



## Department Commander John Shanahan



**2017 Membership Drive & Current Standings.** Here's an update on our membership drive and current standings: As of the first weekend in March, **the Department of France has met its 90% membership goal** – and we have done so once again on schedule. This was a busy weekend, with five recruiting initiatives running simultaneously. We had the Department Commander and all Vice Commanders turned out with local Post leaders at BE-02, NL-01, GR-20, GR-45 and EG-02 working to recruit new members. As I sit down to write this article, we have just sent a UPS package for 54 new members to National Headquarters.

Congratulations to all on our membership team for once again rising to the challenge and ensuring that we've met our goals. Now – we have just two more milestone dates ahead of us – the 95% goal and the 100% goal. At this point, the single most important thing we can do is to turn to the past-due renewal of existing and recently expired members. I ask each and every Post Commander and Membership Chairman to work your Post roster. If last year's members have not renewed, please call them. Make sure that they renew ASAP. They can either send you a check or renew on-line. Remember – we eliminated the problem with foreign addresses and credit cards in December. And please do the same thing with members who expired in 2015. Most members want to be members, but as we all know, some have the old "round to it" problem. Help them out – and help your Post as well. Think like the Coast Guard and organize a "search and rescue" mission for your membership!

**DEC Approves New Temporary Charter for Liberty Post EG-02, Lakenheath, England.** I'm very pleased to announce that the DEC held an electronic vote last week to consider and approve the application of new Post EG-02 to submit a temporary charter to National for approval. This action was taken up as an emergency, non-routine measure in order to take advantage of the member count resulting from the uptake of this new Post at RAF Lakenheath and ensure that we might be able to include these new members in our 90% submission.

**The American Legion's Washington Conference.** Each year, as Congress prepares to begin its work, the American Legion gathers its leaders in Washington for a week of briefings on the Legion's legislative agenda and organizes meetings with members of Congress. This was my first year of doing so – and I have to say, it was an impressive undertaking. It was unseasonably warm in Washington last week and with the flowers starting to come out, so did the Legionnaires. The House and Senate office buildings were swarming with members in Legion caps, all out to carry the Legion's legislative agenda to Congress members. As a registered Texas voter, I joined the Texas delegation for visits with Senator John Cornyn and three House members, including a couple of members that I knew personally from my days as a New York City commissioner. The bullet points and issue papers presented a message that I know is important to each of you. I encourage you to go the Legion's legislative program at [myLegion.org](http://myLegion.org) and take a look at what we're doing to support issues that are critical to you.

One thing that I came away with is this: Legion membership is a very valuable resource that gets a lot of attention from members of Congress. We had presentations from the chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee on Tuesday of last week, followed by the Ranking Member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. Following those presentations, the National Commander spent over an hour and a half meeting with a joint session of the House and Senate Committees, supported by our Legislative Affairs staff and Legion committee chairmen. It was a genuine pleasure to watch the members put aside partisan politics in the House and Senate Committees and focus on what's best for veterans. That's how things get done and what we all need.

**Our Work with the Department of Veterans Affairs.** We had an opportunity to meet with Dr. David Shulkin, our new VA Secretary, and listen to his priorities. A key one – and of interest to veterans in Europe – is the VA Choice program. This program, if fixed and extended, could help veterans living in Europe. How? By getting the VA to sign an MOU with the DOD to extend care services in military facilities in Europe to veterans who have an honourable discharge but did not retire – and have the VA pay for DOD services to veterans on a cost-reimbursement basis. Watch this space as we work this matter by Department and NEC resolution during the next 12 months. The money is in the Choice Program budget to get this job done.

**Planning for the American Legion Centennial.** Our Department's Centennial Committee met in Paris again in February to interview a conference planning firm that will be submitting a proposal to work with us to execute the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Part and Centennial event in Paris in March of 2019. Details are due in by March 15<sup>th</sup> and will be shared at the upcoming Third DEC.

