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# VFW POST 604 NEWS

## V.F.W. Mission Statement

The purpose of this corporation (VFW) shall be fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, and educational; to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America, and fidelity to its institutions of American freedom, and to preserve and defend the United States from all her enemies, whomsoever.

[WWW.VFW-604.NET](http://WWW.VFW-604.NET)

January 2014

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## Commander's Corner

This month marks the 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday of Post 604. The Post received its charter on January 7, 1921. We are still the oldest post in the state and it stands to reason that if we continue having these birthdays, no other post will take that title from us. Our birthday celebration will be held on Saturday, Jan 11<sup>th</sup> this year. We will have an excellent dinner and several awards will be presented that night. We will also have a drawing for the winner of the free life membership that night. Activities start at 6 pm so mark your calendar and make a special effort to join us for the celebration.

The year 2013 was a good year for the post and I wish to thank all those that contributed to the success of the post during the year. I look for 2014 to be an even better year. Construction has begun on the deck and all will be able to enjoy that this year. Additionally the post will be hosting "Texas Hold-Em" on Thursday nights beginning in February. We will continue having our monthly Friday night specials and our monthly Sunday dinner specials along with other entertaining events. The success of these events can only be accomplished by members willing to "step forward" and volunteer to help where needed.

On a final note, the Post is receiving cards and letters from units stationed in Afghanistan thanking us for the "Care Packages". The letters and cards will be posted on the bulletin board for all to see.

Looking forward to a great year and may God bless our troops and their families.

**For God and Country**  
**Bob Lanning, Commander**

## Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

O'tay, 2014 is here. I hope everyone had a very merry Christmas and a Happy & Safe New Years Eve. We (Men's Aux.) are looking for a new members & also looking for additional HELP One time per/month for the monthly dinners we put on. Next Date for us is February 23, "Daytona 500".

Got some good news this week. The post has been approved for Charity Gaming "Texas Hold-em" on Thursday evenings. We will start a @ 7:00 pm and close @ 12:00am, starting February 6<sup>th</sup>. We are in need of a bartender and cook for Thursday nights. Bartender from 4 to 11:30 pm and cook from 5:00 to 8:30pm. We are hoping to get enough volunteers that each volunteer will have to work only one or two Thursdays a month.

**Tim Haney, President Men's Auxiliary**



## Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary is proud to announce that our membership is at 101.60% Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas. We delivered presents to the homeless shelter for our veterans. There was clothing, hats, gloves, socks, razors, shaving cream, deodorant, tooth paste and brushes, shampoo, body wash, bar soap, and chap sticks. This was donated by Fedx and one of our coloring contest parents chaired this fund raising. The dollar amount for the items donated was \$983.00.

Our donations this month from the Ladies Aux. went to all veterans hospitals, poppy fund, the soup kitchen, homeless shelter, women's shelter, Monroe Co. united ministries, teacher's warehouse, and boy & girls club.

We still need officers. Please come to the meeting on 21 January at 6pm.

The Patriotic Audio Essay and Patriot's Pen awards will be presented at the Post birthday dinner at 6pm on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January.. Those receiving the awards are David Wigington (Patriotic Audio Essay), and the Patriot's Pen awards will be given to Andrew Baxter, Juliam Cruz, and Jaylon Bland. All will receive a certificate along with a \$50 cash award. Mark your calendar.

**Janet Williams, President VFW Ladies Auxiliary**

### Senior Vice Commander

Fellow Comrades,

One last time this year I want to remind everyone who hasn't paid their 2014 dues they only have until Dec 31<sup>st</sup>. It will help Post 604 as well as yourselves if you do pay them early. The Post will have our %100 membership by the end of the year and you will save \$10.00 as well.

There was some very good chili last Friday night at the Post. Whoever made it did an excellent job and it was all gone pretty early in the evening. Sunday's Ham and Bean dinner on Football Sunday last week also was a hit with everyone. We at the Post really appreciate the people who cook for us and those who have the different events throughout the year that dedicate their time and volunteer to do the things they do for us. Without them, it would be impossible for us to continue as we are at the present.

