
VFW POST 604 NEWS

WWW.VFW-604.ORG

June 2018

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

As I complete my final communication as Commander, I'd like to cover several areas that have come up this last month.

The first is the air conditioning. With the replacement of the attic unit by Harris Heating & Cooling we will have replaced all the units that we're part of the building when we bought the property and converted it to our Post home. Now that all parts of the system are relatively new we should get several years of uninterrupted service.

The next area is the floors. With lots of input from the Trustees and the approval of the Post general membership, we have had the floors and carpet cleaned professionally by Economy Janitorial. Everyone who has seen their work has been very happy. If you've not been to the Post in the last couple of weeks please make it in and see our improved quarters. The Trustees are in active discussion with Economy so that we will maintain the higher standard of Post cleanliness and beauty.

Another repair is one of the coolers in the canteen has quit working. The Trustees (and I) are looking in to both repair and replace options. As this represents an emergency, the actions will be taken and the Trustees will report their actions to the general membership at the June meeting.

As I leave office I wish to thank all of the officers that have a part of this year. I especially want to thank two of the Trustees. Comrade Jim and Comrade Debbie have been available to help whenever and wherever they were needed.

*(Continued : See **Commander** on page 4)*

VFW Auxiliary

May has come and gone and June is upon us, this year is almost half over. As of June 30th if you have not paid your 2018 dues National will remove your name from the membership roster. If you are one of the 20 unpaid and would still like to get them in, please give Membership Chairman Karen a call 812-327-1944. If you have paid your 2018 membership and HAVE NOT received your 2018 permanent card from VFW Auxiliary National, please and let her know. Also, starting July 1, 2018, annual dues are raising to \$30 per year; this year you will have the option to pay your own dues through MALTA with a credit card. If you would like to play around go to www.vfwauxiliary.org, and create your account, then July 1st you will be ready. We will be still be accepting them locally as always, either thru mail or leaving them at the Post for Karen.

If you have not been in the Post lately, Economy Janitorial Service (Chuck Holtsclaw) came in and cleaned the floors and did an AWESOME job, they look brand new, come check them out. Hopefully, they will have the carpets done by the time you are reading this. We have put pads on the chairs to help from scuffing the floors.

The House Committee is in the process of getting the new deck furniture picked out. The deck will need to be cleaned and old furniture moved out. If you can help please let us know. We are hoping to have it nice and shiny for the 4th of July celebration.

We are still looking for ideas that might bring members to Post 604, if you have any ideas please let

*(Continued : See **Auxiliary** on page 2)*

Laurens B. Strain

Auxiliary (Continued from page 1)

Laurens Bennett Strain, son of Homer E. and Viola Bennett Strain, was born April 6, 1897 in Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana. 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 Claremboi, Department of the Marne, just off the Paris 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

us know. Don't forget to come by and purchase your tickets for the Freezer/Meat drawing. It is a 7 cubic foot chest freezer and 110 lbs. of meat or \$300 cash, \$5.00 per ticket, drawing will be held on NASCAR/Tenderloin Sunday July 22nd. This month the NASCAR/Tenderloin Sunday is June 3rd from Noon-4. If you plan to be later, please call and we'll have it ready for you. We do take call in orders 812-339-2375. The Auxiliary Dinner on Friday, June 22nd will consist of baked chicken breast, dressing, potatoes, salad and desserts for \$7.00. Our final Auxiliary meeting for fiscal year 2017-18 will be June 19th at 6 pm, we would love to see you there.

God bless our veterans and God bless America ❖

Dorothy J White
President - VFW Auxiliary
812-345-9025



President Dorothy White (left) and Karen Cain (Right) of the VFW Post 604 Auxiliary, present BK manager Adam Warfel, with a commendation letter for supporting the Unmet Needs Program

TAPS

Robert T. Grubb, U.S. Coast Guard – WWII, VFW Life Member














Richard C. Zimmerman, U.S. Navy – WWII Asia-Pacific Campaign

"With each passing day, things will become easier. This is to let you know that there is tremendous support behind you today."

