

# The AMERICAN LEGION

# Department of France



Volume 11 / Issue 7

July 2013

## Department Officers

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### Vice Commander

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### Vice Commander

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### Vice Commander

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## DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

### James Settle

My Fellow Legionaries,

First my congratulations to the, newly elected officer's, of the Department of France. I feel we have a great team this year, and we should be able to move this department forward, with the support of all of us. See the attached list of the elected department officers.

During the Department Convention I mentioned involving the SAL and Auxiliary, in our events. My goal is to make this Department a total Legion Family orientated Department. However we must do this together through communications. If you have an Auxiliary Unit and or a SAL Squadron at your location communicate with them and get them involved in your Post activities. If you want to or have the capabilities to start an Auxiliary Unit at your post, please contact the Auxiliary President at [isoldesettle@otail.com](mailto:isoldesettle@otail.com). In the case of SAL, you can contact the SAL Commander at [josh.sal@hotmail.com](mailto:josh.sal@hotmail.com). Both will be more than happy to assist you in your questions.

**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.

# Department Officers

*Continued from Page 1*

## **Chaplain**

Gino Cantu GR07

## **Historian**

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## **Judge Advocate**

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## **Sergeant –At-Arms**

Hal Rittenberg GR09  
[hrittenberg@t-online.de](mailto:hrittenberg@t-online.de)

## ***From the Editor...***

Please send all input for the Department Newsletter to my e-mail address by the 25th of the month. Please use Word document format. Constructive suggestions to improve the Newsletter are also welcome.

If you want to stay informed on what is happening with **YOUR** Department you can also visit the following sites,

[www.AmerLegionDeptFrance.org](http://www.AmerLegionDeptFrance.org)

[www.Facebook.com/ALDeptFrance](http://www.Facebook.com/ALDeptFrance)

[www.legion.org/fodpal](http://www.legion.org/fodpal)

Thank You.

David N. Greaux

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

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The Department Americanism Chairman Comrade Hackworth needs, your JROTC reports, and any other Americanism items you have. Comrade Hackworth needs this information for his Americanism report to National. You can submit your reports to Comrade Hackworth at the following E-Mail address [carl@hackworth.de](mailto:carl@hackworth.de).

## **Announcements**

Post GR03 will be holding an annual barbecue party on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July which I plan on attending.

In closing I wish all of you a very happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Please celebrate safe and take care of each other. 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: [Pisces@t-online.de](mailto:Pisces@t-online.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.

## **NECMAN John Miller**



I was recently in Indianapolis at the National HQs for the Spring Meeting of the National Executive Committee and while there I asked a fellow legionnaire from our Department, who resides in Indianapolis that I needed to go to the VA hospital and see if I could get an appointment to have a checkup to determine how serious my body has been affected by "Agent Orange". In my letter from

VA Regional Office in Pittsburgh, PA, listing my disability they mention my having been affected but that's where they stopped. So I wanted to know where I stood. Doug Haggan, knows the VA hospital and a lot of the staff members as he gets treatment there also, took me there and after several offices, filling out several forms, getting my picture taken, I was finally registered into the Hospital medical program. The coordinator that I talked to was glad to answer the many questions I had and here is the basics of that conversation. When a veteran resides overseas he has to send his request for disability to a regional office for processing. The Regional Offices are a Part of VA but don't belong to the hospital side of the VA. Now that I'm registered in the hospital side of the VA I can go to any VA hospital, present my VA Medical card and receive treatment. The Hospital side issues veterans a separate ID card with your photo and a chip with your medical history and they include the disability ratings from the Regional

*Continued from page 2*

office. Veterans residing in the USA go directly to a VA hospital for their examinations and ratings for

disability. This is something that I feel is important to our veterans residing outside the USA to know. If you take a trip back to the USA and are near a VA hospital get yourself registered, all you need is your ID card and they will find the rest in the computer. Who knows you may need assistance while in the USA and that VA Medical ID Card will cut the hassle so you can get treated.

Every Day is Veterans Day

John H. Miller PDC  
NEC



### **Vice Commander Jerry Aman**

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires, Comrades and fellow Americans.

First of all let me complement Department Commander James Settle and Post GR 79 for hosting and conducting an outstanding Convention. Everyone attending commented that it

was probably the best convention they had attended in quite some time. Participation was good, business was conducted in a smooth and professional manner and everyone had a good time. Plus it's hard to beat the Schönblick Hotel and Restaurant in Wüstenrot for friendly service, good food and very reasonable prices and I expect that in the future more conventions will be held there.

Everyone I spoke to felt certain that the Department was in good hands and "back on track." I personally was so convinced that we were going forward that I submitted my name as a candidate for one of the four Vice Commander (VC) positions. After the elections the VCAL assigned to me the following posts: GR 06, GR 13, GR 79 and GR 1982. If I have not already contacted your post you will be hearing

from me soon. I'm hoping that you include me, your VC, in your Post's events and meetings. I can't promise that I'll be able to respond to all of these occasions but I'll try. I think that the most important function of a VC is to stimulate the flow of information from the posts to the department, and vice versa. The department officers need to know how things are going at the post level and the posts want to know who is, and what is, the department doing for them. We can only provide this information if we stay in contact and get together.

Of course during the DEC's and convention membership was discussed frequently. I personally became aware of the importance of maintaining the American Legion's membership when I had the opportunity to meet with the National Commander during the National Commander's ball on 31 May in Heilbronn. During his speech Commander Koutz emphasized the importance of the American Legion's "numbers" by stating that when he comes to Washington people listen to him because he has a 2.4 million member lobby behind him. Department of France is presently at 98.075% of its 2013 membership goal and 25th of the 55 districts. What with troop drawdowns in Europe it's getting harder to find new members but they're out there so let's go find them!



