
VFW POST 604 NEWS

WWW.VFW-604.ORG

November 2016

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

Welcome to November everyone. This year has been moving along at a very fast clip. It has been hard to keep up with everything; but thanks to our volunteers, we have stayed on top of everything. Our new auxiliary president, Dorothy White, has been working very hard around the Post with her decorations and organizing events.

The Men's Auxiliary has also been turning up the heat at the Post. The new siding is being put on the building as we speak. They are getting the paperwork put together to make the transition to the Auxiliary as smooth as possible.

If you have noticed the new Indiana State flag on our flagpole, the thanks goes to John and Julie Martin for donating it to the Post. We also want to thank Mark Dammer for getting it installed on the flagpole.

Don't forget that Veterans Day will be here soon. We are having ham and beans, fried potatoes and cornbread - all for free. Make sure that when you see a Veteran, step up and thank them for their service. We are also in the process of setting up a date for our Post Thanksgiving dinner. So pay attention for date and time.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, it is time to renew your membership to the Post. We really have a good thing going on at the Post so let's keep it going. If you haven't been to the Post lately, drop by and check out our improvements. No one does more for Veterans than the VFW. ❖

Commander - Joe Hardin

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 8TH!
IT IS OUR DUTY AS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN**

Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

The merger of the two VFW auxiliaries is to be finalized by December 30, 2016. National is pushing to have all new forms along with DD214's done by mid-month. To help speed up this process, it would be great if our Men's Auxiliary members would bring us an extra copy of the DD214 that you joined under. With your help this will save us hours upon hours of searching in deceased, transfer, and active member files. This is being done so that we have an accurate number of the membership. We would appreciate your help.

November's fish fry falls on Veteran's Day and we will still be fixing all the fish, fries, and slaw you can eat for \$7.00 starting at 6:00pm. The Post is providing free ham and beans with fried potatoes starting at noon and will be serving until 4:00pm. Tenderloin Sunday is November 20th in conjunction with the NASCAR season finale at Homestead, Florida. And, as always, every Thursday night we have Texas Hold-'em starting at 7:00p. This month Texas Hold-'em will not be held on the 24th as the post will be closed in celebration of Thanksgiving.

Hope to see you at the Post. ❖

Tim Haney, President VFW Men's Auxiliary



VFW Auxiliary

I wish I had a way with words like Tim Haney, his way of saying we are going to work together like a well-oiled piece of machinery, and I know we will.

I'd like to thank Steve and Tammy for their help at our September 23rd dinner. The dinner would have been a disaster as we were short of volunteers and they pitched in to cover the shortage. They helped with the cooking (Steve loves to cook). He has a way with food, like August's chicken. I still have people saying how good it was! All volunteers are WELCOME!

Cool weather has set in and that means the next couple of months are going to be really busy, getting ready for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Of course, we cannot forget the fun we had on Halloween with all the ghosts and goblins we had coming around and giving out the candy ... fun night.

On Friday November 25th we are serving soup, sandwich or salad after the big meal we all will have on Thanksgiving. We do not want to be overloaded.

If you have not been out to the post lately, you need to stop by and see our new parking lot, deck staircase, and the new siding on the building. Been a BUSY couple of months.

May God bless our veterans near and far and keep them safe! ❖

Dorothy White
President VFW Auxiliary
812-345-9025



Nancy Jones, of Regency Consolidated Residential, presents Commander Hardin \$1,000.00 corporate donation to VFW Post 604's Relief fund. Our Relief Fund is used for:

Aid, assistance, relief, and comfort of needy or disabled veterans and the surviving spouses and orphans of deceased veterans.

Veterans rehabilitation, welfare, and service work.

NOVEMBER-VETERANS DAY-NOV 11th!!!!

