



Legion News

DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE



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

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DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2024 - 2025MY

COMMANDER Dennis Owens
NL01 DfrCdrOwens@gmail.com

ADJUTANT John Fleming
CH01 departmentadjutant@gmail.com

NECMAN Hans Stockenberger
CH01 redsea_diver2000@yahoo.com

ALT NECMAN Lee Preston
GR42 lpreston1057@gmail.com

VCAL Quincy Foster
GR05 qcfooster@yahoo.com

VICE COMMANDER Jim Brotherton
NL01 jim.brotherton01@gmail.com

VICE COMMANDER John Gerdeman
GR03 john.gerdeman@web.de

VICE COMMANDER Joseph Schram
BE02 joseph.schram@gmail.com

CHAPLAIN Ken Keckler
GR20 ken@kecklers.com

FINANCE OFFICER Larry Atkins
CH01 ljatinstx@gmail.com

SERVICE OFFICER Frank Phillips
GR1982 francis.phillips2@va.gov

JUDGE ADVOCATE James Settle
GR42 james.settle@kabelbw.de

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS James Dennis
GR30 departmentdennis@gmail.com

ADJUTANT EMERITUS Robert Fuelling
FR01 herman40153@gmail.com



**DEPARTMENT
COMMANDER**

Dennis Owens

Greetings Department of France,

This month has been a crazy busy month for me. Along with Department Vice Commander Joe Schram and GR20 Adjutant Ken Keckler, we held an Awareness Table in Spangdahlem AFB at the BX for two days and recruited 54

new members for GR20. Now they are a Post again. In addition, we spoke with the JROTC Leadership at their High School about the Oratorical Program and Legion Awards for JROTC Students. They were both so interested, they became our first new members in that Post! I was on the AFN Radio show for an hour and several people mentioned that they heard me and that is why they were at the BX to sign up. This was a model Program I would suggest we do for a couple more Posts this Membership Year like GR45 and SPS292 in Rota Spain.

Next at our local Geilenkirchen Air Base, we were invited to set up an awareness table at the local Foggy Fields Bazaar where we recruited some 15 new members for NL01. Hats off to my young Post for putting this together!

Strait after that, my wife and I went to St. Avold to the Lorraine Cemetery to mark the Veterans Day. I was delighted to see Past Commander Robert Grey and his

wife, ALTNECMAN Lee Preston and his friend, James Dennis and his wife Sonja, and David Garcia and his wife present. It was a nice ceremony at that chapel.

Then came one of the best weekends of my life. VCAL Foster, myself and my wife had the great pleasure to participate at St. Avold in France again this month but this time in the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of that town. We were with the Mayor of St. Avold Mr. René Steiner, and his Deputy Mayor Mrs. Raymonde Schweitzer along with his Cabinet director Anthony Theil. For the full time we were there we were treated as VIPs. It was a spectacular weekend. We met one of the few survivors from Patton's 3rd Army Mr. Ceo Bauer who is a fresh 101 years old, his mind is still sharp as a whip! I really was hoping for more participation from our Department, I hope next time more will not miss out on a great time.

While we were there, I had a goal of looking for a different

Conference Room and hotel for our 2nd DEC next year on the 25th of October 2025. Not only did we score the Mayor's Conference Room which is huge and beautiful, but we scored that room for free! Everyone should come to this DEC as the Department Of France American Legion Headquarters is in that same building. It has many artifacts from our Department including our Department Charter. Also we found a wonderful Hotel called B&B Hotel. Check them out online, it is a very nice hotel for less than we paid for the Novotel Hotel, we will be getting discounts on the rooms we use, again curtesy of the Mayor. The Mayor and his staff have been hoping for years that we would resurface as the Department of France and participate in their Town ceremony's. I am looking forward to participating in the next year's Memorial Day there in Lorraine in St. Avold.

Very Best Wishes, Commander, Dennis Owens





**DEPARTMENT
ADJUTANT**



John Fleming

Greeting Comrades,

The Commander's Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for 1400 CET, on 1 December 2024. The link for the meeting will be sent out on Thursday, 29 November 2024.

HOT TOPICS:

1. My email address: If you have and/or are using Adjutant.DFR@outlook.com, STOP using it. Delete it. It is 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): The 2024-2025 CPR is available on myLegion.org, so I suggest everyone start working on this.

Thanks, and best wishes.

