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# FW POST 604 NEWS

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

June 2016

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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, May has been a very busy month here at the Post. I want to thank everyone who has given so much of their time to the Post. The men and women of the Auxiliary have made this a great month.

The new officers will take office around the end of June. I am looking forward to working with them this year and next. I am asking all members to get behind them and help keep our Post on the right track.

At this time, we are 21 members short of having 100% membership. We need everyone's help to bring in new members and encourage those who haven't paid their dues to do so. The life of the VFW is its membership. I know that most of you know someone out there that is eligible to become a member. Your help is needed.

We have had a great turnout so far to help put flags on graves for Memorial Day. We picked up 5 more cemeteries to place flags in due to the ages and health of some people that used to do it. We are also supplying flags to other cemeteries that we haven't done in the past. I am so proud of our members that step up and get the job done when others are not willing to do so.

In our next newsletter we will have pictures of our Memorial Day service for those that couldn't attend.

May all of you be safe and healthy in the upcoming year and remember to say a prayer for the men and women who have served and for those that are serving now.

Commander - Joe Hardin

### Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

May was really a busy month here at the post. We had (4) Friday dinners, (2) Saturday breakfasts (2) Saturday birthdays, (4) Thursday Texas Holdem Tournaments, (1) NASCAR Sunday plus Memorial Day .....whew what a month!! Thanks to all who volunteered to cook, clean, bartend, etc. and thanks to all who came and supported all of the different functions.

Ok I'm on a roll here let's just stay with the thank you. I have the best group of guys who consistently show up to help – Dennis and Frank who stood for hours breading and frying fish then back again on Sunday to help with the breading and frying of our tenderloins. Steve and Mark who helps with the orders and handling of the money and delivering food or washing dishes and cleaning tables etc. Speaking of washing dishes -have I mentioned the clean-up before – all those dishes and the mess that breading all that fish and those tenderloins. Then we have the women like Chris who never fails to bring Leonard's salad on our NASCAR Sundays or one of our favorite desserts for our Friday dinner special. Jan who has brought one or two fresh baked pies every Friday – Dorothy, Sandy, Karen, and countless others only naming a few please don't take offense if I didn't single you out any time you bring a dish to any of the functions it is appreciated. Then we have Tim, Leonard and Mary who spend every Thursday night helping me with our card game – couldn't do it without you. "THANK YOU" to all of our great volunteers!!

Your next NASCAR Sunday is June 12<sup>th</sup> – hope to see you there.

Tim Haney, President VFW Men's Auxiliary

## VFW Auxiliary

A lot has happened in the last 21/2 years that I have been president. Our auxiliary has changed membership year from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>, therefore your 2016-17 dues are due July 1<sup>st</sup>.

We appreciate our membership and all the time and help we get from those of you that are able to devote their time and help. Remember by the VFW rules in you don't pay your dues you are not a member and to be served you must be signed in by an active member.

Under the new auxiliary organization any man wishing to join the ladies auxiliary are now eligible. We welcome any man that desires to join our organization. For the June dinner on Friday June 24<sup>th</sup> we will be having chicken & noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, and corn – for a measly \$6.50. Please come and enjoy.

Please make our new officers welcome and give them your support. They are: President – Dorothy White; Sr. Vice – Janice Martin; Jr. Vice – Julie Martin; Conductress – Florence Kelly; Chaplin – Jenny Tracy. We have yet to fill Guard and Patriotic Instructor. Trustees are: Florence Kelly, 3yr; Sandy Taylor, 2yr; and Julie Martin, 1yr. Millie Briles continues to be our treasurer and appointed secretary is Karen Cain.

Thank you all for allowing me to serve you. It has been quite a journey. Good luck and congratulations to all our new officers. I am asking the VFW to show them respect and they serve well along with all out other veterans.

May this article find you well. If not I extend get well wishes for you.

God bless our veterans both near and far and god bless America.

Julia Curtis  
President VFW Auxiliary  
812-822-0028

## TAPS

Mr. James P. Kelly

Jim was a Navy Veteran of WWII. He loved to play Golf.

"With each passing day, things will become easier. This is to let you know that there is tremendous support behind you today."

James C. Arnold. Chaplin  
VFW Post 604  
Past VFW 7th District Commander

## THIS YEAR IS GET-EN IT ON!!!!

And so are we—what we have lined up for this month is -> -> ->

Our 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Night Dinner Special this month will be on **June 3rd** and we are going to be serving **Center Cut Boneless Pork Chop—Gravy—Cheesy Potatoes—Green Beans** and of course **Dessert**. All that for **\$6.00!!** Serving will start at 6:00 p.m. and go until we run out.

**NASCAR Sunday** this month will be **June 12<sup>th</sup>--Gigantic Hand-Dipped Breaded Tenderloin Sandwiches**. **Yep!! Still \$5.00 plus extra stuff!!** Come out and support them!!!—they do a lot of things for your Post!!!

**3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the Month STEAK NIGHT (17th)!!** 8 oz. Ribeye with Baked Potato and Salad and Dessert all for just **\$11**. **Mens Aux. Fish Dinner** on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Friday** of the month (**June 10th**)-all you can eat!! And would you believe just **\$7.00??** They bread-em, cook-em, serve-em, serve seconds, so you just sit and eat-em!!

