



## Department of FRANCE

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

*Volume 15 / Issue 12 -- December 2017*



*Wishing One And All  
A Merry Christmas*



DEPARTMENT COMMANDER *James Dennis*



Fellow Legionnaires and Legion families,

I've had another busy month. First, I attended the Veterans Day Ceremony in St. Avold France. I laid a wreath with the Department President Dennis. I would like to thank the Boy Scouts/ Cub Scouts, Ramstein Hogs, 40/8 Grand Chef Casby Logan, Members from Kaiserslautern Post GR01, All the veterans and their families that attended this event. Thank you, Department Chaplain Chamberlain, for the prayer and VCAL Brown for assistance to make this event happen,

Then it was off to Paris on the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> for the Paris Post FR01 elections. VCAL Brown, VC Etter, VC Logan, Historian Perez and myself were representing Department for the elections. Comrade Carl Hale was elected to Post Commander and Past Commander Canady was appointed to Adjutant. Congratulations to all the new officers of Paris Post FR01. After the elections, we all went to lunch with the post. We had a good meal and good conversation. Thank you, Paris Post FR01 for allowing me to join you for this event.

Then it was off to Audie Murphy Post GR30's Thanksgiving Dinner with the American Legion Auxiliary Unit GR30 and the VFW Post 10436. We had about 80 members and guests that attended. American Legion Auxiliary Unit GR30 member Gaby Vaughan did an outstanding job in the kitchen. I would like to thank her and her team for doing a great job. I also would like to thank the American Legion Auxiliary Unit GR30 ladies for their assistance in serving the veterans again this year.

On the 25<sup>th</sup>, Madam President and I went to Heilbronn to their Thanksgiving Dinner. There was about 90 members and guests present. We had a good meal and good comradery. Heilbronn Post GR79 picked up a new member and the Auxiliary also recruited a new member. I met with a lot of members I knew that I had not seen for many years.

Let us not forget, Christmas is around the corner. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year Be safe and be smart when traveling in winter conditions. For updates on Department events, visit our webpage at <http://www.amerlegiondeptfrance.org> or our Facebook site at [www.facebook.com/ALDeptFrance](http://www.facebook.com/ALDeptFrance).

James Dennis / Commander / Department of France

***The American Legion, Department of France website***

<http://www.amerlegiondeptfrance.org>

***Also Visit The Department of France Facebook page***

WANTED TODAY... pictures and stories of your posts, your members. Share your experiences, let everyone know what you are doing and contributing to your  
"American Legion Family"

# Department Officers - 2018 Membership Year

<p><b>COMMANDER</b> James Dennis / GR30 <i>departmentdennis@gmail.com</i></p>	<p><b>ADJUTANT</b> Maxwell Rice / GR79 <i>colwickboy@yahoo.com</i></p>	<p><b>NECMAN/ FINANCE OFFICER</b> Nola Maloney / GR03 <i>NECMaloney@gmail.com</i></p>	<p><b>ALT. NECMAN</b> James Settle / GR42 <i>james.settle@kabelbw.de</i></p>
<p><b>VCAL</b> Joe D. Brown / GR79 <i>vcalbrown50@gmail.com</i></p>	<p><b>VICE COMMANDER</b> Casby Logan / GR07 <i>casbyf@hotmail.com</i></p>	<p><b>VICE COMMANDER</b> David Etter / GR01 <i>bigdavee59@gmail.com</i></p>	<p><b>VICE COMMANDER</b> Christopher Buchanan / GR1982 <i>christoperbnch@hotmail.com</i></p>
<p><b>VICE COMMANDER</b> Jimmie Dale / GR07 <i>jimmiedale87@gmail.com</i></p>	<p><b>CHAPLAIN</b> Don Chamberlain/ GR79 <i>chamberlaindv@hotmail.de</i></p>	<p><b>HISTORIAN</b> Raymond Perez Jr. / NL01 <i>Raymond.perezjr@yahoo.com</i></p>	<p><b>SERVICE OFFICER</b> Laura Buckner / BE02 <i>serviceofficerdofr@yahoo.com</i></p>
<p><b>JUDGE ADVOCATE</b> Keith Abernathy / GR79 <i>keithabernathy1942@yahoo.de</i></p>	<p><b>SERGEANT-AT-ARMS</b> Raymond Vincent Jr. / NL01 <i>rvincent6603@yahoo.com</i></p>		<p><b>ASSISTANT ADJUTANT</b> Robert Fuelling / FR01 <i>Rfuel41704@aol.com</i></p>