As the Holiday season approaches, let us not forget those who are less fortunate than we are and take time if possible to visit and help them out if at all possible. Sometimes just a visit to a Nursing Home, etc. brings so much happiness to others that are alone and lonely this time of the year. Some of these people are also our Comrades, that makes it more important for us to visit them.

That's all I have for this month with the exception of hoping everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**William (Bill) Evans, Sr. Vice Commander  
Membership Chairman**

## HOLIDAYS ARE ON THE WAY!!!

### 2014-ANOTHER NEW YEAR!!!

First off lets get to our **Friday Night Dinner Special**. Now last month we had to cancel the dinner because of the silly snow storm so this month we are going to have the **Dinner Special** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month which will be **Jan 10<sup>th</sup>** and we are once again going to try our Bowl of Chili with a Patty Melt (fresh made-not frozen hockey puck)—all for just **\$5.00**. So lets hope that Mother Nature leaves us alone this time and you can come out and enjoy a nice meal.

Our **Sunday Opening** this month will be on the 19<sup>th</sup> and we will be featuring something **Old** & something **New** for the meal. Basketball will probably be on the TV's and the something **Old** will be our **Potato Soup**. We have had this before and it went over really well (same cook—Kathy H)—its tasty!! Along with that the something **New** will be our **BEST DARN HAM SAMMICH!!** We have made a small sampling of these sammiches recently and the taste was fantastic (same cook again—Kathy H). So the Post will Open at Noon and Close at 6:00 pm and for only **\$5.00** you can get a Big Ole Bowl of Soup and **"3" BEST DARN HAM SAMMICHES!!!** It's a great meal for a great price!!

Now for you NASCAR fans, we are pretty sure that the Men's Auxillary will be back in February for the Sunday races and serving up their Great Big Ole Tenderloins again—something to look forward to. Also in February the **VFW** will be starting up a **Texas Hold-em Game**. This will be on Thursday Night starting Feb 6<sup>th</sup>-7:00 p.m. start time. We can assure you that this is going to be one of the best run **Texas Hold-em Game** in town. So if you like playing make sure to mark the date and check next month newsletter for further details.

House Committee

# Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

January 2014

Closed Sunday	Open 1200 - 2200 Monday	Open 1600 - 2200 Tuesday	Open 1600 - 2200 Wednesday	Open 1600 - 2200 Thursday	Open 1600 - 2200 Friday	Open 1000 - 2200 Saturday
			 <b>1</b>	<b>2</b>  * Vet to Vet – 1900	<b>3</b> Serving Dinner 1800 - 2100	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ Noon	<b>7</b>  <b>VFW POST 604 BIRTHDAY</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  * Vet to Vet – 1900	<b>10</b> Friday Dinner Special 6pm till ???  Commander's Drawing 1900	<b>11</b>  <b>Post Birthday Dinner—6pm</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ noon	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  * Vet to Vet – 1900	<b>17</b> Serving Dinner 1800 - 2100  Commander's Drawing 1900	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>  <u>Open Noon to 6pm</u>  See House Committee article	<b>20</b> HOT DOG MONDAY  <b>Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday</b>  Open @ Noon	<b>21</b>  Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 Men's Aux – 1800 Ladies Aux – 1800	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  * Vet to Vet – 1900	<b>24</b> Serving Dinner 1800 - 2100  Commander's Drawing 1900	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>  <b>District Meeting 10:30 am - Spencer</b>	<b>27</b> HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ Noon	<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

(\* For Vet-to-Vet Held at IVY Tech, 200 Daniels Way room A118 – Check website <http://www.vetovetbloomington.com/> to confirm location)

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## A Visit to a Senator's Office

