



Legion News

DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE



BELGIUM-CHINA 01-DENMARK-ENGLAND-FRANCE-GREECE-GERMANY-IRELAND-ITALY-NETHERLANDS-SPAIN-THAILAND

March 2025

Vol. 23 / Nr. 3



DEPARTMENT
COMMANDER

Dennis Owens

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2024 - 2025MY

COMMANDER Dennis Owens
NL01

ADJUTANT John Fleming
CH01

NECMAN Hans Stockenberger
CH01

ALT NECMAN Lee Preston
GR42

VCAL Quincy Foster
GR05

VICE COMMANDER Jim Brotherton
NL01

VICE COMMANDER John Gerdeman
GR03

VICE COMMANDER Jame Settle
GR42

VICE COMMANDER Todd A. Johnson
GR07

CHAPLAIN Ken Keckler
GR20

FINANCE OFFICER Larry Atkins
CH01

SERVICE OFFICER Frank Phillips
GR1982

JUDGE ADVOCATE James Settle
GR42

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS James Dennis
GR30

ADJUTANT EMERITUS Robert Fuelling
FR01

Greetings Department of France,

In a couple of weeks is our 3rd DEC Hosted by Commander Charlie Brown of GR79. It is always a good time there in Heilbronn with Charlie. If you have not already sent in your Delegates Letter to Department Adjutant Fleming, don't forget to do it prior to the deadline given in his email to all Post Commanders and Adjutants. This marks 3/4th of our membership year passing. It has been a great ride so far and I can only see positive in our future. It can only have been done with the assistance of our Adjutant John Fleming, VCAL Quincy Foster and our Four Vice Commanders Jim Brotherton, John Gerdeman, James Settle and Todd Johnson along with some magic from behind the scenes from Jim Dennis as our Membership Chairman. We still wish him the best as he is still recovering from his procedure. Jim Very Best Wishes! I also want to thank every Post Commander and Post Adjutant for making your Posts the best they can be. Remember, if anyone has any questions on how to make their Post a bit better, just give me or any one of these guys I just listed a call. Thank you all for a great year thus far!

The 97th annual Department of France Convention is also around the corner on the 12th – 15th of June 2025 in Heerlen, The Netherlands. This one will be hosted by my Home Post NL01. NL01 is really looking forward to showing everyone a great time. We have a wonderful Hotel selected with delicious food each evening. I can't promise it now, but there is a great chance that the VA, Tri-Care, and Someone from the Frankfurt Consulate might man a table on Friday and Saturday to answer your questions should you have any on Friday and Saturday. If you have any other suggestions on who else we can invite to speak of man a table at the Convention, just let me know?

On Friday at the convention NL01 will provide you with an all you can eat delicious NL01 style BBQ for lunch. On Saturday during lunch break, we have a 1.5 hour tour of the Margraten ABMC Cemetery that we hold so dear to us. This will be a 20 minute ride with a nice bag lunch to Margraten in a 60 Pax bus. If you have

never seen it, Margraten is one of the most beautiful war cemeteries where 8,301 Soldiers really are resting in peace with the 1,722 names on the Wall of the Missing as well. They just opened up a wonderful Visitor Center a year ago. It is truly worth spending a bit of time there. We are planning to break up the tour in to two groups with one group going straight to the cemetery and the other going to the visitor center for 45 minutes then both groups will swap locations. NL01 has a few Margraten knowledgeable members who love to give tours.

If you have not already sent in your Reservation Form for the Convention, please consider doing so soon. I will no longer be able to accept them after the 25th of April so I can give the management the numbers of how many rooms he can still use for his customers so no rooms go empty. For those who have turned in their reservation form and have yet to pay, please do so before the 25th of April or your reservation does not count. I need to pay in advance to the hotel on the 1st of May. Thanks for your understanding.

So please figure out who your Convention Delegates will be from each Post and give them the Registration Form. We cannot wait till the last moment with this Convention. This hotel has 38 really nice rooms, as of now, 14 of the 38 rooms are reserved. They are going fast. The nearest hotel that is comparable is 7.5Km from this hotel.

Switching subjects, I just saw The American Legion Membership Standings from the 27th of February. Department of France is really Rocking to meet our Membership Goal of 3,000. As of the 27th of Feb, we have 2,738 members! That is 91.27% of our Goal!!! We are in Second Place from all 55 Departments! The only Department ahead of us is ahead by only 0.05%, that is S. Dakota at 91.32%. We Rock! This year, you have not heard me going on about membership, but now, I see the light at the end of the tunnel to that elusive 100% Department Membership. I know we can do it with still a lot of folks that have not renewed this year from 2024 or even from 2023. If you have Veteran family, brothers, sisters, mother and father or even your kids, consider gifting them a year in the American Legion. I have and still support my father and my younger brother as both are veterans.

Here is the great news... Our portion of each member's dues to National is \$23.50 I think, someone can correct me. But if I am off, then it's by a buck or so, not that much. The great news is once we reach 100%, lets add just 90 more members to hit the magic 103% and NATIONAL WILL GIVE US BACK ALL OF THE DUES THEY RECEIVED FROM US. This will go back into each Post. For instance, my Post is at 181 members now, 185 members times \$23.50 = \$4347.50!!! That is a lot of cash that your Post can use for new uniforms for your Honor Guard, Children and Youth programs, helping the elderly and so many uses your Post can come up with, I am sure.

Mike Tyson said something like this, I do not throw my punch to hit his face, I throw it to hit through to the back of his head. That is what we should be doing now through May. We should be reaching those 90 members past our 3,000 goal to hit through to 3,090 members. That is over \$72,615.00 that National will give back to the Department to give back to each Post. Now we have a monetary goal. We can do it!