The Big Bird Day is coming at us and the Post will be closed on that Thursday (Nov. 24th) so everyone can enjoy the holiday. However, on the other hand the Post will most definitely be **OPEN** on **Friday Nov. 11th—VETERAN'S DAY**—Open at 11:00 am so when the ceremonies are finished at the court house you can come out to the Post for "**FREE**" **Ham & Beans—Cornbread & Fried Potatoes and Fixings** from Noon till 4:00 pm. Then the Men's Auxiliary. will present their **FISH DINNER!!!** on **Nov 11th—Friday- \$7.00** all you can eat!! Serving start at 6:00 pm.

Now we need to back up one Friday because our **1st Friday of the Month Dinner Special** this month will be on **Friday Nov 4th** and since the weather is a little colder we will be featuring our **Boneless Pork Chop with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy** and lets do **Dressing plus Corn** (here is your dinner Gene!!)—**Fried Biscuits** sound good also. Then we will throw in some **Dessert** --all home cooked and only **\$7.00!!!!!!** Serving at 6:00 p.m. and go until we run out!! We had this meal last year and its goood plus it's made by our finest cooks!!.

This is the **LAST NASCAR SUNDAY** this year!! **Nov. 20th** Ford EcoBoost 400 when you can get the Men's Auxiliary **Gigantic Hand-Dipped Breaded Tenderloins**. **NOON** till around **6ish** pm. Then we go to our **3rd Friday of the Month STEAK NIGHT (18th)!!** 8 oz. Ribeye with Baked Potato and Salad and Dessert all for just **\$11**. Commander Joe & his crew do a great job preparing and serving this dinner!!! Then the **4th Friday in the Month** comes along so be sure to read **The Auxiliary** news article for that dinner special!!!!

We also need to do some **SHOUT OUTS** to First--the Dittmore's for Meineke's "**FREE**" **OIL CHANGE FOR ALL VETERANS** on **Veterans Day!** Second to the **WITCHES** and **GHOULS** who decorated the Post for Halloween. All you folks do a great job and it's just another reason our **Volunteers** make Post 604 such a great place. Now we need to call Terminix for all the **Giant Black RATS!!** Geeez!! Maybe a shotgun would be cheaper—(no no--bad eyesight plus cost of repairs!!)

Hey! we would like to wish everyone a Happy Turkey Day—Be Safe—**Don't Forget NOV. 11th** ❖

House Committee

Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

November 2015

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  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	4 Serving Dinner 1800 – 2000 Boneless Pork Chop Dinner  Commander's Drawing 1900	5
6	7 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	8	9	10  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	11 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2000  Commander's Drawing 1900	12
13	14 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	15 Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 V.F.W. Aux – 1800 Men's Aux – 1800	16	17  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	18 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2000  Commander's Drawing 1900	19
20  Tenderloin Sunday Open @ Noon	21 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	22	23	24  CLOSED	25 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2000  Commander's Drawing 1900	26
27	28 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	29	30			

(* 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 # 137924

Raffle License # 137923

Legislative Proposals

I missed the meeting on Sunday, the 16th of October, but two people you might know (Debbie Deckard and Joe Hardin) participated in recommending the following six legislative proposals to a candidate for the US House of Representatives for pursuit in the 115th Congress:

Reinstate Department of Veterans Affairs “inferred claims” which were for decades initiated on behalf of veterans by VA employees who discovered justification for disability claims in veterans' records. This procedure was recently dropped by the VA only to decrease workload.

Evidently, the VA would rather make their backlog statistics look good than serve disabled veterans. Two of my service connected disabilities were claimed by sharp VA employees on my behalf using the ‘inferred claim’ provision. Doing away with inferred claims places the burden totally on the disabled veterans, many of whom may not 1) even know that a particular disability they have might be the basis for a service connection claim, and 2) realize that the evidence to support such a claim is already in the possession of the VA. You might consider the VA dropping inferred claims as a constructive attempt to conceal 1) and 2) from veterans. There is precedent to this ‘perpetuate ignorance’ approach to decreasing VA workload: While working in DC in 2002 I read a transcript of Secretary Anthony Principi’s testimony before Congress. He stated the VA planned on saving money by cutting back on information programs for veterans, therefore fewer veterans would know about their eligibility, therefore fewer would file claims, therefore less money would be spent on compensation. At this point the vanilla Coke I was drinking spurted out of my nose and onto the Washington Post I was reading, right on Principi’s picture.

