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# VFW POST 604 NEWS

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December 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

Greetings! As all of you know, November 11th was Veterans Day. I would like to thank all of our members who participated in the ceremony at the Monroe County Courthouse. For the members who could not be there, it was a very moving ceremony. There were around 200 people there and everything went great. The weather allowed us to place the wreaths outside at one of the monuments. As always there were Post officers and officers from the Ladies and Men's Auxiliary involved in making it a great day. I would like to thank the American Legion Post 18 for coordinating the activity. They did a terrific job. Well done!!!

Take time to remember our military personnel that are serving around the world that will not be home with their loved ones during the holidays. I remember how lonely it was for me around that time.

I hope that everyone has a safe and happy holiday. I hope to see all of you at the Post real soon. God Bless.

**Commander - Joe Hardin**



### Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

Hello everyone it's me again. I'll try to update everyone what has been going on.

I'll start with the Veterans Day program at the Monroe County Court House. It was one of the best. It takes several people to make this possible. Thank you for dedication of everyone who cared enough to honor all Veterans on this day.

Ladies V.F.W. Auxiliary & V.F.W. Post 604 dedicated 30 flags for all the classrooms at Fairview School. Debbie Moore from the School Corporation and Fairview School 5th grade teacher Mr. Eddie Pierce accepted the flags in his classroom.

Donations Made This Month:

\$1,208.00 to the heart fund.

\$1,028.02 towards cancer research.

\$500.00 to the burn center for veterans & children.

We could not make these contributions without the support and donations of our Bingo players. This is one way the Ladies V.F.W. Auxiliary keeps its program's going.

A little nursing home humor... Some of my family goes to nursing homes on Sunday to play music. Some residents sit in their doorway to listen. During one of these visits a little old lady came down the hall clapping her hands and said "I didn't know we were at church." and every one started singing. A good time was had by all.

We have an important role to play in the lives of veterans. We amplify their voices on Capitol Hill. We care for their families while they are on the battlefield. We welcome them home with shouts of pride.

The Ladies V.F.W. Auxiliary is the only organization to celebrate the inauguration of the Statue of Liberty each year and has been doing so since 1936. Lady Liberty has been enlightening the world for 124 years.

*Continued on page 2*

Don't forget our meetings the 3rd Tuesday of each-month at 7pm Eagles Lodge. We need some new younger & older members. Let's try harder to recruit new members and see who can sign up the most.

Thanks to all for your help. Please keep our members and all members in need in your prayers.

### Janet Williams, President VFW Ladies Auxiliary

Be sure to pay your dues, you don't want to lose your cancer Insurance.

## Post 604 Champions "Space A" Benefit

A few weeks ago Polly and I took a "Space A" [space available] contract flight from Baltimore, MD to Ramstein AFB, Germany. Cost: \$32.20. A week later we returned from Ramstein AFB to McGuire AFB, NJ aboard a C-17 for \$0.00 [free]. We were eligible for this Air Mobility Command (AMC) version of commercial "stand-by" travel because I'm retired military and Polly is my dependent spouse. Retired military are "Category VI" [the sixth, and lowest, priority level]. We showed our military identification cards and passports at the AMC desk when registering for the flights. We probably never would have been able to afford the price of equivalent commercial flights and never would have seen Point du Hoc, Pegasus Bridge, Sainte-Mère-Église, Omaha Beach, or the American National Cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach. These sights were extremely meaningful for us as were the expressions of gratitude from the French people of Normandy.

What's wrong with this picture? After I sent out an email sharing some of the details of the trip, I received an interested response from Terri Languell. Most of you know Terri – who volunteers for nearly everything in Monroe County that has to do with helping veterans – but Terri is not retired from the military. She never had a chance to do so. An IED took care of that. Terri is rated 100% service connected disabled by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Under current regulations, Terri is not eligible for Space A travel.

As meaningful as the D-Day locations were to me, how much more meaningful would they be to a 100% service connected veteran? Bear in mind that many Department of Veteran Affairs 100% determinations are based on individual unemployability (IU) due to service connected disabilities. These IU disabled veterans are much less likely to ever have the financial resources to travel to the scenes of their sacrifice. The poignant irony is that many have the time to travel because of their inability to work.

