

VFW POST 604 NEWS

WWW.VFW-604.ORG

September 2017

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

Dear Comrades,

We have another successful month in the books. I wish to thank everyone who made it so.

The meals continue to be a great success. I want to give a special shout-out to Comrade (former Commander) Joe for his encore performance as steak chef.

We continue to get requests from several community groups for funding. If there are any groups that you feel are particularly deserving of funding please talk about with your Comrades. Also, attend the meeting so that your voice can be heard. Donations from the Post need to be the heartfelt expressions of the majority of the members. I don't want the perception to be that the officers are funding their pet projects.

Please continue to support the Post's patriotic efforts in the schools (Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy, and Teacher of the Year). There is nothing more motivating to a school than an involved parent or grandparent.

Again I want to reiterate this is your Post and all inputs are appreciated. ❖

Yours in true Comradeship

Commander – Roy Smith



Commander Smith receives Bloomington National Guard's "Certificate of Appreciation" presented to VFW Post 604 by SSGT Gill.

VFW Auxiliary

Here it is September already, time is flying by. The kids have all started back to school. As I remember it, when our kids were in school, it is a hectic time of the year. Between trying to find exactly what they wanted in school, clothes, shoes, and the list of supplies the school wanted you to get... there isn't much time to do much else. Now that the hard part is over, it's closer to a routine, which is really nice. With this new found spare time, come on out and enjoy the Post.

We are now collecting 2018 dues which are due by December 31st, 2017. Our Membership Chairperson, Karen Cain, will be sending out annual dues reminders in the next few weeks. Please watch out for them in the mail. Hey, in case you didn't know, this year you can go online to pay your dues. If you are interested, give Karen a call at 812-327-1944 and she'll lead you through it.

Our Auxiliary meetings are at 6:00PM on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. We are always looking for new ideas. Please bring yours and come to the meeting. They usually last less than an hour. It is important you keep your address up to date at the post. We currently have 10 members we have lost touch with. Newsletter returns cost money, but more importantly they're not getting it.

Post 604 is 100% staffed by volunteers. We certainly want you to enjoy the facility, but we would appreciate any offers of assistance. Our current member volunteers are over extended trying to do all of it. Runners on Thursdays supporting the kitchen during Texas Hold 'em from 6 – 8PM, or Friday with dining room support for the dinner specials, again 6-8PM. Every little bit helps. If you can spare a whole evening (4PM - 10PM) we could use help bartending. No experience necessary, just willingness to help out, we'll help you with your

See Auxiliary on Page 4

How the VA Rates Hearing Loss

Reference: Title 38, United States Code applied in accordance with 38 Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 4.85 and 4.86.

When I started working for the VA in 1975 there were still several WWII veteran employees. They described the hearing loss test before the “beep-beep” (puretone threshold test) with which most of us are familiar. In the Olde Days, the doc tested the veteran’s hearing by whipping out his pocket watch and determining how far away the vet could no longer hear the ticking sound. No, I am not kidding. The actual distance standards are lost in the mists of time, but let’s say two feet might have been 10%. As these vets aged and their hearing deteriorated many filed for re-evaluation of their hearing loss. They discovered that initiating a re-evaluation can result in three things: a raise in the disability rating, the rating might not change, and the rating might be lowered. Guess what happened when the tick-tick ratings were re-evaluated under beep-beep standards. If less than twenty years old, most were lowered. (As long as fraud is not involved a VA disability rating percentage older than twenty years cannot be reduced. Also barring fraud, service connection itself cannot be taken away after ten years.) Example: Johnny Veteran’s WWII 10% rated hearing loss really was worse but standards had changed and was re-evaluated at 0%.

The VA currently rates hearing loss by first applying Table VI from §4.85 of the CFR which has “% of discrimination” (percent of the words repeated back to the examiner which are correct) on the vertical axis and “Puretone Threshold Average” (average of the beep-beep hearing losses measured in decibels at 1000, 2000, 3000, and 4000 Hertz) on the horizontal. Where the column and row cross provides a Roman numeral which is used in Table VII to find the actual disability percentage rating. If you look at Table VI it’s obvious that the middle three of the nine beep-beep columns (58-65, 66-73, and 74-81 decibel average loss) on the top row (92-100% accuracy at repeating the words) only give Roman numeral II. Eighty-one decibels is a profound hearing loss, but the top row of repeating accuracy is no lower than 92%. Some of you may remember Clarence Alexander, a WWII Navy veteran. Nearly as deaf as a post. This was his situation and his II for each ear from Table VI got him a 0% rating on Table VII, the actual percentage table. For Clarence to have repeated the words back at that high level of accuracy the examiner must have been shouting into the microphone and have spoken very clearly and had the volume turned way up. I was not too pleased with Clarence’s initial 0% VA rating.

