



THE AMERICAN LEGION



DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE

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

Volume 14 / Issue 12 -- December 2016

*Wishing One And All
A Merry Christmas*



Department Commander John Shanahan



2017 Membership Drive & Current Standings. Although Newsletter Editor David Greaux had not planned it this way, the delay of this month's Newsletter for a couple of days gave us time to get in the membership standings for the Department for the 1st of the month.

I'm delighted to tell you that the hard work of our membership team is paying off. As of this weekend, the Department of France has met its 75% membership goal – and done so two weeks ahead of schedule. We now rank #8 out of all 55 departments in the Legion and we rank first in both the Northeast Region and among all FODPAL units and departments. Why is this so important? Two reasons, basically: (1.) It provides a quantitative measure of performance for the Department, and (2.) It indicates that we are hitting our marks in ensuring member participation and the resources (the "people") needed to operate, to staff and to manage our programs.

I encourage all to continue to work with Membership Chairman Joe Schram and Asst. Adjutant for Member Administration John Fleming to push forward, wrap up your membership drive, and forward on your member transmittals to John Fleming without delay. We still have to deal with postal delays here in Europe and extended mail times to the States, so please help us out. Get your transmittals in as early as possible and don't hold them back.

New Department Officers. Owing to the vacancy created by the resignation of former Cice Commander Lyndon Hudson, I have appointed (and the DEC has ratified) Laura Buckner of Post BE-02 as a new Vice Commander and Tyler Johnson as Department Historian. Welcome aboard!

American Legion's Role and Influence in the New Administration. (Edited, from Report to Department Commanders) On December 1st, the American Legion hosted a meeting with President-elect Donald Trump's transition team and representatives from more than 30 other veterans service organizations today to address concerns and lay out top priorities leading into the new administration.

The veteran-focused meeting was the first of its kind held between Trump's team and any outside organization. American Legion Executive Director Verna Jones, affirmed the commitment of veteran service organizations to advocate for those who have "borne the battle" – veterans from all eras.

The American Legion co-authored a three-point position paper along with executive leadership of the Big Six Congressionally chartered service organizations, supporting the Trump administration's efforts to strengthen, reform and sustain the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Health Care System, remove budget constraints that negatively impact veteran-centered programs, and reform the VA's claims and appeals process.

"The American Legion would like the Trump administration to know that we value our Department of Veterans Affairs," said Jones.

"Dollar-for-dollar, there is no better care or value available anywhere in the United States – period. While we will always support strong and expeditious accountability measures for bad actors, the institution of the Department that was designed to care for those who have borne the battle is sacrosanct, and it belongs to the more than 22 million veterans who risked their lives in defense of this country, many of whom left significant pieces of themselves on the battlefield."

Additionally, The American Legion initiated a call-to-action on fairly new Legion priorities – support of research related to the impacts of medical marijuana and the Drug Enforcement Administration's reclassification of cannabis from a Schedule I drug to Schedule III. Reclassification of the drug would allow easier access to pure strains of the substance to cultivate quantifiable research and statistics regarding marijuana's medical benefits.

Other issues addressed during the meeting included:

- The delivery of high quality, accessible, comprehensive and veteran-centric health care
- A properly funded 21st century Department of Veterans Affairs
- Sustainment and strengthening of specialized and integrative services for veterans seeking spinal cord injury/disease care, treatment for blindness and poly-trauma care
- Timely and accurate delivery of all earned benefits to veterans and their eligible dependents and survivors including disability compensation, pensions, education, housing assistance and other necessary support.

Although the 114th Congress focused a great deal of attention on reforming key elements of the delivery of veterans health care and benefits, VSOs urged the Trump administration and the 115th Congress to consider recommendations outlined in their three-point letter to:

- Take the necessary steps to end sequestration
- Sufficiently appropriate funds to increase physician and nurse staffing within the VA especially for amputee care, mental health care and other specialized services
- Provide adequate resources to adequately expand VA infrastructure

The transition team stated their willingness to keep the lines of communication open with VSOs and committed to continue to advocate for all veterans.

Remembering Our Veterans. I had the high honour of represent our Department of France at the Veterans Day/Armistice Day ceremonies at the Lorraine American Cemetery in St. Avold, France. We had a large visitor turnout at the Cemetery Chapel, where we laid wreaths to remember our honoured dead. Thanks to PDC Robert Gray and Michael Young of Post GR-01 for their attendance and participation, along with Lee Preston representing SAL and the Ramstein Military Harley Owners Group. Even though we had a bit of wet weather, both the participants and guests provided a very meaningful ceremony in this largest of America's military cemeteries in Europe. Thanks very much to all who travelled the distance to attend and participate.

