

# VFW POST 604 NEWS

## 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.

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

OCTOBER 2014

## Commander's Corner

Greetings.

Over the past few months, I have been asked several times about when we were going to have a steak night at the Post. Well we have decided that the 3rd Friday of the month would be a good time. Buy doing this we will have a dinner special every Friday night of the month. So in October be sure and mark your calendar for the 3rd Friday night Oct. 17th. Come out and join us for steak. All of you know how good our food is and you can bet that this will also be a great meal. We will make sure you will get a good bang for your buck. We are going to start off with a rib eye and see how it goes. So stop by the Post and get all the info and sign up so we can get a feel for how many steaks to order.

We have been doing a lot of work around the Post getting ready for winter. I want to thank Dennis, Barney and his son, Frank, Tom Vernon for all the hard work. I want to thank all of you who have paid their dues already. We are at about 82% so help us reach 100% by December to show everyone how much our Post means to us.

**Mark your calendar.** We are going to have a free breakfast for our members on the 25th of Oct starting at 9am. We will be serving fried squirrel, biscuits and gravy, fried potatoes, eggs, and coffee. This is to Honor our Veterans that served our country and the Men's and Ladies Aux that have helped us so much at the Post. All members are welcome.

Joe Hardin, Commander

## Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

Labor day was a hoot at Post 604. We served 1/4 pound dogs-coneys-beans and desserts for \$1.50. No misprint: ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS.

We listened to all kinds of music, 60's -70's -80's, country, rock. Sold buckets of beer, played corn hole on the deck. Leonard/Barney- champs, Tim/Dennis-2<sup>nd</sup>, and sarah/Thurman - 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Fish on Fridays have been sell outs! Fish, Fries, Slaw and desserts (all you can eat) \$6.50 NASCAR Sunday tenderloins have been Sell outs too. We have 10 different kinds of desserts + our tenderloins for \$5.00.

Our poker players accepted a challenge to raise money for Al's "Buckets of Ice Water Dumped Over Your Head" and we raised almost \$400.00. (on Post's website)

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday each month - fish night.

Oct 19<sup>th</sup> NASCAR Tenderloins - Talladega. COME JOIN US

Tim Haney, President Men's Auxiliary



## Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

Hi Ladies,

We keep having good meetings, but not enough people. The fact is if you want to know what's going on at your club, then you need to attend a meeting, come to the club and enjoy yourself. Six or eight members are NOT enough people. Come on girls – show your faces. 😊

I would also like to see more of you at the dinners. The Ladies Aux. dinner especially need more attendance. It pains me to hear people say the ladies don't draw as many people as the others do. Come join us and have a good time.---Speaking of dinners we will be have our October dinner on Friday the 24<sup>th</sup>. We are having meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy,,, and green beans.--- Auxiliary members, please bring desserts if you can. Any way come and enjoy dinner.

Our commander (Joe Hardin) is planning a special dinner on the 17<sup>th</sup> of Oct. Check the Commander's corner for more information. Also on Friday Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> we will be doing something extra for Halloween. Check with the post.

Here's hoping all is well with you and yours. Have a happy hallooween, ooooh Boo-Boo.

**Julia Curtis, President  
VFW Ladies Auxiliary  
Phone (812) 822-0028**



\*\*\*\*\*DISTRICT MEETINGS\*\*\*\*\*  
November 23, 2014--Post 1157 Vincennes  
January 25, 2015-----Post 1257 Martinsville  
March 22, 2015-----Post 1111 Mooresville  
May 17, 2015-----Post 9297 Crane

Sept is gone-Whew!!-It was busy!!

Let's start **October** off with our fantastic 1<sup>st</sup> of the month **FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER SPECIAL** on the **3rd** when we will try our hand at whipping up **Turkey Manhattans**—sliced right off the Bird—with **Mashed Potatoes and Corn**—gotta have some **-Biscuits and Desserts**---all home cooked and still only **\$5.00!!!!!!** As before we start serving at 6:00 and go until we run out---so stop by—grab a plate--sit and enjoy!!!

