

# VFW POST 604 NEWS

[WWW.VFW-604.ORG](http://WWW.VFW-604.ORG)

October 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

Dear Comrades,

As I complete another month as Commander, I have thoughts of both joy and trepidation.

The joy comes from the excellent help from the other officers and members of the Post and the Auxiliary that makes my job easier than I thought that it would be.

The trepidation comes from the slippage in some of the functions of the Post. The first area that I might address is the Friday night dinners. The quality of the food remains excellent, but the attendance is dropping. I'm at a loss to explain it, so I'm putting it to you the membership. Why are you not attending in the same numbers as previous months? Are you busy on some Friday nights and don't have the time for a sit down dinner at the Post? Is there too much sameness to the menu (If so what meals would you prefer)? Are there any other factors that limit your participation on Friday nights? Please share your thoughts with your officers.

Another area that concerns me is the lower attendance at the monthly meetings. We had a wonderful presentation by our Quartermaster about our level of income and charity giving. Unfortunately the meeting attendance was less than twenty, so we are having the business of the Post being decided by less than ten percent of our membership.

Please make every effort to attend the October (and subsequent) meeting(s).

If there are other things that you feel need correcting, please contact me or one of the other officers. The Post functions best when we're all on the same page and pushing towards a common goal. ❖

Yours in true Comradeship

**Commander – Roy Smith**

## VFW Auxiliary

October is upon us. It is that time of the year to start getting ready for winter. Here at the post, we will be doing the same thing – winter preparations. Starting with the outside – setting up work days to fix things up. We will be looking for some volunteers on Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup> from noon – 5PM to help us out. Bring your gardening tools, cleaning rags, and cleaning supplies – also, if you want – bring a few CDs with your favorite music, so we'll have something to listen to while we work.

Karen Cain gave me some information on our membership cards, here's what she wrote: "I just found out that with the installation of the computer system, Malta, at the National Headquarters, they are behind. They are telling me it will be six to eight weeks before we could see our membership cards arrive in the mail. In the interim, don't forget that your current Auxiliary membership card is good through December 31, 2017. If you are a new life member, I will be sending you a temporary card. You can call me if you have questions." Karen Cain, Membership Chairman – 812-327-1944.

We are still in need of volunteer bartenders. You can choose one night a week, or one night a month – or MORE if you prefer. We can also use some cook & runner volunteer help on Thursday and Friday nights. Any and all help is appreciated... it's a fun place to be!

Our monthly meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month. All Auxiliary members in good standings are welcome to attend. The meeting usually lasts about an hour.

We are putting up a wish list for Indiana Veterans. For the Indian Veteran's Home, there is a tote in the front hall if you would like to donate any of the items (new &

*See Auxiliary on Page 4*

## Me? On an Honor Flight to Washington, DC?

(I'm a Vietnam veteran!)

The national Honor Flight program began when one man, Earl Morse, realized that all too many of the World War II soldiers, sailors, Airmen, and Marines being honored by the National WWII Memorial were too old or infirm to travel to see it. Earl was a physician's assistant in a Dayton, Ohio VA clinic. During 2004 the Memorial was often in the news. Earl would ask his WWII patients if they were planning to go see it? Almost all said they could not: too old, too far, too expensive, too physically demanding. Earl, a retired Air Force Captain, and some of his private pilot friends took the first Honor Flight of six private planes and twelve WWII veterans to Washington, DC in May 2005 at no charge to the veterans. On 12 November 2008 we in Bloomington took our first group of Hoosier Honor Flight veterans to DC, ultimately carrying 278 veterans before running out of applications from WWII and Korean War vets and ceasing operations. (I should say 278 customer veterans because so many of the helpers who paid up to \$400 to go were veterans of more recent wars, such as Vietnam.)

And that, I thought, was the end of the local Honor Flight story. I was wrong. It was only the end of Phase I.

In 2011, Pam Mow (Gold Star mother herself and president of the Indiana Gold Star Mothers) and Grant Thompson (took his wife's Great Uncle Marvin, a WWII veteran and survivor of the Battle of the Bulge, then heard of Hoosier Honor Flight) requested assistance in starting their own Honor Flight hubs based in Lafayette and Indianapolis, respectively. Both the Greater Lafayette Honor Flight (seventeen flights as of 18 September 2017) and Indy Honor Flight (twenty-four as of 9 September 2017) are doing well. So well they have been taking Vietnam veterans.

Let me say that again: the Lafayette and Indianapolis honor flights are taking Vietnam veterans.

Pam asked me three times over the last couple of years to go on one of the Lafayette flights. I finally agreed a couple of months ago and went with 79 other Vietnam vets on the 18 September flight from Purdue Airport west of Lafayette. The Purdue Band played during our catered breakfast in a hanger. The World's Largest Drum and the Golden Girl were there. Each of us had a "guardian" whose sole task during the day was to take care of us. The guardians paid \$500 each for the

privilege. We flew directly into Reagan National Airport and rolled out in three tour buses toward the WWII Memorial. A guide provided non-stop commentary (history, geography, buildings, and jokes) along the way. Motorcycle police protected escorted our convoy through intersections, ignoring red lights. We were watered and fed enough during the day to bloat, but restrooms were at every stop and on the airplane and buses. Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam War Memorial, Korean War Memorial, Marine Corps Memorial (being restored), Air Force Memorial, Pentagon, and Arlington National Cemetery for the Changing of the Guard and to present our Honor Flight's wreath. Back to Reagan, walk right through security, on to the airplane and back. Back to hundreds of cheering people waving flags. Old, middle aged, young, and children. "Thank you for your service!" "Thank you for your service!" All wanting to shake your hand. I broke down at seeing the kids, gathered myself, then thanked them for being there and told them how much it meant.

