

# VFW POST 604 NEWS

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

February 2016

## 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

Happy New Year To All!

We are off to a fast start to the new year. I hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday, I know that with the great members that we have, this new year will be the best year ever for our members and Post.

January was a fantastic month at the Post. We had our 95<sup>th</sup> birthday and awards dinner, our Friday nights fish dinner, steak dinner and taco dinner, We also had our Sunday tenderloin day put on by our Men's Auxiliary. In addition we had a visit from National President of the VFW Auxiliary Francesca Guilford. Some other guests that visited the Post in January were State Commander Buzz Weberding (2 visits), Sharon Barger, State President of the VFW Auxiliary, newly elected Mayor of Bloomington John Hamilton, and of course 7<sup>th</sup> District Commander Glen Bumpus. To wrap things up for the month, we had a District meeting held in Gosport. I know that it took a lot of hard work to handle all that we went through to make this all happen, All of you that helped, I give you my heartfelt thanks and respect to all.

Please remind everyone that has not paid their dues to do so. **IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Bartenders please check your license to make sure they are up-to-date. Thanks. ❖

**Commander - Joe Hardin**



## Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

The New Year has really been a boomer! The Friday night dinners are growing by leaps and bounds. Each Friday is a different menu: 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Kathy and Leonard in the kitchen; 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Men's Auxiliary All-U-Can-Eat Fish Fry; 3rd Friday Post Commander Joe's Steak Night; 4<sup>th</sup> Friday VFW Auxiliary All-U-Can-Eat Taco Bar; and if there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Friday Tim Dittmore and I have paired up to be in the kitchen cooking up something and you just never know what we will slop together – better check this out for yourself and COME GET YOU SOME!!

NASCAR Sunday is also back on February 21<sup>st</sup> starting with Daytona we open at noon serving hand-breaded tenderloins.

Texas Hold 'em is still going strong on Thursday nights. We could sure use a few more dealers and happy to train, if you could come up one night a month and deal that would be a great. Call or come in and leave your name and number with the bartender and I'll give you a call.

The security camera system is now completely installed, we've added lights outside to brighten-up the parking lot and we're going to add another light around back.

If any combat veteran reads my little note each month or for the first time this month, we need your children / grandchildren / spouse to come in and join this special organization (got to have new and younger members to survive).

I'm done bumping my gums so see ya next month. ❖

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



## VFW Auxiliary

This has been a very busy month. It's nice to be so busy and have fun in all we do. We would like to have more participation in our Auxiliary. Our membership means a lot to our veterans and the help we give them near and far. These veterans have been overseas and fought for our freedom.

On January 13<sup>th</sup> we had our club's 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner and also our Patriot's Pen recognition awards. Congratulations to the winners. It was a great dinner catered by Barb Ooley. She always does a fine job. Also the same week, on January 16<sup>th</sup>, it was our pleasure to host a luncheon for our National VFW Auxiliary President Francesca Guilford from Alaska. Other guests were Bloomington Mayor John Hamilton, VFW Department of Indiana Commander Buzz Weberding, and Indiana VFW Auxiliary President Sharron Barger. We also had many district and post commanders / Auxiliary Presidents in attendance. A special thank you goes to Debbie Helton, Leonard Helton, Barney & Dorothy White, Jan Martin, and Bob Lanning for all their help.

In attendance at the luncheon was a special guest, a 93 year old WWII veteran, Richard Zimmerman. It was so interesting to talk with him and learn he's still active and taking dance lessons at Arthur Murray.

We are having our Taco Dinners again on the fourth Friday each month, for \$6.00 – all you can eat or until we run out. Auxiliary members, please bring a dessert if it is convenient.

If you know of anyone who has not paid their dues, you may want to remind them. They are no longer members.

In closing, if you or a member of your family is ill, please get better soon. Remember our veterans and families in your prayers. Please stay in out of the 0 degree weather and all of the ice & snow. Have a warm month. ❖

**Julia Curtis**  
**President VFW Auxiliary**  
**812-822-0028**

## TAPS

### **Robert William Sipes, Life Member, WWII, US Army**

Robert was a WWII, US Army Veteran who participated in the Battle of the Bulge and received a Bronze Star for his actions.

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

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

**James C. Arnold**  
**Chaplin, VFW Post 604**  
**Past 7<sup>th</sup> District Commander**

## BRRRR-Enough Said!!

Ok, now that we have gotten past Captain Obvious, our **1st Friday of the Month Dinner Special** happens on **Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>** and since it is still cold out we will be having **Spaghetti with Meat Sauce—Garlic Bread plus Salad.** Sounds good right? And the price is right at only **\$6.00.** Serving starts at 6:00 p.m. And we are sure Desserts will be in the offering!!

