

VFW POST 604 NEWS

WWW.VFW-604.NET

June 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

Hello. At this month's meeting, the members in attendance were given a special treat. Before our regular meeting, we had the opportunity to see and be part of a Purple Heart presentation to one of our young Iraq Vets - Spc. James Smith. He received this for injuries incurred while serving in Iraq (also James is our newly elected Jr. Vice Commander). I would like to thank U.S. Army Sgt. Jerry Hayes for helping me put this ceremony together. He contacted his commanding officer Cpt. Baugh to see if she would do the presentation and she gladly accepted. I want to thank Cpt. Baugh for doing a wonderful and professional job. I know that James will always remember this as we will always remember James for his sacrifice for this country.

By the time you get this, Memorial Day will be past. I hope that some of you were able to attend our service at Valhalla Memorial Garden and then joined us at the Post for lunch.

Be sure and check the calendar to see what is going on at the Post and come out and join us. The success of the Post is its membership.

Commander - Joe Hardin



Sunday June 10, 2012 - Post Open Noon until Victory

DIY Cheese Burgers

(Do-it-Yourself)

Post 604 Iraq War Vet gets Purple Heart

On Tuesday May 15, 2012 at VFW Post 604 in Bloomington, the Purple Heart was presented to VFW Post 604 Junior Vice Commander, James W. Smith, for combat wounds he received January 25, 2005 while serving in A Company, 1-24 Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team) when the vehicle in which he was traveling in Mosul, Iraq, drove over an improvised explosive device. Our thanks go out to Captain Stephanie Baugh, First Sergeant Eric Miller, and Sergeant Jerry Hayes from the Indianapolis Army Recruiting Battalion for assisting in the presentation of this humbling award.



For the Secretary of the Army, Stephanie Baugh Captain United States Army presents Specialist James W. Smith with the Purple Heart before family and post members.

Comrade Smith, thank you for your service and personal sacrifice in the United States' defense against terrorism.

Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

Bingo is now relocated in the post. Some things are smaller than they used to be, but please hang in there with us. We have a faithful crowd that is willing to support us. If you have any ideas that you think will work better for us all, just let us know. Thanks to all who come out and play, this is how we help community programs, aid Veterans and their families, also schools, hospitals for disabled service men and women.

We have had a lot of tabs from cans this month. Felix and Rose Boatwright came back from Florida with 46 pounds of them - yes, 46 pounds! There are several more who contributed and I will put their names in next month's newsletter. I have misplaced my list of names with the amounts on it, but I will get this corrected.

Donations were given this month for Disabled Veterans, sponsorship of a little league softball team, and summer meals for children. The soup kitchen delivers meals to several places each day along with snacks. These contributions are possible because of our Bingo players donations. The more players we have the more we can give.

Time for a little more history of the VFW; The Ladies Auxiliary to the Laurens B. Strain Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 604, Bloomington, IN received their Charter June 4th, 1924. Arnold Krebs, Post Commander, instituted the Auxiliary; which consisted of thirty-five (35) members. They had their first meeting in the G.A.R. Hall and continued to hold meetings there for the next twenty-five years. The Auxiliary and its members had very little money, so they did a great amount of personalized service in those early days of the Organization. The list of Veteran's families that the Ladies helped in the formative years of their Order is seemingly endless. Mrs. Maude Massey was the first President of the Post 604 Auxiliary and later was also the first Department President of Indiana. Practically all of the members were young married women and it was practice to send each member a Baby Book upon the arrival of a new baby. Even in these times with little or no money, the Auxiliary found the funds to pay the dues of members in adverse circumstances. More next month...

Come and play (bingo) with us and have a fun time. Keep all in our prayers

Janet Williams, President VFW Ladies Auxiliary

Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

Independence Day isn't all that far off. Joe Crawford, our Executive Vice President, is in charge of the Men's Auxiliary efforts to put a VFW float into this year's 4th of July parade here in town. Get in touch with Joe if there's some way you think you can help out, either contributing your time or some materials.

We're always interested in your ideas for activities that

Men's Auxiliary (Cont.)

benefit Post 604 and veterans in general. Please feel free to pass along your suggestions. The best way to attract and keep members is to involve them in events in and around the post.

