

VFW POST 604 NEWS

October 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 honored members of VFW Post 604. The officers of the Post know that time is passing quickly and we are all waiting for our opening date to be set. We are addressing the projects needed to open the Post. Just this week we received all of the necessary gaming permits from the State that we needed and we have a date scheduled for our alcohol permit hearing. As of this date, we have cleared almost all of the big hurdles and things are looking good.

I and some of our members attended the POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony September 16th at Crane Naval Center. It was a very touching and moving ceremony. Honors were given to living and deceased POW's. The ceremony was enjoyed by all. It was stated that there are still 88,000 MIA's from all wars. Let us keep them in our hearts and prayers that we will bring them home again.

The more people we have working on the Post the sooner we can open. I will be waiting to hear from you.

Commander - Joe Hardin



Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

Our volunteers have come a long way getting our Post ready for our opening. You can't believe all the hard work they had to endure. Let's try keeping them inspired through all the problems they've had. Keep your spirit up you are almost there.

One of our programs is Buddy poppies. Since 1922 the Buddy Poppy has been an integral part of the V.F.W. community. As V.F.W. official memorial flower, the Poppy represents the blood shed by American service members. It reiterates that V.F.W. will not forget their sacrifices. The Poppy movement was inspired by Canadian Army Col. John McCrae's famous poem, In Flanders Fields. Poppies were originally distributed by the Franco-American Children's League to benefit children in the devastated areas of France and Belgium following WW1. In 1922, V.F.W. conducted a campaign and got Poppies from France. Members soon discovered it took too long to get the flowers in from France and they came up with a better idea. Disabled, hospitalized and aging veterans could make the paper flowers and ship them out to the members for distribution. And so it was known, for veterans in VA hospitals and domiciliaries and in state veterans homes, every day would be V.F.W. Buddy Poppy Day. These men and women assemble the Poppies, tied them in bunches of 10 and pack them in boxes of 500, 1,000 or 2,000 for shipment to Posts and Ladies Auxiliaries. Furthermore, Poppy assembly is often used as a therapy program to provide exercise for fingers and hands crippled by wounds, disease and the effects of old age.

We are still having bingo Thursday 5.30pm Saturday at 2.30pm. This is how we make our donations. Thanks to all who play and support the V.F.W.

Janet Williams, President VFW Ladies Auxiliary

Veterans Beware!!!

We just added a new entry to the competition for “having the lowest ethics” – those who misrepresent veterans benefits when marketing their own services.

During a “Veterans Aid & Attendance” presentation at Redbud Hills Retirement Community a recent speaker stated such outright falsehoods as “Our mission is to educate War-Time Veterans and their loved ones . . . about *Aid and Attendance Improved Pension* . . .” and “*Rent at independent living or assisted care facility is a medical spin down.*” There were other lies.

I wrote a *For Veterans* column on this same scam in 2006. The Indianapolis Regional Office told me they were on top of these crooks, quickly recognized their proprietary forms, and carefully scrutinized applications filed through such “helpful” organizations. However, the Department of Veteran Affairs, in their infinite wisdom, centralized non-service connected pension processing away from Indianapolis to their Milwaukee Regional Office a couple of years ago. Evidently, these promotional crooks are now testing what they can slide by the Milwaukee adjudicators.

There is no such thing as “*Aid and Attendance Improved Pension*”. Aid and Attendance (“A&A”) is the highest level of both the Department of Veterans Affairs veterans’ non-service connected pension and the survivors’ non-service connected death pension and has been since 1978. There is nothing really new about either of these VA pension programs. The A&A level is one notch above Housebound, which is one notch above basically qualified. A&A is what it sounds like – the beneficiary requires the aid and attendance of others for the basic needs of living: bathing, eating, bed pans, etc. A&A eligibility is assumed by the VA if the pension applicant is a PATIENT in a NURSING HOME. Housebound is what it sounds like – the veteran or surviving spouse can rarely get out of their home because of poor vision, balance, using a walker, or other mobility issues. Basic qualifications for a pre-1980 veteran are minimum one day of war time service, minimum 90 days total service, and permanent unemployability [assumed if 65 and over]. Basic qualification for a surviving spouse is their wartime veteran spouse is deceased. Both pension programs are “needs based” with different income limits at each of the three levels and an \$80,000 net worth limit [not counting their home]. Too much countable income or too much net worth means no pension.

