



Legion News

DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE



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

February 2025

Vol. 23 / Nr. 2



Greetings Department of France,

I hope everyone made it okay into this new year safely. If you missed the Mid-Winter Conference, you missed a great training opportunity. There are two things on my mind as I write this article this evening. The Department Oratorical Contest and the Department Convention.

Our Department Oratorical Contest will be held in the Spangdahlem AFB High School on the 8th of March near the town of Bitburg in Germany, with Student Registration at 11:00 and Contest starting at 12:00. I have asked Ken Keckler of Eifel Post GR20 to be the Director of this Department Level Contest and he accepted the challenge. If you need to contact him, his email address is Keckler1@web.de. A request went out of the Department Adjutant's email to all Posts asking if your Post was going to or not hold a Post Level Oratorical Contest? If yes, then What Day, What Time, Where, Who is the POC for your Post and what is your POC's email address? To date, I am sure some Posts have not answered that question, so I place it here. Please let Comrade Ken Keckler know the answers to those questions at Keckler1@web.de especially if your Post is holding a Post Level Contest.

On the Department Convention, it will be held in the South Netherlands town called Heerlen between the 12th and 15th of June 2025. Heerlen is very close to Maastricht NL. and Aachen DE. If you train into Heerlen, best to choose the Train Station in Heerlen. We should have transportation for you from the train station to the hotel. Please contact me via email at dfrcdrowens@gmail.com if you plan to use us to get you

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2024 - 2025MY

COMMANDER Dennis Owens
NL01 DfrCdrOwens@gmail.com

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VICE COMMANDER Jim Brotherton
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VICE COMMANDER John Gerdeman
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VICE COMMANDER Jame Settle
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to the hotel from the train station well in advance a couple of days prior with your estimated arrival data at the train station.

Your Room Reservation cost will include Room, Breakfast, Dinner, usage of the Meeting Room, Bus ride on Saturday lunch time tour to Margraten ABMC American War Cemetery and a Department Convention Coin per Hotel guest. Payments for your Room Reservation can only be made in Euros through an IBAN Bank to Bank Transfer. Details are in the Registration Form. What your room cost does not include is lunch on Friday and Saturday. Friday, Post NL01 will be doing a massive BBQ for everyone, the cost is only 25 Euros cash, and Saturday you will be provided a bag lunch to take with you on the bus for the Margraten tour. The cost for the bag lunch will be 10 Euros cash before boarding the bus. If you choose to eat your lunch at the wonderful restaurant, you may charge the meal to the Hotel to pay during your check out. For Drinks you will be given a Drink Card (think about Credit Card size). Each drink you wish to purchase you must show your drink card, the hotel staff will scan your card and accept your payment during your hotel checkout on the 15th of June.

The Convention hotel reservation forms have been sent out to all Department Officers and Post Commanders and Adjutants. If you are going to be a Delegate for your Post, then please get with your Post leadership for the registration form. The deadline to make your hotel reservation through me, Commander Owens is BEFORE the 25th of April 2025. On the 1st of May, we must give back all of the rooms, if any, that were not reserved by us back to the hotel to give them enough time to be able to sell them during our convention time frame if we are not going to use them. Please do not contact the hotel directly or use a booking website, only go through me using that registration form provided to your Post leadership. It is very possible to attend the meetings and dinners including the Saturday evening Banquet even if you are not a hotel guest. Please see our NL01 member at the sign-in desk as you enter the hotel.

Very best wishes,

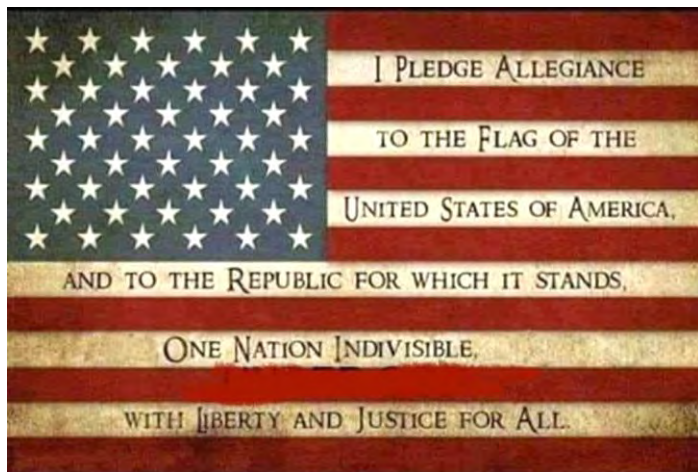
Commander,
Dennis Owens

Vice Commanders Post Assignments:

