



# The American Legion Flanders Field Post BE02

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Summer is now more than half gone and I am hoping that everyone has been enjoying the time. June was a very eventful month with the National Commander's visit and the Department of France's convention. I want to thank the members who come out to help with these events.

Since the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, the Post has started its 2017 membership campaign. Our goal is to reach 100% (105 members) by 01 December. It is my goal to recruit another 45 members to reach at membership of 150. 1st Vice Commander Paul Haney has taken the lead this year to obtain these goals. His first endeavor was an Information Table at the AAFES PX on Saturday, 02 July. He was able to recruit one new member and renew two members. We must remember that membership is our lifeblood and everyone is a recruiter. If you know of anyone interested in the American Legion, provide them with an application.

At this time, we have had 29 members renew their membership. Our next membership awareness event will be at the AAFES PX on Saturday, 06 August. If you have the time, please come out and support us.

Membership is not our only endeavor. We strive to support a Post Level Oratorical Contest, Boys State/Girls State, an Adopt-a-Grave program, A Venture Crew, an Orphanage Christmas Party as well as many smaller functions and ceremonies. If you have the time and opportunity, please come out and help.

I look forward to seeing everyone again after the summer months. Our next meeting will be on Saturday, 27 August at the USAG Brussels compound starting at 10:30.



### AMERICAN LEGION "FLANDERS FIELD" POST BE02

#### POST BE02 OFFICERS

Commander: Joseph Schram  
[flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com](mailto:flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com)

1st Vice Commander: Paul Haney

2nd Vice Commander: Thomas Buckner

Judge Advocate: Jeremy Clark

Historian: Mike Gonzales

Finance Officer: Laura Buckner

Chaplain: Joshua Alo

Post Service Officer: Joseph Schram

Sergeant-at-Arms: Anthony Nasuti

#### LEGION RIDERS

President: Paul Dunn

#### LEGION AUXILIARY

President: Morgan Buckner

#### SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Commander: Paul Vande Walle

Vice Commander: Carl Hale

#### FLANDERS FIELD AMERICAN CEMETERY

Superintendent: Christopher Arseneault

## ***Paul Haney: 1st Vice Commander***

Hello everyone. I'd like to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Paul Haney and I am the new 1st Vice Commander for the Flanders Field Post BE02. I've been in Belgium for two years and work at SHAPE. Part of my duties and responsibilities is membership which includes holding membership drives to attract new members as well as membership retention. which leads me to the reason I am contacting you. Yep...it's that time of year again. It's time to renew your membership. I have all of your membership cards and need to get with each of you so I can pass them along. If you don't mind, please respond with an email and let me know the most convenient time that we can get together. My normal work day is 1400 until 2200 hrs. Monday through Friday with weekends off.

## ***American Legion / USO Dance***

The American Legion and the USO will be hosting a dance with 1940's music on Saturday evening, 10 September from 2100-2300 at the Pracht Hof in Borlo, Belgium. Entrance to the dance is free to everyone. All members are encouraged to attend. We will be asking for donations to help the European USO.

During the afternoon of Saturday, 10 September, there will be an reenactment of the battle between the Germans and Americans as was fought during the liberation of Borlo in September, 1944.

On Sunday morning, the city of Borlo will host its annual liberation ceremony at the Pracht Hof. Post BE02 representatives will participate in the ceremony by laying a wreath. All members are welcome to join us in this ceremony.



*The American Legion &  
The USO*

*Proudly Present  
An evening Dance With  
Music from the 1940s*



**Pachthof, Borlo**  
**Free Entrance**  
**10 September**  
**2100-2300**

**For more information contact us at:**  
**+32 0479 17 85 39 or**  
**[Flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com](mailto:Flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com)**

# National Commander Visit to Belgium , 01-04 June



COL Vannater & COL Flemming

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AT SHAPE HS

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Command Briefing at SHAPE

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AFN Interview at SHAPE

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With Milena Kolarikova & Chris Lock

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Laying Wreaths at the Luxembourg American Cemetery

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Luncheon at SHAPE Club

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With Comrade Mike Walraf



Joseph Barnett reads 'In Flanders Field'

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At the Bastogne Memorial Day Ceremony

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Flanders Field American Cemetery

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With Comrade Chris Arseneault at the FFAC