Remember that the Department of France has its Department Finals for the Oratorical Contest on the 8th of March in the Spangdahlem High School. Student Registration is 11:00 and the Contest starts at 12:00. I am looking forward to seeing 6 of the finest High School Orators in Europe compete.

Very Best Wishes for you all!!!

Commander,
Dennis Owens

REMINDER...ALL NEWSLETTER ARTICLES SHOULD BE TURNED IN BY THE 28TH OF THE MONTH. I WOULD PREFER IF YOU SENT IT IN WORD FORMAT, PDF WOULD ALSO DO. GET THE WORD OUT!

Davidg1959@t-online.de

**DEPARTMENT
NEWSLETTER
EDITOR**



David N. Greaux

Department Adjutant's Corner

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT



John Fleming

Dates to Remember:

- 2 March 2025, 1400 CET – Commanders and Adjutants Meeting
- 8 March 2025 – Department Oratorical Contest
- 9 March 2025, 1800 CET – Internal Affairs Committee Meeting
- 15 March 2025, 1300 CET – 3rd DEC

1 April 2025 – Award Packets are due to the Department Adjutant

- 6 April 2025, 1400 CET – Commanders Advisory Council Meeting
- 12 April 2025, 1500 CET – Awards Committee Meeting
- 4 May 2025, 1400 CET – Commanders and Adjutants Meeting
- 1 June 2025, 1400 CET – Commanders Advisory Council Meeting
- 9 June 2025 – Internal Affairs Committee Meeting
- 12-15 June 2025 – 4th DEC/Convention/1st DEC

Thanks, and best wishes. John Fleming / Department Adjutant

Department of France 2025 Membership Report 28-02-25		2025 PUFL	2025 ACTPM	2025 Actual Mbsp.	2025 Post Goal	% of 2025 Goal
1	Paris FR01	99	103	202	246	82.11%
2	Isabel La Catolica SP292	9	9	18	21	85.71%
3	David Chavez GR1982	42	82	124	145	85.51%
4	HQ9999 + AD	26	31	57	63	90.47%
5	Flanders Field BE02	18	59	77	105	73.33%
6	China CP01	338	591	929	1017	91.34%
7	Copenhagen DK01	1	0	1	1	100.00%
8	London EG01	20	15	35	42	81.40%
9	Liberty EG02	12	31	43	55	78.18%
11	Athens GC01	1	20	21	23	91.30%
12	Kaiserslautern GR01	51	66	117	140	83.57%
13	Rhein Neckar GR03	17	29	46	44	104.54%
14	Rhein Main GR05	24	45	69	92	75.00%
15	Stuttgart GR06	115	51	166	190	87.36%
16	Wiesbaden GR07	29	51	80	80	100.00%
17	Sgt. William D. Nelson GR09	37	24	61	66	92.42%
18	Thomas W. Barnett GR14	19	11	30	37	78.94%
19	Eifel GR20	19	58	77	30	256.66%
20	Audie Murphy GR30	11	6	17	20	85.00%
21	Omar Bradley GR42	18	8	26	31	83.87%
22	George S. Patton GR45	7	3	10	14	71.42
23	John Wayne GR79	11	42	53	67	79.10%
24	Pride of Erin IR01	9	17	26	30	86.66%
25	Father Francis Duffy IR02	3	26	29	31	93.54%
26	Commodore John Barry IR03	2	14	16	16	100.00%
27	John F. Kennedy IR63	3	4	7	7	100.00%
28	Rome IT01	3	5	8	8	100.00%
29	Margraten NL01	25	160	185	177	104.51%
30	Brig Gen. Robin Olds TH01	13	64	77	90	85.55%
31	Sgt Thomas Oliver Ahlberg TH02	9	124	133	112	118.75%
GRAND TOTALS		991	1749	2740	3000	91.33%

Last Man Post

Post's Making the next Cutoff Percentage

Post's Making 100% Membership by 31 December 2024

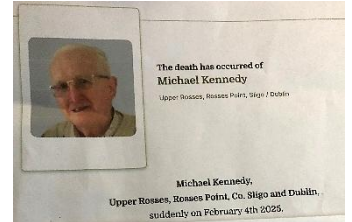
Post's Making 100% Membership by 31 May 2025

Post Everlasting



IR03

The death of US Army Michael Kennedy occurred on 04 February 2025. Michael Kennedy served from 1960 to 1964 as an Airborne soldier with the 82nd Division at Ft. Bragg, N Carolina. Michael served his four years and returned to Ireland, Michael was not a member of our post. Commander Howko was the only member of the graveside honor guard presenting the US burial flag and playing that moving song taps or the last call. Honor those that served, may he rest in peace.



Ron Howko,
 We are just so moved by your attendance, the words and message you delivered with pride and the musical tribute to dad. I cannot express how much it meant to our family. The image and sound under the clear sky and shadow of Ben Bulbin will bring us comfort and pride in our father for his and all of your fellow veterans contribution to America and the world.
 I am attaching 3 photos. I apologize for the delay in getting these to you. This is of you and Philip Kennedy, Michael's son, the grave and a photo we found amongst dad's things.
 Thank you so much and also for giving recognition to the Chareilton family (Diane) of Oranmore, Galway.
 All our very best wishes. Kind regards. Eileen Kennedy.



DEPARTMENT VCAL



Quincy Foster

Greetings Comrades,

I hope you and your families had a wonderful Valentine's Day. I also want to extend my gratitude to all the Department Officers for their outstanding efforts in making this year's Mid-Winter Conference a success. Your presentations were both informative and educational, covering key topics requested by Post Commanders and officers.