**Third DEC Set for Ansbach, Germany.** The Third DEC for this year is set for Saturday, March 18 in Ansbach, Germany. Post GR-1982 is hosting this event and is eager to show off its new quarters at USAG Ansbach. We will also have Jeff Stoffer, Director of the Legion's Marketing, Media and Communications Division joining us to begin making plans for events marking the Centennial of the American Legion and its origins in Paris in 1919. Please hold this weekend open as we will have a busy and full meeting agenda for this DEC.

**Plan NOW to Attend the Department Convention.** The Department will be holding its 2017 Annual Convention at the BEST WESTERN Leoso Hotel, Ludwigshafen, Germany, on 15-18 June, 2017. We've had a very successful convention here in the recent past (2015) and look forward to doing so again. Please mark your calendars and look for the Convention announcement and booking details in the near future.

**Department to Consider Fundraising Partnership with National Office.** During the recent Washington Conference, I met with National Office's Director of Fundraising and looked at sample programs that have been executed successfully by other Departments. I suggested that, based on data from comparably-sized departments, we might look at a program to raise €10,000 over a year's time. I am to receive details of a fund raising proposal over the next week or so and will have it available to the DEC for review at our upcoming meeting.

**National Vice Commander's Visit to Europe.** Legion Headquarters has announced that we will have a National Vice Commander visit us for a week in Germany to promote membership initiatives. Arrival is set for 31 March and a visit with Post GR-07 is set for Saturday, 01 April. Sunday, 02 April, he will be traveling to Post GR-20, and on Monday to Ramstein to meet with Posts GR-01 and GR-02. Tuesday, 04 April, he will meet with Post GR-06 and on Wednesday, with Post GR-1982. Thursday, 06 April he will travel to Grafenwoehr to meet with Post GR-45, and on Friday, 07 April, he will depart to the U.S. via Frankfurt. Department Vice Commander at Large Joseph Schram is coordinating plans for his visit with local Post Commanders and we will have this item as an agenda item on the March 18<sup>th</sup> DEC.

For God and Country, **John**

## DEPARTMENT NECMAN *Nola Maloney*



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

February started out a bit slow but the end of the month got much busier. I sincerely hope all of you had a good February!

I want to thank our Department Newsletter Editor, Dave Greaux, for his patience with me - I had no internet, nor would my computer work as it should when I arrived home from Washington D.C., just got it working late this afternoon. Don't know what I did but after spending a good 19 hours over 3 days I finally did something it recognized and corrected itself!! Frustrating!! I am not savvy as an IT person (you can tell huh?) – but I'm not afraid to explore around at times and after doing research and a short recovery I got lucky, my internet finally connected and my computer updated and started working properly!

As many of you know I went to Washington D.C. 25 Feb – 2 March to hear National Commander Schmidt and select staff give Testimony before some of our Congressmen/Women. I attended the meeting of the Legislative Commission – very informative!! We discussed the issues we would be taking before the Congressional Party we were to meet with on Wednesday, 1 March.

There were 14 issues to take to the table concerning: National Defense, VA issues; Cannabis research; Caregiver support for those who care for our wounded veterans; Education Benefits; Re-employment Rights; Support of veteran owned small businesses; Request to continue to fund programs to end homeless veterans; Protect the American Flag; and create an American Legion Commemorative Coin (real currency) that would be available 1 Jan 2019 - 31 Dec 2019. National Commander Schmidt and his staff did a SUPERB job of representing all veterans on all issues brought before the Congressional party who met with us – these items will now go before 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session.

A luncheon was held for women veterans on Tuesday. This women's focus group centered around resources and benefits for disabilities caused by, or related to military sexual trauma. In 2016 the American Legion conducted a Women's Veterans

Quality of Life Survey. Of the 4600 participants, over 60% responded that they had experienced some form of Military Sexual Trauma (MST) while 50% indicated that they did not report the incident. The American Legion Women and Minority Outreach team hosted this focus group to educate and inform participants about Veterans Affairs resources available to those affected by MST. Representatives from the National Veteran Legal Service Program and the Department of Veterans Affairs spoke during the luncheon. If you are reading this and were a victim of MST you can contact me for resources to assist you or you can go to <http://womenshealth.va.gov> to access VA's health care services. This was also an issue taken for the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress 1<sup>st</sup> Session – Institute gender-specific health care for women veterans.

