
VFW POST 604 NEWS

WWW.VFW-604.ORG

April 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

IT IS Election Time! -We opened the election for Post Officers at our meeting on March 21st. It is time for all of our members to consider stepping up and running for an office at the post. If you are available and willing to help us at the post please let us know. We have several offices open.

This has been a great year for the Post, with the help of many of our members who gave us their experience and dedication. Our nominations will stay open until our monthly meeting in April. We will have our elections at the same meeting following the closing of nominations. You only have a month to decide so don't hold back. It is a great experience so get involved.

The merging of the Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries is off to a great start. Everyone is working together and things are coming together really well. Their Friday night food specials are something you need to come out and enjoy ☺ The Sunday NASCAR tenderloin sandwiches are as delicious as always. The Aux. is in the process of having their elections as well, so all you Aux. members join in and fill the open offices. We need you to help keep our Post strong in the coming year. We are a team.

We still have things to do around the Post to get ready for spring. We have cleaning to do, and start to think about furniture for the deck. We want to have some outside events this year and enjoy our deck.

We have some people flipping their cigarette butts over the fence onto Grimes Pools property. Frank Ozug was kind enough to pick them up for us even though he doesn't smoke. Our neighbors have been very kind to us, and even gave us land to build our emergency exit ramp. So please keep your butts on VFW property and help us keep it clean. ❖

Commander - Joe Hardin

VFW Auxiliary

So, what do you think about our weather the first three months of 2017? (Ain't this been nice?) For all you members sitting at home have really missed out on some GREAT Home Cookin'! In just a couple or three weeks, it'll be PARTY TIME out on the deck!

Get ready as we're getting ready for 2017-2018 officer nominations. If you want to be on out board, get your Buns in here. We need you at our meetings!

Starting in March and continuing into April we will be accepting names for nomination to our offices with voting during the April 18th monthly meeting. Who do you want to see in?

For the Friday April 28th dinner, we will be serving Chicken & Noodles, mashed potatoes, and green beans. As always, THANKS to all auxiliary members who donate sides & desserts to go along with our meals.

Remember, all auxiliary members in good standings are welcome at our meetings held on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00P.M. Normally these meetings last only about an hour. Come on out and share your ideas – we're always open to new suggestions and ideas. We'd be glad to see and hear from you!

God bless all our veterans, near and far. Keep them safe.

May God bless America. ❖

Dorothy White, President VFW Auxiliary

812-345-9025

TAPS

- ✉ **Former Post 604 Commander
Leo Eugene "Gene" Moncel, Vietnam
Service Medal, U.S. Army**
- ✉ **William P. Tennell, US Navy, WWII served
on the USS Kenmore as Lieutenant**
- ✉ **Eugene S. Fritz, Korean Service Medal, US
Navy**

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

Gene Moncel, Bill Tennell, and Eugene Fritz will be missed by all the Men and Women of VFW Post 604 and the 7th District.

**James C. Arnold
Chaplin, VFW Post 604**

Post & Auxiliary Elections

Annual Office elections for V.F.W. Post 604 and the V.F.W. Auxiliary are upcoming. Nominations from, nominees submitted, and voting is limited to members in good standing. Offices as follows:

V.F.W. Post 604 Offices

Nominations: Close April 18, 2017
Open Voting: April 18th 2017 meeting after nominations close

- Commander
- Sr. Vice Commander
- Jr. Vice Commander
- Quartermaster
- Chaplin
- Judge Advocate
- Surgeon
- 3-Year Trustee
- 3-Year House Committee



V.F.W. Post 604 Auxiliary Offices

Nominations: Close April 18, 2017
Open Voting: April 18th 2017 meeting after nominations close

- President
- Sr. Vice President
- Jr. Vice President
- Treasurer
- Chaplin
- Conductress
- Guard
- 3-Year Trustee
- 2-Year Trustee
- 1-Year Trustee



Member participation is desired and encouraged!!!

NOT BAD FOR THE FOURTH MONTH OF 2017 !!!!!

Our weather so far this year that is! 1st Friday of the Month Dinner Special (Apr 7th)—this month we gonna be fancy and trying something NEW!!!—Chicken Marsala with Mashed Potatoes and Corn. But of course it just cost \$7.00!!

No fooling--we will have desserts in there also!!

This month NASCAR Sunday will be April 23rd, Food City 500-Bristol, Tennessee (or is it Virginia...?) ---Post will open at Noon. Better than bein' there!!!! Food will naturally be Gigantic Hand-Dipped Breaded Tenderloins. This is brought to you by the VFW Post 604 Auxiliary and you can be sure, they put on one heck of a meal for \$5.00. Let's not forget the Auxiliary and their FISH DINNER presentation on April 14th — 2nd Friday of the Month starting at 6:00 p.m. They have been serving more and more fish every month --- all you can eat for \$7.00!!










