
VFW POST 604 NEWS

WWW.VFW-604.ORG

April 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

Greetings! April is here and we are as busy as always. Don't forget that at our April meeting we will be holding our elections for Post officers. If you looked at the last Newsletter, you saw the offices that need to be filled. We opened nominations at our March meeting and will hold them open until April 19th. We will close nominations that night and hold the elections right after. If you are interested in holding an office, please come to the Post so we can get you nominated. Members in good standing... come join us and be part of our great organization.

I want to remind everyone that our Memorial Day service is coming up very fast. Mark your calendar so you don't forget. We are in the final stage of preparations for the event. It looks like it will be another success. Don't forget we have free food after the ceremony at the Post for everyone.

If you haven't heard, we are sponsoring the Fourth of July parade this year in Bloomington. If you have any ideas for our float, come to the Post and let us hear them. We will need help decorating the float and filling it up with riders. It is our responsibility to name the Grand Marshall - so give us some ideas. We have to turn the name in by April 2nd.

It still amazes me how our members step up and volunteer at the Post. It is hard to express our thanks to everyone adequately.

Pay your dues so we can be at 100%.

If you are interested in ordering the new VFW State shirt, we have applications at the Post. We need to order them by the first of May. I can pick them up at the State Convention. That will save us from having to pay shipping charges.

No one does more for Veterans than the VFW. ❖

Commander - Joe Hardin

Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

Is it true? Has Spring really sprung? Although winter wasn't bad, the 70+ degree days sound better. This could mean party time on our deck.

As you already know, we are here to support our Veterans. This is a reason – only one of many – you should be joining this organization. All of you who served our (your) country should belong to the VFW. Why don't you come check us out!

It is also time for the annual Office elections for Post 604, VFW Auxiliary, and VFW Men's Auxiliary. Person submitting nominations, nominees submitted, and voting is limited to members who are in good standing. Nominations opened March 15, 2016 and will close on April 19, 2016. Open voting is at the April 19th 2016 meeting after nominations have closed. At the March meeting the following members were nominated:

President:	Tim Haney
1st Vice President:	Mike Pipher
2nd Vice President:	Joe Crawford
Treasure/Secretary:	Steve Lang
Chaplin:	Mark Taylor
1 year Trustee:	Dennis Knoy
2 year Trustee	Greg Johnson
3 year Trustee	Tim Dittmore

Remember every Friday night we have a special dinner; Thursday is Texas Hold'em; and Sunday, April 17th is NASCAR tenderloins. Hope to you there. ❖

Tim Haney, President VFW Men's Auxiliary

VFW Auxiliary


Spring is here and the buds and blooms are coming, which to me means ... get out and come to the club and enjoy the deck. I am so proud of our VFW Auxiliary members; we bartend, cook, and clean up here. AND it's all voluntary. Our veterans mean a lot both here and afar. THANK YOU to ALL who have served our country.

Now, to our members who have NOT paid their dues – please get them in to us as soon as possible.

We are having out Taco Dinner again, this month on August 22nd. In February we had a poor turn out, March is yet to be seen as of this writing. Please mark your calendars and come out and support out taco dinners on the 4th Friday of each month. We need you and bring your family and friends. ❖

Julia Curtis
President VFW Auxiliary
812-822-0028

TAPS

 Lewiell R. Winkler, Life Member, Korea, US Army

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

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

+++++

Those in Health Care Facilities

Brookdale	Bill Tennel RM 104
Hearthstone	Joe Whitaker (VFW Post 7850 Gosport) RM 522
Indiana Veterans	Paul Goodman RM 320, Bed 2 Mitchell Home Building

James C. Arnold
Chaplin, VFW Post 604

NOT BAD!!!

Our weather so far this year that is! **1st Friday of the Month Dinner Special (Apr 1st)**—this month we are bringing back one of our favorite dinners-where we will be featuring **Cube Steak** cooked in **Mushroom Gravy & Mashed Potatoes** with **Green Beans & Rolls**. We served over **50** dinners last time-so you get the idea of how good it is!! But of course it just cost **\$6.00!!**

No fooling--we will have desserts in there also!!








This month **NASCAR Sunday** will be **Apr 17th, Food City 500-Bristol---**Post will open at Noon. Food will naturally be **Gigantic Hand-Dipped Breaded Tenderloins**. This is brought to you by the Men's Auxiliary and you can be sure, they put on one heck of a meal for **\$5.00**. Let's not forget Men's Auxiliary presenting their **FISH DINNER!!!** on **Apr 8th—2nd Friday of the Month** starting at 6:00 p.m. They have been serving more and more fish every month---all you can eat for **\$7.00!!**

3rd Friday of the Month STEAK NIGHT (Apr 15th)!! 8 oz. Ribeye with Baked Potato and Salad and Dessert all for just **\$11**. That's right—just **\$11**. **4th Friday of the Month (22nd)** presents **The Auxiliary Dinner**—check out their article for the menu on that night. And then—yes we do have the **5th Friday of the Month (29th) Dinner** this is where the **Tim & Tim Boys** get together to feature their **Country Fried Breaded Pork Tenderloin with Gravy & Mashed Potato plus Corn**. Now we did hear the guys discussing whether or not our dinner plates were big enough to hold this meal---so hey!!, for **\$6.00** we shall find out!! ❖

