



**Veterans of Foreign Wars
Ruskin Memorial Post #6287**

5120 N U.S Hwy 41

Apollo Beach, FL 33572

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Email: post6287@vfwfl.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/RusinVFW

March 2026



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<u>VFW Officers</u>	<u>VFW Auxiliary</u>	<u>House Committee</u>
COMMANDER Michael McFerron	PRESIDENT Lori Maynard	CHAIRMAN Jason Elliott
SR. VICE COMMANDER Wayne Atwood	SR. VICE Ned Letts III	COMMANDER Michael McFerron
JR. VICE COMMANDER Ralph Sylvester	JR. VICE Eileen Burke	QUARTERMASTER Kingsley Fink
QUARTERMASTER Kingsley Fink	TREASURER Aliya Fauset	Joseph LaBranche
JUDGE ADVOCATE Reilly Secrist	SECRETARY Clara Robine	Ryan Thompson
ADJUTANT Eric Nefflen	CHAPLAIN Lesa Campbell	Pearce Turpin
CHAPLAIN Kyle Moore	CONDUCTOR Diane Scofield	
SURGEON Brian Frank	GUARD Ahsan Sheikh	
SERVICE OFFICER Alvino Porter	TRUSTEE#1 Cheryl Nelson	
TRUSTEE #1 JJ Mraz	TRUSTEE#2 Randal Harrell	
TRUSTEE #2 Ron Baker	TRUSTEE#3 Rick Reidt	
TRUSTEE #3 Al Clay	PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR Joyce Graham	
OFFICER OF THE DAY Ralph Sylvester	HISTORIAN Denise Demaria	

Sun	Mon	Tue	wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Breakfast 9-12pm	2 Queen Of Hearts 7pm	3 Star Spangled Banner Adopted as National Anthem	4	5 Bingo Menu 12- 6:30pm Bar Bingo 6pm	6 Fish Fry 5-7:00pm Eddie Stone & Co. 6-10pm	7 Blondie and the Beast 6-10pm
8 Breakfast 9-12pm Post 6287 80th BDay 1pm Ship, Captain, Crew 6 pm	9 Planning Mtg 6pm House Cmte Mtg 6:30pm Queen Of Hearts 7pm	10 Bar Poker 12:30 pm Kitchen 12-3pm	11 Joint Members Mtg 6:45pm VFW & Auxiliary Mtg 7pm	12 Bingo Menu 12- 6:30pm Bar Bingo 6pm	13 Fish Fry 5-7:00pm DJ Eddy 6-10pm	14 Harley Gay 6-10pm
15 Breakfast 9am- 12pm	16 West Point Es- tablished (1802) Queen of Hearts 7pm	17 Bar Poker 12:30 pm Kitchen 12-7pm Corned Beef and Cabbage	18 25 Op Varsity (1945)	19 Bingo Menu 12- 6:30pm Bar Bingo 6pm	20 "Shock and Awe" (2003) Fish Fry 5-7:00pm Dave Traini 6- 10pm	21 Op Starlite (Vietnam 1965) EQ-Little Big Band 6-10pm
22 Breakfast 9am- 12pm Children's Easter Party 11am Ship, Captain, Crew 6 pm	23 Nam Knights Mtg 6pm Queen Of Hearts 7pm	24 Bar Poker 12:30 pm Kitchen 12-3pm Tuesday Nite Wings 5-7pm	26 Bingo Menu 12- 6:30pm Bar Bingo 6pm	27 USN Estab- lished (1794) Sam Williams 6- 10pm	28 Pig Roast 4pm Sue and the Survi- vors 6-10pm	
29 Last troops leave Vietnam ('73) Breakfast 9am- 12pm (Free for Vietnam Vets) Ship, Captain, Crew 6 pm	30 Queen Of Hearts 7pm	31 Bar Poker 12:30 pm Kitchen 12-3 Tuesday Nite Wings 5-7pm				

Commander's Corner

Dear Members, Auxiliary, and Friends of Ruskin Memorial VFW Post 6287,

Since my first message as your Commander on February 12th, it's been quite a journey. Monica and I are truly humbled by the love and support that's wrapped around us. I've never been prouder to call Ruskin Memorial VFW Post 6287 home.