Planning for the Legion's Centennial. Our Department's Centennial Committee will meet in Paris on 15 December to prepare a scope of work for the 2019 Centennial celebration in Paris. I am especially grateful to chairman Curtis Bartosik and the Committee for their interest in this event to date and for their work on behalf of our members to make this an outstanding event.

Pearl Harbour Observances. We remember especially this month the 75th Anniversary of the attack on America at Pearl Harbor, Honolulu, Hawaii. As Pearl Harbor played a major role in my Navy career, and later in my work as an executive with NOAA, I have travelled to Hawaii to be part of this event in the coming week. Happily, I have combined this personal trip with the opportunity to visit with my son and his family in Hawaii as well. I met this weekend with the Department of Hawaii at their DEC and will be joining fellow Legionnaires and the National Commander for a number of events, including a veterans parade to honour the men and women who were present on that fateful day.

New and Revitalized Posts. We've succeeded in starting up new Liberty Post EG-02 at RAF Lakenheath, UK and revitalizing Post GR-07 with nearly 20 new members for each. And we're not done yet. We have a Retirement Community Day set for the 2nd Wednesday of January at Post EG-02 where we expect to significantly increase the size of this new post, and we're attending a 6th Fleet reunion program, also in January at Villefranche, France to build up the membership of Post FR-05. Cornelis Van Vliet of that post has agreed to serve as acting commander until we can get a critical mass of members to hold an election.

Delivering Services to Veterans. Recently, VCAL Joseph Schram and I had an opportunity to connect with VA Service Representative Ceit Lanier, who did us the great favour of attending our 2nd DEC at Heilbron in late October. She has proven to be a terrific help to our members and I want you to have her contact details once again:

Ms. Ceit M. Lanier
 Sgt USMC -- Veteran
 Certified Veterans Service Representative
 VA Regional Office Phoenix
 Germany Overseas Military Service Coordinator
 E-mail: germany.va.rep3@gmail.com

Centennial Coin Sales for Christmas – the Ideal Stocking Stuffer. I want to remind you of our Centennial Coin programme and make sure that Santa Claus has an ample supply of this important stocking stuffer for the coming Christmas holidays. The coin is a remarkable work of art and I thank very much Nola Maloney and John Purdy for their work in organizing this programme and providing us with such a fine product. Remember, coin sales are a fund raiser for the Department and proceeds go directly to supporting services for our members. Coin sales contacts are VCAL Joseph Schram (Europe) and NEC Lady Nola Maloney (USA). Addresses are shown in this Newsletter. Get your orders in soon so that those special folks in your life will have one or more of our limited edition Centennial Coins, slated to end production in 2019.

Warmest Wishes for the Holidays. As I write this, Christmas decorations are going up and the music of the season is everywhere. I want to wish each Legionnaire in the Department a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. And please don't be left out if you follow a different tradition. I want you to know that I send best wishes for a Happy Hanukkah and a Joyful Kwanza celebration as well. Let this season of joy and hope fill your hearts and remind you of the importance of serving one another – especially our service members, veterans and their families.

For God and Country, **John**

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

DEPARTMENT NECMAN *Nola Maloney*



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

I sincerely hope that you all had a memorable and blessed Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving!!

I spent my Veteran Day visiting the newest Arizona VA Memorial Cemetery that opened in July of this year. Though the cemetery was finished in 2014, the first interment was March 2016. I followed on with a visit to Local Post 7 in Tucson, who had just completed all the parade festivities consisting of all American Legion Posts and other Veterans organizations in the area, Pima County Sheriffs Officers, Fire Fighters and other public service agencies. This Post has been the orchestrator of this parade for the past 97 years – since the first year they became a Post in 1919. It felt wonderful to be among my fellow veterans and proud to know the City of Tucson recognizes veterans in a most respectful way.

We now have a new President-elect, Donald Trump; by the time you read this he will have named many of his staff members he wants to help run our GREAT Nation. I am sure we will see many changes with the new administration coming on board.

President Barack Obama has signed into law a bill that seeks to ensure all telephone calls and other communications delivered through a Department of Veterans Affairs' crisis line get answered in a timely manner by a qualified person. The legislation signed Monday comes after federal investigators substantiated allegations that some calls went into a voicemail system and that some veterans didn't get immediate assistance. The bill creates a quality assurance process. It requires the VA to develop a plan to ensure any communication to the crisis line or a backup center is quickly handled by someone in accordance with guidance established by the American Association of Suicidology. Rep. David Young, R-Iowa, the bill's sponsor, says those who sacrificed in defense of "our freedoms" deserve the best mental health care possible. As we are losing 20 veterans a day to suicide perhaps this will help get that number to "0".