The VA should adopt efficient and effective case management to include quality review and systemic feedback and incorporate quality into employee performance reviews so that veterans’ services are more reliably provided.

Each of the military service organizations has pleaded with the VA for years to be more accurate in adjudication of claims. Something like 30% of VA decisions are reversed on appeal, and many denied claimants don’t appeal. The VA claims over 95% accuracy. One way to fix this obviously systemic problem would be to incorporate a feedback mechanism for adjusting/correcting the adjudication process when errors are discovered via appeal decisions. (IRS was doing this in the 1970s, ‘cause IRS hates to lose cases on appeal or in court. ‘Undermines voluntary compliance.’) I wish the VA hated it as much, enough to make some changes. Likewise, the VA keeps saying they will consider accuracy in employee performance ratings but we have yet to see it actually done. But the VA definitely does consider productivity. “Move those cases! Make us look good!” and, implied, “We don’t care how!” Does that remind you of the 2014 VA medical appointments scandal?

Hold the Department of Veterans Affairs accountable for addressing the backlogs of all claims and appeals and not only initial compensation and pension claims. Detailing employees to one area of emphasis from other functions

creates secondary backlogs.

I have two appeal cases now which have been waiting for over two years for their first hearing. Both are for low income widows. Not too long ago the VA detailed almost all their appeal employees to help work down the initial claim backlog. Now there’s a huge backlog in processing appeals. Surprise, surprise. The VA has approached Congress with a request to revise/reduce VA appeal rights in order to reduce their appeals workload. My response is that if the VA was more accurate in initial adjudication of claims there would be fewer appeals.

Pass full concurrent receipt of military retirement pay and VA disability compensation, including to those veterans medically retired because of service-related disabilities.

There has been progress toward full concurrent receipt over the last twenty years. It’s gone from ‘full offset & draw only the greater of the two’ to the present ‘50% and up service connected veterans can draw both VA compensation and their military retirement benefits.’ The inescapable logic which holds that disabled vets earned VA compensation by their disease/injury and retired military members earned their retirement benefits by years of honorable service is just as valid for 40% and less disabled retirees as is for 50% and above. Those so severely disabled to be involuntarily medically retired with less than 20 years of service deserve credit for their ‘earned retirement’ just as much. They did not have the chance to serve the full 20. A medical board made the early retirement decision for them.

Eliminate the “Widow’s Tax,” i.e., the full offset between Department of Defense Survivors’ Benefit Plan benefits and the VA Death Indemnity Compensation.

I hope none of you ever has to help a new widow of a retired military member file for her VA DIC if his (‘her’ and ‘his’ pronouns assuming most common male veteran and female surviving spouse) death was service connected. They look at you like you’re insane when you tell them they cannot draw both the military Survivors Benefit Plan benefits and the VA DIC, that there’s a full offset. If, as usually is the case, the DIC is greater, the SBP premiums are refunded. Big deal. Not what the retiree planned on to benefit his wife – who is actually being punished because he died due to his service for his country. Congress did start a “We know this is stupid and hurtful, please take this money to shut up” payment of \$311 per month for surviving spouses in this situation. If I was such a widow, I’d feel insulted.

Preserve the integrity of TRICARE to ensure service members and their families have timely access to high-quality health care.

There are current proposals to privatize military health care. I am not kidding. We finally, almost, just about, got it right the last few years – and now we want to award this critical service to the lowest bidder? Yes, some in the DOD do.

Wish I’d been with Debbie and Joe, but I think they did a pretty good job!

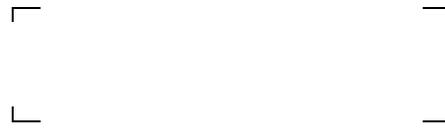
John Tilford – Service Officer

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Bloomington, IN 47404-2690

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Phone: (812)-339-2375



**Stop by the Post on Veteran's Day between Noon and 4:00PM
FREE Ham & Beans with Fried Potatoes**