
VFW POST 604 NEWS

WWW.VFW-604.NET

September 2012

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

Hi! I am sure that all of you are waiting to see what comes out of my corner this month (ha ha). To start off with, I want to remind everyone that we have wheelchairs, walkers, canes and crutches available at the Post for anyone that needs them. We do not charge anything to use them, just bring them back when you are finished. That way we will have them available for the next person.

We are making preparations for the District meeting here at the Post on October 7th. Things are starting to come together so don't forget to mark your calendar. We would like to see as many members as possible attend.

Our Friday night kitchen is doing well so come on in and give Steve Wade, Bob Lanning and Jerry Hayes your honest opinion on how it tastes. We have a good variety of things to choose from.

Don't forget our Ladies Auxiliary bingo on Thursdays and Saturdays. They sure could use your support.

Come out and enjoy your Post. We are trying hard to make it a place that is fun for all.

Commander - Joe Hardin

Renewing Membership

Your continued membership is important to us. If you know of someone desiring to join our ranks please do not hesitate to contact one of our officers.

Annual membership renewal forms are mailed to each V.F.W. and Auxiliary member. If you do not receive a renewal notice, please contact the Post 604 Quartermaster or one of your club officers for assistance. ❖



Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

We are starting our new projects for this year. The State President's project is to help raise money for the renovation of the visitors units at Lafayette Veterans Home. The raffle tickets are six chances for \$5.00. The seller of the winning ticket will get \$200.00. So, if you can help us sell these tickets, call me at 876-3676.

The Cancer Aid & Research is Judy's NiteLites. They are plug in's \$8.00 each; colors are Champagne, Crystal, Ice Blue, Light Blue, Midnight Blue, Royal Blue, Xmas Red, Baby Pink, Mauve, Root beer, Orange, Yellow, Light Purple, Sea Mist, Emerald Green, Black, or Coral. Please help us with our Cancer project.

From the Recreation Department at Indiana Veterans Home: They need money, DVD players, Modern DVD movies, large print word search and crossword etc, velvet pictures with markers, big wooden beads to string with yarn, linen handkerchiefs, bandanas, wash clothes, hand towels for folding, nail polish remover, spray for nails, fast drying, electric razors, Little Debbie snacks, small soft candy bars (no nuts), peanut butter crackers, juice boxes, 6 - 8 CD/radio players, 4 or 5 12-cup coffee pots, 4 roasters, 5 disc CD players. I know we can't get all this, but if we all pull together we can do a lot of it. We do need someone to lead this project - just call me.

The big storm Thursday August 16th was not good for Bingo, also the power went out one other night recently. We still are needing players to come out. I know money is short with school starting and all. Thanks to all who are hanging in there with us.

The girls will have different party's each month so come have some fun with us. Thanks once again to all who help our Post to stay open, God bless all. ❖

Janet Williams
President VFW Ladies Auxiliary

President Signs Veterans Benefit Package

The President signed into law this week H.R. 1627, the "Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act." The comprehensive legislation contains more than 54 provisions designed to enhance VA benefits and transform how VA does business in the 21st century. It also extends VA healthcare benefits to veterans and military families exposed to toxic water at Camp Lejeune between Jan. 1, 1957, and Dec. 31, 1987. VFW worked with members and staff to get the legislation passed so that it would have immediately impact the lives of veterans, their families, and survivors. Read more about H.R. 1627 and the VFW's work to advance the bill at <http://www.vfwonthehill.org/2012/08/president-signs-veterans-benefits-and.html>.

VRAP Scam Alert

VFW was notified by VA of a potential scam targeting veterans who have either signed up or have been approved for the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program, or VRAP. According to the VA, a veteran reported receiving a call from someone named "James" who congratulated him on his VRAP approval. He was advised that the exact amount of \$8,500 would be deposited directly into his account if he would first provide "James" his bank account and routing numbers, plus a \$205 service charge. This person is not affiliated with the VA, and the VA will never charge you to access your benefits or ask you to provide private information over the phone. Should you receive such a call, or any telemarketing call that you suspect may not be legit, please contact the Federal Trade Commission at <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/phonefraud/index.shtml>.

Commander's Drawing

The commander's drawing grew in August to over \$1600.00 after having no winner since January. All Post-604 members in good standing in the VFW, Ladies Auxiliary, and Men's Auxiliary are eligible to play. Only costs a buck, and if you have signed and your number is called you will receive no less than half of the monies in the fund. Don't even have to be at the Post. If you are present and you win, you get it ALL, post gets NOTHING. Drawing is Friday Evening at 7:00 PM. Come out and take a chance – you never know – odds are 1 in around 590 you'll hit pay dirt (about the same as playing one pull-tab).