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2nd Annual  
**Adopter Appreciation Day,**  
**Saturday, 17 September**

*Adopters, families and friends*

*Everyone Welcome*

*From 11:00 to 17:00*

*OC Nieuwenhove,  
Kerkhofstraat 30, 8790  
Waregem*

**Program**

**11:00 Adopter Appreciation Ceremony at Flanders Field American Cemetery**

**12:30 Reception for all Adopters and Invitees at the**

**OC Nieuwenhove, Kerkhofstraat 30, 8790 Waregem**

- Menu: Ham and Fries plate

- (€15,00—Reserve and pay by 9 September 2016)

**Research exhibits by adopters and demonstrations provided by  
Venture Crew 511**

**Information: E-mail: [adoptappreciationday@gmail.com](mailto:adoptappreciationday@gmail.com)**

**Facebook: Adopters Appreciation Day**



# Adopter Appreciation Day

We will be conducting our 2nd annual adopter appreciation day event on Saturday, 17 September. The official ceremony will start at 11:00 at the Flanders Fields American Cemetery followed by a catered lunch at the OC Niewenhove in Waregem.

This is a special event that supports our relationship with the Belgian community. This event is to thank our Belgian adopters for their efforts in remembering our fallen American Heroes. The event is open to everyone .

To properly conduct this event, we need help from our membership with various tasks during the day. **We need at least 10 members to help.** If you can support this event, please let us know as soon as possible.

## BOYS STATE / GIRLS STATE

"Girls State has taught me so much about the American government that I did not know before. I have learned a lot, made some amazing friends, grown confidence in my public speaking skills, and overall had an amazing week. I would also love to thank everyone in charge who made it possible for me to attend this incredible program" stated Josie Whitaker, a Senior at the SHAPE American High School. Shamus Phelan and Andrew Morrison also from the SHAPE American High School completed a week long Boys State Program at McDaniel College, Westminster, Maryland while Josie Whitaker attended the Girls State program at Salisbury University, Maryland.

Boys state was a great experience where you get to meet new people, learn about government, and learn about yourself. You will gain discipline and an understanding of others. Five stars. (Andrew Morrison)

I enjoyed Boys State very much. The motto for the Maryland Boys State program was "A Week That Shapes a Lifetime" and it certainly lived up to its name. It offered a very hands on approach to American political procedures and even offered a political simulation that allowed us to run and participate in various offices at the state level. I personally ran and was elected to the positions of State Senator, City Councilman, and Federalist Party Chairman. I learned a great deal from the experience, which included guest speakers and even prestigious members of the Maryland House of Delegates. (Shamus Phelan)



## *Hail & Farewells: Summer*

Each year will learn that members of the Post move to new locations. This may be because of reassignments or inkling to return back to the USA. Whatever the motive, please let us know of your pending move.

### **Hails:**

#### **New Members:**

Steven Andrews

### **Farewells:**

John Jackson

## *New Membership Year for 2017*

July begins the new membership campaign for year for 2016. I would be honored if you would renew with our Post here in Belgium. With your help, we can continue to represent and assist our veterans, service members, their families and the community through our many projects and programs.

Your membership actually expires on December 31st of the paid year shown on your card. It can be a little confusing sometimes because your annual dues are supposed to be paid by January 1st each year so National starts accepting dues for the upcoming year on July 1st. The goal is to have everyone renewed for the new year by January 1st, when the year begins.

The easiest way to renew your membership is online. Follow the directions on the following webpage: <http://www.legion.org/renew>.

A second way to renew is to deposit the \$35 into the American Legion Post BE02's account with Andrews Federal Credit Union. If you choose to this method, make sure you include a comment with your name.

Another means to renew as well as join is to visit our information table during at our membership information table on 06 August at the AAFES PX on Chierves Airbase.

You can also send a check of \$35 to the following address:

American Legion  
Unit 28100, Box 017  
APO AE 09714

I look forward to hearing from you and welcoming you to the American Legion Post BE02.

Help "Make a Difference" in our communities.

# ***Paid Up For Life (PUFL)***

Current members may now enroll in the Paid Up For Life program online or can print a personalized application and mail in their payment. Pay in full or choose 12 monthly installments.

