

# 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)

August 2014

## Commander's Corner

It is with great pleasure to see how our membership is stepping up to make this a great Post. To see all the volunteers come in and help is wonderful. There are a lot of people who have said that this would never work, but here we are in our third year and we are still going strong. Thanks to our membership, Ladies Aux. and Men's Aux. You are all great people.

We had a great time on the 4th of July with the parade and hot dogs with all the works. It lasted all day and was fun. Bob Lanning and I were at Red Bud Retirement Center on Flag Day. We presented a new American flag and an Indiana State flag to them. We had several veterans who live there help us retire the old flags and help us raise the new ones. It was nice talking to the veterans and they sure were proud when the new American flag was raised on the flag pole.

We are starting to have our membership drive at the Post. You should be getting your notices from headquarters, if you haven't already received them. If you don't want to mail them in you can come to the Post and pay them here. Our membership is always important.

Come out and join us and check our calendar in the newsletter for upcoming events. May God bless all of you and may God bless America.

### Joe Hardin, Commander



Flag replacement ceremony – Red Bud Hills Retirement Center  
Flag Day – June 14, 2014

## Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

Our group grew by 3 this past month. No gigantic leap, but we are growing.

Our first fish fry was a success. We Sold Out! Over 40lbs of fish. This will happen again on Aug. 8, 2014 (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month). Thanks to one and all for coming to our post and thanks to Moe, Dennis, and Frank for slaving in the kitchen. OH! OH! Also a special thank you to our girls for the desserts.

The Texas Hold'em "cash" game on 7-6-14 was also a success. We had a few more than expected, since it was a holiday week-end. And as usual Julie was there w/our food! The Thurs. night game is still growing as well. We add a couple each week.

The next Sunday "Cash" game is set for 8-3-14. Doors open at noon, Game @ 1pm until 8pm or later. What are you waiting on? Come have some good food, a drink or two, and a chance to win some cash. As always, the Thurs. night game starts @ 7pm till midnight.

Our next "NASCAR" Sunday is Aug 17 @ 1pm, doors will open at noon. TENDERLOINS AND FANTASTIC DESSERT ITEMS. Mark your calendar – 8/17, Michigan '400'

### Tim Haney, President Men's Auxiliary



**NASCAR SUNDAY**

**August 17, 2014**

## Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

Hi Ladies,

As time goes by we are doing well, but it would be nice to have more volunteers to help in our duties. I would like to hear about contributions of time our members volunteer or visits we make to hospitals or nursing homes. Also, save your can tabs as we do so we can contribute to the Ronald McDonald house at Riley Hospital. Another thing is if you don't collect box tops for your children's school, please save them for us to send to the Indiana Veteran's home in West Lafayette so they can get computers.

We are going to go to the School of Instruction to learn more about our duties as officers and committed chairmen.

We will be having our Ladies Auxiliary Dinner on Friday, August 22, 2014. It is a full meal and we are asking for dessert donations. Also, if you can we can always use help that evening or just come by and have dinner for only \$6.00.

You know, as members we are all welcome to come to the club. We have a nice clean club with a nice big deck and our basement is here and available for parties, showers, and other events. Just call Leonard Heldman and he can assist you. We are trying to get more people to attend our club. Just come by sometime and see us.

**Julia Curtis, President**  
**VFW Ladies Auxiliary**  
**Phone (812) 822-0028**



4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade

## 1<sup>st</sup> FRIDAY OF THE MONTH DINNER SPECIAL-AUGUST!

August 1st, We were thinking it would be nice to have something light and cool for the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month Dinner Special!! So we will be serving up a really nice Chicken Salad Plate/Sammich/On Toast or just however you would like it. Then you can pick from a selection of Veggie—Fruits—Salads—naturally there will be Desserts and good golly we don't know what else but it will be worth \$\$\$\$. Just a mere \$5.00!! As always serving starts at 6:00 pm till we run out.

