

VFW POST 604 NEWS

WWW.VFW-604.NET

May 2013

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.

Commander's Corner

I have a couple of things to talk about. My wife Kathy and I attended the IU ROTC Awards Banquet on March 30th at the Convention Center. I was asked to present the VFW Medal and certificate to Cadet Robert G. Havens for his outstanding and superior performance during the past year.



On May 27th we, the VFW, are responsible for the Memorial Day program at Valhalla Cemetery. I will be the Master of Ceremonies again this year. This is the day we pay our respects and honor those who gave their lives so that we can live in a country that is free and also gave their lives for freedom around the world.

Our program will begin around 9:30am with the Bloomington Community Band. At 10:00am the formal program will start. We have the Veterans Honor Guard who will present our colors and perform the 21 gun salute plus play echo taps. The Southern Indiana Pipe and Drum Corp will also perform.

There will be free coffee and donuts provided by Valhalla Memorial Garden. The American Red Cross will be passing out these items. A Boy Scout troop will also have their color guard there to show support for our fallen comrades. We will have a young Cub Scout to lead us in the Pledge of

Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

Congratulations to all of the newly-elected officers of the Men's Auxiliary. Tim Haney will do a terrific job as President. I will continue to be involved and will serve as 1st Vice President. The office of Historian is currently vacant. Would you like to step in and help?

Our 2013 – 2014 officers are:

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| (PRESIDENT) | Tim Haney |
| (1 st Vice) | Mike Pipher |
| (2 nd Vice) | Steve Lang |
| (Treasurer) | Mike Griffith |
| (Secretary) | John Todd |
| (Chaplain) | Joe Crawford |
| (1 st Year Board) | Dennis Knoy |
| (2 nd Year Board) | Danny Fender |
| (3 rd Year Board) | Mark Taylor |

We've been having some great open Sundays, so let's have some more! Actually, our next event is an Open Saturday – May 18. That's Armed Forces Day and we're going to celebrate by providing a free spaghetti luncheon (spaghetti, sauces, salad, garlic bread) to every veteran who comes out to the post between 11a and 2p that Saturday. We'll stay open all day and into the night because NASCAR is running the All Star Race at Charlotte on Saturday evening. So, we're also going to have a Mexican Dinner buffet from 5p to 8p. Lots of fun all day and into the night, brought to you by the Men's Auxiliary!

I hope you know someone who would like to join the Men's Auxiliary and all of this fun. The 2014 membership year starts in June. Dues will be...you know...due then. Cost is just \$35 – that's not much compared to the price our vets paid to give us eligibility.

Summertime is upon us, almost. The Men's Auxiliary is proud to say we've donated \$2,000 to the post to help pay the cost of the new deck. That's just one example of how we spend the money we take in on open weekends.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, May 21 at 6:00p. ❖

Michael Pipher, President VFW Men's Auxiliary

see Commander's Corner

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Allegiance. Our guest speaker this year will be Rick Salazar, a Navy Corpsman who served with the Marines in Operations Desert Shield and Storm. He is now in a full-time ministry through Cornerstone Baptist Church in Indianapolis. I would love to see as many members as possible attend the ceremony. After the program we will serve a free lunch at the Post.

Come out to the Post and enjoy what we have to offer. It takes all of us to help fellow veterans with their needs. Also come out and meet your new officers that will take command in June. Please give them your support and help. ❖

Commander - Joe Hardin

Marvin "Toad" Hays

On Saturday April 20th we received word of Toad Hays passing. He was a life member of the VFW for over 42 years. Please keep his wife Wilma and their family in your prayers.

Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

At our April meeting the Ladies Auxiliary had our election for new officers for the coming year. We would like to see more ladies at our meetings. We had three new ladies voted in to the Auxiliary.

This month donations went to the Community Kitchen to help with the children's breakfast program this summer.

The 100th National Convention will be in Louisville Kentucky July 20-24 2013. Let's act now to draw lawmakers' attention to VFW Priority Goals.

"Actions speak louder than words" is an overused and under-rated proverb, the 2013 VFW Priority Goals provide us an effective, meaningful opportunity to act on behalf of veterans. We are very concerned regarding the Priority Goals and getting them passed. We have the government debating where to cut funds and they're looking at veterans programs. We can't let that happen!!! We really need to stay on top of legislation to see that these goals get met, we have a commitment to support them and it's not right to not honor them. They should be our primary concern, because we were their primary concern when they were serving. If all of the goals together seem overwhelming, the auxiliary might pick one and push hard to get that issue to the forefront. We have to let our legislators know we're not going to go away. We're going to hound them until they do something.

