



# Legion News

## DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE



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

November 2024

Vol. 22 / Nr. 11



**DEPARTMENT  
COMMANDER**



*Dennis Owens*

Greetings Department of France,

I write this just prior to my departure for the 2nd DEC in St. Avold France. There is a lot on my mind right now. We recently attended the National Convention for The American Legion in New Orleans in August. I also attended the Commanders and Adjutant's Fall Meeting in Indianapolis earlier this month. Each time I attend one of these meetings, I learn a great deal about our organization.

For "Be the One", I learned that just since 9/11 we have lost over 135,000 veterans to suicide. This is way more than the war dead we lost from the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom and the 20 years we spent in Afghanistan, all COMBINED!

Be the One, first, I would like to say that I was touched by the training I received at the Be the One Symposium prior to the start of the National Convention. There were many speakers, but the one who touched me the most was a young man named Kevin Heins. You see, Kevin is one of the only five individuals who survived jumping off of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco and lives to talk about his story. You can see his story on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYZeM7MIkXtU--r9BIDTQA>

We learned what it means to be the One. It is not a motto, it is a way of life. How many friends have you lost to suicide? I have lost several, a couple I spoke with shortly before they committed the act. One was the hardest funeral I've ever attended; I thought it was going to be a closed

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casket, it was not and my knees buckled beneath me when I saw him and my friends had to help me out of there.

The Columbia University has come up with six questions for one to ask a friend, partner, college, kids... whoever you think is in the mind to take their own life. These six questions can be found inside the "Be the One" App that can be downloaded on your iPhone or Android phone so you have them at hand all of the time with you. The App is great, it asks you a few questions like are you over 18, are you considering suicide or someone else? It knows your location to pass to the authorities and it guides you through the six questions to gauge or rate the likeliness that the one you are talking to really plans to kill himself. These six questions have saved over 20,000 veterans from committing suicide. If someone you know has had a life changing thing happen to him or her like divorce, loss of job, death in the family, this is the one you need to keep your eye on. This is the person who will be depressed because of the things I just mentioned. It must be YOU to walk up and ask a few uncomfortable questions. You do not have to ask all six, you can stop where you think is a proper ending to the questions.

Here are the six questions, In the past month, ...

- 1) Have you wished you were dead or wished you could go to sleep and not wake up? [If yes = Low Risk]
- 2) Have you actually had any thoughts of killing yourself? [If yes, ask questions 3-6, if no then skip to question 6]
- 3) Have you been thinking about how you might do this? [If yes = Moderate Risk]
- 4) Have you had these thoughts and had some intention of acting on them? [If yes indicates a High Risk]
- 5) Have you started to work out or worked out the details of how to kill yourself? Did you intend to carry out this plan? [If yes indicates a High Risk]
- 6) Have you ever done anything, started to do anything, or prepared to do anything to end your life? [If no it indicates a moderate Risk, If yes indicates a High Risk]

If "YES" to any high-risk questions requires further evaluation and possible safety precautions. More on this important topic can be found at [WWW.CSSRS.COLUMBIA.EDU](http://WWW.CSSRS.COLUMBIA.EDU).

Just ask. You can Save a Life!

Commander Dennis Owens

**DEPARTMENT  
ADJUTANT**



*John Fleming*

Greeting Comrades,

November is the month that we celebrate Veterans Day. The Department will be holding its Veterans Day Ceremony at the Lorraine American Cemetery, in St.

Avold, France, at 1100 CET, on 11 November 2024. We also have the Commanders and Adjutants Meeting scheduled for 1400 CET, on 3 November 2024. The link for the meeting will be sent out on Thursday, 31 October 2024.

**HOT TOPICS:**

1. My email address: If you have and/or are using Adjutant.DFR@outlook.com, do not use it. Delete it. Any email sent to that email address goes to an unmonitored email box. I might not see it for months.

2. The correct abbreviation for the Department of France is DFR. That stands for the Department of FRance. Please do not use DOF or DoF.