Here are three URL/links and two telephone numbers for you:

Greater Lafayette Honor Flight:  
<http://www.greaterlafayettehonorflight.org/> or  
telephone 765-426-1245

Indy Honor Flight: <http://www.indyhonorflight.org/> or  
telephone 317-559-1600

And Joe Hardin's speech during the Monroe County Vietnam Veterans Day:  
<https://johnwtilford.com/2017/07/26/fifty-years-ago-more-or-less/>

We Vietnam veterans thought ourselves so young that we would only be helpers to the old veterans – well, we're not so young now and many of us have passed away. There are people now who want to thank us for our service just as we thanked the WWII and Korean War veterans. Welcome to Phase II.

I had a great, and personally touching, time on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September. Many of you now can too. I encourage Vietnam veterans to apply to Lafayette or Indianapolis. You will not regret it. ❖

**John Tilford – Service Officer**



Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

October 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	2 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	3	4	5  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	6  6PM - Boneless Pork Chop, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy & Corn \$7.00 Commander's Drawing 1900	7
8	9 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	10	11	12  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	13  6PM - Auxiliary Fish Dinner \$7.00 – All you can eat! Commander's Drawing 1900	14
15	16 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	17 Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 V.F.W. Aux – 1800	18	19  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	20  6PM - STEAK Night 10oz Rib eye – \$11.00! Commander's Drawing 1900	21
22  NASCAR!	23 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	24	25	26  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	27  6PM - Broccoli & Chicken Alfredo Dinner \$7.00 Commander's Drawing 1900	28
29	30 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	31				

(\* 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 # 144211

Raffle License # 1414210

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slightly used clothing will be accepted – as well as personal items - regular size or trial size items like shampoo. Our veterans thank you!

October Dates to Remember;

- October 13th – 6:00 PM – All you can eat Fish Dinner
- October 17th – 6:00 PM – Post Meeting
- October 22nd – Noon till 6PM – Tenderloin Sunday
- October 27th – 6:00 PM – Broccoli & Chicken Alfredo Dinner.

To those who've lost a loved one, our condolences go out to you. To those who are ill, a get well wish for your speedy recovery. To those in our military, may God bless you – God Bless America. ❖

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

*Any questions? Please feel free to call me – I will do my best to resolve it.*

## ***Renewing Membership***

Your continued membership is important to us. The V.F.W. and its Auxiliary are the life-blood of our post. 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. Dues shall be forwarded per the directions contained in the notice received by the member with the renewal form. If you do not receive a renewal notice, please contact the Post 604 Quartermaster.

## **TAPS**

### **Joseph P. (Joe) Zonkle**

CWO3, US Navy Retired and a Life Member VFW

### **Jake M. Ruppe**

Lt Col, US Army Retired and a Life Member VFW

### **James E. Jordan**

James was a Life Member VFW

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

James, Jake, and Joe will be missed by all the Men and Women of VFW Post 604 and the 7th District. ❖

**James C. Arnold, Chaplin**  
**VFW Post 604**

## **GHOST & GOBLINS—OH MY!!!**

Opps wrong show, but you get the idea—scary end of the month!!!

But we will stay brave, warm and cozy right here at Post 604 with our Friday Dinners because our **1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the Month Dinner Special** this month will be on **Friday Oct 6th** and since the weather is a little cooler we will be featuring our **Boneless Pork Chop with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy and Corn** 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!! **NASCAR SUNDAY—Oct 22nd** brought to you by The Auxiliary which means **Gigantic Hand-Dipped Breaded Tenderloins.** Not too many races left so you need to try it—c'mon out!! Can't beat the price—**\$6.00**. Post will Open at Noon—Close around 6:00 ish—probably later though!!

Then, just a few reminders for ya—**Texas Hold-em Tournament** every **Thursday**, starts at **7:00 p.m.** **The Aux.** presents their **FISH DINNER!!!** on **Oct 13th—Friday-** **\$7.00** all you can eat!! It is **GREAT!!** Then we go to our **3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the Month STEAK NIGHT (20th)!!** 10 oz. Ribeye with Baked Potato and Salad and Dessert all for just **\$11**. George & his crew do a great job on this dinner!!! Then the **4<sup>th</sup> Friday in the Month** comes along so be sure to read **The Auxiliary** news article for that dinner special!!!! **IT'S GOOD!!!!**

Now we have received comments on the quality of our steaks on steak night and rest assured that we are looking into bringing in a better cut of meat so bear with us and we would like to say **THANKS** for your continued support at your Post 604!!! ❖

**House Committee**

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

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# VFW Post 604 October Happenings

- Friday – October 6<sup>th</sup> – Boneless Pork Chop, Mashed Spuds, Gravy, Corn Dinner - \$7.00
- Friday - October 13<sup>th</sup> – Auxiliary Fish Dinner-all you can eat!! - \$7.00
- Friday - October 20<sup>th</sup> – STEAK NIGHT – 10 oz. Ribeye grilled to order - \$11.00
- Sunday - October 22<sup>nd</sup> – NASCAR - Gigantic Breaded Tenderloin Sandwiches - \$6.00
- Friday - October 27<sup>th</sup> – Broccoli & Chicken Alfredo Dinner – \$7.00

**EVERY THURSDAY AT 7PM**  
**TRY YOUR LUCK**  
**TEXAS HOLD 'EM TOURNAMENT & CASH GAME**