Robert and Richard will be missed by all the Men and Women of VFW Post 604 and the 7th District. ❖

James C. Arnold, Chaplin
VFW Post 604

June 2018

Closed	Open 1200 - 2200	Open 1600 - 2200	Open 1600 - 2200	Open 1600 - 2200	Open 1600 - 2200	Open 1000 - 2200
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			Laurens Bennett Strain Memorial Service Rose Hill Cemetery Thursday June 7, 2018 100 th year since his passing on June 7, 1918, during the Battle of Belleau Woods, France		 1 6:00 PM - Boneless Pork Chop— Gravy—Mashed Potatoes—Corn Dinner Special Commander's Drawing 1900	2
3 Tenderloin Sunday  Open at Noon	4 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	5	6	7  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	8 Fish Fry 1800 - 2000  Commander's Drawing 1900	9
10	11 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	12	13	14  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	15 Rib Eye Dinner 1800 - 2000  Commander's Drawing 1900	16
17	18 Free to attend : Come join us from 7:00 – 8:00 PM @ Post 604 (See page 4) Planning Your Funeral & Cemetery Arrangements	19 Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 V.F.W. Aux – 1800	20	21  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	22  6:00 PM – Dinner: Baked chicken breast, dressing, potatoes & salad Commander's Drawing 1900	23
24	25 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	26	27	28  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	29  6:00 PM - All-U-Can-EAT Grilled Hot Dogs with fixin's —Baked Beans—Tater Salad Commander's Drawing 1900	30

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

Telephone Number (812) 339-2375

Charity Game Night License # 144211

Raffle License # 1414210

Commander (continued from Page 1)

As an administrative matter, even though Comrade George takes over for me after the first week of June, the annual membership year lasts until 30 June. If you pay your dues before then you will help me improve in the area that has been the weakest of my Commandership.

Please join the Post on 07 June at Rose Hill Cemetery for a memorial service for our Post's namesake Laurens B. Strain. Private Strain was killed in the Battle of Belleau Woods on 07 June 1918. Tentative time for the service is 0800. Please look for final times at the Post. We encourage all to attend and show their respect for a fallen comrade and the namesake of our Post. ❖

Yours in true Comradeship,

Commander – Roy Smith



Planning Your Funeral & Cemetery Arrangements

On Monday, June 18 at 7:00 PM Post 604 will be hosting a presentation to assist interested parties in the importance of planning funeral and cemetery arrangements.

The length of this presentation should be about 1 hour and is free of charge. Also there is no obligation by the attendees of this presentation.

Discussion Topics

- Locating Personal Documents
- Your Will
- Bank Accounts and Investments
- Insurance Policies
- Veterans Benefits
- Social Security Information
- Historical Information
- Death Certificate Information
- Funeral Preferences
- Lasting Memories
- Cemetery Memorialization

The intent behind this presentation is to assist the attendees by presenting information and answering questions that most of us are reluctant to ask. Much of this content is the things that we rarely talk about with our spouses. By addressing these issues in advance, your spouse or executor will have a better understanding of your desires when you're no longer here to answer these questions.

SUMMER BEGINS!!!!

What we have lined up for this month is -> -> -> keep reading!!

Our **1st Friday Night Dinner Special (June 1st)** this month our first Friday in on **June 1st** and we are going to be serving **Center Cut Boneless Pork Chop—Gravy—Mashed Potatoes—Corn & Roll** and of course **Dessert**. All that for **\$7.00!!** Serving will start at 6:00 p.m. and go until we run out.

TENDERLOIN Sunday this month will be **June 3rd--Gigantic Hand-Dipped Breaded Tenderloin Sandwiches**. **Yep!! Still \$6.00 plus** a whole lot of **extra stuff!!!** Come out and support **The Auxiliary !!!**—they do a lot of things for your **Post 604!!!**

The Auxiliary. Fish Dinner on the **2nd Friday** of the month (**June 8th**)-all you can eat!! And would you believe just **\$7.00??** They bread-em, cook-em, serve-em, serve seconds, these Volunteers are on it so you just sit and eat—simple as that!!

3rd Friday of the Month STEAK NIGHT (June 15th)!! 10 oz. Ribeye with Baked Potato and Salad and Dessert all for just **\$11**.

4th Friday of the Month—June 22nd is served up by The Aux. so be sure to check out their article elsewhere in the newsletter.

Once again we have the **5th Friday Night Dinner Special—June 29th** which will be **Rot Rogs!?! (1/4 lb. All Beef Grilled Hot Dogs)** with all kinds of fixin's —Baked Beans—Tater Salad plus extra's. Oh!! Shoot let's just make this **All-U-Can-EAT!!**

Cheap considering its only **\$7.00 ❖**

House Committee

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

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Phone: (812)-339-2375



Laurens Bennett Strain

Born : April 6, 1897 Bloomington, Indiana
Fell in action : June 7, 1918 Belleau Woods, France