

The Veterans of Foreign Wars

The Veterans of Foreign Wars want to honor the fallen by helping the living — and that happens right here in Calloway County.

Herman Eddie Roberts Jr. Post 6291 serves the Murray area and exists to honor the fallen and support the surviving veterans. The VFW does this by supporting veterans' dependents, fostering patriotic spirit and comradeship, providing counseling services to veterans, and helping veterans find support available to them through government programs.

The post is named for a young man best known as Junior Roberts, a 1942 Murray High School graduate who died on November 26, 1944, while serving in World War II. He was flying his 26th mission with the 8th Air Force as a navigator on one of the massive four-engined airplanes known more for hauling cargo than fighting. His B-24 was one of the 22 planes that went down among 324 involved in the bombing raid over Germany. Roberts was a few months from his 20th birthday when he died.

Annually, the public is invited to join the VFW Post for its Veterans' Day Parade that goes down Main Street in Murray that afternoon in November. VFW members also have regular outreach to other veterans in hopes of helping them combat difficult homecomings, address PTSD, and prevent suicide, which claims more veterans' lives than combat operations do.

Membership is open to those who have received a campaign medal for overseas service, served 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days in Korea, or have ever received hostile fire or imminent danger pay. As defenders of freedom, VFW welcomes those with military service. Members' common bond is the battlefield, whether it is service in the Persian Gulf, Korea, Kosovo, the Global War on Terrorism, or peace-keeping expeditionary campaigns.

The local Herman Eddie Robert Jr. VFW Post 6291 meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at its building at 715 South 12th Street in Murray. The meeting hall is open Monday through Saturday from 3 to 9:30 p.m.

Kristin Taylor

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Sources:

<https://vfw6291.org/>

https://www.murrayledger.com/community/dwain-mcintosh-s-memorial-day-column/article_7adce480-7e6b-11e9-9b31-4b841d70daf9.html