

---

---

# VFW POST 604 NEWS

---

---

May 2011

## 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

Hello everyone. As you know we just had our Post elections and we have some new officers. Some will continue to serve in their elected positions for the remainder of this term and hold the same positions for another year. I am proud to say that they have been working well as a group to ensure that Post 604 will be open. We will take office after the State has installed the new State officers.

If you have the opportunity to come by the Post you can see all the improvements that have been made. We still have our landscaping to complete. This will not keep us from being open. We are working with some landscaping nurseries to get all the plants we need on order to comply with our county requirements.

Don't forget that Memorial Day is coming up soon. We will have our service at Valhalla Cemetery and we will be putting flags out at cemeteries around the county. Our flags have been ordered so we will need volunteers to help place them on graves. All you have to do is call any of the officers listed in the Newsletter if you would like to help. May God bless all of you.

**Commander - Joe Hardin**



### Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

At our meeting this month we had nominations & Election's. Our new officers are

(PRESIDENT)	Janet Williams
(SR.Vice)	Millie Briles
(JR.Vice)	Mary Figg
(Treasurer)	Patty Pate
(Secretary)	Kathy Hardin
(Conductres)	RITA Bruce
(Chaplain)	Joyce Grubb
(Guard)	Dorothy Elliott
(3yr.Trustee)	Pat Robertson
(Patriolic Inst.)	Wilma Hays

If you would like to be a Committee chairman, please call (812) 876-3676 and let me know.

Patriots Pen contest had three entries this year, they were Breanna Giron, Brandon Carroll, and Madeline Lortz all from teacher Marcea Davis' Bachelor Middle School's 8th grade class. They were awarded a certificate and \$50.00 each. Hope to have more next year. So, how does the contest work? The contest consists of four levels; the 1st level (entry) is sponsored by local VFW Post. Post winners advance to the VFW District (regional) level where the first-place winner is advanced to the VFW Department (state) level. The first-place winner at the Department level is then advanced into VFW National competition and competes for the national prizes. Entrants shall ask a teacher or youth group/club adult leader to supervise the Patriot's Pen writing competition then contact the local VFW Post and indicate your interest in participating. Establish a contact person who is a member of that VFW Post or its Ladies Auxiliary. Make sure the essay is submitted to the VFW Post before the contest deadline of Nov.1st 2011

Bingo is going good. Donations from the players help make our various donations possible. Thank you to all who contribute. Please call me if you would like to help with Poppy donation May 15th thru May 21st.

**Janet Williams, President VFW Ladies Auxiliary**

## Revised Department of Veterans Affairs Adjudication Standards for PTSD

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, battle fatigue, or shell shock, whatever you want to call it – it's damaged the lives of combat veterans since war began. Normal people react in different ways to going through horrible things. Some seem to be able to cope. Some SEEM to be able to cope, but suffer internally. Some are obviously hurting. At least diagnosis standards and some partially effective therapies have been developed in the last decade. The VA tried to catch up by publishing the subject standards in 2010.

Before summarizing the new standards, let's go back to 2001. The late Larry Anderson didn't want to talk to me. His son had mentioned Larry's nightmares, his keeping guns all over his house, bar fights, trouble with "the law", divorce from the son's mother, alcohol abuse, difficulties in dealing with people, and difficulty with keeping a job. I called Larry again. A few weeks later, again. A few months later, Larry called me. For some reason, he opened up.

Larry Anderson had been declared 4F by the Bedford draft board because of his chronic back problems. With typically bad luck, the "McNamara's 100,000" program reached out and touched Larry in 1967. None of these draftees were supposed to be assigned to Vietnam. The theory was that these borderline qualified would take stateside jobs, releasing fully qualified soldiers to serve in combat. Larry was assigned a cook MOS, and walked off an airplane into the Vietnamese heat in 1968. He never cooked a meal. Using his street smarts, Larry became a supplies-illegal-procurer, an officer-driver, all-around-wheeler-dealer, and – most germane to PTSD – a "dust off" helicopter helper. He rode "slick" Hueys carrying supplies into not-nice places, helping unload crates of ammunition, rations, and socks. (Larry said the troops loved dry socks.) Then Larry helped load other things onto the empty helicopters. Bloody men, dead men, parts of men. Some in bags, some not. They flew to the evacuation hospital and Larry helped unload. Then he hosed and scrubbed out the helicopter. His cook MOS was never changed. One officer offered to do so, but only if Larry did something he did not want to do. Larry told me and the VA the dates, places, names, etc. of his Vietnam service and dust off missions. Everything he said was consistent with what I know about Vietnam, and I was there the same time as Larry. The VA never, in spite of appeals through the Board of Veterans Appeals level, service connected his obvious PTSD. His cook MOS and his lack of being assigned on paper to a combat unit were fatal flaws in his claim.