After I was elected as your NEC I received a letter from The American Legion HQ concerning Honorary Membership to standing Committees. I answered the letter resulting in our Department being awarded nine (9) Honorary membership appointments to the following standing Commissions: Americanism (1); Finance Commission (2); Internal Affairs (1); Membership & Post Activities Committee (1); Legislative (1); National Security (1); Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee (1); Veterans Employment & Education Committee (1). Department Commander Shanahan will be asking for volunteers to fill these honorary positions. This is the most Honorary appointments we have had in a long time so I am hopeful we can fill them all with Department Members who are willing to learn more about what happens at the National level and use it to assist our Department. These are Honorary Memberships that have no duties at the National level and are never called in to national meetings; specific duties from time to time are assigned by the Department to assist with matters in their area. In addition you will receive information from the National office or myself to keep you abreast of what is happening throughout the organization. The more information we have to assist us in our Department helps us to stay strong, the information is designed to keep us informed and we in turn inform our members of issues or assist our Department in these areas. The Honorary Membership Letters, signed by National Commander Charles Schmidt, to each of these positions are ready to go out but we first must get

the names of volunteers who are interested in filling these honorary standing Commissions/Committees to complete the letters.

I do hope our American Legion Auxiliary Members and other spouses read our newsletter – please share it with your spouse. It helps them to understand what we do and realize the role they can/do play in making our Department stronger. I would like to see as many of the A.L.A. and perspective new members as can make it to the 3rd DEC in March 2017 so we can meet and discuss the Department Auxiliary issues and go forward from there. If you plan to attend please send Isolde Settle or me an email at isoldesettle@hotmail.com or NECMaloney@gmail.com. I will bring as much information from A.L.A. National HQ as I can get to assist us. Let me tell you – us A.L.A. Members can be darn resourceful in assisting ourselves as well as the Posts, but let's help ourselves first in our programs so we can be better equipped to help the Posts!! I remind everyone we are a separate inanity of our own, chartered on our own, overseeing ourselves first!!

Just a small reminder to the Posts to take advantage of the Overseas Graves Decoration Fund to assist you in honoring our brethren that are buried in private cemeteries throughout Europe. All it takes is a few minutes to write down the name of the veteran and address of their final resting place to make the request. The funds are limited so the earlier the request the better. Please see article submitted for distribution in this newsletter concerning Overseas Graves Decoration Funds.

Here are the results of the mail vote resolution to amend resolution No. 14, October 12-13, 2016, to change the effective date of the transfer of four posts to the Department of Alaska from January 31, 2017, to June 15, 2017. These Posts are in the Foreign Departments; inclusive is Thailand Post 1 – it just purely for information for you. The four Posts are: – Post TH01, Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand (France), Post OK28, Okinawa, Japan (Philippines), Post 37, Pyeongtaek, South Korea (Philippines), Post 38, Seoul, South Korea (Philippines). Results of the vote: 55 members of the NEC voted to approve; 0 members of the NEC voted to reject; 6 members of the NEC did not vote.

At this time folks I will close my article for the month as Comrade David Greaux does such an excellent job with the newsletter I do not want to tire your eyes out before you get to read the rest of the important information in the newsletter.

I want to wish you and your families all a very safe and Happy Holiday Season. I feel I have a Happy Holiday Season all year long when I talk to or assist family, friends, acquaintances, and strangers – I am grateful to have each of those opportunities as they enrich my life – even the ones that involve issues for they also teach me things!

Safe travels to all!!

Most Sincerely,

Nola Maloney
Your NECLady



Submitted by NEC Maloney: Though this article is a bit radical and I would hope we would not go this route, I do think we are in for a BIG shake-up of the VA over the next year and beyond.

REPORT: Fix VA Benefits by making troops buy their own health insurance

Leo Shane III, Military Times, November 26, 2016 wrote the following article:

A health policy expert at the libertarian Cato Institute is offering a radical idea to help reform the Department of Veterans Affairs and prevent future wars at the same time: Make troops and veterans pay for their own medical insurance.

In an online essay, last week, institute Director of Health Policy Studies Michael Cannon recommends dropping the idea of free health care for veterans and instead offering better pay for current troops and vouchers for current veterans to buy their own coverage on the open market.

He also calls for privatizing the Veterans Health Administration -- something the major veterans groups have all argued against -- with shares of the new publicly-run company to be given to veterans and service members based on time in service. "Privatization would improve the quality of veterans' benefits immeasurably," he wrote. "The federal government promises veterans' benefits to military personnel once they leave active duty. Only it's not an explicit promise. And Congress doesn't fund it.

"As a result, Congress can -- and does -- renege on that commitment." Cannon also argues that since the government would have to front the costs for insurance stipends and vouchers, it would also make the costs of war clearer before the first shots are fired.

"Veterans benefits are one of the largest financial costs of any armed conflict," he wrote. "Yet Congress does not pre-fund those obligations. It only funds them once they come due.