John Fleming
Department Adjutant

**DEPARTMENT
VCAL**



Quincy Foster

Greetings Comrades,

Thank you all for your service and all you do! I hope you had a Blessed Armistice /Veterans Day. I feel I must expand on what it means to me to be a Veteran. We became brothers and sisters regardless of color, race, or creed. We had plenty of good times, and plenty of bad times. We did not get enough sleep. We smoked and drank too much. We picked up both good and bad habits. We worked hard to play harder. We did not earn great wages. We experienced the happiness of mail call and the sadness of missing important events. We did know, or even if, we were ever going to see home again. We grew up fast, and yet somehow, we never grew up at all. We fought for our freedom. As well as the freedom of others. Some of us saw actual combat, and some did not. Some of us saw the world, and some did not. Some of us dealt with physical warfare, most of us dealt with psychological warfare. We have seen and experienced and dealt with things that we cannot fully describe or explain, as not all our sacrifices were physical. We participated in time honored ceremonies and rituals with each

other, strengthening our bonds and camaraderie. We counted on each other to get the job done and sometimes to survive it all. WE have dealt with victory and tragedy. We celebrated and mourned. We lost many along the way. When our adventure was, some of us went back home, some of us started somewhere new and some of us never came home at all. We have told amazing and hilarious stories of our exploits and adventures. We share an unspoken bond with each other, that most people do not experience, and few will understand. We speak highly of our own branch of service, and poke fun at the other branches. We know, however, that, if needed, we will be there for our brothers and sisters and stand together as one, in a heartbeat. Being a Veteran is something that has to be earned, and it can never be taken away. It has no monetary value, but at the same time it is a priceless gift. People see a Veteran and they thank them for their service sometimes. We see each other, we give that little upwards head nod, or a slight smile, knowing that we have shared and experienced things that most people have not. So, from myself to the rest of the veterans out there, I commend and thank you for all that you have done and sacrificed for your country. Try to remember the good times and make peace with the bad times. But most importantly, stand tall and proud, for you have earned the right to be called a Veteran. I am a Veteran!! I was spit on when I returned from Vietnam in 1969.

This is why I was so honored to be invited by Commander Bryan Schell of Paris Post FR01 to attend the Armistice Day, International School of Paris Celebration 60th Anniversary, (RSVO!) of Paris Post 1 Birthday Ecole Militaire on 11 November. I had the honor of speaking there. I also laid a wreath with Paris Post 1 Commander Bryan Schell, Ville de Neuilly Marie Jean-Christophe Fromantin and Adjutant Maire Philippe Le Stang.

The Department Commander Dennis Owens and I, members of the Department of France also were asked to attend the 80th anniversary of the Liberation of Saint-Avoid. However, the Commander and I did attend. The city of Saint-Avoid was overjoyed that we were able to attend their Liberation Day for Saint-Avoid. We had the honor of meeting the several officials such as the Major Mr. Rene Steiner, film director, Christian Taylor, and Ceo Bauer, a 101-year-old veteran of the 95th U.S. Infantry Division. The ceremony was followed by a parade from the Town Hall to the Agora in the presence of vintage military vehicles and vehicles from the Saint-Avoid rescue center, flag-bearers, young firefighters, schools, and numerous VIPs.

I hope and pray you all had a blessed Thanksgiving and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

God Bless you and you families!
Quincy



DOD Installation access simplified: Three updates for Veterans and caregivers

November 15, 2024

Cat Trombley, Colleen Richardson
Veterans Benefits Administration

Veterans and eligible caregivers will soon have easier access to Department of Defense (DOD) installations for Veterans. Beginning Nov. 1, 2024, the updated process announced by VA and DOD will streamline both enrollment and access to installations. More information can be found in [DOD's fact sheet](#).

DOD installations provide important services to Veterans and their caregivers, such as health care, shopping, and certain Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) services, like golf courses, movie theaters and clubs. Recently, VA and DOD worked together to increase health care access for Veterans in [Alabama](#), the [Gulf Coast](#) and [Tampa](#) regions of Florida, as well as [Kentucky](#), [New York's Hudson Valley](#), [Tennessee](#) and [Virginia](#).

Updates to DOD Installation access enrollment

Eligible Veterans who do not have a VA-issued [Veteran Health Identification Card](#) (VHIC)—as well as eligible caregivers—can now enroll for installation access at the visitor center using their [REAL ID](#) Act-compliant driver's license or non-driver's identification card. This means these individuals no longer need

to present a VA-issued caregiver patronage letter, VA-issued service-connected disability letter, or VA Health Eligibility Center Form H623A to enroll for installation access.

