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# VFW POST 604 NEWS

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November 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 all know the holiday season is approaching and in November we have our Veterans Day and Thanksgiving dinners. I just want to remind everyone that the Veterans Day ceremony will be held on November 11th at City Hall starting at 10:00am. Afterwards, everyone is invited to the Post for ham and beans. We will be serving until 4:00pm or until all the food is gone.

Remember to always thank a Veteran for his/her service to this great country of ours. In the Newsletter you will see that our Post is planning a Thanksgiving dinner for our members on November 18th at 6:00pm. I would like to personally invite all of our members to attend. This will be a pitch-in dinner with the Post furnishing the meat and everyone is asked to bring a covered dish. This will be an opportunity for us to get together and enjoy the fellowship

*Commander*

*continued Page 2*



### Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

The year has passed by so fast. We are trying to get all of our reports done and turned-in on time. This is proving to be harder this year as I have broken my arm. If you have anything to report, please get it to me now.

Yes, you read it right, I broke my arm in early October when I fell down - not drinking ether. This has slowed me down some, but I am doing Ok. The Auxiliary ladies have been giving me lots of help. Thanks ladies.

Please pay your dues before the years end so we can keep the cancer insurance for each Ladies Auxiliary member and so you do not have to pay the increased rate that starts on January 1, 2012.

We need bingo players as we have been down in numbers. Come out and support the club, please tell your friends, and help us get the word out.

Has anyone signed up a new member this month? I had two!!! - Yeah for Janet.

Keep us all in your prayers. If you have anything to report please get it to me 876-3676. ❖

**Janet Williams, President VFW Ladies Auxiliary**

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### *Ladies Auxiliary Membership*

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National is raising our dues starting January 1, 2012. Annual membership dues are being increased to \$20.00 annually.

No sense in paying an extra \$5.00 when you don't have to. Please, save yourself the additional cost and get your dues paid early - Remember it's \$15.00, but you only have until 12/31/ 2011.

of our Post members. If there are any questions, please call me or any Post Officer. Our phone numbers are in the newsletter. Let's try to make this an opportunity to show our support for all of the hard work taking place at the Post. We are always open for suggestions and will gladly accept volunteers for any functions that members of the Post would like to have.

Our membership is starting to increase now that the Post is open. Please remind everyone that it is a privilege to be a member of Post 604 and remind everyone to pay their dues so they can be a part of our Post again.

We are collecting canned goods for the Food Pantry. If you would like to donate, please bring your items to the Post and drop in the barrel we have by the kitchen. We will make sure it is distributed to the Food Bank for distribution to the needy in our community. It is one of the ways to support our community.

This is a personal invitation from me to all members of the Post to come out and be a part of Post 604.

Sincerely,

**Commander - Joe Hardin**

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## Board of Veterans Appeals hearing in Washington, DC

Late last year I was completing a VA Form 9, the formal Department of Veterans Affairs appeal form. I checked the block indicating I wanted a personal hearing. Then I stopped and thought about the choices of hearing location and organizational level – in St. Louis, MO before a regional office hearing officer (The appeal pertained to educational benefits processed in the St. Louis regional office. The Indy regional office no longer does educational benefits other than vocational rehabilitation.), in Indianapolis before a Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) traveling Veterans Law Judge, or in Washington, DC before a BVA Veterans Law Judge. I had already represented veterans during regional office appeal hearings and during hearings with traveling members of the BVA in Indy, but I had never even spoken to any veteran appellant who had a personal hearing before the BVA in Washington, DC. Soes Ah dun checked the BVA in Washington, DC block. Heck, I wanted to see DC again anyway. A few months later I got the appointment letter.

Did you ever read Dave Barry's description of his colonoscopy? Pretty funny. Well, having a personal Board of Veterans Appeals hearing before a Veterans Law Judge wasn't exactly the same. As a matter of fact, it was not only painless, it was not bad at all. It turns out the Washington, DC BVA appointments are "blocked" for morning or afternoon. Mine was nominally at 1300 (That's one o'clock in the afternoon for you Air Force vets.) same as all the other afternoon hearings. The appointment

letter said that the order for conducting the hearings was the order in which the appellants signed in at the BVA building. (The BVA is proud that they are NOT collocated with the Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office.) I had flown a discounted US Air flight directly from Indy into Reagan National Airport which has its own METRO stop. The letter told me that the Judiciary Square METRO stop was the closest to the BVA building. Even though it was just a little after 0900, I decided to go ahead and sign in at the BVA. I followed the "if traveling by METRO" directions provided with the appointment letter – right up until the directions said to exit the underground METRO stop at the north end. I could not tell which way was north while underground, exited at the wrong end, and therefore did not see the free BVA – METRO shuttle van. I asked directions and walked about five blocks to the BVA.