### **Vice Commander Stephen A. Ward**

Greetings, Commanders & Legionnaires,

As the Department of France Vice Commander, I have been assigned the following Posts: Riley Leroy Pitts Post GR07, Thomas W. Barnett GR14, John F. Kennedy Post IR63 Facebook site: [www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionIRL](http://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionIRL) NOTE: Michael Coyne tells his story on the Post IR63 Facebook his service in the American military Vietnam. George S. Patton Post GR45, Rotterdam Post NL01, and Portugal (Nunv Alvares Pereira Post PO-01. The Portugal Post submits their Post Newsletters to the FODPAL site. 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 FODPAL site listed below the

Legion Homepage. FODPAL (Foreign and Outlying Departments and Posts of The American Legion) is asking for traveling tips in Germany and other Countries, special programs and events from the Department and Post, and face book sites.

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The Department of France Newsletters is posted on the FODPAL website. Click Newsletters. Also, listed in the FODPAL Newsletter site is Post IR63 and Portugal Post PO01.

The next Leroy Riley Pitts Post GR07 Post meeting is: 2 July 13/6:30 P.M. NOTE: Post GR07 has moved to Coleman Barracks (Mannheim) was the German Kantine Building next door to the AFN Headquarters building. The next TWB Post 14 meeting is: 10 July 13/7 P.M. (Büdingen) at the Gastatte Schroth (Buedingen Orleshausen). TWB Post 14 is planning to have their 4th of July party (6th of July) at the Post Finance Officer home, please contact Carl Hackworth. His email address: [carl@hacksworth.de](mailto:carl@hacksworth.de) If your Post has Americans Reports, please send to Carl Hackworth. Planning to visit Vilseck (George S. Patton Post GR45) this coming 5th, 6th, and 7th of July. Also, planning to visit Portugal Post PO01 between Jan. – March 2014. The John Barry Maritime Festival and Ceremonies (Wesford, Ireland) June 21 – 23, 2013. Post IR63 had their spring meeting (Wexford) June 24, celebrate American Independence Day (4 July), and National Day of Commemoration ceremonies at Royal Hospital Kilmainham (July 14).

I stress the importance of membership in the Posts, Department, and the National Organization. Membership is our Voice on Capitol Hill. As of 26 April 13, Riley Leroy Pitts Post GR07 at 100% (71) members, Thomas W. Barnett GR14 107% (60) members, John F. Kennedy Post IR-63 at 64.00% (55) members, George S. Patton Post GR45 at 0.10% (3) members, Rotterdam Post NL01 at 100% (3) members, and Portugal Post PO01 at 88.23% (15) members. It's a new Recruiting Year; please send your Transmittal 14-01 to the Department Membership Chairman as soon as possible. I encourage the Posts to transmit each month to the Department Membership Chairman (Joe Dan Brown).

The National Commander program this year is Operation Comfort Warrior. The National Commander (James Koutz) asks the Posts to be active with the program (Operation Comfort Warriors). It's posted in the National website: [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) Posts and individual members can donate to this program. The Posts are asked to have collection cans for this program and the monies sent to NEC Miller. Post Consolidated Report is sent to the Department Adjutant (Rice) after the Post Elections but due to National NLT 1 July 2013. Hand copy of the Post Consolidated Report to the Department Adjutant, but the Post can use the online form to National [www.mylegion.org](http://www.mylegion.org) The Department of France website is being updated by Cale Hale. Please contact him, if you have any questions. If your Post has Facebook, please contact the Department Webmaster Carl Hale.

Attended the National Commander Visit at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center Wounded Warriors Center (USO) 1 June 13. Post GR01 members provided the food at the LRMW Wounded Warriors Center (USO). I haven't received any information about the AFN (Kaiserslautern) interviews with the National Commander (James Koutz) and National Auxiliary President (Peggy Thomas) as of this date but will notify the Department when it becomes available.

Many thanks to John Wayne Post 79 for hosting the Department of France Convention (13 – 15 June 13) location: Hotel Restaurant Café Schonblick Kretschmerstrasse 1 71543 Wustenrot The VFW Department of Europe Convention was held at the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort (14 – 16 June 2013) Garmisch, Germany.

Commanders & Fellow Legionnaires, many thanks for what you do for your Posts and the communities you serve.

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**FINANCE OFFICER Gary Miller**

To all Posts,  
I need to know if your post has a American Bank account and what German address to send correspondence to. If you do not have an American bank account, who should I make a check out to and their German mailing address. If you already replied to the Finance officer, you can disregard this request.

Gary Miller  
Finance Officer  
Department of France



**“Update from the Paris Post #1 Commander” By Carl W. Hale, [crhl@hotmail.com](mailto:crhl@hotmail.com) ,  
[www.Facebook.com/ParisPost1](http://www.Facebook.com/ParisPost1)**

In addition to being the Commander of The American Legion, Department of France, Paris Post #1, I am also serving our youth in the Boy Scouts of America, Transatlantic Council (TAC), Charlemagne District. When the newly elected Department Commander James Settle asked if I would accept an appointed position, which matches my other volunteer service hours within the Boy Scouts, I naturally hesitated and then agreed.

On Monday, June 24, 2013, I announced my new Legion position on the TAC Facebook page, “TAC Nation”, as follows:

“I’ve just agreed to serve as the Scouting Director for The American Legion, Department of France (my other volunteer hours go to the Legion as Commander of the Paris Post #1). If there is an American Legion Post near your Boy Scout Troop there may be an opportunity to partner the two groups of active volunteers. See the National Legion website for more details about The American Legion support of Scouting. If you’re interested in the Legion programs (like the Eagle Scout Scholarship, etc) then send me a message. Thank you. Carl Hale <http://www.legion.org/scouting>”

The TAC Nation Facebook page has 755 members as a private group. As a Registered Scout Adult Leader I am one of those 755. Let me know if your Post has Scouting news which needs to reach the Transatlantic Council.

