
VFW POST 604 NEWS

August 2010

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

Hello everyone! As the new post commander, I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that we are working hard to get our new home opened as soon as possible.

It has been an uphill battle, but we are getting close to being at the top. With the leadership of Trustee Ed Mauritson, the construction of the building is moving along. We are trying to get the upstairs finished so we can open up as soon as possible. Then we can continue to remodel the downstairs so we can accommodate our bingo and other activities at a later date.

We had a meeting of officers from the Post, Ladies Auxiliary and Men's Auxiliary to come up with some ideas on our grand opening. This will be a new

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Ladies Auxiliary Elect new Officers

Our 2010 – 2011 Officers are:

(President) E. Janet Williams
(Sr. Vice) Millie Briles
(Jr. Vice) Mary Figg
(Treasurer) Patty Pate
(Secretary) Kathy Hardin
(Conductor) Rita Bruce
(Chaplin) Joyce Grubb
(Guard) Dorothy Elliott
(Treasure) Patty Pate
(Trustee) 1 year Pat Robertson
(Trustee) 2year Wilma Hays
(Trustee) 3year Susie Dumont
(Patriotic Instructor) Wilma Hays

We can't thank our Volunteers enough for all the days & hours they have worked to get our Post Home open. They never gave up thinking where there's a will there's a way. We still need volunteers to get our post cleaned up inside. Chairs, tables, and bath room painting. We still have our same telephone number (339-2375). Leave a message with a time you can help. Don't forget its dues time. If you have moved or changed your phone number let Patty know at 339-6045. Consider, you will not get the newsletter without correct information. We are planning on having the grand opening soon.

Janet Williams, President

Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

It may not be spring, but we're seeing a lot of things sprout to life around Post 604 these days. Men's Auxiliary members are jumping in alongside everyone else to help finish renovation work at the new Post. We're also starting to see guys renewing memberships that have remained dormant over the past year.

Here are four ways you can lend a hand with the Men's Auxiliary:

1) Contact Ed Mauritson and offer to do some

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beginning for the post and, with the help and participation of everyone; we can again have a post that we can all be proud of.

I am looking forward to announcing our opening date in the near future. If we all work together, we can make this happen soon. We have our walk-in cooler up and running and our kitchen, dining area and bar area is almost complete.

If you have some time to volunteer, please let us know. Hope to see you all soon.

Commander - Joe Hardin

CAN YOU HEAR ME?

HEARING LOSS AND TINNITUS!

Probably the most overlooked and under claimed service connected disabilities are hearing loss and tinnitus. Many veterans consider hearing loss and tinnitus (ringing or turbine-like whining noise in the ears) as normal due to getting older. However, service often exposed these veterans to an intensity and frequency of noises they would not have experienced otherwise.

Similar to other service connected disabilities, there is no time limit for filing a claim for hearing loss or tinnitus. The VA must formally determine a cause-and-effect relationship between the claimant's military service and current disabilities in order to determine service connection.

VA regional offices look favorably on hearing loss and tinnitus claims from those with combat exposure, and for whose military skill codes ("MOS") indicate artillery, flight line duty, and similar high noise specialties. Veterans with VA-perceived low noise MOS's are commonly initially turned down and must document their exposure - such as, "Yes, I was a medic, but I was under mortar fire along with the grunts" or "Yes, I did electric repair, but I also maintained the big generators 24/7" or "Yes, I was a supply clerk in Iraq, but do the names Jessica Lynch and Shoshana Johnson mean anything to you?"

Buddy statements from former service members who can attest to the claimant's exposure to loud noises are helpful: "We had to write notes to (claimant) for days after the mine went off under his tank. He was deaf as a post!" Claimants should also address the hearing protection issue: Combat

vets did not use hearing protection because they were listening for the enemy and were required to hear commands. Many veterans of the 1950s and 1960s did not use hearing protection because it was not provided.

High frequency hearing loss and tinnitus go together so much that the VA examines for both at the same time. "Raise your right hand when you hear the tone in your right ear." "Repeat the words I read to you back to me," and "Describe what the 'ringing' in your ears sounds like." Very few hearing loss ratings are more than zero percent because most people can accurately repeat almost all of the loudly and clearly spoken words back to the examiner. Hearing loss cases with a 55 decibel or more average loss across the 1000, 2000, 3000, and 4000 hertz range use a special rating chart and are commonly rated around 20 and 30 percent.

