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# 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.ORG](http://WWW.VFW-604.ORG)

July 2015

### Commander's Corner

Hello Everyone!

It is time again for me to say a few words about what we are doing at the Post. We have made a few improvements and it is all for the good of the Post. If you have been to the Post and ventured out on our deck, you had to notice our new door. Believe me when I say it sure is better. We have put a new pad out back for the trash pickup and it looks great. We have finalized our drawing for our stairs off the deck and are planning on starting them soon. We will also be putting permanent lighting and fans on the deck as well.

The National Guard has agreed to furnish us with a truck for the 4th of July parade. If you are interested in riding, let us know at the Post and we will get you the info on the time and place.

We had one of our members by the name of Zachary Deckard die in a motorcycle accident on June 3rd. He was just 28 years old. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones. There will be a benefit ride on Saturday July 11th from our Post starting at 12noon. Sign up will start at 10:00am.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Post soon. Come on out and join us for fun and comradeship, food and adult beverages. Kids are always welcome at Post 604 too.

**Joe Hardin, Commander**

### Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

Well Gang,

I'm Back!! My stay at The Heart Center was short this time. The sternum has been put back together with titanium plates and screws. The ole ticker has been rebuilt and now I have a Titanium Chest (Ford don't have anything over me with their aluminum body, ha ha).

Friday fish dinners are still doing very well and the tenderloins are too. July 19th is our next NASCAR event, the 2nd Friday is All-U-Can Eat fish. Texas Holdem tourney is still going strong. If you haven't been to the Post recently you should stop in and check us out and see what you are missing.

I know this has been repeated several times these past few months (because of my absence). But I want to thank the Men's Auxiliary personally for everything they are doing at the Post for me. This has to be the Best Group of volunteers anywhere. We also have a special group of ladies that provide our desserts. Thank you - one and all - may God Bless.

**Tim Haney, President  
Men's Auxiliary VFW Post 604**

## Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

Hi Ladies,

Here it is, July already. Please, if you haven't already, pay your 2015-16 dues. We will be sending out dues letters and a Poppy card. This year was a very bad year for us. Our main contributors are people that go to the Memorial Service at Valhalla Memory Gardens. This year, because of the rain and wind, we were unable to get around to the people. We are hoping when you send your dues you can add a little bit for our disabled veterans.

While you are at the club be sure to thank Dorothy White for the beautiful seasonal and holiday decorations. She does a wonderful job with all the many other things she does for our club. We really appreciate her dedication.

Our next taco dinner, all-u-can-eat, will be on July 24<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 pm. This always goes over well and we have a great time. You can't beat it and all for only \$6.00. The Friday night dinners are doing really well.

Some of our Ladies Auxiliary members tend bar quite often, so please feel free to come and join us especially Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Actually come anytime, we will be happy to see and serve you.

By the time you read this, we will have already attended the State conference. It is always a learning experience. We come back with helpful knowledge which helps us improve and inspire our auxiliary.

Well girls, that's it for this month. For those that are ill or have lost a loved one, my prayers and thoughts are with you and may God bless you. May god bless all our troops and their families.

-----Until Next Month-----

**Julia Curtis**  
**VFW Ladies President**  
**812-822-0028**



**4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade 2013**

## Fireworks & Parades & !!!!!!!

Saturday July 4<sup>th</sup>, Independence Day, Parade Day, the Post will OPEN at 10:00 a.m. and we will be serving all day long our Jumbo Hot Dogs with Duke's Beans (Bush)—with fix'ins— Potato Salad and Desserts plus who knows what will be available to go along with this meal. Cost you ask??---Just a mere \$4.00.

Since it is a holiday weekend with a lot going on we will not be serving our 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the Month Dinner Special. However, we still have our Mens Aux. Fish Dinner on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month (July 10th)-all you can eat!! And would you believe just \$6.50?? From there we go to our 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the Month STEAK NIGHT (17th)!! 8 oz. Ribeye with Baked Potato and Salad and Dessert all for just \$11. And then we are going to the races—New Hampshire 301 (NASCAR SUNDAY) on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July. We will OPEN at NOON, and of course this is being brought to you by our Men's Aux and their Gigantic Hand-Dipped Breaded Tenderloin Sandwiches. Plus we have had our Large Screen TV set up on the Deck for the last two Nascar Sundays—its pretty cool to sit outside on the deck—enjoy a sandwich and a beverage while watching the race!!! And don't forget we still have our Texas Hold-em Tournament every Thursday, starts at 7:00 p.m.