A special thank you to all the Post officers and members who

attended. Your participation made a difference. For those who chose not to join us, you missed a valuable opportunity to gain insights into financial reporting, running effective post meetings, Post Adjutant responsibilities, the SAL Program, the Foreign Medical Program, and many other important topics. Remember, the Department is here to support you, but it's a two-way street—the more you engage, the more you gain and, in turn, can give back to your fellow veterans.

Looking ahead, I encourage more of you to get involved in Department events. Attending the DEC meetings each quarter is a great place to start. I know discussions on membership may seem repetitive, but it remains a critical aspect of our organization. Engaging with your members and showing them that you care about

their membership will make a significant impact. Consider setting up awareness tables when possible to ensure our veterans know we are here to support them and their families.

Lastly, a quick reminder: The Department Oratorical Contest will be held on March 8, 2025, at Spangdahlem Air Base High School.

The 3rd DEC Meeting will take place on March 15, 2025, hosted by GR79 at their Post Home: Zum Reegen Im Ried, Riedweg 52, 74078 Heilbronn Frankenbach.

Thank you for your service and all that you do for the good of the Legion. BE THE ONE! And BE NICE!

God bless you and your families!
 Quincy Foster

**DEPARTMENT
VICE COMMANDER**



John Gerdeman

Dear comrades,
My monthly letter is over buddy checks.

I would like to know how many of you do a buddy check a month. I do not mean the ones here in Germany that come to your meeting every month.

I'm talking about the ones in the states or the ones with just a snail mail address. As a Post Commander I had the enjoyment of reconnecting with one of my members who forgot to leave a forwarding address. It took us over one year to find him and reinstate him in the system.

It's these members that are on your list and nobody thinks about. These are the ones you must check on. What happened to them? Why are they not writing to you, do you have the right information. If not then the search is on, start by emailing them or snail mail. Or investigate the internet, Facebook or obituaries until you find him or her.

**DEPARTMENT
VICE COMMANDER**



Jim Brotherton

Good day everyone.

We are almost out of the winter months. A shotgun blast to all the Posts, a reminder that 15 March the

Department will hold the 3rd DEC in Heilbronn Germany. Remember all outlying Posts, outside central Europe, may attend by video link, any delegate 70 years of age or older may also attend through a video link. I look forward to seeing as many actual attendees as possible. It is always great to be able to actually speak with our 'brothers and sisters' face to face.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that 29 March is Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day. I'm sure every Post has members who fall into this

category. I know several military installations throughout Europe usually hold recognition ceremonies. Not all Posts are able to enjoy this opportunity. I have also been told this will be the last year these ceremonies will be held. I encourage all Posts to attempt to hold a recognition event if at all possible. These Veterans deserve our respect and gratitude, something they were not offered when they returned.

Remember, always.... Be the One.

**DEPARTMENT
MEMBERSHIP
COMMITTEE**



James Dennis

Hello everyone. I would like to say thank you to all of you for supporting me in the last few months of my illness. This is for all of you who sent emails, letters, prayers, and stopped by to see me. I am thankful for all of you who took time out for me.

Thank You

James Dennis

**DEPARTMENT
AMERICAN LEGION
RIDERS DIRECTOR**



Jim Brotherton

Good day everyone, hope you all are doing just fine.

Reviewing the Legion Riders page on mylegion.org, the first thing I see is, "there are over 110,000 American Legion Riders in more than 2,000 Chapters across every domestic Department and at least

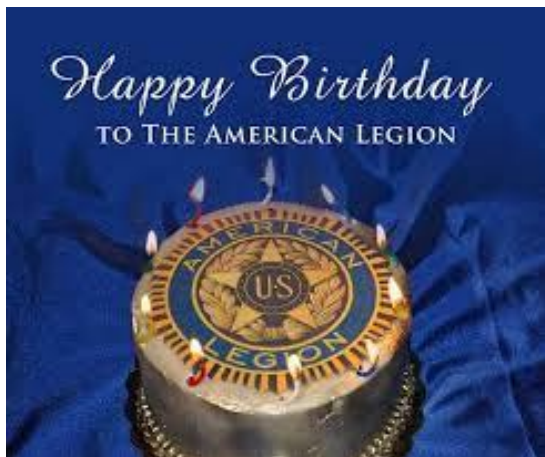
three foreign countries" Well, that doesn't sound right . I'm sure they probably meant to say three foreign **Departments**. Still good info to know.

A new path looking to explore is contacting other Veteran motorcycle organizations located here in Europe. I know that PDC Grey had been working with a German Veterans group, and I have recently been in contact with a Dutch Veterans motorcycle organization. When we hold the 3rd DEC in Heilbronn Germany on 15 March I look forward to discussing this with the Rider Chapter in GR79. I feel they would be the ideal group to work with the German connection while I pursue the Dutch Veterans organization. If anyone or Post has

some ideas or input on this I would like to hear them.

If your Post has any motorcycle riders and they are interested in forming a Chapter you should contact the Department Director. I know there are one or two Posts out there who have Riders, and they are wearing the American Legion Rider patch, sorry to say, as far as I know that is not authorized. They will either go through the steps of registering through the Post to establish a Chapter or remove the Patch. Post Commanders, I need your assistance on this ...Sorry.