Certification of Officers: Thank you to the Posts who have recently held elections and sent in the Notification forms. I can add all Post Officers to the Post Officers Roster on myLegion.org. Reminder, after Post elections or a change in Post Officers, it is required to send two forms to the Department Adjutant.

1. Notification of Post/Squadron Commanders & Adjutants: This form must be sent to the Department Adjutant immediately (within 24 hours) after Post elections. The form should be dated the date of the elections/appointment.

2. Post Officer Certification of Service Form: This form has been revised and sent to all Posts. It needs to be forwarded to the Department Adjutant as soon as possible after Post elections (within 15 days). The Effective Date of Election of Appointment is the date of the original election or

appointment. For example, if an Officer was elected on 1 May 2023 and reelected on 1 May 2024, the Effective Date block will show 1 May 2023.

These forms are critical to keep the current Post Officer informed of Department news. If I do not have the correct information, your Post may not receive vital information.

Please contact me for any questions or if you need the forms.

Consolidated Post Report (CPR): Start working on this as soon as it becomes available.

Dates to Remember:

3 November 2024, 1400 CET – Commanders and Adjutants Meeting via WebEx

11 November 2024, 1100 CET – Veterans Day Ceremony, Lorraine American Cemetery, St. Avold, France

28 November 2024, Thanksgiving Day.

Thanks, and best wishes.

John Fleming  
Department Adjutant

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## DEPARTMENT VCAL



*Quincy Foster*

Greetings Comrades,

I hope and pray all is well with you and your families. I attended the 2nd DEC was held at Saint – Avold, France. I am sorry if you were unable to attend and I thank those who did attend. It was good to see you all and to meet and greet other Department and Post members. It a very good 2nd DEC.

I would like to remind you all again about the Mid-Winter Conference

that will be held on the 25th from 09:00 to 1600 and the 26th from 11:00 to 16:00 January 2025. Also, again you do not have to be on line the entire week end. We do ask you to be online when your topic is being provided by our Department Officers. Some of the subjects that you have asked us to provide a block for are:

Duties of Post Service Officers.

S.A.L Department.

How to host an effective information table.

Planning an Annual Post Budget.

Fundraising Activates.

Use of Parliamentary Procedures to conduct a meeting.

Why having Post Americanism Program are important.

Membership Retention.

Several other suggested subjects could be: Constitution and Bylaws, Legal issues, Post Operations, Running an Effective Meeting, Be the One Training, Resolutions, Post Opportunities (Awards), Proper Buddie Checks and how to use My Legion.

The 11th of November is Veterans Day I am Planning on attending the event in France and Visiting the Paris post FR01 for their Ceremonies. Please take the time to visit Grave Sites and place an American Flag on our Comrades Graves that has gone to our Post Everlasting.

Me and my family wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving!

God Bless you All!

Quincy

**DEPARTMENT  
Vice Commander**



*Jim Brotherton*

It has been a busy time for all of us associated with the Department of France, whether it was at the Post or Department level. I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to each of you for putting forth the time, efforts and dedication to

making this Department an example we can all be proud of. I especially want to thank my fellow Vice Commanders for your relentless efforts you make to support and help your assigned Posts, it is commendable, keep up the hard work and continue with the time and efforts you invest to make us all look good.

On another note, I would like to shine the light on two of our Posts located in the United Kingdom, London Post EG01 and Liberty Post EG02. I especially would like to thank Commander James FitzGerald and Commander Tim Litherland. They made my wife,

and I feel very welcome and a part of their family. They coordinated their General Membership Meeting and Post elections so that we were able to attend these events back-to-back and give me the opportunity to swear in their newly elected and re-elected Officers.

I would like to congratulate Commanders FitzGerald and Litherland on their nomination and selection to carry on as Commanders for the next membership cycle. Having met your members and Officers, I feel you and your Posts will continue to do great things and make the Department of France proud.