"(In the event of war), the added risk of deaths and injuries would cause premiums to rise, which would increase the amount of added pay Congress must provide each service member. The result is that future Congresses and presidents would have to confront this enormous cost of war at the moment they decide to send U.S. troops off to war, and every day they decide to keep them there."

The idea is as radical as it is theoretical. While Republicans including President-elect Donald Trump have argued in favor of expanding private care options for veterans, none have offered plans to completely dismantle veterans benefits and hospital management.

Meanwhile, Democrats and veterans groups have warned against even small steps towards privatization of VA functions, arguing that many outside hospitals and physicians lack the expertise or motivation to handle the most difficult service-connected injuries.

But Cannon argued that without radical changes, any reform effort is doomed.

"If Trump retains the VA's basic structure, he will join a long line of presidents who have failed our nation's veterans," he wrote.

The full report is online at [the Cato web site](#).

Veterans Day Pictures from New York City 2016

Pictures provided by Past Department of France Commander Doug Haggan



Dept. of New York Adjutant James Casey, Doug Haggan, Robert Fueling



The Color Guard



Dorothy & Robert Fueling, Elka & Doug Haggan, John Sampson – Dept. of New York Commander



Father Duffy



Staten Island Boy Scout Camp Purple Heart Memorial



Freedom Tower

Department of France Past Commanders Club

Congratulations goes out to Anthony Giordano from GR14 on being elected President of the PCC for the 2017 Membership Year. David Greaux has the privilege of serving as Secretary for another year.

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.

ASSISTANT DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT *John Fleming*

Post	PUFL	Regular	Total	New													# Transferts	Goal	%
				PUFL	Online	01.09	01.10	01.11	01.12	07.01	08.01	01.03	01.04	01.04	14.07				
BE02	10	95	105		19	30	0	4									63	115	54.78
CH01	253	904	1157		318	80	205	45	55								956	1220	78.36
DN01	1	0	1		0	0	0	0									1	1	100.00
FR01	307	185	252		50	43	18	13									231	310	74.51
FR05	12	12	24		0	8	0	0									18	25	72.00
GR01	4	19	23		0	0	0	0									4	25	16.00
GR01	46	128	174		20	6	0	0									80	185	43.24
GR02	0	3	3		0	0	0	0									0	3	0.00
GR03	22	42	64		10	1	0	1									34	87	39.75
GR05	23	52	75		8	15	0	14									58	80	72.50
GR06	125	159	284		10	50	14	6									225	300	75.00
GR07	9	48	57		8	0	10	0									27	60	45.00
GR09	25	23	48		3	6	8	3									43	50	86.00
GR13	23	56	79		9	0	15	0									47	83	56.83
GR14	11	41	62		20	0	11	0									42	65	64.62
GR1902	24	115	139		15	20	30	0									89	150	59.33
GR20	17	1	18		0	0	0	0									17	20	85.00
GR30	12	12	24		5	3	0	1									21	25	84.00
GR42	18	21	39		3	5	0	1									27	41	65.85
GR45	1	1	2		1	0	0	14									16	0	200.00
GR79	14	43	57		1	42	0	0									57	60	95.00
HR01	1	42	43		4	0	40	2									47	48	97.92
HR12	0	88	88		0	0	0	29									29	88	60.42
HR13	3	19	22			12	5	0									20	23	86.96
HR13	2	22	24			11	0	0									13	38	36.11
IT01	2	7	9		1	1	0	0									4	9	44.44
INL01	3	0	3		3	0	0	15									18	3	600.00
IP01	3	8	9		2	0	0	0									5	9	55.56
IP02	8	18	26		2	0	7	0									17	27	62.96
ITR01	4	32	36		18	0	2	0									24	27	88.89
MC0000	30	47	77		36	1	0	0									67	77	87.01
TOTALS	823	2209	3032	0	579	326	368	148	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2300	3200	71.88



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)

➤ **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

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DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE *Joseph Schram*



I would like to first wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season. For the last several weeks, I have been in the United States visiting my hometown in Michigan.

The month of November started with Commander Shanahan and I traveling to RAF Lakenheath, England to determine the possibility of establishing an American Legion post. On Saturday, 05 Nov., we conducted an information table at the local Base Exchange (BX) to determine the community interest. After 7 hours, we recruited 17 new members and transfers, and began the process of establishing a new Post: Liberty Post EG02. Our first two members happened to be the Public Affairs Officers of the 48th Fighter Wing. We still must have Liberty Post EG02 apply for a temporary charter but this will be worked on during the next couple of months.

During the visit, we had the opportunity to speak with the Lakenheath Vice Principal and Guidance Counselor about hosting a Post Level Oratorical Contest. They were very receptive to the idea and agreed on having the contest on Sunday, 05 February. Liberty Post EG02 will host the contest.



DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER *Marcus W. Briscoe*



Attached is the American Legion Table we have set up in Wiesbaden to visit the RAD.