To enroll for reoccurring installation access, eligible Veterans and caregivers must establish identity, fitness, and purpose on their first visit to each DOD installation they wish to access at the visitor's center. As part of enrollment, you must:

1. Present an acceptable credential (VHIC or REAL ID) to establish identity;
2. Undergo an on-the-spot criminal record and terrorism check to establish fitness; and
3. Have your eligibility for on-installation benefits verified electronically to establish purpose. If your purpose is for health care, and the DOD installation doesn't have a commissary, exchange or authorized MWR service, then proof of appointment will need to be provided.

More information on Veteran and caregiver eligibility can be found [online](#).

DEPARTMENT Vice Commander



Jim Brotherton

Good day Everyone

By the time you read this, we will have the Thanksgiving Day holidays in our rear view mirror. I hope everyone had an enjoyable family celebration and

that the only bad news is that you had to let the belt out a few notches.

We also celebrated another important event, Veterans Day. In Europe it is usually referred to as Armistice Day. Whichever name you prefer to use, it is our Day, to honor the men and women who served, the Veterans. What also usually takes place is paying our respects and recognition to those who were not so fortunate to be present to celebrate Veterans/Armistice Day. I know several of our Posts here in Europe did take time to honor

this important remembrance day and I wish to say thank you for honoring our living as well as those who have passed.

On another note, we need to mention how we are doing with our 2024-2025 membership standings. I can say for Posts I'm responsible for, we have just over 50% who have made their 6 December cutoff. Now granted that was as of 2 November and some of the Posts were pretty close to reaching their cutoff for 6 December. Now if everything goes as usual and the newsletter hits the streets you should have some time before 6

December.to work on your numbers and hit the cutoff. I ask each Post to really look hard at your renewals. How many members do you show still needing to renew? It may be time to double down on those emails and telephone calls. Our Department needs your help to make our 100% goal by 31 December and I feel it is achievable with everyone's help and efforts.

The next newsletter will not come out until we have the Christmas holidays behind us. I want to wish all of you a safe and enjoyable holiday season and please remember not everyone has the opportunity to be home and celebrate these precious family holidays with their loved ones. Please keep them in your prayers and if you see an opportunity to maybe help a family who may have someone deployed , reach out and offer them help and support.

I wish to close with a few pictures of our Veterans/Armistice Day Recognition that we, the American Legion, celebrated alongside our Royal British and Canadian Legions here in the Netherlands. It's an honor and a privilege to work with these outstanding organizations to reach the same goal.



DEPARTMENT
BOY'S STATE / ORATORICAL
COMMITTEE



Joseph Schram

Boys State

Boys State / Girls State Seminar

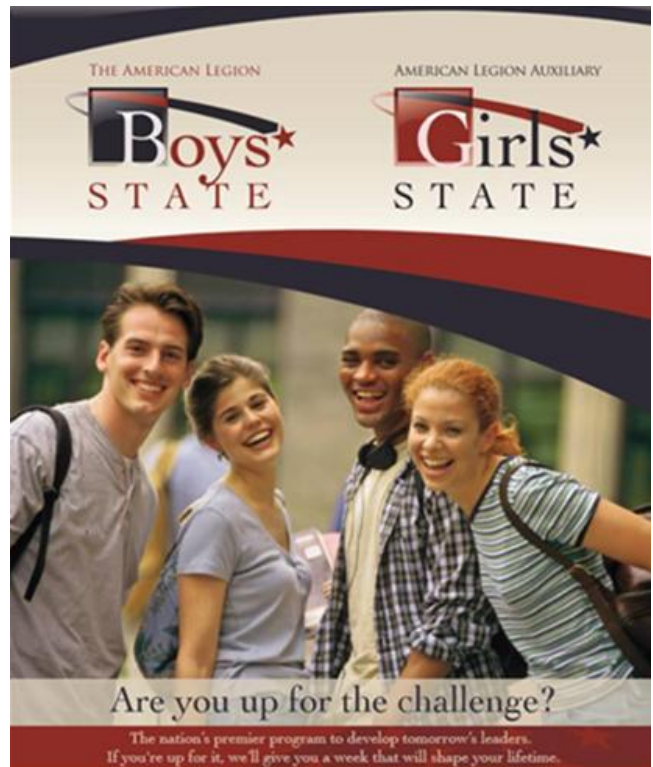
Monday, 16 December, 07:30 PM (19:30) Central European
Times

Seminar link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85188023407?pwd=T9h2Bqr3qmhQm7waryBei044iNFhYb.1>

Meeting ID: 851 8802 3407

Passcode: 944156



My week at Girls State ended up completely different than I had imagined. I attended in June 2024 and even months later, that week remains vivid in my memory. I learned so much from everyone I met and I want to emphasize that an interest in government or politics is not required to attend, as the skills you develop in public speaking and leadership apply to everything you will encounter in life.