February was full of life—record crowds at our Sunday breakfasts and Friday Fish Fries, and packed, laughter-filled Bingo nights. But our hearts also ached as we laid to rest one of our own: Johnson Lykens, USMC (ret.), a decorated hero of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. On February 27th, we gathered at Sarasota National Cemetery to honor this lifetime member of Post 6287. Thank you to everyone who stood with his family—our prayers continue to surround them.

March is going to be unforgettable. On the 8th, we celebrate 80 years of this Post—eighty years strong! Come help us blow out the candles. Then, on the 28th, our annual Pig Roast returns, with every dollar raised going straight to the Department of Florida's Special Project to fund much-needed upgrades at Veterans Village. We'll close the month on the 29th with a heartfelt "Welcome Home" breakfast for our Vietnam veterans—breakfast is on us.

I also want to speak straight from the heart to our bartenders. These incredible women aren't just pouring drinks—they're VFW or Auxiliary members volunteering their time, standing on the front lines every day to keep our Post warm, welcoming, and running strong. I will always have their backs, and I hope you'll join me in giving them a loud, grateful thank-you.

To Kingsley, Wayne, and Ralph—thank you for stepping up just weeks ago. Your friendship, wisdom, and steady hands got us through every challenge. We couldn't have done it without you.

Let's keep the rearview mirror small and the windshield wide open—honoring where we've been while charging toward everything still ahead.

I can't wait to see you at the Post.

With gratitude and pride,

Your Commander

Fraternally,

Respectfully,

Michael McFerron

Commander, VFW Post 6287

cmd@vfw6287.org

This Month in History



- March 1:** 1917 – Articles of War revised to govern U.S. Army.
1941 – U.S. Navy establishes the Construction Battalions (Seabees).
- March 3:** 1931 – “The Star-Spangled Banner” officially adopted as the U.S. National Anthem.
- March 4:** 1789 – U.S. Constitution goes into effect; 1st Congress convenes.
- March 7:** 1945 – U.S. forces capture the Ludendorff Bridge at Remagen, Germany (WWII).
- March 9:** 1862 – Battle of the Monitor and Merrimack (CSS Virginia) – first ironclad naval battle (Civil War).
- March 10:** 1945 – Tokyo firebombing raid begins (Operation Meetinghouse).
- March 12:** 1918 – U.S. Army establishes the first official tank unit.
- March 13:** 1942 – K-9 Corps (War Dog Program) established.
- March 14:** 1951 – Korean War: UN forces recapture Seoul.
- March 16:** 1802 – United States Military Academy (West Point) established.
- March 17:** 1945 – Battle of Iwo Jima officially ends (U.S. victory declared).
- March 19:** 2003 – Operation Iraqi Freedom begins.
- March 21:** 1965 – First large-scale U.S. ground offensive in Vietnam (Operation Starlite preparations phase).
- March 22:** 1972 – U.S. withdraws ground troops from Vietnam (final phases).
- March 23:** 1945 – U.S. Third Army crosses the Rhine (WWII).
- March 25:** 1945 – Operation Varsity (largest single-day airborne operation in history).
- March 26:** 1945 – Battle of Iwo Jima officially secured.
1999 – NATO bombing of Yugoslavia begins (U.S. participation).
- March 27:** 1794 – U.S. Navy permanently established by Naval Act of 1794.
- March 29:** 1973 – Last U.S. combat troops leave Vietnam.
- March 31:** 1918 – U.S. forces involved in Second Battle of the Somme (WWI Spring Offensive).

CONTACT THE EDITOR

Paul Maynard
p.maynard@rocketmail.com

Tell us what you like, what you want more of, and if you don't like something... well, the spam folder is always open.