## Americanism Chairman Carl Hackworth...



It is requested that all Americanism reports be sent to me prior to our DEC's.

Carl Hackworth  
Dudenroder Str. 1  
63654 Buedingen, Germany

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My Fellow  
Legionnaires, SAL  
Members, Auxiliary  
Members, Legion  
Riders and all other  
VIPs;

WOW! Here we are at  
December already!! I  
do hope everyone had  
a delightful and  
memorable

Thanksgiving. It has been a very busy October and November for me! It was very heart rendering to see so many attend our 2<sup>nd</sup> DEC of MY2018. I want to say thank you to Margraten Post NLO1 for hosting the event and doing an outstanding job of orchestrating the accommodations' for all who stayed overnight and the set-up of the meeting room!!!

As you are aware I missed the cut-off to get my November newsletter article in on time. I was traveling on 30-31 October to get home for the rest of my notes from the Fall NEC Meeting – I will include some of those things in this month's write-up. Many of it I talked about at the DEC but for those who were not in attendance you would not be aware of that or some news that might affect you or your Post.

By now all are aware of the new National Program to renew all members online – the Department of France is the test pilot for foreign Departments. So far it has been working well – a few hiccups but that is to be expected; nothing that has not been able to be fixed. This will save money in mailings, the printing of the three part cards and sending paper checks to Department and National Headquarters. Now that is real progress!!! Yes, we will still have to process some things (new members and transfers) the traditional way, but that is still a lot of savings overall.

The American Legion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act was signed and now the US Mint is preparing to make and start distributing the coins January – December 2019. Orders for the coins will begin in 2018. Proceeds from the sale of this coin will benefit the Four Pillars of the American Legion. The quantity of coins to be produced are as follows: (1) \$5 Gold Coin – not more than 50,000 (2) \$1 Silver Coin

– not more than 400,000, (3) Half-Dollar Clad Coins – not more than 750,000.

Rule 8-b of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion states that a legislative program shall be prepared for each session of the Congress by the National Legislative Commission and submitted for action of the National Executive Committee. There were 21 Adopted Resolutions with legislative intent from the National Executive Committee Fall Meeting are as follows: Americanism Commission Res No. 01, No. 15, No. 16, and No. 17; Finance Commission Res's No's. 2 through 8; National Convention Commission No. 9 and No. 12; Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission No. 13, No. 14, and No. 15; Internal Affairs Commission No's. 10-11; Veterans Employment & Education Commission No. 18, No. 19, and No. 20. The Subcommittee on Resolutions presented No. 21. These can be seen on the Legion.org website.

I was honored to assist a local Post here in Tucson over Veterans Day by participating in their Annual Parade. They have been the orchestrators of this parade since 1919. The parade is made up of all Veterans Organizations in the area, local Fire Fighters, Police, Junior ROTC from four high schools, the US Air Force from Davis Mochon AFB and other Distinguished local groups. There were 93 different entries in the parade – from very large groups to groups of 20 or so.

I was very thankful to be able to assist that same the local Post in feeding nearly 200 homeless and VA Hospital out-patients on Thanksgiving Day. It was a wonderful day for all!

Legion College: The American Legion Education Institute "A.L.E.I." is has developed a Post on-line format and course material (power point, videos, instructor guide, packing list, etc.) assist for level presentations delivered by members to develop and educate Post peers. This will include suggested group discussions designed to develop a Post plan of action. They are also developing a Department level American Legion College – this will require a National American Legion College graduate as potential instructor base to facilitate training in resolution writing, parliamentary procedure, leadership, goal-development, train the trainer, communication, etc. The course can be found

at [www.legion.org/training](http://www.legion.org/training). Topics covered are History and Organization; Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation; National Security; Americanism; and Children and Youth.

