

VFW POST 604 NEWS

WWW.VFW-604.ORG

October 2015

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! They say that time passes faster the older you get. I sure can attest to that. It seems that we have something on our plate all the time. I want to say thank you to ALL who volunteer at the Post. It sure makes things run smoother and we get a lot more taken care of.

There were eight members from VFW Post 604 that traveled to Crane Naval Base to attend the POW/MIA program on the 17th of September. Thanks to Tom Vernon and Frank Ozug for driving and to John and Julie Martin, Mark Taylor, Richard Moldenhour and Dennis Kroy for taking the time to go with us. It was a great outing.

On Sunday, September 20th, Tom Vernon and I traveled to Vincennes, IN for the 7th District Meeting. We came away with some information on what is going on around the VFW, nationally and locally. If you haven't attended a 7th District Meeting, you should take the time to go and join in to see what goes on. The next District Meeting will be in Spencer, IN in November.

Mark your calendars for October 24th for a "Rocky and Bullwinkle Breakfast" at the Post. We are starting at 9:00am. Come on out and join us for a great breakfast and some quality time with Post members in some good fun and conversation. This is the second time we have done this and we want a good turnout so plan to attend (oh yea, **it's free!**).

Don't know what we're talking about... then come check it out. Full breakfast - no cost - good fun - whadda ya got to lose. ❖

Commander - Joe Hardin



Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

September is pert near over, a monthly only seems like a couple of days long anymore (must be that age thing). This has been another busy month, Hot Dog Monday / Labor Day was a hoot, we had a great turnout. Our Friday night fish dinner is still a huge success. So now for \$7.⁰⁰ (we had to raise it .50 cents) All-You-Can Eat fish, fries, and slaw, plus desserts: pies, cake, cookies, brownies, and fruit - where else in Bloomington is this possible? Only at VFW Post 604!!

Our NASCAR Sundays are still big. NASCAR 2015 will be coming to an end shortly, but we'll continue our delicious tenderloins into the football season, so plan to join us for Colts Sunday once a month until NASCAR returns.

We at the VFW Post 604 offer some kind of a special dinner each week. There's Hot Dog Mondays, then on 1st Friday - Kathy's in the kitchen (*I think I overheard her planning a cube steak dinner for October*), 2nd Friday is the Men's Auxiliary fish fry, 3rd Friday is the Post's steak dinner, 4th Friday is the Ladies' Auxiliary (*they have been serving a great taco bar and plan to continue at least in October*), and we have a 5th Friday, so Wanda's in the kitchen cookin' up somethin'. Wanda's also in the kitchen one Sunday a month. Now, that's a lot of food!!

The kitchen is also open on Thursday evenings serving in the bar area and for Texas Hold 'em; offering sandwiches, pizza, and finger foods (mushroom, cheese sticks, poppers etc.).

Keep your eyes on the flag pole out front, the Men's Auxiliary purchased two super powerful lights to light-up our flags, we are in the processes of purchasing lights for the parking lot too.

Hope to see you at the Post, Tim ❖

Tim Haney, President VFW Men's Auxiliary

VFW Auxiliary

Auxiliary Members,

As I write this article, I am pleased to tell you, we are no longer just the VFW Ladies Auxiliary. As of August 21st, 2015 we are officially the "VFW Auxiliary". New by-laws, adopted at the national convention, were approved. In other words (or layman's terms) we are now accepting men and women into the VFW Auxiliary. Any man or woman that wishes to become a member of the VFW Auxiliary is required to fill out a VFW Auxiliary membership application, show eligibility for membership, and pay their \$25.00 dues. Women in good standing currently in the Ladies Auxiliary are not required to reapply. This amendment was passed by the national convention delegates; we locally have no say on the national by-laws.

(Continued)

Charity Gaming & Post Operations

Gaming at the post is regulated by the state of Indiana. Proceeds from gaming, money not paid out as payouts, is used for post insurance & maintenance, monthly utility bills, and for donations to other non-profits. This year these funds have also been used to repair the concrete pad in front of the dumpster and in funding the planned deck staircase. We've donated nearly \$10,000 combined to Riley Children's Hospital and the VFW Home for Children this past year. Lesser donations have been made to various other charities, community services, and veterans in need.