MEDICAL expenses can be subtracted from gross income to reach “countable income”, that’s true. BUT healthy veterans living in an “independent living community” are

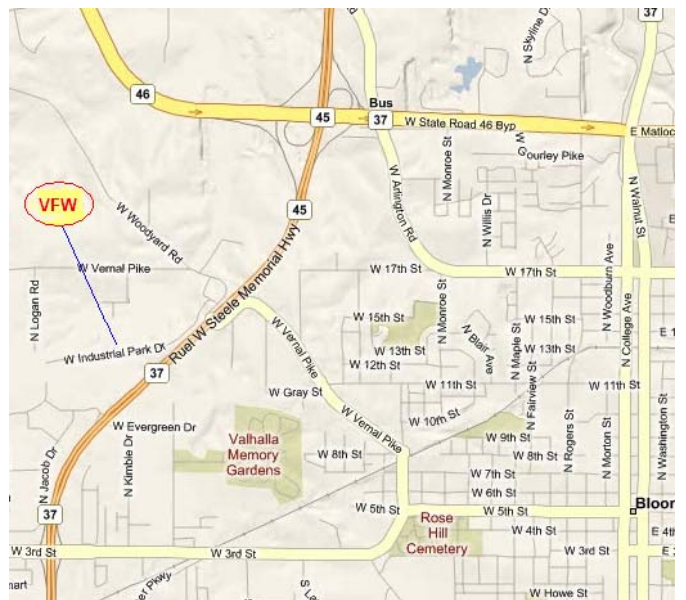
NOT paying a medical expense. They are paying RENT. Rent may NOT be subtracted from gross income.

Who suffers when a fraudulent claim for pension is discovered by the VA, intentionally filed or not? Guess who! The veteran or surviving spouse is left “holding the bag”, and too often a big overpayment debt to Uncle Sam. The crooked salesmen get paid and move on to their next presentation, the retirement facility gets a few more leases signed – all with monetary penalties for early cancelation – and the suckered veterans and surviving spouses, they get . . . well, you can figure out what they get. I can’t say it in this newsletter.

The VA pension programs can be a blessing if filed correctly, honestly, and accurately through a reputable service organization (such as your VFW), or through a county veterans service officer, or directly to the VA. They can also become a curse. Be careful.

John Tilford - Post Service Officer

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.



Laurens B. Strain - VFW Post 604

October 2010

Closed Sunday	Closed Monday	Closed Tuesday	Closed Wednesday	Closed Thursday	Closed Friday	Closed Saturday
					1	2 Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
3	4 * Vet to Vet - 1900 @ IVY TECH Room A118 200 Daniels Way, Blmgtn	5	6	7 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	8	9 Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
10	11 Columbus Day * Vet to Vet - 1900 @ IVY TECH Room A118 200 Daniels Way, Blmgtn	12	13	14 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	15	16 Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
17	18 * Vet to Vet - 1900 @ IVY TECH Room A118 200 Daniels Way, Blmgtn	19 Men's Aux Mtg - 1800 (American Legion) Ladies Aux Mtg - 1900 (Eagles) V.F.W. Mtg - 1900 (American Legion)	20	21 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	22	23 Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
24	25 * Vet to Vet - 1900 @ IVY TECH Room A118 200 Daniels Way, Blmgtn	26	27	28 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	29	30 Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
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(* For Vet-to-Vet - Check website <http://www.vetovetbloomington.com/> to confirm location)

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

PPT License # 122238
Raffle License # 122237

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	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	John Martin	(812) 339-1113						
2 Year House Committee	Tom Vernon	(812) 332-1250						
3 Year House Committee	Leonard L Heldman	(812) 361-9129						

Cold War Certificate Program

In accordance with section 1084 of the Fiscal Year 1998 National Defense Authorization Act, the Secretary of Defense approved awarding Cold War Recognition Certificates to all members of the armed forces and qualified federal government civilian personnel who faithfully and honorably served the United States anytime during the Cold War era, which is defined as Sept. 2, 1945 to Dec. 26, 1991.

For more information and to see how to apply go to <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/tagd/coldwar/default.htm>

This is the only official site on which to request Cold War Recognition Certificates. This site is operated by the United States Army, the executive agency for the Cold War Recognition Program. Cold War Recognition Certificates are available to qualified individuals at no cost. Any other site offering these certificates or replicas for sale or purchase are not official sites and are not approved or endorsed by the US Army.

Due to the remarkable success of this program, turn-around time for mailing certificates will be a minimum of 2 months. Please do not request feedback prior to 2 months from the request date.

Who is eligible?

All members of the armed forces and federal government civilian personnel who faithfully served the United States during the Cold War era, Sept. 2, 1945 to Dec. 26, 1991. Individuals requesting a certificate will certify that their character of service was honorable. Acceptable supporting document for proof of service is any official government or military document with recipient's name, Social Security Number or Military Service Number or Foreign Service Number, and date of service.

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. ❖

What are Aid and Attendance and Housebound benefits?

Aid and Attendance (A&A) is a benefit paid in addition to monthly pension. This benefit may not be paid without eligibility to pension. A veteran may be eligible for A&A when:

1. The veteran requires the aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, attending to the wants of nature, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting himself/herself from the hazards of his/her daily environment, OR,
2. The veteran is bedridden, in that his/her disability or disabilities requires that he/she remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment, OR,
3. The veteran is a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity, OR,
4. The veteran is blind, or so nearly blind as to have corrected visual acuity of 5/200 or less, in both eyes, or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less.