We've added a few new members and reinstated some returning members in recent weeks. The 2013 membership year officially begins each year in June, so we'll be soliciting dues for your 2013 cards this month. Men's Auxiliary dues remain at \$35.

Our next meeting will be at 6pm on Tuesday, June 19. Feel free to come out and join in.

Mike Pipher, President VFW Men's Auxiliary

Chaplains Corner

As we look to enjoy this time of year with our families and friends, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to our past Chaplain, Roy Smith, for his service. I look forward to serving those who have served the greatest nation that man has ever known. Your service to this country and her citizens is a testimony to your courage and patriotism, which many have not forgotten!

It is my desire to be available to encourage, and provide insight from God's word that will prove to strengthen you as we travel this journey of life together. If I can be of assistance to you and your families please do not hesitate to contact me, it would be my privilege to come along side you and walk with you through whatever the joy or need may be.

Here is a link to some messages that have been recorded and I trust they will be an encouragement to you as you seek after God.

<http://calvarybaptistbloomington.org>

Because of God's Love,

Brian C. Stewart

Seeking Desert Shield/Storm Veterans

The VA's War Related Injury and Study Center in East Orange, N.J., is asking all Desert Shield/Storm veterans to complete an anonymous online survey to help the VA better understand the problems and needs of first Gulf War veterans.

The survey asks for demographic information, deployment experience, physical and mental health problems, and treatments or wellness practices that veterans may or may not be currently using.

Go to https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WRIISC_PGW to complete the survey.

To learn more about the VA's War Related Injury and Study Centers, go to <http://www.warrelatedillness.va.gov/>.

Laurens B. Strain - VFW Post 604

June 2012

Closed	4:00 PM – 10:00PM	4:00 PM – 10:00PM	4:00 PM – 10:00PM	4:00 PM – 10:00PM	4:00 PM – 10:00PM	10:00 AM – 10:00PM
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 1989 - Tiananmen Square ALL DAY \$1.25 Beer Bingo - 1430
3	4 1942 - Battle of Midway * Vet to Vet – 1900	5	6 1944 - D-Day - Normandy	7 1917 - Laurens.Strain KIA Bingo - 1730	8 	9 ALL DAY \$1.25 Beer Bingo - 1430
10 Pocono 400  Open Noon - Victory	11 * Vet to Vet – 1900	12	13	14 1775 - US Army Estab. Bingo - 1730	15 1944 - Saipan Invasion Tom & Jo BBQ Served 1700 till Gone	16 ALL DAY \$1.25 Beer Bingo - 1430
17 Father's Day	18 * Vet to Vet – 1900	19 Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 Men's Aux – 1800 Ladies Aux - 1800	20 1867 - US buys Alaska	21 Bingo - 1730	22 	23 ALL DAY \$1.25 Beer Bingo - 1430
24	25 1950 - S. Korea invaded * Vet to Vet – 1900	26	27	28 Bingo - 1730	29 	30 ALL DAY \$1.25 Beer Bingo - 1430

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

Telephone Numbers
Post 604 – Canteen (812) 339-2375

PPT License # 124405
Raffle License # 124404

Bingo License # 125265

Post Officers

VFW Post 604			Men's Auxiliary to VFW Post 604			Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 604		
Commander	Joe Hardin	(812) 334-8479	President	Mike Pipher	(812) 334-0748	President	E. Janet Williams	(812) 876-3676
Senior Vice Commander	Bob Lanning	(812) 327-7953	Senior Vice President	Joe Crawford	(812) 330-1343	Senior Vice President	Millie Briles	(812) 336-8409
Junior Vice Commander	James W. Smith	(812) 272-3787	Junior Vice President	Mark Sink	(812) 336-4566	Junior Vice President	Karen Chenault	(812) 278-8967
Quartermaster	Mark Dammer	(812) 824-3367	Treasurer	Mike Griffith	(812) 349-2563	Treasurer	Patty Pate	(812) 339-6045
Adjutant	Bob Lanning	(812) 327-7953	Secretary	Mike Griffith	(812) 349-2563	Secretary	Kathy Hardin	(812) 334-8479
Chaplin	Brian C. Stewart	(812) 369-1046	Chaplin	Danny Fender	(812) 330-8280	Chaplin	Joyce Grubb	(812) 336-6447
Service Officer	John Tilford	(812) 336-5574	1yr.Trustee	Greg Johnson	(812) 876-5745	Patriotic Instructor	Wilma Hays	(812) 332-5329
1 Year House Committee	Leonard L Heldman	(812) 361-9129	2yr.Trustee	Danny Payne		1yr.Trustee	Susie DuMond	
2 Year House Committee	John Martin	(812) 339-1113	3yr.Trustee	Tim Haney		2yr.Trustee	Pat Robertson	
3 Year House Committee	Steven B. Wade	(812) 345-1190				3yr.Trustee	Wilma Hays	(812) 332-5329

