



Legion News

DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE



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

August 2024

Vol. 22 / No. 8



**DEPARTMENT
COMMANDER**

Dennis Owens

Greetings Department of France,

SCAM ALERT: As it happens with every Department Administration each year, some scammer pretends to be your Department Commander and asks for you to purchase gift cards then scratch the protective cover off of it and send him photos of the gift card numbers. He pretends to be in a meeting and asks you to use discretion when doing him an "Urgent" favor. This joker pretends to be me by naming his email account Dennis Owens. LOOK Behind that name for his Actual Email Address and you will find it not to be from me. Also, these emails will be missing my signature block. I've personally seen this phishing type of activity every Department Administration since James Dennis was our Department Commander in 2018. This joker gets his information combing the Internet for Commander's name, then all of his/her Officer's names and email address then send a scam email to the officers. Don't fall for it!

With that said, I am so looking forward to this membership year with each of you all. I am greatly impressed with our leaders and our volunteers in our Posts. I always think the best people in the American Legion is our volunteers, you guys and gals. Ours is a Veteran Service Organization (VSO). We Serve fellow veterans and their families in so many valuable ways. Interesting, I said we serve, I did not say we receive. How many members do you know that just put their caps on when it is time for your Post meeting, then you hear nothing from them until the next meeting. They ask, what is in it for me? If you have several members like that, then it is time to relook at your operation. Your new members should feel valued, they should get a job right away in your Post. First step would be to get them on a committee like Americanism, then

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ask them to do a task. Guide and coach them to be a productive member in your Post.

You see, if your members do not seem to feel valued, they will slip away and provide your Post with nothing. What does an active member receive, the great satisfaction of knowing you are helping a veteran or his/her family and that is a great feeling. Pass that word on inside your Posts and see if that seed grows. Nurture that idea and BE the example to follow. You will find several volunteers will be eager to serve our veterans and our community under your guidance. Always treat them right, never yell at your volunteers. Doing so will surely drive them away. Always remember to be nice.

I am a strong believer in our American Legion Basic Training found at mylegion.org. It is free to complete, and one learns a great deal about our American Legion and where you fit in to it. Ideally, you should not have anyone behind your awareness table before they have completed the Basic Training where then they will know what they are talking about. Let me encourage you to wear an American Legion Polo shirt when you are on base or in public, it is a conversation starter. Remember to always carry a couple blank American Legion Membership Applications in your wallet so you are ready when that conversation comes up.

Very Best Wishes, Dennis.

**DEPARTMENT
ADJUTANT**



John Fleming

I am writing this before I travel, I am hopeful that I will gain new knowledge to provide training to the Department and Posts. We have a wedding to attend in the Göppingen area on 2-4 August, and then we depart for the States on 6 August for some vacation and to attend the National Convention in New Orleans. We will return on 8 September. I will be answering emails, however, there might be some delay.

Consolidated Post Report / Consolidated Squadron Report (CPR/CSR) – We need to finalize these now. It is available on myLegion.org, so please log in and complete the Report. You must click the SUBMIT button at the end of the Report for it to be recorded. The final date to submit is 31 July 2024. The Department has 13 from 32 Posts SUBMITTED. The below table lists the status of each Post.

Greeting Comrades,

I traveled to Indianapolis to attend the Membership Workshop from 26-27 July, returning on 29 July. Since

FR01	DRAFT	SP292	No Data	GR1982	SUBMITTED
HQ9999	SUBMITTED	BE02	SUBMITTED	CH01	No Data
DK01	No Data	EG01	DRAFT	EG02	SUBMITTED
EG303	No Data	GC01	SUBMITTED	GR01	DRAFT
GR03	DRAFT	GR05	No Data	GR06	No Data
GR07	SUBMITTED	GR09	SUBMITTED	GR13	No Data
GR14	SUBMITTED	GR20	SUBMITTED	GR30	SUBMITTED
GR42	SUBMITTED	GR45	No Data	GR79	No Data
IR01	No Data	IR02	No Data	IR03	No Data
IR63	No Data	IT01	No Data	NL01	No Data
TH01	SUBMITTED	TH02	SUBMITTED		

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.