Let's not forget the Ladies Auxiliary Bingo each Thursday starting at 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 2:30p.m. so we can generate the funds to support the Veterans and their families. Let's call our members who are shut in and let them know we're thinking about them. Keep all in our prayers. ❖

Janet Williams, President VFW Ladies Auxiliary

BUSY—BUSY MONTH of MAY!!!

So let's get to it. First off, save the calendar from this month's newsletter and highlight all of the following dates:

Beginning in May (**May 6th**) the Post will be **OPEN at NOON on MONDAYS**. Thanks to two members who have stepped up and volunteered to work those hours. We are still seeking volunteers for opening earlier on Fridays also, so give it some thought and if nothing else, come out and help support the Post on **MONDAYS!!**

Next date is **May 3rd, Friday Night Dinner Special**; we are going to be serving **Open Face Turkey Manhattans for \$4.00!!** We served this same meal a couple months ago on one of our NASCAR Sundays and have had numerous request for it since then, the food is delicious and for sure, you can't get a better dinner anywhere in Bloomington for that price!! We would like to Thank--Randy Douglas, Mike Stone and Charmain Messel for donating the Turkeys and we can't forget to thank-Kathy Haney for cooking all this up for us. Serving will start at 6:00 p.m.

Now we will not have a NASCAR Sunday this month due to the plans that the Men's Auxiliary has for **May 18th (Saturday-Armed Forces Day & NASCAR Saturday Night)**. So check out their news article cause we think they are talking about Spaghetti & those **Gigantic hand-dipped breaded tenderloin sandwiches!!** Really good eatin' there!!

Now we come to **May 27th (Memorial Day-Monday)**, after attending the ceremonies at Valhalla come on out to the Post for our traditional **Free Ham & Beans with Cornbread**. We will open at **10:00 a.m.** and will serve all day until it's all gone. OK, time to recap—these are the dates you should have highlighted:

May 3rd-Friday Night Dinner Special

May 6th-Open every Monday at Noon

May 18th-Armed Forces Day & NASCAR Saturday Nite

May 27th-Memorial Day

Got Those?---Good Job!---Make Plans to be here!!!!

One last thing before we stop blabbing—we have heard a couple of times that members don't attend these events because they think that kids were not allowed-----**SAY WHAT?!?!?!?!?!?** We want to clear this matter up right now!! Kids are very welcome here at Post 604 on any given day, sure, we ask that they not sit in the bar area, but the dining area is right next to the bar area and has TV & Computers & Wi-Fi to mess with plus we have sodas, chips, popcorn and candy bars—so enuff said!! ❖

House Committee

Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

May 2013

| 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 |
|---|--|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---|--|
|  |  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2100 Turkey Manhattan Special  Commander's Drawing 1900 Brad Harris Entertains 1900 | 4 Bingo– 1430 |
| 5 | 6 Open @ Noon – New Hours | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2100  Commander's Drawing 1900 Brad Harris Entertains 1900 | 11 Bingo– 1430 |
| 12 | 13 Open @ Noon – New Hours | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2100  Commander's Drawing 1900 Brad Harris Entertains 1900 | 18 Armed Forces Day Spaghetti Lunch 1100 - 1400 NASCAR Saturday Special Mexican Dinner 1700 - 2000 Bingo– 1430 |
| 19 | 20 Open @ Noon – New Hours | 21 Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 Men's Aux – 1800 Ladies Aux – 1800 | 22 | 23 | 24 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2100  Commander's Drawing 1900 Brad Harris Entertains 1900 | 25 Bingo– 1430 |
| 26 | 27 Open 1000 – 2200 MEMORIAL DAY Free Ham & Beans while they last | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2100  Commander's Drawing 1900 Brad Harris Entertains 1900 |  |