So now I’ll also become a regular contributor to the Department Newsletter. I’ll discuss Legion Scouting and Scouting within Europe while also touching on the other areas where I help within our team of volunteers.

If you don’t already know, I am also your contact for the Department Social Media Program. Hmmm, I like that title more than Department Webmaster. I would like to make a motion: “Change title from Department Webmaster to Department Social Media Program Manager.”

Any Discussion? Yes. You now have the opportunity to include your individual Legion Post meeting dates and event planning on the official Department website, [www.AmerLegionDeptFrance.org](http://www.AmerLegionDeptFrance.org)

We agreed as a Department Committee during the June Convention that I could create a special tab on the Department website for any Post who does not have their own website. This will enable all Posts to at least provide their meeting location, meeting dates and start times and even planned events at a central location which is the official Department of France website.

If your Post is interested just send me an email at [crhl@hotmail.com](mailto:crhl@hotmail.com) and communicate your ideas and requests. I’ll need some time to complete

the task but promise (like a good Scout) that I’ll do my best to help you be prepared to serve veterans within your community.

And if you also didn’t know, I created the official Department Facebook page at [www.Facebook.com/ALDeptFrance](http://www.Facebook.com/ALDeptFrance) . We can quickly update Facebook participants with Department event photos while they are happening. During the June Convention (during the breaks, not the meetings) I was posting photos of our newly elected officers, the horseshoe tournament and the banquet. As of June we have 60 persons who “LIKE” the Department Facebook site. Even if you do not use Facebook you surely know friends and family who do use it for social networking. I ask all Department of France members to please share our links with everyone they know who support the Legion values.

This is our opportunity to strengthen our support network through instant communications. Whether using a traditional website or using Facebook to reach people of similar interests the key word is “using”. We need to do this job together. The Legion, SAL and Auxiliary are all welcome to use our common entry points to the World Wide Web. Together as the Department of France Legion Family we can improve our communications to reach all members and possible new members.

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I include photos of a recent Boy Scout kayaking activity from our Brussels American School Troop 457. The Boys planned the activity that was supported logistically by three adult leaders (registered volunteers). We all had a great time. The Boys learned about working together and water safety...and they didn't even know they were learning!

Thank you. For God and Country. Commander Carl Hale, Paris Post #1



## **The American Legion Paris Post GR01**

American Cemetery - Normandy - D-day Ceremony June 6th 2013





**FOR GOD AND COUNTRY**  
**The American Legion Paris Post GR01**  
**OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER**

**American Independence Day**  
**Celebrated Thursday, July 4, 2013**

**10:00: Place the United States, Paris 16th Arrondissement Wreath laying ceremony at the Washington Monument Lafayette by the Commander of the American Legion Post Paris One. Walking to the monument of Admiral de Grasse.**

**1020: Wreath laying at the monument of Admiral de Grasse by the Ambassador of the United States, or his representative.**

**1030: Wreath laying at the Monument de Rochambeau by Madam Regent Chapter Rochambeau.**

**1230: Lunch at American Legion Paris Post One, Boulevard Diderot 24**

**1800: Gathering on the Place Charles de Gaulle Etoile Friedland at Pierhead. March to the Arc de Triomphe**

**1830: Wreath laying and rekindle the flame by Commander of The American Legion Paris Post One**

American Legion Paris Post One  
22-24 Boulevard Diderot 75012 Paris  
Tel : 0144747342 Contact : Jean-Marc Cresson : +33625265216  
E-mail: [american.legion@free.fr](mailto:american.legion@free.fr)

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**WORLD WAR TWO VETERANS WITH SERVICE IN FRANCE**

**Was your WWII service in France?**

**We're checking with all our American WWII veterans about the French medal authorization for WWII service. If you served in France and have not yet received the French medal then we would like you to consider allowing us (Paris Post #1) to submit your records with an application for the medal.**

**We would need a copy of your service record (today it's called a DD214) and a short biography of where/how you entered France and your battles.**

**IF WILLING, PLEASE SEND YOUR SERVICE BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO THE PARIS POST COMMANDER, CARL HALE, AT EMAIL ADDRESS: [DEPTFRANCE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DEPTFRANCE@GMAIL.COM) AND TO THE POST CHAPLAIN, CLAUDE DAHAN, [CLAUDEJD78@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:CLAUDEJD78@HOTMAIL.COM)**

*A great story from Paris Post GR01 members (Father WWII and Son) - recent D-Day ceremony visit. I will also soon forward the photos Mr. Burlingame shared...*

“Dear Fellow Members of Post 1 and Friends of the Legion.

I wanted to take this opportunity to recount our recent trip to France. My father (Robert Burlingame – WWII) was a member when we lived in France (1968-1977) but since then has let his membership lapse. We decided last year to do a boys trip to France to visit D-Day during the ceremony and visit some of the “endroits” of my halcyon youth.

Both my father and I joined back up with the Legion and embarked on our trip to France. We landed in Paris on June 2nd and headed to Honfleur via Lille (minor navigation error). For those living in France one can imagine the laugh the toll booth operator had as we got reoriented and jumped back on the A1.....

Honfleur remains picturesque. We stayed at a small hotel (Maison de Lucie) and began our “degustation de huitres” tour with some small Normand oysters while walking the cobblestone streets and admiring the art work. Honfleur empties in the evening and one can enjoy the stillness of the town.

