

# 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)

August 2015

## Commander's Corner

Hello!

July has come and gone and we are getting ready for August. We had a lot going on in July, We had the 4th of July parade and thanks to Jo and Tom Vernon we were able to pull it off. The National Guard pulled out at the last minute and the Vernons supplied the float needed to participate in the parade.

We also had our State Convention in Indianapolis and the election for State Officers. I am proud to say that at the awards dinner we were awarded All State Team Post Commander. We were 1 of only 5 awarded in the State of Indiana. This award is given to Posts that have completed all of the core programs required by the VFW and for obtaining 100% membership. I want to thank everyone for helping accomplish what was needed to do this.

We also had a benefit motorcycle ride for our member Zach Deckard after he was taken in an accident on June 3, 2015. I believe that over \$2,000 was received to help his family. All of our new officers have taken office. If there are any times during the year that you can volunteer to help at the Post, please do so. We are the only Post in the State that is all volunteer. We are also the most financially stable Post in the State. Thanks to everyone who has made this possible. We would fail, but when great people come together, everything is possible.

"VFW" - great people coming together to accomplish our goals.

**Joe Hardin, Commander**

## FOURTH OF JULY PARADE 2015



## Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

We are busy here at the post quite a bit. If you want to have a party or be here for the many activities, please don't hesitate to come. Our Taco dinners are going quite well. I'd like to apologize for the piping hot Spanish rice. I hadn't realized it was so extremely hot. Besides that everything else was delicious. If possible we would like to have a little more help.

Also, we are getting along with the 2015-16 year. Please try to get your dues in early. And if you can, please add a few dollars or even a dollar for the Buddy Poppys. Remember, we are here to help our disabled and fallen soldiers. They fought for our freedom and we owe them.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. We had a good meeting in July. I was pleased with our attendance. Please come and join us. We'd love to have you. Also, if you have a friend or family member eligible, we'd be happy to sign them up. We've unfortunately lost several members in death and are trying to build our membership back.

Girls, It's time to close for now. If this finds you ill or if you've lost a loved one please may God be with you. May god also be with our troops that are in battle and their families that are patiently waiting for them to come home.

And may God bless America

Julia Curtis  
VFW Ladies President  
812-822-0028

### **THIS DAY IN AUGUST**

**U.S. Coast Established-----4 August 1790**

**Purple Heart Medal Established-----7 August 1964**

**Japan Surrendered Ending WWII-----14 August 1945**

### **Time Change!!!!!!**

No, not your clocks—we are changing the time the Post opens on Fridays. Starting Aug 7<sup>th</sup>--4:00 p.m. is when the doors will fly open instead of 2:00 p.m.









We will not be serving our 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the Month Dinner Special—be back hopefully in September. However, we still have our Men's Aux. Fish Dinner on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month (Aug 14th)-all you can eat!! And would you believe just \$6.50?? From there we go to our 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the Month STEAK NIGHT (21st)!! Serving 8 oz. Ribeye with Baked Potato, Salad, and Dessert all for just \$11. NASCAR SUNDAY on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Aug which will be at Watkins Glen for the Cheez-It 355. 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.

### House Committee



# Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

August 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
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2	3 HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ Noon	4	5	6  Starts at 7pm  * Vet to Vet – 1800	7  Last 1/4  Post open at 4pm Commander's Drawing @1900	8
9  NASCAR SUNDAY OPEN AT NOON	10 HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ Noon	11	12	13  Starts at 7pm  * Vet to Vet – 1800	14  New  Serving Dinner 1800-2100 Post open at 4pm Commander's Drawing @1900	15
16	17 HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ Noon	18 Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 Men's Aux --1800 Ladies Aux -- 1800	19	20  Starts at 7pm  * Vet to Vet – 1800	21  Serving Dinner 1800 – 2000 Post open at 4pm Commander's Drawing @ 1900	22  1 <sup>st</sup> 1/4
23	24 HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ Noon	25	26	27  Starts at 7pm  * Vet to Vet – 1800	28  Ladies Aux. DINNER SPECIAL  Serving Dinner 1800 – 2000 Post open at 4pm Commander's Drawing @ 1900	29  Full
30	31 HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ Noon					

(\* 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 # 137924

Raffle License # 137923



Bill Pearson passed away on June 29, 2015. He was the quiet veteran on the first Hoosier Honor Flight.

After the flight, Richard Dunbar, American Legion post commander, asked if I would check on Bill's Department of Veterans Affairs compensation. The amount did not sound right to Richard. A few days later Bill, his wife Georgia, and I sat down at a small round table in the family room of the Pearson home. I looked around after Georgia got up to retrieve their checking account records. I could smile at Bill but that was about it. He could not understand me. Georgia usually acted as his "translator", meaning he could read her lips and facial expressions better than those of other people.

Books and magazines were scattered on a table in front of their couch. Bill and Georgia enjoyed reading. Their shelves were filled with books.

Guadalcanal was a common subject. Suddenly I realized why Bill was so quiet, and it wasn't just because of his impaired hearing. Bill Pearson was a Guadalcanal Marine. The Green Hell. The first time Japanese ground forces had been stopped since their mid-1930s incursion into China.

By 1942 the Japanese juggernaut had subdued all they wished of China and rolled over British, American, Dutch, Philippine, French, and native islanders' resistance throughout Southeast Asia and the west Pacific.

They always attacked, never surrendered and seemed unstoppable – until William Lee Pearson and his fellow Marines landed at Guadalcanal.

Navy veterans and most military historians consider the Battle

of Midway as the turning point in the Pacific theater of operations. Midway, a strategic victory based on the intellect of code breakers and Forrestal's calculated gamble, provided time for the industrial capacity of the United States to come into play.

As Yamamoto warned, the war was constructively over. But the Imperial ground forces had not been told. It would not have made any difference to them had they been.

Sinking Japanese carriers over the horizon is one thing, but defeating Japanese soldiers in a jungle is another. Bill Pearson was a Marine.

Every Marine is a rifleman, as they were during the Revolution, at Belleau Wood, across the Pacific in World War II, in Fallujah, Iraq and in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. After that skill and mindset has been established, Marines may be assigned additional duties. Bill's was artillery. This explained Bill's profound deafness. He fired 105mm howitzers. No Marine used "hearing protection" in 1942.

Georgia offered their checking account information. Bill Pearson, the Guadalcanal Marine, married to Georgia since 1947, was being compensated for hearing loss as if he was single with no dependents. The VA said they sent Bill a form to complete in 1976 and it was never returned. Maybe they did, but the record of his marriage was in their possession since Bill first filed for his VA compensation in the late 1940's. One of the questions on the application form asked about marriage status.

Did Bill have any other disabilities? Yes. Georgia and a series of podiatrists had treated the damage to Bill's feet since the war. A fungus infection twisted his nails and inflamed his skin, periodically spreading up onto his legs. The Marines could not clean themselves for weeks, their uniforms and boots rotting off their bodies.

The VA denied the claim. "No record of treatment in service." As if the Marines could call time out during combat because their feet hurt. The VA adjudicator probably thought Guadalcanal was a waterway. Bill was too polite, too nice a guy, to appeal.

Bill Pearson, the quiet Marine. Guadalcanal. Never forget.

**John Tilford – Service Officer**

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PERMIT No. 205

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*"Oldest Post in the State"*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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