**DEPARTMENT  
BOY'S STATE / ORATORICAL  
COMMITTEE**



*Joseph Schram*



**Department of France Oratorical Contest**

Tentative Date: Saturday, 08 March 2025

Venue: **Wiesbaden, Germany**

**Please provide date and venue for your Post level competition to Oratorical Contest Director**



**Eagle Scout of the Year**

Nomination Application Form Available as of 01 Nov

The deadline for nominations is **28 Feb 2025**

Nomination forms can be obtained from the Dept Adjutant



**Girl Scout Gold Award "Scout of the Year"**

Nomination Application Form Available as of 01 Nov

The deadline for nominations is **28 Feb 2025**

Nomination forms can be obtained from the Dept Adjutant

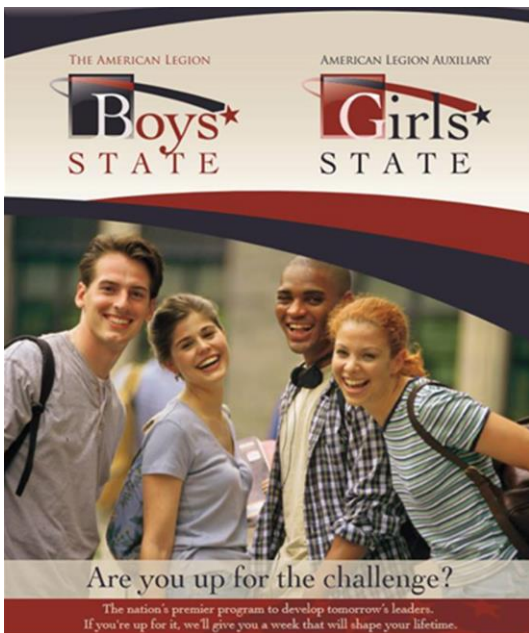


**Civil Air Patrol Cadet of the Year**

Nomination Application Form Available as of 01 Nov

The deadline for nominations is **28 Feb 2025**

Nomination forms can be obtained from the Dept Adjutant



**Boys State / Girls State**

Applications for Boys State / Girls State are due to the Boys State Director not later than 01 April 2025. Any applications received after that date will not be accepted.

The Boys State director will host a seminar regarding the Boys State / Girls State program on Tuesday, 12 November starting at 7pm (CET)

**Boys State Seminar**

Time: Tuesday, 12 Nov 2024 @ 07:00 PM CET

Seminar Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87697623850?pwd=ZjTc4yCcPMSiD1UuDnIjbyti4LNYzk.1>

Meeting ID: 876 9762 3850

Passcode: 161440

**DEPARTMENT  
AMERICAN LEGION  
RIDERS DIRECTOR**



*Jim Brotherton*

This article is not going to be so much about the Riders but directed at the Department Vice Commanders and Post Commanders.

Our American Legion Rider program is small, most Posts in the States have membership far exceeding what we have at the Department level. That does not change the fact that we must function as a Department program. If, as Department Vice Commanders or as a Post Commander, you have a Post, even with one or two Riders, these Posts must follow certain protocols. I'm

seeing cases where within a Post an individual(s) are establishing what they consider a Chapter and wearing the American Legion Riders patch.

There are certain steps that must be followed before they are considered a Post Chapter. Just to get started, they must;

- The Post must vote on establishing a Chapter within the Post, the vote must be recorded in the GMM minutes
- The minutes of that meeting must be forwarded to the Department Rider Director for approval
- There are Department SOP's that must be complied with to have an approved Chapter.

This is just a very wide brush stroke where this needs to be completed and followed before the member in your Post can sew that American Legion Riders patch on their back and call themselves a Chapter.

As we head into the winter months and things slow down I will be giving more attention to the

Department Rider program. Post Commanders, if you have a member of your Post wearing American Legion Rider patch and the minimum steps have not been complied with or taken, you are responsible and will need to explain to the Department body why you are letting this happen and either take the steps to have a proper Chapter established or have that person(s) discontinue wearing that patch.

