



September 2026

VFW Post 604 News

WWW.VFW-604.ORG

812-339-2375 / main@vfw-604.org



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

September is here; cooler temperatures and Fall is just around the corner. Football season is once again upon us as well, come join us for the first IU football game on September 5th, Amy Thomas bar tending. Come and we will have 'em on our TVs... Go Hoosiers!



VFW Post 604 obtained All American Status for being at 106% membership, great job and keep spreading the word about our organization as everyone has a part in our success.

The Monday food specials remain the same, with \$3.00 quarter pound Hotdogs and the ever-popular Smoked Pork Chop sandwich for Just \$5.00. Don't forget that we are also open on Tuesdays with our bar menu available as well.

Friday September 4th we will be having Aarons delicious Pulled Pork Sandwich, fries, and dessert only \$10.00.

We will be bringing back Steak night on Friday the September 18th, with a baked potato and vegetable including dessert, come out and enjoy a great meal for only \$15.00.

The Gerry Kisters Medal of Honor ceremony was held at Bloomington Airport on August 24th. See the article on the last page for more about Gerry Kisters.

Commander out... ❖

Commander – Dale Blubaugh
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Dale.blubaugh@gmail.com

VFW Auxiliary

Happy September! Hope it finds everyone well.

Chelle and I are heading to the National Home September 19th & 20th and I'll fill you in on the next newsletter about the exciting new changes we've been hearing about. As always, there's a "little blue house" collection box on the bar. We present a check each year when we go from all those donations. Thank you so much!

On October 4th, we're heading to the Indiana Veterans Home in Lafayette for the day to see the campus and visit with veteran residents. We'd love to have you join us for the day! 'll take as many as fit in my car. We'll be taking up goodies for them also. The Department's Hospital Committee is looking to collect coloring books, markers, puzzles, socks, and hats. There is a donation box in the front hallway at the Post.

Our District's School of Instruction for this year is September 13th from 2-4pm at Martinsville's VFW. If you're sort of half thinking of wanting to help a committee - or chair a committee - this is a great way to get introduced to all the great things that the VFWA does. No obligation, but there's just so much we can do and we need any help you can give.

Watch your mailbox for our annual letter for dues and other giving opportunities, including Wreaths Across America.

On November 10th our Auxiliary is hosting a Meet and Greet again at the VA Clinic in Bloomington. It will be from 8am-2pm. We'll have snacks and water and plan to visit with some of the veterans who are there for their appointments. We are looking for help manning the table. We currently have one spot from

See Auxiliary..... Continued on Page 2

Canteen News

Post hours of operation are:

Sunday..... 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Monday..... 12:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Tuesday..... 12:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Friday..... 4:00 PM – 10:00 PM
Saturday..... 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Happy Hours are:

5:00 - 7:00 PM Monday & Tuesday
4:00 - 6:00 PM Friday
3:00 - 5:00 PM Saturday & Sunday

2026-2027 VFW Post 604 Officers

Dale Blubaugh Commander
Aaron Dobrin Sr. Vice Commander
Cathi Johnson Jr. Vice Commander
Scott Tincher..... Quartermaster
Peter Chadwick..... Chaplain
Ken Sexton..... Judge Advocate
Richard "Moe" Moldenhauer. Surgeon
Debbie Deckard Adjutant
Debbie Deckard 1 Yr. Trustee
Will Warner 2 Yr. Trustee
Bradley Mobley 3 Yr. Trustee

2026-2027 VFW Post 604 Auxiliary Officers

Carol Rowan-Ozug President
Mike Pipher Sr. Vice President
Julie Martin..... Jr. Vice President
Michelle Brown Treasurer
Karen Cain..... Secretary
Greg Johnson..... Conductor
Jenny Tracy..... Patriotic Instructor
Kathy Norris..... Guard
Sara Dobrin..... Chaplain
Julie Martin..... 1 Yr. Trustee
Kenya Blubaugh..... 2 Yr. Trustee
Kathy Norris..... 3 Yr. Trustee



IU Football game Saturday
September 5th. Doors will open at 11
am. Game on TVs at noon. Hotdogs
for \$2.00, Nachos and Cheese \$2.00,
French Fries \$2.00, and free popcorn.
At halftime the winner of the Football

Basket raffle will be pulled. Wear your cream and
crimson and cheer the Bison's on.

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10:00 – 11:00 and 2 open spots from 1:00 – 2:00. You
are welcome to come anytime and visit with the vets -
those are just the 2 times that need more help. Please
see Jenny Tracy or text her at 812-320-3871 if you can
fill a slot. And thank you!

The Veterans and Family Services committee is again
accepting donations of personal toiletry products, and
those donations can go in the box in the hallway as
well.

