

VFW POST 604 NEWS

WWW.VFW-604.ORG

November 2017

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

Comrades,

As we move into the month of Thanksgiving, let me first express my thankfulness for your choosing me as Commander of this amazing Post.

The next area of thanks is for the Auxiliary. They spent several days (including their "slumber party") making sure that the Post had ghosts, goblins, and all things Halloween throughout the month. I'm sure that November will have us awash in Pilgrims, turkeys, and other things to remind us of Thanksgiving.

My comments last month seem to have struck a chord. Attendance at the Friday night dinners is up. That being said, we should not rest on our laurels. Please continue to suggest ways to make the dinners more family/kid friendly. The intergenerational mixing that occurs during the dinners is one of the best things to insure that the Post will continue into the future.

If you receive this newsletter before 31 October, remember that it is not too late to submit Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy entries. Also, if we receive the number of entries that I anticipate, we may need help in judging. Please contact Karen Cain or me if you would like to help.

As we proceed through November, let us take time every day to think of the things that make us thankful. Thanksgiving needs to be a culmination of our thoughts, not a quick prayer before we get to the "business" of "food and football". ❖

Yours in true Comradeship

Commander – Roy Smith

VFW Auxiliary

Halloween is such a fun time with all the decorations, kids running around in costumes, and of course the candy. It's a fun night for our group. We really enjoy it, hope you do too.

Thanksgiving will be here before you know it! The food will be plentiful and all will enjoy. There will be a few of us who will wonder why we ate so much, thinking it was good, but wishing we had not eaten so much only to be thinking "NAP TIME"!

Christmas is coming and we are planning our Children's Christmas Party. Please sign your children up on the list provided in the bar area at the post for a free gift from Santa. Children do have to be present at the party to receive their gift. If you have any party ideas, please share them – we're always open to new things. If you would like to help with the party or gift wrapping, please give me a call.

Our membership renewals are slowly coming in. If you haven't renewed yet, please remember to do so before December 31st. At the time of this article, we are only 60 short of our membership goal. Thanks!

We are still in need of volunteers. Please leave your name and number with the bartender, or call me, if you are willing to discuss helping out. Leonard Heldman and Roy Smith are also willing to discuss work help needed based on your availability.

Our Auxiliary District meeting is on Sunday November 19th at 10:30 in Spencer. It's only a 30 minute drive from the post, so why not come out and participate - then afterwards come to the post for one of our GIANT tenderloin sandwiches (only \$7.00), eat it at the post or take it home for later.

Continued - See Auxiliary on Page 4

Mamie and John

Several senior (certainly senior to me) veterans benefits counselors (If that position title does not sound familiar it's because that job doesn't exist any longer.) helped train me when I started with the Veterans Administration (as the VA was then known) in August 1975. Two of the most memorable were Mamie Lucid and John Peters.

Mamie, now deceased, was the widow of a WWII veteran. She needed the money, true, but she really worked because Mamie lived to help veterans. Long after I left the VA I heard that she had died shortly after retiring. Mamie was very thorough in everything she taught me, explaining seemingly every little known, and – as I involuntarily rolled my eyes up when she was not looking, then glanced down at my watch – not likely to happen glitch in the provisions of Title 38, United States Code. But, over the decades, Mamie had seen these glitches hurt veterans or their dependents, had learned how to cope, and she felt compelled to pass the information on to the next, the Vietnam, wave of new VA employees.

We schnook ("schnook" is civilian for "snuffy") full working level GS-9 veterans benefit counselors rotated among several ongoing assignments. One was working down the stacks of correspondence to be answered. Almost all were a letter clipped to the actual veteran's claim folder. (Remember paper folders?) Some were from mothers or widows of deceased veterans. Some were from Congressional staff. You never knew what to expect. These stacks of waiting correspondence were often a few feet tall. Mamie's was usually the tallest: "I don't know why I get all these complex cases! They take so long to work!" I didn't know either until one of the other counselors pointed out that the common factor was Mamie. She cared so much for the welfare of the veteran whose case was on the top of the stack that she might not make it to the one on the bottom. Her focus was sharply defined by the case at hand. She was extremely good at what she did. Just hope your case was on top of the stack.

John Peters was a pushy, Vietnam-era veteran. Never deployed. Service connected disabled for a bad knee. Wore a metal brace. John was good, if you define good at cranking out whatever data was important to his performance evaluations. As a matter of fact, John wrote his own performance evaluations and handed them to his mild-mannered boss for signature. John bragged too much. "You know, Tilford, I'm making more money than Larry Smith (our division manager) if you count my compensation and vocational rehabilitation living allowance, and they're tax exempt." The "bragged too much" included bragging about being drunk when he crashed his car on an Air Force base and then talked his military police buddies into concealing his DUI violation. Therefore a clean line of duty determination regarding his injury, therefore his VA service connected disability rating, therefore his disabled veterans preference for federal hiring, and also therefore his eligibility for VA vocational rehabilitation benefits. John was not entitled to any of these in fact. His career was based on falsehoods.