Todd Johnson	Jim Brotherton	John Gerdeman	James Settle
GR03	BE02	GR01	CH01
GR09	DK01*	GR05	FR01
GR14	EG01	GR06	GC01
GR20	EG02	GR07	IT01
GR30	IR02	GR42	IR01
GR45	IR03	GR79	IR63
GR1982	TH01	NL01	SP292
	TH02		

*Copenhagen Post DK01 will be removed after the Charter cancellation paperwork is approved by National at the National Spring Meeting.

* All-Time High	2025 Dept. Year End Goal	2025 Actual Mbsp.	% of Year End Goal	Needed To Meet 80% Target 1/15/2024	103%	2025 Renewal %	
1	FRANCE	3000	2572	85.73%	372	3090	82.07%



Department of France 2025 Membership Standings 24-01-25						
	2025 PUFLL	2025 ACTPM	2025 Actual Mbsp.	2025 Post Goal	% of 2025 Goal	
1	Paris FR01	99	97	196	246	79.67%
2	Isabel La Catolica SP292	9	9	18	21	85.71%
3	David Chavez GR1982	42	69	111	145	76.55%
4	HQ9999 + AD	26	29	55	63	87.30%
5	Flanders Field BE02	18	51	69	105	65.71%
6	China CP01	338	553	891	1017	87.61%
7	Copenhagen DK01	1	0	1	1	100.00%
8	London EG01	20	15	35	42	81.40%
9	Liberty EG02	12	28	40	55	72.73%
11	Athens GC01	1	20	21	23	91.30%
12	Kaiserslautern GR01	51	60	111	140	79.28%
13	Rhein Neckar GR03	17	26	43	44	95.55%
14	Rhein Main GR05	24	32	56	92	60.86%
15	Stuttgart GR06	115	44	159	190	83.68%
16	Riley L. Pitts GR07	29	45	74	80	92.05%
17	Sgt. William D. Nelson GR09	37	23	60	66	90.90%
18	Thomas W. Barnett GR14	19	10	29	37	78.37%
19	Eifel GR20	19	57	76	30	253.33%
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	2	9	14	64.29%
23	John Wayne GR79	11	42	53	67	79.10%
24	Pride of Erin IR01	9	15	24	30	80.00%
25	Father Francis Duffy IR02	3	25	28	31	90.32%
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	158	183	177	103.38%
30	Brig Gen. Robin Olds TH01	13	62	75	90	83.33%
31	Sgt Thomas Oliver Ahlberg TH02	9	123	132	112	117.86%
GRAND TOTALS						
991 1632 2623 3000 87.43%						
Last Man Post						
Post's Making the next Cutoff Percentage						
Post's Making 100% Membership by 31 December 2024						

**DEPARTMENT
ADJUTANT**



John Fleming

Department Adjutant's Corner

Greeting Comrades,

The Commanders Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for 1400 CET, on 2 February 2025. The link for the meeting should have been sent out if I received it.

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): The 2024-2025 CPR is available on myLegion.org, so I suggest everyone start working on this.

Dates to Remember:

8 March 2025 – Department Oratorical Contest
15 March 2025 – 3rd DEC
12-15 June 2025 – 4th DEC/Convention/1st DEC

Thanks, and best wishes.

John Fleming
Department Adjutant



Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month.

Americanism Month

Americanism is an unflinching love of country, loyalty to its institutions and ideals, eagerness to defend it against all enemies, individual allegiance to the U.S. flag and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.



