

# 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](http://WWW.VFW-604.NET)

January 2015

## Commander's Corner

Hello!

As we start the new year, our goal for the Post is to continue to improve on what we have accomplished. With the great members we have and the way they have been volunteering, we will have a great year. Don't forget that on January 17th we will have our anniversary dinner at the Post. We plan to start our program at 6:00pm. So come out and enjoy a great dinner. As most of you know some of our core programs are Patriot Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year. We will be passing out awards for these programs at this time. Please come out and show your support to our recipients.

We are planning on continuing our Friday night dinner specials and our sports Sundays with our giant tenderloins. The Men's Aux. and the Ladies Aux. have done a wonderful job making things happen. I want to thank Barney White, Toby Altman, Bob Lanning and Dennis Knoy for all the help they have given to make our steak dinners a big success.

We are getting very close to having 100% membership. When we achieve this, we are in line to be All State Post. This would be a big feather in our cap and something to be proud of. So if you haven't paid your dues yet, please do so as soon as possible.

I want to thank the Men's Aux. for putting new siding on the west side of the Post building. Great job and thank you from all of us at Post 604.

Please keep Tim Haney (Men's Aux. President) in your prayers. He is scheduled for heart surgery on the 7<sup>th</sup> of this month.

**Joe Hardin, Commander**

\*\*\*\*\*DISTRICT MEETINGS\*\*\*\*\*

January 25, 2015-----Post 1257 Martinsville

March 22, 2015-----Post 1111 Mooresville

May 17, 2015-----Post 9297 Crane

## Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and that little fat man in the red suit brought everything you wanted. We are ending 2014 and going into 2015 with a New Years Eve Party. This will be a Pitch In - Pot Luck of whatever. We had some fantastic cooks here at Post 604, so as always, there will be plenty of food.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we will NOT HAVE A FISH Dinner on the 2nd Friday of Jan. But our tenderloins will return Jan 25th - serving at 1:00pm til sold out.

Poker on Thursday evenings is still going strong and the cash game (1st Sunday) is going great too. So get ready for another year of fun-food-beverage and cash at the VFW Post 604, Bloomington.

Watch for Flyers and check your Calendar for up-coming events and dinners. ( Read Your Newsletter )

Did you notice? The new siding is done. The Men's Aux. is working hard up here and we are trying to do some improvements to our Post. (Inside and Outside).

One last thing, I want to personally Thank each and everyone that pitched-in here in 2014. Without you volunteers we would not be here. Our crowds continue to grow each week. Thanks again to people like: Mike P., Steve L., Dan F., Mark D., Dennis K., Frank O., Mark T., Tim D., Barney W., Moe., Woody, John M., Toby, Bill E., Leonard, and Commander Joe. Our special Ladies: Debbie D., Dorothy W., Sandi T., Julie M., Kathy H., Mary B., Julia C., Chris, Karen C., Carol D., Sara D., and Debi D. Hope I didn't forget anyone. This is a Great Group of volunteers.

**Tim Haney, President Men's Auxiliary**

## ITS GONE!!!

### Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

Happy New Year Ladies,

First of all I am in bad need for a Secretary and Treasurer. Our Secretary (Rebecca Lang) has moved out of the area and due to illness Mary Ellen is unable to keep up with the duties of Treasurer. I know this is a lot of stress and I'm hoping I can get someone to come in and help. Please Please.

Also we had a good children's Christmas party. Dorothy White and Sandi Taylor did a wonderful job in planning. Dorothy did a fine job with decorations. I'm proud of you girls.

We will be having our Friday night dinner on Jan 23rd . We will have Swiss Steak, Mashed Potatoes and Veges And bread.

At the district meeting on Nov. 23rd we won 2nd prize in the Poppy Wreath contest. Thank you to Liz Blackburn for your good work.

Please remember I am in need of officials. If there is anyone out there that can help Please call

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

#### TAPS

**Ray E. Drake**

**Ray was a Navy veteran who served on the USS Huse  
Destroyer Escort DE-145**

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

**Ray will be missed by all the Men and Women of VFW Post  
604 and the 7<sup>th</sup> District.**

#### THOSE IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

**Sterling House---Bill Tennel - Rm 309**

**Bell Trace---Edward Eads – Rm 122B**

**Garden Villa---Roger Kelly – Rm 321B**

**Ira Young – Rm 506B**

**Aliva Farris – Rm 611A**

**Indiana Veterans Home---Paul Goodman – Rm 320, Bed 2,  
Mitchell Bldg.**

**James C. Arnold, Chaplin  
VFW Post 604  
Past VFW 7<sup>th</sup> District Commander**

**2014 that is!!** But Post 604 is still here and that is due to our members and our Volunteers (Best in Bloomington!!). Speaking of our Volunteers---Life gets in the way sometime so therefore we will **NOT** have our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Night Dinners this month. The kitchen will be open with our regular menu and these two Dinners will be back in Feb. Now then, have you noticed there are 5 Fridays this month?? We have and Wanda Dittmore has volunteered to whip up her **World Renowned Vegetable Soup** with Cornbread for us on **Friday the 30<sup>th</sup>**. 6:00 p.m. till gone and we are sure there will be desserts—so come out and get you a big ole bowl of Veg soup & cornbread for only **\$5.00**

