
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

May 2015

Hello! It's that time again and I have a few items to pass along. State Senior Vice Commander, Buzz Weberding, and his wife Patty joined Kathy and me at the Air Force ROTC Detachment 215 awards banquet on April 11th. We presented the Veterans of Foreign Wars award to Cadet Jacob C. England for superior performance during the past year. (See Photo on Page 2)

We also had our Post nominations and election of new officers for the coming year. Your new officers are as follows:

Joe Hardin - Commander
Gene Moncel - Sr. Vice Commander
John Martin - Jr. Vice Commander
Mark Dammer - Quartermaster
John Arnold - Chaplin & Surgeon
Bill Evans - Adjutant
Tom Vernon - Judge Advocate
Bob Lanning - Guard & Officer of the Day
George Kristoff - House Committee 3 Yr.
John Tilford - Service Officer
Roy Smith - Trustee 3 Yr.

We will need all the help we can get to keep our Post moving forward.

Don't forget our Memorial Day Program on the 25th of May at Valhalla Memorial Gardens. We have a great day planned. The program starts at 10:00am so come early and listen to the Bloomington Community Band play and also ensure you have a good seat. Don't forget to bring a lawn chair for the program at the cemetery. We have a great line-up for the ceremony. Afterwards we will have "FREE" hamburgers, hot dogs plus beans & cornbread at the Post.

We are always looking for new members for the VFW. If you know of anyone, friend or family, that is eligible to join, please have them come to the Post.

Joe Hardin, Commander

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

Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

Well April sure went fast!! We were all busy here at Post 604. First Friday dinner - new record; second Friday 'Fish' dinner - new record; third Friday 'steak' dinner - new record; fourth Friday 'all-u-can eat taco bar' hoping for a - new record! We have also been lucky with the Friday weather cause our overflow on these record setting nights have eaten on the deck.

Spring is here, summer close by means 'PARTY TIME' on the deck and on the 18th it was full all night. Looking forward to pulling out the corn hole toss board and maybe a few other deck games this year.

Our points tournament for 2014 'poker' was played off on April 16, April 18, and April 19. We had 75 players in the tournament. This group battled for over a \$12,000 purse. You qualify for the annual tourney by playing in the weekly held each Thursday at 7pm We are only 4 months into the year, so if you play Texas Holdem, you need to come see what we are all about.

The next NASCAR Sunday is May 31st. Racing at Dover starring our Giant Tenderloins. Post opens at noon. Race starts at 1pm. Come early stay late. Usually close up around 7ish.

If you are reading this newsletter and you haven't been here at the new post you are really missing out on a bunch of fun, good food, and a family type of atmosphere.

Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

Ladies,

We're looking forward to a warm and wonderful summer. The deck is looking for all the good times we're going to have.

We had a nice turnout for our taco dinner. We were asked to have another one.

This month on May 22nd we'll be having chicken pot pie on biscuit with salad – all for \$6.00.

A good meeting was had on April 21st. Our next meeting will be Monday, May 18th at the Post. We will have installation of officers which are:

Julia Curtis, President; Karen Cain, Senior Vice Pres.; Julie Martin, Jr. Vice Pres; Treasurer, Millie Briles; Secretary, Dorothy White; Chaplin, Jenny Tracy; Guard, Florence Kelly; Conductress, Liz Blackburn; and Patriotic Instructor, Sarah Dennison. Trustees are: 3yr, Sandra Taylor; 2yr, Karen Cain; and 1yr Julie Martin.

Please come to our meetings. Believe me, I need you there.

Julia Curtis
VFW Ladies President
812-822-0028



IU AFROTC Award Presentation

THIS DAY IN MAY

May 1st—Loyalty Day

May 7th—Unconditional surrender of all German Forces signed (1945)

May 8th—VE day Declared

May 15th—Women's Army Corps founded (1942)

May 15th—Peace Officers Memorial Day

May 16th—Armed Forces Day

May 25th—Memorial Day (Observed)

BUSY MONTH of MAY for SURE!!!