While in Washington D.C. I was given a check from USAA for the Department in the amount of \$500. They are a sponsor of the American Legion. Our Finance Officer, Gary Miller, in being prepared for our 3<sup>rd</sup> DEC, already had his Finance Report ready when he received this information so it is not included in his Finance Report.

My only regret is I did not have the opportunity to see some of our most prestigious landmarks – saves for another, longer, future trip.

Just a reminder that I am hoping there will be write-ups given to me for the "Earl J. Cox" annual FODPAL Award while I am at the 3<sup>rd</sup> DEC. I know we have Legionnaires who are well deserving of this award – bring them forward so they can be recognized for their efforts within our Department and the FODPAL Group. You can also email your nomination/s with photos to me at [NECMaloney@gmail.com](mailto:NECMaloney@gmail.com).

I am so looking forward to seeing many of my fellow Legionnaires, Auxiliary Members and all Legion Family members at our 3<sup>rd</sup> DEC on 18 March in Ansbach. I will be arriving Friday evening and [staying over through Saturday evening](#).

In closing I want to wish you and your families all very safe travels!!

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.

## DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE *Joseph Schram*



### **Travels**

During the past month, I have had the opportunity to accompany the Department Commander on a visit to RAF Lakenheath, England. During our weekend stay, we conducted an Oratorical Contest at the Lakenheath high school, and had a membership drive at the AAFES BX. The winner of the local contest was Kylar Cade, a junior. He also competed at the Department Contest on 25 February at Stuttgart, Germany. During the membership drive, we recruited 26 more members for the proposed new Liberty Post EG02.

I also had this month the opportunity to visit GR01 in Kaiserslautern and participated in their annual elections. Congratulations to the new officers of GR01. It was a privilege to visit such a well-established Post and its outstanding membership.

On 23 February, Vice Commanders Buckner and Hale accompanied me to Paris to discuss the American Legion centennial celebration scheduled for March 2019. On 18 March, I will brief the DEC on the progress of the planning for the celebration

I traveled on 25 February to Stuttgart to attend this year's Department Oratorical Contest. We had three outstanding contestants but unfortunately only one could be selected as first place. Congratulations goes to Alyssa Saunders, contestant from GR1982 for an outstanding performance. I will be attending this year's National Contest and look forward to see Miss Saunders compete at the National level.

### **Convention**

The Department of France's 2017 Convention will be held this year in Ludwigshafen, Germany. The registration form can be found in this newsletter, the Department's website, the Department's Facebook page or by contacting me at [vcal.schram@gmail.com](mailto:vcal.schram@gmail.com). Remember, the deadline for registration is 15 May.

### **New Post**

On Thursday, 02 March the Department Executive Committee voted electronically to approve the temporary charter application or American Legion "Liberty" Post EG02, Lakenheath, England. The temporary charter application is now at National for their approval. Congratulations to the members of Liberty Post EG02.

### **Membership**

We are getting closer to the 90% cut-off date and are diligently contacting members who have yet to renew. However, the work is yet to be complete. We have a long way yet to reach our goal of 3200 members. It is up to each Post to ensure that we do our best to get our members renewed and to recruit new members. Each one of us is a recruiter.

This past weekend, the Department and Posts conducted membership drives in Chievres Airbase, Belgium (BE02), USAG Schinnen, the Netherlands (NL01), Spangdahlem Airbase, Germany (GR20), Vogelweh, Germany (GR01), Grafenwoehr, Germany (GR45) and at RAF Lakenheath. While the results of these membership drives are not available at the time of this article, we wish our Posts good luck in their endeavors.