Day 2 began with solid navigation to Mont Saint Michel. Our discovery of the onboard GPS system certainly helped us!!! We made record time across Normandy (tickets to follow in the mail as we got caught on film speeding) and arrived for our planned side trip to Cancale for their world famous oysters. A sunny day on the pier, several glasses of Loire rose, dozens of oysters, a good baguette and a seafood platter, the essence of France. We then marched on the Mont (a typical greve in France preventing any

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buses from helping 90 year old Americans get to Mont St. Michel) and spent a beautiful evening without tourists visiting the monastery and the Mont itself.

Day 3-6 – Bayeux and the Beaches!! The Americans have landed.... Normandy is amazing. It's one of the prettiest places in France and the people remain some of the friendliest on the continent. We visited Utah, Omaha, Juno, Sword, St. Marie-d'eglise, the landing zone for the 507th parachute regiment, multiple museums, the American Cemetery and the German cemetery. The highlight of the trip was the actual ceremony at the American Cemetery on June 6th. We sat with several Friends of the Legion (including M. Cresson) and watched as the nations of Europe remembered and honored the American fallen. Most importantly there were few veterans there as the toll of age and health has reduced the number who can make the journey. I worry that in 10 years the world will have forgotten the sacrifices made by that generation. At the ceremony Robert Burlingame (American Legion Post 1) and Mr. Charles Rivkin, the US Ambassador to France and Monaco spent some time discussing France and the changes my father was seeing since 1977.

Day 7 and 8... Can you believe my father had never been up the Eiffel Tower. Ten years in Paris as a child living within 1 mile of the Eiffel Tower and somehow he had escaped the long lines and crowds. In order to avoid these lines I had booked dinner at the Jules Vernes to finish our trip. Nothing like a 1 Star restaurant overlooking the city except an infiltration by the Burlingame family into the kitchen of the Jules Vernes to discuss, comment, critique and advise the culinary staff. We were able to spend time with the chef and several of the staff who were children of resistance fighters.

We're sorry we were not there for a meeting and I look forward to our next trip and potentially coordinating with some of the Legion members and friends to have a "petit degustation".

Best wishes from the home front. Martin"



**Detachment Commander**  
**Joshua J. Settle**



My fellow Comrades,

First my congratulations go out to all the newly elected SAL Detachment Officer's. As you know this year we had to elect a new NECMan and AltNECMan. Comrade Odom Sr. remains the detachment NECMan with Comrade Greaux the AltNECMan.

During the Convention we updated the budget. The proposed budget increases the NECMan travel from \$375 to \$400 dollars. Also donations to CWF, and Fisher House, increased from \$100 to \$200 dollars each.

NECMan Comrade John Odom Sr. and I will be attending the National Convention, in Houston Texas.

You have done an outstanding job, with membership this year. We are finishing out the Membership Year with 252 current and renewed members. Thanks to all

of you and the Detachment Membership Chairman, Comrade Brown. Let us strive to continue this with the upcoming 2014 Membership Year.

During the Department Convention I listen with interest as the Commander spoke of the Legion and the Department of France, and his goal of making the Department a solid Legion Family. We all know that due to the availability of members (most being in the States or elsewhere) it is hard for us to give the support needed. However I know most of the SAL Members here in the detachment are Dual Members, If all of you would do like some of the dual members do, also carry your SAL Cap to events, this would also show the SAL support to the post and department.

Those post desiring to start a squadron, please contact me or the detachment Adjutant and we will help you to get started. Attached to this Newsletter is FAQ sheet for SAL.

In closing I wish all of you a happy and safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Please keep those in harm's way and their families in your prayers.

Joshua J. Settle  
Detachment Commander

Phone: 07138-67359  
E-Mail: [josh.sal@hotmail.com](mailto:josh.sal@hotmail.com)



# American Legion Rhein Neckar Post GR-03 Annual BBQ Party



*Open to all Legionnaires, incl. spouses, girlfriends and children from any Legion Post and all of Department Of France*

*On Saturday 17 August 2013 @ 12:00*

*At CDRs Ed Sherman's Home @ Heidelberger Str. 9 69207 Sandhausen  
(Just south of Heidelberg) See strip map attached.*

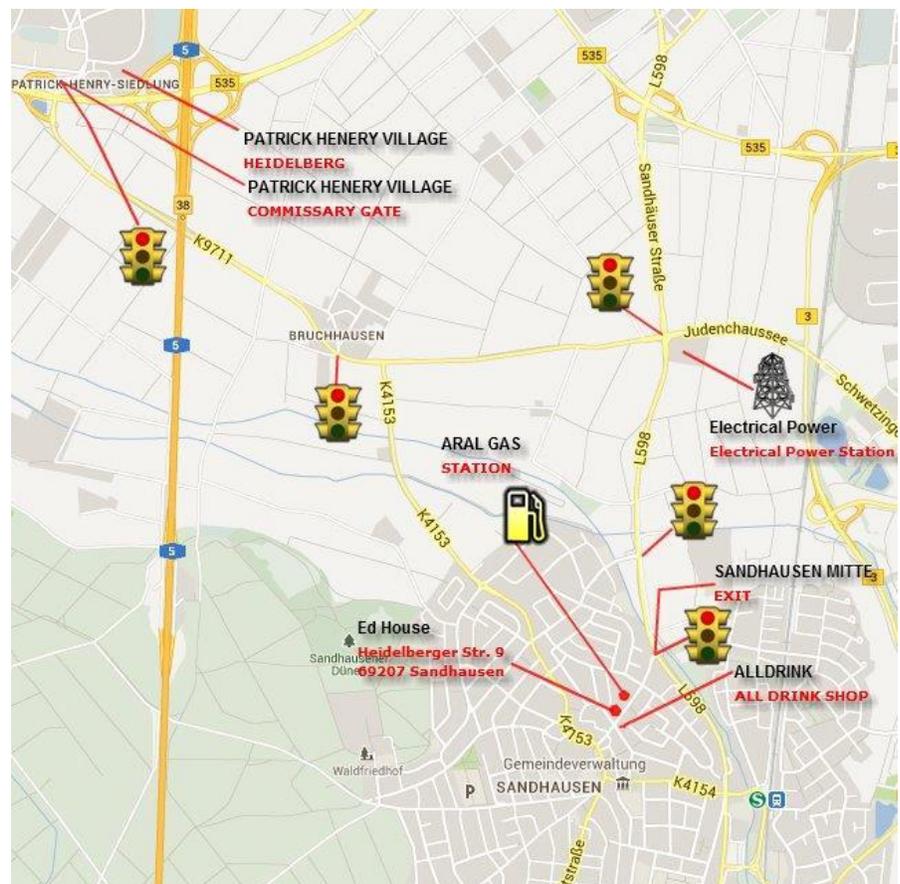
*Menu: hamburgers, hotdogs, baked beans, beer & soft drinks*