**DEPARTMENT
CHAPLAIN**



Ken Keckler

**The Four Chaplains: A
Testament of Faith and Sacrifice**



The story of the Four Chaplains stands as a poignant testament to the power of faith, unity, and selflessness during one of the darkest periods in human history—World War II. On February 3, 1943, the U.S. Army transport ship, the USS Dorchester, was torpedoed by a German submarine off the coast of Greenland. Among the hundreds of souls on board were four chaplains of different faiths: Lieutenant George L. Fox, a Methodist; Lieutenant Alexander D. Goode, a Rabbi; Lieutenant John P. Washington, a Roman Catholic priest; and Lieutenant Clark V. Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister. Their acts of heroism not only saved lives but also served as a powerful reminder of the importance of compassion and camaraderie in times of Crisis.

As the Dorchester began to sink and panic ensued, the four chaplains

exemplified true leadership. Instead of fleeing to safety, they sprang into action, encouraging soldiers to put on their life jackets and directing them toward lifeboats. The chaplains understood that they faced an unimaginable situation, yet they responded with unwavering bravery. When lifeboats ran out, it is reported that they took off their own life jackets and gave them to others, demonstrating an extraordinary selflessness that would become the hallmark of their legacy. In those final moments, they united in prayer, offering words of comfort and hope. Their commitment to a higher cause transcended their differences, illustrating the profound message that faith, in its many forms, brings people together in the face of adversity.

The sinking of the USS Dorchester resulted in the loss of 672 lives, but the story of the Four Chaplains has endured as a symbol of sacrifice and interfaith solidarity. Their decision to remain onboard, facing certain death with courage and dignity, encapsulated not only their commitment to their own beliefs but also their respect for the beliefs of others. This spirit of unity among those of different faiths served as a powerful counter-narrative to the divisiveness that often emerges in times of war.

In recognition of their heroism, the Four Chaplains were posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, and in 1960, Congress declared February 3rd as "Four Chaplains Day" to commemorate their sacrifice and to promote interfaith understanding and

cooperation. Their legacy continues to inspire individuals to reflect on the importance of altruism, particularly in a world that often appears divided by differences in belief systems.

The narrative of the Four Chaplains reminds us that while they may have come from different backgrounds and traditions, they were united by a Common purpose: to serve humanity in its most desperate hour. Their actions exemplified the belief that life is most meaningful when we extend compassion to others, especially when the stakes are highest. As we remember these four extraordinary men, we are called to honor their memory by fostering unity and understanding among people of all faiths. Their story serves as a beacon of hope, urging us to rise above division and to act with kindness and empathy.

In conclusion, the Four Chaplains of World War II remain a lasting symbol of faith, sacrifice, and the extraordinary potential of the human spirit when faced with unimaginable challenges. Their actions remind us of the importance of unity in diversity, teaching us that true courage lies in selflessness and the willingness to put others before ourselves. As we reflect on their legacy, may we strive to embody their spirit of compassion and work towards a world where such heroism becomes the norm rather than the exception.

John 15 V, 13... "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends".

Post Everlasting



GR05

David Luna April 16, 1938 - December 16, 2024



Belleville, Illinois - David Perez Luna, 86, of Belleville, IL, formerly of Mason City, IA, passed away on Monday, December 16, 2024 at St. Elizabeth Hospital in O'Fallon, IL.

David was born April 16, 1938 in Big Wells, TX to Antonio and Ernestina (Perez) Luna. He married Joan Luna on November 25, 1988. She survives and resides in Belleville, IL.

Also surviving are two sons, Michael (Lori) Luna of Montoursville, PA and Tony (Jamie) Luna of Titusville, FL; daughter-in-law, Danita (Calvin) Vanca of Princeton, WV; grandchildren, Jordan (Adam) Tillema, Bailey Luna, Reagan Luna, Shea (Kiara) Luna, Mallori Luna, Skylar Luna, Jennifer Luna Basham and Kristina (Andrew) Sheybani; great-grandchildren, Rylee Tillema, Piper Tillema, Harrison Tillema, Cade Abrahams, Aaron Sheybani and Avery Sheybani. Also surviving are his sisters, Nancy (Arnie)

Wilkerson of Sacramento, CA and Orfa Linda (Gary) VanDusseldorp of Mason City, IA.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Antonio and Ernestina (Perez) Luna; one son, Bruce Luna; grandson, BJ Luna; brothers, Ralph Luna, Joe Luna, Leo (wife, Peggy); sisters, Cruz (Mingo) Garza and Margaret (Jake) Funk and his first wife, Sandy Nunley Luna.

