

# The AMERICAN LEGION

# Department of France



Volume 12 / Issue 10

October 2014



## DEPARTMENT COMMANDER *James Settle*

### My Fellow Legionaries

I hope all of you had a safe and happy Labor Day weekend. John Wayne Post GR79 conducted a 9-11 Memorial on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September, myself along with Vice Commanders Casby Logan, Quincy Foster, and Department

Auxiliary Isolde Settle attended this memorial along with members of John Wayne Post, and Auxiliary Members of Unit GR79. I hope that all the members of the Department took time out to remember those that lost their life's, and their families on this tragic day.

It has been brought to my attention that some believe, that the new membership year starts in October, nothing can be further from the truth. The membership year starts during the Department Convention in June. While I am on the subject of membership I would like to see all our membership renewals completed by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2014. I encourage and challenge all Commanders, Adjutants, and Membership Chairmen to contact those members who have not renewed for 2015, and have them renew their membership ASAP.

The Department 2<sup>nd</sup> DEC will be conducted on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October, at GR1982's Post Home. Commanders Adjutants ensure that your delegates have their Delegates Letter. For more information contact the Department Adjutant.

The American Legion National Commander Michael D. Helm will be visiting the Department of France from May 29<sup>th</sup> till June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015. We will be discussing more on his visit during the 2<sup>nd</sup> DEC. If you would like

the National Commander to visit your post please have a presentation available during the 2<sup>nd</sup> DEC.

Our next upcoming event will be Veterans Day, which will be conducted on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November at 100 hours at Saint Avold France, in the Lorrain Cemetery Chapel. Hopefully you will be able to take time out of your busy schedule, and join us for the Memorial Service.

MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP. I cannot stress membership enough. It is the bloodline of our organization. It enables us to perform our missions to the Veterans and their Families, and supports not only National Programs but ours also. While you are out there recruiting, new members do not forget your current members, get them to renew in a timely manner. If you have any questions on membership do not hesitate to contact the Membership Chairman Comrade Brown, at [joedan.pascal1@googlemail.com](mailto:joedan.pascal1@googlemail.com). He can answer your questions and resolve any problems you are having, with membership.

In closing, Please keep those in harm's way and their families, in your thoughts and prayers also.

James M. Settle  
Department Commander

Phone: 07138-67359  
E-Mail: [james.settle@kabelbw.de](mailto:james.settle@kabelbw.de)

The Department Web Page is:  
[www.AmerLegionDeptFrance.org](http://www.AmerLegionDeptFrance.org)

The department has a Face Book page at the following [www.Facebook.com/ALDeptFrance](http://www.Facebook.com/ALDeptFrance). Please visit and like this page. Thanks



**Mike Helm**  
National Commander  
The American Legion

Dear Legion Family Members and Friends,

The mission to help veterans and their families was at the heart of our organization's birth nearly 100 years ago. Service above self still guides The American Legion today.

Consider that during the recent American Legion Legacy Run, a record \$1 million was raised. These funds provide scholarship money for the children of servicemembers who lost their lives on active duty since 9/11. This is one example of how The American Legion demonstrates its commitment to the families of servicemembers.

Donations to American Legion Charities also help fund Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW), Child Welfare Foundation (CWF), Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA), National Emergency Fund (NEF) and other important programs.

When I became national commander a couple of weeks ago, I announced my 4 x 4 program. One "4" stands for raising \$4 million among The American Legion Family - the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion and Legion Riders. The

other "4" also represents 4 million - that's 4 million members of the Legion Family.

The goals are well within our reach. The rewards will represent significant progress for our organization.

I devised the 4 x 4 program so that all of our charitable outreach initiatives would benefit. You may have a passion to help our wounded servicemen and women, so a donation to OCW would be appropriate. Or you may want to send a contribution to a program that assists children, such as CWF, TFA or the Legacy Scholarship Fund. In any case, I am asking for your kind donations to whichever program or programs you wish to support.

These programs are effective because of our volunteers. These are men and women who deliver checks to victims in disaster zones, hold fundraising events and purchase comfort items for recovering troops in warrior transition units. Without these volunteers in the Legion, Auxiliary and SAL on the front lines, our organizations would all cease to exist.

To keep these programs viable, we must keep our membership strong. I am asking you to recruit all eligible veterans you meet. Invite their sons and grandsons to join the SAL. Encourage wives and daughters to join the Auxiliary.

On behalf of the nation's largest and most influential veterans service organization, thank you for what you do every day on behalf of veterans, their families and young people.