SUNDAY \$10 BREAKFAST

ALL YOU CAN EAT
EGGS COOKED TO ORDER

9 - 12

PANCAKES
FRENCH TOAST
SAUSAGE
HAM
BACON
POTATOES
& MUCH MORE



LETTER FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

March is a month filled with celebration, tradition, and the kind of teamwork that makes our Post feel like home. As we step into this busy and meaningful month, I want to share how proud I am of everything we continue to accomplish together in service to our veterans and their families.

Celebrating 80 Years of Service – March 8 at 1 PM

This month, we honor a tremendous milestone: the 80th Birthday of the Ruskin Memorial VFW Post 6287. The Auxiliary is deeply proud to stand beside our Post members as we celebrate eight decades of dedication, sacrifice, and community. This Post has a rich history of service, and it is our privilege to support and uplift the veterans who built it. I look forward to celebrating this special day with all of you.

St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage – March 17, 12–7 PM

Our kitchen will be serving their delicious Corned Beef & Cabbage on St. Patrick's Day. This meal is always a favorite, and we invite everyone to come out, enjoy great food, and share in the festive spirit.

Children's Easter Party – March 22

Our annual Children's Easter Party is right around the corner, and excitement is already building! The kids will enjoy a wonderful breakfast, fun activities, and of course—the Easter Bunny is scheduled to appear. It's always a joy to see the smiles and laughter this event brings to our youngest visitors.

Annual Pig Roast – March 28 at 4 PM

We close out the month with one of our biggest events: the Annual Pig Roast. Expect great food, great raffle baskets, and great fun as we come together to support an important cause. All proceeds will benefit the Veterans Village at Ft. McCoy, helping us continue our mission of supporting veterans in meaningful ways.

I want every member—new and seasoned—to know how proud I am to serve alongside you. We are seeing new faces step up to volunteer, and our long-time members continue to give their time, heart, and experience. This blend of fresh energy and steady dedication is exactly what keeps our Auxiliary strong.

It is inspiring to watch everyone come together to make our Post a warm, welcoming, and inviting home for veterans, families, and our community. Your kindness, teamwork, and commitment shine through in every event, every meal served, and every act of service.

Thank you for all you do. Together, we continue to honor our mission and strengthen the legacy of Ruskin Memorial VFW Post 6287.

With gratitude,

Lori Maynard

President, Ruskin Memorial VFW Auxiliary



**Ruskin Memorial
VFW Post 6287**

80th Birthday!



8 March at 1 pm

**Potluck, Cake and
Great camaraderie**

**Come celebrate
our 80 years!**



**50/50
AUXILIARY
RAFFLE**



MARCH

\$1 EACH

Purchase at the canteen

DRAWING: 31 MARCH

Proceeds to benefit
a veteran program



ST. PATRICK'S DAY

RUSKIN MEMORIAL

VFW POST 6287

17 MARCH



CORNERED BEEF & CABBAGE

\$15

12-7 PM

PRESALE TICKETS AVAILABLE 3 MARCH

VFW POST 6287
ANNUAL PIG ROAST



*Honoring Those Who Served **

PIG ROAST

28 MARCH at 4pm

Raffles, Music, Pulled Pork Dinner for \$15
Dinner includes Pulled Pork, Bun, Cole Slaw and
Baked Beans. Presale tickets available 8 March

To Go Orders will be available.

All proceeds benefit the Veterans Village at Ft Mccooy

Welcome Our New Members!

We're proud to introduce the newest members of our VFW family. Each has answered the call of service, and now joins us in camaraderie, tradition, and community support. Please extend a warm welcome when you see them at the post!

Michael Agostinelli—Life Transfer
Johnny Collado
Matthew Faulkner
Gabriel Kovacs-Life Transfer
Donald McConnaughey-Life
Paul Rosenbloom-Life
Robert Seidlitz-Life Transfer

Buck Beamon—Life
Michael Dingle—Life Transfer
David Golpe-Life
Robert Lydzinski-Life
James Peterson-Life Transfer
Mark Rosenthal-Life
Mark Slusher-Life Transfer

Thanks to the dedication and recruiting efforts of our members, we're at 107.49%, far exceeding the National goal of 101%! Every new comrade strengthens our mission, our fellowship, and our ability to serve veterans and the community. Let's keep the momentum going—reach out, invite, and welcome those who've served to stand with us. Together, we honor the past and build the future of our Post.