3rd Friday of the Month STEAK NIGHT (April 21st)!! 10 oz. Ribeye, Baked Potato with Salad and Dessert all for just \$11. That's right—just \$11. 4th Friday of the Month (April 28th) presents "The Auxiliary Dinner"—check out their article for the menu on that night. Oh well, come out and have a good meal along with a fun time with us here at your POST 604. ❖

House Committee



Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

April 2017

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
2	3 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	4	5	6  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	7 Chicken Marsala Dinner 1800-2000 Commander's Drawing 1900	1 8
9	10 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	11	12	13  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	14 Fish Fry 1800 - 2000  Commander's Drawing 1900	15
16	17 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	18 Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 V.F.W. Aux – 1800	19	20 * Vet to Vet – 1800	21 Ribeye Dinner 1800 - 2000  Commander's Drawing 1900	22
23 !! TENDERLOINS !!  NASCAR Sunday Open Noon until Victory	24 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	25	26	27  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	28 Chicken & Noodles Dinner Special 1800 - 2000 Commander's Drawing 1900	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 # 141029

Raffle License # 141031

SBP, DIC, SSIA, and Reconsideration

A Bloomington veteran passed away in August 2016. He was 60% service connected disabled for ischemic heart disease but the only cause of death listed on his death certificate was aspiration pneumonia. A local VA claims helper assisted the widow in filing for VA Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) as a service connected death. The VA Pension Center denied the DIC claim on 14 November "because the evidence does not show that the cause of death was related to military service."

I had known the veteran and his wife for several years. She called regarding the VA denial. During our conversation she mentioned the attending nurse said, "His heart stopped. We probably could have brought him back, but he had a 'do not resuscitate'." I visited the widow, got the names and contact information for the medical people who were familiar with his heart condition and the circumstances surrounding his passing, and she and I visited their office manager. (Having the widow with me avoided HIPAA privacy protection problems.) Within fifteen minutes we agreed that they would provide a medical statement directly to the VA that the veteran's ischemic heart disease contributed to his passing.

I wrote a letter to the VA Pension Center requesting reconsideration of their denial on the basis of the medical statement. I attached a copy of the statement, a copy of the veteran's 60% VA rating for ischemic heart disease, included a list of the names and contact information for several of the cardiology staff who were also willing to support the 'contributed to' conclusion, and a VA Form 21-22a designating me as her representative.

The first indication the widow and I had that the request had been successful was a Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) letter to her in February 2017. She had been drawing \$567 a month Survivors Benefit Plan (SBP) because her military retiree husband had paid SBP premiums for years via deduction from his retired pay. The DFAS letter said her SBP was terminated retroactively to September and she owed all the money back! I told her to not worry about the letter because the only reason for stoppage was that DIC and SBP still have a full offset, the inane "widow's tax" which punishes surviving spouses whose retiree passed away due to service connected causes. They can't draw both, usually just the bigger of the two. The VA must have decided in her favor but could not pay her the full, non-taxable DIC until the SBP was stopped.

On 20 March 2017 I received my 'representative's copy' of her official award of DIC notice from the VA. She will draw \$1,257.95 a month DIC from 1 December 2016 onward and \$1,254.19 a month, the previous rate, from 1 September 2016 through 30 November 2016 – a bit over \$7,540 retroactive pay.

I called the VA first in pursuit of how the widow needed to apply for Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA). The VA did not know. I then called DFAS. SSIA is a \$310.00 monthly special allowance by which Congress apologized for the full offset between SBP and DIC. They were too cheap to repeal the offset, even though DIC is earned for the surviving spouse by the sacrifice of the veteran who by his or her service connected death gave his life for his country, and SBP is fully paid for (the fund has excess money, as a matter of fact) by the retiree through deduction of the premiums. DFAS told me there is no SSIA application form or procedure, the SSIA is automatic following a full audit of the widow's DFAS account which takes three to four months. In our widow's case, the audit will determine how much of the SBP premium money will be refunded to her, probably a reduced amount in lieu of her repaying the SBP paid.

She loses the SBP \$567 per month. She gains the DIC \$1,257.95 per month with about \$7,540 back pay. (Not that she's thinking of it now, but since she's over fifty-seven years old she keeps the DIC even if she remarries.) She'll pick up the SSIA \$310 per month with \$1,860 back pay and the SBP premium money refund around June or July. The SBP premium refund is a one-time settlement, I'm guessing of several thousand dollars. Because the veteran's passing is now considered by the VA as service connected she will receive an additional amount for his burial/funeral expenses beyond the \$1,047.00 'regular' amount already paid, a one-time supplemental payment of \$953.00.

I called the widow. She had not read the VA letter. I told her about it. She started to cry. She had sold some of the veteran's guns to buy food. I hung up because I did not want her to hear me crying.

The law supporting the SSIA \$310 per month expires on 30 September 2017. When SSIA was created Congress intended the SSIA dollar amount to increase each time a new SSIA law was passed until the DIC-SBP offset was finally overcome. Without Congressional action, our widow and all other surviving spouses eligible for SBP and DIC will lose their SSIA this October.

John Tilford – Service Officer

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

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Phone: (812)-339-2375

APRIL HAPPENINGS AT POST 604

Friday Dinner Specials – 6-8PM

April 7th Chicken Marsala, Mashed Potatoes, & Corn

April 14th Fried Fish Dinner – All you can eat

April 21st 10oz Rib-Eye Steak, Baked Potato, Salad, & Dessert

April 28th Chicken & Noodles, Salad, & Dessert

Every Monday - open at NOON – ¼ pound hot dogs - \$1.50 ALL DAY – GREAT price

Thursdays – 7PM till Midnight – Texas Hold ‘em Tournament (Not on April 20th)

Sunday Opening April 23rd – Food City 500 – Noon–6PM - Enjoy tenderloin sandwich with fixin’s and watch the race.

APRIL HAPPENINGS AT POST 604
