

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

April 2014

Commander's Corner

Well I know it seems like it is a never ending project, The Deck that is. In every issue of the Newsletter there has been an update on the progress of the deck. Well this is the last update. The deck is finished and looks great. A celebration is long overdue and one is scheduled. The Post is having an

OPEN HOUSE

Not only to show off the deck but also other changes that have taken place in the Post. The open house will be on Saturday April 26th. The post will open at 10 am. A buffet dinner will be available at noon until the food is gone. It is an all you can eat spaghetti buffet with salad, garlic bread, and dessert. The cost for the dinner is \$5.00. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Mark your calendar. Sunday, May the 18th Post 604 will be hosting the 7th District meeting. The meeting will start at 10:30am with lunch to follow. Plans are being made for special entertainment that Saturday evening. More information will be forthcoming in the May Newsletter.

As a reminder, nominations for officers for the upcoming year will be taken at the April 15th Post meeting. Be thinking about who you would like to represent you at the Post. The offices to be filled are commander, quartermaster, senior vice commander, junior vice commander, chaplain, judge advocate, surgeon, 3 yr trustee, and 3 yr house committee. If you are interested in serving in any of the offices let it be known.

See you at the Post.

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

Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

Spring is supposed to be upon us, but the way March went, who knows.

Our NASCAR Sunday Mar. 16 went over really well for both the Mens Aux & the canteen. We had visitors from Blmfd & Linton, the 4 of them really enjoyed themselves & posted some nice remarks about us on Facebook They talked as if they would return in April for our next NASCAR Sunday.

The next scheduled event is April 6th. A big thank you goes out to Steve Lang, Dennis Knoy, & Leonard Heldman. We were 2 persons shy of normal, so Leonard was our bartender. Thanks again for your help & support of our Aux.

April 6 is the only Sunday race, it starts @ a3:00 ATexas Motor Speedway. We will open around noon & serve lunch. So come out have something to eat prior to race, then the rest of day everyone can enjoy the race!

Tim Haney, President Men's Auxiliary



Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

Dear Ladies,

This has been a busy and changing month for us. First, on March 7th I started opening the club at noon. We're having a slow start but hoping it will speed up as time goes on. I would like to thank all the people that have helped. That being Jo Vernon, Karen Cain, Sandy Hacker, and Dorothy White. We also had some Men's Auxiliary and Veterans that helped us. If I missed someone, please forgive me. I don't know what would've happened without all this help.

A resolution to amend the National Bylaws of the Ladies Auxiliary VFW, if adopted, would strike the word "calendar" and insert in its place the word "membership". To make things simple, "THE MEMBERSHIP YEAR OF THE LADIES AUXILIARY will be FROM JULY 1ST TO JUNE 30TH." Starting July 1st, 2015

A member who has paid her dues to June 30th is in good standing. She ceases to be in good standing on July 1st immediately following the year for which her dues have been paid. If a member's dues are not paid by September 1st, she is no longer a member and must reapply. Remember July 1st, 2015.

Have a good month, come to the club and see the beautiful deck. We're looking forward to really enjoying it this Summer, Yes I'm sure Summer is going to be here Soooooon.....

Don't forget the special dinners on the 1st and 4th Friday of the month and the open Sundays, and of course the happy atmosphere we are creating and enjoying.

Also always remember what we're here for, to SUPPORT OUR TROOPS and VETERANS and May God Bless the USA.....

Julia Curtis. President VFW Ladies Auxiliary

1ST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH DINNER SPECIAL!!

All you can eat Taco Night—April 4th

-Hard Shell

-Soft Shell

-Taco Salad

-Refried Beans

-Nacho Chips & Cheese

-Fixin's for Toppings

-And whatever else we dream up

-\$5.00

-6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

House Committee

Senior Vice Commander

Fellow Comrades,

Finally it's beginning to warm up a little bit. With any luck, we won't have to shovel snow off the new deck before we have the "Open House" to celebrate getting it completed the latter part of next month. It should be completed by the end of March. I think it is a great addition to the Post and I feel we all will get quite a bit of use out of it as time goes on.