If the examiner (VA medical center or contractor) certifies something’s screwy with the discrimination accuracy results, such as a language problem or inconsistent results, the rating specialist (regional office) will use Table VIa. Very simple table. Only uses puretone threshold average to get the Roman numeral. The middle three columns – 63-69, 70-76, and 77-83 decibels –

translate to V, VI, and VII, respectively. If Johnny has a VI for each ear, Table VII translates to a disability rating of 30%. Now we’re getting realistic.

However, the rating specialist cannot use Table VIa instead of Table VI unless at least one of three criteria is met. We’ve already seen the first: the examiner’s certification of inability to get a valid discrimination score. The second and third are in §4.86 of the CFR. Paragraph (a) saved Clarence: *“When the puretone threshold at each [emphasis added] of the four specified frequencies (1000, 2000, 3000, and 4000 Hertz) is 55 decibels or more, the rating specialist will determine the Roman numeral designation for hearing impairment from either Table VI or Table VIa, whichever results in the higher numeral.”* Clarence’s hearing loss around 1000 was something like 65 decibels and the higher frequencies went up from there toward the “chainsaw at twelve inches” level. After we politely reminded the Indianapolis VA Regional Office of §4.86 (a) they revised his rating to 40%. Paragraph (b) is the third. It starts with, *“When the puretone threshold is 30 decibels or less at 1000 Hertz, and 70 decibels or more at 2000 Hertz . . .”* Restated, to use paragraph (b) to get to Table VIa, the veteran’s hearing must not be all that bad at 1000 Hertz and much more severe just one thousand Hertz higher at 2000 – a minimum difference of 40 decibels. I’ve never had a veteran get past the first part of Paragraph (b).

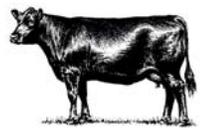
Trying to understand the “why” of §4.85 and §4.86 is hazardous to one’s sanity. The emphasis of Table VI on being able to hear and repeat words makes sense from impact on employment and quality of life standpoints – and both of those are bases for VA compensation. If a veteran can converse in an almost normal way despite really bad hearing maybe his or her rating percentage should be lower. Understanding voices is more important than listening to beep-beeps. But a nearly deaf person like Clarence should be rated higher than that indicated by just repeating words. OK, we’ve grasped those two concepts. However, what the heck is going on with §4.86 (b)? Is there audiology research that indicates such a dramatic difference is associated with problems understanding spoken words? Or did the guy who wrote §4.86 (b) have that big a difference in his hearing loss between 1000 and 2000 Hertz and he just slipped it in the reg for his own benefit?

You probably knew these trivia items already, but here they are again: Loud noises such as being near artillery, jet engines, small arms fire without adequate hearing protection, and etc. damage sensitivity to higher frequencies first and worst. Typical pattern for a veteran whose assigned weapon was a rifle is high frequency hearing loss lessening in severity at the lower frequencies and overall worse in the left ear compared to the right. The right ear was somewhat protected by the right of the shooter’s head being pressed against the rifle. .❖

John Tilford – Service Officer

Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

September 2017

September 2017						
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
					 <p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">1</p> <p>6PM - Pulled Pork Sandwich with Baked Beans & Potato Salad \$7.00</p> <p>Commander's Drawing 1900</p>	<p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">2</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold;">3</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HOT DOG MONDAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Open @ Noon</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">5</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">6</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">7</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Starts at 7pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* Vet to Vet – 1800</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">8</p>  <p>6PM - Auxiliary Fish Dinner \$7.00 – All you can eat!</p> <p>Commander's Drawing 1900</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">9</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold;">10</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">11</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HOT DOG MONDAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Open @ Noon</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">12</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">13</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">14</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Starts at 7pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* Vet to Vet – 1800</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">15</p>  <p>6PM - STEAK Night 10oz Rib eye – \$11.00!</p> <p>Commander's Drawing 1900</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">16</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold;">17</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">OPEN NOON</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">18</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HOT DOG MONDAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Open @ Noon</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Meetings</p> <p style="text-align: center;">V.F.W. – 1800 V.F.W. Aux – 1800</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">20</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">21</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Starts at 7pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* Vet to Vet – 1800</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">22</p>  <p>6PM - Taco Dinner \$7.00</p> <p>Commander's Drawing 1900</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">23</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold;">24</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HOT DOG MONDAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Open @ Noon</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">26</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">27</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">28</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Starts at 7pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* Vet to Vet – 1800</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">29</p>  <p>6PM - Turkey Manhattans with Mashed Potatoes & Corn Dinner \$7.00</p> <p>Commander's Drawing 1900</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">30</p>

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

Telephone Number (812) 339-2375

Charity Game Night License # 144211

Raffle License # 1414210

Auxiliary from Page 1

bartender's license. Please leave a message for Leonard Heldman at the post (812) 339-2375. Even one night a month will help out.