While 100% disabled veterans can obtain a quasi-military ID card used for access to many other benefits, their spouses and other dependents are not eligible for registration in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and therefore cannot obtain a military dependent identification card. Space A regulations should be amended to include eligibility for one person to accompany each 100% service connected disabled veteran traveler. A by-name designation signed by the veteran should be sufficient. (I assume this person would normally be a spouse or friend, but in some cases the person might be a nurse or other caregiver.) The designated accompanying person, if any, would show current

government-issued identification bearing their photograph and/or passport during registration for a Space Available flight.

Objections that some 100% service connected disabled veterans are unsuited to travel are perhaps true, but not significantly more true for these veterans than for active duty or retired service members or dependents with disabilities, diagnosed and undiagnosed. No part of the current Space A regulations precludes travelers in any of the six categories from traveling due to artificial limbs or other impediments.

100% service connected veterans have commissary privileges, post/base exchange privileges, MWR privileges, and many other benefits they share with military retirees – but not eligibility for Space Available flights. That's "What's wrong with this picture?!" There are empty seats every day on AMC military and Space A contract aircraft flights which could be put to good use for the benefit of those who gave so much, everything but their lives. All the Space A facilities, security measures, administrative staff, and procedures are already in place and operating. Extending this benefit to include 100% service connected veterans would cost virtually nothing.

Why not? Who deserves it more?

**John Tilford - Post Service Officer**

## Veterans' Day Ceremony

A ceremony honoring veterans was held on November 11, 2010 at the Monroe County Courthouse. In attendance were various members of the Men's and Ladies V.F.W. Auxiliary and V.F.W. Post 604. The guest speaker was Colonel Theodore Rex Legler II (United States Army – Retired).

Organizations participating in the Ceremonies included:

- American Legion, Post 18
- Sons of American Legion, Squadron 18
- American Legion Auxiliary, Post 18
- Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 604
- Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, Post 604
- AMVETS, Post 2000
- Sons of AMVETS, Post 2000
- Indiana National Guard
- AMVETS, Post 2000 Auxiliary
- Indiana Society Sons of The American Revolution



**Commander Joe Hardin placing Vietnam Veterans Wreath**

# Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

December 2010

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday | Thursday                                       | Friday | Saturday  |
|---|---|--|-----------|--|--------|---|
|  |  |   | 1         | 2<br>Bingo (Eagles) - 1730                     | 3      | 4<br>Bingo (Eagles) - 1430  |
| 5   | 6<br>* Vet to Vet – 1900 @<br>IVY TECH Room A118<br>200 Daniels Way               | 7  | 8         | 9<br>Veterans Day<br><br>Bingo (Eagles) - 1730 | 10     | 11<br>Bingo (Eagles) - 1430   |
| 12  | 13<br>* Vet to Vet – 1900 @<br>IVY TECH Room A118<br>200 Daniels Way              | 14   | 15        | 16<br>Bingo (Eagles) - 1730                    | 17     | 18<br>Bingo (Eagles) - 1430   |
| 19  | 20<br>* Vet to Vet – 1900 @<br>IVY TECH Room A118<br>200 Daniels Way              | 21<br>Men's Aux Mtg – 1800<br>(American Legion)<br><br>Ladies Aux Mtg - 1900<br>(Eagles)<br><br>V.F.W. Mtg – 1900<br>(American Legion) | 22        | 23<br>Bingo (Eagles) - 1730                    | 24     | 25<br>Christmas<br><br><b>CLOSED</b>  |
| 26  | 27<br>* Vet to Vet – 1900 @<br>IVY TECH Room A118<br>200 Daniels Way              | 28   | 29        | 30<br>Bingo (Eagles) - 1730                    | 31     |  |

(\* 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               | Bob Lanning       | (812) 327-7953 | 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 |                                 |               |                |                                  |                   |                |

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## HELP NEEDED

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Each month we are required to submit a Community Service Report to Headquarters. Your help is needed to insure Post 604 submits a complete report. The only way this can be accomplished accurately is for you, the member, to let us know of all community service projects you voluntarily participate in.

