

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

February 2015

## Commander's Corner

Hello!

As we start into February, we are getting ourselves back in the swing of things at the Post. As most of you know, we had our birthday dinner and our awards dinner combined this year. We had a great turn out. We had a great meal and I would like to thank Barbra Oley for preparing a wonderful meal. I would like to also thank Dennis and Dorothy for their help. Our State Commander, Darrell Knight, and District Commander, Robert Muhlhauser, were also present, as well as Senior Vice President Sharron Barger of the State Ladies Auxiliary. I would like to thank them for attending our ceremony.

We have several of our members that have had health problems the last couple of months. Three of our members have had surgery and three have fallen. Let's keep all of them in our prayers and pray for a speedy recovery.

As all of you know, our dues for 2015 are due. If any of you know someone that hasn't paid their dues, please remind them. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the Post soon.

**Joe Hardin, Commander**

### TAPS

Larry D. Fiscus, US Navy, IC2 who served in the China Sea. With each passing day, things will become easier. This is to let you know that there is tremendous support behind you today. Larry will be missed by all the Men and Women of VFW Post 604 and the 7th District.

The following members of VFW Post 604 are in the Health Care Facilities in Monroe County. Please if you can visit them do so.

Sterling House--Bill Tennell, RM 104

Garden Villa--Roger Kelly Sr., RM 321B, Ira Young, RM 506B,

Aliva (Woodie) Farris, RM 412B

Hearthstone Health Campus--Jody Shaevitz, RM 104

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

## Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

Since Tim Haney is recovering from surgery, I am taking this opportunity to pen a few thoughts about why I belong to the Auxiliary.

My dad served in the U.S. Navy from late 1943 to late 1945. He was a machinist mate on an LCI in the Pacific theater and participated in battles at Okinawa, Iwo Jima, Saipan, and Tinian. He returned home three days short of my 1<sup>st</sup> birthday. It was the first time he ever saw me because sending pictures was not allowed. He and twelve other returning vets formed the VFW Post in my home town and he was one of the charter members. In 1990 I encouraged my parents to move to Greenwood where I taught. Because my Dad didn't know anyone in Greenwood, I took him to the VFW and soon he was swapping war stories with other vets. I heard the same stories over and over. I can nearly recite word for word the one about the ship's Captain Frank Baumholz, an outfielder for the Cincinnati Reds, calling everyone up on deck to see the flag raised at Iwo Jima. My dad was very proud of his serve time and I was very proud of my Dad for helping preserve the freedoms we enjoy. These memories ignited the passion in me to belong to the Auxiliary, volunteering my time to honor my Dad's service and the service of all other vets.

It has been exciting seeing the crowds generated by the Auxiliary fish fry Fridays (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month) and the tenderloin Sundays (coordinated with the NASCAR events). The proceeds have doubled our bank account total for the year allowing us to put siding on the parking lot side of the building, build a home entry ramp for a vet, and help sponsor the Post's Christmas for Kids party. Baseball spring training is less than a month away which means we will soon be eating fish and tenderloins outside on the deck. If you haven't been to one of our feasts you are really missing a good time. Come and join the fun.

Steve Lang, Auxiliary Sec/Tres

## Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

Hi Ladies

I'm hoping this winter finds you all well and in good spirits.

We now have new officers. They, old and new, are as follows: **Julia Curtis, President; Karen Cain, Sr. Vice President; Julie Martin, Jr. Vice President; Millie Briles, Treasurer; Dorothy White, Secretary; Jenny Tracy, Chaplin; Sandi Taylor, Guard; Liz Blackburn, Conductress; Sarah Dennison, Patriotic Officer; Karen Cain, 3 yr Trustee; Julie Martin, 2yr Trustee; and Sandi Taylor, 1 yr Trustee.**

As you can see some of our ladies are serving two offices. It would be nice to have more ladies to step up and help us.

We'll be having our Ladies Auxiliary dinner on Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. We will be serving Bar-B-Que Pork sandwiches with Macaroni & Cheese plus vegetable all for only \$6.00 ea. See you then and times before then.

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

## Awards Banquet



Pictured L. to R Joe Hardin, Post Cmdr; Robert Muhlhauer, 7<sup>th</sup> District Cmdr; Payton Dodd; Katelyn Chambers; Tatiana Andrede, Patriots Pen Awardees; Mary Romine, VOD Award; Darrel Knight, State Cmdr; and Shaun Caudill, Teacher of the Year award recipient.



Colin Prince was also recognized for his Patriot's Pen entry but was not able to attend banquet.

## EVERYTHING IS BACK!!

Well maybe not back to complete normal but we are getting there! First off we have back our **1st Friday of the Month Dinner Special**—and that happens on **Feb. 6th** and since it is still cold out we will be having **Chili** with a **Double Grilled Cheese Sammich** Sounds good right? And the price is right at only **\$5.00**. Serving starts a 6:00 p.m. And we are sure Desserts will be in the offering!!

And what better to have back than our **NASCAR SUNDAY** with the Men's Auxiliary **Great Big Ole Tenderloin Sandwiches.** — **Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>** is the date----Daytona is the venue---**\$5.00** is the cost. Come out and support them!! Post opens at Noon and closes somewhere around 6:00 p.m. Also back is the **Mens Aux. Fish Dinner** on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Friday** of the month (**Feb 13th**)—all you can eat!! And would you believe just **\$6.50??** They bread-em, cook-em, serve-em and we eat-em!!

