

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

February 2014

## Commander's Corner

It was a busy month in January at the Post. First of all I congratulate Oliver Craft. He is the winner of a free life membership awarded by the post. His name was drawn at the January meeting from all the members that had paid their 2014 membership dues before Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2013. If you didn't pay your dues before Dec 31<sup>st</sup> you missed out on a chance to win a free life membership. If you haven't renewed your membership yet your name has been removed from the Commander's drawing sign-up sheet also. It is not too late to renew your membership by paying your 2014 dues and have your name added back to the Commander's drawing sign-up sheet. The pot is now at \$1071.00. Don't miss out on a chance to win this also. Today is a good day to renew your membership. Effective January 1<sup>st</sup> dues increased to \$35.00.

Also in January we celebrated our 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday of Post 604 with a banquet and awards presentations. A superb meal of rib-eye steak and fixins was enjoyed by all. Following the meal and fellowship there were five awards presented. Three awards went to the Patriots Pen entries. They were Julihannah Cruz, Andrew Baaxter, and Jaylon Bland. David Wigington received an award for his Voice of Democracy entry. The teacher of the year award went to Kyle Robertson. Each received a certificate and a \$50.00 cash award. January finishes out with a night of excellent entertainment by the Monroe County Ramblers band on January 31<sup>st</sup>. If you haven't heard you are really missing out on some fine music.

February looks to be another busy month at the post. The first Friday of the month we will be having our dinner special. Then on the second Friday of the month the Monroe County Ramblers will be back. Don't forget our NASCAR Sunday in February. Hope to see you at the post.

**For God and Country  
Bob Lanning, Commander**

## Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

Well the 2<sup>nd</sup> month of the year is already here, that's quick. Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> – NASCAR Sunday is back, Daytona 500. The Men's Auxiliary will be back in action. This means "**Giant Hand Dipped Breaded Tenderloins**". 1<sup>st</sup> big event of 2014. It has been almost three months since we had these tenderloins, I personally can't wait. The Men's Auxiliary will be putting on a dinner at least once per month. Come out and spend a Sunday with us at Post 604. If you like melt in your mouth food and racing – this is the place. Our famous bakers will be back in action also. Tenderloins, chips, side dishes, and dessert all for \$5.00 (McDonalds ain't this cheap and the quality of food doesn't compare either.)

Another great piece of news, \*The post will start "Texas Hold-em" tournaments each Thursday evening at 7pm. A truly fun game with a chance of winning a bunch of cash. February 6<sup>th</sup> is the first night for "Texas Hold-em". Kitchen will be open from 5pm to 7:30pm.

**Tim Haney, President Men's Auxiliary**



## Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

At our January meeting we held nominations and elections of officers. The new officers are Julia Curtis, President; Millie Briles, Sr. Vice; Acacia Middleton, Jr Vice; Mary Ellen Brown, Treasurer; Karen Gummer, Secretary; Dorothy White, Conductress; Stephanie Ayers, Guard; Jenny Tracey, Chaplin; Millie Briles, 3 yr Trustee; Dorothy White, 2 yr Trustee; and Sandy Taylor, 1 yr Trustee.

I have some that have volunteered to serve on different committees however more volunteers are needed to serve on different committees. If you are interested in getting involved with your Ladies Auxillary please let me know. Better yet, come to our next meeting and see just what the Ladies Auxillary is all about. Our metings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at the Post at 6 PM. Our next meeting is Feb 18, 2014. Looking forward to seeing you at the mmeting.

**Julia Curtis, President VFW Ladies Auxiliary**

### Senior Vice Commander

Fellow Comrades,

Here it is, another month already. Hopefully everyone made it through the Holiday Season with no difficulty or hardship. Regarding membership, we did not make our %100 goal for the year. We did come relatively close; Hopefully, we can at least get the rest signed up this month.