Our **Sunday Opening** this month will be on the **25<sup>th</sup>** and the Mens Auxillary are back with their **Gigantic Hand-Dipped Breaded Tenderloins**. Still just **\$5.00**—it's a meal plus **NASCAR** will be back in Feb. Lets not forget the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the Month **STEAK NIGHT (16<sup>th</sup>)!!** 8 oz. Ribeye with Baked Potato (Shoot-the size of the baked potato is a meal in itself!!) and Salad and Dessert all for just **\$10**. Yep! That's right—just **\$10**. We have Good Cooks!—Good Food!--Good Prices!--if your not here—your missing out!!

**Texas Hold-em Tournament** every **Thursday**, starts at **7:00 p.m.** and **SUNDAY—Jan 4<sup>th</sup>--Texas-Hold-em Cash** game--we start playing at 1:00 p.m. and go till 8:00 p.m. Food & beverages will be available downstairs for the cash game however the Canteen/Post will not be open.











Check out the new siding the Mens Auxillary had put on the building—Looks really nice and we hear they are planning on having the other side done in the near future—Post 604 gets better looking day by day!! We would like to say a great big **Thank-You** to the folks who decorated the Post for the Holidays. It looked very nice and Christmassy—your time and effort were greatly appreciated!! 2014 may be gone and it was a really good year but we plan on making 2015 even better!! **YOU** need to get here and check it out!!

#### HOUSE COMMITTEE



# Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

January 2015

Closed Sunday	Open 1200 - 2200 Monday	Open 1600 - 2200 Tuesday	Open 1600 - 2200 Wednesday	Open 1600 - 2200 Thursday	Open 1400 - 2200 Friday	Open 1000 - 2200 Saturday
			 <b>DEC. 31<sup>ST</sup></b> <b>NEW YEARS EVE</b> <b>POT LUCK DINNER</b>	 <b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Serving Dinner 1800-2100  Post open at 2pm Commander's Drawing @1900	<b>3</b>
 <b>4</b> Cash Game Starts at 1pm	<b>5</b> HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ Noon	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	 <b>8</b> Starts at 7pm  * Vet to Vet – 1800	<b>9</b>  Post open at 2pm Commander's Drawing @1900	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ Noon	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	 <b>15</b> Starts at 7pm  * Vet to Vet – 1800	<b>16</b> Serving Dinner 1800 – 2100  Post open at 2pm Commander's Drawing @1900	 <b>17</b> <b>POST</b> <b>BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION</b> "Program starts at 6pm"  <b>Persian Gulf War</b> <b>Began (1991)</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ Noon	<b>20</b> <b>Meetings</b> V.F.W. – <b>1800</b> Men's Aux – <b>1800</b> Ladies Aux – <b>1800</b>	<b>21</b>	 <b>22</b> Starts at 7pm  * Vet to Vet – 1800	<b>23</b> <b>Ladies Aux.</b> <b>DINNER SPECIAL</b>  Post open at 2pm Commander's Drawing @ 1900	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <u><b>Tenderloin Special</b></u> <u><b>Post opens at 1pm</b></u>  <u><b>District Meeting Post</b></u> <u><b>1257 Martinsville</b></u>	<b>26</b> HOT DOG MONDAY  Open @ Noon	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	 <b>29</b> Starts at 7pm  * Vet to Vet – 1800	<b>30</b> <u><b>**Dinner Special**</b></u> <u><b>Vegetable Soup and</b></u> <u><b>Cornbread</b></u> <u><b>*Spring Conference*</b></u> Post open at 2pm Commander's Drawing @ 1900	<b>31</b>  <b>*Spring</b> <b>Conference*</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 # **134469**

Raffle License # **134470**

## Water Cooled, Part 2

The veteran's wife, Margaret, carefully offered, one at a time, documents she had brought in a cardboard box for the appeal hearing. Most were duplicates of records and letters already in Michael's claim folder. Except one.