On our tenderloin Sundays, most of the crowd have been coming in early, so we've been closing the kitchen at approximately 4PM. If you plan on coming, but aren't sure you'll be there by then, just give us a call and we'll get it for you. We have had some members arriving at 5PM and were disappointed. We surely do not want this to happen – please just give us a call. Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. Also, price of our tenderloin is now \$6.00 due to increase in our costs. Still the same GREAT meal; sandwich, sides, desserts, so come on out and enjoy yourself. Some sides go fast, so you need to come early if you want the best deal.

September Dates to Remember;

September 17th – 10:30 AM – District Meeting - Odon.
September 17th – Noon till 6PM – Tenderloin Sunday
September 19th – Auxiliary Meeting 6:00 PM
September 22th – 6:00PM - Taco Night.

Check out the rest of the newsletter for other great information on other meals.

To those who've lost a loved one, our condolences go out to you. To those who are ill, a get well prayer for your speedy recovery. God bless our veterans & families everywhere – God Bless America and keep all safe. ❖

Dorothy J White
President - VFW Auxiliary
812-345-9025

Renewing Membership

Your continued membership is important to us. The V.F.W. and its Auxiliary are the life-blood of our post. If you know of someone desiring to join our ranks please do not hesitate to contact one of our officers.

Annual membership renewal forms are mailed to each V.F.W. and Auxiliary member. Dues shall be forwarded per the directions contained in the notice received by the member with the renewal form. If you do not receive a renewal notice, please contact the Post 604 Quartermaster.



TAPS

Gary D. Dix

Colonel US Army Retired, Vietnam veteran and Life Member VFW

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

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

James C. Arnold, Chaplin
VFW Post 604

WOW!!!-----9th MONTH OF THE YEAR— --ALREADY !!!

The 1st Friday of the Month Dinner Special (Sept 1st) where we will be having **PULLED PORK SANDWICH** with **Baked Beans & Potato Salad** plus **Dessert**--all for **\$7.00**

NASCAR SUNDAY—September 17th brought to you by The Auxiliary, which means **Gigantic Hand-Dipped Breaded Tenderloins**. These NASCAR Sundays are really a fun time, but the season is getting shorter. You need to try it—c'mon out!! Can't beat the price—a whole whopping **\$6.00**. Post will Open at Noon—Close around 6:00 ish!!

Then, just a few reminders for ya—**Texas Hold-'em Tournament** every **Thursday**, starts at **7:00 p.m.** It would be a shame to forget - The Auxiliary presenting their **FISH DINNER!!!** on **September 8th—Friday**-have you tried this dinner yet?? **\$7.00** all you can eat!! It is **GREAT**—just like the volunteer cooks!! Then we go to our **3rd Friday of the Month STEAK NIGHT (15th)!!** 10 oz. Ribeye with Baked Potato and Salad and Dessert all for just **\$11**. Hey!! Our crew of volunteers do a great job on this dinner!!!

We have a **5th Friday** in the month (**September 29th**)—so the **Tim & Tim Boys** are going to whip up some **Turkey Manhattans** with Mashed Potatoes & Corn along with Desserts all for ? ? ? ? — you guessed it -- **\$7.00** Oh yes, there is a **4th Friday in the Month** dinner special, but we need you to check out **The Auxiliary** news article for that dinner special!!!! **IT'S GOOD!!!!**

All in all it looks like a great September to us, so you need to try one or all of the above events and let us know what you think—**OK??** ❖

House Committee

Laurens B. Strain V.F.W. Post 604
2404 W Industrial Park Drive
Bloomington, IN 47404-2690

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VFW POST 604 SEPTEMBER HAPPENINGS

- Friday – September 1st – Pulled Pork Special Dinner - \$7.00
- Friday - September 8th – Auxiliary Fish Dinner-all you can eat!! - \$7.00
- Friday - September 15th – STEAK NIGHT – 10 oz. Ribeye grilled to order - \$11.00
- Sunday - September 17th – NASCAR - Gigantic Breaded Tenderloin Sandwiches - \$6.00
- Friday - September 22nd – Taco Dinner Special – All you can eat - \$7.00
- Friday - September 29th – Turkey Manhattan Dinner - \$7.00

EVERY THURSDAY AT 7PM
TRY YOUR LUCK
TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENT & CASH GAME