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# VFW POST 604 NEWS

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

July 2012

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## 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

Hi Comrades. Let me start off by thanking the following members who helped me put out flags at Clear Creek Cemetery on Friday, May 25th: James Smith, John Martin, Roy Smith, Kathy Hardin, Steve Wade, Bob Wright, Chuck Eitn, JoAnn Vernon, Dorothy Elliot and Bob Lanning. I also want to thank everyone who helped and participated in our Memorial Day service at Valhalla Memory Gardens. I have received cards, letters, and emails from people in attendance stating how much they enjoyed the program. We had a great turnout and the weather was wonderful. As a grandfather, I have to say how proud I was of my great grandson, Joseph Daniel Hardin, Age 7, for leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Great job Joseph!

Some good news from our State Convention held on the 15th thru 17th of June in Indianapolis. One of our members, Bob Lanning, received a shirt and jacket for signing up 15 new members. Keep up the good work Bob! By completing all of our programs and being well over 100% in membership, we were awarded All State Team. Our QM, Mark Dammer, was given an All State hat, pin and jacket for his hard work as QM. Thanks Mark! We would not have received these awards without Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pin programs help by our Ladies Auxiliary members. Thanks to Janet Williams, Ladies Auxiliary President, and her members.

Don't forget to show up for the 4th of July parade. We have two entries this year. One with our Purple Heart Recipient, James Smith (provided by our Men's Auxiliary). Thanks Mike Pipher and the Auxiliary members. The other one is an Army Hummer and will be driven by Sgt. Jerry Hayes, one of our members. Jerry also made this possible by contacting his superiors and getting their permission. Thanks Jerry!

All of you are important to our Post. Come out and join us. Hope to see you soon. ❖

**Commander - Joe Hardin**

### Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

Well I have found my list of people who donated can tabs and Labels for education. Liz Blackburn had 23lbs, also Kathy Hardin, Julia Curtis, Mary Figg, Wilma Hays, Pat Robertson, Millie Briles, and some others.

You know it's been really dry this spring... We'd like to thank Debi Dammer for braving the heat and giving the Post's plants much needed drinks – Thanks Debi.

A little more history... The nucleus of the Indiana Cottage Fund was started in 1929. The ladies of the Auxiliary had to work very hard to raise the money to contribute \$15.00 to this fund. They had markets in the windows of down-town store; where they displayed and sold food and home-made articles from their homes. The officers of the Auxiliary were installed by the VFW Post Commanders of #604 until 1929 when the Department Inspector Ann Kelly did the Honors. Russell Ranard, Arnold Krebs, and Noble Smallwood were some of the Commanders who installed officers of the Auxiliary. During the year of 1927 with Bessie Smallwood as President, they initiated 10 new members. That year VFW Post #604 told the Ladies Auxiliary that they could keep one-half of the proceeds from the Poppy sales. In later years, the members of the VFW. Post voted to let the ladies keep all of the proceeds from Poppy sales. May 24th 1927 ; Mrs. Alice Rodgers was given a past Chaplin's Pin; " AS A TOKEN OF APPRECIATION OF HER LOYALTY AND FAITHFULNESS TO THE ORDER. *(more next month)*

I would like to recognize two of our members:

**Kathryn Harreles** - member since 1941 (71 years)  
**Wilma Wilson** – member since 1951 (61 years)

Thank you ladies for supporting the VFW Ladies Auxiliary all these years.

Keep all our Veterans and families in our prayers. ❖

**Janet Williams, President VFW Ladies Auxiliary**

## Some Department of Veterans Affairs Progress

Although the backlog of disability claims now exceeds nine hundred thousand, the VA has recently taken some steps toward improving their adjudication process. Here are two, a big and a little but significant:

The former training program for newly hired claims examiners consisted of a short introduction to the VA at a centralized location followed by – in theory – several weeks of classroom training and months of closely supervised on-the-job training at their assigned regional offices. What actually happened all too often at the problem regional offices was reduction or elimination of the classroom training. These offices were so desperate they could not spare time away from work for the instructors and decided to throw the new employees into the work environment as soon as possible. You can imagine the wide variance of quality of training between well and poorly managed regional offices which explains the inconsistencies between different regional offices ratings of similar disability cases. Too short and incomplete examiner training also contributed to the intolerably high error rates of the last several years which continue to result in cheated veterans, high percentage of appeals, and avoidable increase of workload for the VA.