*Attendees are responsible for all the side dishes*

*RSVP: Ed Sherman [ed.sherman@t-online.de](mailto:ed.sherman@t-online.de) or call 0176-2385-9172 with  
number of people you are bringing and your side dish by 5 Aug 2013*

*Recommended Side Dishes: Potato Salad, Various Chips and Dips, Tossed Salad, Carrot  
Salad, Deviled Eggs etc.*

*Entertainment: Horse Shoes,  
Ping-Pong table and hot tub  
- bring your bathing suit/  
swim trunks with bath towel.*





## HOUSTON TEXAS

**Site of the 95<sup>th</sup> American Legion National Convention**

**August 23<sup>rd</sup> to August 29<sup>th</sup> 2013**



**If you are planning on attending the National Convention in Houston please e-mail me [dhaggan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dhaggan@sbcglobal.net) with the following information, the date you will arrive and depart, the person you are sharing a room with if any, and any special room request.**

**Cutoff for the reservation is 15 July 2013.**

**Hope to see you in Houston, a good time will be had by all.**



# 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*



## **Airfare discounts available for convention travel**

Legionnaires planning to attend the 2013 National Convention can take advantage of airfare price breaks through Delta, American and United airlines. The discounts are available from Aug. 19-30.

Those wanting to use the discounts can go directly through the airlines. Tickets should be purchased at least 30 days prior to traveling, and discounts vary depending on advance ticketing and booking class with the airlines. Service fees may also apply when making reservations with the airlines. There is typically a \$25 service fee that the airlines charge to make your reservations.

The contact numbers for each airline are:

<b>Delta Airlines</b>	<b>– (800) 328-1111</b>	<b>begin_of_the_skype_highlighting</b>	<b>(800) 328-1111</b>	<b>FREE end_of_the_skype_highlighting, File No. NMEX4</b>
<b>American Airlines</b>	<b>– (800) 433-1790</b>	<b>begin_of_the_skype_highlighting</b>	<b>(800) 433-1790</b>	<b>FREE end_of_the_skype_highlighting, Index No. 22408</b>
<b>United Airlines</b>	<b>– (800) 426-1122</b>	<b>begin_of_the_skype_highlighting</b>	<b>(800) 426-1122</b>	<b>FREE end_of_the_skype_highlighting, Agreement code 721185 and the Z code of ZNSN</b>



## 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*



### **Legion Family Night taking place at Astros game**

Minute Maid Park, the home of Major League Baseball's Houston Astros, will be the site of American Legion Family Night Aug. 23 during the upcoming national convention in Houston. American Legion National Commander James E. Koutz will throw out the first pitch of the Astros' game against Toronto Blue Jays. The action begins at 7:10 p.m. Discounted tickets to the game are available online.

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### **I NEED PICTURES...I NEED HISTORY**

I have a BIG problem; I have run out of pictures to post on The Department of France Website. I know there are Legionnaires in the Department that have pictures that need to be posted on the Website. We NEED to preserve this part of our Department History.

If you have pictures for me, send me an e-mail, I will send you a link to a photo sharing program called "DROPBOX", when you get it go to "get started" and it will tell you step by step on how to use it. It is a program that National uses and it works great when you want to send a large amount of pictures. It's easy to use, I have

setup a folder called The Department of France, just create a file drag it into the Department folder; send me an e-mail with a short story plus date, the function, and location. I will pull it out of Dropbox and post it on the Website, it's that easy.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at [dhaggan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dhaggan@sbcglobal.net)

If you have a couple of minutes login into The Department Website and checkout the Photo Gallery.

### **LET'S PRESERVE OUR DEPARTMENT HISTORY FOR THE FUTURE**



## Department President

Isolde E. Settle



Fellow Auxiliary Members and Legionnaires

CONGRATULATIONS to the newly elected Officers of The Auxiliary Department of France. I am positive we will have a tremendous year. I was pleasantly surprised during our Convention this year; we had a quorum for the entire convention.

During the Dinner Ball of the American Legion I spoke on our role to assist the post in their events, and the need to communicate with each other better to accomplish this. We need to take a closer look at ourselves and improve our involvement supporting the Legion with their events and efforts in supporting our past, present and future veterans and their families. If we all pull together we can accomplish this and much more.

I encourage those posts that have an Auxiliary Unit to involve them in their events, and work together to help not only each other, but our Veterans and their families. To those post that wish to have a Unit, to help support you, then please contact the department, we can assist you in getting started. I have attached a FAQ sheet to this Newsletter for your Convenience.