Thanks to Dennis, Frank, and Barney for the job they did remodeling the wall at the Post, it is greatly appreciated. It's such a great asset to the Post to have people with the knowledge of how to do things like this as well as the willingness to volunteer their time to do it for us.

Don't forget the District Meeting we will be hosting on May 18th. We will need everyone we can get to help out with it. Bob, Julia, and I went to the District Meeting held in Clay City yesterday. We do have quite a few things going on in the District throughout the summer; Camping Trips, Testimonial Dinners, etc. so if anyone is interested in taking part in some of them I will try to get the information passed on to them.

Tim, Leonard, and the others are really doing a good job with the "Texas-Hold-Em" crowd. It's been going on for two months now and there hasn't been a "Shoot-Out" or even a brawl at this point. It's been a great undertaking for these guys that are doing it. Not only does it add to the activities at the Post for everyone, it also generates revenue for the Post to use.

For those who aren't aware of it yet, the Post is now opening at noon on Friday as well as Mondays. Lunch is also available on Fridays. Thanks to Julia and the Ladies Auxiliary for this undertaking, it is appreciated.




There is one other thing I want to mention. We have done well with our membership this year compared to some other Posts in the District but we still haven't got our %100. If anyone knows of someone who hasn't paid their dues yet if you could put a bug in their ear I would appreciate it. I did get a list of the Post members who haven't renewed their 2014 membership yesterday at the District Meeting. The one we received also has their telephone numbers on it so I can contact them in the near future.

Again, I want to thank everyone, Men's Auxiliary, Ladies Auxiliary, and our members for all they do at the Post. Most all of the people that frequent the Post know that everyone working there is doing it on a "Volunteer" basis. For those who didn't, I am taking this opportunity to tell them. The more help we can get from everyone the easier it makes it for all.

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

Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

April 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 April Fool's Day	2	3 * Vet to Vet – 1900	4 Friday Night Special All You Can Eat TACO Night \$5.00 1800 till ???? Lunch - Post open at noon Commander's Drawing 1900	5
6 NASCAR Sunday Open at noon Army Day	7 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	8	9 National Former POW Recognition Day	10 * Vet to Vet – 1900	11 Serving Dinner 1800 – 2100 Persian Gulf War Official cease Fire (1991) Lunch - Post open at noon Commander's Drawing 1900	12
13 PALM SUNDAY	14 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	15 Income Tax Deadline Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 Men's Aux – 1800 Ladies Aux – 1800	16	17 * Vet to Vet – 1900	18 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2100 Good Friday Lunch - Post open at noon Commander's Drawing 1900	19
20 EASTER SUNDAY	21 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	22	23	24 * Vet to Vet – 1900	25 Friday Night Special Ladies Aux. Arbor Day Lunch - Post open at noon Commander's Drawing 1900	26 OPEN HOUSE All-U-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner
27	28 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	29	30			

(* 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

One Purple Heart, Part II

Leonard Wayne McIntosh. Greg Swanson. One Purple Heart.

If any of the readers/members are confused, like me, here's the story: The full *One Purple Heart* article would not fit in one issue. Part I, last month, was word-for-word right out of the full article. But it took about 2/3 of the article to get to a logical breaking point. For the first part of Part II, I collapsed/shrunk Part I so save space and to provide an introduction for those who did not read or remember Part I, and put that right on top of the remaining/last part of the article. So, between last issue and this issue, the reader has every word of the first 2/3 of the full article, every word of the last 1/3 of the article, and a reprise of the first 2/3 introducing the last 1/3. One member stopped me last week and basically said I'd cheated him with only part of an article. Also (you'll like this) I sent the full article to those Congressmen still in office who did nothing meaningful, or, in one case, nothing at all, to help get the Purple Heart for Leonard Wayne McIntosh. I also sent it to the Army G-1, Pentagon, the office which did not consider his request for exception to policy, and to the Chief, Congressional and Special Actions Branch in Arlington, VA who also did nothing. If this helps just one other combat wounded veteran whose medical records were lost get a Purple Heart, great. If not, it still feels good.