That's it for now, looking forward to seeing as many Legion members as possible at our meeting on 15 March. Until then ride safe, if driving, keep your eyes open for the motorcycle rider. - Jim Brotherton

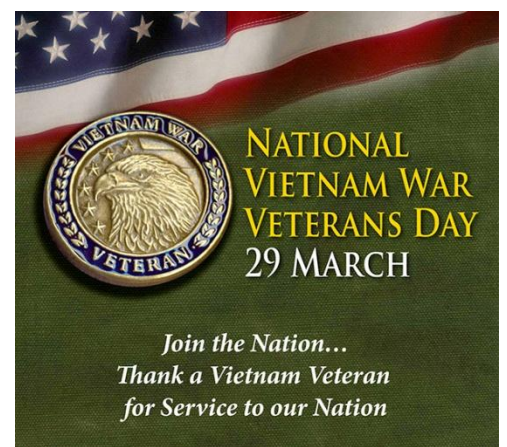


**March 15, 2025
American Legion Birthday**

On this day 106 years ago, members of the American Expeditionary Force convened in Paris for the first American Legion caucus.

**March 29, 2025
National Vietnam War Veterans Day**

March 29 is designated as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. This is a time to pay special tribute to the 9 million Americans who served during the Vietnam War era, to the 58,000 names memorialized on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., and to those who never received the recognition they deserved when they returned to America from war.





Frank Phillips

The American Legion Department of France Department Service Office

What we do

The Mission of the Department Service Office is to provide benefits information, assistance and advocacy to all who have served and their families. Many Veterans are unsure of their entitlement to VA benefits so we ask that anyone who identifies as having served to contact our office to be directed to an appropriate resource.

The Department Service Office provides services and help with the following benefits:

VA Services:

- Comprehensive VA benefits counseling
- BDD Transition VA Claims
- Assistance with Foreign Medical Program care enrollment
- VA Claims preparation, submission and follow-up on VA decisions
- Initiate and develop appeals on unfavorable VA decisions when appropriate to include representation at VA Hearings
- Survivors Death Benefits

** *We will not advise on Social Security or DoD matters. ONLY VA ISSUES!*

What do Department Service Officers do?

A DSO will ensure that Veterans and their families receive all federal VA benefits available to them. DSO's do this by providing effective and dedicated representation to veterans and their families, free of charge. *You will never receive a bill from us!*

DSO's are trained and accredited by the American Legion to represent veterans in their claims for VA benefits. DSO's are versed in applicable federal laws to provide the best representation possible.

The Department Service Office should be the first stop for all recently discharged service members and anyone who has served in any of our armed forces branches to receive a complete VA benefit explanation.

Department Service Office Staff

Office Visits by Appointment only:
Please call **Wednesday OR Friday**,
between 1300 and 1600 hours:
+49 964170587 1837 for an
appointment before visiting the office.

You can also send an e mail to:
VSO@fphillips.de

Location Main Office

USAG Ansbach, Katterbach Kaserne
Building 5818, Room 318
91522 Katterbach-Ansbach, Germany
Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/6XJQnGnTDu42>

To check the status of a Claim:

[Download and Install the
VA.GOV app.
\(android and IOS\)](#)



Why The American Legion Department of France Must Follow the European Union (EU) General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) By Department Judge Advocate James Settle and Assistant Judge Advocate Rick Simmons

Introduction

To understand the importance of GDPR compliance, this document outlines key aspects of the regulation, its relevance to our organization, and the necessary steps to ensure adherence. The GDPR, implemented on May 25, 2018, aims to protect the personal data and privacy of EU citizens and residents, regardless of whether that processing occurs in the European Union or another jurisdiction. **This also includes members of the American Legion Department of France who are living in Europe on a Permanent Residence/Other Visa from their host country.** Any organization that processes or handles data of EU citizens and residents, regardless of its location, must comply with GDPR regulations. Failure to comply can result in significant financial penalties and reputational damage. Non-compliance for an organization, whether for profit or non-profit, may suffer a major GDPR fine, up to 4% of its annual global turnover or €20 million (whichever is higher). **What fine a European-based American Legion Post could suffer is speculative, and dependent upon an offense, but it well could bankrupt the Post and moreover, the members may be held legally liable for additional fines, with both joint and several liability. Post under a Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) status, co-located with a US Garrison, may not be protected if the Post member(s) is a permanent resident of the host country, not personally under the SOFA treaty. This is unsettled law; however, legal liability for an alleged offense would be imposed by a European or host-nation entity, that may consider The American Legion Department of France and its members as a “trophy case” to win.**

The American Legion Department of France shoulders significant legal liability in its handling of Personal Identifiable Information (PII), any information that can be used to identify a person, for the administration of the Department and of the Post. Particularly, the Commanders, Adjutants and Veterans Service Officers, who routinely utilize membership information, are under a greater degree of running afoul of the GDPR, due to the nature of their jobs, **and each officer, as all members do, has an individual responsibility to protect PII.**

PII is not only at risk of unauthorized exposure in cyber-space or a web-page, it is also information saved to a hard drive, **and information on printed documents.** While computers can be hacked and stolen, printed documents with PII can be lost, stolen, or be seen by unauthorized individuals.

Ergo, this document will delve into the core principles of GDPR, its impact on businesses (including non-profit organizations, such as The American Legion), the risks of non-compliance, and actionable steps our Post can take to ensure full adherence. Each Post within The Department of France should consider their own compliance and liability. This document is not all-inclusive, but a base-line to begin GDPR compliance.

-1-

What is GDPR?

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is a legal framework implemented on May 25, 2018, designed to protect the personal data and privacy of EU citizens and residents. It establishes guidelines for organizations on data collection, storage, processing, and protection. GDPR applies to all businesses that handle personal data of individuals within the EU, regardless of their geographical location. The regulation aims to provide individuals with greater control over their personal information and ensures that organizations operate transparently and responsibly when managing data.