Two security guards asked who I was and checked my ID. They X-rayed my luggage (Remember, I had gone directly to the BVA.) and I walked through a magnetic metal detector, just like at an airport. The BVA receptionist introduced herself and asked if I wanted a representative? (I said no, which is stupid, but I already knew the issues and the evidence.) She then surprised me by saying that the judge on duty for hearings might see me that morning! The receptionist then showed me to one of two "prep" rooms, normally used for the appellants and representatives to go over the veteran's claims folder, discuss the case, plan their testimony, and – if the need occurs – visit the restroom located between the two prep rooms. She asked if I wanted to review my own claim folder? I said yes, and she went to get it. I went to the rest and recuperation room to change out of a sweaty shirt and into a clean one, tie, and jacket. The receptionist returned with my folder shortly before the judge said he was ready if I was. He and I shook hands and we went into the hearing room. Unlike regional office hearing rooms which are usually small, one table with three or four chairs, and with simple voice recording equipment, the Washington, DC Board of Veterans Appeals hearing room was LARGE, obviously designed for the purpose, the judge sat behind a big and slightly elevated judicial-style bench, and there was a simple table in front of his bench with microphones and chairs for the appellant and a representative. All the furniture was dark. All the lighting was modern. There were off-white curtains on the wall behind the bench. The other three walls were plain grey. The judge and I talked weather and travel and Indiana for a few minutes, then he briefed me on how the hearing would be conducted (exactly the same as any other VA hearing), I was sworn, made my opening statement, we did the question and answer routine, I closed, he thanked me for my service, we shook hands, and I left. I took the free shuttle this time.

Very similar to Dave Barry's colonoscopy... ❖

**John Tilford - Post Service Officer**

# Laurens B. Strain - VFW Post 604

November 2011

Closed	Open 1000 - 2200	Open 1000 - 2200	Open 1000 - 2200	Open 1000 - 2200	Open 1000 - 2200	Open 1000 - 2200
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3  Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	4	5  Ham Drawing   ALL DAY \$1.25 Beer  Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
0200 - 	7  * Vet to Vet - 1900	8  Until sold out - Lunch Soup of the Week <b>Chili</b> →	9	10  Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	11    Veterans Day  Free Ham & Beans Lunch	12  Ham Drawing   ALL DAY \$1.25 Beer  Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
13	14  * Vet to Vet - 1900	15  Until sold out - Lunch Soup of the Week <b>Cheesy Broccoli</b> →  Meetings V.F.W. - 1800 Men's Aux - 1800 Ladies Aux - 1800	16	17  Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	18    1800 - Thanksgiving Dinner	19  Ham Drawing   ALL DAY \$1.25 Beer  Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
20  VFW District 7 Meeting - Clay City (Contact the Commander for details)	21  * Vet to Vet - 1900	22	23	24  <b>CLOSED</b>    Thanksgiving	25	26  ALL DAY \$1.25 Beer  Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
27	28  * Vet to Vet - 1900	29  Until sold out - Lunch Soup of the Week <b>Beef Barley</b> →	30			

(\* 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 # 124405**  
**Raffle License # 124404**

**Bingo License # 125265**

## 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) 360-4862	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
Chaplain	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	Cathi Johnson	(812) 876-5745						
2 Year House Committee	Leonard L Heldman	(812) 361-9129						
3 Year House Committee	John Martin	(812) 339-1113						

## Changing Colors & November 11th & 18th

Well there are not many green leaves left on the trees, which means that the cooler or downright cold weather is on the way. We do however have numerous ways to warm you up here at the Canteen and one of them is by serving a Jägerbomb — Yep we now offer Jägermeister (German Liqueur) which we are told will definitely provide the warmth. So on your next stop at the Post give it a try — see what ya think.

Busy - Busy Month of November — You will really need to keep this month's Calendar handy for reference because all of the following will be happening here at Post 604-Yep! Right here at YOUR Post.

**Nov. 11th—VETERAN'S DAY** — The Post will be **OPEN**, So when the ceremonies have concluded at Bloomington City Hall be sure and drop by the Post for **FREE** Ham & Beans & Corn Bread plus Fried Potatoes. Can't get any better eatin' than that.