Tinnitus ratings are always 10 percent, currently \$123 in monthly compensation.

Don't forget, a 10 percent disabled veteran's kids get free tuition and fees at Indiana state-supported schools; the veteran gets a property tax deduction of \$24,650 with wartime service, pays no co-pay for an office visit to any VA medical facility, and can apply for VA vocational rehabilitation - the best education program in the world.

Ironically, a 10 percent service connected rating for any disability is the eligibility requirement for free hearing aids from the VA.

For more details see our Post Service Officer

Members of the Veterans Honor Guard at Operation Comedy Buskirk Theater in May - Proceeds supported Monroe County Veterans Groups.



Volunteers Needed

It doesn't matter what skills you have to offer, there is still plenty to do, from cleaning and decorating, to carpentry and landscaping. All help is welcome!!!

Contact the Commander or Ed Mauritsen to coordinate.



Under Construction - POST 604 Dining Room Area.

Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

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work out at the Post. You don't have to possess a particular construction skill, although plumbers, electricians and carpenters are sorely needed.

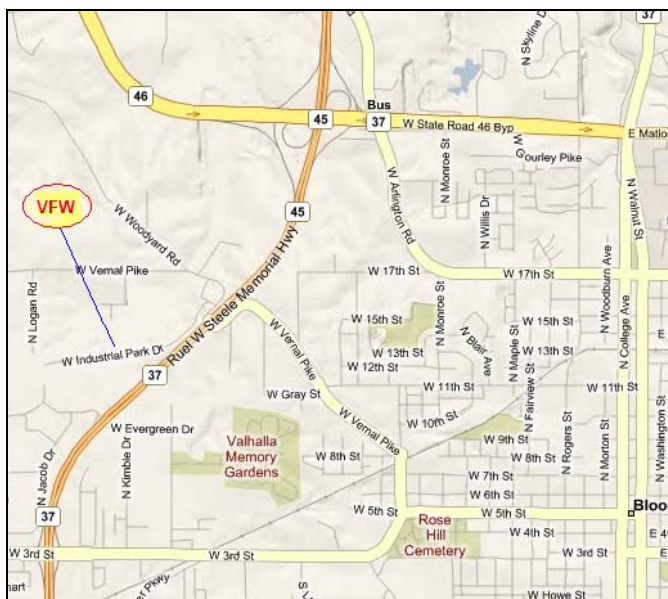
- 2) Send your \$25 dues in now and we will mail your 2011 membership card right back to you.
- 3) Help us locate these people whose addresses seem to have changed (Larry Fleener / Kenneth Sparks / Matt Rogers / Gary Henson / Travis Bland).
- 4) Contact Bill Halliday and offer to volunteer some time as a bartender (you will need a valid license) or cook at the new Post. Once we get the doors open to the public, we'll need to operate on a volunteer basis until we can get the Post back on its feet financially.

Our next meeting will be held August 17 at The American Legion. If we all get behind the effort, we'll soon be able to hold our meetings at the new Post.

Everything we do is geared toward assisting those who have served the nation on our behalf.

Mike Pipher, President

Our new post (see map for location) is still under construction, if you would like come by and tour the building. Please call the Commander to coordinate a convenient time.



INDIANA WAR HISTORY RECORD

Military Service of
LAURENS BENNETT STRAIN - Gold Star
WORLD WAR
1917 – 1918

Laurens Bennett Strain, son of Homer E. and Viola Bennett Strain, was born April 6, 1897 in Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana. As a child and a school-boy he was of a happy and jovial disposition, thus he made friends of all with whom he came in contact. He united with the First Presbyterian Church, Bloomington, Indiana at the age of ten and sang in the choir for a number of years. He was educated in the schools of the city, and at the time of his enlistment, was taking voice culture from Mr. David Baxter of Chicago, Illinois.

Laurens enlisted soon after the United States declared war on Germany being inducted into the service on May 3, 1917 in Bloomington, Indiana. As a Private in the Infantry, he was initially sent to Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Missouri. From there, he was assigned to the 20th Infantry and sent to Ft. Bliss, Texas. After one week at Ft. Bliss, Laurens was assigned to the Machine Gun Company of the 7th Regiment of the Regular Army and sent to The National Park, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania where he received his military training.