Department Officers - 2015 Membership Year			
<b>COMMANDER</b> <b>James M. Settle GR42</b> <a href="mailto:james.settle@kabelbw.de">james.settle@kabelbw.de</a>	<b>ADJUTANT</b> <b>Maxwell Rice GR79</b> <a href="mailto:colwichboy@yahoo.com">colwichboy@yahoo.com</a>	<b>NECMAN</b> <b>John Miller GR1982</b> <a href="mailto:miller-roth@t-online.de">miller-roth@t-online.de</a>	<b>ALT. NECMAN</b> <b>Liam Kane IR63</b> <a href="mailto:commliam@gmail.com">commliam@gmail.com</a>
<b>VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE</b> <b>Joe D. Brown GR79</b> GR03 GR07 GR13 GR30 GR42 & New Post Development <a href="mailto:Joedan.pascal1@googlemail.com">Joedan.pascal1@googlemail.com</a>	<b>VICE COMMANDER</b> <b>Stephen Ward GR01</b> GR20 PO01 FR05 SP292 IR63 <a href="mailto:wardtrans@yahoo.com">wardtrans@yahoo.com</a>	<b>VICE COMMANDER</b> <b>Quincy Foster GR05</b> GR01 GR02 GR14 FR01 IT01 <a href="mailto:achange@qcfooster.com">achange@qcfooster.com</a>	<b>VICE COMMANDER</b> <b>Jerry Aman GR09</b> GR06 GR1982 CH01 GC01 IR02 BE02 IR03 <a href="mailto:Jerrya503@aol.com">Jerrya503@aol.com</a>
<b>VICE COMMANDER</b> <b>Casby Logan GR07</b> GR05 GR09 GR45 GR79 DK01 NL01 <a href="mailto:casbyj@hotmail.com">casbyj@hotmail.com</a>	<b>CHAPLAIN</b> <b>Ronald Moore GR05</b> <a href="mailto:gypsy_moore@yahoo.de">gypsy_moore@yahoo.de</a>	<b>HISTORIAN</b> <b>Michael Keating IR02</b> <a href="mailto:michael.keating@t-online.de">michael.keating@t-online.de</a>	<b>FINANCE OFFICER</b> <b>Gary Miller GR06</b> <a href="mailto:billsfan_gary@hotmail.com">billsfan_gary@hotmail.com</a>
<b>SERVICE OFFICER</b> <b>George Hall GR03</b> <a href="mailto:hallgt@hotmail.com">hallgt@hotmail.com</a>	<b>JUDGE ADVOCATE</b> <b>George W. Seeburger GR14</b> <a href="mailto:gwseeburger@gmx.de">gwseeburger@gmx.de</a>	<b>SERGEANT-AT-ARMS</b> <b>Hal Rittenberg GR09</b> <a href="mailto:rittenberg@t-online.de">rittenberg@t-online.de</a>	

**DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE / MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN Joe D. Brown**



Hello fellow Legionnaires,

LET'S MOVE THIS DEPARTMENT AHEAD. We can do this, but my fellow Legionnaires we need your help and support. Remember this is our department, let's move it ahead together, and have fun in

doing so. We are a family of Legionnaires with a common goal, to keep the American spirit and tradition alive, we can do this and do it well, with your added support.

I visited GR05-GR06-GR09-GR13 and GR79 Membership meetings. There was a nice turn out of members supporting the posts.

The charter for GR02 will be presented at the 2 DEC in Ansbach on the 25 October 2014.

SEPTEMBER 13, GR 79 hosted a 911-2001 Remembrance Ceremony at the Post Home, the Department Commander James Settle, Vice Commander Casby Logan, Vice Commander Quincy Foster and Auxiliary President Isolde Settle were in attendance. On 27 September, there was a Legion Riders Bike fest at the post home with 10 Bikes, 30 Legionnaires and family members in attendance.

Membership is moving slowly, but we are working on it, we still have posts out there that have not transmitted a single member this year.

In closing, I would remind all of us to say a prayer for all our service members and their families deployed into harm's way, that the good Lord protects them and brings them home safely.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY  
VCAL COMMANDER  
Charlie Brown



GR05 Newly elected and outgoing Commander  
Ronald Moore (L)



GR07 and GR09 receive online membership checks from  
VCAL Brown





GR09 Membership Meeting



GR09 Post Legionnaire of the Year



GR13 Membership Meeting



GR42 General Membership Meeting



GR13 Farewell to Past Commander Robert Burdette (m) who will be moving back to the US

GR79 911 Remembrance Ceremony



GR79 New Member from USA



GR79 Member Ross Shephard with VCAL Brown

GR79 BIKE FEST







## DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER *Jerry Aman*

On 9 and 11 September I was able to visit representatives of post IR 02 and IR 03, the two posts in Ireland that were assigned to me during the convention.

