

VFW POST 604 NEWS

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.

WWW.VFW-604.NET

March 2014

Commander's Corner

Where has time gone? A year has almost gone by since I took the office of commander. It is now time to think about officers for next year. Nominations for officers for the year 2014-2015 will be taken in the April and May meetings. The swearing ceremony will be held at the May meeting. The offices that need to be filled by either election or appointment are Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, Jr. Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain, 3 year Trustee, 3 year House Committee, Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Adjutant, and Service Officer. Your post needs your help in filling these positions. If you know someone that you would like to nominate for any of the offices please be prepared to make your wishes known at the April meeting. Better yet step up to fill one of the available positions.

There has been a lot of activity going on at the post with Texas Hold-em, Friday night dinner specials, Friday night band, Monday lunches, Sunday dinners, and starting this month Friday lunches. Check the news letter calendar for activities and dates, then come out and join in the fun and companionship.

It won't be long now. The deck is coming along quickly and very soon we will be able to enjoy it.

Membership is still the name of the game. We are not at 100% yet. We are close. If you know someone that has not renewed yet there is still time to renew. Also like any other organization the VFW needs the younger generation to carry on the work others have started so if you know of anyone returning from overseas, encourage them to look us over and see what we stand for.

See you at the post.

**For God and Country
Bob Lanning, Commander**

Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

Hey Guys,

Last month we elected Steve Long as our treasurer. Now we need to fill his old shoes. We need a 2nd Vice, so please make plans to attend our next meeting.

I know a lot of you, out there, have been under the weather lately. Hope everyone is getting better. **Speaking of Weather**, didn't January and February **Suck?**

The first couple weeks of Texas Hold-em was successful, not as large of a crowd as I wanted, but the food and bar showed an increase over previous Thursdays. We've just started and I think it will grow weekly, especially when the **weather** breaks "theres that word again"

The post is open 6 days a week, sometimes 7, so come out and join us. Basketball and NASCAR are still on the big screen. March 16 is our next "Tenderloin Day".

Tim Haney, President Men's Auxiliary



Post 604 Lady's Auxiliary

Hi Ladies. Well here we go again. We had a good meeting in February but I wish more of you could have been there and shared your thoughts and ideas with us. We are trying to find ways to make money for our Ladies Auxiliary in order to meet our obligations. If you have any ideas and want to share, feel free to call me and let me know. My phone # is 812-822-0028.

Starting March 6th I will be opening the club at noon. I'm going to try and have a lunch from noon until 4pm. Then as you already know the Post serves dinner from 6 to 9pm on Fridays. The Post is also open on some Sundays for dinner. Speaking on open Sundays, I've been told we could have one Sunday a month and serve dinner. Is anyone interested?

Also, we are planning on having a dinner the 4th Friday of every month. I need volunteers to help plan menus, cook, and serve. If interested feel free to call me.

Don't forget to come by and see me on Friday afternoon. We've got to let the Veterans know we are here and to show our presence in the club.

Have a great month and pray for Spring.

Julia Curtis, President, Ladies Auxiliary

Fellow Comrades,

Another month has gone by and hopefully it will start warming up before too long. It certainly has been cold this past winter and I'm sure I'm not the only one ready for it to warm up and for spring to get here.

I had the opportunity last night to cook for the Texas Hold-Em games we have downstairs now. Needless to say it was a fun evening for everyone there. We had Texas Hold-Em games in the basement and a couple of NASCAR races going on upstairs on the wide screen TV we now have. I didn't hear any complaints about the cooking, so I guess I did all right for my first time doing it.

It's good to see we are getting some different activities going at the Post. We also have a NASCAR Sunday this coming week, so if at all possible stop by the Post and watch it. There will also be some pretty good and really cheap food there as well. It is really great that we can get enough volunteers to do things like this for the Post. Without volunteers, things just couldn't happen as they do.

The deck is coming along really well. All the decking is now on it and as I understand it, we are now waiting on the rafters so we can continue. I think weather permitting it could even be done by the last of March. With any luck at all, it could even be warm enough to sit outside on it by the last of March but you never know how Indiana weather is going to be on any certain day. We do have another District Meeting as well as a Conference coming up in March. If any of you can attend we would really appreciate it.

That's all I have for this month, hope to see you at the Post whenever you have a chance to stop by.

William (Bill) Evans, Sr. Vice Commander

NEW POST HOURS COMING IN MARCH!!!

This is not a major change but beginning Mar 1st the hours the Post will be open are:

Sat--10:00 am till 10:00 pm

Sun—Closed except for NASCAR Sundays

Mon—Noon till 10:00 pm

Tues—4:00 pm till 10:00 pm

Wed--4:00 pm till 10:00 pm

Thurs--4:00 pm till 10:00 pm

Fri--Noon till 10:00 pm

So the change is on Fridays where we will open at Noon and the **Ladies Aux.** will be featuring a **Lunch Special** during the hours of Noon to 4:00 pm so make sure to check out their article for upcoming menu items. We are sure the Ladies Aux will serve up some great food so check them out for lunch!!!

NASCAR Sunday will be on **March 16th** with the Mens Aux. gearing up with their **Great Big Ole Tenderloin Sandwiches.** Post opens at Noon and close somewhere around 6:00 p.m. Honestly, you need to stop and check out this meal they prepare for only **\$5.00**—It will be the best \$5.00 you have spent in some time---its more than just a sandwich!!