And a picture of Vice Commander Marcus W. Briscoe and 2 Star General from Wiesbaden and Vice Commander Joseph Schram.



DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER *Carl Hale*



Legion Auxiliary member Lee Sperandieu and I participated in Veterans Day ceremonies at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and with the community members in the nearby town of Romagne-sous-Montfaucon. At the request of the American Legion Memorial Post Wesoloski – Hays Post 335, we also laid a wreath at Plot A, Row 11, Grave 11, to honor U.S. Army Second Lieutenant John Martin Wesoloski. He died on October 13, 1918 while serving with the 305th Infantry Regiment, 77th Division. He was the first “Doughboy” to be killed in WW1 from the local Imperial, Pennsylvania, area where the American Legion Memorial Post Wesoloski-Hays Post 335 was chartered on 29 June 1927.

I am thankful for the veterans and their family members that we have within the Department of France who are committed to serve their community. It is through our active community service and commitment to advance youth programs that promote Americanism like Scouting, Girls and Boy State, ROTC, and the Oratorical scholarship contest that we demonstrate the positive aspects of the American Legion to other eligible veterans might then see why they also should become a member.

We will continue to work together to achieve our Department membership goals. I will travel to Paris in December to participate in a planning meeting for the 2019 centennial celebration activities.

Until we meet again, please be safe during the holiday season.

For God and Country
Carl Hale, crlhl@hotmail.com



Tribute

On a small patch of French land, where the fresh grass grows
Rests in perpetuity
The one who came,
Crossing the streams,
To give his blood for our Liberty.

On a small patch of French land, where the fresh grass grows
From his still virile youth,
To a natural instinct,
With a flair for great justice
He left to wage war
From Washington to La Fayette, he only took a step.

On a small patch of French land, where the fresh grass grows
In an enthusiastic fight
Where bravery was queen,
For all exiled life lost,
This white marble cross
Is the only testimony of his passage.

On a small patch of French land, where the fresh grass grows
For this pure sacrifice
To the shimmering stars.
Majestically, I bow down
And lay at his feet
A tricolor bouquet,
A profound gesture, acknowledging

On a small patch of French land, where the fresh grass grows
Not wanting to leave these places
Where I was only in passing,
I came to tell him
That I shall never forget.

On a small patch of French land, that now belongs to you
Where the fresh grass grows,
Two nations side by side
United in the same fight
LIBERTY.

Pascal BOUILLEAUX
English Translation : Jeffrey Aarnio & Manon Bart.



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



OVERSEAS GRAVES DECORATION TRUST FUND

The following are the Guideline for the use of the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Fund by FODPAL Departments and Posts, to decorate the individual graves of those Veterans laid to rest in cemeteries (On Memorial Day) that are not under the control of the American Battle Monuments Commission.

The definition of Overseas is any Department or Post outside the continental borders of 48 states.

Trust Fund Members

Consists of the current National Commander of The American Legion, who shall be chairman, and the immediate Past National Commander of The American Legion and his predecessor, who shall be known as the Trustees, and who shall serve respectively for three, two and one years to be calculated from the last day of the national convention of The American Legion. The American Legion National Adjutant will serve as recording secretary, The American Legion National Treasurer will be Financial Advisor, and the Chairman of the Finance Commission who shall serve so long as he or she remains as chairman. Each retiring trustee is released from any and all liability by reason of his acts as trustee. The Trustees are charged with the custody, control and administration of the fund, the income of said fund are used to honor, preserve and decorate the graves of those U.S. Veterans who served in the World Wars, Conflicts, and Hostilities and who are buried overseas.

Purpose

Rather than barbecues, races or even parades, the real idea of Memorial Day is to remember those who served their country in uniform and are no longer with us. The American Legion has been in the forefront of such efforts since its existence – no matter how far-flung the fallen comrade.

The American Legion Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Fund was established in the 1920s, and provides all U.S. flags – from Emblem Sales, made in the USA – flown at cemeteries and burial sites in foreign countries where American troops are buried or otherwise memorialized. The first fundraising for the decoration of overseas graves took place in 1921-1922, and its current organizational plan has been in force since 1935.

The Trustees shall use the income of the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Fund to honor, preserve, and decorate the graves of those who served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America in World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, and of those who served during the period of the Vietnam Hostilities, who lie overseas. They may adopt and use such methods and means as they may deem advisable, including the active cooperation and aid of overseas Departments and Posts of The American Legion and any other agencies, and in pursuance thereof may prescribe details, methods, and practices deemed necessary, expedient, or convenient. The income shall be used exclusively to honor, preserve, and decorate the graves and for no other purpose, and under no circumstances shall the Trustees have the power or authority to expend, use or divert the Trust Fund or any part thereof for any other purpose.