**FINANCE NEWS:** If you have receipts to turn in for reimbursement this is what you will need to do: Add up all your receipts, send me a scanned copy of them by email. No receipts means **no money**. If you are a Committee Chairman or Post who will need budgeted money before we meet for the 3<sup>rd</sup> DEC I want to know that. If you have up-front the cost of a program then when event/program is completed turn in the receipts for reimbursement. No matter what money is given out, I will want receipts and return of excess funds not used when event is over (these can be used in other critical programs we have/need or be saved for the next year).

On-Line Renewal checks to Posts were passed out at 2<sup>nd</sup> DEC. If you have not cashed your check yet – please do so!! The checks are only good for so long.

Eiffel Towers – I have narrowed down our purchase of Eiffel Towers to between two companies. I am awaiting final word now on bottom line cost. I believe the negotiations will be very lucrative for us..

Emblem Sales – I will be sending out the Emblem Sales reimbursement requirement to each person who had Department orders since the Convention. A copy of the Emblem Sales Receipts will be given to each person involved. There is a hiccup in our billing that I am getting worked out before I send those who still owe for orders already processed – you can expect to see your bill within the next two weeks.

The new Finance SOP is included in this newsletter for your guidance on reimbursements.

I still have some of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Department Convention Coins – Ludwigshafen, Germany. There are still coins available, if you would like one contact me at [NECMaloney@gmail.com](mailto:NECMaloney@gmail.com) Many of our members live in the U.S.A. and cannot attend the Annual Convention but do collect Challenge Coins – this is a way they too can get one of the coins.

**CENTENNIAL:** The National Centennial Commission is promoting “Every Post Has a Story”. They suggest we all write a little history about how your Post got started. They are doing a huge placemat format of the history of each Department. The story of your Post just might get put on this keepsake item. There is no cost for the History Placemat except a little of your time to write up the history. Please send me your documents when you have finished them. I will store them until the Centennial Commission requests ours. The next meeting for Department Centennial is 17 January in Paris, France.

With that I will close out this month’s article with wishes for a safe and Happy Holiday Season for ALL!! Safe travels for all!!! I look forward to seeing many of you in the New Year!!

Most Sincerely, Your NECLady Nola

*“No matter our outward differences – we’re all in this together” President O’Bama – during his outgoing speech in office.*



**Merry Christmas  
and safe  
New Year Holiday  
to All!**



1 September 2017

Memorandum for expenses for American Legion Department of France Officers and/or other Legionnaires that are listed on the proposed budget.

RE-IMBURSABLE EXPENSES: TRAVEL, LODGING COSTS, MEALS

1. VISITS TO OTHER LEGION POSTS
2. LEGION CEREMONIES (MEMORIAL DAY, ST, AVOLD, VETERANS DAY, ORATORICAL, ETC)
3. NATIONAL CONVENTION (NON-CALL IN)
4. NATIONAL COMMANDER'S VISIT (FOR NEC AND ADJUTANT)
5. PURCHASE OF APPROVED DEPARTMENT SUPPLIES
6. OTHER BUDGETED ITEMS
7. OTHER ITEMS VOTED ON AND APPROVED AT A DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (DEC) MEETINGS
8. MEALS FOR YOU AND YOUR GUEST ONLY (2 persons)
9. RECEIPTS REQUIRED BEFORE PAYMENT FROM BUDGETED AMOUNT IS GIVEN (You will need gas receipts, lodging receipts, reasonable costs meal receipts – no alcohol will be reimbursed).