This months **NASCAR Sunday** will be Oct. 19, Talladega. Post will open at Noon, race starts around 2:30 pm. Food will naturally be **Gigantic Hand-Dipped Breaded Tenderloins**. This is brought to you by the Men's Aux and you can be sure, they put on one heck of a meal for **\$5.00**. These Tenderloins are so popular—we have members and their neighbors calling in their **To-Go Orders!!!!** Let's not forget Men's Aux. presenting their **FISH DINNER!!!** on the **10th—Friday** starting at 6:00 p.m. They have been serving more and more fish every month--last month was around 65 lbs.—all you can eat. And then real quick **Texas Hold-em Tournament** every **Thursday**, starts at **7:00 p.m.** and **SUNDAY—Oct 5th--Texas-Hold-em Cash** game--we start playing at 1:00 p.m. and go till 8:00 p.m. Food & beverages will be available downstairs for the cash game however the Canteen will not be open.













Now when was the last time you went to a **Movie Theater??** Expensive isn't it—just for tickets?!?! Starting this month **Post 604** will have **Netflix** available on the **Big Screen TV**—select your movie—grab some popcorn or order a drink and Pizza—sit back and enjoy—the best part is the **Movie is Free!!!**

### HOUSE COMMITTEE



# Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

October 2014

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
			 <b>1</b>	 <b>2</b>  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1900	<b>3</b> Serving Dinner 1800-2100  <b>Friday Night Special</b>  Post open at 2pm Commander's Drawing @1900	<b>4</b>
 <b>5</b> Cash Game Starts at 1pm	<b>6</b>  HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ Noon	<b>7</b>  Afghanistan Was Began (2001)	<b>8</b>	 <b>9</b> Starts at 7pm  * Vet to Vet – 1900	<b>10</b> Serving Dinner 1800-2100  Post open at 2pm Commander's Drawing @1900	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>  Columbus Day	<b>13</b> HOT DOG MONDAY  US Navy Established (1775) Columbus Day (Observed)  Open @ Noon	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	 <b>16</b> Starts at 7pm  * Vet to Vet – 1900	<b>17</b> Serving Dinner 1800 – 2100  <b>Steak Dinner</b>  Post open at 2pm Commander's Drawing @1900	<b>18</b>
 <b>19</b>  Post open at noon	<b>20</b>  HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ Noon	<b>21</b>  Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 Men's Aux – 1800 Ladies Aux – 1800	<b>22</b>	 <b>23</b> Starts at 7pm <b>Grenada Campaign began (1983)</b> * Vet to Vet – 1900	<b>24</b>  <b>Friday Night Special Ladies Aux.</b>  Post open at 2pm Commander's Drawing @ 1900	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  HOT DOG MONDAY  Navy Day  Open @ Noon	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	 <b>31</b>  Post open at 2pm Commander's Drawing @ 1900	

(\* 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 # **134469**

Raffle License # **134470**

**\*\*\*First, I stopped by the VA clinic in Bloomington last week to ask about a flu shot. The helpful young lady told me that Walgreens would give veterans flu shots for free. I assumed they would get paid by the VA. She didn't say what to take to Walgreens to prove veteran status.\*\*\***

## **Jerry Shipman and the Thirteen Days**

*"There were no skid marks. He ran straight into the tree. 'Must have been a seizure. He had a history, you know.'" I thanked the officer for his time and hung up.*

A historian should have interviewed Jerry Shipman. Jerry piloted the US Navy "whale boat" carrying the first boarding party to inspect the first Soviet controlled vessel stopped during the 1962 blockade of Cuba. I did not see Jerry smile often. Most of those were at greeting or parting and reflected nothing more than courtesy. He did not have a lot to smile about. One genuine grin accompanied relating his memory of the trip toward the freighter; "They talk about who 'blinked first'. I'll tell you one thing, those officers weren't thinking about blinking. They were about to crap their pants." Jerry went on to explain that no one on board the whale boat had any idea what type of reception they would receive; gun fire, welcomed then taken hostage, no idea at all.

