
VFW POST 604 NEWS

WWW.VFW-604.ORG

February 2020

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

Our 99th Anniversary Diner was a great success again. Fortunately, it didn't snow, like last year. Barb Ooley did a great job catering the meal. Next year will be our 100th, naturally, and we're looking to do something out of the ordinary to celebrate that.

Our Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen winners and their families, were at the dinner also. This is where we do our award presentations to the top three winners and their teachers. One thing to note, is that our Voice of Democracy 1st Place winner Megan, also took 1st Place in our District 7 and 2nd Place at State. That's an incredible achievement!

In case you haven't been to the Post lately, we've made some improvements. We have extended the bar 10 feet and added draft beer. We also have replaced all of the old lights with new LED's and the rooms are bright now. It's amazing how much difference it has made. We will also be replacing the carpet and tile in the entrance. We need to thank Dorothy White and our Auxiliary for that. We plan on improving things as we go down the road. Stop in and check things out. I think you'll like what you see.

There's a lot of people that don't realize that our VFW Post has sponsored the Veterans Memorial located at Valhalla cemetery. It is second to none. It is one of the most impressive memorials, I've ever seen. You can go far and wide and never see anything like this. I am amazed at how many people don't actually know it's there. It's located in the middle of the cemetery and it's not hard to find. It's worth the drive, just to see it. I know you will be totally impressed.

Vietnam Veterans Day is coming up next month and we're looking at doing something for our Vietnam Veterans. I'm not going to announce it now, but will in the

See Commander

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See Auxiliary

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VFW Auxiliary

On February 1st is our all-you-can-eat breakfast bar, service is from 8 to 11. At 1:00 PM is the district's award dinner.

February 14th - it's fish night and Valentine's Day, come celebrate with us! February 16th - NASCAR Sunday - is our first race of 2020 and our first tenderloins of the new year. It's been awhile, so come out and enjoy - you cannot beat the price, you cannot beat the experience!

February 18th 6PM is our monthly meeting, all Auxiliary members in good standing are welcome. Come out and see what we're all about and get to know is. Do not forget about our Friday night dinners - all the great food at great prices. February 28th Auxiliary Dinner will be Roast Beef Manhattan and salad for \$8.00.

We were very proud to host our Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy Scholarship winners and their families at our 99th Birthday celebration. We were especially proud to have Meghan Prange, Post 604 Voice of Democracy 1st Place winner. Meghan went on to take 1st Place in the 7th District and 2nd place at Department. Meghan will be invited to the District Awards on February 1st here at the Post. She will also be invited to the Awards Banquet at Auxiliary Spring Conference in March in Indianapolis. Our Patriot Pen 1st Place Winner at the Post, Katie Stumpner was not available to be with us that night due a Swim meet. Her teacher, Justin Garner accepted for her and then presented her awards to her at school.

As of today, January 21st our membership stands at 94.39%. Our goal is 196 and we have 185. If you haven't sent in your dues, check the list at the Post. You can leave them at the canteen. This will make 2 years in a row for 100% and I'm sure hoping that we can do it again this year.

March Newsletter. Stay Tuned !

Keep in mind our Auxiliary Breakfast on the first Saturday of the month and also the Auxiliary Fish Fry and The Commanders Steak Night. We're seeing a lot of new faces and we welcome that.

See you at the Post ❖

Commander – George Kristoff

TAPS

Charles William (Bill) Winkler, Life Member and long time VFW Post Adjutant, passed away on Sunday 15 December 2019.

"With each passing day, things will become easier. This is to let you know that there is tremendous support behind you today."

Bill will be missed by the Men and Women of VFW Post 604 and the 7th District.

From the Adjutant,

Here we are again; another year is upon us. The Post had a great turnout at the Anniversary Dinner earlier in January. We also had the awards ceremony for the Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy, and Teacher of the Year along with the dinner. It is good to see we have students that are willing to participate in these contests, and I think we had more this year than we normally do. Congratulations to the winners, we appreciate all of those who participated in these contests. We will also host the Seventh District awards here at the Post on February 1st, so if you're not doing anything come on out and meet them.

We did manage to get a few new members here at the Post during the past year, also some members that transferred their memberships. This is a very good thing; hopefully we will be able to get some of the younger veterans in the area to join the Post also.

If you haven't been to the Post in the last couple months, you should come down and look at some of the new upgrades we have been doing. We have added onto the bar, almost if not doubled the size of it, fixed our lighting in the club room and did some other things to upgrade the Post. There are other things planned, but I'm not sure what all they are. What we have done certainly makes the Post look a lot better. Thanks to all who have taken part in doing the upgrades for us.

That's all I have for this month, believe it or not I haven't even asked anyone that might have a few hours a month they aren't doing anything and would want to volunteer to do something here at the Post we would gladly let you. ❖

May God bless us all.