From Friday, 31 March to Friday, 08 April, the National Vice Commander will be visiting our Department with the intent of assisting us with our membership. I have sent out a tentative plan to the Post Commanders in Germany for their suggestions and advice. I have included the draft plan for everyone's review. Remember, this is a draft plan and is subject to change. If you have any questions regarding the plan, please let me know.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Post</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Friday, 31 March		Arrive Frankfurt
Saturday, 01 April	Wiesbaden (GR07)	Membership Drive at the AFFES BX
Sunday, 02 April	Spangdahlem (GR20)	Membership Drive at the AFFES BX
Monday, 03 April	Ramstien (GR01/GR02)	Membership Drive at the AFFES BX during lunch hours Meetings with military leadership
Tuesday, 04 April	Stuttgart (GR06)	Membership Drive at the AFFES BX during lunch hours Meetings with military leadership
Wednesday, 05 April	Ansbach (GR1982)	Membership Drive at the AFFES BX during lunch hours Meetings with military leadership
Thursday, 06 April	Grafenweohr (GR45)	Membership Drive at the AFFES PX during lunch hours Meetings with military leadership
Friday, 07 April		Depart Frankfurt

<b>Department Officers - 2017 Membership Year</b>			
<b>COMMANDER</b> John Shanahan IR01 <i>jhschanahan@gmail.com</i>	<b>ADJUTANT</b> Maxwell Rice GR79 <i>colwickboy@yahoo.com</i>	<b>NECMAN</b> Nola Maloney GR03 <i>NECMaloney@gmail.com</i>	<b>ALT. NECMAN</b> James Settle GR42 <i>james.settle@kabelbw.de</i>
<b>VCAL</b> Joesph Schram BE02 <i>joseph.schram@gmail.com</i>	<b>VICE COMMANDER</b> Laura Buckner BE02 <i>04lgb@sbcglobal.net</i>	<b>VICE COMMANDER</b> Carl Hale FR01 <i>crh1@hotmail.com</i>	<b>VICE COMMANDER</b> Darren Dahlke GR06 <i>djdstuttgart@yahoo.de</i>
<b>VICE COMMANDER</b> Marcus Briscoe GR06 <i>marcus.briscoe@online.de</i>	<b>CHAPLAIN</b> Casby Logan GR07 <i>casby@hotmail.com</i>	<b>HISTORIAN</b> Tyler Johnson <i>Tyler.j.johnson@outlook.com</i>	<b>FINANCE OFFICER</b> Gary Miller GR06 <i>billsfan_gary@hotmail.com</i>
<b>SERVICE OFFICER</b> Paul Claybough GR1982 <i>profsoldier72@yahoo.com</i>	<b>JUDGE ADVOCATE</b> Keith Abernathy GR79 <i>keithabernathy1942@yahoo.de</i>		<b>SERGEANT-AT-ARMS</b> Christopher Buchanan GR1982 <i>christoperbuch@hotmail.com</i>
<b>ASSISTANT ADJUTANT</b> James Settle GR42 <i>james.settle@kabelbw.de</i>	<b>ASSISTANT ADJUTANT</b> Robert Fuelling FR01 <i>Rfuel41704@aol.com</i>	<b>ASSISTANT ADJUTANT (Membership/Records)</b> John Fleming CH01 <i>pastomdr.fleming@gmail.com</i>	

**Department of France Convention  
15-18 June 2017**

BEST WESTERN Leoso Hotel Ludwigshafen

**1. Guest Details:**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip / City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Country: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Accommodation Selection:**

- **Payment:** Guests will be responsible for payment of their rooms and meals in the hotel. Includes breakfast buffet. **Please check one of the options below:**

**4 days / 3 nights** (Arrive 15 June, Depart 18 June)

- Single Room: € 159**  
 **Double Room: € 255**  
 **Suite: € 342**

**3 days / 2 nights** (Arrive 16 June, Depart 18 June)

- Single Room: € 106**  
 **Double Room: € 170**  
 **Suite: € 228**

**2 days / 1 nights** (Arrive 17 June, Depart 18 June)

- Single Room: € 53**  
 **Double Room: € 85**  
 **Suite: € 114**

**3. Saturday Evening Banquet**

**Meal will include:**

- Roast beef is a cold starter.
- Consomme with marrow dumplings and swabian ravioli.

