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# VFW POST 604 NEWS

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

December 2011

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## 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

Honored members of VFW Post 604,

We have made great strides since our reopening in July. We are once again supporting veterans and our community. We're now able to give things back to our members due to the support we are getting from dedicated members like all of you. When you are at the Post, go downstairs and check out our basement. Bob Lanning has been working long and hard to whip it into shape (it is looking great). We will soon give you a date that the Ladies' Aux. will be able to move back into the Post with their bingo.

Veterans Day was a long and tiring day but it was a very rewarding day for all veterans. We started at 10:00 a.m. at City Hall with the American Legion's ceremony where several of our members participated. We then moved to the Post for ham and beans and entertainment by Brad. At 6:00 p.m. we moved to the fair grounds for another ceremony. VFW Post 604 received a great write-up in the Bloomington Herald Times newspaper. At 9:00 p.m. we were invited to the Ohio University vs. Indian University hockey game where we dropped the puck to start the game (picture in newsletter).

I want to thank all of our members who gave their time to support the Post on Veterans Day - members, Aux. members (both Ladies and Men's). Be sure and check out our calendar for upcoming events.

**Commander - Joe Hardin**

 **Seasons  
Greetings**

### Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

Warm greetings to our members, old and new.

During the years we awaited a reopening of the Post we got a little rusty with rules and regulations. We've been charging \$25 for dues, but it turns out the Post By-laws require Men's Auxiliary dues be at least \$10 more than the VFW's. So, everyone who had paid their dues by the October meeting got a deal – we're not going to collect anything additional from them. But, since mid-October and from now on, dues for the Men's Auxiliary are \$35. Also, another Post By-law requires us to submit all new Men's Auxiliary membership applications to the Post for verification of eligibility before we can vote to accept them at our own meeting. So, the sooner you would like to become a member, the sooner you should get your application to us so we can run it through proper channels.

A fair number of guys have been carrying around 2011 membership cards. Those will expire on with the New Year. Please don't wait until the last minute to renew. If you do put it off to the last minute, don't expect others to hustle to get your new card made out.

The Men's Auxiliary exists to assist the needs of the Post. The possibilities for helping at the Post right now are almost endless. We'd love to see you pitch in and help with us. There's nothing like that feeling of satisfaction you'll have when you spend your own time and effort assisting with a project or two. Post leaders have asked the Men's Auxiliary to suggest some ideas for fundraising activities we can take on. I'd love to hear from people about their ideas. I might place a suggestion box out in the hallway by our membership board, too.

Our Chaplain, Benjamin Hammock, has moved out of state and we wish him well. It also means we need to elect someone to take his place. That election will be held on December 19th at our regular meeting. If you or

*See Auxiliary*

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Pictured - Polly A. Tilford, Indiana Gold Star Mothers President Pam S. Mow, Hoosier Honor Flight founder John W. Tilford

## Hoosier Honor Flight donates to Gold Star Mothers Honor Flight

The last Hoosier Honor Flight check was donated on 27 October 2011 to the *Gold Star Mothers Fund, Honor Flight* in the mayor's office, Lafayette, Indiana. Mrs. Pam Mow, President of the Indiana Gold Star Mothers, gratefully accepted the donation – the largest to date in their drive to fund their first chartered flight for WWII veterans from Lafayette to Washington, DC.

Gold Star Mothers lost a son or daughter on active duty military service in defense of the United States. No mother wants to become eligible for membership. Members help each other and help to preserve the foundations of the nation for which their sons and daughters died. That the Indiana Gold Star Mothers, who lost their children in preservation of freedom, would assume the task of taking WWII veterans, who preserved freedom during the greatest war in history, to see their war memorial in Washington, DC is both stunningly appropriate and gratifying.

Polly Tilford, the primary administrative assistant for all four of the Hoosier Honor Flights, lost her daughter, Sarah Beth Tilford, from this Earth in March 2011. The last Hoosier Honor Flight was on 28 April 2010. This final check included all the memorial donations in Sarah's name to Hoosier Honor Flight and all the funds remaining after the final Hoosier Honor Flight expenses were paid.