My journey to Maryland Girls State began in France, and while I was told told Mrs. Sharon (an American Legion volunteer) would be picking us up from the airport, I was still nervous as to what to expect. However, my nerves immediately settled when I arrived and met the other international girls, with Mrs. Sharon hugging us as soon as we saw her. She took us to Walmart for some last-minute supplies, and as I got to know the other girls, I felt immediately calmer and excited. Aside from us four internationals, girls traveled from all corners of Maryland. Everyone had such diverse perspectives and I loved learning from their experiences,

comparing similarities and differences between our lives.

I also arrived intimidated by everyone and nervous to run in any elections throughout the week. I only went for my first election due to encouragement from my junior counselor, a Girls State participant from last year. I wrote my speech, went up in front of my small 'city' of fifteen other girls, and won. Regardless of the outcome, I would have been proud of myself for trying it out. It was the perfect opportunity to make mistakes and improve, especially in front of people I felt comfortable with. My first tip for any Girls State participants is to take every opportunity given. While it is easy to feel like you are surrounded by more qualified individuals, keep in mind they all have their own fears and often feel the exact same as you.

Outside of elections, we got hands-on experience on how the local and national government functions by speaking to Maryland lobbyists and politicians. I even got to simulate being part of the House of

Representatives by voting on real bills, while some girls even proposed their own. I found it so interesting, especially since I never had any formal education on US government.

Even though I had not done much public speaking before, with my counselor's encouragement and my own effort to keep trying, I ran in the next elections and won county commissioner. Speaking in front of bigger crowds made me more nervous, but everyone's enthusiasm and kindness made me feel genuinely supported. Almost everyone made a mistake or stuttered in their speeches, but no one even blinked because the focus is solely on having fun and learning. Most of the week is all about getting to know and supporting one another.

This support led me to run for Lt. governor alongside another girl, a native Marylander, who I had only met a couple of days before. The two of us ran as a team, just like in a real election, so it was essential we worked well together. We presented our individual speeches,

then debated and spoke during whistle-stops (question and answer sessions with smaller groups) as a team. While this sounds like a lot, the friendly competition made it really fun. We put up campaign posters and even created a slogan, "Vote the right choice: Sienna and Kiera as your voice"

In the end, all our efforts paid off, and hearing them announce my name for Lt. Governor was an amazing feeling. Though the program is only one week, I became so close to all the girls, many of whom I am still in touch with. I learned to try new things, make mistakes, and become more open-minded. I am grateful to everyone

who shaped my Girls State experience, especially the staff who supported us every step of the way (even taking us to Chipotle before our flights), this week is truly one that shapes a lifetime and an incredible opportunity I encourage everyone to not miss out on.

American Legion Dept of France Boys-Girls State GoFundMe donation site

Young Americans living in Europe don't have many of the same opportunities as their counterparts in the United States. Their participation in the Boys State and Girls State programs is contingent on their sponsoring Posts ability to raise the necessary funds to send them from their home in Europe to the United States.

The American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State are the premier programs for teaching how government works, while developing leadership skills and an

appreciation of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Boys State and Girls State are summer leadership and citizenship programs for high school juniors. Boys and Girls are usually nominated by their high school during their junior year