My first stop was IR 02 in Limerick where I was greeted by Francis Duffy Post Adjutant Sean Rickard. After an initial meeting we retired to a local restaurant where we were joined by Sergeant-at-Arms Joe Willis. The whole evening was quite informative as we were able to exchange ideas and information on the post and department.

On 11 September I met IR 03 Commander Ron Howko and his lovely wife Helen at their home near Swinford. Shortly after my arrival Ron piled me into his car and we toured sites, cemeteries and memorials of former Irish citizens who in earlier years emigrated to the US and became heroes serving in America's wars.

What is remarkable about IR 02 and IR 03 is their ability to display their patriotism together with host nation's veteran's organizations and they are recognized as an integral part of the local and national community. Whether present at a statue unveiling, dedication ceremonies or remembering relatives of former legion members it can truly be said that the American Legion's footprint is all over Ireland.

It would occupy all of the space of this newsletter to list the activities, highlights and dedication to worthwhile causes that these two posts participate in and there can be no question that the Irish posts of the American Legion are fine examples of what our organization is all about and earnestly display their patriotism for the flag they served under.

It is a privilege to represent these posts for the Department of France.

## Recruiters to be honored with 'Stay On Course' pin

During the 2014-2015 membership year, American Legion National Commander Mike Helm will award his national commander pin to any American Legion Family member who obtains three new members into the Legion.

A new member is any eligible person joining for the 2015 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2014 membership year.

Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Forward names of SAL members or Auxiliary members to your detachment or unit for use in their respective incentive programs.

To maintain the integrity of the national commander's pin incentive program, only one pin will be awarded per individual.

Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it. Commander Helm's pin incentive program will end June 30, 2015, or when supplies are exhausted.



[www.legion.org/commander/pin](http://www.legion.org/commander/pin)



**DEPARTMENT VICE  
COMMANDER**  
**Stephen A. Ward**

Greetings Commanders &  
Legionnaires,

As the Department of France Vice  
Commander, I have been assigned  
the following Posts: John F. Kennedy Post IR63 Facebook  
site: [www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionIRL](http://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionIRL) Eifel Post  
GR-20, Riveria Post FR-05, Madrid Post SP-292, and  
Portugal (Nunv Alvares Pereira) Post PO-01. Doug  
Haggan (FODPAL Secretary) is asking the Department  
and Posts to submit pictures and small articles to the  
FODPAL website: <http://www.legion.org> Click Members  
FODPAL site listed at Quick Links. FODPAL (Foreign and  
Outlying Departments and Posts of The American Legion)  
is asking for special programs & events and Facebook  
sites. The Department of France Newsletters is posted on  
the FODPAL website. Click Newsletters. Also, listed in the  
FODPAL Newsletter site is Post IR63 Spring Newsletter  
2014 (check-out there events. November 11, 2014,  
Flowers and Memorial Service at the grave of John  
O'Sullivan Carstown County, Louth. November 27, 2014,  
Thanksgiving Dinner and Annual General Membership  
Meeting. If you like a copy of the Spring Post Newsletter  
2014 from Post IR-63, Dublin, Ireland, please contact  
[jhshanahan@aol.com](mailto:jhshanahan@aol.com) Post IR-63 has many activities in  
the coming months, if you like to attend.

Irish Veterans Charter #1 plans to dedicate (Spring,  
2015) to the memory of U.S. SEAL Lt. Michael P. Murphy,  
Medal of Honor, Afghanistan, 2005. His parents from the  
States plans to bring the MOH at the dedication  
ceremony. A special evening dinner is planned at the  
White House Hotel town of Kinsale (West Cork).  
Commander Ron Howko (Commodore John Barry Post  
IR-03) is a guest speaker at the event. For more  
information of the event, contact Declan Hughes

[Declan@irishveteans.org](mailto:Declan@irishveteans.org)  
[james@irishveterans.org](mailto:james@irishveterans.org)

or James Sikora

I couldn't meet the Detachment Commander at the U.S.  
Embassy Lisbon, Portugal (26 September 14) because of  
work commitment. The Marine Detachment at the U.S.  
Embassy Lisbon, Portugal dedicated the Heritage Room  
at the American Embassy to Lance CPL. Joaquim Vaz  
Rebello served in the Marine Corps and went above and  
beyond the call of duty. I'm planning to travel to the U.S.  
Embassy (Lisbon) timeframe January 2015.