What is Personal Identifiable Information (PII) under the GDPR?

Personal data is any information that relates to an identified or identifiable living individual (data subject). Different pieces of information, which together can lead to the identification of a particular person, may also be considered personal data.

Personal data that has been de-identified, encrypted or pseudonymised but can be used to re-identify a person remains personal data and falls within the scope of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the EU's main data protection law.

Examples of personal data:

- a name and surname
- a home address
- an email address such as 'name.surname@company.com'
- an Internet Protocol (IP) address
- an identification card number
- a cookie ID
- the advertising identifier of your phone
- data held by a hospital or doctor, which could be a symbol that uniquely identifies a person

Personal data that has been rendered anonymous in such a way that the individual is no longer identifiable is not considered personal data. For data to be truly anonymised, the anonymisation must be irreversible.

Examples of data that is not considered personal data:

- a company registration number
- an email address such as 'info@company.com'
- anonymised data, if anonymisation is irreversible

What is data processing of Personal Identifiable Information (PII) under the GDPR?

Data processing of PII is any operation performed on personal data. It includes the collection, recording, organization, structuring, storage, adaptation or alteration, retrieval, consultation, use, disclosure by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making available, alignment or

combination, restriction, erasure or destruction of personal data. **As a Post Commander, Adjutant or Veterans Service Officer, or other leader, which of these functions do you perform?**

The GDPR protects personal data regardless of the technology used for processing that data. It is technology neutral and applies to both automated and manual processing, provided the data is organized in accordance with pre-defined criteria (for example in an alphabetical order). It also does not matter how the data is stored – in an IT system, through video surveillance, or on paper; in all cases, personal data is subject to the protection requirements set out in the GDPR.

Examples of data processing:

- staff management and payroll administration
- accessing or consulting a contacts database containing personal data
- shredding documents containing personal data
- posting a photo of a person on a website
- storing IP addresses or MAC addresses
- video recording (CCTV)

Who Does GDPR Apply To?

GDPR applies to any organization that processes or handles the personal data of EU citizens and residents, regardless of where the organization is located. This includes:

- **EU-based companies** that collect, store, or process personal data. This includes non-profit organizations.
- **Non-EU companies** offering goods or services to individuals in the EU or monitoring their behavior. This includes The American Legion Department of France.
- **Data controllers** (those who determine the purposes and means of processing personal data) and **data processors** (third parties that process data on behalf of controllers).

Key Principles of GDPR

- **Lawfulness, Fairness, and Transparency:** Ensure that all data collection and processing are conducted legally and with clear communication to data subjects about how their information is used.
- **Purpose Limitation:** Personal data should only be collected for specified, explicit, and legitimate purposes relevant to our business activities.
- **Data Minimization:** Only gather the necessary data required for operational or compliance needs, reducing exposure to security risks.
- **Accuracy:** Maintain up-to-date and accurate records to prevent misinformation and ensure reliability in decision-making.
- **Storage Limitation:** Establish data retention policies to prevent unnecessary storage of personal data beyond its intended purpose.
- **Integrity and Confidentiality:** Implement robust security measures to safeguard personal data from unauthorized access, breaches, or misuse.

- **Accountability:** Assign clear responsibilities for GDPR compliance within the organization and ensure regular audits to assess adherence to regulations.

Key Rights Under GDPR

Under GDPR, individuals have several rights that organizations must respect:

- **Right to Access:** Individuals can request a copy of their personal data and information on how it is used.
- **Right to Rectification:** Individuals can request corrections to inaccurate or incomplete data.
- **Right to Erasure ('Right to be Forgotten'):** Individuals can request the deletion of their personal data under certain conditions.
- **Right to Restrict Processing:** Individuals can limit the processing of their data under specific circumstances.
- **Right to Data Portability:** Individuals can request to transfer their data from one service provider to another in a structured, commonly used format.
- **Right to Object:** Individuals can object to data processing for direct marketing, research, or other legitimate interests.

Organizations must have mechanisms in place to facilitate these rights and respond to requests in a timely manner.

Consequences of Non-Compliance

- Heavy fines (up to 20 million euros or 4% of global turnover)
- Legal action and reputational damage
- Loss of Legion membership trust and recruiting opportunities
- Notable cases of non-compliance:
 - Google was fined €50 million by the French data protection authority (CNIL) for lack of transparency and improper user consent practices.
 - British Airways faced a £20 million fine for a data breach affecting 400,000 customers.
 - Marriott International was fined £18.4 million due to a data breach compromising millions of guest records.

These cases highlight the serious financial and reputational risks of failing to comply with GDPR.

Benefits of GDPR Compliance

- Strengthens data security and privacy
- Enhances membership trust and brand reputation
- Improves internal data management and governance
- Avoids legal and financial penalties
- Competitive advantage within The American Legion

Steps to Ensure GDPR Compliance

- **Data Governance & Responsibility:**
 - Conducting data audits to identify collected personal data and its usage
 - Appointing a Data Protection Officer (DPO) to oversee compliance efforts
- **Policy Development & Training:**
 - Implementing clear data protection policies and procedures
 - Providing regular GDPR training for employees to ensure awareness and accountability
- **Transparency & Data Handling:**
 - Ensuring transparency in data collection, usage, and consent mechanisms
 - Strengthening cybersecurity measures to prevent breaches and unauthorized access
- **Incident Response & Monitoring:**
 - Establishing a robust breach notification process with clear reporting timelines
 - Setting up continuous compliance monitoring and periodic reviews to assess risks and improvements

How The American Legion Department of France and its Post Can Implement The GDPR

To achieve full GDPR compliance, The American Legion Department of France and its Post must take the following steps:

1. **Review Current Data Processing Activities:** Conduct an in-depth audit of how personal data is collected, stored, and processed.
2. **Update Privacy Policies and Consent Mechanisms:** Ensure that privacy policies are clear, transparent, and aligned with GDPR requirements. Obtain explicit and informed consent from individuals where necessary.
3. **Implement Staff Training Programs:** Train employees on GDPR principles, data protection measures, and how to handle personal data responsibly.
4. **Establish a Compliance Monitoring Framework:** Regularly assess compliance through internal audits, risk assessments, and corrective actions.
5. **Engage Legal and IT Experts for Guidance:** Collaborate with legal professionals and cybersecurity specialists to navigate compliance challenges and enhance data security.