So let's get to gettin it. 1st Friday of the Month Dinner Special (May 1st) where we will be featuring Cube Steak cooked in Mushroom Gravy with Mashed Potatoes and Corn & Rolls. A fork is all you need with the meal, but you can have a knife to put butter on your rolls, you can cut the steak with your fork—so tender and very tasty!! But of course it just costs **\$5.00!!** Serving starts at 6 pm and we go until its gone!! By the way, if you didn't make it out last month for our Pork Loin Dinner—wow!!—you really missed a superb meal—we may have to try that one again!!

NASCAR Sunday this month will be May 31st. We do know that those Gigantic Hand-Dipped Breaded Tenderloin Sandwiches will be on the ready!!

3rd Friday of the Month STEAK NIGHT (15th)!! 8 oz. Ribeye with Baked Potato and Salad and Dessert all for just \$10. This meal would easily cost \$11 and change--minimum anywhere else but here at your VFW Post 604!--That's right—just \$10. The Texas Hold-em Tournament every Thursday starts at 7:00 p.m. and SUNDAY—May 3rd--Texas-Hold-em Cash game--we start playing at 1:00 p.m. and go till 8:00 p.m. Food & beverages will be available downstairs for the cash game; however, the Canteen/Post will not be open.

Now this month has 5 Fridays in it so for our 5th Friday of the Month Dinner Special (May 29th) we will be having a Picnic Dinner!! You can get a Big Ole Hot Dog or Hamburger or Cheeseburger (with all the fixins) plus Baked Beans—Potato Salad—Desserts and naturally its just \$5.00

Now we come to May 25th (Memorial Day-Monday). After attending the ceremonies at Valhalla, come on out to the Post for our traditional Free Ham & Beans with Cornbread. Along with beans you can also get (Free) a Hot Dog or Cheeseburger. We will open at 10:00 a.m. and will serve all day until around 6:00 p.m. Make plans to stop by and see your Post—renew your membership---eat good food—have a good time!!!

House Committee

District Meeting

May 17, 2015—Post 9297, Crane In.

Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

May 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
					1 Serving Dinner 1800-2100 <u>Friday Night Special</u> Post open at 2pm Commander's Drawing @1900	2
3  Cash Game 1 pm	4  Full Moon HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	5	6	7  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	8 Serving Dinner 1800-2100  Post open at 2pm Commander's Drawing @1900	9
10 Mother's Day	11  Last 1/4 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	12	13	14  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	15  Serving Dinner 1800 – 2100 Post open at 2pm Commander's Drawing @1900	16  Armed Forces Day
17	18  New HOT DOG MONDAY <u>*Ladies Aux Meeting*</u> <u>1800</u> Open @ Noon	19 Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 Men's Aux – 1800	20	21  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	22 Ladies Aux. DINNER SPECIAL Post open at 2pm Commander's Drawing @ 1900	23
24 NASCAR Sunday Post open at Noon	25  1 st 1/4  Memorial Day (Observed)	26	27	28  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	29 PICNIC DINNER (See House Committee Article for details)	30

(* 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 # **134469**

Raffle License # **134470**

Many veterans don't know about this home in DC. It's beautiful. Polly and I have walked the grounds. Here's an edited article from the Washington Post.

The Armed Forces Retirement Home, Washington, DC

James is bald after three months of cancer treatment but under this gentle sun, with a breeze on his chapped skin, he starts to feel some energy. Wearing his shredded-up garden gloves, he tears weeds from his vegetable patch. His only company is a scratchy transistor radio tuned in to a talk show about the Washington Nationals; he misses his wife, Mary, who passed away in 1994.

Behind James are 272 acres of rolling green pasture, some of the highest ground in the city. There are park benches that look onto the Capitol, forested pathways of spruce and pin oaks, honking geese wobbling out of fishing ponds, and a members-only nine-hole golf course and driving range.

James, like a good number of the veterans living in the retirement community, doesn't go outside the home's boundaries very often. But in just a few weeks, he will have unexpected company inside the fence: neighbors from the other side of the divide.

