



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

5120 N U.S Hwy 41
Apollo Beach, FL 33572
Phone (813)634-7742

Website: www.vfw6287.org

Email: post6287@vfwfl.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/RusinVFW

May 2026



MAY 2026



<u>VFW Officers</u>	<u>VFW Auxiliary</u>	<u>House Committee</u>
COMMANDER Michael McFerron	PRESIDENT Ned Letts III	CHAIRMAN Jason Elliott
SR. VICE COMMANDER Wayne Atwood	SR. VICE Eileen Burke	COMMANDER Michael McFerron
JR. VICE COMMANDER Ralph Sylvester	JR. VICE Lori Maynard	QUARTERMASTER Kingsley Fink
QUARTERMASTER Kingsley Fink	TREASURER Aliya Fauset	Michael Agostinelli
JUDGE ADVOCATE Reilly Secrist	SECRETARY Clara Robine	Joseph LaBranche
ADJUTANT Eric Nefflen	CHAPLAIN Lesa Campbell	Ryan Thompson
CHAPLAIN Kyle Moore	CONDUCTOR Diane Scofield	Pearce Turpin
SURGEON	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
National Military Appreciation Month & Month of the Military Caregiver					1 Silver Star Svc Day Harley Gay 6-10pm	2 Dist. Convention Kent. Derby 4pm Eddie Stone & Co. 7-11pm
3 Breakfast 9am-12pm Rider's Group Mtg 12pm	4 Queen Of Hearts 7pm	5 Cinco de Mayo Bar Poker 12:30pm Kitchen 12-3pm Tuesday Nite Wings 5-7pm Karaoke 6:30-9:30pm	6	7 Bingo Menu 4:30-6:30pm Bar Bingo 6pm	8 Bert & the Party Boyz 6-10pm	9 Young Marines 8-12 Sue & the Survivors 6-10pm
10 Mother's Day Breakfast 9am-12pm Ship, Captain, Crew 6 pm	11 Planning Mtg 6pm House Cmte Mtg 6:30pm Queen of Hearts 7pm	12 Bar Poker 12:30pm Kitchen 12-3pm Tuesday Nite Wings 5-7pm Karaoke 6:30-9:30pm	13 Joint Members Mtg 6:45pm VFW & Auxiliary Mtg 7pm	14 Bingo Menu 4:30-6:30pm Bar Bingo 6pm	15 DJ Eddie 7-11pm	16 Terrance & Company 7-11pm
17 Breakfast 9am-12pm	18 Nam Knights Mtg 6pm Queen Of Hearts 7pm	19 Bar Poker 12:30pm Kitchen 12-3pm Tuesday Nite Wings 5-7pm Karaoke 6:30-9:30pm	20	21 Bingo Menu 4:30-6:30pm Bar Bingo 6pm	22 Happy Hour (the band) 7-11pm	23 Young Marines 8-12 Just Us 7-11pm
24 No Breakfast Ship, Captain, Crew 6 pm	25 Memorial Day Memorial Day Ceremony 11am- Luncheon follows Queen Of Hearts 7pm	26 Bar Poker 12:30pm Kitchen 12-3pm Tuesday Nite Wings 5-7pm Karaoke 6:30-9:30pm	27	28 Bingo Menu 4:30-6:30pm Bar Bingo 6pm	29 Hippie Redneck - 11pm	30 EQ the Little Big Band 7-11pm
31 Breakfast 9am-12pm Ship, Captain, Crew 6 pm						

Commander's Corner

Comrades, Auxiliary, and Friends,

Is it just me, or did April just fly by? Our Post has been a whirlwind of activity, service, and heartfelt celebrations.

We kicked things off with a night I won't soon forget. The Riders hosted the final Friday Fish Fry of the season on April 10th, and the energy was electric. Not only was the turnout fantastic, but we had the distinct honor of celebrating Vern's 101st birthday. Seeing the community rally around a century-plus of life and service is exactly what being part of our post is all about.

On April 11, we gathered to honor the memory of Bart Williams. It was a beautiful celebration of life that reminded us of the deep bonds we share. That spirit of togetherness carried through to our April 25 Steak Dinner, where the turnout was nothing short of spectacular.

