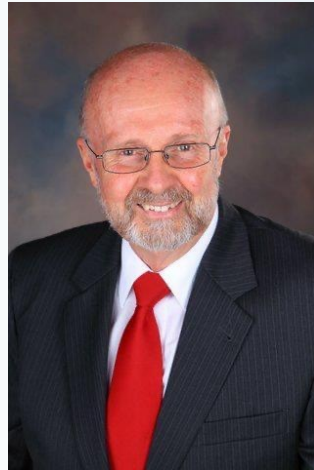




Volume 16 Issue 12

VFW Post 7721
13131 Collier Blvd.
Naples, FL 34119
(239)455-7721
Email: post7721@vfwfl.org

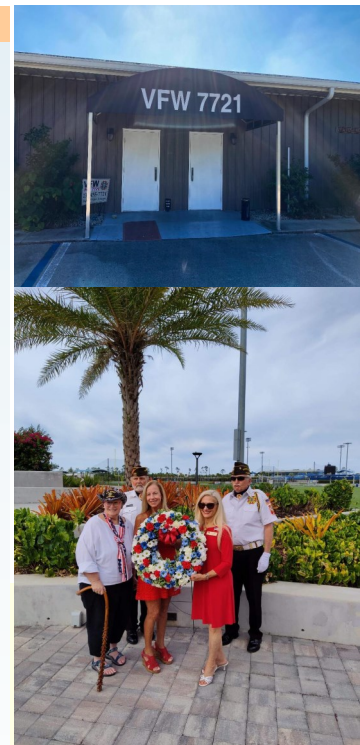


June 2023

As we move forward into a new Golden Gate VFW Post 7721 administration no one is more excited than I am. The Post will be led into new and uncharted territory under the Member leadership of Jack Fulmer and the Auxiliary leadership of Betty Baily. Hopefully, the Post will experience quieter and smoother sailing than it has experienced in the last four years. I personally look forward to a greater level of cooperation and understanding between the Post and the Auxiliary in the immediate future as the last four years have been filled with unnecessary and unneeded trial, tumult, and tribulation. Please join me in wishing for all the best for our new, outstanding, leadership team. Let us join together and support our new leadership team as they face unknown challenges.

In the last weeks of this administration, it is asked we all pull together to maintain our All-American VFW Post leadership position. Our All-American leadership position is being threatened by Posts that have held off submitting Programs and Membership until the last month in order to leap to the top of the rankings when it is too late for Posts, that have made regular entries, to compete. Therefore, in the last few weeks we need to recruit every member we can and enter every program we have participated in. Contact your Senior Vice-Commander with any recruiting information and your Junior Vice-Commander with any new program information you have. Use your imagination. Every legitimate name and every legitimate activity you participate in can count. Give any program information you have to your leadership; let them determine legitimate uses for the information you provide.

Continued...



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**PLEASE, HAVE ALL
ENTRIES IN FOR THE
NEWSLETTER BY THE
25TH OF EVERY**

As we enter into the new year you are invited to participate in the campaign to ensure Collier County obtains the next State of Florida VA Nursing Home. The plan is to build the new nursing home on the old Golden Gate Golf Course. Collier County paid \$29 million for the old golf course property and put another \$30 million into escrow to entice the State of Florida to build the new nursing home here. However, the construction will not start for another four or five years. A lot can happen in that time and the final agreement is not guaranteed. Marion County is campaigning vigorously to have the next Florida State VA Nursing Home built on property already set aside in Ocala.

Members of the Marion County community are campaigning vigorously for the new nursing home to be built in Ocala. We need to contact Governor DeSantis, our State Senator, Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, Florida State Legislator Bob Rommel and our County Commissioners. None of these individuals have expressed absolute support for the VA Nursing Home in Collier County. We need to clearly communicate to them, repeatedly, our desire to have the next VA Nursing Home constructed here in Collier County. At this time, it is in no way guaranteed that Collier County will have the next State of Florida VA Nursing Home. Be prepared to fight for it. Actively participate in the fight.

