

VFW POST 604 NEWS

WWW.VFW-604.NET

June 2013

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

As the end of my term as VFW Post 604 Commander comes to an end, I would like to say that it has been an honor to serve for 3 years as leader of such a fine Post. I have done my best to uphold the mission statement of the VFW. With the help of some fine officers, we have made a big change in Post 604 and moved it forward. I have made a lot of friends over the years and will continue to serve as needed to ensure that the Post stays alive and well.

It is hard to step down, but I am sure the Post is in good hands and will continue to help Veterans and the community as well. I ask that you get behind the new officers and help them as much as possible. It takes the entire membership to make a Post successful.

Just remember that no one does more for Veterans than the VFW so keep up the good work and support our Veterans and our troops. God bless all of you and may God always bless America. ❖

Commander - Joe Hardin

Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

At this month's meeting we had our Memorial Day Service for our departed sisters and our new officers were installed.

Janet Williams (President);
Millie Briles (Sr. Vice);
Karen Chenalt (Jr. Vice);
Kathy Hardin (Secretary);
Patty Pate (Treasurer);
Joyce Grubb (Chaplin);
Dorothy Elliott (Guard);
Rita Bruce (Conductress);
Trustees are Susie Dumond, Wilma Hays, Tiffany Pell
Wilma Hays (Patriotic Instructor).

The Department of Indiana has not raised the dues since 2005 and additional money is needed to balance the

see Ladies

continued page 2

Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

NASCAR Sunday !!!

I just want to say Hi! --- I hope I can serve you as well as Mike Pipher did in his three years as the Men's Auxiliary President. If anyone has ideas to help the organization grow, please come forward and be heard. We would like to look into anything that could benefit our Post.

**Back by popular demand!!-- Gigantic
hand-dipped breaded tenderloin
sandwiches!! — June 9th—NASCAR
SUNDAY!!**

Serving from noon till 5:00 pm

I need to put out a Big Thank You to Chris Laroche, Dorothy White and Sandy Taylor. These gals have supplied side dishes & desserts — which by the way are out of this world — for the NASCAR Sundays that we have put on. So see you not only get a great sandwich—heck you get a whole meal for just **\$5.00**

Last month on May 18th we put on a lunch special for our veterans and followed that up with our **NASCAR** dinner (Mexican) — so in closing, I would like Thank all that attended and a special thank you to all the Men's Auxiliary members that were present and helped out. ❖

Tim Haney, President VFW Men's Auxiliary



budget, I would like to submit this resolution to raise the dues for the Department of Indiana from \$3.50 to \$4.50 per member. RESOLVED. That the members vote to raise the dues for the Department of Indiana to \$4.50 per member. Dues submitted before October 1, 2013 will be at the \$3.50 per member rate. Beginning with dues submitted on or after October 1, 2013 shall be at the \$4.50 rate. This will come out of dues you pay to the Ladies Auxiliary. Letting you all know what's going on.

The Department of Indiana of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is in need of your help once again. Needed are donations to fill greeting bags for the visitors at the state headquarters. Things like pens, pencils, note pads, key chains, and sample size items like lotions, kleenex, toothpaste, wrapped tooth brushes, mouthwash, or food items such as candy, chips, juice, or water.

We have several members who have lost loved ones this past month, and others who are in the hospital. Let's keep them all in our prayers.

Remember, come to Bingo Thursdays at 5:30 P.M. and on Saturday at 2:30 P.M. See you around the post. ❖

Janet Williams, President VFW Ladies Auxiliary

Neighbors helping Post 604

If you have not been out to the post lately, you may not be aware of some landscaping and clearing going on around our Post. Grimes Pools is in the process of renovating the rear of their property and has volunteered to spread and level several truckloads of fill dirt (no cost to the post) at the rear of our parking lot in preparation to relocate our storage shed. The fill dirt, well that was donated and delivered by Rob Rood (also no cost to the post). Mac Allister Machinery Company has volunteered to provide the equipment and expertise to move our storage shed for us, contents and all, yup you guessed it, also at no cost to the post.

Okay, might be saying – that's a hellofadeal – but, that's not all... Complete Masonry Supplies Inc. provided approximately 4 cubic yards of river rock, again our FAVORITE price – FREE – and John Todd of the Men's Auxiliary personally spread the entire load adjacent to the east side of the post building.

If you are not aware, the VFW intends to build a 20 foot by 36 foot deck with awning behind the post that will be accessible from the dining room on the main floor. The Ladies Auxiliary and Men's Auxiliary have contributed handsomely towards helping finance this effort. We're working with an architect to get plans approved by the county and state so the builder can get 'er done.

It is efforts like this, amongst many others, that help ensure our success and enable our ability to provide a post that is pleasurable to everyone who participates. Thanks to all – it is appreciated.

MIDDLE of the YEAR!!

Wow!!! June is already here, which usually means grilled Hot Dogs and that is exactly what we have on Mondays when we open at noon. These are the **BIG FAT DOGS**—the price you ask?? — **JUST \$1** — So before or after you cut the grass, c'mon out to the VFW and get a Dog & beverage.

Now, while you're thinkin' about that - keep in mind that our Friday Night Dinners are still going strong and on some Friday nights, on a whim, we have Specials like Turkey Manhattans and we have had Meatloaf dinners — just never know what we may conjure up in the kitchen — it's just too good to explain here!!! — so stop by and check it out

The Men's Auxiliary really put on a food feast on May 18th — you missed out if you weren't here — but... you're going to get another chance as we hear that the Men's Auxiliary is going to have their

Gigantic hand-dipped breaded tenderloin sandwiches again!! — on NASCAR SUNDAY — June 9th — from NOON till 5:00 pm.