David was born in Texas in 1938, and not long after, moved with his family to Mason City, Iowa, where he was born and raised on a farm. He enlisted in the United States Air Force and served from 1958-1986 in civil engineering. Throughout his time in the military, he was stationed all over the world, including, Turkey, Spain, Italy and England. He proudly retired at rank of Senior Master Sergeant. After his retirement, he continued to serve overseas as a military contractor in civil engineering. He remained a longtime member of the American Legion at Post 5 in Walldorf, Germany.

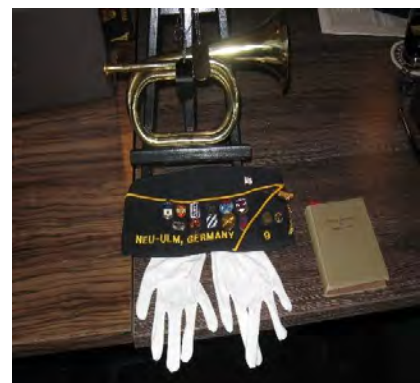
David will be truly missed by all who knew and loved him.

The family has entrusted Lake View Funeral Home in Fairview Heights, IL with cremation rites. A graveside service will be held on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 1:00 P.M. at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, MO, where full military honors will be rendered.

GR09

Richard Darrah, a GR09 Charter Member died in October 2024 when visiting his vacation home in Spain. Although he initially joined the legion in 2001 his membership lapsed as a result of moves but he rejoined in 2017 and was a dedicated Legionnaire.

Ted Wright passed away on 4 December 2024. He served honourably in the US Army for 22 years and retired in 1993. Ted was short on words but when he spoke, everyone paid attention.



**DEPARTMENT
Vice Commander**



Jim Brotherton

Recently we had Bent Nickelsen, Commander of American Legion Post DK01, of Copenhagen Denmark pass away. What makes it even sadder is that Bent was the last active member of DK01 and that means the Post will be closing.

Here are some things you should know about Bent. He was 92 years old, born in Denmark in September 1932. At some point Bent traveled to the United States, became a US citizen and served in the United States Army.

Bent was inducted into the Army on 9 December 1953 and served until his Honorable separation almost two years later. His decorations include the National Defense Service Medal and the Army Occupation Medal for Germany.

At some point he returned to the home of his birth, Denmark. I wish I had more information concerning his time with the American Legion to share. I do know that he was a member in 'Good Standing' for more than 18 years, and the last Commander of DK01. That he was active with not only his American military roots but was a supporter

within the Danish Veterans organizations.

Bent will be long remembered after his passing. We wish the surviving members of his family peace and strength as they process his loss.

I know we, members of the American Legion, the Department of France are proud to have known Bent Nickelsen and mourn his passing.

Bent departed us on 18 December 2024.



**DEPARTMENT
Vice Commander**



John Gerdeman

Vice Commander at Large Quincy Foster, the Mid Winter Conference was very informative, I hope that the Posts that attended the mid-winter conference took away a lot of information. I would like to say thank you to all of the posts members that attended the mid-winter conference. I also would like to invite the Post Commanders to the 3rd Dec in Heilbronn.

**DEPARTMENT
Vice Commander**



James Settle

Department Vice Commander
The American Legion
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+49 (0)713867359 or +49 (0)
17424568320

**To the Members and Leadership
of the American Legion
Department of France Posts
CH01, FR01, GC01, IT01, SP292,
IR01, IR63**

Subject: Introduction Letter

Dear Legionnaires,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is James M. Settle, and I'm honored to serve as the Department of France Vice Commander of the American

Legion. I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself and share how excited I am to work alongside all of you in serving our veterans, their families, and our communities.

The mission of the American Legion is rooted in its four pillars:

- **Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation**, where we work to ensure that those who serve have access to the care and support they need.
- **National Security**, through which we promote readiness and resilience for our nation.
- **Americanism**, fostering patriotism, civic engagement, and education about our nation's values.
- **Children & Youth**, focusing on programs that provide opportunities, safety, and support for young people.