We only had two steaks left last month but we have the **3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the Month STEAK NIGHT (20th)!!** 8 oz. Ribeye with Baked Potato (Several folks only wanted a half of potato because the size of the baked potato is a meal in itself!!) and Salad and Dessert all for just **\$10**. Yep! That's right—just **\$10**. **Texas Hold-em Tournament** every **Thursday**, starts at **7:00 p.m.** and **SUNDAY—Feb 1<sup>st</sup>--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.

## House Committee



Some of the pictures from our Birthday/Awards night dinner. More pictures are can be seen at the Post.

# Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

February 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  Cash Game  Starts at 1pm <b>National Freedom Day</b>	2  <b>Groundhog Day</b>  HOT DOG MONDAY  Open at Noon	3	4	5   Starts at 7pm  * Vet to Vet – 1800	6  Serving Dinner 1800-2100  <b>Friday Night Special</b>  Post open at 2pm Commander's Drawing @1900	7
8  <b>Boy Scouts of America Founded (1910)</b>	9  HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ Noon	10	11	12  <b>Lincoln's Birthday</b>  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	13  Serving Dinner 1800-2100   Post open at 2pm	14  <b>St. Valentine's Day</b>
13	16  HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ Noon	17  <b>Meetings</b> V.F.W. – <b>1800</b> Men's Aux – <b>1800</b> Ladies Aux – <b>180</b>	18	19   Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	20  Serving Dinner 1800 – 2100   Post open at 2pm Commander's Drawing @1900	21
22   <b>Tenderloin Sunday</b> <b>Washington's Birthday</b> Post open at Noon	23  HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ Noon	24  0	25	26   Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	27  <b>Ladies Aux. DINNER SPECIAL</b>  Post open at 2pm Commander's Drawing @ 1900	28
						

(\* 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**

## Alternative Universe

There are logical people who object to presumptive service connected disability ratings such as the current fourteen “presumptives” listed by the Department of Veterans Affairs as related to Agent Orange exposure. Some of these people work for the Government and are politically motivated by a desire to conserve resources, i.e., to reduce the amount of compensation paid to disabled veterans. Others are just regular civilians, like so many who are free only because members of the military made and kept them so. A lady who was a guest in our home a few months ago is one. She “just didn’t think it’s right” that compensation can be awarded to a veteran for a disability that he or she might have developed in old age without ever having been in the military. Specifically, she and I were talking about a high school classmate of mine. Bob and I were Marines in Vietnam at the same time, but neither of us knew of our proximity until decades later. I was extremely lucky and served a total of eighteen months on Monkey Mountain, east of Danang. I was nominally a computer repairman for the Marine Tactical Data System used for air traffic control and threat acquisition. But, since I really was not all that great a technician, I spent most of my Corporal, E-4 time doing general snuffy work such as guard duty, mess duty, and whatever else was too dirty, too hot, too dry, too cold, or too wet for higher ranking and better motivated Marines to do. I was shot at a grand total of two times, and missed each time. Bob, on the other hand, served twelve months in a variety of not-safe places, was shot at on a regular basis, and was much more exposed to the nasty stuff our own planes sprayed from overhead. Bob has peripheral neuropathy in both feet, diabetes type 2, and some of the psychological damage which affects normal people put through horrible things. I don’t think the nice lady would question Bob’s post-traumatic stress disorder. She did question his neuropathy and diabetes. Her point was that a high proportion of such mid- to late-60’s age men as Bob and I would have had – let’s focus on one condition – diabetes.

Let me interject one of Bob’s observations. He and five other former Vietnam Marines happened to meet at an “MIA-POW” ceremony in 2011. They talked and spray on his skin eventually, as getting-old men do, got around to discussing physical problems. All six had diabetes. Five had had at least one of the Agent Orange presumptive cancers. The veteran with the worst cancers had actually seen the airplane spraying Agent Orange pass overhead and felt the chemical moments later. All of these Marines had filled their canteens with water from pools which were

open to the sky. As Bob once pointed out to me, eighteen year old young men joining the Marine Corps in 1965 were, compared to the general population, a “rather robust lot”. Now all six are disabled, tired, pricking themselves to check the level of sugar in their blood, taking insulin injections, and in near constant pain.

I did not point out to the nice lady in our living room that there may be an alternative universe wherein Bob never joined the Corps or any other branch of the active military. Maybe he went to Canada. Maybe he hid in the National Guard. Whatever. She would have readily joined this conjecture and added, “And he still would have developed diabetes type 2 in his sixties!” I offer this response to the nice lady’s hypothetical comment and to all those who oppose presumptives: there may be such alternative universes, but we don’t live in any of them. We live in this universe. In this one, Bob passed his entrance physical with flying colors, served honorably in an environment poisoned with dioxin, and developed diabetes when he was twenty-five. Twenty-five. Also in this universe there is pretty convincing correlation between any service in Vietnam and diabetes type 2.

Let me throw in an observation: no adjudication system is perfect. Medals, promotions, disability compensation, all these systems result in deserving individuals being denied and undeserving individuals approved. The very best systems have a higher proportion of the former and a lower proportion of the latter. Let me ask a question: would you rather deny a veteran compensation who followed orders, served in a nasty environment, and is now permanently harmed as a result in order to make it more likely the undeserving are also denied? Or tolerate the approval of a few undeserving in order to make it more likely the disabled veteran who served honorably is compensated? Welcome to the universe in which we live.

**John Tilford – Service Officer**

### **DISTRICT MEETINGS**

**March 22, 2015-----Post 1111 Mooresville, In**  
**May 17, 2015-----Post 9297 Crane, In**

Laurens B. Strain V.F.W. Post 604  
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