EXPENSES THAT ARE NOT RE-IMBURSABLE:

1. TRAVEL COSTS TO ATTEND A DEC MEETING
2. TRAVEL COSTS TO ATTEND THE CONVENTION
3. TRAVEL COSTS TO NATIONAL THAT RESULT IN A "CALL-IN". THOSE TRAVEL COSTS THAT NATIONAL PAYS FOR

Call-ins to National do not cover the cost of the entire expenses incurred (the per diem rate is far lower than the locality rate). Budgeted amounts can be used to cover the difference. You will need to bring a copy of your authorized Call-in Expense Report and a copy of the check stub from National so I can make up the difference for your hotel rooms and reasonable meals based on local per diem rate (this is where the shortage is at). This will come out of your annual budget for travel. This will pertain to the Department, SAL and Auxiliary.

As a 501(c) organization we do not pay taxes but we are subject to audits by IRS to see that we are operating properly based on the Constitution of The American Legion. Payments should not be made without proper receipts

Respectfully,

NOLA MALONEY  
DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE  
FINANCE OFFICER

# Department of France Past Commanders Club



*2018 Membership Year PCC President Gary Thomas (r) and PCC Secretary Susan Houston*

## **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 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

***Our next meeting is planned in conjunction  
with the Department of France Third DEC***

## DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER *Laura Buckner*



The Department of France is having a Service Officers training course on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2017 in Ansbach at the Post Home from Post GR1982 at 09:00 hours. We are asking all Service Officers to attend this informative course. If your Post does not have a Service Officer, perhaps a member might want to attend this course. This would give your Post more information on what to do for processing claims and how to properly fill out the forms needed for these claims. Service Officer Buckner and Assistant Service Officer Phillips have worked diligently to make a Department of France Post Service Officers Manual. We need to support this course to help the veterans in Europe and your Post.

Please contact Service Officer Buckner at [serviceofficerdofr@yahoo.com](mailto:serviceofficerdofr@yahoo.com) or Assistant Service Officer Phillips at [frank@fphillips.de](mailto:frank@fphillips.de) to have a proper headcount of Posts attending.





## 2017 - 2018 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

<b>EARLY BIRD/NEE KICKOFF</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER 13, 2017</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>FALL MEETINGS</b>	<b>OCTOBER 12, 2017</b>	<b>55%</b>
<b>VETERANS DAY</b>	<b>NOVEMBER 15, 2017</b>	<b>65%</b>
<b>PEARL HARBOR DAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 13, 2017</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>MID-WINTER</b>	<b>JANUARY 18, 2018</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>PRESIDENT'S DAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 14, 2018</b>	<b>85%</b>
<b>LEGION BIRTHDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 14, 2018</b>	<b>90%</b>
<b>CHILDREN &amp; YOUTH</b>	<b>APRIL 11, 2018</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>ARMED FORCES DAY</b>	<b>MAY 9, 2018</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>DELEGATE STRENGTH</b>	<b>30 DAYS PRIOR TO NATIONAL CONVENTION</b>	

Target dates fall on the second Wednesday of the month unless there is a holiday on that day or at the beginning of that week.

The November target date will be on the third Wednesday due to Veterans Day falling on that previous Saturday.

To maximize the December renewal notice, and allow for MLK holiday, the January target date will be on the third Thursday of the month.

4 new for members for GR 01 Recruiter by Membership Chairman Charlie Brown





Veterans Day Ceremony in Saint Avold, France



Paris Post1 Elections 2017-2018MY







# The American Legion Oratorical Scholarship Contest

Hosted by the Flanders Field Post BE02 and  
Margraten Post NL01

Young orators can earn some of the most generous college scholarships  
Develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution  
An academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities

**Eligibility:**

High School Freshmen through Seniors (or home-school equivalent)

**Location:**

SHAPE American Middle School Multipurpose Room

**Date & Time:**

Saturday, 09 December 2017

Start time: 13:00

For more information, visit the Post BE02 Oratorical webpage

<http://postbe02oratoricalcontest.weebly.com/>

Or contact us at:

[flander.fields.post.be02@gmail.com](mailto:flander.fields.post.be02@gmail.com)





# Boys State / Girls State Fundraiser



- Support our young Americans who live overseas with their military family by giving them the same opportunities as the students in the United States
- The Boys State / Girls State program is a summer leadership and citizenship programs sponsored by The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary for high school juniors



**Support our young Americans by donating at**  
[www.gofundme.com/boys-state-girls-state-program](http://www.gofundme.com/boys-state-girls-state-program)



# Margraten Post NL01

Dear Legionnaires!