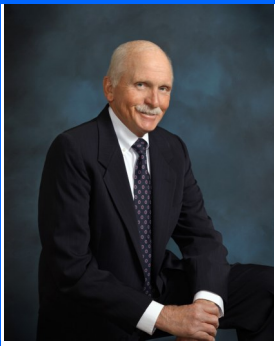
VFW Post membership is encouraged to rationalize our VFW Post scholarship programs over the next year. We currently donate a large amount of scholarship funds to non-VFW scholarship programs and much smaller amounts to VFW Scholarship programs. We also experienced a disjointed effort with JROTC scholarships this year caused by leadership changes in the Collier County Public Schools system and the effects of our separation from the high school JROTC programs created by COVID – 19 when outside organizations could not readily participate in school programs. Work with me for a coherent VFW Post Scholarship program.

I would appreciate asking the new leadership team to approve of a program that would create a packet we could present to new members. The packet should contain all the Post and Auxiliary elected positions as well as appointed positions. We need an explanation and pictures of uniforms with properly located ‘brass’, etc. Hours of operation, meeting days and times of regularly scheduled meetings as well as appropriate phone number and email contact information. We tried to implement a ‘New Member Packet’ program. Several people offered to help; but there were never any tangible results. We would like to ask you to join us with input from as many members as possible to present a coherent packet to the incoming leadership for their approval. Our input will take a load off the shoulders of our new leadership team and allow them to concentrate on important VFW Post matters. Organizations across the country have attacked Law Enforcement. The VFW should not take any part in disparaging Law Enforcement in any way. Instead, we should be supporting our brothers and sisters Law Enforcement in every way possible. Join me this year in expressing unwavering support for our brothers and sisters in Law Enforcement as well as other public servants; such as, Firefighters, EMTs, and school teachers.

Finally, I ask that we all work together to support our exciting new leadership team. I congratulate the entire team; both Member and Auxiliary. I look forward to working with our new team in every possible way I personally can. Please join me.

Thank you for all you have done for your VFW Post every day in every way. You are the greatest group of people I have ever had the honor of working with.

Dr. JB Holmes, Commander
Golden Gate VFW Post 7721



Senior Vice

This newsletter entry as the Sr. Vice Commander will be my last. It has been an honor and privilege to have served in this capacity this past year. I will now be moving forward to assume the billet as your new Post Commander. I am very grateful and honored to you all for having faith and trust in me to head the new Post Leadership Team. We must, however, remember the many years of service and dedication Dr. JB Holmes has given to our Post. I will continue his legacy moving forward and build upon his foundation to take our Post to greater heights of achievement.

Our membership rolls continue to increase as we reached the end of May. Our overall objective continues to be to grow our numbers, build a stronger Post, and make a larger impact within our local community. For the month of May, we have grown to having 495 Life Members, 26 new members, 4 member reinstatements, and 119 continuous annual members. This gives us a total of 644 members. We have achieved All-State status and are currently in contention for VFW All-American status. This title will be bestowed upon those selected Posts at the VFW State Convention 17 May 2023.

We need to continually strive to expand our membership base. Many of our potential members are our neighbors and friends. Most are easily recognizable with their hats and shirts reflecting their military affiliation. Reach out to them and extend an invitation to join our Post. Always carry a blank membership form or two with you. You might be pleasantly surprised because you are the only person who ever asked them to join. Based upon our 2023 success with membership, there is no reason we can't expand our membership base to an even higher level.

The Post Honor Guard team was extremely actively engaged in performing military and civic ceremonies. During May, we performed 13 military ceremonies. Of special mention was a Veterans Appreciation Day Ceremony held at Avow Hospice. The Color Guard opened the event with the presentation of our Nation's Colors followed by a flag folding ceremony. The folded flag was presented to a veteran chosen by the Avow management staff. Major Randy Cash, our Post Quartermaster, was the guest speaker. Also of significance was our selection as the Color Guard to open the two Memorial Day performances of the Patriotic Pops concert conducted by the Artis symphony and chorus (Artis is the old Naples Philharmonic).

We continued to acknowledge deceased veterans in the state of Florida by making an appropriate entry into their online Memorial Guestbooks.

During May, we posted 9 entries.

