

# VFW POST 604 NEWS

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

May 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

Hello members, I hope everyone is doing well. As most of you know we had our Post elections on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April. Our new officers will take over in June right after the State Commander is installed. I want to thank all of you who stood up to fill an office for the Post. I wish all of you the best in the upcoming year. I know that it takes a lot of hard work to keep our Post up and running. All of you who continued in the same position as last year, I want to thank you for your dedication. It takes people like you to keep our Post one of the best in the State.

We will be dedicating our Veterans Memorial on Memorial Day at Valhalla Cemetery the 29th of May, so mark your calendar. The Program starts at 10 A.M. sharp, so make your plans to attend. We have a great program planned, plus we will be having our free lunch after the program at the V.F.W. The lunch will consist of hamburgers, hot dogs, pork burgers, ham and beans with corn bread. We can use help at the Post to insure that all goes well for this event. So put on your volunteer hat and come on out.

We will be putting out flags at Clear Creek Cemetery on the Saturday before Memorial Day. We can use all the help we can get so it won't take long. We have four other Cemeteries as well to do - two at Ellettsville and two out towards Whitehall. We hope to have them done before we do Clear Creek. We will have a list at the post so people can sign up to help. The one at Clear Creek will be at 10 A.M. Saturday the 27th. We will pick a day and time to do the other four and will have it on the sign-up sheet.

Don't forget to pay your dues if you haven't. If you know someone who is eligible to join the V.F.W. invite them out to see the Post. Membership is what keeps us going.

Lots of fun is being planned for this summer at Post 604, so get involved. Come on out and be part of a great organization. ❖

**Commander - Joe Hardin**

## VFW Post Auxiliary

April has come & gone and we've elected our new officers for 2017-2018. They will be installed at May's monthly meeting. Come and join the fun.

Thank you to our past officers and a big WELCOME to our new comers. We still have some committees that require being chaired. Please come to our meetings in May and June for details.

May dates to remember:

May 12<sup>th</sup> – Auxiliary Fish Fry – 6 P.M.

May 16<sup>th</sup> – Monthly meeting – 6 P.M.

May 21<sup>st</sup> – District meeting in Mooresville – 10:30 A.M. – American Legion Post in Mooresville

May 26<sup>th</sup> – Auxiliary Ham & Cheesy Hash Browns with Green Beans Dinner – 6 P.M.

Also, don't forget, every Friday we have great meals at reasonable prices. Come check us out! Friendly cooks, and bartenders – all are volunteers.

Our prayers to all who are ill for a speedy recovery.

God Bless our veterans – near & far. May God bless the United States of America and keep her strong. ❖

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

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

---

---

## Renewing 2017 Membership

---

---

Your continued membership is important to us. The V.F.W. and its Auxiliary are the life-blood of our post. If you know of someone desiring to join our ranks please do not hesitate to contact one of our officers.

Annual membership renewal forms are mailed to each V.F.W. and Auxiliary member. Dues shall be forwarded per the directions contained in the notice received by the member with the renewal form or can be paid at the post. If you do not receive a renewal notice, please contact the Post 604 Quartermaster or one of your club officers for assistance. ❖

**ELECTION  
RESULTS**

### 2017 – 2018 Officers

VFW Election results of 18 April 2017:

(Commander)	Roy M Smith
(SR. Vice Commander)	Catherine F Johnson
(JR. Vice Commander)	John A Martin
(Quartermaster)	Mark G Dammer
(Chaplain/Surgeon)	James C Arnold
(3yr.Trustee)	Deborah L Helton
(2yr.Trustee)	James Edney
(1yr.Trustee)	{Vacant}

VFW Auxiliary election results of 18 April 2017:

(President)	Dorothy J White
(SR. Vice President)	Tim Haney
(JR. Vice President)	Julie Martin
(Treasurer)	Karen Cain
(Secretary)	Mark Taylor
(Conductor)	Greg Johnson
(Chaplain)	Jenny Tracy
(Guard)	Mike Pipher
(3yr.Trustee)	{Vacant}
(2yr.Trustee)	Tim Dittimore
(1yr.Trustee)	Sandi Taylor

You'll notice there are some vacancies – All of our operation are staffed and supported totally by volunteers. Trustees are responsible for monthly auditing of finance records and seeing to the maintenance of our facilities. If you can spare a few hours a month to fill these positions, we sure would be interested in hearing from you.