The VA did service connect the throat cancer that ultimately killed Larry. A good local doctor made sure the death certificate helped the VA make up their mind to service connect his death, thereby enabling Dependency Indemnity Compensation and CHAMPVA health care for his second wife/widow. But Larry's compensation never exceeded 30% during his entire life.

VA - PTSD

*continued*

Had Larry lived long enough, we could have re-filed under the current VA PTSD adjudication standards. Larry probably would have been compensated at the 100% rate. He would not have had to live as he did, barely making ends meet. But, Larry's yesterday, and yesterday's gone.

Let me show you an excerpt from the VA's 12 July 2010 press release regarding the new regulation:

### 5. How does this final regulation help Veterans?

The final regulation will simplify and streamline the processing of PTSD claims, which will result in Veterans receiving more timely decisions. A Veteran will be able to establish the occurrence of an in-service stressor through his or her own testimony, provided that: (1) the Veteran is diagnosed with PTSD; (2) a VA psychiatrist or psychologist, or a psychiatrist or psychologist with whom VA has contracted confirms that the claimed stressor is adequate to support a PTSD diagnosis; (3) the Veteran's symptoms are related to the claimed stressor; and (4) the claimed stressor is consistent with the places, types, and circumstances of the Veteran's service and the record provides no clear and convincing evidence to the contrary. This will eliminate the requirement for VA to search for records, to verify stressor accounts, which is often a very involved and protracted process. As a result, the time required to adjudicate a PTSD compensation claim in accordance with the law will be significantly reduced.

Last week I told Larry's son about the new VA PTSD adjudication standards. Maybe I shouldn't have. Maybe Larry's case, and others similar, in some way caused someone within the VA to demonstrate some common sense and compassion. More likely they just wanted to get rid of a bunch of PTSD claims quicker. Maybe both.

Don't let Larry's later life and death be in vain. If you, or anyone you know, has PTSD symptoms – please take advantage of the new VA standards and file a claim.

**John Tilford - Post Service Officer**

---

## VFW Post Meeting Change

V.F.W. Post 604 monthly meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month. Recently, as each member was notified by mail, the meeting location has changed from the American Legion Post 18 to our Post at 2404 W Industrial Park Drive, Bloomington, IN. As approved in the 19 April 2011 By-Law vote, the meeting start time of the monthly meetings has been changed to 6:00 PM.



## Medal of Honor Bridge Dedication

On 6 May 2011 @ 1030 a dedication for the Medal of Honor bridge will occur along the Hoosier Heartland Corridor on CR 500E in Tippecanoe county. This is the first Medal of Honor bridge in the country and many activities and guests are expected, including Medal of Honor recipients, fly over and many motor cycle riders. If you plan to attend and pay tribute to these heroes, please contact Chuck Brogran at (765) 742-1902.

## Korean War Veterans Sought

Timothy Rich, a PhD candidate at Indiana University, is looking for Korean War veterans willing to be guests in a class held on campus at IU Bloomington. Classes begin 29 August and he requests the guest within three weeks of classes beginning. Please contact Rich at [tsrich@indiana.edu](mailto:tsrich@indiana.edu). You can also access [www.timothyrich.com](http://www.timothyrich.com). or contact State VFW HQ with your name, address, and phone number.



