
VFW POST 604 NEWS

WWW.VFW-604.NET

January 2012

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

As this year comes to an end, it is a good time to reflect and look at all the good things that have happened around the Post. We were able to have our grand opening (great turnout). We were able to open our kitchen and start serving lunches. We had our Post Thanksgiving dinner. We now have our basement open and are getting ready to bring bingo back. We have the Commanders Drawing up and running and have had one winner for half the pot. We have had our Service Officer, John Tilford, announce his candidacy for the 9th Congressional District for the State of Indiana at the Post (good luck John). We have a group from IBEW that meet at the Post once a month and make a donation to the Post. We were also glad to have a group from Indiana University have a Christmas party in the basement last week. We had a Cub Scout pack meeting at the Post where we instructed them in how to raise and lower the flag and how to fold and display the flag. The Scouts were also given the history and the meaning of the POW-MIA table at the Post.

Our membership at the Post is on the increase. We have also added new members to the Men's Aux. and the Ladies Aux. (keep up the good work).

Especially at this time of the year we need to remember our Veterans that are not home with their loved ones and also remember the Vets that died serving our Country. We also want to remember Post members that have passed this year. Please say a prayer for those we have lost and that our troops will come home safely. Remember their families because they are serving too.

Hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and may we all have a safe and prosperous New Year.



Commander - Joe Hardin

Movies for the Troops

John McNeely, owner of the Yellow Cab Company here in Bloomington donated 3,027 DVD's to be sent to troops serving our country. He asked the Post 604 to assist in this effort. Arrangements were made to distribute the DVD's through the Indiana National Guard Family Services Office. The DVD's were picked up from Post 604 by the National Guard on Wednesday December 14, 2011.

Some of the DVD's are headed for the Ft. Wayne Army Reserve Unit which is scheduled to be deployed shortly. The reserve unit will be carrying the DVD's overseas with them on their deployment.

Some of the more age appropriate DVD's were routed to a Toys-For-Tots program conducted by the National Guard and presented to less fortunate dependent children.

The majority of the DVD's are on their way to Camp Atterbury in Edinburg, Indiana where they will be made available for deploying troops to carry overseas with them.

Our thanks goes out to Yellow Cab for their generosity and we're am sure the troops will enjoy them.

Iraq War Ends

The Iraq War ended in December with the last 4,000 troops redeployed at the end of the year. More than 1.5 million American servicemen and women served in-theater since March 2003, many of whom will carry visible and invisible scars of war for a lifetime. The end of the Iraq War fulfills a campaign promise by President Obama, but with almost 100,000 troops still stationed in Afghanistan, the war on terrorism is far from finished, which means the VFW's veterans' service, legislative and grassroots troop support programs are even more important. Read more at <http://www.vfw.org/News-and-Events/Articles/VFW-WELCOMES-HOME-IRAQI-VETS/>

The following article is an excerpt from John Tilford's press release announcing his bid for US Congress and is presented here as Post 604 News. Included is a status to VFW Resolution 419 which began as a Post 604 idea. John is a Post 604 member and the status of his candidacy is of extreme interest to many post members. VFW Post 604 and the VFW are STRICTLY non-partisan and do not officially endorse any political candidate.

Tilford Runs for Congress

The current situation in Congress is untenable. We have a choice as voters in the 9th District: keep doing what we've been doing for decades – please consider the results – or try something new. Please consider the below summarized “planks” and qualifications of one 9th District citizen running for the Democratic nomination for the United States House of Representatives, Indiana 9th District:

Domestic initiatives and qualifications

- **Congressional campaign process: I may be crazy to pursue the 9th District seat without ANY donations, but respectfully submit that my approach is not nearly as crazy as the current “norm” wherein the 2010 campaign cost to each of the major party candidates seeking the 9th District seat was approximately two million dollars.** Fearful that regular citizens – competing with donors and potential donors for “their” representative's time – would not have appropriate access and therefore equitable representation, some have proposed national funding for congressional candidates. I see two problems with national funding: 1) the US can't afford it, and 2) it's like fighting fire with gasoline. If we can make progress toward a time when a regular citizen, not beholden to any donor, can represent his or her peers in the 9th District, then we will all have won this campaign.
- **Department of Veterans Affairs: Correct problems with disability claims processing.** As a former Veterans Service Officer, I can apply the recommendations of the Indiana VSO Association as well as VFW, American Legion, and DAV.
- **Department of Defense: Aggressively pursue House Resolution for Air Mobility Command (AMC) Space Available flight eligibility for 100% service connected disabled veterans.** This initiative is supported by national VFW Resolution 419.
- **Social Security Administration: Correct problems with the Social Security disability claims processing.** Routine double adjudication costs the government too much administrative time and money. Similar to the VA adjudication problems, the process should be done right the first time. Everybody would win: the totally disabled, the Social Security Administration, and the taxpayers.
- **Mental health: Discourage states from cutting back on Medicaid mental health expenditures. Preventative care would improve the patients' quality of life while saving millions of dollars** in emergency care and

expensive and inappropriate incarceration of the mentally ill. Polly and I are graduates of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) course.

