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# VFW POST 604 NEWS

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

July 2017

## 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.

### Commander's Corner

As I assume the task of Commander of our Post, I realize that we will not be successful unless I receive a lot of help from ALL of you.

Thank you to Tony Halliday for stepping up to be our One Year Trustee. There two other appointed positions (Guard and Officer of the Day) we still need to fill. I will fill on a meeting by meeting basis until I find someone to fill them full time. These positions are not near as critical, as I can appoint someone each month for the length of the meeting.

Another area in need of help is with steak night. I told Joe that we would continue the tradition at least one more month. I am a poor outdoor grill cook, so if someone wants to take over Joe's job it will help the Post tremendously. If not I'll do it on July 21st and we'll see what the feedback is.

Another area needed more volunteers is bartending. We've had a few people that are no longer able to do the hours that they had previously. Please get with Leonard or a House Committee member if you have a bartending license or are willing to obtain one, we'll help you though it – No experience necessary – most of our bartenders are self taught. Volunteers are our life's blood. One night a month or more will help us out. . Please step up!

We are planning to be in the Bloomington Independence Day parade. The details are in flux, so check with a Post officer later and we should be able to bring you up to speed.

I am looking to start a read file that will be kept in the canteen area. It will contain information that Comrades and Auxiliary members need to know, but is so time sensitive that it can't be put in the newsletter. ❖

**Commander – Roy Smith**

### VFW Auxiliary

We would like to thank all who attended our Memorial Day service and the dedication of the Veteran's Monument at Valhalla Memory Gardens. It was a good turnout. Joe Hardin did a FANTASTIC job along with his helpers – Thanks Joe. After the ceremonies, there was a huge crowd at the post, glad to see you there. Our cooks did a GREAT JOB as usual, not only with it tasting great; there was plenty to go around. If you left hungry, it was your fault, not theirs. Our thanks to the cooks!

Joe Hardin is stepping down as Post Commander for a well earned rest as he's been at it for 8 years – and an awesome job too I might add. Row Smith has assumed duties as Post Commander, so let's all get out to the post and help support him as it is not an easy job.

We will be serving brunch on the 4th of July this year, consisting of meat, scrambled eggs, cheesy hash brown casserole, biscuits, and gravy (for those who want it). Doesn't that sound GOOD? Oh, it's all for only \$5.00. Then afterwards we'll have jumbo hot dogs, Duke baked beans, and Potato salad. This will include sides and desserts - also for the low price of just \$5.00!!! So, come out and join us after the parade – it will be a fun day.

On our bulletin board, the chaplain has put an information sheet for those who've visited nursing homes, gone to funerals, memorials, ceremonies, or have sent out cards. She will turn this information in on her monthly report to national to let them know we have not forgotten.

Dates to remember for July;

July 4th – Brunch 11:30 – 2:00 / Hot Dog Special 2:00 until gone

July 18th – Auxiliary Meeting 6:00 PM

July 28th – Spaghetti Dinner with salad and garlic bread

God Bless our troops – God Bless America – Our get well wishes for those who are ill and our condolences go out to those who've lost a loved one. ❖

**Dorothy J White**  
**President - VFW Auxiliary**  
**812-345-9025**

## TAPS

### Rodney Edmond Eads

Rodney was a Life Member of VFW Post 604.

### Dewey E. Garrison

Phil Dewey was a Korean War Veteran and a Life Member of VFW Post 604.

"With each passing day, things will become easier. This is to let you know that there is tremendous support behind you today".

Rodney and Dewey will be missed by all the Men and Women of VFW Post 604 and the 7th District.



James C. Arnold, Chaplin  
VFW Post 604

## Independence Day

Independence Day is regarded as the birthday of the United States as a free and independent nation. Most Americans simply call it the "Fourth of July," on which date it always falls.

The holiday recalls the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. At that time, the people of the 13 British colonies located along the eastern coast of what is now the United States were involved in a war over what they considered unjust treatment by the king and parliament in Britain. The war began in 1775. As the war continued, the colonists realized that they were fighting not just for better treatment; they were fighting for freedom from England's rule. The Declaration of Independence, signed by leaders from the colonies, stated this clearly, and for the first time in an official document the colonies were referred to as the United States of America. It is a day of picnics and patriotic parades, a night of concerts and fireworks. The flying of the American flag (which also occurs on Memorial Day and other holidays) is widespread.



## Fireworks & Parades & Probably Hot Weather!!!

Tuesday **July 4<sup>th</sup>**, Independence Day, Parade Day, the Post will **OPEN** at **10:00 a.m.** and the **Auxiliary** will be serving **2 Food Events---** starting off with a Brunch followed by Grilled Hot Dogs, so be sure to check out their article for extra details---and we heard that the cost for either event is---Just a mere **\$5.00**.

Then we are off to our **1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the Month Dinner Special (July 7<sup>th</sup>)**—where we will keep things cool by serving **Chicken Salad & Fruit Plate or Sammich & Dessert** for only **\$7.00**.

The next thing up is **The Aux. Fish Dinner** on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Friday** of the month (**July 14<sup>th</sup>**)-all you can eat!! And would you believe just **\$7.00??**

From there we go to our **3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the Month STEAK NIGHT (21st)!!** 10 oz. Ribeye Steak with Baked Potato and Salad and Dessert all for just **\$11**.

And then we are going to the races—**Indy Brickyard 400 (NASCAR SUNDAY)** on the **23rd of July**. We will **OPEN** at **NOON**, and of course this is being brought to you by **The Aux** and their **Gigantic Hand-Dipped Breaded Tenderloin Sandwiches** with all kinds of extras sides and you should check out the deviled eggs!!! Now we know its hot outside but its nice and cool inside the Post so for **\$5.00** this is a meal you shouldn't miss!!!