Our National Convention begins on the 23rd of August in Huston Texas and ends on the 29th of August 2013. At every annual American Legion Auxiliary national convention, delegates elect the women who will lead the organization's national offices of president, vice president, division national vice presidents, chaplain and historian. Please visit <http://alaforveterans.org/national-candidates/> to learn about the Auxiliary National Candidates.

In closing I wish all of you a very happy and safe 4th of July Celebration. Please keep those in harm's way and their families, in your prayers.

Isolde E. Settle  
Department President

PHONE: 07138-67359  
E-Mail: [isoldesettle@hotmail.com](mailto:isoldesettle@hotmail.com)



## *American Legion Auxiliary Questions and Answers*

### **1. What is the Auxiliary's primary purpose?**

Auxiliary members believe in the ideals and principles of America's founding fathers and pledge to foster patriotism, preserve and defend the Constitution, promote allegiance to God and Country and to uphold the basic principles of freedom of religion, freedom of expression and freedom of choice. Auxiliary programs were created to provide assistance, education and financial support for veterans and their families, and in the community, the organization focuses on helping to create a better society, particularly for the nation's citizens of the future, our children and young people.

### **2. What are some of the Auxiliary's major programs and activities?**

(See American Legion Auxiliary Programs sheet)

### **3. What is the relationship between The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary?**

The Legion family includes The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion. Local Auxiliary Units are usually, but not always, affiliated with an American Legion Post through volunteer service and fundraising activities. Most programs complement The American Legion programs. The Auxiliary has expanded some of its programs and initiated others to meet the special needs of women and their families.

#### **4. What is the difference between the Auxiliary and other veterans organizations?**

The American Legion Auxiliary is the largest women's patriotic service organization in the world. Affiliated with The American Legion, the Auxiliary is a women's veterans' service organization with volunteer representation in all 171 VAMedical Centers. Nearly 1 million Auxiliary members in nearly 10,000 American communities provide a rich and varied resource pool of ability, talent and leadership experience.

#### **5. Who can join the Auxiliary?**

Membership is open to female veterans and to the wives, sisters, daughters, granddaughters or great-granddaughters of Legionnaires or deceased veterans who served in the Armed Forces during World Wars I and II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Grenada, Panama, and/or Lebanon conflicts, and the Persian Gulf War. Step-relatives are also eligible. Descendants of veterans (great-granddaughters, etc.) are often presented with Junior memberships at birth or during childhood through the generosity of an older relative and Auxiliary member. Many of these young women continue their membership as Senior members after they reach age 18.

#### **6. What do Auxiliary members have in common?**

Auxiliary members are women of all ages, from all walks of life. They are service-oriented and have a variety of outside interests, activities and lifestyles. They are active in their communities. Auxiliary members share a deep and abiding concern for their fellowman, great compassion for those in need and a sense of personal responsibility and commitment to God, country and community. Auxiliary members are patriots in every sense of the word. Patriotism is not mandated through legislation or instilled by force. It is a chosen characteristic of an individual. A member's primary goal is to serve our veterans, to safeguard and nurture our nation's children and to educate all citizens, young and old, about the benefits, privileges and responsibilities of American citizenship.

#### **7. What are the advantages of Auxiliary membership?**

The Auxiliary is a highly visible, remarkable organization, with more than 80 proud years of service to veterans and the nation's communities. In addition to the personal gratification and rewards gained in voluntary service, there are many tangible benefits for members of the Auxiliary. Members receive a complimentary subscription to the Auxiliary's bimonthly publication, National News, special MasterCard and money-market investment plans, free travel and accident insurance, low-cost life and health insurance coverage, and discounts on interstate moves, eye-glasses, hearing aids, prescriptions and rental cars. Auxiliary members who fin at types of membership are available? Membership applications can be obtained from local Units, Department offices or National

Headquarters in Indianapolis. Members can renew their membership each year or purchase a lifetime membership called "VIM" (Very Important Member). Some Units confer Honorary "Life Memberships" to outstanding members. Members wear special Honor Guard pins denoting continuous membership for a period of 5 to 75 years. Many women veterans are members of both The American Legion and the Auxiliary.

#### **8. What types of membership are available?**

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#### **9. Where will new members come from?**

One day a lasting peace may eliminate the need for veterans organizations like the Auxiliary. Until then, the Auxiliary continues the battle against poverty, ignorance and numerous social problems in our communities and the nation. There will always be the need for new Auxiliary volunteers who are willing to help with the important volunteer work needed. The Auxiliary seeks every opportunity to attract new members and to tell the nation about the valuable community service work of the organization.

#### **10. What kinds of services does the Auxiliary provide for homeless veterans?**

Auxiliary volunteers across the nation will offer their support to homeless veterans in a variety of ways, depending on the preferences of individual Units and the needs of particular communities. Many local Units work closely with other organizations in their community, dedicated to helping the homeless. Individuals and entire Units may volunteer time and/or financial support to local

*Continued from page 15.*

shelters and coordinate or participate in food or clothing drives. Units may serve as a referral service to the homeless veteran as well, offering individuals in need the names and telephone numbers of local, available resources in their communities.

#### **11. What is teen court and how does it work?**

Teen Court is a cooperative, volunteer community program which provides an alternative to the formal process of trial and sentencing for young offenders. Young, mostly first-time offenders, aged 10 through high school, who have committed certain misdemeanor crimes (Class C and B only) such as traffic tickets, shoplifting, truancy, drinking, drugs, assault and others, agree to meet with local authorities and parents. There, they agree to take responsibility for their own actions and to voluntarily accept a sentence from a jury of their peers. The sentence is a contract to serve a suitable amount of time in volunteer or community service or to make some kind of appropriate restitution for their offense. Upon completion of the sentence, the referring agency dismisses charges against the youth. The young person takes an active role in clearing their record and learns that breaking the law is unacceptable. Many young people return to the program as volunteers themselves or enter law enforcement. Auxiliary Units across the nation are working to initiate this type of program by contacting and meeting with local agencies and working cooperatively wherever there is a need.