Some people think of the Department of Veterans Affairs in terms of "military", such as, "My husband's military health care" when the husband had only one enlistment, left active duty decades ago, is not eligible for TRICARE and certainly not active duty medical care, but who goes to the VA clinic. Yes, there is an obvious relationship between the VA and the military – the veteran had to have held up his or her right hand and been sworn into military service at least once to satisfy the first step toward eligibility. However, as has become more and more obvious the last few years, the Department of Veterans Affairs is a civilian agency. Most of the VA employees were never in military service and have no idea, until educated, what an M14 is, or shrapnel, or – my favorite example – a sucking chest wound. "Isn't that redundant? Don't all wounds suck?" Well, yes and no . . .

There are military benefits for veterans well outside the responsibility and administration of the VA. Different procedures are necessary to try to correct problems with these benefits. During a recent trip to Washington, DC I visited the office of a US Senator in an attempt to correct two problems.

First, a WWII veteran now in a nursing home in Greene County still has shrapnel periodically emerging from his body. You can look through his 89 year old, nearly transparent skin and see some pieces in his hand and back. He was hit at least three times, the most obvious at Anzio. There are still deep scars on his left leg and back of his head. He has no Purple Heart. The Board for Correction of Military Records denied his request for a Purple Heart on the basis of there being no "official military medical records of combat wounds". If such records were ever created by medics trying to cope with his unit's nine enlisted wounded during that one defensive action by the Mussolini Canal, they are long since lost. His 1944 buddies are either dead or impossible to locate, so there is no chance of a "buddy statement". However, the VA employee who physically examined our veteran 23 months after his separation from Camp Atterbury documented the scars and embedded shrapnel. This was the only "hard evidence" submitted to the Senator's office, the VA exam which logically showed that one of two things must have happened: our veteran came under German indirect fire while living in Greene County during those 23 months, or he was combat wounded while on active duty.

Why involve a civilian Senator? Because the military award

system, specifically the Army G-1 "exceptions" portion of the award system, had failed this veteran. The senior staffer for veterans and military issues for the Senator is a young former Air Force captain, probably in his late twenties. We had a long talk outside the Senator's office in the Hart Building. He took notes. As we were "winding down" the Senator himself returned from a meeting and greeted me – an Indiana voter. We'll see how it goes, but too many times politicians with no military service and staffers with relatively little are hesitant to tell the military what to do regarding the military's own internal procedures and regulations, such as awards.

Second, the VFW, DAV, and a few other military service organizations remain in favor of granting Space Available military flight eligibility to 100% service connected disabled veterans. We seldom hear about this reoccurring proposal because so few veterans would be physically able to travel – perhaps 30,000 nationally. Not a lot of votes. Also, because the Department of Defense steadfastly resists the idea. I've often wondered why. All the administrative means are already in place around the world, only otherwise wasted seats would be used, and even the Air Mobility Command's own regulation for "Space A" includes a section on how to accommodate – where possible without compromise to the mission – handicapped passengers. I just don't think the DoD wants to mess with it. To illustrate, when I'm older and have to be helped into the aircraft I'll still be eligible as a military retiree, Category 6, whereas a 100% service connected disabled veteran who earned the 100% rating due to being rendered unemployable by service connected disabilities (perhaps due to an IED in Iraq – he had no chance to stay in and retire) would not be eligible unless the AMC reg is changed. I can't imagine any military retiree in decent shape hesitating for a moment to give the last seat on a flight to a 100% service connected veteran. I gave a few years for retirement. The 100% service connected veteran gave everything but his life. The 100% service connected veterans have all the other privileges of a military retiree – commissary; Post Exchange; morale, welfare and recreation facilities – but not Space A. I closed my conversation with the staffer in the Hart Building by asking for the Senator's support for the current version of this proposal, being sure to point out that it would not cost anything. What will happen as a result of one meeting with a staffer and one handshake with a Senator? Who knows. But it does not hurt to try.

**John Tilford – Service Officer**

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