I stress the importance of membership in the Posts,  
Department, and the National Organization. Membership  
is our Voice on Capitol Hill. Please send your Post  
transmittal to the Department Membership Chairman. I  
encourage the Posts to transmit each month to the  
Department Membership Chairman (Joe Dan Brown).  
Join the Paid Up For Life Program instead of paying  
Annual dues each Month and receiving renewal notices  
from National. If you have interest in the Paid Up For Life  
Program, please contact me at [wardtrans@yahoo.com](mailto:wardtrans@yahoo.com).

Commanders & Fellow Legionnaires, many thanks for  
what you do for your Posts and the communities you  
serve. Friday, September 19, 2014 was POW/MIA  
Recognition Day. It was an honor to present the  
POW/MIA speech with the Comrades from The American  
Legion Post GR01 (Kaiserslautern), VFW Kaiserslautern  
Post, and the VFW Sembach Post at Rhine Ordnance  
Barracks (Kaiserslautern). I conducted an interview with  
AFN Kaiserslautern to be aired later this week. The 2<sup>nd</sup>  
DEC schedule 25 October 14, 1 P.M. at the Ansbach  
Legion Post Home (Katterbach). Navy Day is 27<sup>th</sup> of  
October. God Bless America.

STEPHEN A. WARD  
VICE COMMANDER  
DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE

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**DEPARTMENT ADVOCATE** *George W. Seeburger*

The SOP – Finance has been revised and distributed to all Officers and  
Posts. If anyone needs a copy, please contact me.

George W. Seeburger  
Judge Advocate  
[gwseeburger@gmx.de](mailto:gwseeburger@gmx.de)



## DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN *Ronald Moore*



*Please visit the church, temple, synagogue or mosque of your choice*

Greetings Sisters and Sisters of the American Legion Family,

My apologies for not getting a newsletter article in last month. With Legacy Run preparation, Legacy Run participation, acting as a Convention delegate for both Sons and Legion in Charlotte/NC, as well as returning, cleaning and storing the motorcycle, things were a little hectic. All of those activities involved intensive interaction with The American Legion Family from all 55 departments. Being designated as the Legacy Run Chaplain again was a high honor, and now a lot more people know there is an active Department of France that firmly believes in, "For God and Country".

I just got back Tuesday from the Chaplains Conference in Indianapolis. There were Legion, Sons and Unit chaplains attending, as well as the National Chaplains from the three organizations. We also had the two National Commanders and National President as speakers at our Chaplains Conference and they all expressed grave concerns about the position of God in our country. The use of prayer and mentioning God no longer seems to be as important as it used to be. One of the Chaplains even referred to the "erosion" of God in our country in general, and we discussed what we can do to combat it.

We are a family that puts God in first place with our mouths when we open our meetings. "For God and Country," is anchored in all three of the Legion Family's preambles, and we often quote that when we pray or discuss what we do. Honestly though, please take a look around your Post/Unit/Squadron and see if you have elected/appointed a chaplain and that the Commander or President has explained that the chaplain is one of the most important people in the Post/Unit/Squadron because he ensures that God remains in first place in our hearts, minds and organizations.

During the Chaplains Conference, a memorial service was held for those members who have reported to Post Everlasting during the year and our Department of France PEL comrades were recognized with members from other departments. It was a moving ceremony led by the three National Chaplains.

In closing, please have your chaplain contact me to discuss plans of action and materials available to ensure that God is first and foremost in our organizations as well as community, state and nation.

God bless all of you and God bless our servicemen and women who are serving to keep us safe.

**Rev. Ronald Moore,**  
**Department of France Chaplain**  
**S.A.L. Detachment of France Chaplain**  
**Mobile: 0049-(0)172-7417812**  
**Email: gypsy\_moore@yahoo.de**



## Sick Call

Department Commander James Settle has been in and out of the hospital with his ongoing medical problems. Last information is that he was home again recuperating.

Department Adjutant Maxwell Rice reported that Department VCAL Joe Brown went to the hospital on 01 October again because of his leg problems. Adjutant Rice will let us know when he has more information.