As you will read, our post had a very busy November! I like to thank all of you for your participation! I would also like to thank all the contributors to this month's newsletter! "LegionStrong"

<http://www.members.legion.org/IMAGES/MYLEGION/newsletters/FRNL01NEWSLETTER.PDF>

Please Enjoy!

Historian Ray / Post NL01 / Dept of France



Newsletter Editor...David N. Greaux

**REMINDER...all newsletter articles should be turned in prior to months end!**

[davidg1959@t-online.de](mailto:davidg1959@t-online.de)



## DETACHMENT OF FRANCE



*Detachment Commander Joe D. Brown / [ycalbrow50@gmail.com](mailto:ycalbrow50@gmail.com)*

**The Third DEC will be hosted by Omar Bradley Post GR42  
Time and location TBA**

# Stuttgart Post GR06

Veterans day 2017 on Patch Post... *Marcus W. Briscoe*



## Riley Leroy Pitts Post GR07 Worms-Mannheim-Wiesbaden

### GR07 Receives New Post Charter



Department Commander James Dennis presented Post GR07 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Jimmie Dale with Post GR07's new charter during a Thanksgiving event sponsored by Post 79 in Heilbronn, Germany. Thanks to Post GR79 for hosting this great event.

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### Post GR07 General Membership Meetings

Post GR07 holds its General Membership Meetings the first Tuesday of each month at 1900hrs at the Post Home located at Marsweg 3 (Bldg. 7005), 65191 Wiesbaden. Post members and interested members are encouraged to attend the meetings. It is a great opportunity to find out more about upcoming post events, to volunteer with post events, and to fellowship with the post officers and members. For info regarding meetings check out Post GR07's Facebook Page or contact Adjutant Mike Murley at [mgmurley@gmail.com](mailto:mgmurley@gmail.com) or Commander John Odom at [johnlilbro@gmail.com](mailto:johnlilbro@gmail.com)

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### Veterans Affairs (VA) Services In Wiesbaden Community

A full-time VA Representative is located at the Wiesbaden Army Garrison. Post GR07 verified that Veterans do not need a Military ID Card to schedule an appointment and receive assistance with VA benefits and claims. Telephone 0611143-5481323.

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### Post GR07 Assist with Girl Scouts Cookie Bake

Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> the Wiesbaden Girl Scouts will host their 3rd Annual Cookie Bake-Off Competition, from 10:00-12:00, at the Army Community Services cafeteria on Hainerberg. This event is part of the Girls Scouts Leadership Program. Post GR07 Children and Youth Chairman Ron Morgan is assisting with the event and seeking Legion Members to assist with judging the competition. Those interested in assisting can contact Comrade Ron Morgan at [rcmorgan2016@gmail.com](mailto:rcmorgan2016@gmail.com).

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## Happy Holidays To All! From Post GR07



# SGT William D. Nelson Post GR09

## GR 09 activities in November

On the evening of the 3 November several GR 09 members attended the official presentation of a book documenting the US Army in Ulm and Neu-Ulm from 1951 to 1991. The book titled “Klein Amerika links und rechts der Donau” was written by Joachin Lenk, local military historian. After releasing his fifth book two years ago on local Bundeswehr history Lenk became fascinated with the history of American soldiers stationed in the Ulm/Neu-Ulm area and that much of this information was being lost to the younger generation. After contacting GR 09 and attending some general membership meetings Hr. Lenk interviewed GR 09 members and started his research. The book, 256 pages with 750 photographs, was officially offered to the public in a festive event attended by over 250 people. Former German Finance Minister Theo Waigel, German bundeswehr LTG Richard Roßmanith, Commander of the Multinational Joint Headquarters, Ulm, and the Lord Mayor of Neu-Ulm were in attendance. The American flag and GR 09’s colors were prominently displayed on the podium. Several GR 09 members, whose pictures are in the book, will now go down in the annuals of Ulm’s military history. The book has sold well locally and for anyone previously stationed in Neu-Ulm/Ulm or is interested in some of the history of the US military in Ulm can find additional information or order the book on Lenk’s web site at [www.usgarrison.com](http://www.usgarrison.com).