Officers will assume their duties on June 25, 2017 after the V.F.W. Department of Indiana Officers are installed. ❖

## MAY IS BLOOMING!!!

**1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the Month Dinner Special (May 5<sup>th</sup>)** where we will be featuring **ALL YOU CAN EAT TACO NIGHT** — Hard & Soft Shell — Taco Salad — Refried Beans — Nacho Chips & Cheese — Fixin's for Toppings and whatever else we dream up — cost is just **\$7.00!!** Serving starts at 6 pm and we go until it's gone!!

**NASCAR Sunday** this month will be **May 7th**. We do know that those **Gigantic Hand-Dipped Breaded Tenderloin Sandwiches** will be on the ready — plus all of the side dishes!! These Auxiliary folks serve between 60 to 80 Tenderloins on NASCAR Sundays — so with a few more members giving it try for **\$5.00** we could push that number over **100!!** We help them — They help us — and it's all for the good of your **VFW Post 604!!!**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the Month STEAK NIGHT (19<sup>th</sup>)!!** 10 oz. Ribeye with Baked Potato and Salad and Dessert all for just **\$11**. This dinner — this price — only right here at your **VFW Post 604!--** That's right — just **\$11**.

**Texas Hold-'em Tournament** every **Thursday**, starts at **7:00 p.m.**

Lets not forget the Auxiliary presenting their **FISH DINNER!!!** on **May 12<sup>th</sup> — 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the Month** starting at 6:00 p.m. — all you can eat for **\$7.00!!** Then we have the **4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the Month — May 26th** check out the Auxiliary news article for menu!!

Now we come to **May 29<sup>th</sup> (Memorial Day-Monday)**, after attending the ceremonies at Valhalla, come on out to the Post for our traditional **Free Ham & Beans with Cornbread**. We will open at **10:00 a.m.** and will serve all day until around 6:00 p.m. Make plans to stop by and see your Post — renew your membership — eat good food — have a good time!!! ❖

**House Committee**



**May 29th - Remember Our Fallen**

# Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

May 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>1</b>  HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ Noon	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>   Starts at 7pm  * Vet to Vet – 1800	<b>5</b>  Serving Dinner 1800 until gone  Commander's Drawing 1900	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>   Open Noon – Victory!!	<b>8</b>  HOT DOG MONDAY  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  Commander's Drawing 1900	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ Noon	<b>16</b>  Meetings  V.F.W. – 1800 V.F.W. Aux – 1800	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>   Starts at 7pm  * Vet to Vet – 1800	<b>19</b>  Serving Dinner 1800 - 2000  Commander's Drawing 1900	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  HOT DOG MONDAY  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 Ham & Cheesy Hash Brown Casserole & Green Beans  Commander's Drawing 1900	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>   Open @ 1000	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	 		

(\* 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 # 141029

Raffle License # 141031

## Memories, History, and “This Too Shall Pass”

I received a military aircraft model catalog in the mail a few days ago. The cover mentioned the 75th anniversary of the Doolittle Raid in April 1942. Then I did some math: 50th anniversary of Tilford getting on the USS Hermitage to go to Danang, Vietnam in April 1967. The day I was boarding the old Landing Ship Dock I was twice as close to the Doolittle Raid as I was to today. Does that make sense? At that time, the Doolittle Raid was ancient history, something my father – in the Navy in 1942 – and mother lived through when they were young. Ancient. But it seems like only three weeks ago I was boarding the Landing Ship Dock in San Diego harbor. Maybe a year or two, tops. Me. The same Me that’s inside my head now. Nah, there must be something wrong with the numbers . . .

We in the VFW, more so than any other group, are a part of the history of the United States and the world. Our roles may have been relatively minor but we had roles. We were at the right place at the right time (Some of us might say at the wrong time!) to be cast. We are older now but we can remember quite well getting on the Landing Ship Dock, or the contract aircraft, or the train, or bus that took us to our curtain call.

Sometimes people we know, including our own family members, will ask “What was it like . . . ?” We hesitate, our minds going back decades first and then considering how sincere the question, how much the questioner really needs to know, and how much they can accept. And we answer, we must answer before we are gone and that memory is lost, describing our part in our particular play.