**Nov. 18th—THANKSGIVING DINNER** — The Post will furnish the **BIRD** and the Ladies Aux. will be churning up desserts—so it looks like all you have to do is--besides bringing yourself bring along a side dish! Serving should begin around 6:00 - 6:30 pm. We think this will actually be our 1st Official Dinner here at the New Post so come on out and enjoy it!!

One of our charges here at the Post and the Canteen is to naturally do our best to benefit - YOU (the Post 604 Member) - and to help out as we can to benefit our community. So Post Commander Joe Hardin and the House Committee got together and we think we have a couple of ways that we can benefit both you and the community during this **Thanksgiving** month. Now naturally these two ideas will directly involve all Post 604 Members.

**Community Idea!**- One of our neighbors here at the Post happens to be Hoosier Hills Food Bank. We have ask them for one of their Food Donation Barrels which will be located inside the Post. We don't think that any further guidance is necessary do you? Let's see how many times we can fill this barrel up with canned or packaged goods in the month of November. Hoosier Hills Food Bank will gladly pick up our full barrels any time we call—so let's show our neighbor what VFW Post 604 can do!!! What? You don't shop or know what to get for donation but would like to help in some way! Okay, send us - sayyy a \$5.00 or \$?? check and mark on the memo line "Hoosier Hills", make check payable to VFW Post 604. We will go shopping for you and place the canned food in the donation barrel for you. Don't fret! - Every penny of your donation will be spent on canned food for donation-guaranteed!!

**Post 604 Member Idea!** - The first three (3) Saturdays in November we will give away two (2) Spiral Sliced Hams

with two (2) bags of Navy Beans by holding a random drawing. All members in good standing will be included in the drawings. YES, we said **ALL** members, that means Post and Auxiliary members. Each member will have a number assigned to them and we will use a computer random number generator to pull two numbers each Saturday around noon — if one of the numbers is your number you win. Now, we can hear the questions already so let's discuss them:

**You:** Do I have to come into the Post to sign-up for the drawing?

**House Committee:** Nope!

**You:** Do I have to buy a ticket for the drawing?

**House Committee:** Nope!

**You:** Do I have to be present at the drawing to win?

**House Committee:** Nope!

**You:** Will the House Committee deliver/cook my ham & beans for me?

**House Committee:** Nope & Nope!

**You:** Whad up with the Navy Beans?

**House Committee:** Post Commander Joe Hardin's idea-- you will have to ask him-hee hee hee

**You:** How will I know if I have won?

**House Committee:** We will first try to contact you by phone-if that fails then we will zip you a note in the mail or you could come in and check the board for your name. ← **Best Idea!!!**

So, by the 19<sup>th</sup> of November we will have given away six (6) hams and six (6) bags of Navy Beans to six (6) Lucky Post 604 Paid-up Members. Since we mentioned Paid Members—have you paid your dues for 2012?? C'mon now, you need to be getting that done cause for one thing you just never know what we will be coming up with next for our members here at VFW Post 604!

Running a little long here but we also wanted to mention that we have decided to maintain our \$1.25 Beer on Saturdays for the rest of the year! (Yayeee!!)

**House Committee**

P.S. The Post will be closed on November 24<sup>th</sup> and we would like to wish everyone a **Happy & Healthy Thanksgiving!** ❖

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## *Renewing Membership*

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Your continued membership is important to us. The V.F.W. and its Auxiliaries are the life-blood of our post. If you know of someone desiring to join our ranks please do not hesitate to contact one of our officers.

If you did not receive a 2012 annual renewal notice, please contact one of your club officers for assistance.

## Commander's Weekly Drawing

**It's Back** by popular demand, however due to changes in gaming regulations, it is not the same game you remember. We think it is better and that you will agree. Here's how the game shall be played:

1. All VFW, Ladies Auxiliary, and Men's Auxiliary members in good standing are eligible to play.
2. Each member shall be assigned a random number ranging from 0001 up to the total number of members eligible that week and shall be recorded on Club Roster. The Roster shall be clearly marked with the period for which the roster shall be used and be posted in the Canteen.
3. New members are eligible the week following acceptance into the club.
4. The eligible player must sign up before that week's drawing to be held Friday evening at 7:00, by paying their \$1.00 and signing that weeks Club Roster located in the Canteen.
5. A patron shall witness the random computer generated number drawing as an impartial observer and shall sign as a witness to the drawing.