We've been busy "behind the scenes" making sure our Post remains home for you:

- Infrastructure: We've upgraded the kitchen with a new AC unit (just in time for the Florida heat!) and installed a new cooler and ice machine in the canteen.
- The Big Move: That stubborn CONNEX box has finally been emptied and safely relocated away from the creek. No more worrying about it taking an unscheduled swim!
- Our Volunteers: On April 18, we hosted our Volunteer Appreciation Lunch. To everyone who cooks, pours drinks, cleans up or done repairs: you are the backbone of Post 6287. Thank you!!!

Our reach into the community continues to grow. We recently received heartfelt thank-you letters from the Moffitt Cancer Research Center and Liberty Manor Veterans Shelter. We also put our money where our heart is, donating to support the Riverview High School Military Child Breakfast and the Lennard High School FFA Banquet.

Congratulations to all the VFW and VFW Auxiliary recently elected officers! I am humbled to say I look forward to continuing to serve this Post in any capacity I can. We have a massive month ahead:

- VFW Days of Service: On May 2, we're heading to Haley's Cove for a BBQ to support the veteran residents. Let's show them they aren't forgotten.
 - First Responder Breakfasts: We are honoring those who protect us. We host the HCSO for a free breakfast on May 3, followed by our local Ruskin and Apollo Beach Fire Departments on May 17.
- Memorial Day: Please join us on May 25 for our Memorial Day Ceremony as we remember the true cost of our freedom.

Between these events, keep the energy high! We still have Wings on Tuesday, Bingo, Bar Poker, and Ship, Captain, Crew. And of course, the best Live Music in town every Friday and Saturday night.

The Post is thriving because of *you*. Let's keep this momentum rolling.

Respectfully,
Michael McFerron
Commander
Ruskin Memorial VFW Post 6287

This Month in History



National Military Appreciation Month & Month of the Military Caregiver

May 1 Silver Star Service Banner Day — Honors wounded, ill, and injured service members.

May 2, 2011 — Osama bin Laden killed. U.S. Navy SEALs eliminate the al-Qaeda leader during Operation Neptune Spear.

May 6, 1846 — Mexican-American War begins.

May 7, 1915 — RMS *Lusitania* sunk. Loss of American lives shifts U.S. sentiment toward entering WWI.

May 8, 1945 — Victory in Europe (VE Day). Germany surrenders; WWII ends in Europe.

May 9, 2015—Military Spouse Appreciation Day. Recognizes the critical role and sacrifices of military spouses.

May 10, 1775 — Second Continental Congress convenes. Leads to formation of the Continental Army.

- Mother's Day (2nd Sunday in May) — Recognizes mothers, including those serving in the military and those who have lost children in service (Gold Star Mothers).

May 11, 1918 — Battle of Cantigny. First major U.S. offensive of WWI; proves American combat effectiveness.

May 12, 1942 — Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) established. Expanded women's roles in the military.

May 13, 1846 — U.S. declares war on Mexico.

May 17 (3rd Saturday) Armed Forces Day — Honors those currently serving in all branches of the U.S. military.

May 21, 1881 — American Red Cross founded. Critical support organization for military medical care.

May 29 (Last Monday in May) Memorial Day — Honors U.S. military personnel who died in service. Originated after the Civil War as Decoration Day and remains one of the most important days for VFW Posts.

May 30, 1868 — First Decoration Day observed. Established by the Grand Army of the Republic as the precursor to Memorial Day.

May 31, 1916 — Battle of Jutland begins. Largest naval battle of WWI.

May is recognized nationwide as Military Appreciation Month, making it a fitting time for our Post to honor service, sacrifice and continued community commitment through remembrance, outreach and service. The VFW Day of Service is also held in May to highlight veterans' ongoing commitment to community service.

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,

Well April has come and gone. It feels like the months are going by faster and faster.

In April we celebrated Vern's 101st birthday. Happy birthday again to our most senior member of this post. The very next day we held a celebration of life for another of our longtime members, Bart Williams. That was a sad way to end the week.

April has also been a month for a lot of illness. Broken bones and surgeries. This is a month we will all be glad when it is over.

We held the elections for new officers of the Auxiliary for the upcoming year. The initiations will be held in May. Possibly at the joint meeting. They will not take office until the new State President is installed at the June Convention.

The Conex was emptied and moved on April 23th and 24th. I hope that a lot of you came to help unload it because it was packed. That also gave us an opportunity to purge a lot of stuff that we have not used in years and were storing.

On Saturday May 2nd at 4pm we will be having the Kentucky Derby Party. It is a great event that we hold every year. We will be having a best hat contest for the gals and guys. There will be food and games for all.