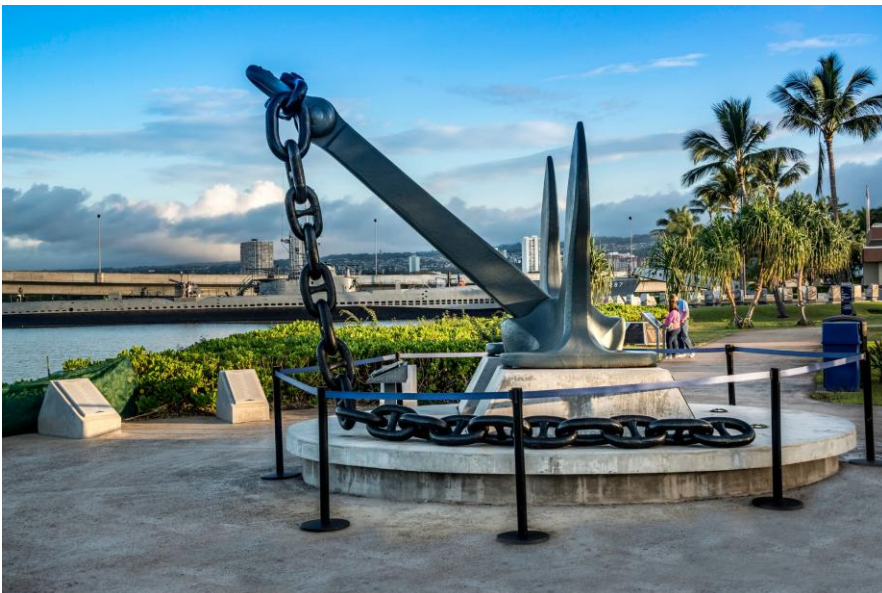
In this exciting summer program, you can run for office, learn public speaking, draft and debate legislation, and actively participate in all phases of creating and running a working government.

The students will develop a confidence that will shape your

future. Successful completion of Boys State and Girls State is recognized by employers, service academies and university admissions boards as an indicator of strong leadership and character traits. Many colleges and universities offer scholarships or admission preference to attendees of Boys or Girls State programs.

Show your support for this GoFundMe and donate today:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/hel-p-defray-the-transportation-cost>



National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 2024 December 7

American Legion Family members remember and honor the 2,403 Americans who were killed in the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941.

**DEPARTMENT
AMERICAN LEGION
RIDERS DIRECTOR**



Jim Brotherton

Hello Riders

I think most of us have hung up our motorcycle gear and put the bike away for the winter. Please take this time to do a look over of your motorcycle. attend to those areas that you may have been postponing so when the riding season opens back up next spring you'll be ready to ride.

I would like to also return to two topics I've been hammering on the last few months. The Veterans & Children's Foundation (VCF) and notifying the Department if your Post is sponsoring a Rider Chapter. First, the VCF. This is the program that has replaced the Children's Scholarship Fund support by the Legacy Ride held each year. It is a great program designed to not only support the Veteran but also our active duty in time of need. It is a program dedicated to 'putting food on the tablet and a roof over their heads'. Just about every family, especially the young troops, can face a time where the unexpected pops up and they have not been prepared for it. This is where the VCF comes in , through National, they can apply for grants, not loans, to help their

family through those difficult times. I urge each Post to develop a program to help raise donations so that the Department can present our contribution at the National Convention. I know just about every Post runs a 50/50 raffle at their meetings, I'm asking you to run a parallel 50/50 to raise donations just for the VCF. Come Department Convention time you can stand proudly and say "Post XX is proud to make a donation to support the men and women who have served or still serving through the Veterans & Childrens Foundation".

Want to wish each and everyone a Happy and Safe holiday season and look forward to serving you in 2025.

Jim Brotherton Department Director ALR



Space Force Birthday December 20, 2024

On Dec. 20, 2019, the U.S. Space Force – the newest branch of the U.S. Armed Forces – was officially instituted with the signing of legislation by President Donald Trump.

VETERANS DAY 2024, LORRAINE AMERICAN CEMETERY, SAINT AVOLD, FRANCE



Lorraine American Cemetery is located just outside the town of St. Avold, France, near the border with Germany. It is the largest American World War II military cemetery in Europe.

Nearly 10,500 American servicemen and women rest here among the rolling woodlands of eastern Lorraine.

Most died in fierce battles to liberate Lorraine, beat back counteroffensives, and drive into Nazi Germany. Five are medal of Honor recipients.

The limestone memorial rises 67 feet above the ground.

An enormous carving of St. Nabor stands high on the front memorial façade, watching over the graves.

Inside is a sunlit chapel and wall map.

Sculptures above the altar represent the eternal struggle for freedom

Among the historical figures portrayed is George Washington.

Brightly-colored ceramic maps portray military operations in Western Europe and the fighting around the St. Avold region.

The walls flanking the memorial building are engraved with Tablets of the Missing, listing the names of nearly 450 Americans.

Men and women buried here came from every US state and territory.

They were of many different races.. many different creeds.. and many different stations in life.

All of them gave their lives in the cause of liberty.

