

'Think Outside the Box'

VFW Post 3873 works with the community to honor veterans and create something special for VFW Day of Service

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For the past four years, Staci Boyer, commander of VFW Post 3873 in Naperville, Illinois, has organized a Community Fitness Competition. Just like in previous years, she plans on making it a VFW National Day of Service event in 2025.

“By recognizing it as an official Day of Service event, we not only highlight the vital role our Post plays in the community, but we also reinforce the VFW’s mission of service, camaraderie and ongoing support for our nation’s heroes,” said Boyer, who went on to explain that it is more than a competition.

Instead, she sees it as a unifying force because it brings together active-duty service members, veterans, military support organizations and other community members to share in a celebration of strength, service and patriotism.

“The highlight of the event is a powerful tribute featuring a combined color guard and live performance of the National Anthem, during which all military members in attendance are invited to join us on stage in a moment of unity and pride,” Boyer said.

Last year’s event welcomed 2,000 attendees, creating a special opportunity for service members and veterans to connect and share their stories.

“This event strengthens the bonds between military and civilian communities, fosters collaboration among active and retired service members and demonstrates our commitment to veterans past, present and future,” Boyer said. “It exemplifies what it means to stand together in support of those who serve.”

Although Boyer came up with the event on her own, she says that her Post inspires her to create these kinds of special experiences.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
Office 816.756.3390
Fax 816.968.1157

WASHINGTON OFFICE

200 Maryland Ave., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Office 202.543.2239
Fax 202.543.6719

info@vfw.org
www.vfw.org

“My motto is strength in numbers,” she said. “I want to show how, by working together, we’re #StillServing for the betterment of our community.”

Boyer encourages other Posts that are considering participating in VFW National Day of Service to adopt that same collaborative mindset.

“There is always someone with a great idea — you just have to ask! Build a committee, allow people to be inspired and encourage them to create with you,” she said. “Think outside the box; growth and change come from getting outside your comfort zone.”