

VFW POST 604 NEWS

June 2011

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

This is to let everyone know that our new officers were sworn in at our monthly meeting on May 17, 2011. Tom Atkinson, our District Quartermaster from Spencer, gave us the oath of office. 2012 officers will take office on June 18th 2011.

I want to thank all of the officers who served this past year. It wasn't easy to perform their duties without having the Post open, but they did an excellent job under the circumstances. We will be listing the new officers so everyone will know who to contact.

I know this year will be a great one for Post 604. We are waiting for the City of Bloomington to get back to us on our Occupancy Permit. It should be soon, hopefully this week. Keep the faith. We are knocking on the door.

Commander - Joe Hardin

Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

Hello everyone, it's newsletter time again. This month we gave the BURN CENTER of Indiana \$500.00 also \$500.00 to help buy flags for Memorial Day, in memory of our dead servicemen of all wars.

Thanks for all the pop tabs this month, Felix & Rose Boatwright brought in 23 pounds. Also Mary Figg, Kathy Hardin, Dorothy Elliott, Millie Briles, and others I have missed.

The annual sale of Buddy Poppies by the Veterans of Foreign (VFW) of the United States has been officially recognized and endorsed by government leaders since 1922. In 1955 it became a national program. The basic purpose of the annual sale of Buddy Poppies by the

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Ladies Auxiliary

Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

The two most important activities for the Men's Auxiliary these days are pretty straightforward. First, we need to stand ready to pitch in and help the Post in its efforts to reopen the doors. All Auxiliary members should try to squeeze out a few hours on Saturday, June 4 as we work to install trees and plants around the Post. The plants are one of the few remaining checklist items being required by county officials before they will issue an occupancy permit. The more people who show up to help on June 4th, the faster the work will be completed and we'll all have a chance to celebrate. If you really want to feel good about something, try investing some of your own sweat equity into that project.

The other activity we need to be moving on is membership. With the Post opening imminent, it's time to renew old memberships and sign up new members. Once the doors open, the Post will once again turn to the Men's Auxiliary to help plan and execute activities. We will need warm bodies to do that. Dues remain \$25 and we are now issuing membership cards for the 2012 administrative year.

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Men's Auxiliary



Space A for 100% Service Connected Disabled Veterans - Legislative Update.

The good: United States Representative Todd Young, Indiana 9th District [includes Bloomington] has been briefed on our proposal to extend Space Available travel eligibility to 100% service connected disabled veterans. Representative Young's reaction was generally positive, but the freshman Congressman is feeling his way through the legislative process and is considering introducing a House Resolution (an "H.R." or a "bill") in support of our goal during the window of opportunity as the next Department of Defense budget bill is put together.

The not-so-good: Senator Mark Begich of Alaska introduced S. 542 to provide Space A eligibility to ". . . members of the reserve components, a member or former member of a reserve component who is eligible for retired pay but for age, widows and widowers of retired members, and dependents."

Representative Don Young of Alaska introduced H.R. 1003 to provide Space A eligibility to ". . . Reserve members, former members of a reserve component, and unremarried surviving spouses and dependents of such members and former members."

Comments of your Post 604 Service Officer: We can't fault Representative Todd Young for not jumping right on our proposal. It would make little sense to do so until the time is right, and he's doing his what-time-is-right homework now. Young's Washington, DC legislative manager called to give me a status report both before and after his meeting with Representative Young. We could not ask for any more at this point, and this is a LOT more than any other Congressional office has done for us.

HOWEVER, I have problems with both Senator Begich's and Representative Don [not Todd] Young's bills. Both propose Space A eligibility for current reserve [includes National Guard] members. Sounds great. Guard and reserve members are in Afghanistan and Iraq right now. BUT, currently participating reserve members already HAVE Space A eligibility for all the United States [including Hawaii] and to and from all United States possessions, such as Puerto Rico and Guam. When they are fully retired they will have full eligibility wherever Space A flights go around the world, just as retirees from the active components do. Some would argue that both these bills would just extend the range of Space A for current reserve members. I'd argue that each Space A seat taken by a current reservist – to go, say, to Ramstein – could be a seat lost to our 100% service connected disabled veterans. Who deserves it more?