Your Main Entrée Choices **(Please select your choice)**

- Salmon Filet  
 Lamb Rump  
 Vegan Pumpkin-Thai Curry and Basmati Rice.

### **Extra Fees**

1. Registration Fee: **€25**
2. Saturday Evening's Banquet: **€25.00** (paid to hotel at end of stay)
3. Parking fee per car: **€ 8.00** (for entire stay)
4. Lunch Buffet: **€18** (per meal)
5. Dinner Buffet: **€20** (per meal)

**Registration Fee:** to be paid before start of Convention to the Convention Chairperson

### **VAT Form will be accepted from Eligible persons**

Children up to 03 years are free of charge

Children between 3-12 years pay 50% of the price for the buffet. Children over 12 years pay normal price for the buffet

**Cancellation deadline:** No cancellation fee if cancelled before **15th May 2017**. In case of cancellation **after 15th May 2017**, we reserve the right to charge 90% of the expected revenue.

### **4. Payment Methods for Registration Fee: €25**

(Include a message with Your Name & Department Convention)

#### **(1) By Check (only US checks, **no Foreign checks**)**

Send to:

American Legion Post BE02  
attn: Department Convention  
Unit 28100, Box 017  
APO AE 09714

Or

Joseph Schram  
attn: American Legion  
Meersenstraat 33 C2  
8310 Assebroek

#### **(2) Cash at the convention**

#### **(3) Foreign Bank Transfer**

ING Account:

IBAN: BE98 3774 3999 7693

BIC: BBRUBEBB

#### **(4) US Bank Transfer**

Andrews Federal Credit Union – Routing #: 255074111

American Legion Post BE02 - Account #: 82019102

**Send This Reservation Form to:**

**[vc.al.schram@gmail.com](mailto:vc.al.schram@gmail.com)**

**Deadline for Reservations is 15 May**

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER *Marcus W. Briscoe*



On Sunday, March 5th there will be another membership table at the Grafenwoehr PX from 1100-1600 in order to help grow the Vilseck/Grafenwoehr Post hosted by Christopher Buchanan and myself.

*The winners from the oratorical contest on February 25th at Post GR06...*



# AMERICAN LEGION BIRTHDAY



March 15, the designated birthday of The American Legion, is the day in 1919 when the first American Legion caucus, held by members of the American Expeditionary Force, convened in Paris. Much as the birthday of the United States is celebrated on July 4 – for the day in 1776 when revolting patriots declared the independence of the British colonies and the spirit of America was born – March 15 is the date on which the Legion came to life.



2017 Oratorical Contest sponsored by the American Legion Department of France,  
Panzer Kaserne Stuttgart. Saturday, 25 February 2017.

*Images by Ross Shephard III*



# DETACHMENT OF FRANCE



Images of SAL DEC 04 March 2017...GR30 Post Home, Kitzingen, Germany

*Provided by David Greaux*



DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER *Carl Hale*



During the month of February I served as the Citizenship in the World merit badge counselor during a weekend at The Hague, Netherlands, for the Boy Scouts of America, Transatlantic Council, Charlemagne District Merit Badge Fair. 25 Scouts discussed current world events and the responsibilities to be a good citizen in the world.

I also participated in a Department of France Centennial Celebration Coordinating Committee (C4) meeting at the Paris Post 1 office. We met with a Paris based events coordinating agency – the same group that is bidding on the Olympics 2024. We'll have a detailed update to present to the Department Executive Committee on 18 March.

Most American Legion members might recognize the name Mr. Jeff Stoffer as the Editor of the National Legion Magazine. His full duty title is Director, American Legion Marketing, Media and Communication Division. He is also directly coordinating the National Centennial Commemoration with Past National Commander Dave Rehbein. Mr. Stoffer will be present during our 18 March DEC meeting to learn more about our Department of France plans for the Paris centennial celebration and to meet with Department of France members.