[The U.S. Armed Forces Retirement Home](#), known by its informal name, the Soldiers' Home, is like a vast secret garden, despite its storied history. It was here, in a hilltop summer [cottage](#), that Abraham and Mary Lincoln found refuge after the death of their son Willie. And it was here that Lincoln struggled over every word of the Emancipation Proclamation. Back then, the home, built in 1851, also served as Washington's Central Park, with residents free to enter its majestic grounds. For more than 100 years, there were Easter egg rolls and July Fourth parties and baseball games.

Retired master sergeant Annie Aaron is one of the home's residents. "My great-grandmother was a slave in Virginia, and when slavery was over, she changed her name to Dunn, as in, 'Done. Done. Done.' "

Kendall Bentz and Carrie Green first noticed James's garden through the fence. The couple, then in their late 30s, had heard the almost mythical tales of the sealed-up retirement home, where deer raced through misty ponds and trails, and historic buildings and statues stood in the distance. Last spring, the couple read an Internet post announcing that the Soldiers' Home was looking for volunteers to garden with the retirees. The friendship between retired veteran Jessie James and two neighbors has helped change attitudes regarding the Soldiers' Home.

When mornings came into his 200-square-foot space, James would rise triumphantly out of his twin bed. He would dress carefully, struggling to fit his severely swollen feet into his most stretchable walking shoes. He would put on his favorite beat-up baseball hat from way back when he was young and strong and served in Korea and Vietnam as a helicopter mechanic, and pack his radio, an apple and a sandwich. He would move slowly at first, but he would walk fast once he got going, head held

high, past posters announcing "wheelchair cleaning day" and schedules for shuttles to doctors' appointments and bus trips to malls and casinos, past old men who sat in their wheelchairs, nodding off, until a friend in another wheelchair rolled up and nudged them awake. He was determined to go outside. But he was one of the exceptions.

Inside, every day, an hour before lunch, a line of veterans would hunch over their walkers and inch forward as they queued up at the cafeteria, waiting for it to open. The cafeteria, known as Jerry's Diner, is like a journey back to the 1950s, its walls filled with posters of Elvis records and images of Marilyn Monroe, Audrey Hepburn and convertibles. The typical Jerry's regular cherishes the home because it's so affordable — the monthly expense for independent living residents is capped at \$1,305.

The home offers holiday dances and exercise classes and storytelling training with the Double Nickels Theatre Company, along with day trips to the Kennedy Center and museums, which many of the younger veterans take advantage of. But the average age here is 86, and many of the older veterans simply wear a path between their room and Jerry's.

"I was thinking of a way we could thank James for all the vegetables and all that he had taught us, and I thought: *I can take him to a Nationals game*," Bentz said. At first, Bentz thought about driving James to the game in his old Toyota pickup. But he wanted the veteran to be comfortable, so he decided to hire a sleek, black Lincoln Navigator from the swanky Uber car service. "When the other vets saw me going into that fancy chauffeured car, they were jealous," said James.

But it rained so hard on their way to the game that James turned to Bentz and said, "It reminds of me the rains in Korea, like a monsoon." Bentz was worried. "But by sheer luck, our first-level seats were under an overhang from the upper level," he said, "so we stayed dry and comfortable throughout."

When the game ended, the car picked them up. With the air conditioner humming, James fell into peaceful sleep on the buttery leather seats. "Looking back, it's one of the best nights I've had in years," James said.

The Friends of the Soldiers Home has grown to 100 volunteers, and has kept up its monthly jingo nights and happy hours. Other events have included a movie night and a fundraiser at Georgia Avenue's chic bistro Chez Billy.

McManus, the chief operating officer, had thought a lot about the friendships veterans such as James had made. "With everything that's happened this year, now residents can walk outside the gates and know there will be some neighbors they might recognize from a jingo night or gardening. That's a such a powerful thing."

Emily Wax is a Washington Post staff writer. Since July 2011, she has lived in one of the neighborhoods near the Armed Forces Retirement Home.

John Tilford – Service Officer

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"Oldest Post in the State"

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