It may be cold outside but we have **NASCAR SUNDAY** starting back up with the Men's Auxiliary **Great Big Ole Tenderloins Sandwiches.** —Feb 21<sup>st</sup> is the date----Daytona is the venue---**\$5.00** is the cost. Come out and support them and get a great meal to boot!! Post opens at Noon and close somewhere around 6:00 p.m. Also the **Men's Auxiliary. Fish Dinner** on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Friday** of the month (**Feb 12<sup>th</sup>**)-all you can eat!!

Steak Night is extremely popular and well worth the money, the **3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the Month STEAK NIGHT (19th)!!** 8 oz. Ribeye with Baked Potato and Salad and Dessert all for just **\$11.** Yep! That's right—just **\$11.** Then the **4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the Month (26<sup>th</sup>)** presents **The Auxiliary** with their **TACO NIGHT**—all you can eat for just **\$6.50!!! Texas Hold 'em Tournament every Thursday, starts at 7:00 p.m.**

Spring may be on the way but our tasty and affordable Friday Night Dinners are already here—come out and enjoy!! ❖









**House Committee**



Jan 16th VFW Auxiliary Luncheon - Vicki Alderman (Standing), Francesca Guilford, Sharron Barger, Julia Curtis, Cheryl "Pete" Dillard

# Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

February 2016

February 2016						
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>HOT DOG MONDAY</b>  Open @ Noon	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	 <b>4</b>  Starts at 7pm  * Vet to Vet – 1800	<b>5</b>  Serving Dinner 1800 – 2000  Spaghetti Dinner   Commander's Drawing 1900	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  <b>HOT DOG MONDAY</b>  Open @ Noon	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	 <b>11</b>  Starts at 7pm  * Vet to Vet – 1800	<b>12</b>  Serving Dinner 1800 - 2000  Fish Dinner   Commander's Drawing 1900	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  <b>HOT DOG MONDAY</b>  Open @ Noon	<b>16</b>  Meetings  V.F.W. – 1800 V.F.W. Aux – 1800 Men's Aux – 1800	<b>17</b>	 <b>18</b>  Starts at 7pm  * Vet to Vet – 1800	<b>19</b>  Serving Dinner 1800 - 2000  Ribeye Dinner   Commander's Drawing 1900	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>  Tenderloin Sunday   Open Noon until Victory	<b>22</b>  <b>HOT DOG MONDAY</b>  Martin Luther King Day  Open @ Noon	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	 <b>25</b>  Starts at 7pm  * Vet to Vet – 1800	<b>26</b>  Serving Dinner 1800 - 2000  Taco Dinner   Commander's Drawing 1900	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  <b>HOT DOG MONDAY</b>  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

Commander Joe Hardin  
& Department of Indiana  
Commander Buzz Weberding

Presenting community awards during  
VFW Post 604's 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner



**Educator's Teacher Award - David Terwilliger**



**Patriot's Pen Award– Trevor Shaw**



**Patriot's Pen Award – Philipp Mendes**



**Patriot's Pen Award – Cynthia Spaetti (left)  
(with VFW Auxiliary Trustee - Karen Cain)**



**Patriot's Pen Award – Nathaniel Lawlor**



**Patriot's Pen Award – Hunter M Deaton**

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**Patriot's Pen Award – Theresa A Sherman**

Newsletter 4

## NPR, Guard and Reserve, 9/11

There was a time, which does not seem all that long ago to those who served in the 1990s and earlier, when Guard and Reserve component members were looked down upon by Active component members. After 11 September 2001 that changed. Tens of thousands of the “weekend warriors” were called up immediately, many tens of thousands more later. The active folks were soon addicted to the depth, scope, and quality of support provided by those who laid their civilian duties aside. The following text is from an email I sent to a National Public Radio official who was in Bloomington a couple of months ago. His wife spoke at the Bussy-Chummy about the Middle East. Parts of her lecture overlapped with Afghanistan, my country for the Pentagon in 2002. Back to the point – about half way through that Pentagon tour my next higher level boss and I were working through performance ratings. I was the rater, he the senior rater. I mentioned being glad to finish the ratings before October. He looked at me a weird way and asked, “Why?” “Because that’s when my mobe orders are over.” “Mobe orders?” “Mobilization’. I’m a Reservist.” “Oh.” We had worked closely with each other for months in the depths of the Pentagon, no windows, all times of day and night, on the only war the United States had going at that time – and he had no idea I was a Reservist.