US Flag and GR 09 colors prominently displayed during event



Some of the GR 09 attendees at the book presentation



GR 09 members as pictured in book

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On 19 November GR 09 also joined the members of the Traditionsverein Ulmer Artilleristen, 1906 (Ulms Traditional Artillery Association, founded in 1906) for their annual Volkstrauertag (German Memorial Day) ceremony. GR 09 has participated in this solemn event for over 10 years and this dedication was duly noted by German Ltc. Christmann by thanking GR 09 for its attendance.





GR 09 members at German Volkstrauertag.

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Unfortunately...the post also had a sorrowful moment when on 25 November it conducted a Post Everlasting Ceremony for two of its members, Comrades Ken Grasser and Donnie Swearengin. Families of both of the former members and Department Vice Commander Chris Buchanan were present. It is always painful when one of our members has to take final leave of our fine organization.

**MilitaryTimes**

## Applications for new VA ID cards are open

By: Leo Shane III

The Department of Veterans Affairs is accepting applications for new Veteran ID cards as of today, but questions surrounding the program's costs and private sector involvement remain unclear.

The cards — designed to be an easy way for veterans to prove their military service for a host of nongovernment services — will be delivered within 60 days of applying with digital copies available next month.

Veterans can start the application process now through the main VA website at [www.vets.gov](http://www.vets.gov). The link to the ID application is on the bottom left of the page, labeled "Apply for printed Veteran ID Card."

The cards were mandated by Congress in July 2015, with the expectation of distribution sometime in 2017. In a release announcing the official start of the program Wednesday, VA officials said their moves are "fulfilling a promise that has been unfulfilled since 2015."

"The new Veterans Identification Card provides a safer and more convenient and efficient way for most veterans to show proof of service," VA Secretary David Shulkin said in a statement. "With the card, veterans with honorable service to our nation will no longer need to carry around their paper DD-214s to obtain veteran discounts and other services."

Cards will be printed and shipped by Office Depot, an arrangement that VA officials said will allow veterans to receive the IDs free of charge. VA officials declined to release the cost of the printing and shipping arrangement with Office Depot.

The final design of the cards has not been finalized yet. Previous versions had the Office Depot logo on the back with the veteran's information on the front.

Under rules developed by VA, individuals who served in the armed forces, including the reserve components, and have a character of discharge of honorable or general under honorable conditions are eligible for the new IDs. Veterans with other than honorable status are not eligible.

That has upset some veterans groups, which have noted that the legislation to create the cards had no such restrictions.

The new cards won't replace VA medical cards or official defense retiree cards and will not carry any force of law behind them. Veterans will also need to register for an online account with VA to apply for the card.

# Audie Murphy Post GR30

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

SANTA CLAUS, POST GR30 AND UNIT GR30 INVITE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TO OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY AT "MY PLACE" OTTO HAHN STR. 21 KITZINGEN



9 DECEMBER 2017

AT 1300 HRS

COST...ADULT 9.00€ / CHILDREN AGE 7-12 4.50€  
/ UNDER 6 FREE



**WITH RESERVATIONS ONLY!**

PLEASE R.S.V.P. NO LATER THAN 23 NOVEMBER 2017

CALL "MY PLACE"...09321-31644

# John Wayne Post GR79

Thanksgiving 2017





# SURVEY SHOWS VETERAN HOUSEHOLDS SUPPORT RESEARCH OF MEDICAL CANNABIS

*The American Legion...Nov 02, 2017*

An independent public opinion research company conducted a nationwide survey about the opinions of veterans, their family members and caregivers on the issue of medical cannabis. See the survey results [here](#). Learn more about The American Legion's push for research into medical cannabis [here](#).