While you are at the post on Friday eve – grab a bite to eat from our kitchen. Hey, we're not fancy, but you cannot beat the value, and the company isn't bad either.

GOOD LUCK !!!

TRYING NEW THINGS IN SEPTEMBER!!!

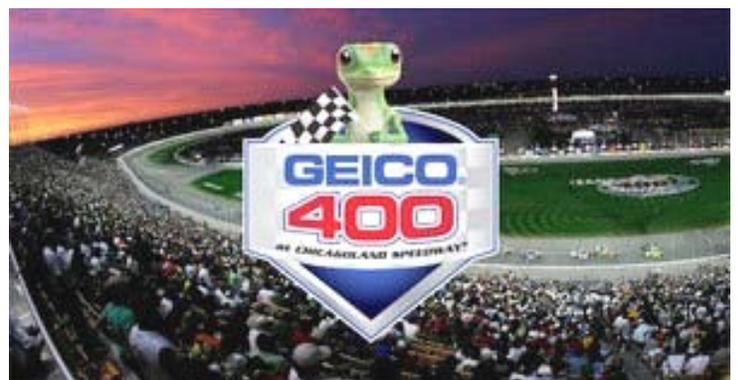
One of the new things that have been going on is the Friday Night Dinner. So far it has been a good turn-out and folks have been saying the food is really good. We are going to make a minor change, same GREAT food, different hours. Now serving from 6:00PM until 9:00 PM. We are still looking at doing some special dinners later on down the road for Friday Nights. So hey! Drop in and give it a whirl, Steve Wade will do you right!!

Next new thing that's on the agenda is SATURDAY NIGHT TACO SALADS. Served piping hot with cheese, tomato, onions, sour cream, actually with just about anything you want on it. So when that Mexican craving hits you, come on out between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. and dig into a TACO SALAD. Ooopps!! Almost forgot-VFW Post 604 price is just \$3.25!! Mathematically, that means that TWO people can eat for under \$7.00!! Yes, we used old math to figure that up. ha-ha-ha.

Now, onto NASCAR SUNDAY, granted this is not new but we have been having a good time on these Sundays. We are going to try Sept 16th (SUNDAY), Chicago Speedway-GEICO 400. We think the race starts about 2:00 p.m. (a little late start time but we are going to give it a shot), the Post will Open at NOON till 6:00 p.m. And by golly we will be serving TACO SALADS (figures doesn't it??). So give it a try if you haven't already!!

And a BIG THANK-YOU to all of our volunteers, while not many in numbers, they do the greatest job they can for Post 604 and for YOU, Post 604 Members. ❖

House Committee



Sunday September 16, 2012 - Open Noon until 1800

Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

September 2012

| Closed Sunday | Open 1600 - 2200 Monday | Open 1600 - 2200 Tuesday | Open 1600 - 2200 Wednesday | Open 1600 - 2200 Thursday | Open 1600 - 2200 Friday | Open 1000 - 2200 Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|
|  |  |  |  | | | 1 Serving Taco Salads 1800 - 2100 ALL DAY \$1.25 Beer Bingo – 1430 |
| 2 1864 - Atlanta captured by Union | 3 1793 - Treaty of Paris Labor Day  * Vet to Vet – 1900 | 4 | 5 | 6 Bingo – 1730 | 7 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2100  Commander's Drawing 1900 Brad Harris Entertains 1900 | 8 Serving Taco Salads 1800 - 2100 ALL DAY \$1.25 Beer Bingo – 1430 |
| 9 | 10 * Vet to Vet – 1900 | 11 2001 Terrorist attacks in Washington DC and New York  | 12 | 13 1814 - Battle of Fort Henry Bingo – 1730 | 14 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2100  Commander's Drawing 1900 Brad Harris Entertains 1900 | 15 Serving Taco Salads 1800 - 2100 ALL DAY \$1.25 Beer Bingo – 1430 |
| 16 Open 12:00 - 1800 Chicagoland NASCAR Raceday  | 17 * Vet to Vet – 1900 | 18 1947 - US Air Force Established Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 Men's Aux – 1800 Ladies Aux – 1800 | 19 | 20 Bingo – 1730 | 21 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2100  Commander's Drawing 1900 Brad Harris Entertains 1900 | 22 Serving Taco Salads 1800 - 2100 ALL DAY \$1.25 Beer Bingo – 1430 |
| 23 Autumn Begins 1949 Berlin Airlift Ends 30 | 24 1980 - Iran v. Iraq War begins * Vet to Vet – 1900 | 25 | 26 | 27 Bingo - 1730 | 28 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2100  Commander's Drawing 1900 Brad Harris Entertains 1900 | 29 Serving Taco Salads 1800 - 2100 1879 - US Army Established ALL DAY \$1.25 Beer Bingo – 1430 |

(* 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

Bingo License # 128637

Raffle License # 127960

Light at the End of the (Veterans Affairs) Tunnel?