In addition to the above guidelines this fund will financially aid Departments and Posts outside the continental United States of America to honor and decorate individual graves of those veterans who were laid to rest outside American Battle Monument Commission controlled facilities.

Funds Request Procedures

Fund requests must be sent to The American Legion, National Adjutant, 700 N. Pennsylvania, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206, on or before **1 January** of each year.

The following information is required for each request for funds.

1. The name of the Veteran.
2. The cemetery name and location (city and country) where the veteran is at rest.
3. A quote in writing (not to exceed \$50.00) from a local florist, for flowers to decorate each veteran's grave.
4. A mailing address for Emblem Sales use so they can mail each Department or Post "U.S.A. made American flag" for each grave to be decorated.
5. A mailing address for The American Legion National Treasure so he can mail each Department or Post the requested funds for each grave to be decorated.

THE FUNDS FROM THE OVERSEAS GRAVE DECORATION TRUST FUND ARE DISPENSED ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASES ANNUALLY UNTIL THE INCOME EACH YEAR IS DEPLETED

PARIS POST FR01

We elected our new officers for the American Legion Auxiliary Paris Post 1 (from left to right). Beth Herwood Vice President/Treasurer, Anna-Marie Matson Executive Committee Member, Ginette Crosley President/Secretary, Gisele Corrigan Historian, Jacqueline Holzapfel Honorary President & Lee Sperandieu Executive Committee Member. We are ready to work for the Centennial.



new president giving a gift to the old president



From the Desk of Nola Maloney

National Executive Committee / NECMaloney@gmail.com / 928-235-1291

Hello Auxiliary Members of Department of France and perspective New Members;

I think you should know I am realist most of the time about many things which prompted me to get this out to those of you who may not have received it and those who are not yet members. This offer to American Legion Auxiliary Members is just one of the many benefits of being a member.

I can tell you from experience in looking for insurance myself to cover my loved ones (and pass the info on to them) this offer looks good to me for me. The cost of semi-annual payment is less than a one month cost from other companies offering the same product. You should read all of the documents (as I did, but I am not an expert – just well read on this type of offer) to see if you do not agree it.

If you do not agree I welcome your comments – The more ways of looking at something make all of us smarter and teach us to remember to have an open mind!

Following this note to you is something I thought you should think about. Whether you are still raising a family, or just want to leave something to help take care of your immediate bills and sustain your family until hopefully some other policy was paid out (those can take time).

If you have questions about the policy there is a phone number and email you can contact on the documents. It would be wonderful if we all knew your questions and answers received. My email is at the top of this letter.

Thank you for reading!

Most Respectfully,

//Original Signed||

Nola Maloney
Dual Life Membership

P.S.: I ran out of ink so could not print, sign, scan – wanted to get this out!!

Recommended by American Legion Auxiliary

Dear Auxiliary Member,

Thank you for all you're doing for our veterans, military, and their families. One of the benefits of your membership in the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) is being able to take advantage of a variety of services and discounts offered through our Authorized ALA Member Benefits Providers. The Hartford¹, an ALA authorized member benefits provider, is offering you a new insurance benefit option – *the Rewards Accident Insurance Plan* – designed specifically by The Hartford for ALA Members and their families.

Throughout its 200-year history, The Hartford has delivered on its promises to customers, insuring some of the nation's most historic construction projects, such as the Golden Gate Bridge and the Hoover Dam. The Hartford has paid claims related to some of America's largest disasters, including the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906, the September 11 terrorist attacks, and more recently, Hurricane Katrina and Storm Sandy.

The Hartford's culture is built on a foundation of ethical decision making and trust, being proudly recognized by Ethisphere as one of the World's Most Ethical Companies eight times²! The Hartford has been recognized by *Military Times* four times as one of the "Best" employers for American Veterans³!

Please review the enclosed offer from The Hartford. Enrolling is easy. Simply return the completed Enrollment Form with your first premium payment in the postage-paid envelope. Taking advantage of benefits tailored especially for ALA Members ensures great coverage for you and supports the American Legion Auxiliary. And that's a win-win!

Appreciatively,



Mary "Dubbie" Buckler
National Executive Director/National Board Secretary
American Legion Auxiliary

¹ The Hartford® is The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc., and its subsidiaries, including issuing company Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company.

² Ethisphere Institute 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016.

³ *Military Times* -Best for Vets: Employers 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015.



The members of the Flanders Field Post BE02 participated in a number of events during the month of November. On the evening of 31 Oct, we hosted a table during the annual Cheivres Trunk or Treat. Over 2000 children stopped by the table to receive treats and maybe a few tricks. I would like to thank Auxiliary member, Ester Miller and her husband for helping with this event.



During Veterans Day, Post BE02 participated in 2 events both occurring at 11:00. Vice Commander Paul Haney represented Post BE02 at the laying of wreaths at the Flanders Field American Cemetery. We also had flowers placed at our adopted grave of an unknown soldier.