"Do you think this would help?" she slowly presented an award certificate. Bronze Star. Combat valor "V" device. No, that was not in his folder nor was it entered in the 'awards' block on Mr. Boggs' separation document. It must have been awarded as he was leaving active duty, perhaps even after he had been separated. I could imagine Mr. Boggs opening a thick official envelope at his rural Indiana home. I read the citation on the certificate – Corporal Michael Boggs's company was about to be overrun by Chinese infantry. The screaming Chinese had already crested the ridge which had been the company's main defensive line and were running down upon the second line of defense – if you could call it a line at that point. Some American soldiers had already broken and run. Michael Boggs saw what was happening and what was about to happen – a disorderly falling back turning into a rout. His assigned weapon was an M-1 rifle, eight rounds per clip. He was about to exhaust his clips. Michael saw that the .30 caliber water-cooled machine gunner and assistant gunner to his left had both been hit and the gun was out of action. Dropping his M-1, Michael picked up the 120 pound machine gun, still attached to its tripod. The connection between the water jacket around the barrel and the hose to the reservoir snapped. An almost full belt of ammunition dangled from the weapon. He charged up the hill, firing as he ran. As the first rank of Chinese fell, those behind heard the renewed rapid fire sound of the .30 cal, saw its effect, and stopped. More Chinese fell. The remaining turned and ran. Michael charged up the hill. Other men followed Michael, firing their weapons. Michael's one-man counter attack, reinforced by others he inspired to action, worked. The Chinese attack had failed, the main defensive line was restored, the company saved.

"Yes, I think this might help." Michael's knee had worked pretty well as he charged up the hill. New evidence, never previously considered, germane to the issue. Justification for reopening. I was quiet for a few moments, thinking.

Possible objection: adrenaline. Young mothers lifting cars off of their children. Small men knocking down doors to save people in burning buildings. Michael seeing his buddies being killed around him. Ignoring a congenitally bad knee? Or did Michael hurt his knee during his heroism? The machine gun, with tripod and one belt of ammunition weighed about the same as he did. Maybe more. The first lunge forward would have had even more resistance because of snapping the connection to the water reservoir. Young, healthy knees have been damaged with less stress. Or did Michael merely aggravate his really-was congenitally bad knee between the time of his heroism and his hasty New Years Eve RFAD physical examination? Some hardly noticed and long forgotten twist or slip?

Two out of three ain't bad. "Let's hold this until the actual hearing has started and then introduce it into consideration."

We were upstairs in the hearing room. I don't remember the elevator ride or walking down the hall. I think I was shaking. Mr. Frazier took charge. He introduced himself and the other two members of the panel. One was Jim Livingston. Then he went through a clear and concise summary of the situation and the purpose of the hearing. The

'new and germane' requirements were part of the latter. The hearing went formal after the preliminaries. The recording system was turned on, voice levels checked. Frazier read the hearing identification information – date, purpose, Boggs's name and claim number – into the record. A transcript would be typed by the never-seen typists in the typing pool behind a windowless door on the third floor and a copy mailed to Mr. Boggs for his corrective comments or approval. I would get a copy, just as if I was an American Legion or Veterans of Foreign Wars representative. Again I was both pleased and frightened that Michael had put me into this position by not selecting a service organization as his 'power of attorney'.

Michael and Margaret came across as just as honest and straightforward as they really were. She, naturally, took the lead in describing how Michael's knee disability caused problems on their small farm. He gave short answers to the questions from the members of the panel. The questions slowed and stopped and Mr. Frazier gave me the opportunity to provide a summary of Michael's basis for reopening his claim. As surreptitiously guided by Livingston, I pointed out the presumed haste of the RFAD physical, conjecturing that the good doctor might have been in a hurry to leave work for the day, especially if he was anticipating a good party that evening. The panel members smiled. "I do agree with this military physician's documentation of a left knee disability, just not his conclusion that it was congenital."

Next: "I would like to introduce this document into the record. It's a certificate for award of the Bronze Star with "V" device for Corporal Boggs." I had run copies for each panel member. "If you will read the citation, you will notice that Corporal Boggs saved his company by picking up a water-cooled .30 machine gun and charging up a hill with it, firing as he ran. It would seem that his left knee worked pretty well on that occasion. I believe this document is new to the record, has not been previously considered, and – as it describes an impressive physical feat involving the strength and stability of his left knee – is pertinent. I also point out that his entrance physical is negative for any knee problems, left or right. I think we can safely conclude that Mr. Boggs's left knee disability as shown on his REFRAD physical arose during his honorable active military service."

The hearing closed. We all said our good-byes. Mr. and Mrs. Boggs left the Minton-Capehart Federal Building at 575 North Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, Indiana and drove home to their farm. I never saw either of them again, except in memory.

A few weeks later I saw Jim in the elevator. Several other people were between us. I looked at him with a quizzical expression. He looked back at me and smiled, nodding his head.

**John Tilford – Service Officer**

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