- **Served as an IRS field Revenue Officer in the 9th District, as an IRS administrative intern. I know the value of taxpayer dollars.**

Foreign relations initiatives and qualifications

- As recommended by the 9/11 commission, give full funding authority to the Director of National Intelligence over the seventeen member agencies of the intelligence community.
 - As an Army Reservist, briefed the Israeli Mossad regarding Iraq, routinely worked with Australian officers, briefed the senior staffer for the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations regarding Pakistan and the application of foreign aid in South Asia; and produced intelligence products for the Office of the White House, secretaries of Defense and State, NATO, SHAPE, military attaché New Delhi, etc. My intelligence products were applied during United States negotiations with Pakistan and India in 2002.
 - Master of Science degree in Strategic Intelligence from the National Defense Intelligence College. Defense Intelligence Agency implemented most of the recommendations of my Master's thesis.
 - **Would be honored to also serve on the House Intelligence Committee.**
- ### Military experience:
- Started as E-1 recruit on the yellow footprints, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego at age 18. Retired as Deputy Commander, National Ground Intelligence Center, Colonel, O-6 at age 60. Served in Vietnam as an enlisted Marine and later in Army Reserve Infantry until direct commission. Graduate of Airborne School, Infantry Officer Basic, Infantry Advanced, and Military Intelligence Advanced courses, Command and General Staff course, and Post-Graduate Intelligence Program.
 - Perhaps **most meaningful assignment was as Chief, Afghanistan Cell, directly supporting the J-2 for the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon** from April to October 2002. My active duty Air Force predecessor had been relieved on the spot by Rear Admiral Jacoby, the J-2, at the start of Operation ANACONDA, the attempt to capture Osama bin Laden.

Comments:

The word “representative” works both ways. We've tried millionaires, candidates backed by donors with deep pockets, and those with “names” in the 9th District. Let's try a regular person; a son of a WWII veteran, member of American Legion Post 18, DAV Chapter 72, and life member of VFW Post 604, Reserve Officers Association, and the Military Officers Association of America; who went to a two-room grade school; worked on a small farm as a kid;

See Tilford Runs for Congress

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Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

January 2012

Closed Sunday	Open 1000 - 2200 Monday	Open 1000 - 2200 Tuesday	Open 1000 - 2200 Wednesday	Open 1000 - 2200 Thursday	Open 1000 - 2200 Friday	Open 1000 - 2200 Saturday
1 	2 * Vet to Vet – 1900	3	4	5 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	6  1900 – Commander's Drawing 1900 – Brad Harris Entertains	7 8 -10PM - 91st 8 -10PM - 91st Birthday Social 1921 – Post 604 Chartered ALL DAY \$1.25 Beer Bingo (Eagles) – 1430
8	9 * Vet to Vet – 1900	10	11	12 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	13  1900 – Commander's Drawing 1900 – Brad Harris Entertains	14 ALL DAY \$1.25 Beer Bingo (Eagles) – 1430
15	16  M.L. King Birthday * Vet to Vet – 1900	17 1991 – Desert Storm Air War Starts Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 Men's Aux – 1800 Ladies Aux - 1800	18	19 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	20  1900 – Commander's Drawing 1900 – Brad Harris Entertains	21 ALL DAY \$1.25 Beer Bingo (Eagles) – 1430
22	23 * Vet to Vet – 1900	24	25	26 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	27  1900 – Commander's Drawing 1900 – Brad Harris Entertains	28 1973 –Peace in Vietnam Announced ALL DAY \$1.25 Beer Bingo (Eagles) – 1430
29	30 1968 –Viet Cong Start Tet Offensive * Vet to Vet – 1900	31 1958 –1 st US Satellite Launched				

(* 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

PPT License # 124405

Bingo License # 125265

Raffle License # 124404

Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

Hope everyone got their shopping done on time, I know it was close for me, but I got it done. Donations in December went to the Salvation Army for toys and food baskets.

A lot of our members are having serious health problems, let's keep them in our prayers. Hope to have our Bingo at the post before long, we'll let you all know.

A little about members: Member is defined in the dictionary as a person who belongs to an organization or group.

We need members in the Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, not individuals. Each member is an individual who has ideas, talents, and abilities and they should be given the opportunity to use them. Every member should be mentored; listened to; and praised for their hard work. They should not be criticized because they don't do something to another person's liking. The easiest way to lose a member is to continually criticize their work. None of us are perfect, but by working together we can have a strong membership to work for those very important people called VETERANS.

We must work to maintain a viable organization so that our veterans will always be protected and supported. Everyone working together can bring joy and hope to those who think there is no tomorrow. Enjoy fellowship of one another and create memories we can share now and forever.

Remember those who lost their life so that we can be free. Help us serve our community with our various projects, help that we can give to one another. Finally, help instill the meaning of patriotism in our younger generation and provide encouragement to all veterans.

Hope your Christmas was merry and that you have a Happy and Prosperous New Year. ❖

Janet Williams, President VFW Ladies Auxiliary

Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

Membership is growing steadily within the Men's Auxiliary. Be sure to check and make sure your membership is up to date. You'll need a 2012 card to have access to the Post after New Years.