On May 23rd we will be placing flags at the Ruskin Cemetery. If another group has already been booked to do it at Ruskin we will place them at another location. This is what we do every year to honor our fallen heroes.

Memorial Day is not a day to party. It is a day to honor all our military personnel that served our country to keep us free so that we can live our lives in the freedom that they fought so hard to keep.

Thank you to all of our Post Auxiliary that help take care of our vets. This is why I say that we have a great post. This is not just Post 6287 in Ruskin Florida. This is a growing family that I am proud to be a part of. Please always keep in mind that fellowship and friendship go hand in hand at this post.

Thank You,
Ned Letts
Auxiliary President
Post 6287



★ Tuesday ★

WING NIGHT!

5 - 7 PM

WINGS 7 FOR \$5!

HOT & TASTY!

RUSKIN MEMORIAL VFW POST 6287

★ VFW POST 6287 ★

IMPORTANT DATES

★ ★ IN MAY ★ ★

Ruskin Memorial VFW Post 6287
Apollo Beach, FL

MAY 1	★	SILVER STAR SERVICE DAY
MAY 2		DISTRICT 12 CONVENTION / ELECTION OF OFFICERS 12:00PM • VFW POST 8154 • ZEPHYRHILLS, FL
MAY 2	HALEY'S COVE	HALEY'S COVE VISIT JAMES A. HALEY VA HOSPITAL
MAY 3		FREE BREAKFAST FOR POLICE OFFICERS 9:00AM - 12:00PM
MAY 5		CINCO DE MAYO
MAY 10		MOTHER'S DAY
MAY 11		PLANNING MEETING / HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 13		POST MEMBERSHIP AND AUXILIARY MEETINGS 6:45PM
MAY 17		FREE BREAKFAST FOR FIRST RESPONDERS / FIREFIGHTERS / EMT 9:00AM - 12:00PM
MAY 25		MEMORIAL DAY HONOR • REMEMBER • NEVER FORGET

★★ VETERANS HELPING VETERANS ★★



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

POST & AUXILIARY MEETINGS

★ MAY 13TH ★



JOINT MEETING
STARTS AT
6:45PM
All members are encouraged to attend!




SEPARATE MEETINGS
START AT
7:00PM
Post Meeting & Auxiliary Meeting

Your participation makes a difference.
TOGETHER, WE CONTINUE TO SERVE.

RUSKIN MEMORIAL VFW POST 6287
VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

HONOR ★ REMEMBER ★ NEVER FORGET

MEMORIAL DAY

— ★ —

A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND GRATITUDE

Memorial Day is a federal holiday observed on the last Monday of May. It is a day to honor and remember the men and women of the U.S. military who gave their lives while serving in the Armed Forces.

It is not a celebration, but a solemn reminder of the sacrifice made by these brave service members to protect our freedom and the values we hold dear.

On Memorial Day, we pause to remember their courage, express our gratitude, and support the families they left behind.


HONOR


REMEMBER


GRATITUDE


SACRIFICE

Their sacrifice. Our freedom.
★ WE WILL NEVER FORGET. ★

AUXILIARY

MONTHLY RAFFLE

FOR MAY!



Purchase a **star** from the canteen
★ ★ ★ for **\$1!**

Proceeds benefit a **Veteran Program**

Drawing Held Last Day of the Month!

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!

William Bauer—Life Transfer
Carlton Hadden
David Jankowiak—Life Transfer
Richard Mosley—Transfer
Gregory Sizemore—Life

Sarah Eddy—Life
David Hughes
Joseph Lepine—Life
Gary Petersen—Life Transfer
Michael Small—Transfer

Thanks to the dedication and recruiting efforts of our members, we're at 111.42%, 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.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

HONORING ALL WHO
SERVED AND SACRIFICED

MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER ★ HONOR ★ NEVER FORGET

 CEREMONY
STARTS AT
11:00 AM

 FOOD WILL
BE SERVED
Afterwards!
Pottluck
BRING A DISH TO SHARE!