Bill Evans
Adjutant, VFW Post 604

TENDERLOIN SUNDAYS ARE BACK!!!!

But before we get to that you need to know about our **1st Friday of the Month Dinner Special** which happens on **February 7th** and we are bringing back an old favorite—**All You Can Eat Home-Made CHILI & A GRILLED HAM&CHEESE** — you know the chili is good and the grilled sammich will be a perfect match. And the price is right at only **\$8.00**. Serving starts at 6:00 p.m. And we are sure Desserts will be in the offering!!

Ok let's get started with our **TENDERLOIN SUNDAY** which is brought to you by our Auxiliary and their **Great Big Ole Tenderloin Sandwiches**. — **February 16th** is the date----- Daytona is the venue---**\$8.00** is the cost. Let's start these Sundays out with a huge crowd so come out bring friends-neighbors-whoever and support them and get a super great meal to boot!! Yes, the Auxiliary also can handle call-ins/carry-out. Post opens at Noon and closes somewhere around 6:00 p.m. Also our **Auxiliary's Fish Dinner** is on the **2nd Friday** of the month (**February 14th**)-all you can eat!! **\$8.00**

Steak Night is extremely popular and well worth the money, the **3rd Friday of the Month-STEAK NIGHT (21st)!!** 10 oz. Ribeye with Baked Potato and Salad and Dessert all for just **\$12**. Yep! That's right — just **12 bucks**. Then the **4th Friday of the Month (28th)** The **Auxiliary** presents their dinner special, so check out their news article for that menu. **Texas Hold-'em Tournament** every **Thursday**, starts at **7:00 p.m.**

You really should try one of our affordable Friday Night Dinners, you won't regret it — so come out and enjoy — sign up for the Commanders Drawing — get lucky and WIN **\$\$\$\$!!** ❖

House Committee

Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

February 2020

Closed	Open 1200 - 2200	Open 1600 - 2200	Open 1600 - 2200	Open 1600 - 2200	Open 1600 - 2200	Open 1000 - 2200
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Saturday @ 1300 - District 7 Awards Presentation for Patriots Pen & Voice of Democracy Recipients </div>			Auxiliary Breakfast All you can eat !!! \$8.00 Open to Public Serving 8:00 AM until 11:00 AM
2 	3 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	4	5	6  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	7 \$8 \$8 \$8  1800 – Home-Made CHILI & GRILLED HAM&CHEESE Commander's Drawing 1900	8
9	10 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	11	12	13  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	14 Fish Fry 1800 - 2000 \$8 \$8 \$8  Commander's Drawing 1900	15
16  Open 1200 - 1800	17 HOT DOG MONDAY Presidents' Day Open @ Noon	18 Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 V.F.W. Aux – 1800	19	20  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	21 Rib Eye Dinner 1800 - 2000  \$12. ⁰⁰ 10oz Commander's Drawing 1900	22
23	24 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	25	26	27  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	28 \$8 \$8 \$8  1800 – Roast Beef Manhattan Dinner Special Commander's Drawing 1900	29

(* 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 # 150429

Raffle License # 150427

VFW Post 604 Officers

George Kristoff.....	Commander
Dewey "Joe" Hardin.....	Sr. Vice Commander
John Martin.....	Jr. Vice Commander
Debbie Deckard.....	Quartermaster
Brian Stewart.....	Chaplain
Richard Moldenhauer.....	Judge Advocate
Peter Chadwick.....	Surgeon
John Tilford.....	Service Officer
Bill Evans.....	Adjutant
Toby Oltman.....	1st Yr. Trustee
Cathi Johnson.....	2 nd Yr. Trustee
Jim Edney.....	3 rd Yr. Trustee
Barney White.....	1st Yr. House Committee
Roy Smith.....	2 nd Yr. House Committee
Gary Demes.....	3 rd Yr. House Committee

VFW Post 604 Auxiliary Officers

Dorothy White.....	President
Julia Curtis.....	Sr. Vice President
Julie Martin.....	Jr. Vice President
Karen Cain.....	Secretary/Treasurer
Greg Johnson.....	Conductor
Mary Bohenkamp.....	Chaplin
Sandi Taylor.....	Guard
Jenny Tracy.....	Patriotic Instructor
Sandi Taylor.....	1st Yr. Trustee
Julie Martin.....	2 nd Yr. Trustee
Julia Curtis.....	3 rd Yr. Trustee

What Makes America Great

The familiar, shrill sound of my alarm calls me out of bed for yet another day of school. Arriving in my U.S. history class, I see three words inscribed upon the chalkboard -- "We the people ..." -- The words of America's founding fathers, the first three words establishing a great nation. I sat entranced by the significance of this short phrase until awoken by my history teacher calling for his students' attention. He provokes us with one compelling question: "Why did the founders of this nation choose these words to constitute the beginnings of our democracy?" I am now in a puzzled state along with my peers. We have experienced the freedom and pride that come with our American identity our whole lives. Had we not previously taken the time to consider the importance of the very words that grant us such an honor?