The Department of Veterans Affairs now has a backlog of over 900,000 disability claims. This statement a year ago would have been truly horrible. It isn't too pleasing now. But the rosy picture the VA usually paints of how they will reduce the backlog and improve accuracy (How many times have they prematurely claimed imminent success in the past?) might actually be, maybe, hold your breath, mostly true this time! Here are the indicators:

First, I saw the immediately following "transformation plan" items in the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs newsletter last month. More details are available on the Web by searching for "VA transformation initiatives": (If some of the "transformation" ideas sound familiar, it's because many of us who help veterans have been calling for them for years.)

The major components of the transformation plan that will be nationally deployed include:

- *The Intake Processing Center, which adds a formalized process for triaging claims documents and other mail, and drives faster and more accurate association of mail with Veterans' claims files;*
- *Segmented Processing Lanes, which allow claims that can be more easily rated to move quickly through the system and the more complex claims to be processed by VA's more experienced and skilled employees;*
- *Cross-Functional Teams, which support a case-management approach to claims processing that minimizes rework and reduces processing time; and*
- *The Veterans Benefits Management System, which is a new electronic claims processing system that employs rules-based technologies to improve decision speed and quality.*

VA has already nationally implemented:

- *Quality Review Teams, which are composed of dedicated local quality review specialists who will evaluate station and individual employee performance and conduct in-process reviews to eliminate errors at the earliest possible stage.*
- *Simplified and Standardized Rating Notification Letters, which give Veterans one simplified decision letter that provides notice of VA's decision, including a summary of the evidence considered and the reason for the decision.*

VA's transformation plan is based on more than 40 measures that were selected, evaluated, tested and measured from over 600 stakeholder and employee innovation ideas. Indianapolis is not included in the 12 regional offices to begin the deployment of the transformation initiatives in 2012. VA expects to deploy the transformation plan to the remaining 40 regional offices throughout calendar 2013.

Second, the catch-up adjudication workload due to the three disabilities added in 2010 to the Agent Orange presumptive list (diseases presumed to be related to exposure to the herbicide used in Southeast Asia), compounded by the Nehmer decision (which required the VA to consider presumptives retroactively for all past Vietnam veteran disability claimants), is about over. Nearly 230,000 claims have already been processed for ischemic heart disease, hairy cell and other chronic B-cell leukemias, and Parkinson's disease, including over 150,000 claims required to be adjudicated under the order of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California in *Nehmer v. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs*. Said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki, "We completed all of the Agent Orange *Nehmer* claims for living Veterans, and are now focusing on fewer than 500 remaining that will benefit survivors." Employees who have been assigned to these Agent Orange cases are being reassigned to the general backlog.

Third, the veteran claimants can now choose to use input from a private medical care provider in lieu of waiting for the initial VA "C&P" (compensation/pension) examination. The VA has 70 Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQs) for the private provider to complete and return to the VA. "Knee and Lower Leg Conditions" is one. Bad knees from humping a ruck up and down mountains? Download the knee DBQ from the www.va.gov website (do a search for "DBQ") have your doctor complete and sign it, and send it to the VA with your claim. The claimant gets an examiner he can trust and the VA saves time and money. Those of you who have had recent C&P exams no doubt noticed the VA examiner answering questions on a computer software program. Same idea and probably the same questions. The only negative I can see is the delay in submitting the claim caused by waiting for an appointment with your doctor and then for the doc to complete the DBQ. If the claim is filed within one year of separation from active duty, no big deal. The retroactive effective date of the compensation award will be the day after separation. If the vet is filing a claim for service connected disability more than a year after separation, I'd advise submitting the VA 21-526 as soon as possible and following with the DBQ later. The retroactive effective date will be the first day of the month after the month in which the VA date-stamped the first written indication of the claim. (Don't even consider filing a disability claim online – but that's another story.) Restated: if because of waiting for the DBQ to be completed your claim arrives at the VA regional office on 3 September whereas you could have sent the 21-526 to arrive on 20 August, your effective date will be 1 October instead of 1 September. If your compensation turns out to be \$435 per month (30% disabled vet with spouse) you just lost yourself \$435.