**Texas Hold-em Tournament** every **Thursday**, starts at **7:00 p.m.** Check out the Ladies article for their Friday Night (24<sup>th</sup>) Menu !!

**House Committee**



\*\*\*\*\*NOTICE\*\*\*\*\*

The post has two electric mobile chairs for the handicapped for loan to any member or family of any member. Contact Cmdr Joe Hardin for details.

# Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

June 2016

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	 2 Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	3 Serving Dinner 1800 – 2000  Commander's Drawing 1900	4
5	6  HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ Noon	7	8	9  9 Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	10 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2000  Commander's Drawing 1900	11
12  Open Noon 'til Victory  	13  HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ Noon	14   <u>FLAG DAY</u>	15	16  16 Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	17 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2000  Commander's Drawing 1900	18
19  <u>Father's Day</u>	20  HOT DOG MONDAY  <u>First Day of Summer</u>  Open @ Noon	21  Meetings  V.F.W. – 1800 V.F.W. Aux – 1800 Men's Aux – 1800	22	23  23 Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	24  Commander's Drawing 1900	25
26	27  HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ Noon	28	29	30  30 Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800		

(\* 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 # 141029

Raffle License # 141031

## The Markers Tell a Story

Bob Lanning told me a story. Some grave markers in the Garrison Chapel Cemetery had told him. Bob was serving on the Honor Guard. Clustered together, presumably because of their common last name, were the VA grave markers for a Master Sergeant (WWI, WWII, Korea), a Sergeant (WWII), and Corporal (WWII). From the birth dates, wars, and dates of death Bob deduced these were a father and two sons. One son's date of death was in 1943, the middle of WWII. Died in service.

Last summer Rory Joe the Wonder Dog and I were walking among the markers in an Owen County cemetery. (Polly was playing her Scottish bagpipes for an interment on the other side of the cemetery. Rory and I were trying to stay out of sight.) Similar to Bob's observation, I found the VA markers for a father and two sons. I also found the wife and mother's civilian grave marker (made in the same flat bronze VA style) next to the father's. She had been the last to pass away. Her two sons and husband had served and died, and she had time to ponder this after they were gone. She served as well, just in a different way.

Today I'm pondering how to introduce Jonathan George on Memorial Day. I can't talk too long, no matter how tempting the microphone and the audience, because people are there to hear Jonathan and to gratefully remember the veterans who are no longer with us. Older people are standing and they hurt. Very young people don't understand and it's hard for them to be still. But the microphone begs for a joke. But Memorial Day is a solemn occasion. But maybe just one joke? How many times do you get a chance to josh a General officer?

All the military service members whom we 'memorialize' on this special day were young once. Some died young and never lived to marry, to have kids and grandkids. But I bet these young, healthy men and women joked and laughed during their short lives – especially when on liberty, or in the recruit barracks at night when the drill sergeants were not around, or on that last leave before deployment. Some died old and still fondly recalled the jokes and laughs and comradeship from several decades before. I don't think they would be offended if we kid around just a little as we remember them, especially we who also served and we who will join them in eternity not too long from now. They were every bit as alive as we are. They played. They felt the wind. They saw the sky. They grew up. They loved. And they were – and are – very special. They defended the United States of America.

Members of The Veterans of Foreign Wars have a special relationship with poppies; a relationship which involves history, fund raising for disabled veterans, and grateful remembrance. Here is the background of a poem which expresses our obligation to those veterans who have passed away:

Canadian Army doctor John McCrae began writing 'In Flanders

Fields' on the evening of 2 May 1915. The death of his good friend, Alexis Helmer, was the inspiration. On the morning of that same day Alexis had been killed instantly by a direct hit from a German shell. What body parts could be found were later gathered into sandbags and laid in an army blanket for burial that evening. Near to the 1st Canadian Brigade's position there was a small burial ground which had been established during the First Battle of Ypres in the autumn of the previous year, 1914. In the absence of the chaplain, Major McCrae, as second in command, was required to conduct a service at the graveside. He recited some passages from the Church of England's 'Order of Burial of the Dead' from memory. A wooden cross marked the burial place. The grave has since been lost. Lieutenant Alexis Helmer is now commemorated on Panel 10 of the *Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing in Ypres*; one of the 54,896 soldiers who have no known grave in the battlefields of the Ypres Salient. Major John McCrae himself died due to pneumonia less than three years later on 28 January 1918. We remember Lieutenant Helmer and Major McCrae because of words written following a painful grave side service for a friend, one hundred and one years ago this May, 2016:

### In Flander's Fields

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow,  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky,  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the dead.  
Short days ago,  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved and now we lie,  
In Flanders Fields.  
Take up our quarrel with the foe  
To you, from failing hands, we throw,  
The torch, be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us, who die,  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow,  
In Flanders Fields.

John Tilford – Service Officer

Laurens B. Strain V.F.W. Post 604  
2404 W Industrial Park Drive  
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**FLAG DAY - JUNE 14, 2016**