The NASCAR race is the Pocono 400 and seriously, even if you are not a NASCAR fan, if you have not had one of these tenderloins you owe it to yourself to at least stop by and try one on for size --- **JUST \$5.00!!** In addition to the tenderloin there have been several members bringing in side dishes, even desserts. Hands-Down the best deal in town!!!! ❖

House Committee

Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

June 2013

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 Bingo– 1430
2	3 Open @ Noon – New Hours	4	5	6	7 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2100 	8 Bingo– 1430
9 Pocono 400 Open Noon until Victory 	10 Open @ Noon – New Hours	11	12	13	14 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2100  	15 Bingo– 1430
16	17 Open @ Noon – New Hours	18 Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 Men's Aux – 1800 Ladies Aux – 1800	19	20	21 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2100  	22 Bingo– 1430
23	24 Open @ Noon – New Hours	25	26	27	28 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2100 	29 Bingo– 1430
30				31 Bingo– 1730 * Vet to Vet – 1900	32 Bingo– 1730 * Vet to Vet – 1900	

(* 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 Bingo License # 128637

Raffle License # 127960

Continuum of Service

Those who serve are the most critical resource to the defense of the United States. Aircraft, logistics, radios, vehicles, weapons – all these and other expensive things are useless without the men and women who pilot, supply, communicate, drive, and fight.

If you look hard and deep enough at the United States, you will see people. That's really what the United States is – people. If you look closer still – close enough to see a small fraction of the population – you will see those who serve, those who are serving, and those who have served in the United States military. Generations come and go but the same three phases continue, overlapping, never stopping. This is the continuum of service. If this flow is broken, the Nation will ultimately die.

Children watch, listen, mature, and consider. Some young men and women volunteer and serve. Older, they look back on one enlistment or a career, or – too often – injuries that cut their service short. None regret their service, but many regret the evident lack of concern by those charged with administering their benefits and care.

The Department of Defense resistance to extending Space Available flight eligibility to 100% service connected disabled veterans, which would cost virtually nothing and which would mean so much to those few who can still travel, is but one example of short-sighted, ill-considered thinking. The DoD also resists the common sense- and justice-driven efforts to eliminate the full offset between Survivors Benefit Plan benefits and Dependency Indemnity Compensation from the Department of Veteran Affairs – the “widow's tax” whereby surviving spouses are punished because their retired veterans died a service connected death. The VA has finally admitted their adjudication performance appraisals have been based for years not on serving veterans, not on error rates, not even on courtesy, but on how many cases were moved off the stack. To paraphrase Don of Don's Guns, “I don't care about the veterans, or accuracy, or even decency folks, I just love to generate impressive numbers as quickly as possible to fool Congress!” Not only do these and similar actions on the part of those charged with assistance to veterans break faith with those who have served, they set examples which lower respect shown military service by society as a whole.

Children watch and listen, and see totally disabled Vietnam veteran grandpa sitting at home, unable to afford a vacation for grandma while there are empty seats wasted on military flights. When grandpa dies they see grandma cheated out of her SBP benefits because his death was service connected. The children see older brother Johnny wait for more than two years for his service connected disability claim to be processed – but Johnny doesn't live to

see it. His PTSD, and being on hold for a half hour on the VA suicide prevention hot line, took his life.

There's a reason that the combat arms enlistment bonus limit was raised to forty thousand dollars after 9/11. Actually three reasons: we were desperate for warm bodies in uniform, young adults are not as stupid as DoD recruiters think, and they grew up watching and listening. Make that four reasons: since 1973 only volunteers enter the military and keep that continuum of service flowing.

The Nation cannot continue to survive long as a nation – to apply short-sighted, shoot-ourselves-in-the-foot policies to those who served. Men and women are children, then young adults, and finally seniors. These are progressive phases in life, not three unrelated subgroups of people. We cannot harm grandpa and grandma and brother Johnny (What have they done for us lately? Who cares about them now? We have limited funding!) without strongly discouraging the young adults we need from entering military service. There is a linkage, a connection, a continuum.

In a perfect world, decisions made and policies implemented regarding recruitment, active duty resources, and veterans benefits would be managed by men and women who are serving or had served in the military. “Bean-counter mentality” would be trumped by those who had “been there”. Unfortunately, the proportion of veterans in government continues to decline with the proportion of veterans in the population. A heavier and heavier load of national defense has fallen on a smaller and smaller proportion of citizens. In this imperfect world, we must rely on the ethics, honor, and sense of duty among non-veterans in government. Without serious efforts at educating legislators, we are up the creek without a paddle.

To forget those who have served is to undermine the future of defense. To be silent is to acquiesce. Bring active duty and veterans benefits issues forward. Hold congressional members feet to the fire. Ask hard questions. Vote accordingly. Preserve the continuum of service. It's more fragile than most in government assume.

John Tilford – Service Officer

Charles E Martin

We have received word of Charlie Martin's passing on Jan 29th 2013. He was a life member of the VFW for over 50 years. Please keep his wife Regenia and their family in your prayers.

Omar F Sinn

We have received word of Omar Sinn's passing on February 7th 2013. He was a life member of the VFW for over 24 years. Please keep his wife Donnia and their family in your prayers.

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
BLOOMINGTON IN 47401
PERMIT No. 205

"Oldest Post in the State"

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Phone: (812)-339-2375



Post 604



Please Support



Conducted by V.F.W. Ladies Auxiliary

Thursday – Sales open 5:30PM – Play starts 6:30PM

Saturday – Sales open 2:30PM – Play starts 3:30PM

Get Involved – Participate !!!

Bingo License # 128637.