I will be at the U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen, Netherlands, on 4 March to help the newly revitalized Margraten Post to inform the community about the American Legion and the reasons why the military and veteran community in the Netherlands would benefit from a strong active American Legion Post. I will also participate in the Margraten Post membership meeting at USAG Schinnen on 25 March. If you know veterans living in the Netherlands that are not yet members of the American Legion but want to be members, please share my email address [CRLHL@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:CRLHL@HOTMAIL.COM) so we can help. Thank you.

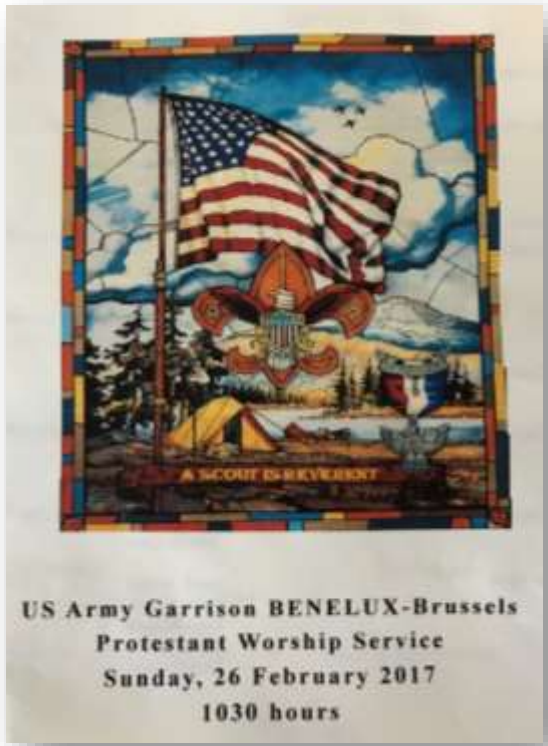
Carl W. Hale  
Department of France Vice Commander  
The American Legion

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Boy Scout Troop 457 assisted the Chaplain during the traditional annual "Scout Sunday" at the US Army Garrison Brussels.

The Scouts read the prayers, managed the electronic stained glass window (power point) presentation, assisted with the offering and communion.

Chaplain (LTC) Rick Brunson. taught the Scouts about the responsibility of community service and Fellowship.



Margraten Post NL01...7 new members recruited.



# Department of France Third DEC

The following information is provided by David Chavez Post GR1982 Leadership...

**Date: Saturday, 18 March 2017**

**Time: approx. 0930-1700**

**Suggested schedule for the DEC meeting is as follows...**

**0930 - 1130 Sign-in**

**1130 - 1230 Past Commanders Meeting**

**1130 - 1230 Buffet Lunch**

**1230 – complete Department Executive Committee Meeting**

Location: Legion Home, Bldg 5515, Katterbach Kaserne, Ansbach, GE (See directions below.)

Address for Navi: Katterbach Kaserne, 91522 Ansbach/Katterbach

Buffet lunch: 1130-1230 (served on site) Cost: \$15.00/person

Buffet menu will include Wiener Schnitzel, Schweinebraten, Bratwurst, Chicken Wings with various beilage and salads. Soft drinks, water and coffee are available and included in this price. Coffee, water and soft drinks will also be available at reasonable cost throughout the day.

We are planning to work an access roster for those Comrades who do not have ID cards. We will need full name, nationality, date of birth, passport number, as well as your vehicle make, model and license plate number. This information must be emailed to either Estus Smith or Chris Buchanan NOT LATER THAN 4 March 2017. Email info is as follows: Estus Smith – [estus@live.com](mailto:estus@live.com) / Chris Buchanan – [christopherbuch@hotmail.com](mailto:christopherbuch@hotmail.com)

The other option is to ride with someone who has an ID card. They can then sign you in at the gate.