Our second event was the annual Poppy Parade at Ieper (Yrpes), Belgium. We had the honor to represent the United States government by carrying the US colors during the Parade. A special thanks goes out to comrades Ranger Russell, LTC retired, who carried the colors, to Comrade William Autretch, to Paul Dunn and to our Venure Crew



Comrade Ernest Peterson, Post Everlasting



Comrade Ernest Peterson, a veteran of the Pacific theater of World War II, the Korean War, and member of the Flanders Field Post BE02, entered Post Everlasting on 14 November, He was 90.

Comrade Peterson enlisted in the United States Navy in 1942 at just 17 years old and trained as an assault boat coxswain and Underwater Demolition Team member. Peterson spent the next few years aboard the USS West Point protecting the Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth, two of America's largest troopships in WWII from German submarine attack. He was then assigned to an assault boat for the Invasion of Iwo Jima. Comrade Peterson estimated he made 15 landing on Iwo Jima under enemy fire.

On a port call in Cannes, Comrade Peterson met his future wife, Marinette, at a USO dance party. They were married for more than 50 years with two adult children, each with two children. His cremation was held on 17 November at the crematorium in Caudry, France, near Maroilles.

**American BBQ
Bastogne
10 December
101st Airborne Museum**

MENU:
PULLED PORK SANDWICHES
GRILLED HAMBURGERS
HOTDOGS
BAKED BEANS

Sponsored by:

- American Legion Post BE02
- Patton Foundation
- 101st Airborne Museum

The logo of the American Legion, featuring a circular emblem with a star in the center, the letters 'US' below it, and the words 'AMERICAN LEGION' around the perimeter.

DETACHMENT OF FRANCE

Squadrons: GR01, BE02, GR06, GR07, GR14, GR42, GR79, CH01

Lee Preston... Detachment of France Commander "2017"



Hello Fellow SAL Members,

I hope that this newsletter finds everyone healthy and doing well. As we are into the new membership year I am finally getting information from National. We are at just above 50% and still leading the Eastern Division. We need to get busy on membership to get our Detachment to 100% before the rest. We were number 1 in the Eastern Division for 2016 and I know that we can accomplish this again for 2017. As of 22 November 2016, we still stand at 50.859% and I know that we can do better. Please, get your memberships sent to Charley as soon as possible. We celebrated Veterans Day on 11 November as I attended the ceremony in Saint Avold. We had a good ceremony with good attendance. I want to thank all of the veterans, Legion members, Family, friends, and all other in attendance for being there and showing respect for those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country as well as other's freedom. I took the opportunity to lay a wreath for the Detachment and mentioned that we have members all over the world including Europe that take veterans day very personally. We wanted to remind everyone that Veterans Day is for ALL veterans and we need to thank those that have sacrificed so much for our Country and for all in which we stand. Thank you all for everything that you do for our country, our organization, and for all American's. Let us not forget that (Freedom does not come Free).

Yours in Comradeship

Lee Preston

Detachment Commander

THE THIRD DEC WILL BE ON 04 MARCH 2017 HOSTED BY GR42.

IT WILL BE HELD AT THE GR30 POST HOME IN KITZINGEN, GERMANY.

Thomas W Barnett Post 14

Christmas Party

T.W.B. Post GR 14 gathering.

A chance to meet and socialize.

Saturday the 10th of December 7PM.

At the Phoenix Halle

SchulStr. Düdelsheim.

Come one come all!

Please RSVP with number,
gender and ages of children
you will be bringing!

Any questions can be sent to Post adjutant Carl Hackworth (carl@hackworth.de)

Or

Post Commander Tony Giordano (eadg.gio@gmail.com)

Legion supports Trump on flag issue

The American Legion

American Legion National Commander Charles E. Schmidt praises President-elect Donald Trump for his support of the American flag. In a tweet, Mr. Trump said, “Nobody should be allowed to burn the American flag - if they do, there must be consequences - perhaps loss of citizenship or year in jail!”

As the leader of the nation’s largest veterans service organization, Schmidt said, “Our brothers and sisters in arms have shed blood, even paid the ultimate sacrifice, in defense of our nation. The American flag represents their sacrifice and our nation’s way of freedom. No one should tolerate desecration of the American flag.”



The American Legion strongly advocates for a constitutional ban on flag burning, and calls on the new commander in chief to support such a ban with the following wording, “Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.”

There is strong support for such a law. Every U.S. state has passed memorializing resolutions to ratify a constitutional amendment prohibiting flag desecration. Additionally, the House of Representatives has passed an amendment six times by supermajorities, only to see it fall short in the Senate – by just one vote the last time it reached the floor.