Present at this year's Ceremony...Dept. Commander Dennis Owens and his wife, Past Dept Commander Robert Gray and Companion Stephanie Keys, VCAL Lee Preston, Commander David Garcia and his Wife Doris Garcia, Comrade James Deniss and his wife Sonya Deniss.

Sent in by David Garcia, Post Commander GR01



Speeches were given by (L) Department Commander Owens, Grand Du Germany Chef de Gare Garcia, and Alternate NECMAN Preston.





SCOUTING PROGRAM:
Overcoming obstacles with new ideas to scan slides from the 1980's, special thank you to Kate Adams and her team for their amazing accomplishments in scanning historic mediums at Paris Post 1, photo with volunteer Scout Mom Courtney Kola



Let's Celebrate Together Paris Post 1's 105th Birthday

Dinner tickets for Paris Post 1's birthday celebration and dinner at the Ecole Militaire December 13th @ 19h00 are now available!
<https://www.helloasso.com/associations/the-american-legion-paris/evenements/105th-birthday-paris-post-1>



Rachel and Aaron Groverman supporting the commemoration of a new World War II memorial in Ville-d'Avray by helping with video coverage of the special event.



Eagle Scout Thomas Ravel helped support Legionnaires Robert Loftur-Thun and Jason Mankiewicz with filming for Paris Post 1's documentary.



FYI: Paris Post 1's Oratorical Contest on the U.S. Constitution will be held in January or February 2025, please be sure to get ready now!

The winner of the U.S. Constitution contest will go to the European level contest, and the winner for Europe goes to the USA for the chance to win a \$25,000 scholarship. The 2025 USA National Finals will be May 16-18, 2025 in Hillsdale, Michigan at Hillsdale College. Oratorical Contest history and information here:

<https://www.legion.org/get-involved/youth-programs/oratorical-contest>



To Our Next Generation, Thank You!

Paris Post 1 would like to thank all of our students and scouts for their extraordinary contributions to their community. The impact you have on your community is powerful! We continue to be impressed with our youth in Paris after every ceremony they help us with and every project they perform in the community. The team work and individual skills that each scout and student display when helping the community is remarkable. Our Veterans, Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion at Paris Post 1 are dedicated to growing our local youth and education



Girl Scout Livia Léger, a Cadette from Troop 45, joined us at our annual 4th of July ceremony at the Place des Etats-Unis.



Eagle Scout Kate Adams (far right) leading her team of youth and adults while working with Paris Post 1's historic photo collection.

Would you like to support students and scouts?

Here are four ways your donations can help our local youth:

1. support the cost of local scholarship programs to increase attendance
2. help pay for an Eagle Scout or Gold Award project (each costs about 150-300 euros)
3. Annual supplies for youth participation at ceremonies i.e. white gloves, flag straps and smaller flags (to give out to local youth)
4. Sponsor students and scouts to attend Paris Post 1's 105th Birthday at the Ecole Militaire

To donate towards one of these youth programs, please view our donation page on our website or send us an email (contact@parispost1.fr).



Youth Scholarships at The American Legion

If you are interested in earning support for your university higher education or for Girls State and Boys State, please consider The

American Legion's scholarship programs.

1. Annual Oratorical Contest (Paris, Europe & USA): Local competition, Europe level and then National (USA) level with scholarships awarded to the three finalists: 1st place \$25k, 2nd gets \$22,500 and 3rd takes \$20,000.
2. Girls State and Boys State: A great opportunity for those interested in building leadership skills check out Girls State and Boys State both programs of the American Legion and Auxiliary.
3. Baseball Scholarship: The American Legion awards between \$22,000 and \$25,000 in scholarships to deserving baseball players each year.
4. Eagle Scout of the Year: The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year will receive a \$10,000 scholarship, and three (3) runner-up scholarship awards will be granted in the amount of \$2,500 each.
5. Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada United States (EANAVICUS): ANAVICUS presents nine (9) scholarships a year that are in memory of a distinguished ANAVICUS members.
6. Spirit of Youth Scholarship: Spirit of Youth Scholarship program is an umbrella that supports three separate scholarship opportunities for participants in American Legion Auxiliary programs.



International School of Paris (ISP) Celebrates 60th Anniversary

Please join Paris Post 1 in recognizing and thanking the International School of Paris (ISP) for their dedication to growing education and leaders in France!



The History of the International School of Paris (ISP)

ISP's journey began at Pershing Hall, a historic building with deep roots connecting France to an international Anglophone community. From ISP's early days, the school has embodied a deep sense of family, driven by their mission as a not-for-profit educational institution.