### Email text:

Mr. Nelson, thank you for your email address. I will not abuse your confidence.

Items which might be of interest/use to you or your wife for National Public Radio:

As I mentioned to your wife’s father, my military career was certainly helped by a paper written following the 13 December 2001 terrorist attack on the Indian parliament. I heard about the attack on the way to work in the South Asia Branch, DIA around 0430 EST on that DC morning. (DIA had ‘by name’ requested me after 9/11.) 30 non-stop hours and several consultations later my TS/No-Foreign draft regarding possible Indian retaliatory options was circulated for review and comment, slightly modified accordingly, and released via Intellink. Positive feedback came from SECSTATE, SECDEF, CENTCOM, PACOM, SHAPE, and others – finally including the US military attaché in New Delhi. (All from a sleepy reservist from Bloomington, Indiana who had been shocked awake by NPR while driving among the other odd-hours people on the Beltway.)

In response to SECDEF and SECSTATE requests, The DIA director ordered I be given a small team to produce a weekly product for those offices. Lasted a few months. Got oppressive. Luckily – although it certainly did not seem so at the time – the active duty Air Force officer Chief, Afghanistan Cell (providing operational intelligence to the J-2 for the Joint Chiefs) could only mumble when asked ground force questions regarding Operation ANACONDA. He was relieved on the spot. Dually qualified Infantry and Military Intelligence novice intelligence officer me was immediately (14 April 2002) reassigned as Chief, Afghanistan Cell. Rear Admiral Jacoby and I got along, probably 1) because I was older than he was, and also probably 2) because I worked

like heck starting around 2300 each evening updating our Cell information and assessments, and then anticipating any questions the J-2 might ask at 0430 the next morning and the best answers for those questions.

During that time I had to debate the CENTCOM intelligence staff at 0430 every morning to deconflict our respective briefings before I presented our Cell summary to the J-2 (and his supporting cast of about a hundred bleary-eyed military and civilians) at 0530 in the Old Foreman Room, off the 8<sup>th</sup> corridor. Tommy Franks (understandably considered stupid by John McCreary, but that’s another story) was much more concerned in 2002 about ramping up for the Iraq invasion, ever-changing invasion plans to please Rumsfeld, etc. He, and therefore his staff, did not want to hear that the Taliban were not defeated and would resurge if we pulled significant forces out of Afghanistan – ‘where empires go to die’. (CENTCOM criticized our slides showing little red dots for unconquered Taliban areas as ‘having measles’. They wanted the ‘measles cured’ and for the ‘red dots to go away’.) John McCreary was the senior DIA civilian intelligence analyst in the Pentagon, providing technical oversight and continuity. (John always briefed The World to each newly assigned J-2.) John and I agreed regarding the Taliban and his agency weight was much greater than mine. John had his own STU-III at home so that I (and others) could call him late at night, mutually agree to ‘flip the switch to go secure’, and to consult freely at the Top Secret level. (Such as if I’d made significant changes to the next morning briefing which he’d reviewed and approved earlier that afternoon because of message traffic received after he’d left for the day.) He had that much respect.

One reason that I agreed with John regarding the Taliban being ‘only temporarily suppressed’ vs ‘defeated’ was based on my first assignment to the Pentagon in 1996 following the KDP invitation to Sadaam to send an armored brigade into ‘Kurdistan’ (northern Iraq) to help them defeat the PUK. Seemed to work. Most analysts agreed that the PUK were history. I doubted it. The KDP had ‘won’ entirely too easily. The KDP and PUK had been killing each other for years in a state of ‘dynamic equilibrium’, fighting for supremacy. I so wrote an opinion product. Sure enough, when external pressure caused Sadaam to withdraw his forces the (*Where did they come back from?*) PUK resumed their traditional KDP-opposition role.

(Can tell a 1996 story upon request regarding Turkey, PKK, seismic sensors, targeting, and a 1968 Vietnam parallel. An old guy knew more history than the 20 and 30 year old analysts.)

Again, I owe NPR at least one promotion and a good part of my retirement benefits!

So the Guard and Reserve came through for the United States. An old Vietnam USMC Corporal helped a little, thanks to having his truck radio on. Many Guardsmen and women, and Reservists from all branches and both genders, gave more. Some did not come back from their mobilizations. The world did change on 9/11.

**John Tilford – Service Officer**

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## February Happenin's



Noon until Victory

Sunday Tenderloin Sandwich Special



### Dinner Specials - Friday 6PM:

5th - Spaghetti Dinner  
19th - Rib-eye Dinner

12th - Fried Fish Dinner *(All you can eat)*  
26th - Taco Dinner *(All you can eat)*