Conclusion and Next Steps

Ensuring GDPR compliance is critical for protecting The American Legion Department of France from financial penalties, legal action, and reputational damage. It also builds trust with membership and strengthens our data security practices.

Next Steps:

- **Short-term (1-3 months):** Conduct a data audit and update policies.
- **Mid-term (3-6 months):** Provide membership training and implement enhanced security measures, including reporting procedures for a data breach.
- **Long-term (6+ months):** Establish a continuous compliance monitoring system with regular assessments.

- Assign responsibilities within the organization and set clear milestones for compliance progress.

By taking a proactive approach, we can ensure that our Department and our Post remain compliant with GDPR while reinforcing data protection and security protocols. More information on Data Protection written in English can be found at https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection_en

As we are a volunteer organization, using personal devices, it is ultimately the individual Legionnaire (YOU) who will ensure our compliance with the GDPR.

PARIS POST FR01

PARIS, FRANCE

Important Dates

1. March 15th: Paris Post 1 Monthly Meeting and The American Legion's "Founders Day" Ceremony 106th
2. April 19th: Paris Post 1 Monthly Meeting
3. May 8th: End of WWII (ceremonies throughout France)
4. May 17th: Paris Post 1 Monthly Meeting
5. May 25th: Memorial Day (Sunday) in France



American Legion Paris Post 1's 105th Birthday Gala at the École Militaire

ABMF 2025 Past is Prologue Essay Contest!

During World War II, millions of Americans and their freedom-loving allies around the world fought selflessly to battle the unspeakable evil and defeat the Nazi regime & the Axis Powers.

Go 80 years back in history: Learn how and why – and compete for prize money up to \$10,000 with your winning essay!

The ABMF Past is Prologue Essay Contest invites students ages 11-12, 13-15, and 16-18 to compete within their respective age groups with an original in-depth, thought-provoking essay.

Topics relate to historical events associated with an American military cemetery or monument overseas, managed by the American Battle Monuments Commission. Nearly 234,000 American service members are buried or memorialized (for soldiers who were never recovered) at ABMC hallowed ground.

The American Battle Monuments Foundation (ABMF) is an independent, not-for-profit partner of the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC).

Apply online at abmf.org to receive your Unique Participant ID number. Submit your essay no later than 10 PM (Mountain Time) on Sunday, April 27, 2025. Winners will be announced by Gold Star Mothers and Families Day, September 28, 2025.

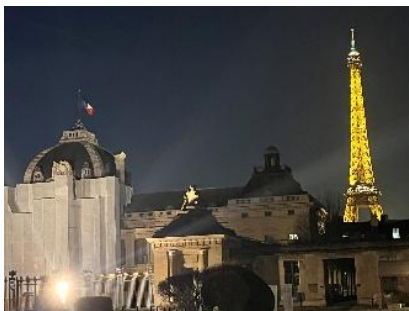


American Legion Paris Post 1's US Constitution Oratorical Contest at the International School of Paris (ISP)

We'd like to express a very special thanks to the International School of Paris (ISP) and the Roosevelt-Vivieux Family for their amazing support for this year's contest!

Since 1938, the American Legion's High School Oratorical Scholarship Program "A Constitutional Speech Contest" has offered countless high school students the opportunity to gain deeper knowledge and a real appreciation for the United States Constitution.

Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership skills, critical thinking, speech and debate skills, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, rights, and privileges of American citizenship.



American Legion Paris Post 1's 105th Birthday Gala at the École Militaire



A big anniversary celebrating living history: An event that Paris Post 1 will never forget!

American Legion Paris Post 1 was so fortunate to have many from our community join us at the École Militaire for the post's 105th birthday. It was a wonderful evening filled with good food, good spirits and lots of news on the history and accomplishments of Paris Post 1 over the past century.

A huge thank you to photographer Chantal Mistral-Bernard who was our official photographer for the evening, and Paris Post 1 Sons Squadron member George Sol Shantzek for photos & videos of our historic event! We are blessed to have their support.

We're also very grateful to have so many from our local and international community join us. Special thank you to all of the non-profit associations who were present including the International School of Paris (ISP), American Aid Society, Franco-American Benevolent Society, BSA Troop 112, Association of Americans Resident Overseas (AARO), The American Club and a host of others.

As the saying goes, "a photo speaks a thousand words," so we've compiled many photos & videos from the evening to share.

[VIDEO: Paris Post 1's 105th Birthday at the Ecole Militaire](#)



Photo by Chantal Mistral-Bernard

Paris Post 1 was fortunate to be able to tour the École with our guests for our 105th birthday gala. Attendees were able to tour the facilities and grounds including the stables.

Le Manège (The Armoury) at the École Militaire was created in 1756, one year after the construction of the Royal Military School. Initially intended for the equestrian instruction of the kingdom's cadets, over time it became the crucible of classical French horse riding, along with that of Versailles.