#### **12. What is the Citizens Flag Alliance?**

The Citizens Flag Alliance is an apolitical, non-partisan confederation of organizations and individuals who wish to protect the United States flag from public physical desecration. Stressing education along with rallying public support, the Citizens Flag Alliance goal is to pass a Constitutional amendment, making it illegal to publicly desecrate the flag. The American Legion Auxiliary joined this effort in 1994 due to its belief that the flag is unique among our national symbols, deserving proper respect, care and protection.

#### **13. How does the Auxiliary support American servicemen and women during overseas deployment?**

When thousands of men and women on active duty and in the reserves are called to overseas ventures, many service families need help to cope with the emotional and financial burdens caused by the sudden separation and disruption to their lives. The American Legion and Auxiliary pledge their "mutual helpfulness" to support the families of American servicemen and women while they serve overseas through the Family Support Network, a national emergency assistance program, in which military families call a toll-free number manned by Auxiliary and Legion members with requests for help.

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 18, 2013**

New Technology in Place for Electronic Submission of Veterans' Disability Claims  
Capability Marks Major Milestone in VA Transformation to Digital Claims Process

WASHINGTON – A new online application from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) enables disability compensation claims to be processed faster in a more end-to-end electronic environment, and VA is urging Veterans and their Veterans Service Organization (VSO) representatives to make full use of its capabilities to receive speedier decisions and reduce the backlog of claims.

The availability of the joint VA-Department of Defense Web portal eBenefits, which now integrates with the new internal Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) electronic claims processing system, marks a major milestone in VA's transformation from paper claims records to a fully digital operating environment, one of the keys to VA's goal to eliminate the disability claims backlog by the end of 2015. VBMS has now been fielded at all 56 Regional Offices across the country, ahead of schedule. VA will continue to upgrade and improve VBMS based on user feedback, and add features and tools that make it faster and easier to process claims. Instead of filling out and mailing paper forms to VA, Veterans can now use eBenefits to enter claim information online using a step-by-step, interview-style application, with pre-populated data fields and drop-down menus similar to popular tax preparation software.

"There are so many advantages to making this move from paper to digital – for both Veterans and VA" said Under Secretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey. "Veterans can now file their claims online through eBenefits like they might do their taxes online."

*Continued from page 16.*

By filing electronically, any compensation benefits that are awarded will be effective back to the date the Veteran started entering their claim information in eBenefits. From that initial claim establishment date, each Veteran has up to a year to gather all necessary records and hit “submit” to preserve their original date of claim.

eBenefits allows Veterans to upload digital images of records and evidence to support their claims, bypassing the need to physically mail in personal records and wait for confirmation of receipt. VA is advising Veterans to gather and submit all relevant medical records and file a Fully Developed Claim (FDC) in eBenefits, which entails entering all available evidence at the time the claim is submitted and verifying to VA that they have no more evidence to submit. Veterans filing an FDC will receive priority processing over the traditional claims process. VA can typically process FDCs in half the time it takes for a traditionally filed claim, and there is no risk to Veterans in filing an FDC. If VA finds that there is a piece of relevant evidence that was not submitted by the Veteran, but is needed for a rating decision (like private medical records), claims processors will work to obtain that evidence on the Veteran’s behalf and process the claim in the traditional way.

Once logged into eBenefits, Veterans can also choose to have an accredited VSO representative assist with their claim submission by filing an electronic power of attorney form. Using this new system, the chosen VSO representative, with proper authorization, will be able to see the contents of a Veteran’s claim, track its status, and add additional information when needed. A Veteran and his or her representative can even work a claim simultaneously while both are logged into the system, enabling VSOs to assist more Veterans in their homes or even remotely.

VA will still accept claims in paper form, though processing may take longer than for an electronically-submitted claim. As of this summer, VA scans all new paper claims and uploads them into VBMS so they too can be processed electronically, though without many of the benefits provided when Veterans initiate the process in eBenefits such as guided questions that help ensure complete and accurate information and the immediate receipt of information without having to wait for the scanning and processing of paper documents. In addition to filing claims online, registered eBenefits users can track their claim status and access information on a variety of other benefits, like pension, education, health care, home loan eligibility, and vocational rehabilitation and employment programs.

A free Premium eBenefits account is required to file claims electronically. The quickest and most convenient method of establishing a free premium eBenefits account is to complete the remote verification process through the eBenefits home page, or use DoD’s common access card (CAC) to register for and/or upgrade to a free premium

account. Veterans can also establish an account by telephone at 1-800-827-1000, option 7, if they are in receipt of VA benefits via direct deposit, or by visiting a VA regional office or TRICARE Service Center (if they are a military retiree). For the location of the nearest VA regional office, visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) and search the VA regional benefits office locator.

While compensation claims are pending, eligible Veterans are able to receive healthcare and other benefits from VA. Veterans who have served in recent conflicts are eligible for 5 years of free healthcare from VA. Currently, over 55% of returning Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans are using VA healthcare, a rate of utilization greater than previous generations of Veterans.

This is the latest effort in support of the Secretary’s plan to eliminate the backlog. On May 15, VA announced that it is mandating overtime for claims processors in its 56 regional benefits offices through the end of fiscal year 2013 to help eliminate the backlog, with continued emphasis on high-priority claims for homeless Veterans, those claiming financial hardship, the terminally ill, former Prisoners of War, Medal of Honor recipients, and Veterans filing Fully Developed Claims.