On October 2, 1917, Laurens was promoted to Corporal and placed in Company D, 4th Machine Gun Battalion, 2nd Division as Company Clerk. He embarked from Portland, Maine December 24, 1917, sailing on the Canada of the Red Star Line, and arrived in England on January 7, 1918.

He then sailed from Southampton, England to Le Havre, France and then traveled to Bourmont, France, arriving there on January 14, 1918. Here he was assigned as Corporal in Company A, 5th Machine Gun Battalion, 2nd Division and trained with the 9th and 23rd Infantry Regulars until March. In the middle of March, this newly formed Battalion to which he was assigned became part of the 3rd Brigade and left its training center for trench life and warfare in a sector near Verdun.

At his own request on April 25th, Laurens was transferred to Company C, 5th Machine Gun Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division as Private, remaining in the Verdun sector from March 15th to May 20th. On June 7, 1918, he fell in action in the Battle of Belleau Woods. A letter from the Adjutant General's Office relative to the death and location of the grave of Private Laurens Bennett Strain (serial number 107264) Company C, 5th Machine Gun Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, reports that according to the commanding officer of the 5th Machine Gun Battalion, Private Strain was struck in the head by a machine gun bullet on June 7, 1918 between 12:00 and 12:30 A.M. He was buried the next day close to the battle line in (?) de Claremboui, Department of the Marne, just off the Paris - Metz National Road and near the village of Coupru, Department of the Marne. Later, the body was disinterred and re-buried in the American Battle Area, Aisne (Grave 79, plot 2, Section C, American Cemetery, #1764 Belleau, Aisne). Then in August 1921, the body of Laurens Bennett Strain was returned to the United States and interred in Rose Hill Cemetery, Bloomington, Indiana on August 26, 1921.

Taken from a record compiled by Mrs. Homer E. Strain
527 N Washington St
Bloomington, Indiana

VFW Post 604 – Laurens B. Strain

August 2010

Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Vet to Vet – 1900 @ IVY TECH Room A118 200 Daniels Way, Blmgtn	3	4 U.S. Coast Guard Day	5 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	6	7 Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
8	9 Vet to Vet – 1900 @ IVY TECH Room A118 200 Daniels Way, Blmgtn	10	11	12 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	13	14 VJ Day Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
15	16 Vet to Vet – 1900 @ IVY TECH Room A118 200 Daniels Way, Blmgtn	17 Men's Aux Mtg – 1800 (American Legion) Ladies Aux Mtg - 1900 (Eagles) V.F.W. Mtg – 1900 (American Legion)	18	19 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	20	21 Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
22	23 Vet to Vet – 1900 @ IVY TECH Room A118 200 Daniels Way, Blmgtn	24	25	26 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	27	28 Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
29	30 Vet to Vet – 1900 @ IVY TECH Room A118 200 Daniels Way, Blmgtn	31				

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

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	Tony Halliday	(812) 369-0866	Senior Vice President	Joe Crawford	(812) 330-1343	Senior Vice President	Millie Briles	(812) 336-8409
Junior Vice Commander	Bill Halliday	(812) 360-4862	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	Ben Powell	(812) 219-9851	Secretary	Mike Griffith	(812) 349-2563	Secretary	Kathy Hardin	(812) 334-8479
Chaplin	Roy Smith	(317) 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	Phil Pate	(812) 331-7422						
2 Year House Committee	Tom Vernon	(812) 332-1250						
3 Year House Committee	Leonard Heldman	(812) 361-8214						

Vet to Vet

Vet to Vet is a local veteran's organization committed to helping veterans achieve recovery from the psychiatric and adjustment problems the veteran may face. Veterans can feel disconnected from themselves and from other people. With help, the Vet can regain a connection with people. They can gain back some of what they lost. "This is a process, but if we work at it, we can have a whole new outlook on life, and re-invent ourselves anew." Vet-To-Vet Facilitators Terri Languell and Cathi Johnson, encourage you to come to Vet-To-Vet's weekly Monday meeting held at Ivy Tech main campus on Daniels Way or visit their web site at www.vetovetbloomington.com.

Renewing Membership

Your continued membership is important to us. The V.F.W. and its Auxiliaries 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 or one of your club officers for assistance. ❖

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

BUILD RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT No. 205

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Phone: (812)-339-2375