As described in the AMVETS magazine, a new training protocol has been piloted, succeeded, and is being implemented. The new claims examiners are retained much longer at the centralized training facility. The latter portion of the curricula now includes rating actual cases but under the direct guidance of the instructors. Only after succeeding in this controlled environment are the new employees transferred to their on-the-job training at their respective regional offices. If this seems like an obvious solution which should have been done at least ten years ago – I agree.

The Statement of the Case standard format has been changed. This lengthy document is generated by the VA in response to a timely filed notice of disagreement. The former format always included the exact same twelve pages of “legalese” regarding standards of proof, application of adjudication standards, etc. closing without break with one or two short paragraphs of exactly why the VA had made their initial determination in the case. Experienced representatives would ignore the first twelve pages and turn directly to the end when deciding whether to pursue the appeal further or not. Unfortunately, most veteran claimants and many representatives

“VA Progress

*continued*

had never seen a Statement of the Case before and were intimidated by the legal terms and length of the document long before they discovered – if they ever did – the useful information hidden at the end. Many just gave up and never pursued their appeal. Others thought they had to hire an attorney. It was tempting to assume the old format was actually designed to intimidate and discourage claimants. The revised format still includes the same “legalese” information but in smaller print and in a separate section from the directly applicable, case-specific information. This may seem like a small change but it’s a big deal for the VA to get away from their typical “we’ve always done it this way” attitude.

It will take a minimum of several years, it still may not fully happen, but Secretary Shinseki may have turned the corner toward an effective, efficient, and consistent VA adjudication system. ❖

**Service Officer - John Tilford**

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### *Renewing Membership*

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Yes, it is the beginning of a new membership year and your continued membership is important to us. The V.F.W. and its Auxiliaries are the life-blood of our post.

|                              |         |
|------------------------------|---------|
| VFW Annual Dues              | \$25.00 |
| Men’s Auxiliary Annual Dues  | \$35.00 |
| Ladies Auxiliary Annual Dues | \$20.00 |

Annual renewal forms are mailed to each V.F.W. member. Dues shall be forwarded per the directions contained in the notice received by the member. If you do not receive a renewal notice, please contact the Post 604 Quartermaster or one of your club officers for assistance.

Additional fees apply to new members. ❖

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### **VFW Member Survey – Results**

260 forms were mailed at the end of March to VFW members of VFW Post 604 living in the state of Indiana.

Of the 53 responses, half expressed interest in participating in both Cocktails and in Special Events with nearly half expressing interest in both Gaming and Televised Sports. While Gambling and Cocktails are normal fare at the post, we are going to look into both increasing Special Events and Sports Oriented Specials for our members to increase use of our facility. Also, 64% are excited at the possibility of participating in weekly dinner specials. This too will be evaluated.

Concern exists in the number of members who did not complete the survey, but 83% who responded indicated they were likely to refer a friend, associate, or family member. Thanks go out to our members who took time to provide an input. ❖

# Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

July 2012

| Closed<br>Sunday   | Open 1600 - 2200<br>Monday   | Open 1600 - 2200<br>Tuesday   | Open 1600 - 2200<br>Wednesday   | Open 1600 - 2200<br>Thursday  | Open 1600 - 2200<br>Friday   | Open 1000 - 2200<br>Saturday   |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| <b>1</b><br>1863 - Battle of Gettysburg Day 1  | <b>2</b><br>1863 - Battle of Gettysburg Day 2<br><br>* Vet to Vet – 1900 | <b>3</b><br>1863 - Battle of Gettysburg Day 3   | <b>4</b><br>Independence Day<br><br><b>Open NOON – 10:00pm</b> | <b>5</b><br>1863 - Battle of Gettysburg Day 5<br><br>Bingo - 1730                     | <b>6</b><br><br>1900 – Commander's Drawing<br>1900 – Brad Harris Entertains                               | <b>7</b><br>1797 - Quasi War begins<br><br><b>\$1.25 Beer</b><br><br>Bingo – 1430          |
| <b>8</b>   | <b>9</b><br><br>* Vet to Vet – 1900                                      | <b>10</b><br>1943 – Allies invade Sicily  | <b>11</b>   | <b>12</b><br><br>Bingo - 1730   | <b>13</b><br><br>1900 – Commander's Drawing<br>1900 – Brad Harris Entertains                              | <b>14</b><br><br><b>\$1.25 Beer</b><br><br>Bingo – 1430                                    |
| <b>15</b>  | <b>16</b><br>1969 – Apollo 11 leaves for Moon<br><br>* Vet to Vet – 1900 | <b>17</b><br><br><b>Meetings</b><br><b>V.F.W. – 1800</b><br><b>Men's Aux – 1800</b><br><b>Ladies Aux - 1800</b> | <b>18</b>   | <b>19</b><br><br>Bingo - 1730   | <b>20</b><br>1969 - First Moon Landing<br><br>1900 – Commander's Drawing<br>1900 – Brad Harris Entertains | <b>21</b><br>1861 - First Battle of Bull Run<br><br><b>\$1.25 Beer</b><br><br>Bingo – 1430 |
| <b>22</b>  | <b>23</b><br><br>* Vet to Vet – 1900                                     | <b>24</b>   | <b>25</b>   | <b>26</b><br><br>Bingo - 1730   | <b>27</b><br><br>1900 – Commander's Drawing<br>1900 – Brad Harris Entertains                            | <b>28</b><br><br><b>\$1.25 Beer</b><br><br>Bingo – 1430                                    |
| <b>29</b><br>1949 - Berlin Airlift ends<br><br><br><br>Open Noon - 1800 | <b>30</b><br>1945 - USS Indianapolis sunk<br><br>* Vet to Vet – 1900     | <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)