### **Payout:**

1. The Commander must distribute all monies received from members, and the club shall not deduct any fees from the monies collected.
2. Commanders Weekly Drawing monies collected prior to 2009, that were not distributed prior to the old posts closure, shall be the start-up funds for the Commander's Weekly Drawing.
3. The playing member, who pays \$1.00 and has signed that weeks Club Roster located in the Canteen, will be declared the winner if the random number drawn is equal to the number displayed on that weeks Club Roster for that member. The winner's identity will be posted in the Canteen.
4. If the winner is present at the time of the drawing, the winner shall collect ALL monies held by the Commander that were collected for the Commander's Weekly Drawing and were not previously distributed to winners.
5. If the winner is not present, the winner shall collect one half of ALL monies held by the Commander that were collected for the Commander's Weekly Drawing and were not previously distributed to winners.
6. All monies collected not won based on these rules shall be advanced into the next week's Commander's Weekly Drawing.
7. The Commander shall pay the winner at the time of the drawing if present, otherwise the Commander shall make every attempt to contact the winner to arrange distribution of the winnings, or the Commander shall mail a Post check to the winner prior to the next drawing of the Commanders Weekly Drawing. ❖

# Ham & Beans Lunch

## Veteran's Day @ VFW Post 604

After Veterans Day Ceremonies at Bloomington City Hall

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Members Welcome - Members Welcome - Members Welcome

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Pitch-In Dinner starting at 1800 at the Post

## November 18 @ VFW Post 604

# Thanksgiving Dinner

Come see us at

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

## 604 Canteen - Lunch Menu

Serving Monday through Friday 1100 - 1400

### Appetizers & Sides

Cottage Cheese.....	\$1.50
French Fries .....	\$1.75
Seasoned Waffle Fries .....	\$2.00
Potato Salad .....	\$1.75
Cole Slaw .....	\$1.75
Chicken Strips/Fries .....	\$4.50

### Sandwiches

Hamburger .....	\$3.25
Cheeseburger .....	\$3.50
Philly Cheese Steak.....	\$4.75
Grilled Cheese.....	\$2.75
Fish Sandwich .....	\$5.25
Breaded Pork Tenderloin.....	\$4.75
Grilled Pork Tenderloin.....	\$4.25
Breaded Chicken Sandwich .....	\$4.25
Patty Melt.....	\$4.00
Chili Dog.....	\$2.50
Steak Sandwich.....	\$4.50

All Sandwiches served with Pickle and Chips  
Add Cheese/Deluxe for \$.25 each

**Call ahead for carry-out  
(812) 339-2375**

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

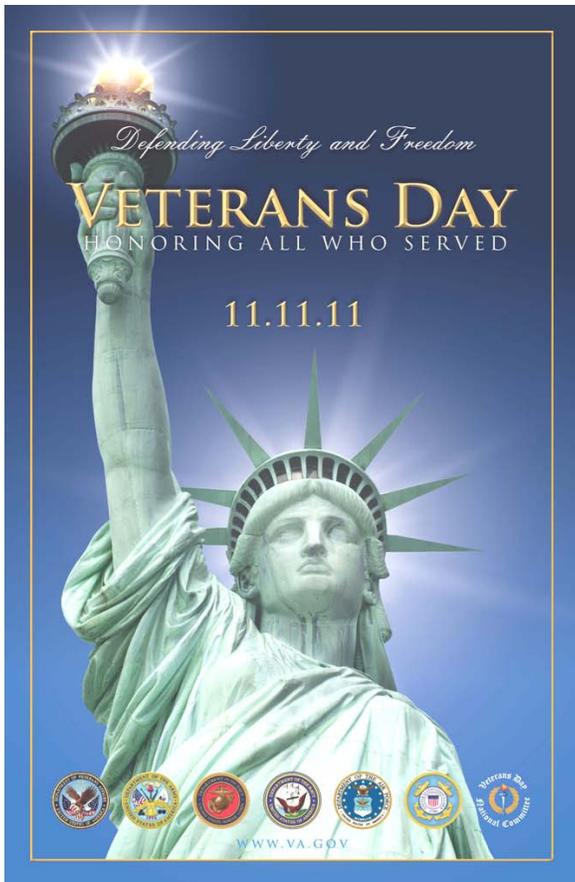
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*During this Holiday Season, let us continue to remember our Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, and Airmen who are far away from home, many of whom find themselves in harm's way.*

*May God keep them safe.*