They are making some progress building the deck. I will have to hand it to the guy's that are building it, they have been out working on it in some pretty harsh weather. Speaking of the weather, I'm ready for it to warm back up. I imagine most of us feel the same way but there are those that do enjoy cold weather as we have had the past couple weeks. If we can believe the weathermen, we have a couple more weeks of it coming.

The Men's Auxiliary did have another Football Sunday this past week. I didn't get a chance to to down to this one; hopefully it was as well attended as some of the others have been.

"Texas Hold-Em" as planned now will be starting next month. I think this will work out well for us and could also be a plus in getting more people at the Post as well as those that are actually playing cards. We'll just have to see how it progresses as we go along.

That's all I have for this month, not very informative I realize, but there just didn't seem to be too many things going on in the last couple of weeks. Thanks,

**William (Bill) Evans, Sr. Vice Commander  
Membership Chairman**

## COLD-COLD-COLD!!

Well not here inside the Post but wow, the month of January was something else, so lets try to start warming things up a little bit. One way to do that is our **1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the Month Dinner Special**--will be on **Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>** and we will be featuring a Thick Sliced Ham Steak (marinated) with a side of Cheesy Potatoes!! Sounds good right? And the price is right at only **\$5.00 Plate**. Can't beat that anywhere-no way-no how!!!! Plus we have a **GREAT** cook in Kathy H!!!! Serving starts a 6:00 p.m.

Another way to warm things up is by attending the **NASCAR SUNDAY—Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>** is the date----- Daytona is the venue. The Men's Auxillary will be putting this event on for the next few months so make sure you read up on their article in this newsletter—They do a great job on these things!! Come out and support them!! Plus, we hear that they are bringing back their **Great Big Ole Tenderloins Sandwiches**. Post opens at Noon and close somewhere around 6:00 p.m.

Want Live Music??---We understand that The Monroe County Travelers will be playing the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month for us so come on out and give them a listen—one big ole jam session that is a lot of fun along with the good music. Want more stuff??—**VFW Post 604** will be starting up a **Texas Hold-em Game**. This will be held on every Thursday Night starting Feb 6<sup>th</sup>-7:00 p.m. start time. Come check it out—get lucky---win some coins!!!!

We have a little bit of room left here so we would like to once again **THANK** our volunteers—you folks are a **Great** bunch doing a **Great** job!!

House Committee

# Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

February 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
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>  <b>Super Bowl</b>	<b>3</b>  HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ Noon	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	 <b>6</b>  Starts at 7pm  * Vet to Vet – 1900	<b>7</b>  <b>Dinner Special – 6PM</b> <b>Thick Sliced Ham Steak</b> <b>&amp; Cheesy Potatoes</b>  Commander's Drawing 1900	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ Noon	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	 <b>13</b>  Starts at 7pm  * Vet to Vet – 1900	<b>14</b>  Serving Dinner 1800 – 2100 <b>Valentines Day</b>  <b>Monroe County</b> <b>Ramblers Band –</b> <b>7PM</b>  Commander's Drawing 1900	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  <b>*President's Day*</b>  HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ Noon	<b>18</b>  Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 Men's Aux – 1800 Ladies Aux – 1800	<b>19</b>	 <b>20</b>  Starts at 7pm  * Vet to Vet – 1900	<b>21</b>  Serving Dinner 1800 - 2100  Commander's Drawing 1900	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ Noon	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	 <b>27</b>  Starts at 7pm  * Vet to Vet – 1900	<b>28</b>  Serving Dinner 1800 - 2100  Commander's Drawing 1900	

(\* 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**

# First Man on the Moon

Neil Armstrong, the first man on the Moon, passed away on August 25, 2012.

During the early Cold War, Arthur C. Clarke wrote the first man who would walk on the Moon was probably already alive, perhaps in elementary school in the United States or Russia. Those born after 1950 cannot recall a time when “going to the Moon” was absolute fantasy for the great majority of the Earth’s population and a dream for – well, for dreamers. Most were scientists and science fiction writers. Clarke was both. During World War II he served in the [Royal Air Force](#) as a radar specialist and was involved in the early warning radar defense system, critical to the RAF's success during the [Battle of Britain](#). Clarke went on to posit in print that the dominant language on Earth by the close of the twentieth century, English or Russian, might be determined by the location of that elementary school.

