



Clarion



June 2020

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This is the first edition of the Clarion; the Camp Centurion newsletter. I thought I'd start out with a brief recap of where we are and how we got to this point.

In 2017 three military veterans met, at a restaurant, for a cup of coffee and for the purpose of discussing the plight of homeless veterans. All three, Mike Cloy, Mike Meeks and Bud Strobe, were involved in various aspect of meeting the needs of veterans and all agreed that one of the primary needs was housing. For, if a veteran has no home, it becomes much more difficult to meet his other needs such as; education, employment, healthcare and counseling. The result of that meeting was a vision to create a home where veterans, transitioning out of military service could live, with other veterans, in a secure environment, while making this, often difficult, transition. When completed, Camp Centurion will be that home.

On September 22nd 2017, Camp Centurion Incorporated received its non-profit, 501c3 designation and, since then, the Board of Directors, along with veterans' organizations, volunteers, individual donors and corporate sponsors has been working diligently to achieve that goal. It took a while for us to gain momentum. However, on February 29th 2020, a group of 30 volunteers, ranging in age from teenagers to octogenarians, came together for a cooperative event known as Demo Day. We demolished the interior of the home, that will be Camp Centurion, to prepare it for complete renovation and to bring it up to code for use as a group home.

When ready for occupancy, the Camp Centurion Gaston Barracks will house up to 11 veterans from all branches of military service. However, just like many other non-profits, we are at a standstill. We had hoped to be well underway with architectural and engineering drawings and planning for our major fundraising function; a "fly-drive-ride-in" at the Gastonia Municipal Airport, intended for June 6th, the anniversary of D-Day. This event has been cancelled and will be rescheduled for sometime this fall.

In the mean time we must still pay for insurance, electrical power and property maintenance. At this point we need to raise funds so we can pay these bills and pay for architectural services and construction. Unfortunately, as we are still in the development stage and are not yet serving veterans, we are not eligible for government assistance to non-profits.

The building has approximately 3,000 ft². So, we are asking for a \$50.00 donation to sponsor one square foot. This will enable us to reach our \$150,000 renovation project goal. As we are all suffering during this worldwide pandemic, this plea comes at a very difficult time. Yet without these funds, we will not be able to achieve the vision of Camp Centurion.

Please visit www.CampCenturion.org and give generously. Thank you.

Bud Strobe
President, Camp Centurion