

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.NET

July 2014

Commander's Corner

Hi everyone!

As the new Commander for Post 604, I would like to say thank you to Bob Lanning for serving as Commander for 2013-2014. Having served in this position previously, I understand what it takes and it isn't always easy. I also want to thank all the officers of the Men's and Ladies auxiliary for the great job they did during the past year.

As we all know, the Post volunteers are the people that are the heart of the Post and without them we would not be the great Post that we are today. I am looking forward to working with all of you this coming year. I ask that you attend as **many meetings as possible because this is where we make important decisions.**

Joe Hardin, Commander



MEMORIAL DAY AT THE POST

Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

There is a reason for having a S.A.L. (Sons of the American Legion) or a Men's Auxiliary at our posts. When ever the post needs a little help w? remodeling, carpeting, flooring, Kitchen Appliances, sending Kids to Camp, or Sponsor a Dance we are always available w/man power or money, most times both.

Now we have a local veteran that needs help. He's a member of Post 18 and Post 604 (American Legion and VFW) so both organizations are pulling together to build a wheel chair ramp at his home (no cost to him). The VA won't help because his disability is not service related. Just worn out knees, hips, and back.

Both of these organizations were formed to be of assistance to our veterans. I'm proud that the S.A.L and Men's Aux are teaming up to make this happen. First and Foremost I joined both these posts to Honor My Father, but once you see the faces, receive hand shake, or a warm hug from those you were able to help, then you realize what these 2 veterans organizations are truly about. It really does the heart good when you've been able to lend a helping hand. I personally want to thank the S.A.L. American Legion and the Men's Aux at the VFW.

More good news. July the Men's Aux is going to be busy. July 11 (Friday Night) "Fish Fry" (Fish - Cole Slaw - French Fries), July 27 - NASCAR Sunday, "Tenderloins" (tenderloins w/chips and extras). Thursday night Texas Hold-em 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st. Plus now we also have a Sunday "Cash" game on July 6th. Thurs starts at 7pm to midnight and Sunday runs from 1pm to 8pm+)+ means :or longer). Last month we lasted until 10:30pm. Our crowd on 6-15-14 "NASCAR Sunday" was a little smaller than usual, but it still turned out to be a great day. Thanks to everyone that helped put this meal on. WONDERFUL DESSERTS.

Tim Haney, President Men's Auxiliary

Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

Hi Ladies,

This is a new year starting and your dues request is being mailed. I know you're thinking your Membership is good through Dec. 31st, 2014. Well, this is true, but next year according to the new by-laws they run out June 30th, 2015. In order to get into the swing of everything we are encouraged to ask you to pay before December. We appreciate your cooperation. Thank you in advance.

This last week I went to the State convention. It was very informing. On July 9th we will be having a district meeting a district meeting in Greenwood at the VFW. I will drive if anyone is interested in going with me. Give me a call.

Also I am starting our Ladies Auxiliary dinner on Friday July 25th, at 6:00pm. If you're interested in helping PLEASE give me a call. It has not yet been determined what we'll have yet. But be assured it will be GOOD! Don't forget our meeting on July 15th at 6pm. I'm looking forward to seeing you there.

On a final note, If you are moving or have moved, please contact the Post or myself with your new address. This information is needed to update our records and to insure you keep received you monthly newsletter.

Have a great month and don't forget to come by the club and say "Hi".

**Julia Curtis, President
VFW Ladies Auxiliary
Phone (812) 822-0028**

SPECIAL "HAPPENINGS" IN JULY



NASCAR Sunday July 27th



Cash Game July 6th



Independence Day Celebration
July 4th

July Equals Fireworks & Parades & New Events!!

July 4th, Friday, Independence Day, Parade Day, the Post will **OPEN** at **10:00 a.m.** and we will be serving all day long our **Jumbo Hot Dogs with Duke's Beans (Bush)**—with fix'ins plus who knows what will be available to go along with this meal. Cost you ask??---Just a mere \$3.00. **BUT WAIT!!** for the week of the **4th** the Post will be open as follows:

June 30th-Mon—Open at Noon

July 1st-Tues—Open at Noon

July 2nd-Wed—Open at Noon

July 3rd-Thurs—Open at Noon

Since it is a holiday with a lot going on we will not be serving our 1st Friday of the Month Dinner Special. Come out and celebrate the Holiday with us at the VFW Post 604!!!

Now we mentioned **New Events** and that would be starting this month on the **2nd Friday of the Month (July 11th)**. The Men's Aux. will be presenting their **FISH DINNER!!!** Now for those of you that have enjoyed their NASCAR Sunday Tenderloins then you already know that these guys know how to cook up a fantastic meal. They are looking at making this a monthly dinner so check out their news article for the particulars and come out for a great meal!! The next new item involves our Deck—shortly, we should have Juke Box Speakers installed outside so you can enjoy the deck, boogie to a few tunes and just have a plain ole good time—see, we aren't fancy but we sure do have fun. And finally—we have started a Stars & Stripes Board—now this is a Progressive Jackpot Raffle which means the Jackpot will continue to grow each week until it is hit. So check this game out—get your name in the drawing—every Friday night at 8:00 p.m. is drawing time—you just may be our next winner!! And then we are going to the races--**BRICK YARD 400 (NASCAR SUNDAY)** on the **27th of July**. We will **OPEN** at **NOON**, and of course this is being brought to you by our Men's Aux and their **Gigantic Hand-Dipped Breaded Tenderloin Sandwiches**.