It eventually became Le Manège de l'École Supérieure de Guerre in 1876.



Photo by George Sol Shantzek

Franco-American attorney and President of AARO, Doris Speer with Nathan Aaron Shantzek, student at the American Section of the Lycée International, founded by Gen. Dwight D Eisenhower.



Photo by George Sol Shantzek

Remembering our heroes who served in France during World War I during Paris Post 1's 105th birthday including the great grandfather of Legionnaire Charlie Dawson, a member of our post who flew to Paris from the USA for this historic event.



Photo by Chantal Mistral-Bernard

Paris Post 1's newest Auxiliary member, Melissa Adams, joined the birthday event with her family plus our Oratorical Contest contestant Thomas Ravel's grandfathers attended the historic evening while visiting from the USA.



Photo by George Sol Shantzek

We were thankful to have the leadership of the International School of Paris (ISP) at the Ecole Militaire including Head of Schools and French military veteran Antoine Delaitre, professor Mariana Martini, and school administrators Ambre Guichard and Courtney Knight. We are very thankful for the extraordinary support that they

have provided to Paris Post 1. The legacy of the International School of Paris (ISP) began in Pershing Hall, and we were honored to celebrate ISP's 50th anniversary in 2024.



Photo by Chantal Mistral-Bernard

Paris Post 1 and The American Legion both got their start in 1919 in Paris, France. Special thank you to the École Militaire for their help in providing plenty of tables for Paris Post 1's memorabilia and history exhibition highlighting our historic post's 105 year legacy in France.



Photo by Chantal Mistral-Bernard

Kate Adams and Rohan Patel surprised Paris Post 1 Commander Bryan Schell with some special gifts for the post: a patch and neckerchief celebrating BSA Troop 112's 70th anniversary. BSA Troop 112 got their start in Pershing Hall 70 years ago, congratulations to our scouts and parents for their

dedication to keeping scouting alive and well in Paris!



Photo by Chantal Mistral-Bernard

Paris Post 1 was honored to present the Myron T. Herrick medal to Joseph Small Hoover at the Ecole Militaire. Joe has been supporting American veterans and auxiliary at Paris Post 1 for decades helping provide legal expertise to our family of non-profit associations so we may flourish for generations to come.



Photo by Chantal Mistral-Bernard
Special guest French sculptor, Luc du Moustier, brought two busts that he sculpted while creating the larger statue which is now on public display at the Pentagon and other locations in the USA.



A special book was created in honor of the new statue highlighting the legacy of Foch and Pershing. A few of these limited edition books may be available, please stay in touch for future announcements or email us to reserve a copy (commander@parispost1.fr).

RHEIN NECKAR POST GR03

HEIDELBERG, GERMANY



Commander Gerdeman is pinning the American legion pin on Carl Arnold and giving him an American flag.



Members from GR03. Left to right, Ed Sherman, Carl Arnold, John Gerdeman, Don Kienlen.

GR 09 and village officials pay tribute to WW II Americans who perished in plane crash

On Saturday, 22 February the William D. Nelson Post GR 09 conducted its annual memorial service in memory of seven WW II US Army Airmen who died near the village of Pfaffenhofen on 22 February 1945 when their B-17 bomber broke apart in mid-air and crashed during a bombing run to Ulm.

In 2012 the village placed a monument at the crash site in memory of the seven who died in the defense of freedom and in the service of their country and since 2014 both GR 09 members and village officials have paid tribute to these Americans. This ritual has been ongoing and even adverse weather has not kept members

from meeting at the monument and the placement of a floral arrangement. During his speech Post Commander Aman stated that the memory of these brave Americans has been renewed with the introduction of historian and well known author Jonathan Darman who in 2023 came across a trove of information regarding the crews and survivors of the crash and is writing a book which will be published in the Fall of 2026.

Joining Post Commander Jerry Aman and ten GR 09 Legionnaires were Dr. Sebastian Sparwasser, Bürgermeister (Mayor) of Pfaffenhofen, Josef Walz, former Bürgermeister of Pfaffenhofen, Reverend George Oblinger of the Marienfried Place of Worship,

members of the Ulmer Traditional Artillerist and numerous German guests. In his speech Bürgermeister Sparwasser recounted the story of the ill-fated flight of the B-17 and thanked GR 09 for their dedication to maintaining the legacy of this event and pointed out that this was the 80th anniversary of the crash. Dr. Sparwasser again asked that GR 09 continue with this tradition and offered his and his village's full support.

Approximately 35 people were in attendance.

After the ceremony all members visited a local restaurant to celebrate the continuation of this partnership.



Reverend Oblinger offering a prayer for the event.



GR 09 members at monument



Monument with floral arrangements and



Bürgermeister Dr. Sparwasser giving his speech to the attendees

wood carving attesting to 80 years.



Saint Patrick's Day

Next Saint Patrick's Day Monday, 17 March 2025

People celebrate Saint Patrick's Day on March 17 to honor the Patron Saint of Ireland, St. Patrick.

He played a significant role in introducing and celebrating the Irish culture across the world. It is not a national holiday, so schools and holidays work per normal working hours.

