Volume 19 Issue 2



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

August 2025



Senior Vice Justin Baxter

Greetings All,

We have changed the newsletter format up some this year. You will now be reading an entry from only 1 of your 3 officers every month. We (Mike, Larry and I) will rotate through the responsibility of keeping you informed on all post happenings. In the event that our Post Commander needs to make a special announcement he may chime in on any given newsletter to get his message out.

We are still in our summer month event pattern which includes a Friday Fish Fry/Friday Dinner, two Friday nights a month rather than every week. Through engagements on social media we have been able to get the word out to our community that Friday dinner events are open to the public, also. Did you know that? Now you do, so tell others. Social media has been working well and the turnout for the dinners brought us to offer the meals twice a month rather than just once during the month. It's a great seafood dinner at a price (\$15.00) that can't be matched anywhere else in town.



Inside this issue

Senior Vice Message Auxiliary Presidents Message

Auxiliary Treasurer Message

- Monthly Calendar
- Taps
- Sick Call
- Sponsors Ads

PLEASE, HAVE ALL ENTRIES IN FOR THE NEWS-LETTER BY THE 25TH OF EVERY MONTH!

Website: www.vfwpost7721.org
Email: post7721@vfwfl.org
Please visit our new
Facebook Page!
VFW Post #7721 Golden Gate

Upcoming Friday Fish Fry's for the month of August:

Friday, August 8th, 5-8pm Friday, August 22nd, 5-8pm

We are trying a couple of new things starting this month, to include offering space to local food trucks on weekends. The idea behind this is to give you an offering of something to do or eat on any given day at your post. We already have our Monday-Friday lunch menu going strong, breakfast every Sunday, and as often as we can we want to invite you to a lively spot where something fun is happening. If you are following us on Facebook at "VFW Post 7721" you can keep an eye on all of our current events to include Food Truck dates & times as we develop them. Keep in mind, the food truck idea among other new offerings are in a test phase for us to use during "season" as well. What doesn't work we will get rid of and what sticks we will try to keep going. Your feedback on all of these ideas is always welcomed.

Other events happening at the post this month include:

Saturday, August 9th, 9am-3pm, we will have a Back To School Bash Event. Yoga class, 9-10am. Collier County Mosquito Control-Mosquito Fish Giveaway, 9am-12pm. VFW Scholarship Open House, 12-1:30pm. Food Trucks on site, 10am-3pm.

Friday, August 15th, 5-9pm, Tag A Pet For A Vet is hosting a fundraising event. Music, Food, Raffles, and a Silent Auction to be held.

Friday, August 29th, 5-8pm, VFW Auxiliary hosts Let's Boogie!-Disco Party. Music from the 60's-70's.

Local Cigar Vendor, Premium Ernesto Cigars, will be in attendance on Wednesday evenings and the occasional Friday Fish Fry. This schedule is tentative and still a very new event so look for more to follow, cigar lovers.

Your VFW member & Auxiliary meetings times this month:

Thursday, August 7th, 9-11am, House & Staff Committee meetings Tuesday, August 12th, 7-8pm, VFW member & Auxiliary member meetings

Special Announcement to all active Annual Members of VFW Post 7721

Starting July 2025, Commander Ricci instituted an incentive plan for all active Annual Members. He will offer a free upgrade to Life Membership to one Annual Member, every month, at the post member meeting. Among all Annual Members in attendance at the monthly meeting the Commander will conduct a drawing of one Annual Member name and award that member a Life Membership. You must be in attendance at the monthly member meeting to participate. You must also present a valid & active Annual Membership Card for VFW Post 7721 to participate. When you arrive at the meeting you will be prompted to show your membership card. Your annual membership status will be verified using the post register of named members. Once verified, Annual Member names will be added to a hat to be drawn from at the conclusion of the meeting.

Stop by the post for lunch during the week, Monday-Friday, 11am-2pm. The lunch specials are fantastic deals, ranging from \$6 to \$9. Chef John also makes a pretty solid chef's salad, hamburger & BLT if these specials don't catch your eye.

The lunch specials for August are as follows:

Pork Stir Fry w/rice
Taco Tuesdays, your choice of 2 tacos (my favorite)
French Dip Sandwich w/fries
Baked Fish, rice, mixed vegetables

Take care everyone and I will see you at the post!
Justin Baxter
Senior Vice Commander



VFW Post 7721 Auxiliary August 2025

Despite the nationwide heat, our auxiliary remains active and cool this summer. We encourage everyone to drink lots of water and stay hydrated and safe.