The results are significant and reinforce The American Legion's continued efforts, under [Resolution 11](#), to urge Congress to amend legislation to remove marijuana from Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act and reclassify it, at a minimum, as a drug with potential medical value.

According to the survey – which included more than 1,300 respondents and achieved a +/- 3.5 percent margin of error at a 95 percent confidence level – 92 percent of veteran households support research into the efficacy of medical cannabis for mental and physical conditions.

Eighty-three percent of veteran households surveyed indicated that they believe the federal government should legalize medical cannabis nationwide, and 82 percent indicated that they would want to have medical cannabis as a federally-legal treatment option, the survey says.

In January 2017, the National Academy of medicine [released a review](#) of more than 10,000 scientific abstracts and found substantial evidence to support the idea that cannabis was effective in treating chronic pain, reducing spasticity in Multiple Sclerosis patients, and reducing symptoms of chemotherapy-induced nausea. The American Legion calls on the federal government to confirm or deny the validity of these studies.

In August during the Legion's national convention in Reno, Nev., [Resolution 28](#) was passed, which calls on the federal government to allow medical providers within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to discuss medical cannabis as a treatment option in states where medical marijuana is legal.

VA officials [report](#) that about 60 percent of veterans returning from combat deployments and 50 percent of older veterans suffer from chronic pain compared to 30 percent of Americans nationwide.

Many veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and chronic pain – especially those of the Iraq and Afghanistan generation – have told The American Legion that they have achieved improved health care outcomes by foregoing VA-prescribed opioids in favor of medical cannabis. While the

stories of these wartime veterans are compelling, more research must be done in order to enable lawmakers to have a fact-based debate on future drug policy.

The survey also showed that 22 percent of veterans are currently using cannabis to treat a medical condition.

The opioid crisis in America is having a disproportionate impact on our veterans, according to a 2011 study of the VA system, as they contend with the facts that poorly-treated chronic pain increases suicide risk, and veterans are twice as likely to succumb to [accidental opioid overdoses](#). Traumatic brain injury and PTSD remain leading causes of death and disability within the veteran community, according to Lou Celli, director of the Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division.

Here are some highlights from the [survey](#):

- 92 percent of all veterans support research into medical cannabis.
- 83 percent of all veteran households support legalizing medical cannabis.
- Support for medical cannabis research is consistent nationwide, across ages, gender, political affiliation and geography.
- 60 percent of respondents do not live in states where medical cannabis is currently legal.
- 79 percent of respondents aged 60+ supported federally legalized medical cannabis.
- 22 percent of veterans stated they are currently using cannabis to treat a medical condition.
- 40 percent of caregivers stated they know a veteran who is using medical cannabis to alleviate a medical condition.

Here is how you can help:

[CLICK HERE](#) to contact your elected officials and urge them to support The American Legion's efforts to:

- Remove cannabis from Schedule I of the controlled substances act.
- Enable more research into alternative treatments for PTSD.
- Allow VA doctors to talk with veterans about medical cannabis in states where it is already legal.

# Department of France



President / Sonja Dennis

We had a nice trip St Avold, France for Veterans day on the 11<sup>th</sup>. I helped Department Commander Dennis lay the wreath. The Chapel was full of veterans and their families. It was a good ceremony.

DC Dennis and I attended the Thanksgiving Dinner in Heilbronn on the 25<sup>th</sup>. I spoke to a lot of the veterans and their families. American Legion Auxiliary Unit GR79 picked up a new member as well. I spoke to Mrs. Zickuhr about joining and is interested. We talked about an Auxiliary Unit in Ramstein next. We are waiting on Post GR02 to progress before we start a new Unit.

We are going to Landstuhl on 2 December to visit the troops at the USO. The flyer is attached. We are asking the Legion family to join us. Please do contact the Auxiliary Secretary Mattson for a head count and if you are donating items. We are also collecting for the Chaplains closet. The flyer is also attached to inform you of items needed. And last, we are looking for a person to be Santa Claus for the troops. I have a suit if needed.