Both Begich and Don Young want "gray area" reservists to have full Space A eligibility. These reservists and National Guard members have already

put in enough good years to draw military retirement when they reach their appropriate age. (Remember, there are now laws on the books to reduce the reserve retirement age below 60 for members mobilized after 2008, and there are proposals to make that date retroactive to 2001.) When gray area retirees reach their personal real retirement age they will have full Space A eligibility. I don't object too much to this provision, but again, Space A seats for gray area reservists would be that many less for 100% service connected disabled veterans. Also again, who deserves it more?

Both Begich and Don Young want unremarried surviving spouses of Space A eligible service members or of members who died in the line of duty to have their own Space A eligibility. I can't disagree with this proposal at all. In fact, in some respects it's very similar to our proposal. A WWII unremarried widow could travel to Omaha Beach where her husband died, just as a WWII veteran who is 100% service connected disabled could travel to where he or she was wounded. I don't think any of the 100% vets we know would object at all if the person in front of them in the Space A boarding line was an unremarried surviving spouse.

I sincerely hope the "short title" of Representative Don Young's bill [provided above] is misleading. The actual text of this bill is very similar to Senator Begich's bill which does NOT include Space A for "former members of a reserve component". If Don Young's bill really does mean to include such former members, then all the Vietnam War avoiders who lined up to enlist in the Guard and reserve in the late 1960s and early 1970s would get Space A privileges. If Don Young's idea is for these "former members of a reserve component" to have Space A eligibility, he ought to have his head examined. Let's hope he meant "gray area retirees" and just didn't know the difference. Even if there was a way to separate the good former members from the bad – and there isn't – Space A eligibility for one reserve enlistment is a little too generous in my opinion. Certainly in comparison to how much 100% service connected disabled veterans deserve this benefit.

If you want to thank Representative Todd Young for considering our proposal for Space A eligibility for 100% service connected disabled veterans, his mailing address [let's not overload his office with calls] is -

Congressman Todd Young
1721 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

John Tilford - Post Service Officer

Veterans of Foreign Wars is eloquently reflected in the desire to "Honor the Dead by Helping the Living."

Patty Pate and Janet Williams attended the District meeting at Martinsville for district's election of new officers for this year. District had a big turn out and a good meal.

A little history

1899 Returning War Veterans organize, laying groundwork for Veterans of Foreign Wars.

1914 Ladies Auxiliary to Veterans of Foreign Wars organizes in Pittsburg and in

1924 -VFW Auxiliary Messenger becomes the first official auxiliary publication.

more history next month...

Come play Bingo on Thursday at 5.30 P.M. and Saturday at 2:30 P.M. These times are when doors open at the Eagles Lodge 1085 located at 3100 South Walnut Street, Bloomington \$\$\$ GOOD LUCK \$\$\$

Janet Williams, President VFW Ladies Auxiliary

VFW Ladies Aux Elect 2012 Officers



(L-R) Mary Figg (Jr. Vice), Rita Bruce (Conductress), Janet Williams (President), Dorothy Elliott (Guard), Joyce Grubb (Chaplin), Pat Robertson (Trustee), Patty Pate (Treasurer), Millie Briles (Sr. Vice), Wilma Hays (Patriotic Instructor / Trustee), Kathy Hardin (Secretary) - Not pictured - Susie DuMond (Trustee)

If you want to politely advise Senator Begich and Representative Don Young of what you think of their ideas regarding Space A eligibility . . . and that maybe they should include 100% service connected disabled veterans . . .

See article on page 2

Senator Begich
111 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Telephone (202) 224 - 3004

Congressman Don Young
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Telephone (202) 225-5765

Conditions Recognized for Presumptive Service Connection OEF/OIF and Gulf War Veterans.

VA has determined that the following conditions are presumed service-connected for Veterans who served in certain regions during Operational Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom.

Brucellosis, Malaria, Shigella, Campylobacter jejuni, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, Visceral leishmaniasis, Coxiella burnetii (Q Fever), Nontyphoid salmonella, West Nile virus.

For OIF and Gulf War Veterans, VA has determined that the following conditions are presumed service-connected for Veterans who served in certain regions during Operational Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and Iraqi Freedom.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Fibromyalgia, and Irritable Bowel Syndrome.