- No more renewal notices. No more paying annual dues.
- No more worrying, "Did I renew my membership or not?"
- Join the other 180,000 PUFL Legionnaires in saying, "I believe in The American Legion and what it's doing. I'm in this for the long haul."
- Avoid future dues increases. No matter what inflation does, you never have to pay another penny in dues.
- Lifetime subscription to The American Legion Magazine!

Each Paid Up For Life member receives a permanent plastic card, as well as an annual paper card to verify continuing membership in The American Legion. The annual card is mailed in July of each year.

To get your Paid Up For Life membership now:

<http://www.legion.org/join/pufl>

## ***UNIFORM CAP***

The official uniform for the American Legion is the uniform cap.

To order your American Legion Official Cap, please follow the directions below.

[http://emblem.legion.org/uniform\\_caps/legion.asp](http://emblem.legion.org/uniform_caps/legion.asp)

Step 1: Please select your Department: **France**

Step 2: Please select your style: **State**

Please select your lining: **unlined**

Step 3: Please select your crown: **Regular** or **Fort Knox** (your choice)

Step 4: Please select your cap size: \_\_\_\_\_

Step 5: Left-side lettering: **FRANCE**

Step 6: Please enter your post number: **BE02**

Step 7: Check here if you want to add right-side lettering: **FLANDERS FIELD** (*this is optional and your choice*)

# Upcoming Events &

## **SHAPE Fest: 3-5 September**

On the weekend of 2-4 September, the Flanders Field Post BEO2 will be at SHAPE fest with an American Legion Information Table. Our goal is to provide information about the American Legion and its programs. We can use help to man the tables

## **American Legion / USO Dance: 10 September**

We need help with a variety of tasks during the course of the dance. Let us know if you can attend or help with this event.

## **Adopter Appreciation Day: 17 September**

The Adopt-a-Grave program's Adopter Appreciation Day is one of our biggest events of the year. Last year's event was a success however we were short of help. At this year's event we need a least 10 members to help with the activities.

## **Trunk or Treat: Brussels & Chievres**

We will be conducting fundraisers during this year's Trunk or Treat. We will need to have help at both the Brussels and Chièvres events.

## **Veteran's Day: 11 November**

We plan on supporting 2 events this year, the Ieper parade and the Flanders Field American Cemetery ceremony. We need at least 10 members at each location.

## **Orphanage Christmas Party 14 December**

Last year's event was a huge success with the Legion Riders cooking hotdogs and hamburgers and the Auxiliary providing crafts and activities. This a big event and we will need help again this year to make a complete success.

### Preamble to the Constitution

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY WE  
ASSOCIATE OURSELVES  
TOGETHER  
FOR THE FOLLOWING  
PURPOSES:

- To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;
- To maintain law and order;
- To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;
- To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars;
- To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;
- To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;
- To make right the master of might;
- To promote peace and goodwill on earth;
- To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;
- To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.



**BLOOD DONATION  
PROGRAM**

The American Legion is the largest collective blood donor to the Red Cross. The most important part about donating blood is to remember that it saves lives. Waiting for an emergency to donate will not get the blood to the receiver in time.



**LINKS**

**American Legion Post BEO2 Website:**

<https://sites.google.com/site/americanlegionpostbeo2/home>

**Flanders Field Post BEO2 Facebook page:**

[www.facebook.com/pages/American-Legion-Flanders-Fields-Post-BEO2/152286224925159](http://www.facebook.com/pages/American-Legion-Flanders-Fields-Post-BEO2/152286224925159)

**American Legion Riders - Flanders Field Chapter BEO2**

[www.facebook.com/legionridersflandersbeo2](http://www.facebook.com/legionridersflandersbeo2)

**Flickr account: (Pictures of Post BEO2 events)**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/130086797@No8/sets/>

**Flanders Field Post BEO2 Youtube website (Videos of Post BEO2 events):**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChayGVazQv\\_uT-7u7Dy7Z8g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChayGVazQv_uT-7u7Dy7Z8g)

**Adopt-a-Grave program's website:**

<http://www.sitemn.gr/adoptagraveflandersfield/HOMECONTACT.php>

**The American Legion Centennial Celebration**

<http://centennial.legion.org/>

**Event Calendar: August 2016**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Membership Drive at AAFES PX
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 VA Briefing at Chièvres	27 General Meeting at USAG Brussels at 10:30
28	29	30	31			