Respectfully –
Jack Fulmer
Senior Vice Commander
VFW Post #7721



Junior Vice

Greetings Comrades!

Hoping everyone is doing well. Collier County Public Schools will soon release their students for summer recess, and we'll begin the start of the unofficial summer/vacation season. The month of May was very eventful, especially during the week of Memorial Day with our Honor Guard performing several ceremonies and up to three events per day. The highlight being the Post Memorial Day ceremony and barbecue where approximately 200 individuals participated in this event. We graciously thank the Post Auxiliary team for their hands on support to making this a successful event and thank Mr. Judy Frye of Naples Woodmen Life Insurance for sponsoring the event. Again, thank you members for your vote of confidence in being elected as your new Senior Vice Commander and congratulations to our new Commander Jack Fulmer. We officially begin our new offices on Jun 17 when the VFW Department level officers take their positions during the upcoming June State Conference in Orlando, Fl. A special thanks to the past Commander Dr. J.B. Holmes for his leadership and vision in taking the Post to its current operational levels.

As we move forward with new leadership, we welcome new ideas and initiatives on improving upon our previous performances. We will strive to strike a good balance between Members/Veterans, Community Service, and Youth activities. We will continue to reach out for volunteer support to our membership on several topics, including Post maintenance services and Sunday breakfast. Starting in June, we will be upgrading our new Pavilion and look forward to its additions.

Stay Safe and Regards,
Tony Reyes



2023-2024 Officers

Front Row: Colleen Walker, Lois Bolin, Betty Bailey, Sue Craft

Back Row: Linda Ramos, Mary Ellen Cash, Darlene Izzo, Theresa Mook, Margaret Finnerty,
Georgia Pinto, Donna Keating Sylvester

June 2023 Newsletter

Memorial Day – Thanks to everyone who participated in Memorial Day Buddy Poppy distributions, locations were Seed to Table, Publix locations: Orange tree, Coastland Mall, Pebble Brook, Contributions at the Post to Lady Liberty (Chantel Scherer)

Auxiliary attended the following events during May

MOAA Dinner to recognize ROTC awards for the year.

Gulf Coast Veterans group – meeting Saturdays at Fleischman Park

Avow – Military Appreciation Day

District 13 meeting – Donation of \$250.00 to Operation Freedom

June 15-18, 2023 – June Convention, Orlando Florida, a group from the Auxiliary will be attending. This convention awards are presented to the auxiliaries who have completed and reported on programs for 2022/2023 to be recognized for their efforts.

Dept of Florida Official Announcements – 2023/2024 year:

Mary Ellen Cash – will carry the POW/MIA flag for Dept. convention ceremonies, additionally appointed as Chairman for Patriot Instructor

Betty A. Bailey – Appointed as Chairman for the Hospital Program

Our next few months our auxiliary will be planning for the 20223/2024 special events, dinners, and membership drive, we look forward to working with the Post officers for planning to make a successful year for Post 7721

Sunday Morning Breakfast – Auxiliary serves every Sunday. We will be starting a volunteer sign-up sheet which will be posted in the Kitchen for volunteers to sign up. Every Sunday we have regulars and potential new members, it's a great way to meet and talk with everyone, your help is appreciated.

Betty A. Bailey, President, 7721 Auxiliary

Dept of Florida Chairperson – Hospital Program

District 13 Chaplain



Auxiliary Treasurer

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you so much for your support this year. Our membership has never grown as fast. We are nearing 340 members. We are almost at 108% membership. Keep up the good work recruiting!

Our financial situation has never been better, thanks to our fund raising efforts! Looking forward to another wonderful year as your Treasurer.

Sincerely,
Theresa Mook
(239)398-1648
145 Teryl Road
Naples, FL 34112
pasmagic1@yahoo.com



Sick Call

Savannah Lehnhard
Sarah Jenkins
Sue Brennan
Michelle Faccioli



Taps

Rick Curt



PATRONS: You & your friends can help us in producing the monthly newsletter. A \$10.00 donation will put a name in either of these columns for 1 year. Mail your donation to VFW Post 7721 @ 800 Neff's Way, Naples, FL 34119. Make check payable to VFW Post 7721.