In April, VA announced an initiative to expedite compensation claims decisions for Veterans who have waited one year or longer. On April 19, VA began prioritizing claims decisions for Veterans who have been waiting the longest by providing decisions based on evidence currently in hand that allow eligible Veterans to begin collecting compensation benefits quickly while waiting for their final eligibility decision.

*Continued from page 17.*

For more information about VA benefits, go to <http://www.benefits.va.gov>. For more information on VA's Transformation, go to <http://benefits.va.gov/transformation>.

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President Obama on Monday signed into law the latest version of the Stolen Valor Act, which makes it a federal crime for people to pass themselves off as war heroes by wearing medals they didn't rightfully earn. The legislation passed both houses of Congress with overwhelming majorities.

An earlier version, passed in 2005, was struck down in June 2012 when the Supreme Court ruled that lying about military heroics was constitutionally protected speech unless there was intent to gain some benefit or something of value by fraud. The law signed Monday at the White House includes such a provision, making it illegal to make the claims with the intent to obtain money, property or other tangible benefits.

Veterans organizations were quick to applaud Congress and the President for acting quickly on the amended version of the law.

"I think this was necessary because people were using it to receive the benefits of decorations of valor, and they were getting monetary benefit from it," said John Stovall, director of national security and foreign relations for The American Legion. "That's why we

supported the amended version, not to infringe on anyone's First Amendment rights but to protect the reputation and meaning of the decorations."

The 2005 law made its way to the Supreme Court after a California man challenged his conviction and \$5,000 fine for unlawfully claiming to be a Medal of Honor recipient. The court declared the law unconstitutional unless the fabricator intended to get something of value by making the claims.

William "Bill" Hillar of Maryland spent years claiming to have been a Special Forces soldier with expertise in human trafficking and counter-terrorism. Colleges and universities paid him to teach classes, and law enforcement organizations paid to hear his presentations. But the charge that got Hillar sentenced to 21 months in federal prison was wire fraud, not the 2005 Stolen Valor Act. Among Hillar's claims was that he went on a one-man search for a daughter kidnapped and sold into slavery; the story was the basis for the Liam Neeson film "Taken."

He was arrested finally in Jan. 2011 after his scam was exposed by veterans through the website ProfessionalSoldiers.com. The Stolen Valor Act of 2013 was introduced into the House by Rep. Joe Heck, R-Nev., who has said the awards, like the men and women who earned them, are worthy of respect.

Other lawmakers shared Heck's sentiment. "I'm very happy the President signed the Stolen Valor Act," said Rep. Paul Cook, R-Calif., a retired Marine colonel. "The new law ensures that we protect and honor veterans and the sacrifices they've made. When people make false claims of military rank and heroism, it does a tremendous disservice not only to our vets, but to the public."



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**“A SAFE AND HAPPY 4TH OF JULY 2013”**

**TO ALL OUR MEMBERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS!**

# David Chavez, GR POST 1982

Box J, APO AE 09250  
0160-667-8508

Estus Smith, Adjutant      Chris Buchanan, Commander

Check us out on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionPost1982](http://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionPost1982)  
Post meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at the post home at 6:00 p.m.  
All members are invited to attend.

The Post home is located in the basement of the Katterbach Dining Facility.  
Please enter on the side of the dining facility next to Burger King.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUL 4 <sup>th</sup>	Fundraiser, Ball Toss Set Up 1230 Hanger 2 Katterbach
JUL 4 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> of July Celebration 1600-2300 Hanger 2 Katterbach
JUL 9 <sup>th</sup>	Post Meeting, Post Home 1800
JUL 13 <sup>th</sup>	German Children tour Illesheim
AUG 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Fishing Event and BBQ 0800 Soldiers' Lake

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

June was a month of learning for Ken Aungst, 2VC and I. We attended the Department of France Convention in Wustenrot. At the convention new officers were elected at the department level, awards were given out to top posts and individuals in different categories and 4 resolutions were voted on and all around good time comradeship building took place. We met Legion members from France, Belgium, Ireland, India and all over Germany.

I believe our post is one of the best and we need to have a strong showing in the awards next year. If you would like to help out on the awards committee let me or Estus Smith know.

There are two areas we should think about starting in Ansbach. An area of the American Legion that is growing is the American Legion Auxiliary. Ken is working on the specifics of how to start an Auxiliary in Ansbach. The Auxiliary is made up of the wives and daughters of our members. Also Sons of the American Legion is there for our sons to join. These two areas would turn our post into a family affair. I am looking for feedback on this. Let me know your thoughts.

We raised \$162.00 for Operation Comfort Warrior (OCW) at our last meeting. This money will go to helping Wounded Warriors and is exactly the kind of stuff I like seeing us support. Thank you to all who donated.

I will not be at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration or the meeting this month due to 3 deaths in my family.

## WELCOME and FAREWELL

This month we want to say Farewell to 12<sup>th</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade Commander, Col Vorhees and the Franconia Community Commander Col Lawler. Good luck in your future endeavors and thank you for all your support.

A welcome goes out to Kristopher DeRocker, a Specialist in the Army Reserve who is in the process of moving to Katterbach.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration should be a blast. Katterbach Hanger 2 is the place to be. Support the Post and the family readiness groups of the 12<sup>th</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade. Also on the 13 of July we are serving ice cream to some handicapped German Children while they tour Storck Barracks in Illesheim. See Ken Aungst if you would like to help out.

## Membership

The 2014 membership has started. Let's renew, recruit new members and make 2014 the highest membership year ever for our post. We finished 2013 with 101 members, a 109% growth from 2012. Our Post mission this year is 115 members.

We will be discussing a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) discounted rate at our next meeting. This is a way for you to become a life member and not have to worry about renewing every year.