House Committee

Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

April 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
					 Serving Dinner 1800 – 2000 Commander's Drawing 1900	 Serving Dinner 1800 – 2000 Commander's Drawing 1900
3	4 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	5	6	7  Starts at 7pm 1921 – Post 604 Chartered * Vet to Vet – 1800	8  Serving Dinner 1800 - 2000 Commander's Drawing 1900	9
10	11 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	12	13	14  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	15  Serving Dinner 1800 - 2000 Commander's Drawing 1900	16
17  Open Noon 'til Victory 	18 HOT DOG MONDAY Martin Luther King Day Open @ Noon	19 Post Elections Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 V.F.W. Aux – 1800 Men's Aux – 1800	20	21  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	22  Serving Dinner 1800 - 2000 Commander's Drawing 1900	23
24	25 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	26	27	28  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	29  Serving Dinner 1800 - 2000 Commander's Drawing 1900	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 # 137924

Raffle License # 137923

Falling into Cases

Sometimes, even if you don't keep your wits about or you and eyes and ears open, VA cases will just jump out of nowhere . . .

1979: Some of you may recall Dick Sawyer, now passed on. Dick was the automotive department manager for Sears for many years, and had more years in the Army Reserve. One of my first USAR drill weekends we'd finished a 12 mile hike at Camp Atta-Boy. Dick was gingerly removing his boots. I asked, he replied; "Oh these feet never fit very well into Army boots. I messed them up when I first went in." I twisted his arm a little and he filed for the disability. Told him his kids would get a discount going to IU. 20%. They did.

2004: Getting my REFRAD physical at Ft. Lee. As an old person, I had to have an EKG. The lady technician shaving and sticking seemed a little older than the average. I made some stupid joke and she replied that she would have retired, but her former military husband had died. Without his income she had to keep working to make ends meet. She described his cause of death, which seemed service connected to me. She'd filed the dependency indemnity compensation (DIC) claim and had been denied. She'd never appealed. I left the physical but continued to think about the technician. I drafted an appeal letter from her to the VA regional office which had denied her DIC claim, including all the details I could remember from our conversation and leaving blanks for her to fill in as needed. Copied the Word document onto a little disc and gave to the next soldier going to Ft. Lee for their exit physical that I knew would have an EKG. "If your EKG technician looks like this, give her this disc and ask her to fill in the blanks in the letter, print, sign, and mail." A couple of years later I was visiting at my last duty station. "Hey, Tilford! You remember that Ft. Lee medical tech?" She'd won her appeal and gave her thanks to yet another separating examinee to relay to me. I still don't remember her name.

1990: Riding an exercise bike in the HPER building at IU. Guy starts on the bike next to mine. We start to talk. His brother had been in Vietnam the same time I had been. He said his brother didn't have any Agent Orange related disabilities when I brought that up. "But, you know, his daughter was born with a birth defect. Do you think that might be related?" Me, "I don't know. What is it?" Him, "Spina Bifida, that open spine thing." I stopped pedaling. Spina Bifida was one of the very first disabilities ever associated with Agent Orange exposure, although the exposure would have been to a parent of the disabled person. I gave the benefits and how-to-file information to the exercise

biker. I'll never know if the claim was ever filed, just as the brother never knew – and perhaps never would have known – about the VA compensation payable to his daughter for her spina bifida without the chance meeting of two old guys on adjacent exercise bikes. The daughter was around sixteen at the time.

1996: Two "cubes" (cubicles) east of mine within the windowless bowels of the DIA building in Washington, DC worked Jim. Jim was a civilian intelligence analyst, but he'd been Air Force active. Decency prevents me from telling you what had happened to Jim in Vietnam due to a mortar round, but it involved having part of one buttock blown off. He'd never filed a VA claim. Worked hard his whole time in the Air Force, his whole time at DIA (He was the first to associate Pakistan artillery fire [US satellite data] with militant infiltrations across the Line of Control [Indian defense reports] into Kashmir, thereby implicating Pakistan's military involvement with what India considered terrorism.), and was a smart and literate guy. Didn't know he could file a VA claim. He did. 30%.

2011: Ellettsville widow filed a DIC claim in 2010. Her Vietnam veteran husband had died from a variety of contributing causes but the death certificate only cited fatty liver syndrome. VA denied. She gave up. A guy I knew was her next door neighbor. Asked her one afternoon about the VA claim. Negative answer. He, "I know a guy. Why don't you let me show him those VA denial papers?" Milwaukee VA Pension Center, "Cause of death not shown on active duty medical records." Well, as I later described based on the supportive information from the widow, there were three ways to service connect his death via Agent Orange: Ischemic heart condition, diabetes type 2, and – get this – the medication for his severe diabetes which his specialist required him to take was known for causing fatty liver syndrome. So we file the appeal form 9 and request a hearing in Indianapolis. Widow calls weeks later, "What's this \$25,000 check in my mailbox?" The Pension Center had already had sufficient information on the record to decide in her favor. She and I had never appeared at the never-happened requested hearing to present the medical statements and research papers we were obtaining. Just reading the form 9 had kicked the Pension Center in the butt enough to cause them to correct her denial. She would have lived out her days in poverty but for her neighbor's question. ❖

John Tilford – Service Officer

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NOMINATE NOW!

Vote for Officers During April 19th meeting