# Post Everlasting †

*It is my sad duty to report to you that Comrade Arthur Beasley (Post GR07) reported to PEL on 6 August 2014, and laid to rest on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August 2014 in Hocheim, Worms.*

To all Department Officers, Past Department Commanders, Post Commanders and Delegates, Committee Chairpersons and Program Directors

SUBJECT: Call for the 2nd Department Executive Committee Meeting

REFERENCE: Department of France Constitution and By-Laws dated June 2011

The 2nd Department Executive Committee Meeting will convene at 1300 hours on 25 October 2014, at GR1982s Post Home, Ansbach, Germany

The agenda of business to be considered at the meeting will be provided at the registration desk. Registration of DEC delegates will begin at 11:00 hours on Saturday 25 October 2013

Representation for the DEC is covered by the Department Constitution, Article IX, Section 2, “two (2) representatives from each Post of the Department which shall be members in good standing within their own Post and have written delegation from their Post Commander or Adjutant.”

A quorum for the DEC is covered by the Department By-Laws, Article II, Section 4, “fourteen (14) voting members of the Department Executive Committee representing not less than nine (9) Posts, shall constitute a quorum and of this quorum, at least five (5) members present must be Department of France Officers with voting privileges.”

All Past Department Commanders have a voice and vote in accordance with Article IX Department Executive Committee Section 2 The Voting Members

The schedule of events follows:

11:00 – 12:00	Registration
12:00 – 12:45	Past Commander’s Club Meeting
13:00	Second DEC

**DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER *George Hall***

I am now set up at my home for VA, DAFS, SSA, ACG, CA.  
The address is AmKirchwald 3, 69251 Gaiberg

Phone H 06223 5475  
Phone M 0176 7227 6350  
Email [hallgt@yahoo.com](mailto:hallgt@yahoo.com)



*From Department Americanism Chairman  
Carl Hackworth...*

A reminder to all posts to send in their quarterly Americanism report to Carl Hackworth along with a copy to the Department Adjutant

Carl R. Hackworth  
Dudenroder Str. 1  
D-63654 Büdingen

*carl@hackworth.de*

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**DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE PAST COMMANDERS CLUB**

Who is illegible 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 illegible to join*

Initial dues for the Past Commanders Club is only \$25.00 which will entitle the new member to a Past Commanders Club cap, Past Commanders Club pin and membership card

Renewal dues for the Past Commanders Club is only \$10.00

The 2015 membership cards, pins, caps and all PCC funds will be on hand at our next meeting, Second DEC

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE...** *David Greaux, PCC Secretary "2015"*

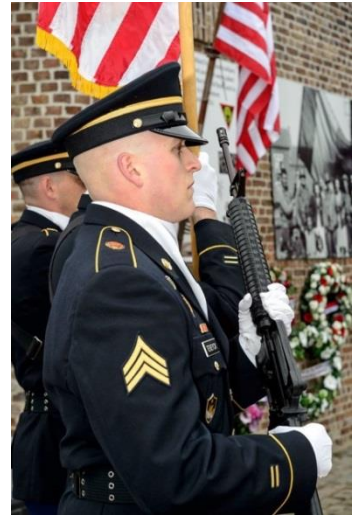
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# Flanders Field Post BE02

US Honor Guard at Borlo 14 September 2014



Comrade Brain Tenecky at Borlo on 14 September 2014



Commander Schram at Borlo



POW/MIA Recognition Day 2014

Brussels Information Fair 18 September 2014





# JOHN WAYNE POST GR 79

**HALLOWEEN PARTY**  
**26TH October 2014**  
**14.00 h**

**Klostergartenlaube Kloster str 1**  
**74348 Lauffen am Neckar**

**Pumpkin Carving**  
**Barbeque**  
**Games for Kids**

**Kids free**  
**Drinks pay as you go**

POC Charlie Brown [joedan.pascal1@googlemail.com](mailto:joedan.pascal1@googlemail.com) / 0170-1888034  
2 Vice Commander Roy Martin [roym0903@gmail.com](mailto:roym0903@gmail.com) / 0176-97833972



FOREIGN AND OUTLYING DEPARTMENTS  
AND POSTS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

ALASKA • CANADA • FRANCE • HAWAII • MEXICO • PHILIPPINES • PUERTO RICO • CHINA POST

*Still Serving America's Veterans...Around the World*



## NOTICE: FODPAL FALL MEETING

FODPAL President Jim Grosset has called the Fall FODPAL Meeting for Wednesday October 15, 2014 at 0730hrs, in room 301, at the National Headquarters of The American Legion, Indianapolis, Indiana.

All FODPAL Officers and NECmen are expected to attend. Other FODPAL Members (Commanders / Adjutants) attending the Fall C&A meetings are welcome and very much encouraged to attend.