Here are a few things we are busy doing:

- •No auxiliary meetings in August, vacations, and national conventions taking place.
- •Friday, August 29 Disco Dance night, this will have all the excitement, music, decorations for a fun event. The food will be Italian homemade meatballs, eggplant parmesan, sauce, spaghetti pie, chef's salad, garlic bread, special dessert table, get your presale tickets now for \$25.00, you don't want to miss this
- •Saturday, August 23 District 13 Auxiliary School of Instruction this will be a review of all the program goals for this year.
- •Thursday, August 7 Special meeting with the Collier Teachers to present information on VOD/PP, and the creative art contests
- •Auxiliary Officers are planning events for the entire year, Octoberfest, Thanksgiving, Country Western Night, St Patrick's Dinner
- •Mission: Operation Christmas Card, lots of volunteers working on personalizing stamping of cards to be sent in December to Veterans in Hospitals in Eight states. Weekly stamping parties to be held in September, with local school-children writing special notes on 3 x 5 cards to be inserted.

We welcome new members who qualify through your service and post membership. We all joined to continue our families' legacy of serving for freedom.

For more information contact Betty A. Bailey – bann652@aol.com 13131 Collier Blvd., Naples, Florida 3411





Auxiliary Treasurer

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Annual dues notices went out early in July and I have had a great response so far. Some annual members have even converted to life memberships. Thank you! Our Auxiliary now has 400 members. We have 370 members paid so far and we are already at 92.50%. This is an excellent start to the membership year! The goal is to be 100%+ to achieve a milestone which will earn our Auxiliary recognition and a monetary award. This is also a prerequisite for the Circle of Champions! An honor that we can continue to achieve each year.

Dues reminder emails will go out periodically during the next few months. Hopefully all annual members will pay their dues before December 31, 2025. If dues are not paid by then, those members will no longer be considered "members in good standing". If dues are not paid by June 30, 2026, those members be considered "lapsed' and will need to reapply and show proof of eligibility once more.

If you have any questions about your membership, or if you are interested in becoming an auxiliary treasurer, please contact me.

Sincerely, Theresa Mook 145 Teryl Road 34, Naples, FL 34112 (239)298-1648 pasmagic1@yahoo.com



Sick Call

Savannah Lehnhard Sue Brennan Mike Jackway



Taps

Tom Robinson





<u>PATRONS:</u> 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 @ 13131 Collier Blvd, Naples, FL 34119. Make check payable to VFW Post 7721.

In Loving Memory

July 2025-2026

James "Gabby" Floyd Delia Floyd

August 2025

Sarah Jenkins

September 2025

Sam Heath

January 2026

John Esemplare

<u>Patrons</u>

August 2025

Wayne Jenkins

March 2026

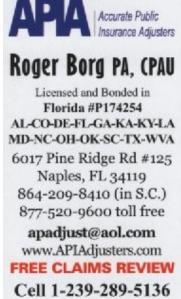
Joyce Heath













August 2025



						M
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Lunch 11-2 PM	2
						Happy Hour 5-7 PM Queen of Hearts 6 PM
Breakfast 9-11:30 AM Lost Riders 12 PM Show Me the	Lunch 11-2 PM Bingo 12:30 PM	5 Lunch 11-2 PM	6 Lunch 11-2 PM	House 9 AM Lunch 11-2 PM Honor guard 11 AM	8 Lunch 11-2 PM Fish Fry 5-7 PM	9 Yoga 9-10 AM Food Truck 10-3 PM Happy Hour
Money 1-3 PM Happy Hour 2-6 PM						12-4 PM Queen of Hearts 6 PM
10 Breakfast 9-11:30 AM Show Me the Money 1-3 PM Happy Hour 2-6 PM F. Hall 12-5 PM	11 Lunch 11-2 PM Bingo 12:30 PM Rolling Thunder 7 PM	12 Lunch 11-2 PM Post Meeting 7 PM	13 Lunch 11-2 PM	14 Lunch 11-2 PM	Lunch 11-2 PM Tag a Pet for a Vet 5-9 PM	Defenders 10 AM Happy Hour 5-7 PM Queen of Hearts 6 PM
17 Breakfast 9-11:30 AM Lama 10 AM Show Me the Money 1-3 PM Happy Hour 2-6 PM F.Hall 4:30-6:30 PM	18 Lunch 11-2 PM Bingo 12:30 PM Submariners 7 PM BFT 6 PM	Lunch 11-2 PM MOASWF 1:30-3 PM	20 Lunch 11-2 PM	21 Lunch 11-2 PM	22 Lunch 11-2 PM F.Hall 11:30- 12:30 PM Fish Fry 5-7 PM	23 Happy Hour 5-7 PM Queen of Hearts 6 PM
24 Breakfast 9-11:30 AM A.B.A.T.E 11 AM Show Me the Money 1-3 PM Happy Hour 2-6 PM	25 Lunch 11-2 PM Bingo 12:30 PM	Lunch 11-2 PM Magicians Assoc. 7 PM	27 Lunch 11-2 PM	28 Lunch 11-2 PM	Lunch 11-2 PM Disco Night 5-8 PM	30 Happy Hour 5-7 PM Queen of Hearts 6 PM
31 Breakfast 9-11:30 AM Show Me the Money 1-3 PM Happy Hour 2-6 PM						BlankCalendarPages.com