We Want to Hear from You!



Your ideas matter! We're always looking for ways to make our Post better for everyone—whether it's events, activities, or ways to improve our facility. If you have a suggestion, please drop a note in the suggestion box located near the entrance or hand it directly to the Commander. Every comment helps us build a stronger, more connected Post. Let's keep the ideas coming!

Help Fill the Patch Wall!

Our Patch Board has officially outgrown itself and is becoming a Patch Wall — a growing display that tells the story of the many places our members have served.

We invite all members to help us fill the Patch Wall by donating a patch. Each patch represents a chapter of service and helps showcase the depth of experience within our Post.

If you'd like to contribute, please place your patch in an envelope labeled for Bianca Vera and leave it with the bartender, or bring it with you to the next Membership Meeting.



SAVE THE DATE
CHILDREN'S
EASTER
PARTY

22 MARCH
BREAKFAST WILL
BE SERVED AT 11AM

- **HUNT EGGS**
- **PLAY GAMES**
- **VISIT FROM THE EASTER BUNNY**

SIGN UPS WILL BE POSTED IN THE POST ENTRY



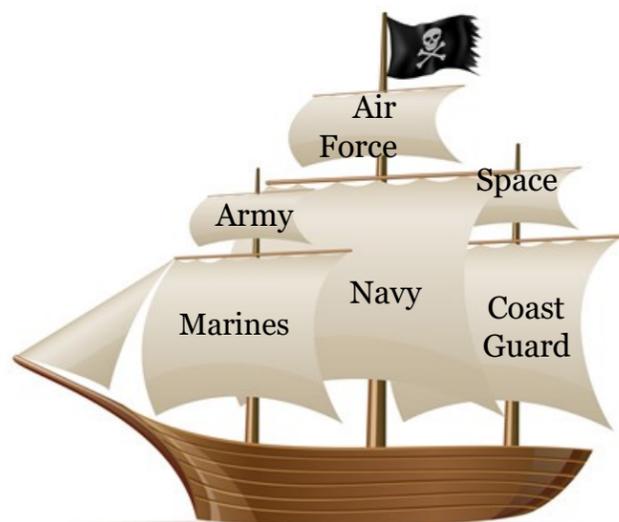
EVERY MONDAY @ 7PM
 3 TICKETS FOR \$5.00
 7 TICKETS FOR \$10.00
 BUY YOUR TICKETS ANYTIME
 ASK THE BARTENDER FOR
 DETAILS



BAR POKER

EVERY TUESDAY STARTING AT 12:30PM

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF CARDS, CAMARADERIE,
 AND FRIENDLY COMPETITION! ALL SKILL LEVELS ARE WEL-
 COME, SO GRAB A SEAT, TEST YOUR LUCK, AND ENJOY
 GOOD COMPANY AT THE POST.



Ship, Captain & Crew
2nd, 4th and 5th (when applicable)
Sunday at 6:00 pm
\$1.00 per game
 We'll play every Sunday – but only if enough of
 you show up.

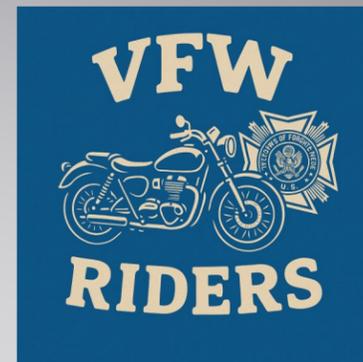
Otherwise the dice get sad... and nobody wants sad dice.



THE DAILY

LOOKING TO ADD A LITTLE EXCITEMENT TO YOUR DAY AT THE POST? TAKE
 PART IN **THE DAILY**, OUR EASY AND FUN GAME OF CHANCE THAT SUPPORTS
 THE POST WHILE GIVING YOU A SHOT AT A GROWING JACKPOT.

**TAKE A MOMENT, DROP IN, SIGN IN, AND MAYBE—JUST MAYBE—YOUR
 NUMBER WILL COME UP NEXT!**



VFW Post 6287 Riders Group

VFW and Auxiliary Members are eligible!