Camp Lejeune Exposure

The House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees joined forces to request that the Administration provide immediate VA healthcare to Camp Lejeune veterans and their families who were exposed to contaminated water over a 30-year period. After receiving correspondence from VA Secretary Eric Shinseki that it was "premature" to provide healthcare to these veterans, House Chairman Jeff Miller (R-Fla.) and Ranking Member Bob Filner (D-Calif.), and Senate Chairman Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and Ranking Member Richard Burr (R-N.C.) sent a letter to President Obama to plead their case. The VFW will continue to monitor developments. If you or someone you know was stationed at Camp Lejeune during the time of exposure (1957-1987), please email contact the VFW at: vwac@vfw.org.

To learn more about the exposure of Camp Lejeune veterans go to: <http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2012/04/military-veterans-affairs-should-care-for-camp-lejeune-vets-lawmakers-say-042312w/>.

Veteran Retraining Assistance Program

Over the next couple of months, the VFW will continue to raise awareness of a new VA employment training assistance program called the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP), authorized by last year's VOW to Hire Heroes Act.

VRAP offers 12 months of training assistance to veterans age 35 to 60. Eligible participants will receive up to 12 months of training assistance at the full-time payment rate under the Montgomery GI Bill--Active Duty program (currently \$1,473 per month).

The Department of Labor will also offer employment assistance to every veteran who participates or applies to the VRAP program.

Go to <http://benefits.va.gov/vow/education.htm> to learn more about VRAP.

To learn more about each of the new programs authorized under VOW see: <http://www.vfwonthehill.org/2012/04/va-introduces-vow-to-hire-heroes-act.html>.



Dinner at the "VFW Post 604"

Make sure to save this date, **YES** mark your calendar **NOW!**—June 15th (Friday)—Cause Why? Tom & JoAnn Vernon will be serving up their Award Winning Pulled Pork with sides of baked beans and potato salad. We are sure you have tasted their pulled pork before and by-golly it is gooooood! Serving will begin at 5:00 pm and last till pork is gone. Cost = \$2.00 for a Pork Slider with sides at \$1.00 each. So your order is 2 Pork Sliders and one side which cost \$5.00—**WOW! Incredible Deal for a Great Meal!!**

Your wondering aren't you?—well **YES** we did get to watch the **NASCAR** race on Sunday last month and we want to say Thank-You to Kathy Haney for cooking up a big batch of really good Sloppy Joes—weren't there?—you missed out on some good eatin!! Are we going to do it again this month? Well does a bear—never mind!—**SURE** we are!! Sunday, June 10th is the Pocono 400 and we will open at Noon (Close at 6:00 pm)—just in time for the start of the race. Food? We are going to try DIY Cheese Burgers with "fixin's" (tomato, onions, etc.) which translates into—we will cook the cheese burger and you do the fixin (DIY!)—also some chips and who knows what else. \$1.50 for a single cheese burger—**Doubles**, **Triples**, and even **Fourples** will be available for a little more coin. Haven't been out to one of our NASCAR Sundays?? Well!! What the heck are you doing on the 10th—hmmmmmm????????

House Committee

Dinner at the "V"- June 15th 2012

Pork sliders & sides at your VFW Post 604!

Come and enjoy Tom & Jo's award winning pork with sides of baked beans and potato salad.

Sliders	\$2.00
Sides	\$1.00

Serving 5:00 PM until gone!

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

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