Next up on the 3<sup>rd</sup> (Sunday) is the Texas-Hold-em Cash game--we start playing at 1:00 p.m. and go till 8:00 p.m. Food & beverages will be available downstairs for the cash game however the Canteen will not be open. Absolutely the Best Game in town. And don't forget we still have our Texas Hold-em Tournament every Thursday, starts at 7:00 p.m.

Now lets see—oh! oh! oh! The 8<sup>th</sup>—remember last month Fish Dinner put on by the Men's Aux?? It was almost a packed house enjoying some great fish and fixins, so guess what?? The Men's Aux. will be presenting their FISH DINNER!!!—AGAIN!! You really shouldn't miss this one. They ran out after cooking up over 40 lbs.—they put on one heck of a good feed!!

Now onto NASCAR SUNDAY!! This month we are going to be at Michigan International Speedway, on August 17<sup>th</sup>, for the Pure Michigan 400, race starts at 1:00 p.m. The Post will be OPEN from Noon to 6:00 p.m.?? And of course this is put on by Men's Aux and their Gigantic Hand-Dipped Breaded Tenderloin Sandwiches.

The deck is getting used quite a bit and the Jukebox Speakers have been installed--great sound too!!












## HOUSE COMMITTEE



**FISH FRY August 8, 2014**

# Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

August 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>Starts at 7pm</b> * Vet to Vet – 1900	<b>1</b> Serving Dinner 1800-2100 <b>AIR FORCE DAY</b> Lunch - Post open at noon Commander's Drawing 1900	<b>2</b>
 <b>3</b> Cash Game Starts at 1pm	<b>4</b> <b>U. S. Coast Guard Est. (1790)</b> HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	 <b>7</b> <b>Starts at 7pm</b> Purple Heart Medal Est.(1782) Viet Nam War Began (1964) * Vet to Vet – 1900	 <b>8</b> Serving Dinner 1800 – 2100 Lunch - Post open at noon Commander's Drawing 1900	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	 <b>14</b> <b>Starts at 7pm</b> Japan Surrendered, Ending WWII (1945) * Vet to Vet – 1900	<b>15</b> Serving Dinner 1800 – 2100 Lunch - Post open at noon Commander's Drawing 1900	<b>16</b> <b>National Airborne Day</b>
 <b>17</b> Doors open at noon	<b>18</b> HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	<b>19</b> Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 Men's Aux – 1800 Ladies Aux – 1800 <b>National Aviation day</b>	<b>20</b>	 <b>21</b> <b>Starts at 7pm</b> * Vet to Vet – 1900	<b>22</b> <b>Friday Night Special Ladies Aux.</b> Lunch - Post open at noon Commander's Drawing 1900	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>31</b>	<b>25</b> HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	<b>26</b> <b>Women's Equality Day</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

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

Telephone Number (812) 339-2375

Charity Game Night License # 133056

Raffle License # 127960

## Miscellaneous Stuff

I just finished watching the "CATS" (community access television service) video recording of the Bloomington Fourth of July parade – especially the VFW Post 604 entry. Reminded me of last year when I was honored to ride in the Post vehicle. This year I was about to be stuck in the United Kingdom on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, but that's a topic for further down the page.

Before I forget it, Commander Hardin (that's pronounced "HAR-deen" in French) sent me the following information: *For Veterans who use the Patient Response Center to schedule, cancel, or reschedule your appointments the telephone number has changed to 317-988-1772. The old number 317-988-4498 was disconnected as of June 26, 2014.* I tried the 317-988-1772 number a few minutes ago. It worked.

A couple of evenings ago I was watching the Senate confirmation hearing for the new Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Bob McDonald. West Point grad, Airborne, Ranger, and then corporate executive with Proctor & Gamble. I wish Secretary McDonald the best of luck in his new position. Actually, I wish all the veterans and veterans' dependents the best of luck with the new Secretary.