*Doug Haggan*

FODPAL Secretary

Past Department of France Commander

"Still Serving America's Veterans...Around the World"





## **New Electronic Form to Streamline Chaotic VA Claims Process**

The Department of Veterans Affairs is changing the way veterans file disability claims, in the hopes of speeding up the process.

The new system, which introduces standardized electronic forms for veterans to fill out, is aimed at streamlining a chaotic process that had led to delays in handling claims and appeals. In the past, veterans could file claims and appeals on any piece of paper, which often caused delays because of missing information, according to a VA news release.

"We must do everything that we can to make it as fast and easy as possible for veterans and their survivors to file for and receive an accurate decision on their claim," VA Secretary Robert McDonald said in a press release.

The VA is also standardizing the intent-to-file form - after veterans or survivors submit that form, they

have one year to gather documentation and evidence for the claim.

The new regulations go into effect in late March.

Lauren Augustine, legislative associate for the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, said veterans groups have long been pushing for such a change.

"We view it as a move in the right direction to creating an efficient process," she said.

The VA has come under heavy criticism in recent months for its treatment of veterans amid a health care scandal that included hospital administrators falsifying records and patients dying while on secret wait lists. McDonald has promised vast reforms to the VA, including major changes by Nov. 11, which is Veterans Day.

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## **Paid Up For Life Campaign Update**



**PAID  
UP FOR  
LIFE**



Since last reported one month ago, the Paid Up For Life (PUFL) campaign has added just over 2,000 new members. To date 15,424 American Legion members have become PUFL members. 56% paid in full with the remainder opting for the 12 month time payment option. 73%, are Vietnam era veterans and later with the overall applicant average age being 65. An email blast was sent over a week's time to about 200,000 members, thus providing the spike in new PUFL applicants.

Becoming a Paid Up For Life member in The American Legion is easier than ever before. For more information regarding the fund go to [www.legion.org/pufl](http://www.legion.org/pufl) . After providing a name and ID number, the member will receive a cost quote; he or she can pay by credit card or print out a personalized form and mail it in with a check. Those without an ID number can contact Customer Service at **1-800-433-3318** for their personalized offer.

# Commander: not the time to shortchange DoD

*This week's ISIS air strikes, and the continuing need for ground forces, illustrate that defense cuts and troop reductions are unwise in a time of war.*

WASHINGTON (Sept. 25, 2014) -- American Legion National Commander Michael D. Helm said U.S.-led air strikes against ISIS militants in Syria this week amplify our nation's need to protect the Department of Defense from drastic budget cuts and force reductions.

"The air-strike strategy is certainly an effective way to kill the enemy and destroy its war-fighting capabilities, at least in the short term," Helm said. "But the large-scale use of high-tech missiles is expensive. Launching 1,000 Tomahawks is going to cost DoD about \$1.5 billion, and the Pentagon has already said this week's air strikes are only the beginning. Also, lasting security and protection against resurgence of this army of terrorists can only be attained through complete military superiority, including ground forces."

Costs of the air campaign in Syria are currently being covered by the Overseas Contingency Operations fund, which has about \$85 billion through fiscal 2014.

"But if these air strikes continue for months or years – and with more budget cuts kicking in from sequestration – then funding this war is going to be a serious issue," Helm said.

"The American Legion wants Congress to avoid any further cuts to the defense budget and to properly fund combat operations against ISIS, Khorasan and other militant Islamic groups, by air, sea and land. These threats must be annihilated, and now is not the time to shortchange DoD on funding necessary to conduct critical military operations in the ongoing war on terrorism."

The first air strike by U.S. and Arab allies happened in the early hours of Sept. 23, Syria time. Two days later, Pentagon spokesman Navy Rear Adm. John Kirby commented to CNN about fighting the Islamic militants. "I think we are in this for a matter of years. We are steeling ourselves for that period of time."

## RECRUITMENT

# T-shirt sells Legion membership

When past American Legion Department of Idaho Commander Rolland Adams wasn't sporting a suit and tie during Legion business travels, he wore his favorite T-shirt – a Marine veteran shirt featuring the Legion emblem and the message, "Still Serving America." Adams said his branch of service shirt sells Legion membership because it attracts questions.

"I like that it has the branch of service on it and The American Legion emblem," Adams said. "I dress exactly like this a lot."

Adams said no other shirt that he owns attracts Legion membership questions like his American Legion Marine veteran shirt, saying he has signed up several members and left many other people with membership applications and information booklets about the Legion.