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

Telephone Number (812) 339-2375 Bingo License # 128637

Raffle License # 127960

Eric Shinseki, Mildred Manning, and Clothing Allowance

Joe Klein, weekly columnist for Time magazine, dedicated his column in the March 25th issue to problems within the Department of Veterans Affairs. Among other points, Mr. Klein called for Eric Shinseki, the Director of the VA, to resign. (Our Quartermaster, Mark Dammer, ran a copy of this column and posted it on the bulletin board.) Mr. Klein cited the 900,000 and increasing backlog in disability claims, Shinseki's "invisibility" regarding unemployment among veterans and the media's all-to-frequent references to veterans as crazed killers not to be trusted. Specifically, Klein deplored Shinseki's lack of speaking up for veterans after the 12 March 2012 atrocity of 16 Iraqi civilians killed by Sergeant Bales. Klein's thesis is that the Director should be a spokesman for veterans, providing a voice of reason, pointing out to employers and to the public the dedication, honor, and skills demonstrated by the great majority of the present and former members of the military. He points out that Shinseki has been in office for four years and asks what has Shinseki done? Have we seen him on television defending veterans? Has the backlog decreased on his watch? Has homelessness among veterans decreased? I disagree with Klein's view that claims from Iraq and Afghanistan vets should be considered before those of older veterans. I don't think Klein realizes how many older veterans die before their claims are adjudicated. But I concur with his other observations. There are two things I associate with Shinseki from his tour as Chief of Staff of the Army: 1) having the courage to tell Rumsfeld that we needed many more troops for Operation Iraqi Freedom and 2) pushing the black beret on soldiers as standard head gear. One good, one terrible. What I remember about Shinseki as Director of Veterans Affairs is – not much.

Mildred Manning died on 8 March 2013. Who was Mildred Manning? She was the last survivor among the Army and Navy nurses who were taken prisoners by the Japanese after the fall of Corregidor. For nearly six months these few nurses were the only medical care providers for the wounded, starving, and desperately ill soldiers and sailors defending the last American foothold in the Philippines. McArthur was evacuated. The nurses stayed. There is no way to know how Mildred and the other nurses dealt with their wounded and ill patients after all their medical supplies were exhausted, how many men died holding their hands and listening to their voices, or how many were able to ultimately survive because of their efforts. Mildred lost all her teeth due to malnutrition during her two and a half years as a prisoner. Mildred once said, "I have never been bitter. If I could survive that

[being a prisoner of the Japanese], I could survive anything." We took a few women WWII veterans on our Hoosier Honor Flights to Washington, DC. Some had been nurses. I wish I could have met this one.

Department of Veterans Affairs clothing allowance? Yup, there is such a thing. An eligible vet who *"is rated for a service-connected disability for which he or she uses prosthetic or orthopedic appliances may receive an annual clothing allowance."* (This is a little over simplified. The prosthetic or appliance must be reasonably assumed to cause wear on the veteran's clothing, such as a metal knee brace would cause wear on trousers.) Also, *"The allowance is also available to any veteran whose service-connected skin condition requires prescribed medication that irreparably damages the Veteran's outer garments."* (This is a little too strongly written. "Irreparably" may be in the reg, but it's not literally enforced. A cream prescribed by the VA for a service connected skin condition which stains the veteran's shirt collar, for example, is sufficient to justify the allowance.) The current allowance is \$753 per year. Three more things to know: 1) the regs have been changed so that some veterans may have more than one clothing allowance, 2) the VA is revising VA Form 10-8678, *Application For Annual Clothing Allowance*, to accommodate application for more than one annual clothing allowance, and 3) unlike almost all other VA claims for monetary benefits, you don't send this application to the VA regional office but to the prosthetic representative at your local VA medical center, in our location to the VA Medical Center, 1481 West 10th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202, ATTN: Prosthetics. Depending on how sharp the prosthetics staff is when they receive the clothing allowance application . . . well, medical people are often much more concerned with medical issues than monetary. Keep a copy of your application and be prepared to follow up. Luckily, you filled out the VA Form 21-22 years ago so the VFW is your representative.

John Tilford – Service Officer

Below is the result of 2013 – 2014 VFW Post 604 elections held on April 16th 2013:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Commander | Bobby Lanning |
| Sr. Vice Commander | Bill Evans |
| Jr. Vice Commander | James Smith |
| Quartermaster | Mark Dammer |
| Chaplin | Brian Stewart |
| Judge Advocate | Tom Vernon |
| Surgeon | Chris Middleton |
| 3 Year Trustee | Debbie Helton |
| 3 Year House Committee | Leonard Heldman |
| Adjutant (Appointed) | Debbie Helton |
| Service Officer (Appointed) | John Tilford |

Laurens B. Strain V.F.W. Post 604
2404 W Industrial Park Drive
Bloomington, IN 47404-2690

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**Post 604
Men's Auxiliary
celebrates
Armed Forces Day
Saturday, May 18**



All Veterans receive **FREE**
spaghetti luncheon 11a - 2p
(all others pay just \$3!)

NASCAR: Charlotte All-Star Race

Mexican dinner menu 5p - 8p