## House Committee



New Hampshire 301 – Sunday July 19. 2015  
Post opens at Noon

# Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

July 2015

Closed Sunday	Open 1200 – 2200 Monday	Open 1600 – 2200 Tuesday	Open 1600 – 2200 Wednesday	Open 1600 – 2200 Thursday	Open 1400 – 2200 Friday	Open 1000 – 2200 Saturday
				<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;"> <input type="radio"/> Full                 </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Starts at 7pm <b>U.S. Army Air Corps Established (1926)</b> *Vet to Vet – 1800</p> </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;"> <input type="radio"/> Full                 </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Starts at 7pm</p> </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;"> <input type="radio"/> Full                 </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Starts at 7pm</p> </div> </div>
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;"> <input type="radio"/> Full                 </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Cash Game 1 pm</p> </div> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">HOT DOG MONDAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Open @ Noon</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HOT DOG MONDAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Open @ Noon</p>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;"> <input type="radio"/> Last 1/4                 </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;"> <input type="radio"/> Full                 </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Starts at 7pm</p> </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">* Vet to Vet – 1800</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Serving Dinner 1800-2100</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Post open at 2pm Commander's Drawing @1900</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b> Serving Jumbo Hot Dogs And Dukes Beans All Day Long <b>\$4.00</b></p>
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(\* 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**

## Lawrence Edwards

Seventy years ago, in June 1945, Lawrence Edwards was bleeding to death. He held his upper leg wound together and tried not to lose consciousness. To release his grip would be to die.

Following Pearl Harbor three years earlier, Lawrence had gone through basic training at Camp Wheeler, Georgia, then spent over two years training on the west coast at camps Adair, Medford, Fort Lewis, and near San Diego. Finally, his 383<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, 96<sup>th</sup> Division, shipped out to Hawaii for a month and then landed in the third wave on the island of Leyte. Lawrence was in combat from October 20, 1944 to March 1945 in the Philippines.

Lawrence landed on Okinawa on April 1, 1945 and moved inland into some of the most lethal combat of the Second World War.

The casualty rate for US forces became progressively higher as landings neared the Japanese home islands. Admiral Chester Nimitz' goal was to capture and control strategic islands along a path toward the Japanese home islands, bringing U.S. bombers within range and preparing for a possible invasion. By early 1945, U.S. forces had advanced as far as Iwo Jima and Okinawa, within 340 miles of mainland Japan, at a great cost to both sides. On Okinawa alone, during 82 days of fighting, approximately 100,000 Japanese troops, 12,510 Americans, and somewhere between 42,000 and 150,000 Okinawan civilians were killed. Lawrence did not know it, but the hell he and his companions went through was one of the deciding factors in the decision to avoid an invasion of Japan by using the atomic bomb.

Lawrence was acting squad leader at the time he and his men came under direct fire from Japanese defenders. He was acting squad leader because his squad leader had been killed earlier that day. Hearing the sound, Lawrence turned in time to see his BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle) man, a good man and a good friend, killed by a shot to the head. Minutes later, Lawrence's left leg was split from hip to knee by shrapnel from a mortar round. Weak

from loss of blood and unable to walk, the remaining soldiers hid him in a cave – a cave he shared with the bodies of several dead Japanese. The new acting squad leader explained to Lawrence that there was nothing else they could do for him while under heavy fire in daylight, and promised to try to return at night to get him. After darkness, two soldiers did return to carry Lawrence back to medical attention. One of those two litter carriers was killed the next day. Lawrence was evacuated to Guam for two weeks, then treated in Hawaii for more two weeks – liquid penicillin forced into his wound through a tube every four hours – then shipped to Hines Hospital near Chicago where he was treated for four additional months. (The Hines Hospital is now part of the Department of Veterans Affairs system.) He had lost so much blood in Okinawa that his right arm was permanently scarred from field surgeries to force blood into his collapsed veins. There was no way he should have survived. Lawrence celebrated V-E Day (Victory in Europe) as a patient in Hines, and V-J Day (Victory over Japan – the end of World War II) back home near Bloomington with Mellie, his wife.

Although physically separated during Lawrence's war years and initial convalescence, he and Mellie were always together in spirit. They wrote letters faithfully, about the only way to communicate in those days. Today they are reunited. Mellie passed away in 2008, Lawrence in 2011. Their daughter obtained a memorial set of Lawrence's medals and badges to display in her home through the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis.

Seventy years ago. Okinawa. Never forget.

**John Tilford – Service Officer**

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