Telephone Number (812) 339-2375

Bingo License # 125265

Raffle License # 127960

# IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

## The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, -- That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

### Georgia:

Button Gwinnett  
Lyman Hall  
George Walton

### New Hampshire:

Matthew Thornton

### North Carolina:

William Hooper  
Joseph Hewes  
John Penn

### South Carolina:

Edward Rutledge  
Thomas Heyward, Jr.  
Thomas Lynch, Jr.  
Arthur Middleton

### Massachusetts:

John Hancock  
Maryland:  
Samuel Chase

William Paca  
Thomas Stone  
Charles Carroll of  
Carrollton

### Virginia:

George Wythe  
Richard Henry Lee  
Thomas Jefferson  
Benjamin Harrison  
Thomas Nelson, Jr.  
Francis Lightfoot Lee  
Carter Braxton

### Pennsylvania:

Robert Morris  
Benjamin Rush  
Benjamin Franklin  
John Morton  
George Clymer  
James Smith  
George Taylor  
James Wilson  
George Ross

### Delaware:

Caesar Rodney  
George Read  
Thomas McKean

### New York:

William Floyd  
Philip Livingston  
Francis Lewis  
Lewis Morris

### New Jersey:

Richard Stockton  
John Witherspoon  
Francis Hopkinson  
John Hart  
Abraham Clark

### New Hampshire:

Josiah Bartlett  
William Whipple

### Massachusetts:

Samuel Adams  
John Adams  
Robert Treat Paine  
Elbridge Gerry

### Rhode Island:

Stephen Hopkins  
William Ellery

### Connecticut:

Roger Sherman  
Samuel Huntington  
William Williams  
Oliver Wolcott

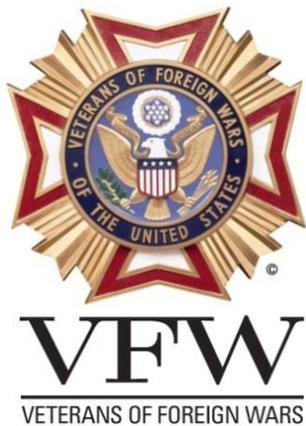


Laurens B. Strain V.F.W. Post 604  
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*"Oldest Post in the State"*

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Phone: (812)-339-2375

**604 Canteen –Do It Yourself Burgers**



**July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

1200 - 1600



**Appetizers & Sides**

|                             |        |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Seasoned Waffle Fries ..... | \$2.00 |
| Mess of French Fries.....   | \$1.75 |
| Onion Rings .....           | \$1.75 |
| Bag of Chips.....           | \$.50  |

**Sandwiches**

|                             |        |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Hamburger .....             | \$1.25 |
| Double Hamburger .....      | \$2.25 |
| Triple Hamburger .....      | \$3.25 |
| Quadruple Hamburger.....    | \$4.25 |
| Cheeseburger .....          | \$1.50 |
| Double Cheeseburger .....   | \$2.50 |
| Triple Cheeseburger .....   | \$3.50 |
| Quadruple Cheeseburger..... | \$4.50 |

Sandwiches offer optional Tomato, Onion, Pickle

We burn the Beef, you dress it up !!!

**Yes – We'll be open  
Wednesday July 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Hours Noon - 10:00<sub>pm</sub>**

**Come on out and  
spend some time  
with us !!!**