Dates to Remember:

4 August 2024, 1400 CET – Commanders Advisory Council

1 September 2024, 1400-1500 CET – Commanders and Adjutants Meeting, via WebEx

26 October 2024, 1300 CET – 2nd Department Executive Committee Meeting

Thanks, and best wishes.

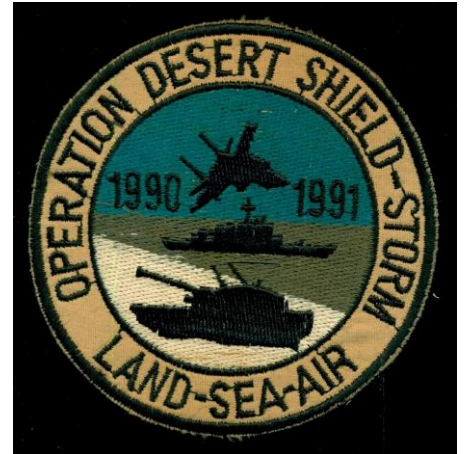
John Fleming
Department Adjutant

Invasion of Kuwait/Operation Desert Shield (1990)

Aug 2, 2024

On 2 August 1990, Iraq invaded its neighbor Kuwait with four elite Republican Guard heavy divisions and the equivalent of a fifth composed of special operations commandos. President George H. W. Bush quickly announced that the United States considered Iraq's aggression unacceptable.

After the 38-day air campaign, ground troops began sweeping through Kuwait in blitzkrieg fashion. In a mere 100 hours, the Iraqi army was crushed. Iraqi soldiers surrendered by the thousands. Kuwait was free again.



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
Vice Commander**



Jim Brotherton

Hello Legionnaires

As we begin the new 2024-2025 membership season, I had the pleasure of wrapping up the 2023-2024 season by visiting the Commanders of a couple of Posts who were not able to attend the DEC/Convention this past June and present them with the awards they and their Posts had earned.

The first Post I would like to identify is BE02 and Commander Joseph (Joe) Schram. This Post did an outstanding job and garnished several awards.

- Recruiter of the Year (Runner Up)
- Small Post of the Year (Runner Up)
- 100% Membership Chairman
- Certificate of Appreciation 100% Membership Goal.
- Past Department Officer



This reflects credit not only on the Post but the leadership within the Post. I'm positive that BE02 will press forward to have even a more successful year in the months to come.

While still on the subject of BE02 I would like to point out that Commander Schram has volunteered to join the Department as one of our Vice Commanders. Joe is no stranger to the Department and has held several Department Officer positions and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience that we will all benefit from. Welcome Joe and look forward to working with you.

The second Post Commander I had the pleasure of catching up to was Commander James FitzGerald and his lovely wife Anne, James is Commander of Post EG01, London England. Even though he is the Commander of the London Post James resides in Belgium but does a great job of managing a Post far removed from any support facility or military installation. James has a great Team he can rely on. They are especially active in helping

Veterans, who have had the misfortune of going 'off the tracks' and doing everything possible to help these individuals. My hat is off to you and your fine staff.



The awards that EG01 earned were;

- James FitzGerald, 100% Membership Chairman for 2023-2024
- 100% Membership Goal 2023-2024

Congratulations and look forward to working with you and your Team in the coming membership year.

**DEPARTMENT
VICE COMMANDER**



Quincy Foster

Greetings my fellow comrades and Brother and Sisters in arms!

In case you don't know me, my name is Quincy Foster, and I am the Department Vice Commander for the Department of Fance. I have held the position of Department Vice Commander position several times. I have also asked a few of you to help me and I will do all I can to represent you in the Department. I have tried to do that without a few of your support.