"At gas stations and traveling around Idaho as department commander, someone would start talking to me because they saw that I am a Marine," Adams said. "I give everyone membership applications or sign them up on the spot."

The T-shirts, sold through American Legion Emblem Sales, are available for Army, Marine, Navy and Air Force veterans.

Purchase your T-shirt for \$10.95 online and begin attracting Legion membership:

 [www.emblem.legion.org/Page-33/products/1160/](http://www.emblem.legion.org/Page-33/products/1160/)





# POW/MIA Update

**Army Cpl. Alva C. Groves**, 18, of Four States, W.Va., was buried on Aug. 7, in Prunytown, W. Va. In November 1950, Groves was assigned to Company D, 1st Battalion, 38<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment (IR), 2nd Infantry Division (ID), when his unit was attacked by a vast number of Chinese forces while occupying a defensive position northeast of the village of Kujang, North Korea. On Nov. 25, 1950, Groves' unit consolidated its defensive lines and continued its withdrawal east. Groves was reported missing in action on Nov. 28, 1950.

On Aug. 8, 1953, Chinese forces reported that Groves was captured during the battle and died on April 14, 1951, from tubercular peritonitis in a prisoner of war camp in Pyokdong, North Korea.

Between 1991 and 1994, North Korea turned over to the U.S. 208 boxes of human remains believed to contain 350 - 400 U.S. servicemen who fought during the war. North Korean documents, turned over with some of the boxes, indicated that some of the remains were recovered from a North Korean prisoner of war camp in Pyokdong, where Groves was believed to have died.

To identify Groves' remains, scientists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools, including mitochondrial DNA.

**Army Pfc. Lawrence S. Gordon**, 28, a Canadian citizen, will be buried Aug. 13 in Canada. On Aug. 13, 1944, Gordon and elements of the Reconnaissance Company, 32nd Armored Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Division were deployed to France. Gordon was the commander of an M8 armored car traveling near the village of Carrouges, France, when his vehicle was struck in the gas tank by German anti-tank fire, which caused the armored car to catch fire and burn. During this attack Gordon was reported as missing in action. His remains were not recovered after the attack.

Military salvage records later indicated that an M8 armored car, bearing Reconnaissance markings, was recorded to have burned due to enemy fire, and that the vehicle and crew members that had not survived the attack were recovered on Aug. 15, 1945. Two weeks after Gordon's disappearance, his wallet was received by the Effects Quartermaster Corps. On April 3, 1945, Gordon's status was changed to killed in action.

On July 22, 1947, the American Graves Registration Command (AGRC) was conducting field investigations on the loss of Gordon during anti-tank fire near Carrouges, but failed to locate Gordon's remains. The investigators noted that prior to Aug. 18, 1944, two sets of unknown remains, clothed in German uniforms but believed to be those of American service members, were delivered to a temporary U.S. cemetery in Gorrion, France. Due to lack of necessary documentation for identification and the high number of casualties between August 1-18, 1944, the AGRC concluded there was insufficient information to pursue further identifications. On May 25, 1961, remains were transferred from the temporary cemetery to the custody of the German War Graves Commission and interred at Mont-de-Huisnes, France.

In August 1951, the AGRC issued a final report determining that due to paucity of remains and lack of information, there was no association between the remains buried at the temporary cemetery and Gordon. Therefore, Gordon was determined to be non-recoverable by a military review board on Sept. 25, 1951.

An independent researcher, Jed Henry, provided historical research that led to the disinterment and the subsequent identification of Gordon. Scientists from Bode Technology and the University of Wisconsin's Biotechnology Center used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools, such as mitochondrial DNA sequence data.

The U.S. Army provides escort to ensure the fallen service member is properly transported, cared and accounted for until they are returned to their family. Gordon was returned to the family in July and a special escort was provided as he was returned to the U.S. The family has chosen to return Gordon to Canada via ground transportation and will be reimbursed for the transportation costs from Wisconsin to Canada. Honors are being provided at the funeral and were provided at brief ceremonies when Gordon was transitioned from one transportation mode to another.

Of the 16 million Americans who served in World War II, more than 400,000 died.

Today, 7,882 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War. Using modern technology, identifications continue to be made from remains that were previously turned over by North Korean officials or recovered from North Korea by American teams.