We must never forget that our organization exists to assist the Post and its activities on behalf of veterans. Of course, membership has its privileges. Once the work is finished there's plenty of opportunity for fun. The more work we can accomplish on behalf of vets, the better.

Dues for the Men's Auxiliary remain just \$35. New members must provide proof of eligibility by showing us a copy of the discharge papers for the veteran under

whom they are claiming eligibility. We conduct our meetings at 6pm on the third Tuesday of each month. Feel free to reach out to friends and family and encourage them to come join-us in our worthwhile and fun activities. ❖

Mike Pipher, President VFW Men's Auxiliary



2012 The Beginning

Well here we go, starting our first full year as VFW Post 604 in our new location. Last year treated us well and the Post has come a long way due to a lot of hard work from our volunteers and we thank them very much! Now that doesn't mean that we are done, Heavens NO, we will continue to do the best we can in improving our Post in respect to providing YOU-Post 604 Member with the best place to enjoy yourself.

Now naturally with the new year our bartenders will be asking you for your 2012 membership card, now this doesn't take long so show-'em your card with pride. Hey, the basement is done, the new exit door is installed and we have a fully functioning bar down there also. In fact we already have had a party down there and those folks really enjoyed themselves. So, you needing a place to party-down??

Brad Harris is back with us on Friday nights from 1900 hrs. 'till 2200 hrs. Remember? He is the fella with a guitar, he sounds good and is not tremendously loud. In fact we have had a few nights where other guitar players have joined in with Brad and had a real fun Jam Session going. Brad has played at the AMVets and the VFW in Martinsville. So plan on stopping out on Friday night and give Brad a listen.

Okay, we have decided to keep the \$1.25 Beer Special on Saturdays unless we get hit with another price increase. We also are hearing that the Men's Auxiliary is planning on throwing a Super Bowl Party in February. The Super Bowl is on the 5th which is on a Sunday so we plan on having an Open House for their party so make sure you read the Men's Auxiliary article for details.

We would like to thank all of our members who have stopped by the Post and participated and for those of you who haven't made it out yet, well we know you will be here pretty soon. Right?? ❖

House Committee

Post Renovation Nears Completion

Basement remodeling progress: Paul Young, owner of Paul Young's plumbing, has completed the plumbing for the sink and ice maker in the basement. Paul donated the time and material to complete the job. A condensate pump had to be installed to carry the drain water away for the ice maker. Paul also donated the pump. The plumbing was completed in one day, looks neat and is working fine. Our thanks go to Paul Young Plumbing for their time and efforts.

The emergency exit door, EXIT lights, service bar, and one emergency light have been installed. One more emergency light needs to be installed and the support posts boxed in. The basement really looks great. Take a look when you get a chance.

If you need something to fill your spare time, help would be appreciated with boxing in the ceiling support posts. Contact Bob Lanning.



Our Thanks for Your Generous Contribution

served as the garbage man on mess duty at MCRD San Diego; shoveled human waste on the "honey wagon" on Monkey Mountain, east of Danang in Vietnam; has been shot at; graduated from Indiana University on the GI Bill; has been self-employed; a retired civilian civil servant and retired military; a husband of 41 years and father of two, deacon in New Unionville Baptist Church – in other words, someone who is representative of the citizens in the 9th District.

In conclusion:

Don't we need someone in Congress who owes absolutely nothing to any campaign donor? Who collected income taxes in the 9th District and saw that burden first hand? Who has worked honest jobs at the absolute bottom of the "prestige" spectrum – but who has also briefed admirals, generals, and written intelligence products used by the secretaries of Defense and State during international negotiations? Someone who has gone with veterans to their Board of Veteran Appeal hearings and won? Hey, really, would it hurt all that much to have one Airborne qualified former Marine, former grunt, Vietnam vet and GWOT vet Congressman?

John Tilford



Super Bowl Sunday

Mark your calendar for Sunday, February 5, 2012. The Post will be open and everyone who comes out to see us will have a super time. That's Super Bowl Sunday and the Men's Auxiliary is going to throw a Super Bowl party.

We'll open the doors at noon. Kickoff should be around 6:30. All of the little details will be worked out in the coming days and we'll be posting flyers around the Post. Rest assured, the day will be entertaining and involve plenty of food, spirits and a game or two.

If you're a member of the Men's Auxiliary, we could use your help for this event. Sign up at the Post. If you have suggestions on how we can make the day even more super, just let us know. Right now, the party will remain upstairs. But, if someone would like to host their own private Super Bowl Party, the Post has space in the basement that can be rented, stocked and catered.



91st Anniversary Social January 7, 2012



8:00 P.M. until 10:00 P.M.

Snack Trays and Punch
Complementary Wine

Come out and join us in celebrating
VFW Post 604's 91st Birthday

Cash Bar

Open to all Post 604 VFW, Ladies Auxiliary, and
Men's Auxiliary Members

Laurens B. Strain V.F.W. Post 604
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Bloomington, IN 47404-2690

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