This is a voluntary position. I have a few other things on my plate my

plate that I volunteer for to help our Vets. I am sure several of you do also. The American Legion is not the only Voluntary programs that several of us are giving our family time to support our Veterans programs. This is a way for us to give back to our brothers in Arms that have given up their lives and their families to defend our country for their Freedom. It saddens me to see so few of us that are willing to give something back to them and their families. Yet, some of us sit back and complain about this and that. But when the Department asks you to step up to the plate. Where are YOU? We are not getting any younger and WE NEED YOU! To step and carry the torch.

To all Commanders, Adjutants and other officers. We are asking you to be a mentor those that are willing or you think that would be willing to STEP UP TO THE PLATE and do their duty again! Help the American Legion to be what our for fathers wanted use to be. A Voice for all

our Fallen Comrades and their families to make sure they get what they deserve for giving up their lives and families. To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy. That you speak of at all your meetings. So many times I have heard people say "Practice what you preach!" Yet we say that at the beginning of each meeting. What is missing from that picture?

I would like to hear from all my post Commanders and Adjutants from the posts that I have been assigned and they are the following. FR01, GR03, GR07, GR14, NL01, SP292, CH01, GC01 and finally GR42. I would like to hear what we can do for you and your post and its members etc.? This is very important!

May God continue To Bless you and your Families.

Quincy FOSTER

**DEPARTMENT
Vice Commander**



John Gerdeman

On July 13th I was invited to GR 79 for their Independence Day party. I presented on behalf of the Department Commander Post GR 79 their 100 percent membership ribbon. I also presented Commander Brown the Post Commander Membership Award. I was also talking to a couple of legion riders, they were planning a road trip on Sunday (14), Unfortunately I did not catch where they were going. What can I say GR79 rocks every time, when I visit this Post, they always put on a great

show. I think the people there had a great time. I'm proud to be their Department Vice Commander

On July 6th I was invited by Commander Gracia and Post GR01 to the German military reserve vor band feast. They were cordially invited to attend. The German Sargent major was very receptive of our group. Commander Garcia and I gave the Bn. Sargent major a department coin. I thank Commander Garcia for the invite.

US ARMY GARRISON RHEINLAND PFALZ Casualty Assistance Manager Erik Thomsen, gave a face to face Casualty Assistance briefing on 17 July 24, at the American Legion GR01 post home. Mr. Thomsen briefed information that will be needed by Retiree's, Retiree's spouses and family members to claim benefits, VA Entitlements and other Death benefits that a Veteran has earned for himself/herself and their families. Mr. Thomsen's outstanding briefing reduced some stress levels associated with life changing events.

John P. Gerdeman

**DEPARTMENT
FINANCE OFFICER**



Gary Miller

I would like to welcome all the committee chair(s), current and new officers for the DEPT. For those members that have a DEPT budget for 2025, I ask that you itemize and consolidate your expenses once a month and send me your report.

In addition, if you need a copy of the current Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) for claiming your expenses, just send me an email to: departmentfinanceofficer@gmail.com.

Once last item, if you have US bank account and wish to be reimbursed for your expenses via Electronic Transfers, be sure that I have your account information.

For God and Country,
Gary Miller

**DEPARTMENT
AMERICAN LEGION
RIDERS DIRECTOR**



Jim Brotherton

Riders (and Legion Members) - As we officially begin our 2024-2025 membership season I want to wish everyone a very productive year.

I would like to begin by reminding all Posts as you conduct events throughout the year, even if it's just a parallel 50/50 raffle, to think and keep in mind the Veterans & Children's Foundation, which has replaced the Scholarship Fund in the Legacy Ride. The funds raised

throughout the year will be collected at our Annual Convention in June 2025 and presented at the National Convention later that year.

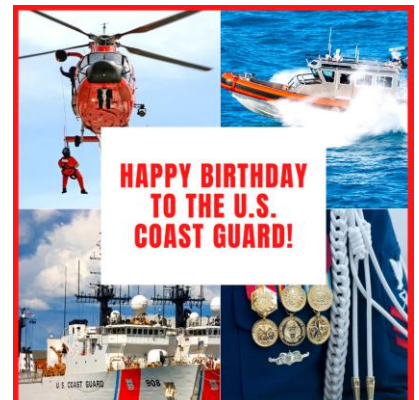
Another item that needs to be addressed is the Rider Chapters within the Department. I need each Vice Commander to query their assigned Posts, if any of their Posts have a Legion Rider Chapter established. I need each Post Commander to identify who the Chapter Director for the Post is and past that information to the Department ALR Director. There are steps that must be followed to keep our program in line with National guidelines.