Should anyone be coming by train and need a ride from the Ansbach Hauptbahnhof, please email Estus Smith with your arrival time. We can pick you up.

Directions to meeting area: Exit Autobahn A-6 at the Ansbach Exit, take highway B-13 north to Ansbach. At junction of B-13 and B-14, take B-14 east toward Nurnberg. Travel about three KM to Katterbach and installation, continue past installation, turn right, travel across railroad crossing, then right again to entrance gate. (Note: Do not take the left turn BEFORE Katterbach into the housing area and PX/Commissary area.) Turn left just past Entry Control Point, travel 300 M to stop sign at Service Credit Union. Turn left and travel 600 M toward housing area. Legion Home (Bldg 5515) is first building on the right after entering housing area. Parking is available across the street in front of the Legion Home.

For those planning to stay overnight, rooms are available at the Hotel Windmuehle, Rummelsberger Strasse 1, 91522 Ansbach (approx. 3 km from meeting area). POC Phone: 0981-972000. Email: [info@hotel-windmuehle.de](mailto:info@hotel-windmuehle.de) Internet: [www.hotel-windmuehle.de](http://www.hotel-windmuehle.de)

Room prices: Single room is 71-81 EURO. Double room is 101-114 EURO. Those needing rooms should coordinate directly with the hotel. Contact info above

**WHAT WE NEED FROM ATTENDEES:**

Not later than 4 March – Information noted above for Comrades without ID cards.

Not later than 11 March – Who will be joining us for the buffet lunch? We need to get a headcount for the caterer. Email to Estus Smith is best way to communicate this.

*More information & updates to follow...*

# SGT William D. Nelson Post GR09

## GR 09 honors victims of WW II plane crash

On Saturday 25 February 2017 thirteen GR 09 Legionnaires and guests Reiner Miene, President of the 1906 formed Ulm Traditional German Artillery Association and Josep Walz, Bürgermeister of Pfaffenhofen participated in a wreath laying ceremony at the crash site of a B-17 Flying Fortress bomber that crashed during a bombing run on Ulm, Germany on 22 February 1945. The plane which had been "patched up" after being hit with flak on a previous flight encountered turbulence when descending to 17,000 feet and plunged to the ground when the fuselage of the plane broke apart. Three crewmembers were able to parachute to safety but seven were unable to exit the spiraling aircraft and perished.

In 2012 the nearby town of Pfaffenhofen erected a stone monument at the crash site and GR 09 members have pledged to maintain it and ensure that its appearance would always be fitting for a memorial honoring these seven American heroes.

After a brief speech by GR 09's Post Commander Aman Pfaffenhofen's Bürgermeister Walz thanked GR 09 for organizing this event and paying tribute to those who died in the service to their country and hoped they will continue with this ritual.



GR 09 Legionnaires Donnie Swearengin and Frederick Matthes laying wreath a base of monument



Group photo of participants in wreath laying ceremony



# NOW AVAILABLE !!!

## The American Legion Centennial Coin

This special commemorative coin is issued by the Department of France, the birthplace of the American Legion from its founding in 1919.



The front of the coin is executed in a vibrant, deep blue, with gold lettering and the official logo of the Legion Centennial. The reverse shows the Legion family emblems against a bright gold background and the motto of the American Legion ringed in blue: **For God and Country – Still Serving**

**Coin prices:** €5/\$5 each, plus €2/\$2 shipping cost per coin, total €7/\$7 for each coin if shipped. Send your order and US Dollar or Euro bank transfer payable to **“Dept. of France, American Legion”**

### Ordering By US Check (No European or Foreign Checks)

**Send to:**

American Legion Post BE02  
Attn: Centennial Coins  
Unit 28100, Box 017  
APO AE 09714

**Or:**

Joseph Schram  
attn: Centennial Coins  
Meersenstraat 33 C2  
8310 Assebroek

➤ **PayPal:** [Paypal.me/JosephSchram](https://www.paypal.com/US/merchandise/american-legion)