Presumptive Service-Connected means that VA acknowledges that a condition is service connected even without direct evidence showing that it was incurred during military service. However, claims must still be filed by these Veterans to be considered for disability compensation. VA encourages veterans with these conditions to apply for VA disability compensation. For more information visit www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/associated_illnesses.asp

Purple Heart Eligibility Revised

Both the Army and the Marine Corps will allow more battlefield concussions to be eligible for the Purple Heart. The decision to expand the definition for concussions means thousands of Purple Heart medals could be going to soldiers and Marines who may have been denied in the past. The new eligibility still requires all injuries to be the result of direct or indirect enemy action. The change is retroactive to September 11, 2001.

- Soldiers should reapply through their chain of command; Army veterans can call 888-276-9472 or send an e-mail to hrc.tagd.awards@conus.army.mil
Read more at <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/index.asp>
- Marines should consult the Commandant's coordinating instructions at http://www.marines.mil/news/messages/Pages/MAR_ADMIN245-11.aspx/
Read more at <http://www.marines.mil/unit/hqmc/Pages/Marineswithconcussion,mildbraininjuryqualifyforPurpleHeart.aspx>

The Departments of the Air Force and Navy are still considering regulation changes.

VFW Post - 604 Elects 2012 Officers



Front (L-R) Joe Hardin (Commander), District 7 Quartermaster Tom Atkinson, James Smith (Surgeon), Bob Lanning (Adjutant/Trustee), Roy Smith (Chaplin)
Rear (L-R) Leonard Heldman (House Committee), Jim May (Trustee), John Martin (House Committee), Bill Halliday (Sr. Vice), Mark Dammer (Quartermaster)
Not pictured - Cathi Johnson (House Committee), John Tilford (Service Officer), Tom Vernon (Judge Advocate), Ty Briles (Jr. Vice)

For the next several weeks - Please call ahead to confirm whether the Post Canteen is open

Laurens B. Strain - VFW Post 604

June 2011

	10:00AM – 10:00PM	10:00AM – 10:00PM	10:00AM – 10:00PM	10:00AM – 10:00PM	10:00AM – 10:00PM	10:00AM – 10:00PM
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Landscaping Working Party at Post 604 Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
5	6 * Vet to Vet – 1900	7	8	9 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	10	11 Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
12	13 * Vet to Vet – 1900	14	15	16 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	17	18 Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
19	20 * Vet to Vet – 1900	21 Men's Aux Mtg – 1800 Ladies Aux Mtg - 1900 (Eagles) V.F.W. Mtg – 1800	22	23 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	24	25 Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
26	27 * Vet to Vet – 1900	28	29	30 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730		

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

Telephone Numbers
Post 604 – Canteen (812) 339-2375

PPT License # 124405
Raffle License # 124404

Bingo License # 121844

Post Officers

VFW Post 604			Men's Auxiliary to VFW Post 604			Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 604		
Commander	Joe Hardin	(812) 334-8479	President	Mike Pipher	(812) 334-0748	President	E. Janet Williams	(812) 876-3676
Senior Vice Commander	Bill Halliday	(812) 360-4862	Senior Vice President	Joe Crawford	(812) 330-1343	Senior Vice President	Millie Briles	(812) 336-8409
Junior Vice Commander	Ty Briles	(812) 360-6518	Junior Vice President	Mark Sink	(812) 336-4566	Junior Vice President	Mary Figg	(812) 876-4971
Quartermaster	Mark Dammer	(812) 824-3367	Treasurer	Mike Griffith	(812) 349-2563	Treasurer	Patty Pate	(812) 339-6045
Adjutant	Bob Lanning	(812) 327-7953	Secretary	Mike Griffith	(812) 349-2563	Secretary	Kathy Hardin	(812) 334-8479
Chaplin	Roy Smith	(812) 626-9829	Chaplin	Eric Sink	(812) 336-4566	Chaplin	Joyce Grubb	(812) 336-6447
Service Officer	John Tilford	(812) 336-5574				Patriotic Instructor	Wilma Hays	(812) 332-5329
1 Year House Committee	Cathi Johnson	(812) 876-5745						
2 Year House Committee	Leonard L Heldman	(812) 361-9129						
3 Year House Committee	John Martin	(812) 339-1113						

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

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

"Oldest Post in the State"

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Phone: (812)-339-2375

So, you ask, "How long has Bloomington had a VFW Post ?" – See Elkhart photo below. (Lodging was a bit primitive)



Bloomington VFW Representatives - 4th Annual State convention June 19, 1925