVet	www.myhealth.va.gov
National Resource Directory	www.nrd.gov
PACT Act	www.VA.gov/PACT
Post 9/11 Veterans	www.va.gov/post911veterans
Returning Service Members	www.va.gov/post911veterans
Service Records	www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/military-personnel
State Departments of Veterans Affairs	www.va.gov/statedva.htm
Welcome Kit	www.va.gov/welcome-kit/
Women Veterans	www.womenshealth.va.gov
VA Forms	www.va.gov/vaforms
VA Solid Start	www.benefits.va.gov/transition/solid-start.asp
VA Vet Centers	www.vetcenter.va.gov
Veterans Crisis Line	www.veteranscrisisline.net

Dennis Lukevsky, Service Officer - American Legion Post 43

Historian Report

October has consistently marked turning points throughout America's military past. From the Revolution to modern conflicts, this month carries a remarkable legacy of service, sacrifice, and strategic change.

October 1, 2001, Following the attacks of September 11, U.S. forces—supported by British allies—began a bombing campaign against the Taliban in Afghanistan, initiating what would become America's longest war.

October 9, 1942, On Guadalcanal, U.S. Marines withdrew across the Metanikau River after destroying much of Japan's 4th Infantry Regiment, strengthening the American position in the Pacific.

October 9, 1950, UN forces crossed the 38th parallel, beginning the invasion of North Korea. Notably, on the same date in **2006**, North Korea conducted its first nuclear test, underscoring the enduring volatility of the region.

October 13, 1775, The Continental Congress authorized construction of two warships, establishing the United States Navy and laying the foundation for one of the world's most formidable maritime forces.

October 14, 1940, The German Luftwaffe launched a nighttime air raid that became part of the Battle of Britain, a campaign that tested the resolve of the British people and shaped the course of World War II.

October 14, 1962, A U-2 reconnaissance flight photographed Soviet nuclear missile sites in Cuba, triggering the Cuban Missile Crisis. President Kennedy was shown the images on October 18, beginning one of the tensest confrontations of the Cold War.

October 16, 1781, General George Washington captured Yorktown, delivering the decisive blow that turned the American Revolution in favor of the colonies.

October 17, 1967, Secretary of State Dean Rusk stated that congressional peace proposals for Vietnam were futile due to North Vietnam's opposition, highlighting the diplomatic challenges of the conflict.

October 19, 1781, Representatives of British Commander Lord Cornwallis formally surrendered at Yorktown, effectively ending the American Revolution and securing American independence.

October 23, 1983, A terrorist attack on the Marine barracks in Beirut killed 220 Marines, one of the Corps' deadliest single-day losses since World War II.

October's record reminds us that history is shaped not only by battles and decisions, but by the courage of those who served. It remains a month of profound significance in America's military story.

Respectfully,

Dick Komarek

AMERICAN LEGION POST 43 CALENDAROctober 1st

Legion Meeting

October 4th

Member's Breakfast

October 9th

UFO Party at the Canteen

October 17th

Riders Prime Rib Dinner

November 1st

Member's Breakfast

November 5th

Legion Meeting

November 7th

USMC Ball

November 11th

Veterans Day / Dinner Social

November 14th

NRFV Gala

November 20th

Toys For Tots Costume Party

December 3th

Legion Meeting

December 4th

Cookie Party (ALA and Legion Hosted)

December 5th

Member's Breakfast

December 11th

Possible Spaghetti Fundraiser

December 12th

Post Christmas Party

January 2nd

Member's Breakfast

January 7th

Legion Meeting

January 16th

January Dinner Social

February 4th

Legion Meeting

February 7th

Member's Breakfast

February 20th

February Dinner Social

**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**

Nadia Baran	630-728-7519
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Sr. Vice-Commander

Dan Sullivan	708-6010292
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Jr. Vice-Commander

Kristen Jungles	630-816-6841
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Sgt.-At-Arms

Glenn Granat	630-209-2834
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Finance Officer

John Noll	630-881-6718
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Service Officer

Dennis Lukavsky	630-272-9064
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Chaplain

Tom Richert	630-921-4511
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Historian

Dick Komarek	630-983-6403
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Judge Advocate

Lee Gunter	
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Adjutant

Anna Barnhart	401-603-6339
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Immediate Past Commander

Tom Jorstad	630-215-3592
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Public Relations Officer

Tom Jorstad	630-215-3592
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Bugler

Rich Yndestad	630-698-6444
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Legion Rider Director

Rich Frantz	630-300-8189
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Honor Guard Commander

Jim Oftedal	630-357-4030
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Color Guard Coordinator

Dennis Regan	630-361-4644
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Sons of the American Legion

Chris Lance	630-926-1177
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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

Tom Jorstad 630-215-3592

E-mail: tom.jorstad@yahoo.com

Please send your articles to Tom by the 15th of each month!

Post 43 Webmaster

Nadia Baran

E-mail: Rios.Nadia@gmail.com

October**Activities - Opportunities**

October 3 - Monarch Landing

October 10 - Brookdale (Lisle)

October 17 - Tabor Hills

October 24 - Story Point - Naperville

October 31 - Independence Village

Selected Thursdays & Saturdays:

Help OSOT America sort & pack boxes at the Lisle warehouse.



**AMERICAN
LEGION**
NAPERVILLE POST 43



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

Why Be Part of the American Legion Family?

Being part of the American Legion Family - whether through the **American Legion**, the **American Legion Auxiliary**, or the **Sons of the American Legion** - means joining a tradition of service that has strengthened communities and supported Veterans for more than a century.

The American Legion

Membership in the American Legion connects Veterans to a nationwide network committed to service, advocacy, and camaraderie. Legionnaires support fellow Veterans, strengthen patriotic values, invest in youth programs, and stand behind active-duty military personnel. Joining the Legion means continuing the mission that began in 1919: **Veterans serving Veterans**.

The American Legion Auxiliary

The American Legion Auxiliary welcomes spouses, daughters, mothers, and female family members of Veterans who want to serve alongside the Legion. ALA members play a vital role in community programs, youth initiatives, patriotic education, and support for military families. Their work amplifies the Legion's impact and ensures that service extends beyond the uniform.

Sons of the American Legion

The Sons of the American Legion honor the service of their Veteran parents and grandparents by giving back to their communities. SAL members volunteer, support Legion programs, assist with ceremonies and events, and help preserve the values of duty, honor, and patriotism. Their involvement strengthens the entire Legion Family.

One Mission, Three Paths to Serve

Whether as a Veteran, a family member, or a descendant, joining the American Legion Family means becoming part of something larger than yourself. It means supporting those who served, uplifting the community, and carrying forward a legacy built on honor and commitment.

Together, the Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons ensure that the promise made more than a century ago continues today: **A community united in service.**