Jerry's service connected disability claim had been initially denied by the Indianapolis Regional Office, appealed at that level, again denied, and appealed to the Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington, DC before I met him. He became a regular visitor in the Monroe County Veterans Affairs office, each visit checking on the status of his BVA appeal. Jerry usually stopped by monthly, arriving about a half-hour after we opened. The timing was another demonstration of his courtesy. I would make calls, discover nothing new, we would talk briefly, and Jerry would take his leave before I moved on to the next veteran. I can't recall the last time I saw him although I know it was in 2001. All the visits were so similar. All were so melancholy.

About a year after the Thirteen Days Jerry went to the wrong bar while on liberty in Naples, Italy. He was about five feet, seven inches tall and slightly built. Wrong bar, indeed. Jerry was hit on the top left side of his forehead with a pipe. As he pointedly observed decades later, photographs showed a "baby faced" Jerry Shipman at the time of his enlistment into the Navy; "Look at that picture. 'Not a mark on me!'" The Jerry I grew to know had a disfiguring dent and scar. He also had a calcified aneurism which pressed upon his brain in such a way as to cause unpredictable seizures. Jerry had been awarded non-service connected pension because of being unemployable. His Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for service during the Cuban missile crisis satisfied the war time service requirement for the needs-based (low income, low net worth) pension.

I never saw Jerry's original service connected disability claim or

the initial Indianapolis denial. He had appointed the Disabled American Veterans as his representative organization. Deducing from what happened . . . well, I don't think the original claim was of the best possible quality. The senior DAV service officer in the Indianapolis office, whom I remembered from the late 1970s, had just retired and an aggressive young service officer assumed the lead role. 'Thought he knew about everything. Maybe he did, but his office didn't do a good enough job for Jerry. Sometimes it seems "The VA" gets initially locked into a negative position and will not budge thereafter unless forced to do so. It's as though they want to sustain their coworkers' earlier decision, and as if they've forgotten their own regulation to resolve cases of reasonable doubt in favor of the veteran[1].

One day there was news. The Board of Veterans Appeals made an almost-decision: the Board did not outright reverse the Indianapolis Regional Office, but rather remanded the case back to Indy to reconsider. The new senior DAV service officer assured Jerry he would get the service connected disability rating quickly. The service officer told Jerry he had "never seen the Regional Office not take the remand hint from the BVA", as though he had seen scores of such remands.

Jerry resumed his monthly visits, now waiting on the Regional Office reconsideration.

[1] Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 3.102:

*It is the defined and consistently applied policy of the Department of Veterans Affairs to administer the law under a broad interpretation, consistent, however, with the facts shown in every case. **When, after careful consideration of all procurable and assembled data, a reasonable doubt arises regarding service origin, the degree of disability, or any other point, such doubt will be resolved in favor of the claimant.** By reasonable doubt is meant one which exists because of an approximate balance of positive and negative evidence which does not satisfactorily prove or disprove the claim. It is a substantial doubt and one within the range of probability as distinguished from pure speculation or remote possibility. It is not a means of reconciling actual conflict or a contradiction in the evidence. Mere suspicion or doubt as to the truth of any statements submitted, as distinguished from impeachment or contradiction by evidence or known facts, is not justifiable basis for denying the application of the reasonable doubt doctrine if the entire, complete record otherwise warrants invoking this doctrine. The reasonable doubt doctrine is also applicable even in the absence of official records, particularly if the basic incident allegedly arose under combat, or similarly strenuous conditions, and is consistent with the probable results of such known hardships.*

. . . to be continued.

**John Tilford – Service Officer**

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# **United States Navy - Established (1775)**