Meetings are held the
first Saturday of the month at 9 am

We're always looking for new members.

Contact:
 Michael McFerron
 831-241-8667
michael.mcferron@gmail.com

Call for Service Photos!

**Help spruce up our newly renovated home with photos from
 our very own membership!**

**If you have photos you are willing to donate, please bring
 them to the Canteen in an envelope for JJ Mraz.**



If you recognize this warrior, contact the Editor.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Lenten Reflection for the Post

Dear VFW Post 6287,

As we enter the holy season of Lent, the Church calls us once again into forty days of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. For us as veterans, Lent carries a particular resonance. We understand discipline. We understand sacrifice. We understand what it means to endure hardship for a greater good. Lent speaks directly to that warrior's heart, but calls us to fight a different battle: the battle for the soul.

Lent is rooted in Sacred Scripture. The number forty appears repeatedly as a time of trial and purification: The flood lasted forty days and forty nights (cf. Genesis 7:12). Moses fasted forty days on Mount Sinai before receiving the Law (cf. Exodus 34:28). The prophet Elijah journeyed forty days to Horeb (cf. 1 Kings 19:8). Most importantly, Our Lord fasted forty days in the desert before beginning His public ministry (cf. Matthew 4:1-11). During Lent, the Church unites herself to Christ's desert fast. In a sense, Lent is boot camp for the soul, which allows, as St. Paul reminds us, to "Put you on the armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the deceits of the devil" (Ephesians 6:11). For those who have worn the uniform of our nation, the imagery of armor, vigilance, and endurance is not abstract. It is a lived experience.

Throughout American military history, our servicemen and women have marched through literal and spiritual deserts. The military teaches the discipline of the body and the will. Lent calls for discipline of the soul. Christ says, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23). Veterans understand the weight of carrying it. We understand training through discomfort. Fasting sharpens the will. Prayer steadies the mind. Almsgiving strengthens fraternity. In many ways, Lent resembles a spiritual field exercise: We examine weaknesses. We reinforce defenses. We recommit to the mission. Our mission now is holiness. At the VFW, we speak of camaraderie and never leaving a comrade behind. The Church speaks of the Communion of Saints, a brotherhood that transcends death. When we pray during Lent, we pray not alone, but with: The Apostles, the martyrs, the countless servicemen and women who have gone before us. Their sacrifice reflects Christ's ultimate victory over death at Easter.

As your Chaplain, I encourage our Post to observe Lent intentionally in accordance with your faith tradition. Examples include: attending church faithfully, going to Confession, offering prayers for our fallen, performing acts of charity for fellow veterans in need, and praying the Stations of the Cross, remembering Christ's suffering alongside the suffering endured by so many in war. Lent prepares us for Easter, but also prepares us for eternity. St. Paul, writing from imprisonment, declared: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7). May the same be said of us, not only as veterans of earthly battle, but as faithful soldiers of Christ. Let us enter the desert with discipline. Let us walk toward the Cross with courage. Let us await the Resurrection with hope.

May you have a happy and holy season of Lent.

God love you!!!

Yours in Christ,

Kyle F. Moore, Th.M

MSgt, USAF Ret.

Chaplain, VFW Post 6287

Deus Vult. Pro Deo et Patria

Attention Veterans and Veteran Family Members

Not a Member?

Interested in joining our family?

Membership is open to those who have served in a foreign war zone. Veterans, just bring in your DD214 and sign up for as little as **\$40 per year**. Prefer not to renew annually? Choose a **Lifetime Membership** and enjoy peace of mind with convenient installment options.

Auxiliary Membership:

If you haven't served, you may qualify through a parent, grandparent, spouse, sibling, or child who has served in a foreign war zone. Auxiliary membership is just **\$40 per year**.



DD214 copies are now available to all members and potential members through online access. Please go to:

www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/



BINGO NIGHT!

Every Thursday –
Don't Miss the Fun!

First Game Kicks Off at
6:00 PM