Nestled in the heart of Paris among the city's iconic landmarks, ISP has thrived as an international educational community for over six decades.

From humble beginnings at Pershing Hall to the vibrant three-campus institution they are today, ISP has continuously evolved to meet the needs of our dynamic, diverse community.



American Legion Department of France Vice-Commander-at-Large Quincy Jones laying a wreath with Paris Post 1 Commander Bryan Schell, Ville de Neuilly Maire Jean-Christophe Fromantin and Adjoint Maire Philippe Le Stang.



Armistice Day at the Paris Post 1 Mausoleum

Paris Post 1 and our community were grateful to our partners for supporting and joining us to give speeches and lay wreaths in honor of our veterans who are buried at the American Legion Mausoleum. Quincy Jones, the Vice-Commander-at-Large for the American Legion's Department of France, flew to Paris from Frankfurt, Germany to join us. Quincy helps support over 30 American Legion posts from Paris to the Philippines. We are truly grateful for Quincy making the trip to France to spend time with us.

We were thankful to have Philippe Sechet, Paris Post 1's legacy liaison with Le Souvenir Francais and the City of Neuilly, join us. Thanks to the support and dedication of Philippe, we are able to organize our ceremonies with the Ville de Neuilly several times each year. We are grateful for Philippe's friendship, and dedication over many years working with several administrations at Paris Post 1.

A very big thank you to cemetery manager Jonathon Froment and his team at the Ville de Neuilly cemetery. Throughout the year, he and his team are at our mausoleum helping to preserve this unique American memorial, and to get this military monument ready for our remembrance ceremonies. We are truly blessed to have the support of

the city, cemetery and community in Neuilly to help protect our mausoleum and to ensure we keep the legacy of our remembrance ceremonies going forever.



Armistice Day in Montargis

Paris Post 1 Auxiliary President Ginette Crosley and daughter Paris Post 1 Legion Adjutant Michele Crosley represented the American Legion and Auxiliary in their hometown of Montargis for Armistice Day.

This year is very special for Ginette and Michele because of the significance of Paris Post 1 being a World War 1 association, and also because they helped plant a new Never Forget rose garden in Montargis. In honor of the Unknown Soldier, Ginette and Michele laid a wreath of 11 white roses.

After World War I when the Unknown Soldier was chosen in France to be returned to the USA for burial at Arlington National Cemetery, a Frenchman, Claude Ducher, provided the white roses which adorned the memorial room where the Unknown Soldiers were located. In honor of the Unknown Soldier from World War I, a Never

Forget rose garden was established in Montargis.



Veterans Day in Austin, Texas

Veterans Day is November 11th every year in the USA. An American national holiday that originated from World War 1's Armistice Day.

For many veterans, this is a day for veterans to come together to support one another, to spend time with veterans in need, and to show gratitude for the duty and sacrifice that our veterans make for our country.

This year in Austin, Texas, past Post Commander Carl Hale met up with Legionnaire Stephen Ruh from Hollywood Post to view the Veteran's Day Parade in downtown Austin where they both work. Carl and Stephen after their military service continued to serve their countries by joining the Army Future's Command.

Photos from Carl at the World War I exhibit at the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Museum in Austin. Special thanks to Carl and Stephen for their military service and for sharing their Veterans Day/Armistice Day with us!

MARGRATEN POST NL01

MARGRATEN, THE NETHERLANDS

For the last few years our Post has had the honor and privilege to support the small Dutch village of Opijnen to honor and remember the eight B-17 Aircrew members who were buried in this small Dutch village along the Waal river here in the Netherlands. I've been told this is the only final resting place an Aircrew of this size has been laid to rest side by side.

Every year, on 4 May, they hold a ceremony to honor these men who were shot down and died, 30 July 1943, over their village. Only the pilot and co-pilot were able to escape death but were shortly captured and spent the remainder of the War as POW's.

Some time ago one of the headstones was damaged. No one remembers when or how, top half

was broken completely off. They managed to repair the headstone but the damage was always visible. Over time and through weather the repair has deteriorated. The village embarked on a journey to have the headstone replaced which was possible. The problem they did encounter was the original headstones of the eight Aircrewmen were of white marble and the replacement headstone was

of dark grey granite, not the ideal replacement and not what the village expected or was hoping for. They felt there had to be another solution to obtain a white marble replacement. There would be no help forthcoming from the Veterans Administration or the American Battle Monuments Commission. The rules specifically laid out, replacement headstones were to be the dark grey granite.