## The American Legion Riders

**Ad Flyer promotion for ALR programs.** To answer the requests from posts and chapters for additional ALR promotional material, there is now a readily available flyer/advertisement publication for download from [www.legion.org/riders](http://www.legion.org/riders) under the “resources” tab. The poster may be locally printed, and promotes The American Legion itself using the ALR program as an example of how our programs support veterans, families, children, and the community.

**The American Legion Legacy Run.** The 2014 Run conducted August 17-21 accomplished its goal with donations in excess of \$1M for 2014. Staff and volunteers will soon begin preliminary planning for the tenth annual American Legion Legacy Run to Baltimore in 2015.

**ALR Brochure.** We are providing The American Legion Riders trifold promotional pamphlets to each of the departments along with the bulk shipment of material each year. We urge each of the departments to order enough trifold to supply a basic load to each of the ALR chapters.

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## American Legion National Commander slams lack of accountability at VA in Letter to President Obama

*‘We are hearing little about pervasiveness of corruption and incompetence’*

WASHINGTON (Sept. 19, 2014) – Angered by a recent IG report on the Department of Veterans Affairs and the testimony of senior VA officials, American Legion National Commander Michael D. Helm sent a pointed letter to President Obama reminding him that he promised to institute “a critical culture of accountability” within the troubled health care system. Helm said that the change in culture has still not been achieved.

“We were shocked when the VA Inspector General’s Report examined case after case of VA mismanagement, acknowledging that veterans died as they waited for health care but then stated ‘we are unable to conclusively assert that the absence of timely quality care caused the deaths of these veterans,’” Helm wrote yesterday.

“Mr. President, I understand that you cannot be held responsible for every act of malfeasance that occurs in the federal government. But let me assure you that if someone on my staff were found to be cooking the

books, committing fraud or putting career ambitions ahead of veterans’ lives, they wouldn’t be transferred or suspended with pay. They would be fired immediately. Our VA employees should be held to the same standard,” Helm said.

He vowed that The American Legion will continue to keep the issue alive until VA makes the needed reforms. “A perception exists that scandals in Washington are resolved by ignoring the problem and counting on the American people to forget. Mr. President, some Americans may forget what happened at VA, but I can assure you that The American Legion never will,” Helm said.

With a current membership of 2.4-million wartime veterans, The American Legion was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, Americanism, and youth programs. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through nearly 14,000 posts across the nation.

# Army Chief: Division Headquarters Will Deploy Soon to Iraq

As the U.S. expands its war against the Islamic State, the Army is preparing to deploy a division headquarters to Iraq.

Officials have not identified the division that will deploy — the first division headquarters to go to Iraq since the U.S. withdrawal in 2011.

An official announcement is expected in the coming days. But Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno recently confirmed the Army “will send another division headquarters to Iraq to control what we’re doing there, a small headquarters.”

It’s unclear how many soldiers will be sent, or how long they will deploy. Division headquarters average between 100 and 500 soldiers and deploy for one year.

The division headquarters deploying to Iraq is expected to be responsible for coordinating the efforts of the 1,600 troops President Obama has sent to Iraq. Many of these troops are advising and assisting the Iraqi Security Forces, others are providing extra security, while others are providing intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities. The headquarters also is expected to head up the joint operations center that since July has been run by Maj. Gen. Dana Pittard, the deputy commanding general for operations for U.S. Army Central.

Odierno’s comments were made Friday to a group of defense reporters in Washington, D.C. During the wide-ranging interview, Odierno discussed the critical role played by the Army’s two-star division headquarters.

“The complexity of the environment that we have to operate in now, and probably the next 10 to 15 to 20 years, we need these headquarters,” he said.

“If you ask me one of the stress points in the Army, it’s our headquarters.”

The Army has 10 division headquarters, including two in Afghanistan and one in South Korea. On Monday night, the U.S. mounted its first airstrikes in Syria, targeting the Islamic State and also the Khorasan group, a little known terrorist cell.

Monday night’s massive air assault hitting 22 targets across Syria was a historic operation that signals a new expansion of a war that is likely to last for years.

U.S. Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps aircraft dropped precision-guided missiles on two separate and distinct extremists groups, targeting command-and-control headquarters, barracks, training camps logistical nodes and other sites, defense officials said.

“You are seeing the beginning of a sustained campaign,” Lt. Gen. William Mayville, the Joint Staff’s director of operations, told Pentagon reporters Tuesday.

On Friday, Odierno also emphasized that destroying the Islamic State will be a long-term effort.

“We have to realize this is a long-term threat, this is a long-term commitment,” he said. “If you don’t believe they want to attack the West and America, you’re kidding yourself. That is their goal.”