July 6th (1st Sunday of the month) we will be having our **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 will not be open. **Absolutely the Best Game in town**. Start when you want and stop when you want—**Cash!!-Cash!!-Cash!!** And don't forget we still have our **Texas Hold-em Tournament** every **Thursday**, starts at **7:00 p.m.**

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

July 2014

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 US Army Air Corps Established (1926)	 3 Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1900	 4 Independence Day Lunch - Post open at noon Commander's Drawing 1900	5
 6 Cash Game Starts at 1pm	7 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	8	9	 10 Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1900	11 Serving Dinner 1800 – 2100 Fish Fry All-U-Can-Eat \$6.50 Lunch - Post open at noon Commander's Drawing 1900	12
	14 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	15 Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 Men's Aux – 1800 Ladies Aux – 1800	16	 17 Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1900	18 Serving Dinner 1800 – 2100 Lunch - Post open at noon Commander's Drawing 1900	19
20	21 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	22	23	 24 Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1900	25 Friday Night Special Ladies Aux. Lunch - Post open at noon Commander's Drawing 1900	26
 27 Korean War ended (1953) National Korean War Veteran Armistice day	30 World War 1 began (1914) HOT DOG MONDAY					

(* 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 # **133056**

Raffle License # **127960**

Some “This is no bull Stories

23 June 2014 issue, Army Times, page 19: Article title, “*Army tests Colombian-made mine boots*”. (Mine boots are designed to be worn while walking in an area suspected of being mined. The idea is to limit the damage to the wearer’s foot/feet when the mine explodes.) Now the good part, the sub-title: “*Guardsmen, Marines hired for wear trials*”. (I’m not making this up.) About half the way through the article we read, “*As part of the test, the Army hired three Army National Guard soldiers and three Marine Corps Reservists to test the boots for 20 hours over five days. The troops, employed as contractors, wore the boots through an obstacle course and a military operations in urban terrain course. . . . Factors used to evaluate the boots included improved blast protection, minimal additional weight and size . . . The testing showed that the boots are not ready for fielding, but the data collected will be beneficial for future research, officials said.*” Anything I would add now would be superfluous.

On a less macabre note, let’s consider two appeals of VA Milwaukee Pension Center denials of dependency indemnity compensation, one resolved in the widow’s favor, one just getting started: I didn’t pick up on this during the first appeal, but it is now evident as we start the second that the VA Milwaukee (yes, in Wisconsin) Pension Center which covers Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, Kentucky, Arkansas, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama has been adjudicating DIC claims without having the veterans’ claim folders. Restated, the Pension Center has turned down widows for DIC benefits based only on the information in the VA’s frequently problematic electronic records. The deceased veterans’ actual claims folders are located either in the VA regional office which supported the veteran during his or her lifetime or in a federal records storage facility. All well and good IF everything in the physical claim folders had been scanned and input into the electronic records. It hasn’t.

In the first appeal case it was obvious to the widow, me, and anyone else with half a brain (actually, she had a full brain) that the Vietnam veteran had died due to Agent Orange presumptively service connected disabilities. He had both severe diabetes and ischemic heart problems AND was one of the terminally unlucky few whose liver could not tolerate his medication for the diabetes. In short, his death was about two and a half ways service connected. We filled out the VA Form 9 (formal appeal form) politely pointing this out and asked for a hearing. (Which brings up another issue, where? Milwaukee? We asked for Indianapolis.) I told the widow to expect a wait of several months for a hearing date. Meanwhile, she and I were to gather medical statements from her late husband’s doctors, scientific papers about the side effects of the diabetes medication, etc. The Pension Center capitulated without even a hearing and with no additional evidence submitted at all. They had just missed what would have been obvious to any VA adjudicator who had the veterans file. They granted the appeal and paid the DIC.

The second appeal is just getting started, but is already illustrating this same Pension Center systemic “only incomplete electronic file information available” problem. This deceased veteran was rated 100% service connected disabled for over nine years and ten months, just weeks short of the ten years required for his wife to draw the DIC regardless of the cause of his death. Any decent VA adjudicator in the old paper days would have naturally flipped back through the veteran’s file to around ten years before, looking for any excuse to make the 100% effective date earlier. Well, the Pension Center adjudicator didn’t have the paper file, AND the portion of the paper file which had been scanned into the electronic record only went back to 2007. Restated, the Pension Center adjudicator couldn’t look at the scanned documents from the 2004 and earlier portion of the veteran’s file, there were none. There was no way to look for some way to help the widow. Let’s hope that our requesting copies of the late veteran’s claim folder and VA medical records will turn up something. A lot of work/hassle/delay to search for information which should have been available to the VA adjudicator at the time of consideration of the widow’s claim.

So what can we take away from the above? 1) Don’t accept a contract to test anything to do with anti-personnel mines. 2) Don’t meekly accept a VA denial. Do your research and appeal if necessary. 3) The VA Pension Center has a pretty serious problem in considering only partial records when denying survivor benefits. (I’m certain no one will tell the new Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs about this. Therefore even more widows will be denied DIC based only on consideration of incomplete records. We’ll never know how many might have been awarded the benefit had the full veteran’s record been available.) 4) Don’t delay filing for your service connected disability, or to later ask for a reevaluation if appropriate. Had our second example veteran claimed his 100% just a few weeks earlier, all this records issue would be moot and his widow would be drawing DIC now.

John Tilford – Service Officer

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

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