In Loving Memory

July 2023

**Jim Brennan
Randy Baum**

Patrons

July 2023

**Michelle Faccioli
Annette Faccioli**

August 2023

**Sarah Jenkins
Wayne Jenkins**

November 2023

Cadillac

September 2023

Brian Donovan

March 2024

Sam & Joyce Heath

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Please visit our new Facebook Page!
VFW Post #7721 Golden Gate**



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**NEW CONSTRUCTION
RENOVATIONS**



June 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 F. Hall 8-4 PM Lunch 11-2 PM	2 Lunch 11-2 PM Happy Hour 5-8 PM	3 Happy Hour 5-8 PM Queen of Hearts 6 PM
4 Breakfast 9-11:30 AM LAMA 10AM Lost Riders 5 PM	5 Lunch 11-2 PM Bingo 1 PM Shuffleboard 6 PM Bikes for Tykes 6 PM	6 Lunch 11-2 PM	7 Lunch 11-2 PM	8 Lunch 11-2 PM	9 Lunch 11-2 PM Happy Hour 5-8 PM	10 Happy Hour 5-8 PM Queen of Hearts 6 PM
11 Breakfast 9-11:30 AM	12 Lunch 11-2 PM Bingo 1 PM Shuffleboard 6 PM Bikes for Tykes 6 PM Rolling Thunder 7 PM	13 Lunch 11-2 PM Post/Aux Meet 7 PM Naples Fish Board 6 PM	14 Lunch 11-2 PM	15 Lunch 11-2 PM	16 Lunch 11-2 PM Happy Hour 5-8 PM	17 Defenders 10 AM Happy Hour 5-8 PM Queen of Hearts 6 PM
18 Breakfast 9-11:30 AM	19 Lunch 11-2 PM Bingo 1 PM Shuffleboard 6 PM Bikes for Tykes 6 PM	20 Lunch 11-2 PM Naples Fish 6:00 PM	21 Lunch 11-2 PM	22 Lunch 11-2 PM	23 Lunch 11-2 PM Happy Hour 5-8 PM	24 Happy Hour 5-8 PM Queen of Hearts 6 PM
25 Breakfast 9-11:30 AM A.B.A.T.E. 11 AM	26 Lunch 11-2 PM Bingo 1 PM Shuffleboard 6 PM Bikes for Tykes	27 Lunch 11-2 PM Magic Flea Market 7 PM FC Bass 7 PM	28 Lunch 11-2 PM Journey Home 5 PM	29 Lunch 11-2 PM	30 Lunch 11-2 PM Happy Hour 5-8 PM	



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1000 HRS TO 1200HRS
MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

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COFFEE, SWEETS, SOME
WAR STORIES, AND LIES.



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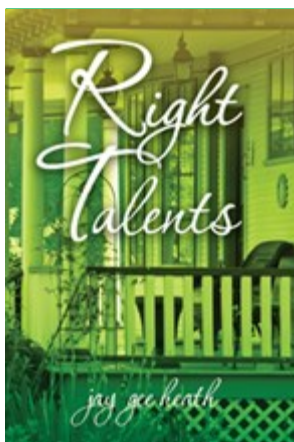
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		QM	
		Randy Cash	239-249-2250
Commander		Chaplain	
JB Holmes	239-304-5258	Jim Champion	
Sr. Vice Commander		Judge Advocate	
Jack Fulmer	239-207-7290	Frank Roberts	
Jr. Vice Commander		Surgeon	
Tony Reyes	239-877-6105	Ron Taylor	248-462-0801

House Meeting	1st Tuesday	10:00 AM
Staff Meeting	1st Tuesday	11:00 AM
Auxiliary Meeting	2nd Tuesday	7:00 PM
Post Meeting	2nd Tuesday	7:00 PM



VFW Post 7721 Auxiliary Officers

		Treasurer	
		Theresa Mook	239-435-7784
President		Secretary	
Betty Bailey		Mary Ellen Cash	239-404-7003
Sr. Vice President		Chaplain	
Jr. Vice President		Colleen Walker	
Sue Craft		Guard	