I want to wish everyone a safe riding season and please forward the requested information to me.

Jim Brotherton
Department ALR Director
The Department of France

Coast Guard Birthday
Aug 4, 2024

Aug. 4 is the birthday of the Coast Guard, founded in 1790 with congressional authorization to build the first set of vessels aimed to help combat smuggling and enforce tariffs and taxes. Here are some things you might not know about the service branch that operates under the Department of Homeland Security.



Post GR01 received a personal invitation to help celebrate 60 years of existence of the German Reserve components. The celebration was in the Ramstein-Meisenbach area of Kaiserslautern by Ramstein Air Base. In attendance was Department of France Vice Commander John Gerdeman, GR01 Post Commander David Garcia, Auxiliary member Doris Garcia, Past Post Commander Curley Morgan, Post Past Commander Mike Young, Carlos Gonzales, Isaac Smith and James Stackhouse.



US ARMY GARRISON RHEINLAND PFALZ Casualty Assistance Manager Erik Thomsen gave a face-to-face Casualty Assistance briefing on 17 July 24, at the American Legion GR01 post home. Mr. Thomsen briefed information that will be needed by Retiree's, Retiree's spouses and family members to claim benefits, VA Entitlements and other Death benefits that a Veteran has earned for himself/herself and their families. Mr. Thomsen's outstanding briefing reduced some stress levels associated with life changing events.

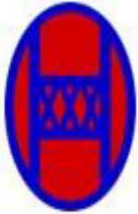


Purple Heart Day

Aug 7, 2024

On this day, American Legion Family members and Americans remember and honor the men and women who were wounded while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.





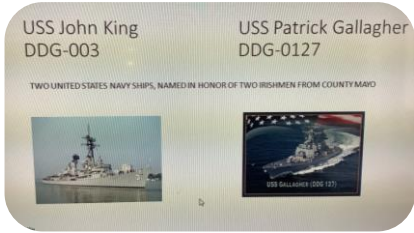
**AMERICAN LEGION
LIBERTY WALK
2024**

Saturday, 24 August 2024

Commemorate the " Battle of the Vierstraat Ridge"
by the 27th & 30th US Divisions Aug/Sep 1918.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION:
americanlegionlibertywalk@gmail.com**



Co. Mayo Ireland will make history again on the 27th of July in Bath Iron works, Maine USA. The USS Patrick Gallagher (ddg127) will finally launch after Covid 19 delays of a couple of years.

Patrick Gallagher was born on 1 February 1944 in the village of Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo, and died as a US Marine Corporal in Viet Nam March 30, 1967, age 23.

Patrick's upright marble grave marker is inscribed with Navy Cross and Purple Heart.



After a long hard fought online petition, we obtained the required number of signatures, and the US government granted the naming of the USS Patrick Gallagher. Patrick is only the fourth person born outside the US to have a US Navy ship named in his honor. The first person born outside the US to have a US ship named in his honor also comes from Co. Mayo Ireland. US Navy Chief Water Tender John King of Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo, born February 1862 and died May 1938. John King is a two-time recipient of the Medal of Honor 1901 and 1909. USS John King was launched on 10 January 1960 and commissioned

February 1961, decommissioned March 1990.