Housebound is paid in addition to monthly pension. Like A&A, Housebound benefits may not be paid without eligibility to pension. A veteran may be eligible for Housebound benefits when:

1. The veteran has a single permanent disability evaluated as 100-percent disabling AND, due to such disability, he/she is permanently and substantially confined to his/her immediate premises, OR,
2. The veteran has a single permanent disability evaluated as 100-percent disabling AND, another disability, or disabilities, evaluated as 60 percent or more disabling.

A veteran cannot receive both Aid and Attendance and Housebound benefits at the same time.

You may apply for Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits by writing to the VA regional office having jurisdiction of the claim. That would be the office where you filed a claim for pension benefits. If the regional office of jurisdiction is not known, you may file the request with any VA regional office.

Department Of Veterans Affairs
575 N. Pennsylvania Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Phone : 1-800-827-1000

Crane Army and Navy POW/MIA Recognition Day

POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies were conducted at 10 a.m. on Thursday September 16, 2010 on Naval Support Activity (NSA), Crane. Former POWs, and families of deceased former POWs, were honored at the ceremony. Guest speaker for this year's Ceremony was Retired USAF Major General Edward J. Mechenbier.

Members in attendance were Commander Joe Hardin, Ladies Auxiliary Secretary Kathy Hardin, Jimmy Walker, Bob Lanning, Tom Vernon, and Karen Chenault.

Major General Mechenbier was born in Morgantown, W.Va., and raised in Albuquerque, N.M., and Dayton, Ohio, before entering the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1960. After graduation in June 1964, he attended pilot training and served tours in Europe and Southeast Asia flying the F-4C. In June 1967, he was shot down on his 113th combat mission, his 80th over North Vietnam and was a Prisoner of War for nearly six years. On his return to the U.S., he was awarded the Silver Star with the first Oak Leaf Cluster for his resistance to demands by the North Vietnamese for information, confessions and propaganda materiel. He received the Bronze Star medal with "V" device for his efforts to conduct himself strictly in accordance with the Code of Conduct while POW.

A luncheon to honor former POWs was held at Crane's Club Lakeview immediately following the ceremony.



Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

We're all looking forward to that day, very soon, when Post 604 opens the doors at its new location out on the west side of town. Having use of a new facility is always exciting and it's a good feeling to know Men's Auxiliary members have logged time and effort so that our veterans will be able to enjoy this new club. There's still work to be done in and around the building before county officials issue an occupancy permit, so if you have some time to devote to finishing work out there, get in touch with us and we'll find something for you to work on.

As we close in on the grand reopening, we should pause a moment to reflect on the simple truth that Post 604 isn't really made up of bricks and sticks. The true post is a cadre of men and women who put a hold on their lives at some point, donned a military uniform and stood the watch somewhere in the world while the rest of us were home sleeping comfortably. The true Post 604 is not so much a building as it is a family.

In the rush to get everybody tucked neatly back into a brand new school year, chances are you haven't taken a breath and looked ahead on the calendar. For example, have you thought about making plans for Veterans Day on November 11? All of the county's veteran organizations come together at 10am that day for an hour-long ceremony at the County Courthouse. We'd love to see you there this year and today would be a god day to draw a big circle around that date on your calendar.

And...looking even farther down the calendar (but always quick to sneak up on you).... Wondering what to get that hard-to-buy-for someone on your Christmas list? Why not surprise them with a paid up membership in the VFW, or Men's or Ladies' Auxiliary? Ho Ho Ho!

Mike Pipher – President VFW Men's Auxiliary

Stop-Loss Vets to Lose Retroactive Payments

Approximately 145,000 service members who were stop-lossed between 11 September 2001 and 30 September 2009 are eligible to receive \$500 for every month they were kept beyond their initial separation date. The problem is only about 20 percent, or 30,000 claims, have been paid, and the program ends 21 October 2010. The VFW is asking its members, Posts and friends to spread the word. For more information about the program and to apply for retroactive stop-loss pay, go to www.defense.gov/stoploss.

Laurens B. Strain V.F.W. Post 604
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Bloomington, IN 47404-2690

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BLOOMINGTON IN 47401
PERMIT No. 205

"Oldest Post in the State"

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Phone: (812)-339-2375

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. If you do not get the electronic newsletter, or have trouble viewing it, please feel free to call me after 7:00PM at the number provided in the Officer's listing under the calendar on page 7.

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

Please Support Bingo



Conducted by V.F.W. Ladies Auxiliary

Thursday – Sales open 5:30PM – Play starts 6:30PM
Saturday – Sales open 2:30PM – Play starts 3:30PM

Location *3100 S Walnut St*
(Fraternal Order of Eagles) **Bloomington, IN**
Bingo License # 121844