I ask everyone's help, Department Vice Commanders and Post Commanders, to help get our program in order and adhere to the rules that govern this program.

If the Post Commanders or members of their respective Post require help and guidance with this, please do not hesitate to ask. Be safe, ride safe and most important watch out for the other guy (or girl). Jim Brotherton Department Rider Director.

## PARIS POST FR01

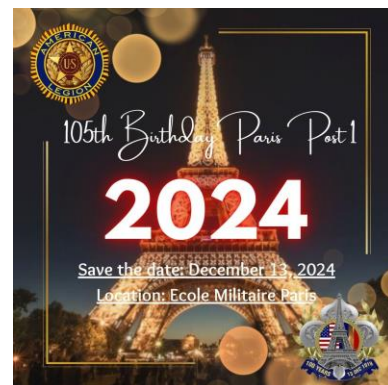
*PARIS, FRANCE*



**NEW AMERICAN WWII MEMORIAL:** Special event to commemorate a new American memorial plaque in Ville-d'Avray honoring American volunteer ambulance drivers and organizations from World War II.



News flash: Paris Post 1 attends the Para Olympics in Sucy-en-Brie, thank you Gigi and Gary Nadolski for representing our post!



**Save the Date! Paris Post 1's 105th Birthday Celebration Dinner**

Paris Post 1 would like to invite you to our 105th birthday celebration and dinner!

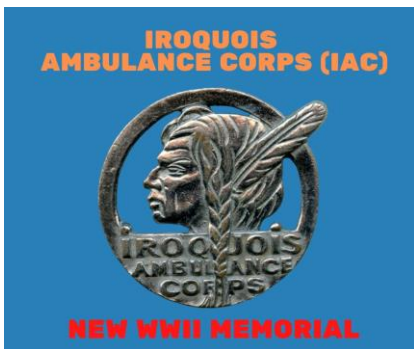
Event: Paris Post 1's 105th Birthday Celebration and Dinner

Location: Ecole Militaire

Date: December 13, 2024 (evening)  
Dinner tickets will be available soon!  
Please save the date for Paris Post 1's birthday, our nonprofit association has been serving American veterans and families in France since the end of World War I (1919).

Our Veterans, Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion members have accomplished a lot over the years, and we would like to celebrate our birthday with you!

Join us for a special evening with a delicious dinner at the Ecole Militaire plus updates on Paris Post 1's history, accomplishments and recent advancements in our programs and partnerships.



### **New World War II Memorial Iroquois Ambulance Corps (IAC)**

Paris Post 1 would like to extend a special thank you and congratulations to everyone involved in the creation of a new American memorial commemorating the courage and spirit of the volunteer ambulance services from World War II.

The extraordinary work and dedication in the creation of this new American memorial in Ville-d'Avray honoring the volunteer ambulance drivers from the

Iroquois Ambulance Corps (IAC), the American Field Service (AFS) and the American Volunteer Ambulance Corps (AVAC) is a testament to the continuity of the courage and spirit that was alive during that horrific period in World War II.

The family legacies of these volunteers has been brought together with the culmination of this new memorial through the dedication and hard work of their descendants and their key partners including the city of Ville-d'Avray.

Lead by one of these descendants, who is a Legionnaire at Paris Post 1, Larry Winter Roeder Jr. was instrumental in ensuring this new memorial was created. He is the son of Larry Winter Roeder who drove for the American Field Service. Larry grew up listening to his father's stories of his time as a volunteer ambulance driver, and how it drove his father to continue serving his country.

After compiling family histories of the volunteer ambulance drivers throughout his lifetime, Larry decided to take his history preservation a step further by creating a new American memorial in France. He started to reach out to local government officials, institutes of higher education and community associations like Paris Post 1 to coordinate for research, logistics for the new memorial and collaboration for the memorial event.



### **Journey Back to France La Rochelle, Paris & Ville-d'Avray**

Larry was grateful to receive a lot of support from many in France who understand the importance of saving this history. Many of the legacies of

these heroes are unknown or are not available on the internet.