Part II

Wayne was in high school on the 7th of December 1941. He enlisted in the Army the next year at age seventeen. Wayne was assigned to the 3rd Infantry. In accordance with Patton's combat emphasis, the medical care following most of Wayne's wounds consisted of stopping the bleeding, stitches, bandage, and get back to your unit. Wayne landed in Morocco, Sicily and Anzio. One of Wayne's wounds occurred near the Mussolini Canal. Wayne also landed on the south of France. His personal combat story was shortened in the rubble of a stone French building, in a coma, back broken.

Wayne was separated at Camp Atterbury and returned home. He was still young and, other than his back, healthy. Some of the pieces of shrapnel embedded in his body worked their way out over the years. He worked hard, physical jobs. Maybe the work helped him sleep. The nightmares made sleeping difficult.

Wayne grew older. His body became less able to compensate for the spinal damage. First a cane, then a walker, then a wheelchair. Wayne obtained medical care and compensation from the Department of Veteran Affairs. What he did not obtain from the Department of the Army was a Purple Heart. The standard "official military medical records of combat wounds" were missing. A Department of Veteran Affairs physical examination documented his many scars, embedded shrapnel, and broken back less than two years after his separation. One would logically assume that the damage noted by the VA in 1947

either 1) occurred while he was in combat, or both 2a) Wayne was hit several times by German indirect fire as he worked in rural Indiana between his separation from active duty and the VA physical, and 2b) Wayne was confused as to where he was when wounded.

The Army Board for Correction of Military Records turned down Wayne's first Purple Heart request due to lack of "official military medical records of combat wounds". The National Personnel Records Center could produce neither individual nor unit records of Wayne's wounds. Asked to help, three United States House Representatives passively reported the Board denial. The one Senator approached declined to even pursue. Wayne passed away on 26 January 2014, seventy years after a red-hot piece of jagged shrapnel lodged in his left femur, just missing the femoral artery. The painful removal left a half-inch deep and two inch wide scar. His funeral was held in the Tulip Church building he helped to build. One of those attending was a uniformed soldier: Gregory Swanson.

Greg is a good friend of Wayne's son, Kenny. They had hunted together among the wooded hills of Greene County, just as had Wayne and his young sons years earlier. Greg is an Indiana Conservation Officer. Greg joined the Army National Guard at seventeen, the same age at which Wayne entered the Army. Also similar to Wayne, Greg still carries shrapnel in his body. Greg was wounded in Afghanistan when his vehicle was hit by rocket-propelled grenades. His driver was killed. Greg was awarded the Purple Heart.

Minutes before Private First Class Leonard Wayne McIntosh's funeral service began, First Sergeant Gregory Swanson walked to the casket where he was greeted by Kenny McIntosh: *"I knew that his father was in World War II and I knew that he had been wounded and I knew that they had tried to get him a Purple Heart. I knew he should have been awarded it, but because of red tape and because of the fire and the loss of medical records, they were having trouble getting that award. So for me, in some ways when I was given mine there was almost like . . . a guilt. The things that he went through were much more . . . I saw some things in Afghanistan, but I am sure the things that he saw in World War II . . . I have this award and he doesn't and he should"*.

Greg Swanson leaned over the casket and pinned his Purple Heart on Wayne McIntosh's shirt: *"Here. You deserve this more than I do."*

As one tearful observer noted, *"It's as though it was meant to be this way. All those years. It means more. The bureaucrats and politicians couldn't get Wayne a Purple Heart, but a wounded soldier did."* Leonard Wayne McIntosh. Greg Swanson. Veterans of two foreign wars. One Purple Heart.

John Tilford – Service Officer

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