Also attached is Unit GR30's Christmas party flyer. All are welcome to join us.

Sonja Dennis

President

Department of France

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We had our elections in Paris. This article and photo of a ceremony which happened in my home town, the evening of 10 November which started the ceremonies of Veterans Day.

"100 years ago, the American Army was arriving"

An oak tree for remembrance"

An American red oak tree was planted by the association "Le Souvenir Français" to keep the memory of the American forces who came to Europe 100 years ago.

The tree leaves are red like the blood shed by the soldiers who came across the Atlantic ocean to the old continent 100 years ago.

This tree will keep the memory of the 130000 American soldiers killed in action and the 23000 injured. If the American army arrived officially in 1917 let's not forget the Foreign Legion soldiers who arrived in 1914 and the Airmen of l'Escadrille Lafayette.

These are the words pronounced by Christian Caron, President of the Souvenir Français of our district.

At the end of the ceremony American taps and the American hymn were played, then the Marseillaise.



American Legion Auxiliary President FR01 Ginette Crosley was present with the American flag. The following day Veterans Day ceremonies were performed as usual.

Ginette Crosley / Unit FR01 President / Department Vice-president

8 MERCREDI 15 NOVEMBRE 2017 L'ÉCLAIREUR DU GÂTINAIS

## En Gâtinais

Il y a 100 ans, l'armée américaine arrivait

# Un chêne pour se souvenir

Un chêne rouge d'Amérique vient d'être planté près de l'église Saint-Didier à Villemandeur. Un geste voulu par le Souvenir français afin d'entretenir la mémoire des forces américaines venues en Europe il y a un siècle.

■ Joli symbole qu'un chêne. Par excellence, c'est l'arbre qui représente le mieux la force généreuse et la solidité.

Un jeune spécimen prend depuis quelques jours racine au cœur du bourg de Villemandeur. Il a été officiellement planté vendredi soir, lors d'une cérémonie à laquelle participaient les représentants d'une quinzaine d'associations d'anciens combattants ainsi que des élus locaux.

### Les 130.000 soldats américains tués au front

Les feuilles de cette variété américaine sont rouges, comme le sang des soldats d'Outre-Atlantique



Derrière l'église de Villemandeur, un chêne a été planté vendredi dernier.

venus sur le Vieux Continent qui se déchirait il y a tout juste 100 ans.

« Cet arbre entretient la mémoire des 130.000 soldats américains tués au front, et des 230.000 qui furent blessés »\*. Ainsi s'exprimait Christian Caron, président local du Souvenir français. « Si l'armée américaine est arrivée officiellement en 1917, il ne faut pas oublier ceux

qui, dès 1914, se sont engagés au régiment de marche du 2<sup>e</sup> étranger, unité de la Légion étrangère, et les aviateurs de l'escadrille Lafayette ».

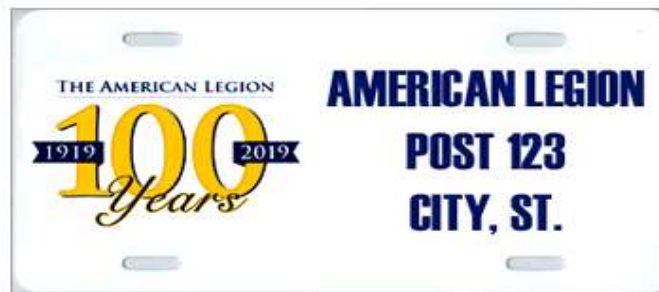
« Cet arbre va nous aider et aider les générations futures à garder le souvenir, tel un monument aux Morts, tel un arbre généalogique dont les branches porteront le nom de chaque homme tombé pour

la Liberté », a déclaré le responsable, avant de laisser la parole à Mme Serrano, maire de Villemandeur. En fin de cérémonie, on a fait résonner les sonneries aux morts et les hymnes américains puis français.

**DOMINIQUE DUFAUT**

\* Au total, deux millions de soldats américains issus de la conscription sont venus combattre en Europe.

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