Clarke was right about most things but not about the age of the first man on the moon. Neil was born in 1930 and started Purdue at seventeen. He accepted a Department of Defense scholarship and was called to active duty by the Navy in 1949. Neil had flown 79 combat missions over Korea before Clarke published his elementary school student conjecture.

A fiction writer could not have described a more All-American background than Neil Armstrong’s: Midwesterner, flight certificate at age fifteen, Eagle Scout, turned down a scholarship to MIT to enroll at Purdue, test pilot for some of the most significant aircraft of the twentieth century. Oh, yeah, he was also an Astronaut.

I learned of the first Gemini mission while in Marine Corps basic training in 1965. Later Neil saved Gemini 8 from a potentially catastrophic system failure. The spacecraft was spinning at 400 revolutions per minute. Most humans black out at 350. Neil initiated the return from orbit procedure which stopped the runaway thruster and saved himself and David Scott.

On July 20<sup>th</sup>, 1969 Neil Armstrong did it. Rejected one landing spot and moved to a better, almost running out of fuel in the process. “Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed.” Put on the suit, opened the hatch, climbed down the steps. Credited “. . . for mankind” as his feet touched – and made footprints which, eroded only by charged particles of the solar wind and micrometeorites,

will last for millennia.

On July 20<sup>th</sup>, 1969 John Tilford, back from Vietnam and saving money to return to Indiana University, was watching Neil and Buzz (and Walter Cronkite) on a black-and-white television in Willard Tilford’s farmhouse. Most of us can remember where we were on that day.

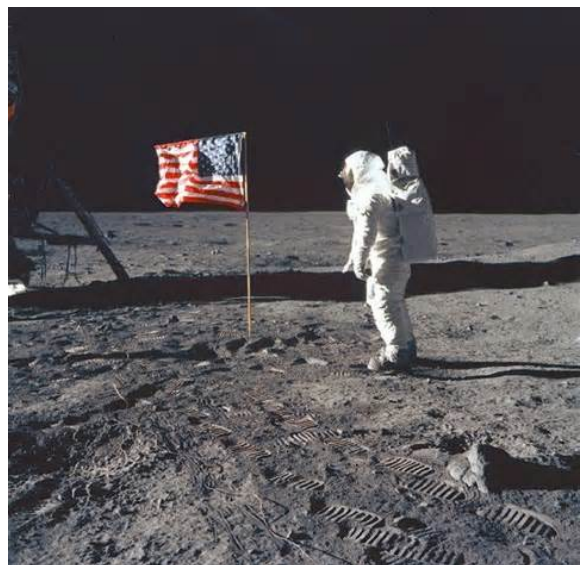
I telephoned the University of Cincinnati in the fall of 1974 and made the appointment. Polly, one year old Aaron, and I met Professor Neil Armstrong in his office. He graciously came from behind his desk to greet us. After the hello’s I suddenly realized I had nothing meaningful to say. “Congratulations on being the first man on the Moon!” seemed too trite. Aaron started to squirm. Neil signed a page in Polly’s notebook. We said our goodbyes and left.

Millions of WWII baby-boomers were the right age to appreciate Neil. I grew up reading science fiction, Arthur C. Clarke in particular. I entered college at seventeen then came back from war to finish school as he did. Like a favorite uncle, he was younger than our fathers but older than we were. Like us, he dreamed, fought, studied, and worked. But he accomplished so much more.

John Glenn observed “He [Neil] didn’t feel that he should be out huckstering himself.” Neil Armstrong, exemplifying dignity to the end, never cashed in on his singular fame. Look at the moon. See the Sea of Tranquility? His footprints remain.

Neil A. Armstrong – life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

## John Tilford – Service Officer



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