“It’s time to protect Old Glory from being burned or otherwise desecrated by protesters,” Schmidt said. “We are not against civil protest or demonstrations. However, these protesters are not burning a piece of cloth. They are desecrating the sacrifice and honor of all past, present and future servicemembers and their family members, who have given so much to this great nation.”



SANTA CLAUS and UNIT GR30
Would like to invite you and your family to our
annual Christmas Party!!!

At the Post Home, "My Place", Kitzingen,
Otto Hahn Str. 21 and starts at 13.00 hrs on the
10. December 2016.



There will be food and fun for all!



Hope to see you there!!!

**None members have to pay 8.00€ and childrens
under 6 years are free.**

**TO INSURE EVERY CHILD RECEIVES A GIFT,
PLEASE R.S.V.P. NOT LATER THAN 4 . DECEMBER 2016.**

MY PLACE

09321-31644



John Wayne Post GR79

General Membership Meeting November 2016



Thanksgiving 2016





David Chavez Post GR1982

For the past 27 years, since the fall of the Iron Curtain, the town of Rokycany, Czech Republic has commemorated its liberation in WWII. This year, for the first time an American Legion flag was blessed during the commemoration. The idea for the commemoration began as a joint venture between American Veteran of Foreign War (VFW) posts in Europe and the town of Rokycany.

Mr. Milan Taus from Rokycany met with three U.S. Veterans from Grafenwoehr, Harold Hedges, Bruce Withers, and George Eby and they planned the first Veterans Day ceremony in 1990. This year's chairman was Herbert Hall, from Ansbach VFW Post 9342. Mr. Hall is also a member of Ansbach's American Legion Post 1982 and he invited post members to participate in the commemoration. Four post members attended and brought Ansbach's flag.

The commemoration on November 19th and 20th included a wreath laying ceremony at the Demarcation Line where American and Russian soldiers met on May 9, 1945, a wreath laying ceremony at the General George S. Patton Memorial, and a wreath laying ceremony at the plaque dedicated to the 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Division, United States Army.

The flags from each of the participating VFW posts are blessed each year. This year, the flag of American Legion Post 1982 was also blessed by the local priest. This was the first time that a Legion flag has been blessed as part of the ceremonies here. The town of Rokycany plans to continue this special relationship with its American friends living in Germany.

Submitted by Madonna Roberts, Historian and Estus Smith, Adjutant, Post 1982



(L) Madonna Roberts in a WWII WAC uniform, Post 1982 Historian, with Czech Scout carrying the post's flag.



Mr. Herbert Hall at the Patton Memorial in front of the General George S. Patton Elementary School



The flag blessing in Rokycany.



Young and old, Re-enactors from the vehicle museum.



Mr. Herbert Hall reciting "In Flanders Fields."

07 December 1941

Pearl Harbor bombed

At 7:55 a.m. Hawaii time, a Japanese dive bomber bearing the red symbol of the Rising Sun of Japan on its wings appears out of the clouds above the island of Oahu. A swarm of 360 Japanese warplanes followed, descending on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in a ferocious assault. The surprise attack struck a critical blow against the U.S. Pacific fleet and drew the United States irrevocably into World War II.

With diplomatic negotiations with Japan breaking down, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his advisers knew that an imminent Japanese attack was probable, but nothing had been done to increase security at the important naval base at Pearl Harbor. It was Sunday morning, and many military personnel had been given passes to attend religious services off base. At 7:02 a.m., two radar operators spotted large groups of aircraft in flight toward the island from the north, but, with a flight of B-17s expected from the United States at the time, they were told to sound no alarm. Thus, the Japanese air assault came as a devastating surprise to the naval base.

Much of the Pacific fleet was rendered useless: Five of eight battleships, three destroyers, and seven other ships were sunk or severely damaged, and more than 200 aircraft were destroyed. A total of 2,400 Americans were killed and 1,200 were wounded, many while valiantly attempting to repulse the attack. Japan's losses were some 30 planes, five midget submarines, and fewer than 100 men. Fortunately for the United States, all three Pacific fleet carriers were out at sea on training maneuvers. These giant aircraft carriers would have their revenge against Japan six months later at the Battle of Midway, reversing the tide against the previously invincible Japanese navy in a spectacular victory.



The day after Pearl Harbor was bombed, President Roosevelt appeared before a joint session of Congress and declared, "Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan." After a brief and forceful speech, he asked Congress to approve a resolution recognizing the state of war between the United States and Japan. The Senate voted for war against Japan by 82 to 0, and the House of Representatives approved the resolution by a vote of 388 to 1. The sole dissenter was Representative Jeannette Rankin of Montana, a devout pacifist who had also cast a dissenting vote against the U.S. entrance into World War I. Three days later, Germany and Italy declared war against the United States, and the U.S. government responded in kind.

The American contribution to the successful Allied war effort spanned four long years and cost more than 400,000 American lives.