To summarize, most what I'm hearing about the VA disability claims processing system these days is positive – and that's the first time in decades I've been able to say that.

John Tilford – Service Officer

Chaplain's Thoughts

Greetings Fellow Patriots,

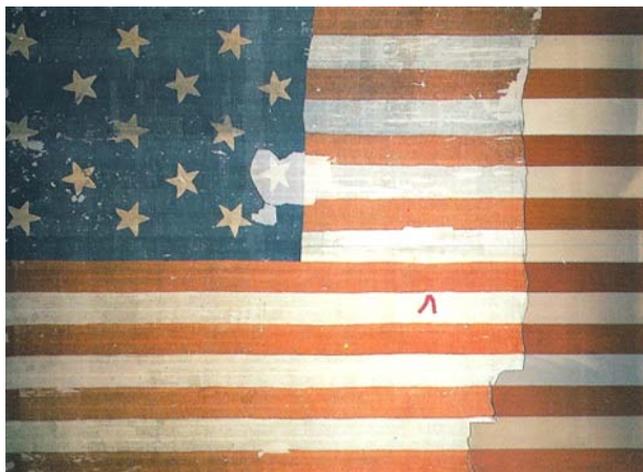
Can you believe it is already September! September is a transitional month; many are settling back into their school schedules, we are seeing the transition for the extreme heat of summer and the more welcomed pleasant days of fall and the transition from growing season to harvest time. There is much change in the air. But this is nothing new for this month, back in the time of the war of 1812 there was much transition at that time as well—you see, that is when Francis Scott Key wrote the lyrics to the poem "Defence of Fort McHenry" which was written on September 14, 1814 by the 35-year-old lawyer and amateur poet; after he had witnessed the bombardment of Fort McHenry by the British Royal Navy ships in Chesapeake Bay during the Battle of Fort McHenry in the War of 1812.

"The Star-Spangled Banner" is Key's poem set to the tune of a popular British song written by John Stafford Smith. "The Star-Spangled Banner" was recognized for official use by the Navy in 1889, and by President Woodrow Wilson in 1916, and was made the national anthem by a congressional resolution on March 3, 1931, which was signed by President Herbert Hoover.

There is something very special about this song; it has the power to evoke emotions like very few other songs can. It is a reminder to us of all the years of sacrifice that has been given in order for us to be given the stewardship of the "land of the free and the home of the brave?" My question to you is the question poised in the seventh and eighth lines of the first verse, (O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave, O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?) and how do we intend to pass this stewardship on to the next generations?

May God continue to Bless You and May God continue to Bless America!

Brian Stewart



"The Star-Spangled Banner"

O say can you see by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines in the stream:
'Tis the star-spangled banner, O! long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion,
A home and a country, should leave us no more?
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave:
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

O thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved home and the war's desolation.
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the Heav'n rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation!
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Electronic Newsletter Delivery

If you would rather receive the VFW Post 604 Newsletter in email verses a paper copy, please send an email to VFW-604@comcast.net with your name, email address, and a short message as to what the email is for. We will add you to the emailing list and send you this newsletter as your first emailing to confirm your request.

Aside from saving a tree and reducing production costs to the Post, you will likely receive it days earlier as it will be emailed to you when it is sent to the printers.

Mark Dammer - Quartermaster

Laurens B. Strain V.F.W. Post 604
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Phone: (812)-339-2375

604 Canteen – Friday Dinner Menu

Serving Fridays 1800 - 2100

Appetizers & Sides

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Battered Onion Rings..... | \$2.00 |
| Chicken Strips/Fries | \$4.50 |
| Cole Slaw | \$1.75 |
| Cottage Cheese..... | \$1.50 |
| French Fries | \$1.75 |
| Potato Salad..... | \$1.75 |
| Seasoned Waffle Fries | \$2.00 |

Sandwiches

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Breaded Chicken Sandwich | \$4.25 |
| Breaded Pork Tenderloin..... | \$4.75 |
| Cheeseburger | \$3.50 |
| Chili Dog..... | \$2.50 |
| Double Cheeseburger..... | \$4.75 |
| Fish Sandwich | \$5.25 |
| Grilled Cheese..... | \$2.75 |
| Grilled Pork Tenderloin..... | \$4.25 |
| Hamburger..... | \$3.25 |
| Patty Melt | \$4.00 |
| Philly Cheese Steak..... | \$5.00 |
| Steak Sandwich..... | \$4.50 |

All Sandwiches served with Pickle and Chips
Add Cheese/Deluxe for \$.25 each

September 21, 2012



POW/MIA Recognition Day