Eighteen veterans commit suicide on average in America every day. That's 6,570 a year or quite possibly 65,700 over the past decade. To help combat this nationwide crisis, the VA created a confidential 24/7 Veterans Crisis Line just for veterans and their families to call, but VA still needs our help to distribute and display outreach materials in VFW Posts, newsletters, websites and workplaces. A choice of products is available for download at [http://reingoldweb.com/crisisline\\_ads\\_public/index.html](http://reingoldweb.com/crisisline_ads_public/index.html). Please help someone in need by displaying these products everywhere. Trained VA professionals are available at all hours to assist veterans and their family members. You do not have to be enrolled in VA to call the free, confidential service.



## Post 604 Misses Target Opening Date

The much anticipated opening date of April 19th was a goal we failed to meet, but this was not without maximum effort of those who rallied to the cause. As of the printing time of this newsletter, electrical certification of the property is all that remains to enable us to obtain our occupancy permit from Monroe County Planning Commission. This should be in place by April 30th. Please call the Post at (812) 339-2375 before making the effort to drive out. If you reach the recording please leave a message or call one of the officers listed on page 5 for the latest status.

## Activities Around the Post in Pictures



Newsletter Mailing Crew



Sidewalk Forms Goin' In



**Adjutant Crackin' the Whip**



**Concrete Shuttle**



**Sidewalk Concrete Delivery**



**Parking Bumpers Installed**



**Bachelor Middle School's - Patriots Pen contest**

Pictured (l-r) Principal Eric Gilpin, Breanna Giron, teacher Marcea Davis, Madeline Lortz, Brandon Carroll, and VFW Commander Joe Hardin.  
**8<sup>th</sup> Graders Rule!!!**



**Replacement Flag donated to Monroe House**

**For the next several weeks - Please call ahead to confirm whether the Post Canteen is open**

## Laurens B. Strain - VFW Post 604

May 2011

Closed	10:00 AM - 10:00PM	10:00 AM - 10:00PM	10:00 AM - 10:00PM	10:00 AM - 10:00PM	10:00 AM - 10:00PM	10:00 AM - 10:00PM
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2  * Vet to Vet - 1900	3	4	5  Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	6	7  Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
8	9  * Vet to Vet - 1900	10	11	12  Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	13	14  Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
15	16  * Vet to Vet - 1900	17  Men's Aux Mtg - 1800 Ladies Aux Mtg - 1900 (Eagles) V.F.W. Mtg - 1800	18	19  Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	20	21  Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
22	23  * Vet to Vet - 1900	24	25	26  Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	27	28  Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
29	30  <b>Memorial Day</b>	31				

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

Telephone Numbers

Post 604 - Canteen (812) 339-2375

**PPT License # 122238**

**Raffle License # 122237**

**Bingo License # 121844**

### Post Officers

VFW Post 604			Men's Auxiliary to VFW Post 604			Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 604		
Commander	Joe Hardin	(812) 334-8479	President	Mike Pipher	(812) 334-0748	President	E. Janet Williams	(812) 876-3676
Senior Vice Commander	Bill Halliday	(812) 369-0866	Senior Vice President	Joe Crawford	(812) 330-1343	Senior Vice President	Millie Briles	(812) 336-8409
Junior Vice Commander	Ty Briles	(812) 360-6518	Junior Vice President	Mark Sink	(812) 336-4566	Junior Vice President	Mary Figg	(812) 876-4971
Quartermaster	Mark Dammer	(812) 824-3367	Treasurer	Mike Griffith	(812) 349-2563	Treasurer	Patty Pate	(812) 339-6045
Adjutant	Bob Lanning	(812) 327-7953	Secretary	Mike Griffith	(812) 349-2563	Secretary	Kathy Hardin	(812) 334-8479
Chaplin	Roy Smith	(812) 797-4654	Chaplin	Eric Sink	(812) 336-4566	Chaplin	Joyce Grubb	(812) 336-6447
Service Officer	John Tilford	(812) 336-5574				Patriotic Instructor	Wilma Hays	(812) 332-5329
1 Year House Committee	John Martin	(812) 339-1113						
2 Year House Committee	Cathi Johnson	(812) 876-5745						
3 Year House Committee	Leonard L Heldman	(812) 361-9129						

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"*

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Phone: (812)-339-2375

# Memorial Day



May 30, 2011