The Games offered are:

- Texas Hold 'em** – Thursday 7PM & some Sundays
- Tip Boards** – during operating hours when offered
- Pull Tabs** – during operating hours
- Commander's Drawing** - drawn Friday at 7PM
- Target Practice** – raffle drawn Friday at 8PM
- Raffles** – unscheduled, see signs when offered

About the Commander's Drawing:

Money received is paid 100% to the winners; no sign-up money is retained by the post as proceeds. Due to increased occurrence of shortages in monies received verses sign-ups, bartenders are now required to witness all sign-ups.

Our expense to receipt margin is pretty tight at Post 604. No one you see working around our post is paid for what they do, we are 100% volunteers only. This keeps our costs down. Our pricing is fair and low.

This is your VFW Post, so please - if you come out to play, please pay.

Our monthly finance reports are available for review to any VFW member in good standing, and our annual IRS Form 990's are available to any patron for review. If interested in seeing these documents, contact the Quartermaster. ❖

VFW Auxiliary (Cont.)

On the local scene, Taco Dinner on the 4th Friday of the month is on October 24th. We will not be having a Friday night dinner in November (Thanksgiving weekend) or in December (Christmas Day as the Post will be closed).

Our meetings are going well. We'll be glad to have you in attendance. Our next meeting is on October 20th at 6:00PM. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

That's it for this month. Hope all is well with you and your family. May God bless you and your family, and may God bless our troops near and far. ❖

Julia Curtis
President VFW Auxiliary
812-822-0028

October is Spooky at the Post

But don't be scared, come in and enjoy our **1st Friday of the Month Dinner Special** (Oct 2nd) where we will be featuring **Cube Steak** cooked in **Mushroom Gravy & Mash Potatoes with Green Beans & Rolls**. Now, we give you a knife & fork with the meal, but you only need the knife to put butter on your rolls, you can cut the steak with your fork—so tender!! But of course it just costs **\$6.00!!**












This month's **NASCAR Sunday** will be **Oct. 18th**, Hollywood Casino 400. Post will open at Noon, race starts around 2:30 pm. 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 **Oct 9th—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!!** And then real quick --- **Texas Hold-'em Tournament** every **Thursday**, starting at **7:00 p.m.**

Then we go to our **3rd Friday of the Month STEAK NIGHT (16th)!!** 8 oz. Ribeye Steak with Baked Potato, Salad, and Dessert all for just **\$11**. Oh yea, this month has 5 Fridays - so our **5th Friday of the Month Dinner** (Oct 30th) will be **HAM & BEANS** with Fried Potatoes, Corn Bread and Cole Slaw and for just **\$5.00!!** ❖

House Committee

Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

October 2015

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
				 Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	 Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	 Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800
4	5 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	6	7	8	9 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2000 Cube Steak Dinner Commander's Drawing 1900	10  Commander's Drawing 1900
11	12 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	13	14	15	16 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2000  Commander's Drawing 1900	17
18  CHASE FOR THE SPRINT CUP Open @ Noon	19 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	20 Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 Men's Aux – 1800 Ladies Aux – 1800	21	22	23 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2000 Commander's Drawing 1900	24 Rocky and Bullwinkle Breakfast Open 0900 
25	26 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	27	28	29	30 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2000 HAM & BEANS Dinner Commander's Drawing 1900	31

(* 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

Dick Sawyer

None of us are really self-made. Lincoln credited his mother, "All I am or ever hope to be I owe to my angel mother." All of us had at least one and most of us many people in our lives who encouraged us, guided us, set an example for us. One of the biggest influences on my military life was Richard Sawyer. Dick passed away on Thursday, the 17th of September. Heart.