After much discussion between the village committee responsible for the management and upkeep of the graves located in their village, the American Legion Margraten Post NL01 and a group of Military Attache's, headed by Ret. Col. David Sears, formerly of the

American Embassy located in the Netherlands a plan was formulated. The American Legion Post would purchase a white marble headstone from a vendor located in Texas, this was made possible by personal donations collected from within the Post. The Military Attache Group would arrange transportation of the headstone from Texas to the Netherlands, possibly through the Embassy, this however did not happen because of logistic support. The Attache group was able to negotiate transportation which they paid for to have the headstone delivered to the Netherlands. The village committee would coordinate the replacement of the headstone through the Netherlands

Oorlogs Graven Stichting, responsible for all military graves located outside the area of responsibility of the American Battle Monuments Commission.

Many Thanks to the Margraten Post NL01 and their members, Ret. Col. USA David Sears and his group of Military Attache's. The coordination and cooperation of the village of Opijnen, especially Jan Burggraaf of the Opijnen 4Mei Comite and last but not least, the Netherlands Oorlogs Graven Stichting for their help in overcoming the obstacles that were faced in placing the headstone, which were major,



FLANDERS FIELDS POST BE02

WEST FLANDERS, BELGIUM

The last several months have been active for the Flanders Field Post BE02. During October, several of the Post membership participated in the annual Retire Appreciation Day event at the SHAPE Health Clinic.

On Friday, 25 October, the Flanders Field Post BE02 provided the food and beverage service the annual USAG Brussel's Halloween Trunk or Treat. This fundraising event was very successful, and we look forward to doing the event again next year.

On Veteran's Day, 11 November, the Post had several events to attend with several activities occurring at the same time. Mike Marro,

Post Judge Advocate, along with Rich Campbell, represented the Post by laying a wreath at the Flanders Field American Cemetery.

After the official ceremony, 12 Certificates of Adoption were presented by the associate superintendent to new adopters who are participating in the Flanders Field Post BE02 Adopt-a-Grave program. Started in 2014, this adoption program provided the opportunity for individuals to adopt the 411 soldiers buried or have a name on the wall of the missing.

Another group of members along with family members represented the United States of American by carrying the US Flag in the annual Ieper Poppy

Parade. Members Ranger Russel, William Bache, Auxiliary member Mary Clapp along with friends and family helped carry the flags in the Parade and during the Last Post Ceremony. We were fortunate to have the Ansbach AJROTC unit marching with us this day.

Lastly, the five chartered scouting (Pack 802, Troop 802B, Troop 802G, Crew 802 & Ship 802) units have been busy with camps, advancement and a myriad of other activities. These five scouting units were developed during the COVID epidemic as virtual units when other scout units could not meet in-person. We now have scouts from over 40 countries on three continents that participate in our scouting units



GR09 Observes German Memorial Day

On 17 November, on Germany's Volkstrauertag (Memorial Day), members of the William D. Nelson Post GR 09, Neu-Ulm, Germany participated in a wreath laying ceremony at the Ulm city memorial honoring fallen soldiers and persons who have suffered at the hands of oppressors. Joining the legion were members of Germany's Traditionsverein Ulmer Artilleristen (Traditional Association of Ulm Artillery soldiers).

The Traditional Ulmer Artillery Association was formed in 1909 and GR 09 has participated in this somber affair since 1998. With this comradeship the American Legion also promotes the understanding of the Legion's principles to our German hosts. In his speech explaining the importance of remembering this date president Reiner Meine also thanked GR 09 for its presence and gratitude for their support.



DETACHMENT COMMANDER



John Fleming



DETACHMENT OF FRANCE

DETACHMENT ADJUTANT



James Dennis

Hello Sons,

Membership: We continue to have a great 2025 Membership year! The Membership report I received dated 26 November 2024 shows the Detachment at 51.40%. That is 92 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): The 2024-2025 CSR is available on myLegion.org, so I suggest everyone start working on this.

John Fleming
Detachment Commander

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PCC President



John Gerdeman

Department of France

Past Commanders Club 2025MY

PCC Secretary



Kerwin Hester

Who is eligible to join the Department of France

Past Commanders Club?

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



Chef de Gare David Garcia (white cap) and Cheminot Nationale Lee Preston (gold cap) attended Veterans Day ceremonies at the Lorraine American Cemetery, Saint-Avold France.