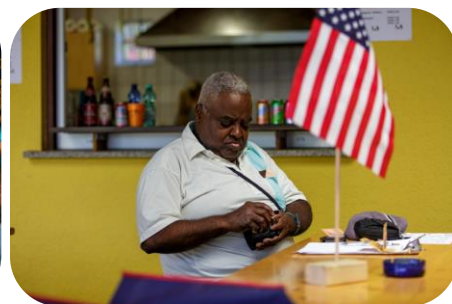
When USS Patrick Gallagher is in service, we will have two US Navy ships named in honor of two Irish men from little old Co. Mayo who lived about 30 miles apart. John King's ship made a visit to Ireland in the early 60's, US Navy staff made the journey to Co. Mayo and borrowed John King's two Medals of Honor with intent of return and were displayed on his ship in a place of Honor. In the early 70's, a boiler fire aboard the King saw it dry docked for a re-fit, both medals were removed never to be seen again and have been missing for over 50 years.



Commander Kerwin Hester (m) Post GR05 presenting Pete Laborde Jr and Willie Tubbs with their membership renewal.



GR79 4 JULY FEST 2024 - ON THE 13 JULY 2024



David Chavez Post 1982 Independence Day BBQ with Soldiers

July 4, 2024, on Independence Day, Post 1982 hosted a BBQ for the newly arriving Soldiers on Stork Barracks. Before the cooking began Past Commander, Ken Aungst made all the arrangements with the unit and had our wonderful DPW Engineers install an electrical box for the newly acquired electric grill outside building 6510. Mr. Aungst also contacted and partnered up with Community Bank who provided a ceremonial cake and a fun shooting Nerf Gun booth.

0900 our 13 post volunteers began setting up the event under the careful watch of the new Post

Commander, Christopher Buchanan. Our ball toss, win a beer stein game was set up and burgers, pork steaks, hotdogs and bratwurst were all grilled and enjoyed by the Soldiers from 1100-1600 hours. During the event 6 Soldiers signed up and joined the post as the newest American Legion Post 1982 members.

Thank you Post 1982 members, volunteers and Soldiers for making this a memorable and successful event.



V-J Day (1945)

Aug 14, 2024

Japan's surrender, which marked the end of World War II, technically came on Aug. 15, 1945. But due to the time difference, which spans the international date line, word came to the United States on Aug. 14. Thus, that day (today) is celebrated as V-J Day.



**DETACHMENT
COMMANDER**



John Fleming



**DETACHMENT
ADJUTANT**



James Dennis

DETACHMENT OF FRANCE

Hello Comrades,

Membership: as of 24 July 2024, we stand at 103.57%. We did not reach the 105% Target by 24 July 2024. 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.

Also, let's get started now on our 2025 Goal! Get your members to renew early. 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. I plan to do that during my travels to the States this summer. The Department has 3000 Members. The Detachment should have at least that many.

Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR): We need to wrap these up this month. It is available on myLegion.org, so every time you have an event you can start filling it in. The final date to submit is 31 July 2024. The below table shows our statistics.

FR01	No Data
BE02	SUBMITTED
CH01	No Data
GR01	SUBMITTED
GR05	No Data
GR06	No Data
GR07	SUBMITTED
GR14	No Data
GR42	SUBMITTED
GR79	SUBMITTED
NL01	No Data

I will start my Squadrons CSR as soon as it becomes available on myLegion. I recommend you all do the same.

Upcoming Events:

12 October 2024 – 2nd DEC, Kaiserslautern, hosted by GR01.

1 March 2025 – 3rd DEC, TBA

7 June 2025 – 4th DEC/Conference/1st DEC, TBA

John Fleming
Detachment Commander

American Legion Legacy Run

Aug 18, 2024

The 2024 American Legion Legacy Run will be held Aug. 18–22. During this event, more than 300 American Legion Riders and others trek over 1,000 miles to raise money for the American Legion Veterans and Children Fund. [Learn how to participate in the Legacy Run.](#)



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

105th American Legion National Convention

Aug 23, 2024



The [105th National Convention is Aug. 23-29, in New Orleans, La.](#) National convention attendees participate in commission meetings, workshops and training sessions, as well as hear from distinguished guests, see award presentations and elect a new national commander.



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:
Grand Cheminot - Kaiserslautern, Germany...SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER 2024!

Images of our Promenade 27 July 2024 – Heilbronn, Germany