Each of these pillars represents the foundation of who we are and what we stand for as Legionnaires. It's our shared commitment to these principles that allows us to make a lasting difference.

However, none of this is possible without our members. Membership

is truly the lifeline of the American Legion. Every member brings unique strengths, perspectives, and energy to our work. By growing our membership, we ensure that the Legion remains strong and able to serve future generations of veterans and their families.

The Department of France has a proud history of carrying out this mission internationally, and the work you do is an inspiration to us all. Your dedication to veterans, service to your communities, and ability to promote our shared values across borders are invaluable.

I'm eager to connect with each of you to learn more about your efforts and explore ways we can work together to strengthen our pillars and support our members. Please feel free to reach out to me at americanlegionfr@gmail.com or [+49 (0) 713867359 or +49 (0) 1742456832]. I'd love to hear your thoughts and ideas.

Thank you for all that you do for the Legion, for our veterans, and for their families. It's an honor to serve with you, and I look forward to the opportunities ahead.

Yours in service, James M. Settle.

**DEPARTMENT
Service Officer**



Frank Phillips

Flash Bulletin! Post Service Officer Training

- 📅 Date: 14 March 2025 (day before the 3rd DEC)
- 🕒 Time: 0730 AM
- 📍 Location: Heilbronn

The Department Service Office will be conducting a one-day training session for both new and experienced Post Service Officers.

Key Details:
Minimum Attendance Required: 10 attendees.

Registration Deadline: 14 February 2025 (Valentine's Day).

Registration: francis.phillips2@va.gov Contact to confirm your participation.

Cancellation Notice: If fewer than 10 participants register, the training will be canceled.

A flyer with additional details will be provided once the minimum number of participants is confirmed. Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your skills and better serve your community!

**DEPARTMENT
AMERICAN LEGION
RIDERS DIRECTOR**



Jim Brotherton

Good day Riders, not too much to say at the moment. Things have been busy, coming from all sides. Going to take a rest from hammering home the importance of the Veterans & Children's Foundation, you know what needs to be done, questions let me know.

I would like to ask the Post Commanders **again** if you have Riders in your Post, regardless of how many, let me know so we can

make some changes and try to take this to the next level.

The good news is that we are now on the downhill count towards spring and able to pull that iron out of storage. You all take care, keep the stupid stuff to a minimum and if there is anything I can help you with, you have my number.

PARIS POST FR01

PARIS, FRANCE

PARIS POST 1'S U.S. CONSTITUTION

ORATORICAL COMPETITION



Join us for a unique opportunity to showcase your oratory skills while deepening your knowledge and appreciation of the U.S. Constitution!



8 February, 2025



Starts at 11:00 am

REQUIREMENTS:

Nationality:

Participants must have USA citizenship

Age Group:

Junior high and high school students less than 20 years old

LOCATION :

**International School of Paris
Middle School Campus**

45 Rue Cortambert,
75116 Paris

SIGN UP TODAY!



[Sign-up Link \(click here\) Paris Post 1's Oratorical Contest](#)



Congratulations Patrick Morrissey Legionnaire of the Year

Paris Post 1 is fortunate to have Patrick on our team. He's one of the nicest, most sincere and genuine veterans you will meet. Patrick's ability to help others tirelessly, while maintaining a professional career and family, is remarkable.

Patrick is a Franco-American who served as a Combat Engineer in the

U.S. Marines Corps. Patrick earned the rank of Captain while leading Combat Engineer units.

After serving in the Marines, Patrick moved to France where he has lived with his wife and kids for decades. Patrick is the Director and Head of Multinationals Coverage France at Citibank in Paris.

Special thanks to Patrick for his dedication to helping his community and family. Thanks to his efforts, Patrick helped save the life of another American veteran in France. Due to his extraordinary work, Patrick was awarded Legionnaire of the Year!

We are truly blessed to have Patrick's dedication and support at Paris Post 1. Thank you, Patrick, from us all at Paris Post 1!



Patrick while serving on active duty with the U.S. Marines.



Patrick in his dress uniform while serving on active duty with the U.S. Marines.