JOHN WAYNE POST GR79

HEILBRONN, GERMANY

GR79 VALENTINE DINNER



The Department of France 3rd DEC

In Heilbronn, Germany 15 March 2025 / GR 79 POST HOME
Zum Reegen Im Ried Riedweg 52 74078 Heilbronn—Frankenbach

Schedule of events:15 March 2025:

1100 – 1200 Lunch
1145 – 1215 Past Commanders Club
1215 – 1255 Registration
1300 – 3 rd DEC

Dinner Buffet Menu Cost €30 / Time 11.00

Mixed Salad Caesar Style	Sliced Turkey in Creamy Pepper- Gravy	Roast Pork with Pork-Gravy
Chicken Schnitzel	Different Vegetables	Fries and Spätzle-Noodles
	New York Cheesecake	

If you are in attendance and plan to eat, PLEASE send me your Name, how many are with your post and their names. To all that plan to attend the 3rd DEC and would like to eat lunch, you need to notify me no later than 8 March 2025. This is necessary to provide the number of meals to be prepared to the Gasthaus.

GR79 Commander Charlie Brown / ycalbrown50@gmail.com /01719259949

HEILBRONN HOTELS

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Hotel Gasthof zum Rössle
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74078 Heilbronn
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**DETACHMENT
COMMANDER**



John Fleming



DETACHMENT OF FRANCE

**DETACHMENT
ADJUTANT**



James Dennis

Hello Sons,

Membership: If you have not paid your 2025 Membership dues, you are listed as EXPIRED as of 1 February 2025.

The Membership report I received dated 24 February 2025 shows the Detachment in 45th place at 70.39%. That is 126 Members of the 179 Members we need to reach 100%. Let's push a little harder this year and attain that goal.

Squadron	Annual Dues	Total Members	2025 Goal	2025 Active Members	Percent of Goal	Expired
FR01	\$41.50	24	16	8	50.00%	16
BE02	\$20.00	26	17	12	70.59%	14
CH01	\$35.00	70	37	27	72.97%	43
GR01	\$15.00	15	12	11	91.67%	4
GR05	\$10.00	6	4	0	0.00%	6
GR06	\$10.00	41	4	1	25.00%	40
GR07	\$20.00	23	13	14	107.69%	9
GR14	\$10.00	11	2	0	0.00%	11
GR42	\$15.00	38	36	30	83.33%	8
GR79	\$15.00	44	23	23	100.00%	21
NL01	\$20.00	14	15	0	0.00%	14
		312	179	126	70.39%	186

I am asking all Squadrons and Posts to look at your membership rosters and contact every member who is marked as Expired. We still need to get them renewed.

Please talk to your Post members to see if they are eligible. If your Post does not have a Squadron, contact the closest Squadron or the Squadron of your choice and sign up. Talk to family members and sign them up. The Department has 3000 Members. The Detachment should have at least that many.

Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR): The 2024-2025 CSR is available on myLegion.org, so I suggest everyone start working on this.

Dates to Remember:

- 1 March 2025 – 3rd DEC
- 7 June 2025 – 4th DEC/Convention/1st DEC

John Fleming
Detachment Commander

PCC President



John Gerdeman

**Department of France
Past Commanders Club 2025MY**

Who is eligible to join the Department of France

Past Commanders Club?

PCC Secretary



Kerwin Hester

Past and Present Department Commanders, Department Vice Commanders At Large, Department Vice Commanders, Post Commanders, SAL Detachment Commanders, SAL Squadron Commanders, Auxiliary Department Presidents, Auxiliary Unit Presidents... so if you were just voted into the office, you are eligible to join

Initial dues for the Past Commanders Club is only \$25.00 / Renewal dues for the Past Commanders Club is only \$10.00

To all members of the PCC. We will be voting for the 2025 "Good Guy Award" at our Third Legion DEC. If you have someone in mind for this award (*a non-Legionnaire, SAL, AUX or Rider*), please do a write-up on them explaining why you want this individual to be selected, his name, admitting post number and bring it with you to the DEC in March! The nominated person does not have to be present, but you must have his nomination form written to turn in at the DEC!

PCC President John Gerdeman



GRANDE CHEF DE GARE *DAVID GARCIA*

GRANDE CORRESPONDANT *DAVID GREAUX*

LA SOCIÉTÉ DES QUARANTE HOMMES ET HUIT CHEVAUX (THE SOCIETY OF FORTY MEN AND EIGHT HORSES) IS AN INDEPENDENT, BY INVITATION, HONOR SOCIETY OF AMERICAN VETERANS, MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS “THE FORTY & EIGHT”.

THE FORTY & EIGHT IS COMMITTED TO CHARITABLE AND PATRIOTIC AIMS. OUR PURPOSE IS TO UPHOLD AND DEFEND THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, TO PROMOTE THE WELL-BEING OF VETERANS, THEIR WIDOWS, WIDOWERS, AND ORPHANS, AND TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN SELECTED CHARITABLE ENDEAVORS, WHICH INCLUDE AMONG OTHERS, PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE CHILD WELFARE AND NURSES TRAINING.

MEMBERSHIP IS BY INVITATION, AND OPEN ONLY TO HONORABLY DISCHARGED VETERANS AND HONORABLY SERVING MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Saturday 26 April 2025 / Grand Elections - Heilbronn, Germany
Saturday 19 July 2025 / Grand Wreck – Kaiserslautern, Germany

Is your flag lapel pin important?

According to the United States Flag Code, American flag pins should be worn on the left lapel. The logic behind this is that you should wear your patriotism closest to your heart. However, for men who are wearing ties but not blazers, the preferred placement for the pin is on the center of the tie. It should be used on its own and not in conjunction with another tie tack. Individuals who are wearing neither jackets nor ties should place flag pins on the left side of their shirts and just above their hearts.



Flag lapel pins shouldn't be too large, as it might make it appear flashy. When you look for a flag pin, find one that is small instead. While there's not a specific size limit that's right, it's ideal to choose one that's about a half inch.