Well, as if you couldn't tell, I don't have a whole lot going on in this arty-kul. So I'll describe the down side of one of the military retiree benefits, Space Available travel on Air Mobility Command military or contracted aircraft. Polly and I had taken around eight Space A flights, never missed one we wanted to take, until I got the bright idea to save money in early July. Polly, Aaron (our son) and I had to be in Scotland in late June for the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn. Because there was an actual deadline for being there, we all got commercial air tickets on the way over. Pols and Aaron got round-trip tickets. I, being an idiot, bought a one-way ticket over. These tickets were not cheap, and I thought that surely I could find a Space A flight back to the US. If I had to stay an extra couple of days on base, I'd still save hundreds of dollars, right? Well, not exactly.

After seeing Polly and Aaron get on their commercial flight to Newark out of Glasgow on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July, I turned in the rental car and took a National Express bus - rather a series of three buses - down to Mildenhall AFB. Polly and I had flown Space A into and out of Mildenhall before. The layover waiting for the Mildenhall bus was at Cambridge. Some kind of fair was going on with a bunch of drunk college students, etc. Reminded me of Little Five weekend. I noticed the outdoor movie was "Breaking Away", filmed in Bloomington, Indiana! The same old (now gone) 10th Street Memorial Stadium where I puked after track work outs in 1964! Odd, but I still didn't catch on. Then I noticed some words painted on the walkway by the bus stop: "Stage 3, Tour de France, starting line, 7 July 2014"!

There must have been a mini-surge of post 4th of July holiday Category 3 travelers trying to get back to the US. No Cat 5 or 6 got out on the single 7th July flight. There were no flights at all on the 8<sup>th</sup>. I had my hopes up for the 9th: three flights (one to Milwaukee, two to Travis via Bangor) with 30 + 10 + 9 = 49 total seats. But those higher priority Cats just kept coming in the door. Feeling my "I'm saving money flying Space A" rationale leaking away through lodging, meals, etc. and seeing no flights listed for the 10th, I bit the PenFed Visa bullet, used Hotwire.com, and bought a ticket back to Indiana via Scandinavian Airlines (Heathrow to Copenhagen to Newark) and United Airlines (to Indianapolis). In a hurry to get to Heathrow, I took a taxi from outside the Mildenhall lodging office to the nearest train station (forget the town name) cost for taxi was around £27 pounds. Could have waited until Thursday morning for a £10 shuttle ride all the way to Heathrow, but would have paid another \$56 for lodging. Coincidentally, the train ticket to Kings Cross Station, London was £26.70. Nice train ride - electric, smooth, speedy. Piccadilly underground line took me to Heathrow from Kings Cross Station. Cheap fare but very crowded. I had not been in Heathrow since 1991 - culture shock. 'Seemed huge, and I was only in a part of it. Harrod's portion alone of the "duty free" shopping area was bigger than some gymnasiums. Whiskey area was several times bigger than our house. Oh, lest you think commercial air is all luxurious, I spent a 13 hour overnight lay-over in Copenhagen airport (washing/shaving in a restroom sink after trying to sleep on a bench) and one of my bags was temporarily lost upon its non-arrival at Newark. ('Delivered two nights later at midnight. I guess it didn't have to go through customs after all.) Back to flying Scandinavian Air: you can sort of make out the Danish magazines by thinking German, mix in some English, and squinting sideways at the pictures.

More experienced travelers advised me against trying to fly Cat 6 Space A to or from Europe in mid-summer. That's when the higher priority active duty military members take leave, their spouses and kids travel to visit them (kids out of school), some PCS (permanent change of station) move, etc. I did not have an absolute deadline on the way back, but Pols was mentioning the grass getting pretty high. You get the idea.

So, how much did I end up saving? I'll pretend I did not hear that question. Let's just say I've learned the hard way to fly Space A at times other than kids-out-of-school summer or during the Christmas season.

**John Tilford – Service Officer**



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