Patrick Morrissey receiving the Legionnaire of the Year plaque and pin for his efforts in saving the life of an American veteran in France.

JOHN WAYNE POST GR79

HEILBRONN, GERMANY

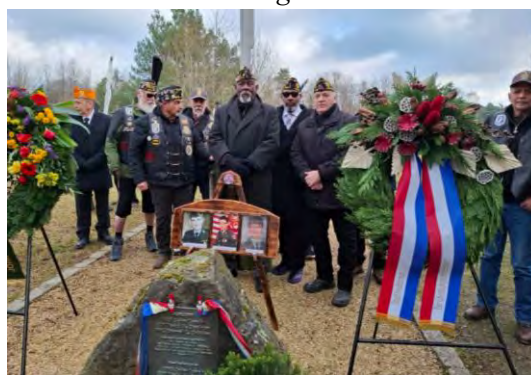
GR79 Riders



GR79 Riders Bowling



Redleg – 40 Years



**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 23 January 2025 shows the Detachment in 51st place at 57.54%. That is 103 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.

If you are having trouble accessing your Squadron Roster, contact me. I will help you.

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

2025 SAL Membership Report as of: January 23, 2025						
#	DETACHMENT	2025 DET. YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET 75% TARGET 2/12/2025	2025 ACTUAL MBRSHP	% OF YEAR END GOAL	2025 RENEWAL %
51	FRANCE	179	31	103	57.54%	50.00

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



*Cheminot Nationale Preston Awards
(L to R) Voiture 1524 Chef de Gare Brown, Correspondant Greaux and Voiture 1467 Chef de Gare Gerdeman and Correspondant Garcia 2025MY 100% Membership achchivment pins,*

Grand Promenade 18 January 2025, Heilbronn - Germany



David N. Greaux

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



Presidents Day February 17, 2025

On this federal holiday, Legion Family members honor all those who have served as president of the United States.

Prepare for VA's sign-in changes

In 2025, we're moving to two secure sign-in options: **Login.gov** and **ID.me**. Read on to learn how this change affects you and how to prepare.



Why we're making this change

- To reduce the number of sign-in options Veterans need to choose from — just as Veterans have asked us to do.
- To continue to protect all Veterans' information and benefits — and meet the latest federal security standards.

What this change means for you

- After **January 31, 2025**, you won't be able to sign in to VA websites and apps with a **My HealtheVet** user ID and password. Don't worry. Your My HealtheVet health portal isn't going away. We're just changing the way you sign in.
- After **September 30, 2025**, you won't be able to sign in with a DS Logon username and password.
- You'll need to use either a **Login.gov** or **ID.me** account to sign in to VA.gov, VA mobile apps, and other VA online services.
- You'll need to use a unique email address and add multifactor authentication (MFA) as an added layer of protection for your account.

Not sure if you already have a Login.gov or ID.me account?

Try creating a new account with your email address: If you already have one, Login.gov or ID.me will help you reset your password.



Ready to [create your account](https://www.va.gov/sign-in-changes) or want to [learn more](https://www.va.gov/sign-in-changes)?
Go to www.va.gov/sign-in-changes

What to do now to prepare

1 Create your Login.gov or ID.me account

If you don't have an account yet, we encourage you to create one soon:

- Login.gov** is a government-provided account for accessing VA and other government services. Read Login.gov's privacy policy at www.login.gov/policy.
- ID.me** is a private account provider that partners with government and non-government organizations. Read ID.me's privacy policy at www.id.me/privacy.

Both options meet modern security standards, protecting your data and providing access to VA and other government services.

2 Verify your identity and add multifactor authentication

Identity verification and MFA work together to protect your identity and personal information.

- Identity verification** is a one-time process. You provide certain personal information and identification (ID). Verification helps us make sure only you can create your sign-in account — and no scammer can create one in your name.
- Multifactor authentication (MFA)** adds an extra layer of security when signing in. You set up an MFA method, like an authenticator app, on a device you control. Each time you sign in, you'll use a code sent to that device, ensuring only you can access your account and manage your benefits.



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Need help?

We're here to answer your questions or help you create your account.

Contact:

