

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

November 2014

Commander's Corner

Greetings!

We have had a real good month at the Post. A lot of work has been completed and again I want to thank all of you for the hours that have been donated. We have had a great turnout for our dinner specials and we have had a lot of compliments on the way we are improving our Post for our members. Not only are we making bigger donations to our charities, we are adding more to our list. Financially we are better off than the Post has been in many years. We have monies to handle any emergency that may come up and we owe it all to the members.

Don't forget that Veterans Day is coming up soon. Please take the time to thank a Veteran and to remember all of those that have served. We will have ham and beans at the Post on the 11th of November after the ceremony at the courthouse. So come out and join us at Post 604.

We are always in the planning stage at the Post for new and fun things to do so stop by and see what is up and join in the fun. The end of the year is fast approaching so don't forget to pay your 2015 dues. Our membership makes our Post strong.

Joe Hardin, Commander



Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

YO!

Just in case you missed it, the first "Friday steak night" was very successful, **SOLD OUT!** This is going on the third Friday of each month. Commander Joe, Toby, and Barney did a super job! Steaks were juicy, and tender, plus there was salad and a baked tater plus desserts.

The Men's aux. was quite busy also. The 2nd Friday of the month was "fish night" – another **SELL OUT!** The NASCAR Sunday was a good one also.

Poker!! Still growing and doing well. We have people from several other counties driving up here to play. Some are driving 1 to 1-1/2hrs. Remember Thurs at 7PM Tournament and cash games. The 1st Sunday of each month is cash game only starting at 1pm til ???

If you've not visited your post lately, you don't know what you are missing. Each Friday night we have a special dinner – 1st Friday – Kathy fixes home cooked meals, always a sellout, 2nd Friday is Men's Aux. "Fish Fry" – 3rd Friday is now "Steak Night" and 4th Friday is Ladies Aux. Home cooked meals. All of these meals are cheaper than dirt and the desserts are thrown in for free. We have a few Special Ladies that donate Pies, cakes, salads, brownies, and etc.

Veteran's Day is on Tuesday the 11th this month. The Post will be providing the traditional "Ham Beans and Cornbread" dinner following the ceremonies at the court house. To honor our Veterans, the Men's Aux. will be offering FREE tenderloin dinner to all Veterans on November 16th (Sunday). Non Veterans still pay the low price of \$5.00 as usual.

We are approaching the end of 2014, so come in and get your 2015 cards. Bring a friend, they just might enjoy the Post as well.

Tim Haney, President Men's Auxiliary

Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

Ladies,

The Holidays are coming upon us and we are making plans. First of all we will not be having a dinner in Nov. or Dec. We will start again in January. Check you December newsletter. It's been mentioned that we may be planning a Children's Christmas party.

I've been notified by the State and District officers that they will be here on November 15th for a dues roundup. We are welcoming them with Chili, Vegi tray and desserts for lunch. We need to get as many dues paid as possible. I would like to have 100% dues paid. Thanks to those of you who have already paid. For those that have not yet paid their dues – NOW is a good time to pay your dues.

We'll have a great Thanksgiving and if you travel, BE SAFE.

**Julia Curtis, President
VFW Ladies Auxiliary
Phone (812) 822-0028**



**MARK YOU CALENDAR
Free Oil change for Veterans
On Veterans Day - Nov 11, 2014**

*******DISTRICT MEETINGS*****
November 23, 2014--Post 1157 Vincennes
January 25, 2015-----Post 1257 Martinsville
March 22, 2015-----Post 1111 Mooresville
May 17, 2015-----Post 9297 Crane**

GOBLINS ARE GONE! - TURKEY DAY IS ON THE WAY!!!

The Big Bird Day is fast approaching and the Post will be closed on that Thursday (Nov. 27th) so everyone can enjoy the holiday. But now, on the other hand the Post will most definitely be OPEN on Tuesday Nov. 11th—VETERAN'S DAY—Open at 11:00 am, so when the ceremonies are finished at the court house you can come out to the Post for FREE Ham & Beans & Fixings. Post will close around 6:00 pm or later depending on attendance.

1st Friday of the Month Dinner Special this month will be on Friday Nov 7th and since the weather is a little colder we will be featuring our Bowl of Potato Soup with "3" Best Darn Little Ham Sammiches plus Dessert---all home cooked and still only \$5.00!!!!!! Serving will begin at 6:00 p.m. and go until we run out!! Make sure to get your bowl---we have had this before and its goood and its made by one of our finest cooks—Kathy Haney!!.

Moving on to NASCAR SUNDAY. Nov. 16th EcoBoost 400 and the Mens Auxiliary will be serving their Gigantic Hand-Dipped Breaded Tenderloins with a Special Little Twist—All Veterans will get their meal FREE!! Cost for everyone else is still just \$5.00. Post will open at Noon and close when race is finished.

Other items of interest are Meineke's FREE OIL CHANGE on Veterans Day and we still have Pizzas any day of the week—then we have the Mens Aux. Fish Dinner on the 2nd Friday of the month (Nov 14th)-all you can eat!! plus lets not forget our BIG OLE HOT DOGS each Monday all day long. And then we added the 3rd Friday of the Month STEAK NIGHT!! This went over extremely well last month—8 oz. Ribeye with Baked Potato and Salad and Dessert all for just \$10. Yep! That's right—just \$10
















Hey! we would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday—Be Safe—Don't Forget NOV. 11th

HOUSE COMMITTEE



Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

November 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
				 Starts at 7pm <i>* Vet to Vet – 1900</i>	Serving Dinner 1800-2100 Friday Night Special Post open at 2pm Commander's Drawing @1900	1
 Cash Game Starts at 1pm <i>Daylight saving time ends (set clock back one hour)</i>	3 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	4 Election Day	5	 Starts at 7pm <i>* Vet to Vet – 1900</i>	7 Serving Dinner 1800-2100  Post open at 2pm Commander's Drawing @1900	8
9	10 HOT DOG MONDAY  <i>U.S. Marine Corps Established (1775)</i> Open @ Noon	 VETERAN'S DAY <i>Signing of WW1 Armistice (1918)</i>	12	 Starts at 7pm <i>* Vet to Vet – 1900</i>	14 Serving Dinner 1800 – 2100  Post open at 2pm Commander's Drawing @1900	15
 Post Open at Noon	17 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	18 Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 Men's Aux – 1800 Ladies Aux – 1800	19	 Starts at 7pm <i>* Vet to Vet – 1900</i>	21 Grenada Campaign Ended (1983) Post open at 2pm Commander's Drawing @ 1900	22
23 District Meeting 30 Vincennes Post 1157	24 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	25	26	 <i>* Vet to Vet – 1900</i>	28 Post open at 2pm Commander's Drawing @ 1900	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 # **134469**

Raffle License # **134470**

Here's the second instalment of . .

Jerry Shipman and the Thirteen Days

Jerry resumed his monthly visits, now waiting on the Regional Office reconsideration. He was always patient, sitting quietly until his turn. Thinking back on his subdued behavior, I wonder if decades of seizures had taught Jerry to avoid becoming upset or even to move quickly. I never noticed him reading any of our magazines. His clothes were always clean and presentable. Jerry lived with his eighty year old widowed mother in her small frame home several miles outside of town. He borrowed her car to drive in to see us. I once asked him – thinking about my wife, son, and daughter who were sharing the road with a driver who had unpredictable seizures – if he was “legal to drive”? Jerry gave me another courtesy smile and said he was. I'll never know what that meant. Perhaps he just didn't tell the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles about his disability. You can do that in Indiana, or at least you could in 2000.

Although polite, Jerry was also a proud man who had a hard time hiding his frustration these years into his claim. He wanted to marry his girlfriend, she had agreed, but he refused to do so on his limited non-service connected pension income. Jerry was fifty-nine years old and did not want to bring his wife home to live in a room of his elderly mother's home. All of his hopes were contingent upon gaining the service connected compensation. With roughly three times his small VA non-service connected pension income he could move into a cheap apartment, get married, provide (CHAMPVA) health care for his wife, and feel – well, independent and more like a man. His compensation with spouse in 2002 would have been \$2,287 per month. Not a large income, but a big improvement. At this point the VA had spent many thousands of dollars paying attorneys to deny Jerry this benefit.

The Indianapolis Regional Office turned Jerry down again. By this time I had been called to active duty with the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington, DC due to the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001. One of the veteran assistants told me about the decision by email. The DAV promptly appealed to the BVA again and the Regional Office was forced to produce a Supplemental Statement of the Case, obviously word-processed from the original and therefore easier to do. The Supplemental was sent both to Jerry and to the DAV. Jerry brought his copy into my civilian office and one of the assistants mailed a copy to me. I took time out from thinking about Afghanistan and reviewed it the evening it arrived.

As nearly as I could tell, the second Regional Office denial was based on a perception that Jerry's misconduct contributed to his injury. The document had been cranked out so quickly that the reasoning expressed was hard to follow. There were sentence fragments and gaps in the text. It was embarrassing to see such errors in a document which meant so much to a human being. The primary author of the Supplemental obviously had a

bias against enlisted sailors. He focused on the facts that Jerry went to a bar while on liberty and, if not an actual combatant in a fight, was certainly a victim.

I spent a few hours picking the regional office denial apart and developing a point-by-point rebuttal statement for Jerry's signature. Among other criticisms, I mentioned that bars are where junior enlisted sailors go when in port on liberty. Not surprisingly, especially in Naples, some sailors are mugged. This does not constitute misconduct. Maybe bad judgment, certainly bad luck, but not a chargeable offense. There was no evidence on record that Jerry went to an “off limits” establishment or was on any duty status other than approved liberty at the time of his injury. Had the Navy found Jerry guilty of an offense which contributed to his being injured the VA would not have even considered his claim. That's one of the main purposes of “line-of-duty” determinations. The VA had requested and received all of Jerry's military personnel and medical records as the first step in adjudication. The medical records included details regarding his fractured skull. I wrote a cover letter to the DAV office which was preparing his second BVA appeal package, suggesting they have Jerry sign the enclosed statement and include it. I could not deal directly with the VA on Jerry's behalf, I was not his representative. The DAV was. They didn't include the statement. ‘Filed his second BVA appeal without – I'll never know for certain but strongly suspect – ever showing Jerry the statement I prepared for him. I also suspect our young service officer was still overconfident. Maybe he did not appreciate my presumption.

Jerry had to wait a few more months for the second, and final, Board of Veterans Appeals decision. At the time of Jerry's appeal, we – the Disabled American Veterans, the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs, my regional office friends, and I – all considered the BVA as the end of the line. None of us had any experience with the new United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and we were all afraid of filing fees, representatives had to be approved attorneys, and – well, we were just ignorant. The veterans' assistants told me Jerry resumed checking in every month.

The Board of Veterans Appeals decision arrived: Denied.

Less than a week later Jerry Shipman, the sailor who so professionally piloted the first boarding party in the blockade and helped avert World War III, drove straight into a tree in broad daylight.

There were no skid marks.

John Tilford – Service Officer

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