➤ **Foreign Bank Transfer:** ING Account: IBAN: BE98 3774 3999 7693 -- BIC: BBRUBEBB

➤ **US Bank Transfer:** Andrews Federal Credit Union – Routing #: 255074111

American Legion Post BE02 - Account #: 82019102

Europe and All Outside USA

**Contact:** Joseph Schram  
American Legion Post BE-02  
Unit 28100, Box 017  
APO AE 09714  
**Email:** [vcsl.schram@gmail.com](mailto:vcsl.schram@gmail.com)  
**Phone:** +32-479-178539

All USA

**Contact:** Nola Maloney  
Department of France NEC Rep.  
10095 N. Mill Crossing Way  
Tucson Arizona 85743 USA  
**Email:** [NECMaloney@gmail.com](mailto:NECMaloney@gmail.com)  
**Phone:** +1-928-235-1291

# John Wayne



# Post GR79

Family members and Legionnaires paid their last respect to † John Purdy. The funeral was on 28 February 2017 at the Landstuhl Friedhoff.



*Picture provided by Joe, D. Brown*

## Are You Eligible for Disability Compensation?

*Military.com | Week of February 27, 2017*

Those who have separated from active military service with any discharge except dishonorable, as well as those still serving in the Reserves/National Guard, are eligible for VA disability compensation. If you want to claim an injury or medical condition, it must have happened to you during the time you were active. You can also claim active military service aggravated a pre-service injury or medical condition. You will need to give the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) evidence of the injury or medical condition that occurred/happened during the time you were in active service. For more information, read the [VA Vantage Point Blog](#) and visit the [VA Compensation webpage](#). You can also visit the [Military.com disability benefits section](#).



# 2017 DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE MEMBERSHIP BLITZ

*Doug Haggan, FODPAL Secretary*

The Department of France had an all-out membership blitz this past weekend. Membership teams were at Margraten Post NLo1, Lakenheath Post EGo2, Flanders Field Post BEo2, Eifel Post20, and George S. Patton Post GR45.

It was a very successfully recruiting weekend with an average of 15 new members at each location.

A special shout out to Post Commander Kenneth Aungst and his members from David Chavez Post 1982 ,who took a trip to the Grafenwoehr and the Vilseck communities to help George S. Patton Post 45 recruit new membership.

Lakenheath AB Liberty Post EGo2 also had a good showing , getting 26 new members. Post Commander Tim Litherland and member Wyatt Hall staffed the recruiting table along with Department Commander John Shanahan.

The big story of the weekend was getting a foot back into the The Eifel at Spangdahlem Air Base Eifel Post GR20 , with the recruiting of 11 new members.

A shout goes out to Vice Commander at Large Joe Schram who traveled all over Central Europe, Vice Commander Carl Hale who staffed a table at Margraten Post, Vice Commander Laura Buckner who staffed Flanders Field BEo2 table, Vice Commander Christopher Buchanan, Vice Commander Marcus Briscoe, and all the Legion Members that helped in this recruiting effort.

## **JOB WELL DONE BUT THE MISSION IS NOT COMPLETE**

The 2017 Membership Blitz is not over, there will be another push the first week in April and National Vice Commander Paul Martel comes to the Department to lend his recruiting knowledge and assistance. Details and recruiting locations will be out very soon, so please make your plans to join in on this membership drive.



# Department of France Past Commanders Club

*PCC President Anthony Giordano / PCC Secretary David Greaux*

## **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.***



*St Patrick's Day, on March 17, remembers one of Ireland's patron saints, St Patrick. It largely celebrates Irish-American culture in the United States.*

*St Patrick is one of Ireland's patron saints and many Americans with Irish ancestry remember him on March 17. Patrick's Day is fixed on March 17, but may occasionally be moved by Catholic Church authorities. This happened in 1940, so that the celebrations would not fall on Palm Sunday, and in 2008 to avoid Holy Monday, the last Monday before Easter Sunday.*



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