Below is a list of the categories of community service that are reportable:

1. **Community Involvement** - includes but not limited to - blood drives, CPR classes, recycling, highway clean-up, or other projects that benefit the community.
2. **Cooperation** with other organizations.
3. **Aid to others** - examples are Food Bank, Nursing Home, Senior Citizen Centers, etc.
4. **School or Church Assistance** - volunteer in School, Speaker of Program in School or Church or other assistance projects.
5. **Citizenship Education** - Flag presentation, Color/Honor Guard, Distributed Patriotic Literature, Conducted "Get Out To Vote", Conducted Patriotic Programs in Schools, Veterans day, Pearl Harbor, Memorial Day, Loyalty Day Programs or other Americanism Projects.
6. **Safety** - Pedestrian safety, Drug Awareness, Recreational Safety, Highway Safety, Home/Fire Safety, Other Safety Projects and Public Recognition
7. **Youth Activities** - Sports or Athletics, Boy or Girl Scouts, Other Youth Groups, Contests or Special Events, Education, Recognition to Youth Groups.

The above are just some examples of the types of community service projects that can be reported. If you are not sure if your project is reportable, please submit it anyway.

When submitting a report be sure to include **Name**, **Money Spent** (if any), **Number of Hours** (report any portion of an hour as a full hour and be sure to include the time you travel to and from your residence), **Miles Involved**, and a **brief description of the project**. If you have access to email you can send you report to me at [Lanningbob@yahoo.com](mailto:Lanningbob@yahoo.com).

If you don't have email capabilities, you can complete a informal short written report and drop it off at the VFW post or bring to monthly meeting with you. Be sure to include the following information when submitting a written report or emailing.

The information I receive will be consolidated and

## Help Needed

*continued*

sent to both state and national headquarters. This will show that the Laurens B. Strain, V.F.W. Post 604 is not a post in name only, but rather a post dedicated to serving God, our fellow veterans, our community, and our great nation.

**Bob L. Lanning**  
Adjutant

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## Members in the Spotlight \* Past and Present \*



GLEN E. GASTINEAU, was born in 1921 in Bloomington, Illinois, where he grew up and attended school. He enlisted in the U. S. Army in 1940 on December 20th. He served with the 59th Sta . Hospital and was overseas from December 1943 to July of 1945. Mr. Gastineau saw action in New Guinea, Bismarck Archipelago, and was in the Southern Philippines liberation in his four years and eight months of active duty.

After release from the Armed Forces, Glen worked over 30 years for General Motors Corporation, Chevrolet Division in Indianapolis. He retired in January of 1980. Comrade Gastineau met his sweetheart, Frances, in 1939 at Willow Springs Illinois and they were married. Glen & Frances have three daughters and one son. While Glen is no longer with us, Frances is an active member of the Ladies V.F.W. Auxiliary.

## Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

This is pretty much our shotgun start for the holiday season. Here's wishing you and yours a healthy, relaxing and blessed Christmas.

Please remember that our soldiers and our veterans in nursing homes may not have an opportunity to share festivities with their families and friends.

A lot of folks have written letters to Santa asking for an occupancy permit and a working "open" sign for the new Post. Word from the North Pole is that we can expect to see the lights on and the doors open before anybody has a chance to cheat on their New Years resolutions.

Post leaders are making plans for one, last, big work session when we spend a full day doing last minute clean up and whatever minor work can be completed. Right after that, the doors will \*finally\* open for business. Stay near your e-mail, phone or carrier pigeon and we'll let you know when that clean up day is scheduled.

Please have a safe and happy holiday and we'll all look forward to a great start in 2011.

**Mike Pipher – President VFW Men's Auxiliary**

## New Compensation Payments Begin

The VA began paying disability compensation to Vietnam veterans who qualify under the three new presumptive illnesses associated with Agent Orange exposure — B-cell (or hairy-cell) leukemia, Parkinson's disease and ischemic heart disease — but providing initial or increases to existing payments to the estimated 200,000 veterans who now qualify could take several months.

VA officials encourage all Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange and suffer from one of the three diseases to make sure their applications have been submitted by calling 1-800-827-1000 or going online to [www.fasttrack.va.gov](http://www.fasttrack.va.gov).

Annual members are reminded that their membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States expires December 31, 2010, unless their 2011 dues are paid and reported to Department and National Headquarters. Every effort should be made to renew the membership of continuous members and also sign up new and reinstated members prior to January 1, 2011.

**– Please help us identify VFW Post 604 members in this photograph dated to January 1951 –**  
*Contact Commander Joe Hardin or Ladies Auxiliary President Janet Williams if you know the identity anyone in this photo.*



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



Happy Holidays