 ★ **VFW POST 6287** ★

5210 HWY 41N
APOLLO BEACH, FL 33572

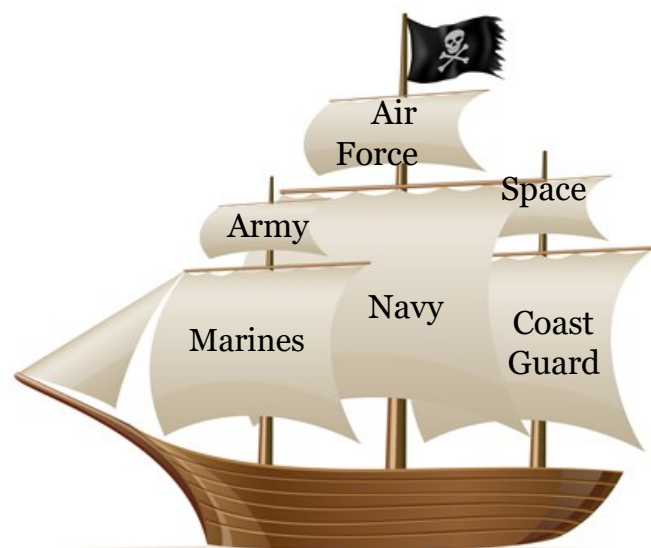
★ ★ *All Gave Some. Some Gave All.* ★ ★ ★ ★



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

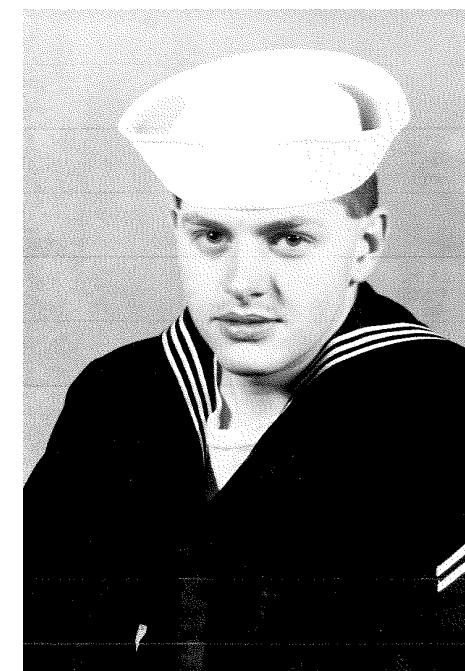
We're always looking for new members.

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

Honoring Our Heroes at Home: A Mother's Day Reflection

Dear Members of VFW Post 6287,

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Happy Easter Season! As Mother's Day approaches, we pause to honor the women whose love, sacrifice, and strength form the foundation of our families, communities, and country. At our VFW Post, we recognize the many roles mothers play, not only in raising generations of Americans, but also in supporting those who wear the uniform in service to our nation.

From a Christian perspective, no woman embodies the ideal of motherhood more fully than the Blessed Virgin Mary. As the mother of Jesus Christ, she is venerated as the spiritual mother of all humanity, a model of selfless love, unwavering faith, and deep sorrow. Mary's "yes" in Latin, "Fiat" (cf. Luke 1:38), to God's will, even in the face of suffering, inspires us to recognize the quiet strength and courage that so many mothers live out each day.

For military families, this sacrificial love often takes on a very personal form. We think especially of our Gold Star Mothers, women who have lost a son or daughter in service to our country. Their grief echoes Mary's own as she stood at the foot of the Cross. Christian tradition honors her as *Our Lady of Sorrows*, a title that reminds us how profoundly a mother's heart can ache and how heroically it can love.

Gold Star Mothers walk a path of profound sacrifice. Yet, they often choose to transform their pain into service, supporting other grieving families, advocating for veterans, and helping keep alive the memory of those we've lost. Their quiet patriotism and strength are a testament to the sacredness of motherhood and the depth of their devotion to family and country.

On this Mother's Day, let us honor all mothers, living and deceased, and especially lift up the mothers in our VFW community. Whether biological, adoptive, or spiritual, mothers shape the character of our nation, just as they shape the hearts of our children. And in our prayers, let us also turn to our Blessed Mother, Mary, asking her intercession for the mothers among us, for those who mourn, and for peace in our homes and in our world.

Additionally, on this Mother's Day, I would like to share the oldest known prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the *Sub Tuum Praesidium* "Under Thy Protection," dating back to approximately the year A.D. 250:

"Beneath your tenderness of heart, we take refuge, O bearer of God. Do not despise our petitions amidst our troubles, but rescue us from dangers, O only pure one, only blessed one." Amen.

To all mothers, thank you. You are the quiet heroes of the home front, and your love sustains the soul of our nation.

Happy Mother's Day from all of us at VFW Post 6287!

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 | First Game Kicks Off at 6:00 PM

The jackpot is HUUUUGE – your inside voice will not be needed!