Since this experience, I have not been able to consider those words with such indifference as I had in the past.

Upon further thought, I found wisdom in the words of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address; the United States is a "government of the people, by the people, for the people." Herein lies what makes America great. We the people compose the ideals, principles, and values on which the United States stands. We the people make America great.

My American story is unique, like all others, but the love of country within each American heart unites us with

See Essay..... *Continued on Page 5*

Commander's Drawing Results

Date	Member Drawn	\$Pot\$	Result
20 Dec	Terry Hudson	\$230	Not Signed
3 Jan	Jessie Robinson	\$382	Not Signed
10 Jan	Donna Stout	\$466	Not Present Paid \$233
17 Jan	Sharon Chambers	\$313	Not Signed

\$1 to play – Sign – Who wins, who knows? Be here Friday @ 7:00 PM – if your # is drawn – get it all!

Patriot Pen & Voice of Democracy winners



Rear (L to R) - VoD 3rd Place - Blake Von Bokern, Senior -Lighthouse Christian; PP 2nd Place – Zeke Stephens, 8th grade - Jackson Creek; VoD 1st Place – Megan Prange Senior - BHS South; VoD 2nd Place - Ethan Coy Senior - BHS North; George Kristoff (Commander)

Front (L to R) - Karen Cain (VWF Aux); PP 3rd Place - H. Ebra Ercik, 8th grade - Batchelor



Katie Stumpner - Jackson Creek Middle School is presented a 1st Place Patriot's Pen certificate at school by her 7th grade teacher Justin Garner

no regard for our differing backgrounds.

Due to my young age, I must look to those who came before me, for they embody the American greatness that must be continued through my generation. Beyond the initial developments of this nation, beyond the Constitution and Gettysburg address lie the true tests of the American spirit.

Those who have dedicated their lives to service serve to protect the American people. As I learned about each challenge faced by American troops, I learned of heroic service and sacrifice. Furthermore, I learned of the driving forces behind the defense of this great nation: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Current military personnel and veterans have fought to protect these rights not only for the American people but also for others. We the people fight for all.

Beyond history classes, I grasped the truth behind American strength through the memorials that serve in remembrance of what our nation's greatness has endured.

With the perseverance of this country in mind, I visited a time all too raw in our nation's history. I attempted to breathe in the still air before touching the cold engraving of a name, one among thousands surrounding the reflection pool. Having been born in 2002, I am among the first generation that did not experience the day on which so many lives were lost. September 11th, 2001 is a day forever engraved in the history of the United States. While my life did not intertwine with those we lost, the period following exhibited the definition of the American spirit. First responders served to save fellow Americans, some making the ultimate sacrifice. The people of our country, when struck with immense tragedy, united in grief to ensure that American lives were not lost in vain. Colin Powell, United States Army veteran stated: "the American spirit will prevail over this tragedy." No words stand so true as Americans today, even those of us who did not experience that day, are united in service and remembrance. We the people will never forget

Knowing the resilience, bravery, service, and unity that make America and the American people great, I, along with all true Americans, am connected with each founding member of this country, every soldier who battled for equality and safety, all first responders who saved every life they could. I am one with those who have persevered, those who have protected, those who have fought. My heart is with all who serve and all who will serve to define and protect this country. We the people are truly one nation, indivisible.

We the people make and will continue to make America great. ❖



By Megan Prange, Senior - BHS South VFW Voice of Democracy 2nd place at VFW Department of Indiana

<Do not copy without the Author's permission>

We had a GREAT 2019 with all the GREAT meals that President Dorothy is serving on Friday nights, Tenderloin Sunday with Frank's crew at the helm and our Saturday Breakfast. Thank you for all the participation, bringing desserts and of course our ever-dependable volunteers. We could still use some more volunteers, contact me if interested @ dorothywhite410@gmail.com, or call me. I am always open for Friday night dinner ideas. ❖

Dorothy White - Auxiliary President
(812) 345-9025 (Cell)

VFW Post 604 – 99th Anniversary Dinner and Awards Presentation



Joe Hardin, Commander George Kristoff, Aux President Dorothy White, Aux Sec/Treas Karen Cain

Haven't been out to the post lately?
Our Canteen's bar has been extended and we now offer...

DRAFT GOLD BEER



GOLD



\$1.50

Glass

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

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Saturday Breakfast

Biscuits & Gravy
Scrambled Eggs
Sausage

Hash Browns

O.J.
Milk
Coffee



Rib Eye Steak



ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT



Steak Night

Friday February 21st - 6:00 till 8:00 PM

\$12.00 - \$12.00 - \$12.00 - \$12.00

10 oz Rib-Eye, Baked Potato & More

February 1st

8:00 am -11:00 am
JUST \$8.00