From La Rochelle to Paris to Ville-d'Avray, the interest and support for this special history preservation project grew!

After about a year of planning, and many months of intense work, the creation and approval to place the new memorial plaque in Ville-d'Avray was coming together.

When Larry and his wife Nancy first arrived in France, they first went to La Rochelle where Larry's aunt, Josephine Winter Porter, had driven several times with wounded. While in La Rochelle, Larry met with the city maire Jean-François Fountaine to discuss the important history of volunteer ambulance drivers with his community.



*photo by: Chantal Mistral-Bernard*  
**Iroquois Ambulance Corps (IAC) New World War II Memorial in Ville-d'Avray**

After arriving back in Paris, Larry and his wife Nancy spent some time meeting with locals and preparing for the weekend dedication ceremony for the new American memorial in Ville-d'Avray just minutes from downtown. A very special thank you to maire Aline de Marcillac and her team for their support and dedication to helping ensure this new memorial was created. We are all very grateful for welcoming us, and for providing local expertise for the new memorial and special event.

The kindness of everyone in Ville-d'Avray is really what made this event special and unique. Everyone was very grateful to hear the maire, adjoint maires and historian of the city speak about the importance of saving this history and creating this new memorial for their community.

In the photo above, Larry Roeder and Maire Aline de Marcillac speaking to

the community at the memorial dedication ceremony.



**Paris Post 1 Auxiliary and Sons Joins the 10th Mountain Division Association in Montenegro**

Retired Colonel Jim Creighton, Vice Commander of Myers-Prescott-Olson Post 50 for the American Legion in New Hampshire, joined Paris Post 1 Sons Squadron member David

Mattson and sister Auxiliary Anna Marie Mattson in Montenegro for the International Federation of Mountain Soldiers Congress.

This special event and commemoration ceremony was held in Podgorica, Monténégro at the end of September.

More than 10 countries participated, they were there representing the 10th Mountain Division Association for the USA.



American Airlines' World War II group at the Arc de Triomphe with Paris Post 1 for the ravage ceremony prior to going to Normandy for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.



The group of WWII heroes with their families surrounded the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier for the ravage ceremony under the Arc de Triomphe. Almost 70 WWII veterans from all over the USA made the voyage to France for the 80th anniversary of D-Day. An historic ceremony for our WWII veterans on their arrival to France!

## RILEY L. PITTS POST GR07

WIESBADEN, GERMANY

### Top Wiesbaden JROTC cadets honored for their military and scholarship excellence



*Photos by Wiesbaden American High School for The American Legion*

WIESBADEN, GERMANY – Wiesbaden American High School Army JROTC Cadet Cydnee Lassiter (left) was awarded the American Legion ROTC Military Excellence Medal and Cadet Delaney Hodges (right) the American Legion ROTC Scholastic Excellence Medal. Todd Johnson, commander of American Legion Post GR07, along side Jerry Griffis, the post adjutant, presented the achievement awards at U.S. Army Garrison, Wiesbaden.



Department Commander Owens (L) at the 2nd DEC



GR79 General Membership Meeting



GR79 Legion Riders



GR79 Halloween Fest



DETACHMENT  
COMMANDER



John Fleming



## DETACHMENT OF FRANCE

DETACHMENT  
ADJUTANT



James Dennis

Hello Comrades,

**Membership:** We continue to have a great 2025 Membership year! The Membership report I received dated 24 October 2024 shows the Detachment at 48.04%. That is 86 Members of the 179 Members we need to reach 100%. Let's push a little harder this year and attain that goal.

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):** Start working on this as soon as it becomes available.

Upcoming Events:

- 11 November 2024, 1100 CET – Veterans Day Ceremony, Lorraine American Cemetery, St. Avold, France
- 28 November 2024, Thanksgiving Day.

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*



**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

**DATE TO REMEMBER: SATURDAY 18 JANUARY 2025!**

Grand Wreck / Promenade - Heilbronn, Germany

