

American Legion Post 124

Walter Range Memorial Scholarship



Walter Range never spoke much of his early life. His family immigrated to the United States from Germany, and settled in the New York City area.



Walter L. Range, 1918. This picture was taken in France where Corporal Walter Range served in the army during World War I. He was a motor mechanic in the Air Service of Company Six, First Regiment. He was born on July 18, 1896, and died on May 3, 1982, at the age of eighty-six. He lived at 20 Southgate Road in a house that was torn down on January 20, 1997.

Walter was an airplane mechanic for the U.S Army in World War I. He held the rank of Sergeant and was stationed in France. He was a Past Commander of American Legion Post 124 in Westfield, and he also served as Finance Officer for about 25 years.

Walter was a machinist at Columbia Manufacturing for many years. He became the foreman of the machining room during his career there.

Walter Range was related to my wife (by marriage, not birth), and she was one of the beneficiaries of his estate at his death. As a result of this, we decided it would be appropriate to sponsor a scholarship as a remembrance of Walter's generosity. It is hoped that this scholarship will go to a graduate of the Westfield schools who expresses an interest in pursuing a career related to the machine trade. This could include basic instruction in the use of machines, and can span all studies up to the most sophisticated education such as a degree in mechanical engineering.

This Walter Range Memorial Scholarship is one that is typically presented by the American Legion Post 124 because Walter was a post member. Past Commander Harvey Buckland was instrumental in putting this scholarship in place.

Written by: Harvey Buckland
September 29, 2005