Now for our **1st Friday of the Month Dinner Special**—this month we will feature a **Boneless Pork Chop Dinner**—**Pork Chop** covered with gravy sitting next to a side of **Cheesy Potatoes** and **Brown County Biscuits** with **Apple Butter** and as always the cost will be a whopping **\$5.00**. Serving starts at 6:00 pm till we run out on **March 7th** we are doing the best we can to offer our Members a great meal and still retain our pricing at \$5.00--so stop by and help us out---have dinner with us---you are the one that will benefit the most!!!! Also—don't forget that we have Texas Hold-em every Thursday at the Post starting at 7:00 pm—we have food too and so far the game has been done by about 10:30 pm—so you won't be out that late at night---give it a try—get lucky---win some coin!!!!

House Committee



Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

March 2014

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
						1
2	3 HOT DOG MONDAY Star Spangled Banner Made U.S. National Anthem – (1931) Open @ Noon	4	5	6  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1900	7 Dinner Special – 6PM Boneless Porkchop /Cheesy Potatoes Commander's Drawing 1900 Open @ Noon	8
9 Daylight Saving Time Begins Set clock ahead one hour	10 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	11	12	13  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1900	14 Serving Dinner 1800 – 2100 Spring Conference Monroe County Rambler's Band – 7PM Commander's Drawing 1900 Open @ Noon	15 Spring Conference Marriott East - Indy
16 NASCAR SUNDAY Post open – Noon to 6pm Serving Tenderloin sandwiches	17 HOT DOG MONDAY St. Patrick's Day Open @ Noon	18 Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 Men's Aux – 1800 Ladies Aux – 1800	19 Iraq War Began (2003)	20  Starts at 7pm Spring Begins * Vet to Vet – 1900	21 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2100 Commander's Drawing 1900 Open @ Noon	22
23 District Meeting Clay City	24 HOT DOG MONDAY Open at Noon Hot Dog Monday Open @ Noon	25	26	27  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1900	28 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2100 Commander's Drawing 1900 Open @ Noon	29

(* 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 # **133056**

Raffle License # **127960**

One Purple Heart

Leonard Wayne McIntosh. Greg Swanson. One Purple Heart.

Wayne grew up – if you consider seventeen grown up – in rural Greene County, Indiana. Born in 1925, he was of the generation who felt the worst of the Great Depression. They are almost all gone now, those who really know what a great depression is. It's not your home losing value or your savings earning less than you planned or postponement of your retirement. It's going hungry, watching men begging for work, not struggling to keep faith in the future but struggling to keep hope itself. Wayne was in high school on the 7th of December 1941. He enlisted in the Army the next year, one of the ultimately sixteen million who served in World War II.

And did he serve! Of all the divisions in the Army, Wayne was assigned to the 3rd Infantry. George Patton: "Yeah, his guts and our blood!" – an observation of an anonymous 3rd Infantry soldier. The 3rd had the highest casualty rate of any American division in World War II. In accordance with Patton's combat emphasis, the medical care following most of Wayne's wounds consisted of stopping the bleeding, stitches, bandage, and get back to your unit. Wayne participated in an opposed amphibious landing in Morocco, North Africa. "Opposed" means the two-way shooting gallery. He also landed in Sicily and Anzio. One of Wayne's wounds occurred near the Mussolini Canal as described by his company operational records declassified decades after the war – casualties carefully categorized, numbered, but unfortunately not named. Wayne landed on the south of France later in 1944 in Operation Anvil. Anvil was intended to complement the Overlord D-Day landings at Normandy, envelop German infantry and armor forces and thereby shorten the war. His personal combat story was shortened a few weeks later in the rubble of a stone French building, in a coma, back broken.

Wayne woke over a week later in a theater level general hospital. Somewhere along the line the unconscious infantryman was considered missing in action – he couldn't very well identify himself while being pulled from the rubble – and the MIA telegram was sent to Webster McIntosh, Wayne's father. Luna, his mother, never saw it. Dad never showed Mom the telegram and discarded it after Wayne's return. Wayne was still young and – other than his back – healthy. Some of the pieces of shrapnel embedded in his back, hand, and neck would work their way out over the years, but he

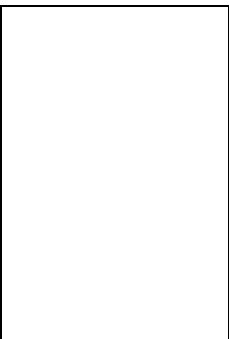
worked hard, physical jobs. Maybe the work helped him sleep. The nightmares made sleeping difficult.

Wayne married the prettiest girl in Bloomfield, Oaklene McElroy [check]. They raised fine children: Monte, Tom, Bob, Karen, and Kenny. The kids grew up, married, had children of their own, and Wayne grew older. His body became progressively less able to compensate for the spinal damage done in France. Wayne obtained medical care and ultimately appropriate compensation from the Department of Veteran Affairs. What he did not obtain from the Department of the Army was a Purple Heart. All the required "official military medical records of combat wounds" were lost. The administrative staff at Camp Atterbury, in their haste to separate over a half-million soldiers so they themselves could go home, entered "None" in Block 34 of Wayne's separation document: "Combat Wounds". Even if Wayne had noticed, a Private First Class with no medical records would have had – pardon the expression – no leg to stand on to correct this error. With what we now call post-traumatic stress disorder, I doubt Wayne hesitated when told, "Here, sign this and you can go home!" A Department of Veteran Affairs physical examination documented his many scars, embedded shrapnel, and broken back less than two years after his separation. One would logically assume that, since Wayne had to pass an entry physical in order to enlist, the damage noted by the VA in 1947 either 1) occurred while he was in combat exactly as indelibly burned into his memory, or 2a) Wayne was hit several times by German indirect fire as he worked in rural southern Indiana during the time between his separation from active duty and the VA physical exam, and 2b) Wayne was confused as to where he was located when wounded. (Odd his family and neighbors did not recall this barrage, which would have been extremely loud and left several craters in their fields.)

See the conclusion of Wayne's story in next month's newsletter.

John Tilford – Service Officer

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"Oldest Post in the State"

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