VFW Post 604 has always been closely involved with running Hoosier Honor Flight. I recall one evening with some Veterans Day Elves working hours at our house, stuffing big Ziploc bags with Hoosier Honor Flight T-shirts, hats, ID cards, neck lanyards, and cell phone lists. I think their names were Elf Joe Hardin, Elf Cathi Johnson, and Elf Terri Languell. I also recall telling Joe, before the second flight of 172 veterans and guardians, that he was the first alternate and almost certain to go. Surely 172 people – most in their late 80s - would not ALL show up by the zero-dark-thirty deadline at the Monroe County Airport! Joe had his own HHF T-shirt, HHF hat, ID, etc. He was ready to go. All 172 did show. Joe did not go on the

second flight. He was left at the airport. I think I waved to him as the plane took off. Next time he went.

The Honor Flight torch has been passed from the hands of Joe and Cathi and Terri and John and Polly and all the others from Bloomington in general and Post 604 in particular who helped so much, passed from one university town to another, from southern Indiana to northern, from one veteran-honoring community to another, and from one grieving mother to an organization of mothers who so grieve. Hoosier Honor Flight is no more. Long live Indiana Gold Star Mothers Honor Flight!

*Donations to the Gold Star Mothers Fund, Honor Flight should be mailed to*

Pamela S. Mow  
 State President of Indiana Gold Star Mothers  
 90 Moon Valley Court  
 Lafayette, IN 47909

### John Tilford - Post Service Officer



World War II Campaign & Service Medals



Photo courtesy of Kathy Hendrix - VFW Ladies Aux.

## VFW Post 604 Veterans Monument Gets a Marker

In 2004 VFW Post 604 planted an Ash Tree dedicated to Monroe County Veterans at the Veterans Monument in the Monroe County Fairgrounds located off of Airport Road. Until recently this tree stood anonymously as there was no marker to commemorate the event. On October 25th, VFW Post 604 member Ed Hendrix donated and installed a marker at the base of the tree. Thank You Comrade!

# Laurens B. Strain - VFW Post 604

December 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
 <b>4</b>	 <b>5</b>  * Vet to Vet – 1900	 <b>6</b>	 <b>7</b> 1941 - Attack On Pearl Harbor	<b>1</b>  Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  ALL DAY \$1.25 Beer Special BINGO Game Day Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
<b>11</b> 1911 - Roald Amundsen Reached The South Pole	<b>12</b>  * Vet to Vet – 1900	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	<b>14</b> 1944 - Battle Of The Bulge	<b>17</b>  ALL DAY \$1.25 Beer  Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  * Vet to Vet – 1900	<b>20</b>  Meetings V.F.W. –1800 Men's Aux – 1800 Ladies Aux - 1800	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Winter Begins  Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  ALL DAY \$1.00 Beer Free Snack Trays  Close at 1800  No Bingo
 <b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  * Vet to Vet – 1900	<b>27</b>	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px;"> <b>Come Join Us on                              New Year's Eve!!!</b>                               10:00 AM until ???                              May not be fancy, but sure to be FUN                         </div> <b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  ALL DAY \$1.25 Beer Free Snack Trays  No Bingo

(\* 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

PPT License # 124405

Bingo License # 125265

Raffle License # 124404



## Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

It turned out to be a wonderful day for the Veteran's Day Ceremony at Bloomington City Hall. The young men in the Boy Scouts of America, Troup 100, did a super job with lowering the Flag. They also helped the Ladies Auxiliary with bringing in our wreaths and the flag's. They were also helpful with holding some flag's for the program.

All together we have had 6 entry's for the Patriot's Pen and the Voice of Democracy Programs. It's exciting to have the young people take advantage of these programs. The Veterans of Foreign Wars retains non-exclusive rights to use these essays and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

There will not be a children's Christmas gift program this year. We are working our best for one next year. In October our donations were to the Salvation Army and November donations were made to the Salvation Army for gift's and food baskets at Christmas time.

Thanks to all who have paid their dues. Hope everyone has a wonderful holiday.

Keep all our Service Men and Women in your prayers ❖

**Janet Williams, President VFW Ladies Auxiliary**

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### *Ladies Auxiliary Membership*

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**A final reminder** - 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. ❖



Commander Hardin and Sr. Vice Commander Halliday toss in the puck at Ohio vs. Indiana Hockey game on Veterans day.