Not done yet, because we have the **4<sup>th</sup> Friday Night Dinner Special (28<sup>th</sup>)** by the Auxiliary and once again check out their article for details of that dinner. 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 2017

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>2</b>	<b>3</b>  HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ Noon	<b>4</b>   <b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>   <b>Starts at 7pm</b>  * Vet to Vet – 1800	<b>7</b>  6PM - Chicken Salad & Fruit Plate or Sammich & Dessert Dinner \$7.00  Commander's Drawing 1900	<b>1</b>  <b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ Noon	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>   <b>Starts at 7pm</b>  * Vet to Vet – 1800	<b>14</b>   6PM - Auxiliary Fish Dinner \$7.00 – All you can eat!  Commander's Drawing 1900	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ Noon	<b>18</b>  Meetings  V.F.W. – 1800 V.F.W. Aux – 1800	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>   <b>Starts at 7pm</b>  * Vet to Vet – 1800	<b>21</b>   6PM - STEAK Night 10oz Rib eye – \$11.00! Commander's Drawing 1900	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>   <b>NASCAR!</b>	<b>24</b>  HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ Noon	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>   <b>Starts at 7pm</b>  * Vet to Vet – 1800	<b>28</b>   6PM - Spaghetti Dinner Special Commander's Drawing 1900	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  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 # 144211

Raffle License # 1414210

## Why Did You Join?



Why we each entered the military, the reason we joined, had an effect on several aspects of our service and often on our attitudes toward the VA after separation. Let's consider some reasons for entry and see what you think. You may recognize a few. Maybe you will recognize yours.

It's 5 March 1965, MCRD San Diego, eleven o'clock on the first night in Platoon 219. Lights out and no drills in the dark Quonset hut. Whereas we had not been able, physically or mentally, to converse as human beings while being harassed in Reception Barracks waiting for our platoon to form, suddenly we realized we were temporarily unsupervised and had forever, a little over six hours, before we heard the amplified hiss of a phonograph needle as it first touched the reveille record.

*(Whispered) "Hey! Can anyone hear me?"*

*"I hear you. Shut up. I want do sleep."*

*"Fxxx you. I want to talk. (Hesitation) Why did you join?"*

*First one response, then another, then others. Several were followed by "You must be an idiot!" or "You gotta be shxxing me!" or similar helpful comments:*

*"The judge said it was either the Marines or jail. I've had enough of jail."*

*"Suzy was pregnant" and the related "I had to have money for child support."*

*"Dad [or other relative] was a Marine" and the inverse "Dad was in the [some branch other than the Marine Corps] and I wanted to do him one better."*

*"The babes go for the uniform. I'm getting dress blues and wear them back home when I get leave."*

I just listened. There did not seem to be a why-you-joined category for "I stayed up late most nights my first semester at Indiana University, usually didn't get up until 11:00am, and had all morning classes." I could not speak French, so the Foreign Legion was out.

During the fun filled days, weeks, and months that followed some other reasons for joining became obvious, most unspoken. A few had joined to prove to

themselves and others that they were tough, i.e., they doubted themselves. Some joined to show off. Some for security: food, shelter, and a little income - \$78 per month. Some to help gain citizenship. Some joined because of patriotism. Two years later some entered because they had been drafted. Their reasons boiled down to service or prosecution. Maybe Canada was in there somewhere. But even those drafted formed attitudes toward their service, attitudes based on what they wanted to accomplish, what they thought they knew about the military, and – for more than a few during war time – what they feared.

Looking back, it seems those who joined for the more positive reasons had the best attitude toward filing for VA benefits; whether education, home loan, or disability compensation. Their expectations for success when they entered and faith in the overall fairness of the military carried over to their expectations for the VA. Sort of a series of self-fulfilling prophesies. (Before we go any further, let's stipulate the military and the VA do at times fail to adequately serve even the most positive members and claimants. Incompetent officers, non-veteran adjudicators, just bad luck, whatever. Courts martial, Captain's Mast, hardship discharges, and VA appeals can sometimes mitigate.) Contrast with those who entered the military with neutral or negative expectations who often do not apply for VA benefits when they should and have less success when they do. Unfortunately, negative "Why try?" expectations can become self-fulfilling as well. Claims aren't well prepared, claims are dropped and not pursued, denials are not appealed.

People change. The most patriotic, most optimistic can be beat down by horrible experiences to the point they do not want any contact with anything reminding them of the military, especially the VA. Alternatively, the most cynical and hopeless can be uplifted by those around them, especially a good NCO.

Why did you join? Did it affect your attitude toward VA benefits? ❖

**John Tilford – Service Officer**

Laurens B. Strain V.F.W. Post 604  
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Bloomington, IN 47404-2690

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## VFW-Post-604 July Happenings

Friday - July 7<sup>th</sup> – Chicken Salad & Fruit Plate or Sammich & Dessert Dinner \$7.<sup>00</sup>

Friday - July 14<sup>th</sup> – Auxiliary Fish Dinner-all you can eat!! \$7.<sup>00</sup>

Friday - July 21<sup>st</sup> – STEAK NIGHT – featuring our 10 oz. Ribeye grilled to order - \$11.<sup>00</sup>

Friday - July 28<sup>th</sup> – Auxiliary Spaghetti Dinner \$7.<sup>00</sup>

Sunday - July 23<sup>rd</sup> - NASCAR Sunday - Gigantic Breaded Tenderloin Sandwiches \$5.<sup>00</sup>

Every Thursday at 7PM – Try your luck – Texas Hold'em Tournament & CA\$H Game



JULY