One of the biggest influences in more ways than one. Dick was a big man, tall and barrel chested, but I never heard him speak loudly. He didn't have to. He was my First Sergeant in Company B, 2nd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 70th Division (Training) in the Bloomington Army Reserve Center when I first joined the Reserves in April 1979 as Specialist 4. On that first drill weekend Dick, who didn't know me from Adam, had reviewed my file and determined that I should be assigned to a drill sergeant slot for better promotion opportunities. I agreed. Dick then coordinated with Gary Chambers, First Sergeant for A Company, who had such a vacancy. A lesser First Sergeant than Dick would have kept me on the B Company rolls just to look good on his strength report. Dick never did anything just to look good. He always took care of his responsibilities to God, family, the United States, and the Army Reserve before thinking about himself.

Later that same year the entire 2nd Battalion finished a twelve mile march in front of the Atterbury Army Reserve Center. I noticed Sawyer sitting in the grass and gingerly taking his boots off and wincing as he flexed his feet. "What's the matter, First Sergeant?" "Oh, they've been messed up since my active duty days. My big feet don't fit into these Army boots very well." I was still working for the [then called] Veterans Administration at the time. "Let me get a claim form to complete. It will just take a few minutes." "Nah . . ." "If you won't make a claim for yourself, do it for your kids. With your wartime service if you get any degree of service connected disability they'll get the Child of Disabled Veteran (CDV) discount on going to IU, Pur-Who, any state supported school." "Well, OK." Dick's youngest daughter told me in the funeral home that she and – she pointed to the tall warrant officer standing next to Dick's coffin – his son had used CDV at Indiana University. I don't know if any of his other children did, but they could have. Before thinking about himself, indeed.

In 1981 I returned from getting commissioned to A Company, first as training officer and then commander. I had some problem, long since forgotten. Dick, still B Company first sergeant, must have noticed my expression. He started talking to me, and somehow weaseled out what it was. After I had said it out loud, Dick smiled and said, "I think you'll figure out what to do." As he was saying the words he reached over and touched the new 1st Lieutenant bar

on my collar. I may be pretty slow on the uptake, but Dick had pretty bluntly told me to get a spine and use some of that new authority to directly address the problem. I nodded my head and took care of business.

Somewhere around the late 1980s or early 1990s Dick was Command Sergeant Major for the 2nd Battalion. He'd earned every chevron, rocker, and the star. He also had one of the worst battalion commanders in the history of western civilization. We were at an annual training at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina. Everything that could go wrong at the battalion level was going wrong, mostly because the commander had not prepared and had no idea what to do. Everything was falling on Dick. I found him early one morning looking at his coffee in the mess. "What's wrong, Sergeant Major?" He told me just a few. "Dick," (No one else was around.) "You're not really enjoying this, are you?" No he was not, which was a huge contrast from his usual demeanor. I knew Dick had over thirty years in and was manager of the Sears automotive department at College Mall. He did not need the money. I found out later that he'd also had an idiot manager at Sears at the same time. "You could retire, you know. Let one of the young guys (the company First Sergeants) be acting CSM. I know [insert name here] is itching for a chance." Dick looked up and smiled. "I could, couldn't I?" He filled out his papers the next day. As all we retirees do, he missed the people (well, almost all of the people) but he breathed a lot easier. The stress level was reduced.

Dick and his wife Betty took turns the last few years having major surgeries, ER visits, things replaced, etc. Each would lovingly take care of the other. Every time I would mention to Dick how lovely she was, how lucky he was, he would smile and agree. 'Said he'd never understand what she saw in him.

We know.

The funeral home guy came in and eased us visitors out. It was the family time before the actual funeral service. I said my goodbyes to the daughter and one grandson. I didn't speak to the tall warrant officer. He looked too much like a young Richard Sawyer. I couldn't take that.

John Tilford – Service Officer

Binnacle List: (*Sick list your you land lubbers*)

If you've frequented Post 604 anytime over the last few years, you'd just about have to be a deaf ostrich with your head in the dirt to not know past Post 604 Commander Bobby Lanning. Bob is undergoing heavy treatment for a very serious illness and will be largely absent for a while. Please keep Bob and his family in your thoughts and devotions.

Laurens B. Strain V.F.W. Post 604
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