## And The Winners Were!!

Let's get caught up on last month's action. The lucky winners for the Ham & Beans Drawings were:

- ☑ 11-05 Kenny Strong & Vickie Wiles
- ☑ 11-12 Kathleen Sinn & Sue H. Hill
- ☑ 11-19 Phil Pate & Betty Grubb

Congrats to these member and we hope you enjoy the food. Don't know if the Commander mentioned it, but he also had a ½ Winner on the Commander's Drawing right from the git-go. Congrats to Phil Pate. Another development from last month is that the basement has a new ceiling & lights (Yayyyyee!!)—is cleaned up and should be ready for use by the 1<sup>st</sup> of December. Do you need to book a Party?? Hint!- Hint! We are making headway - you ought to come out and see for yourself!

Okay—Now for this month, X-mas Eve falls on a Saturday and we will close at 6:00 p.m. — however from when we open till we close-- we will have Party Tray Snacks laid out for your enjoyment. Our beer is already \$1.25 on Saturday, but for this Saturday let's make it a **\$1.00 — Ho-Ho-Ho**-as someone we know would say — so come on out and enjoy some free snacks and fun till 6:00 p.m.

Then we have New Years Eve, which falls on a Saturday also. Now the Post has been open less than a year and we haven't done bad, but we don't feel that we can financially justify putting together a big New Years Eve Bash with a Band and everything— were hoping for next year — but wait now! — wait — wait — wait - we will still be open till ???a.m. Sunday to ring in the New Year. We will have Party Tray Snacks laid out and we are sure we can find a few party hats and poppers. So look at it this way, you can still come out to the VFW and have fun ringing in the New Year with us and did you notice? >- we didn't mention anything about buying a ticket or whatever?? Just a simple, fun way to bring in 2012!! When does all the food/snacks start you ask?—well of course at 10:00 a.m. when we open-silly!

Hey! Do y'all remember that we have a Hoosier Hills Food Bank Barrel here at the Post that we need to get filled up?? Now we have had some donations, but we really should be doing more so if you can-give it some thought and stop by --- drop off a can or two. It will give ya a warm fuzzy feeling! ☺ = **You!**

**REMEMBER WHEN?? — Please keep our Service Men & Women in your thoughts during the Holidays.**

**House Committee**

P.S. Reminder: The Post will be close at 6:00 p.m. on the 24<sup>th</sup> of Dec. and we would like to wish everyone a **Happy & Merry & Healthy Christmas & New Year!!** ❖

## 2011 Thanksgiving Dinner

Thank You to our Ladies Auxiliary for preparing wonderful food for this special occasion. Special Thanks to:

- Julie Curtis, Bonnie Hughes, and Wilma Hays for cooking the turkeys.
- Debi Dammer for cooking the dressing and gravy.
- Kathy Hardin for volunteering to tend bar all day, open to close.

Let's not fail to also thank Janet Williams, Joyce Grubb, Joe Hardin, and Bob Lanning for coordinating this and for ALL that they do around the POST.

There are many others, including the members who attended - Thank you all for a pleasant evening and memorable experience.

### Pictures around the Post



*Auxiliary*

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someone you know would be interested, please let me know or come to the meeting.

Our meetings are held at the Post on the third Tuesday of each month. You are very much welcome and encouraged to attend.

**Michael A Pipher, President VFW Men's Auxiliary**

### December Doin's



## December 3, 2011 Special Holiday Session

**Come out - have some fun - win \$ome MONEY !**

Bring optional DONATION for the Food Pantry

### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

Free Snack Trays  
\$1.00 Beer  
Open 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

### **NEW YEAR'S EVE**

- Free Snack Trays
- Free Admission
- Free Special Raffles for those Present

Open 10:00 AM – 1:00 AM



Laurens B. Strain V.F.W. Post 604  
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Bloomington, IN 47404-2690

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*It is our sincere hope that  
this holiday season finds you  
in fellowship with family.  
May a child's excitement fill  
your heart.*

*Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year*