One day just after the first of a month, when the Chapter

34 educational benefit checks (Remember paper checks?) arrived or should have arrived, I got into a competition with John Peters. He and I were in the toll free telephone area. The number of calls each employee answered were counted. Now, almost all of the questions were, "Where's my check?" Usually easy to answer, e.g., "Delayed by one cycle because the school was late submitting your enrollment. You should get it on the 7th." I beat John that day, but then realized what I had done (or not done, to be more accurate) was wrong. I had not been asking the next question, the "What else can I do for you?" question or the "I see you are enrolled for eight semester hours. Did you know just one more would get you three fourths time benefits?" question. I quit racing John. Maybe it was Mamie's influence, maybe Mel Biddle's (Medal of Honor, WWII), maybe guilt. I had lower numbers but felt better.

For several years most of the VA representatives who answered my calls on behalf of veterans were, if not newer versions of John Peters, at least not interested in spending very much time on the veteran's case. Since I seldom called regarding anything simple, most of my calls were wastes of time. BUT, the Mamies are still out there! Three weeks ago David (they don't give their whole name) from the Columbia, South Carolina VA Regional Office answered. He took the time to listen, took the time to read the entire case (apologizing every half-minute for taking so long), and took the unprecedented (within my experience) step of giving me his personal VA email address. David requested I scan and send him some documents on behalf of the veteran, which I promptly did. He then sent the information attached to an email to some of his contacts within the VA. Then he followed up with me. Last week the veteran received a telephone call from the C&P (compensation and pension) examination scheduling office in the Indy VA medical center. The VA has finally started adjudicating his claim.

John Peters left the veterans benefits counselor job for more money as a VA guardianship inspector/monitor, driving around central Indiana. He was caught falsifying some of his travel voucher claims to make even more money. But he stayed with the VA. I'll bet he had good performance evaluations. John's name came up during one of my visits to the Louisville VA Regional Office (Indianapolis cannot consider any personal claim I make because I formerly worked there) about ten years ago. He had just retired from a fairly high level management position at the Louisville VARO. I'm surprised he didn't make it to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs staff in DC. Maybe he did and got caught again.









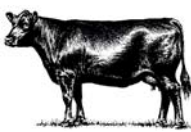





As in any organization, there are good and there are bad employees. If your case was on the bottom of one of Mamie's stacks of correspondence to be answered, she was bad. You'd be waiting a long time for a response. If all you wanted was a quick answer from John, he was good. Just be certain to verify his answer.

As in any VA case, never give up. Call more than once. Ask for a reconsideration. You might get a Mamie Lucid. But you might have to go through a John Peters first. ❖

John Tilford – Service Officer

Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

November 2017

Closed	Open 1200 - 2200	Open 1600 - 2200	Open 1600 - 2200	Open 1600 - 2200	Open 1600 - 2200	Open 1000 - 2200
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	 <p>Starts at 7pm</p> <p>* Vet to Vet – 1800</p>	 <p>6PM - Meat Loaf, Corn, Potatoes with Gravy & Fried Biscuits \$7.00</p> <p>Commander's Drawing 1900</p>	4
5	6 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	7	8	 <p>Starts at 7pm</p> <p>* Vet to Vet – 1800</p>	 <p>6PM - Auxiliary Fish Dinner \$7.00 – All you can eat!</p> <p>Commander's Drawing 1900</p>	11 
12	13 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	14	15	 <p>Starts at 7pm</p> <p>* Vet to Vet – 1800</p>	 <p>6PM - STEAK Night 8oz Rib eye – \$11.00!</p> <p>Commander's Drawing 1900</p>	18
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-size: 8px; margin-right: 5px;">TELEVISIONS</div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; font-size: 8px; margin-left: 5px;">OPEN NOON</div> </div>	20 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	21 Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 V.F.W. Aux – 1800	22	 <p>CLOSED</p>	 <p>6PM – Beef & Noodles Dinner \$7.00</p> <p>Commander's Drawing 1900</p>	25
26	27 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	28	29	 <p>Starts at 7pm</p> <p>* Vet to Vet – 1800</p>		

(* For Vet-to-Vet Held at IVY Tech, 200 Daniels Way room A118 – Check website <http://www.vettovetbloomington.com/> to confirm location)

Telephone Number (812) 339-2375

Charity Game Night License # 144211

Raffle License # 1414210

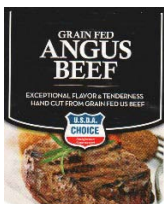
Over the next two busy months, remember our Friday night dinners. Take a break, come out and let us do the cooking – good meal, GREAT low price.