Our bits of history overlap from generation to generation, from war to war. The new king commanded all his philosophers to summarize all of history into one sentence. They responded, “And this too shall pass.” There were in the past and will be in the future times of peace and war, good and evil, new life and early death. We in the VFW share a commonality of experience with veterans of our personal and other foreign wars of the United States. Heat, cold, mud, sand, pain, fatigue, hunger, fear, disease, wounds – they are shared among all veterans. Were we to meet around a table with veterans of Chapultepec, San Juan Hill, Château-Thierry, Hurtgen Forest, Chosin Reservoir, Khe Sanh, Panama City, Grenada, Khafji, Tora Bora, Fallujah, and future battles not yet fought, we would be among brothers and sisters bonded by shared experience. The end of war is not yet in sight: “And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet.”

Last Friday while enjoying a steak at the Post I looked over Polly’s shoulder at the telly and saw the honor escort for the remains of a WWII veteran arriving in Hawaii. He was to rejoin his shipmates in the USS Arizona. It has been our honor to live at the same time as WWII veterans, to talk with them, to thank them.

While I worked for the Veterans Administration

May 2017

Regional Office in Indianapolis I met a few WWI veterans. (My grandfather served in France.) It was easy to guess their ages. If I was speaking to one in 1978, just drop the 19. Most were eighteen when the United States entered the war in early 1918. I will never forget one conversation with a gentleman who described what it was like to see the German chlorine gas drifting toward his trench line. No one remains who can describe that now.

Or the conversation with the WWII veteran who described his sentry duty at night in the Hurtgen Forest. He was frightened by the “thump, thump” sounds like foot falls in the snow. Clumps of snow dropping from the limbs of trees blown by a gentle wind. Less than five percent of WWII veterans remain.

Or the eastern Monroe County veteran who described flying through the air after a Chinese mortar round went off next to him in Korea. He landed on some rocks. There were no medical records of injury to his spine, the disability which plagued his later years, because medics treat the life-threatening wounds; stop the bleeding, keep him breathing, splint the arms and legs, get him on the litter, and evacuated to the MASH unit, then to the hospital. He was on his back for months. No one checked his back. He passed away a few years ago.

Or the Vietnam veteran on the Monroe County Sheriff Department who, shot through both legs and one lung (Can you name the two reasons why the latter is called a “sucking chest wound”?), was propped against a tree on his squad’s right flank, handed an M-16 and a few magazines, and told to defend that direction as best he could. “I’ll come back and get you later.”

I realized on two occasions how rapidly Vietnam veterans are slipping away. The first was walking through the then-new Quantico National Cemetery and noticing how many of those below my feet were born after I was. The second was receiving my invitation to be flown to Washington, DC on a Greater Lafayette Honor Flight for Vietnam veterans. The tables have turned. This too shall pass.

**To you, from failing hands, we throw  
The torch: be yours to hold it high  
If ye break faith with us who die,  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields**

We are the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

**John Tilford – Service Officer**



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS**



Laurens B. Strain V.F.W. Post 604  
2404 W Industrial Park Drive  
Bloomington, IN 47404-2690

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE PAID  
BLOOMINGTON IN 47401  
PERMIT No. 205

*"Oldest Post in the State"*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Phone: (812)-339-2375

---

## MAY Happenings at Post 604

---

### Friday Dinner Specials – 6 – 8 P.M.

- May 5<sup>th</sup> Taco Night – **All you can eat**
- May 12<sup>th</sup> Fried Fish Dinner – **All you can eat**
- May 19<sup>th</sup> 10 oz. Rib-Eye Steak, Baked Potato, Salad, & Dessert
- May 26<sup>th</sup> Ham & Cheesy Hash Brown Casserole with Green Beans Dinner

---

Every Monday – open at NOON – ¼ pound hot dogs - \$1.50 ALL DAY – GREAT price !

---

Thursdays – 7 P.M. ‘till Midnight – Texas Hold ‘em Tournament

---

Sunday Opening May 7<sup>th</sup> – Gieco 500 – Noon – 6 P.M. – Enjoy a tenderloin sandwich with fixin’s and watch the race.

---

## MAY Happenings at Post 604