Our meals will again be Lasagna on September 11th
and Pork Tenderloin Sandwiches on September 25th –
Still just \$10 per person. We are not serving lettuce
with the meals currently until we feel that it's again
safe.

Please consider joining us on meeting nights!
Always on the 3rd Tuesday evening at 6pm in the lower
level. And I bring candy!

This month's drawing- Sherry Farmer - NS/NP

If you are ill, I wish you better health. If you've lost a
loved one, I wish you peace. ❖

Carol Rowan-Ozug – Auxiliary President

(812)325-3377 crowanozug@gmail.com



Date	Member Drawn	\$Pot\$	Result
07/31	George Kristoff	\$1,000	Not Signed
08/07	Millie Briles	\$1,305	Not Signed
08/14	Leslie Martin	\$1,515	Not Signed
08/21	Danielle White	\$1,735	Not Signed
08/28	Brian Christensen	\$1,955	Not Signed

Open to members in good standing
\$5 to play – Sign up – Who wins, who knows?
Be here Friday @ 7:00 PM – if your # is drawn – get it all!

September

Open 1200 - 1800	Open 1200 - 2100	Open 1200 - 2100	CLOSED	CLOSED	Open 1600 - 2200	Open 1200 - 1800
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 	2  CLOSED	3 CLOSED *Vet to Vet – 1800	4 Serving 1730 – 1930 Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Fries & Dessert \$10 Open to the Public	5 Open 11:00 – ???? Hotdogs, Nachos & Cheese, and French Fries – each \$2.00, free popcorn. 
6 Souper Sunday !!! Serving 1200 – 1600	7  Hot Dog Monday \$3.00 Chips & Fixin's  Open to the Public	8 	9 CLOSED	10 CLOSED *Vet to Vet – 1800	11 Serving 1730 – 1930 Lasagna, Garlic Bread, & Salad  Patriot Day \$10 Open to the Public	12 Smoked Porkchop Sandwich \$5.00 Serving 1200 – 1730
13 Souper Sunday !!! Serving 1200 – 1600	14  Hot Dog Monday \$3.00 Chips & Fixin's Open to the Public	15 Until 1800  Meetings V.F.W. 1800 V.F.W. Auxiliary 1800	16 CLOSED	17 CLOSED *Vet to Vet – 1800	18 Serving 1730 – 1930 STEAK NIGHT, BAKED POTATO, VEGGIE, & DESSERT \$15  Open to the Public	19 Smoked Porkchop Sandwich \$5.00 Serving 1200 – 1730
20 Souper Sunday !!! Serving 1200 – 1600	21  Hot Dog Monday \$3.00 Chips & Fixin's Open to the Public	22 Autumn Begins 	23 CLOSED	24 CLOSED *Vet to Vet – 1800	24 Serving 1730 – 1930 Grilled or Breaded Pork Tenderloin Sandwiches \$10 Open to the Public	26 Smoked Porkchop Sandwich \$5.00 Serving 1200 – 1730
27 Souper Sunday !!! Serving 1200 – 1600 Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day 	28  Hot Dog Monday \$3.00 Chips & Fixin's	29  Established 1899 	30 CLOSED			

September Dates of Interest:

September 2nd – U.S. Dept of Treasury founded 1789
 September 2nd – Pacific War V-J Day 1945
 September 7th – Labor Day
 September 11th – Patriot Day / Remember 9/11/2001
 September 16th – American Legion Incorporated 1919
 September 17th – U.S. Constitution Signed 1787
 September 18th – POW/MIA Recognition Day
 September 18th – U.S. Air Force Birthday 1947
 September 23rd – Emancipation Proclamation published
 September 27th – Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day
 September 28th – U.S. Navy abolishes flogging 1850
 September 29th – VFW Established 1899



7th District Auxiliary August meeting in Martinsville. Pictured with VFW Auxiliary Department of Indiana President Carolyn Patch are (left to right) Post 604 Auxiliary officers: Secretary Karen Cain, President Carol Rowan-Ozug, Guard Kathy Norris, and Treasurer Michelle Brown.

****Help Restore the Deck at Our Post!****

Our VFW Post's outdoor deck has been the heart of countless gatherings—veterans swapping stories, families enjoying eating outdoors, and friends raising a glass in the open air. Years of use, weather, and wear have taken their toll, and it's time to repair and restore this special space, so it can continue serving our members and community for years to come.

We're launching fundraising efforts to get the job done, and we need your support!

- Ways to Help-

50/50 Raffles - Buy a ticket, take a chance, and help the Post at the same time. Half the pot goes to a lucky winner; the other half goes straight to the deck restoration fund.