Come Join Us!

Sundays 1-3 PM

VFW Post 7721 13131 Collier Blvd. Naples, FL 34119 239-455-7721







OPERATION CHEWING THE FAT

1000 HRS TO 1200HRS MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

JOIN US FOR SOME COFFEE, SWEETS, SOME WAR STORIES, AND LIES.



Every Monday 12:30 PM Everyone is Welcome





Bikes For Tykes is looking for a few volunteers to repair bicycles. No experience needed, we will train you. No tools needed we will supply the tools needed....we just need your "bodies".....preferably breathing, but we do have an air compressor if needed:):)

Our shop is open only on Wednesdays and Thursdays from Noon until 5PM.....however you come when you can and leave when you gotta. You will like our crew. Come see the shop at 5950 Cope Ln, Naples, FL 34112 and I will give you the 'nickel' tour.

Please call Skip Rifle Cell: 239-450-3366





The Southwest Florida Magicians
Association
Meets the last Tuesday of the
Month @ 7 PM
Guests are welcome

"Everyone Needs a little Magic in their life"





Colin R. O'Leary

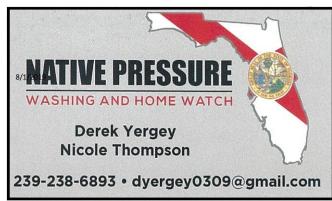
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U.S. Air Force Veteran
Golden Gate VFW Post Member

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8/1/2019

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patrickeagen@comcast.net

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VFW Post member

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Carl Steinhoff

Chairman, Board of Directors

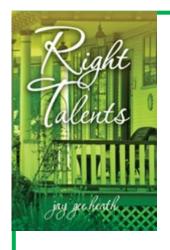
elcid81@comcast.net 239-955-1212











Did You Know?

Joyce Heath (Sam's Wife) writes

Romance Novels

Available at www.JayGeeHeath.com also on Amazon or Kindle



VFW Post 7721 Officers

Commander

Mike Ricci 484-702-2675

Sr. Vice Commander
Justin Baxter

Jr. Vice Commander

Larry Rice 239-825-6366

QM

Randy Cash 239-249-2250

Chaplain

Gary Asztalos

Judge Advocate Mike Knutson

Surgeon

Ron Taylor 248-462-0801

1 Yr. Trustee

Mike Knutson

2 Yr. Trustee Tom Walker

3 Yr. Trustee Colin O'Leary



VFW Post 7721 Auxiliary Officers

President

Betty Bailey 239-738-4199

Sr. Vice President

Mary Ellen Cash 239-404-7003

Jr. Vice President

Mimi Treadway 239-919-4771

Treasurer

Theresa Mook 239-298-1648

Secretary

Joyce Blanter

Chaplain

Colleen Walker 239-285-7681

Guard

Patricia Benvenuto

Conductress

Margaret Finnerty

1 Yr. Trustee

Tracilyn Rydzewski

2 Yr. Trustee

Georgia Yaugo Pinto

3 Yr. Trustee

Linda Motola

House/Staff Meeting 1st Thursday 9:00 AM
Honor Guard 1st Thursday 11:00 AM
Auxiliary Meeting 2nd Tuesday 7:00 PM
Post Meeting 2nd Tuesday 7:00 PM