November Dates to Remember;

November 3rd – 6:00 PM – Meat Loaf, Corn, Potatoes & Gravy
November 10th – 6:00 PM – All you can eat Fish Dinner \$7.00
November 11th – 11:30 AM until gone – Ham & Beans - FREE
November 17th – 6:00 PM – Steak Night \$11.00
November 19th – 10:30 AM District Auxiliary meeting - Spencer
November 19th – Noon till 6 PM – Tenderloin Sunday \$7.00
November 21st – 6:00 PM – Post & Auxiliary Meeting
November 23rd – Thanksgiving – Post is CLOSED
November 24th – 6:00 PM – Beef & Noodles \$7.00

Asking for God's blessings for all. Our condolences to those who've lost a loved one. A get well wish to those who are ill. ❖

Dorothy J White
President - VFW Auxiliary
812-345-9025



Choice Angus Beef – Cut - In House

The House Committee is proud to announce that we will be serving Choice Angus Ribeye's on Steak Night. This is one of the highest qualities of beef that is available. We will be cutting our own steaks in house. This will control the size and thickness of the steaks. Come on down, we think you will be very happy with the quality and the flavor.

TAPS

Robert F. (Bob) Sinn

Bob was a WWII veteran of the US Navy and a VFW Life Member.

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

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

James C. Arnold, Chaplin
VFW Post 604



NOVEMBER-VETERANS DAY-NOV 11th!!

The Big Bird Day is on the way and the Post will be closed on Thursday **November 23rd**) so everyone can enjoy the holiday. However, on the other hand the Post will most definitely be **OPEN** on **Saturday Nov. 11th—VETERAN'S DAY—** Open at 10:00 am so when the ceremonies are finished at the court house, you can come out to the Post for **“FREE” Ham & Beans—Cornbread & Fried Potatoes and Fixings** from Noon until ????

Our **1st Friday of the Month Dinner Special** this month will be on **Friday November 3rd** and since the weather is a little colder we will be featuring **Meat Loaf with Potatoes & Gravy plus Corn & Fried Biscuits** sound good also. Then we will throw in some **Dessert** ---all home cooked and only **\$7.00!!!!!!** Serving at 6:00 p.m. and go until we run out!! Been awhile since we have had this meal and its goood plus it's made by our finest cooks!!.

This is the **LAST NASCAR SUNDAY** this year!! **November 19th** Ford EcoBoost 400 and it's when you can get The Auxiliary's **Gigantic Hand-Dipped Breaded Tenderloins.** **NOON** till around **6ish pm.** Then we go to our **3rd Friday of the Month STEAK NIGHT (17th)!!** **NEW** 8 oz. Ribeye with Baked Potato and Salad and Dessert all for just **\$11.** George & his crew are bringing in a better cut of steak and do a great job preparing and serving this dinner!!! We would like to hear from you on your opinion-good or bad-regarding our new cut of steak. Then the **4th Friday in the Month** comes along so be sure to read **The Auxiliary** news article for that dinner special!!!!

We also need to do some **SHOUT OUTS** to the **WITCHES** and **GHOULS** who decorated the Post for Halloween. All you folks do a fantastic job and it's just another reason why our **Volunteers** make Post 604 such a great place. Now we need to call Terminix to remove all the **Giant Black RATS & Spiders!!** Geeez!!

Hey! we would like to wish everyone a Happy Turkey Day—Be Safe— ❖

Don't Forget November 11th

House Committee

Laurens B. Strain V.F.W. Post 604
2404 W Industrial Park Drive
Bloomington, IN 47404-2690

"Oldest Post in the State"

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
BLOOMINGTON IN 47401
PERMIT No. 205

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Phone: (812)-339-2375

VFW POST 604

November Happenings

- Friday – November 3rd – Meat Loaf, Corn. Potatoes & Gravy & Fried Biscuits - \$7.00
- Friday - November 10th – Auxiliary Fish Dinner-all you can eat!! - \$7.00
- Saturday - November 11th – Free Ham & Beans 11:30 A.M. until gone
- Friday - November 17th – STEAK NIGHT – 8 oz. Ribeye grilled to order - \$11.00
- Sunday - November 19th – NASCAR - Gigantic Breaded Tenderloin Sandwiches - \$7.00
- Thursday - November 23rd – CLOSED
- Tuesday - November 21st – 6:00 PM - Post & Auxiliary meetings
- Friday - November 24th – Beef & Noodles Dinner – \$7. 00