Bacon Raffles - Because everything's better with bacon! - Enter for a chance to win delicious bacon while supporting a great cause.

God Bless Our Vets Stickers - We are selling these for \$1.⁰⁰ each.

USA Flag Drive - For every \$5.⁰⁰ donation, you'll receive a beautiful 3' x 5' American flag. Show your patriotism and help rebuild the deck at the same time—it's a win-win!

Every dollar raised will go toward materials, labor, and improvements needed to make the deck safe, sturdy, and welcoming once again.

Stop by the Post, talk to a member, or reach out to learn how you can get involved. Whether you grab a 50/50 ticket, purchase a sticker, enter the bacon raffle, or pick up a flag with your donation, you're helping preserve a place that means so much to our veterans and their families.

Thank you for standing with us. Let's get this deck restored together!

September is National Suicide Prevention Month

Reduce suicide rates & lessen the stigma of mental illness, addiction, depression and PTS(D) with the following resources:



Visit <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net> and click on topics under "Education and Advice."



Learn the Five Signs that may mean someone is in emotional pain and might need help:
<https://www.changedirection.org/#five-signs>



Purchase the Auxiliary Suicide Awareness Prevention Pin from the VFW Store:
<http://vfwstore.org/products/32033>



Share the Veterans Crisis Line number:
Dial 988, then press one.



"Don't Wait, Reach Out." Learn more here:
<https://www.va.gov/montana-health-care/stories/tackling-self-stigma-to-strengthen-your-recovery-journey/>

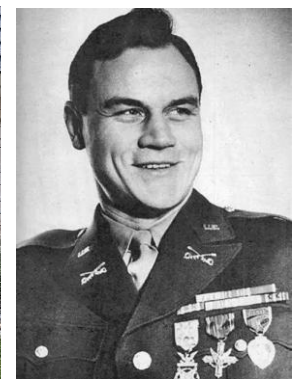
September is National Suicide Prevention Month, and the VFW Auxiliary is committed to changing the stigma surrounding mental health in America. Below are some ways you can help to lessen the stigma surrounding depression and mental illness and decrease the number of veteran suicides.

- Visit <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net> and click on topics under "Education and Advice" for resources.
- Learn the Five Signs that may mean someone is in emotional pain and might need help: <https://www.changedirection.org/#five-signs>
- Purchase the Auxiliary Suicide Awareness Prevention Pin from the VFW Store: <http://vfwstore.org/products/32033>. When someone asks you about your pin, tell them that the VFW Auxiliary is concerned about the rates of suicides among veterans and military service members; we want everyone to be aware of the unique stresses they face.
- Share the Veterans Crisis Line number: dial 988, then press 1.
- Encourage those struggling with the mantra "Don't Wait, Reach Out," coined by VA Peer Support Specialist Janie Hall.

Learn more here: <https://www.va.gov/.../tackling-self-stigma-to.../>

Even one death by suicide is one too many.

Gerry Kisters, was the first American soldier in World War II to receive both the Medal of Honor and the Distinguished Service Cross. His historical marker was erected at the Monroe County Airport – 972 Airport Road, also named Kisters' Field in 1944.



Kisters was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, to a family that had worked in the fur trade for generations; his family moved to Bloomington, Indiana, in 1937, where his father opened a fur shop. Kisters worked for his father and then opened his own fur shop in Vincennes, Indiana, operating it for several years before he was drafted in January 1941. He was assigned to a reconnaissance unit training at Fort Bliss, Texas.

By 1942 Kisters' unit, formerly attached to the 1st Cavalry, had become an independent unit, the 91st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron. At the end of 1942 they were sent to Casablanca to join the Tunisian campaign. On May 7, 1943, Kisters, now a staff sergeant, surprised and killed the crew of a German 88 mm artillery gun, earning a Distinguished Service Cross.

By July 31, 1943, Kisters' unit was attached to the 2nd Armored Division, then involved in the Allied invasion of Sicily. On that day, near Gagliano, Sicily, he and an officer captured an enemy machine gun position. Kisters then went forward alone and, although wounded in both legs and his right arm on his approach, single-handedly captured a second machine gun emplacement. He was subsequently promoted to second lieutenant and, on February 18, 1944, was awarded his Distinguished Service Cross and the Medal of Honor. He was the first American soldier to be awarded both during World War II. He was featured in war bond drives and the Monroe County Airport was named Kisters' Field in his honor.

Kisters was sent back to the U.S. and spent months recovering from his injuries. After his recovery he taught reconnaissance at Fort Riley in Kansas and reached the rank of first lieutenant. After the war he reopened his fur shop and became a successful businessman.

He died at age 67 and was buried at Rose Hill Cemetery in Bloomington, Indiana.