

# DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE

May 2026 - Vol. 24 / Nr. 5



## DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2025 - 2026MY

<b>COMMANDER</b> <i>Dennis Owens NL01</i>	<b>ADJUTANT</b> <i>John Fleming CH01</i>	<b>NECMAN</b> <i>Hans Stockenberger CH01</i>	<b>ALT NECMAN</b> <i>Lee Preston GR42</i>	<b>VCAL</b> <i>Jim Brotherton NL01</i>
<b>VICE COMMANDER</b> <i>Valerie Prehoda BE02</i>	<b>VICE COMMANDER</b> <i>Ken Keckler GR20</i>	<b>VICE COMMANDER</b> <i>Kerwin L. Hester GR05</i>	<b>VICE COMMANDER</b> <i>Todd Johnson GR07</i>	<b>CHAPLAIN</b> <i>Brad Bell NL01</i>
<b>FINANCE OFFICER</b> <i>Larry Atkins CH01</i>	<b>SERVICE OFFICER</b> <i>Frank Phillips GR1982</i>	<b>JUDGE ADVOCATE</b> <i>James Settle GR42</i>	<b>HISTORIAN</b> <i>Carlos Gonzalez GR01</i>	<b>SERGEANT-AT-ARMS</b> <i>James Dennis GR30</i>

Greetings Department of France,

### DEPARTMENT COMMANDER



*Dennis Owens*

This month, May is always a big one for Veterans Service Organizations as we honor those who have fallen in defense of our great country on Memorial Day. I am grateful to VCAL Jim Brotherton, as he will represent our Department at Lorraine ABMC in St. Avold, France, in my place, as I will be attending the Margraten ABMC Ceremony in the Netherlands. I have asked him to do this because our Post's oldest veteran, Dominick Critelli, a 105-year-old WWII veteran, will be honored at Margraten this month during the Memorial Day Ceremony. I missed him last year and do not wish to miss him this year. I wish every American Legion Member find or create a Memorial Day Ceremony to visit or participate in. It is such a deeply meaningful ceremony, especially here in Europe.

For some great news, I am hosting the second annual Commander's BBQ Picnic on the 16th of May at Pulaski Park in Kaiserslautern from 10:00 to 15:00. Everyone and their family are invited, but please, I will need to know how many mouths to feed this year. I am requesting an RSVP by the 9th of May at my email address [dfredrowens@gmail.com](mailto:dfredrowens@gmail.com) with how many folks/kids will be eating. Important: If you or your family members need to be signed on to the base, please pay attention to this request from GR01's Michael Young, who has volunteered to be the POC for signing on those who do not have base access privileges... Thanks, Mike.

...everyone who needs access to Pulaski BKS for the 16 May Legion picnic. To avoid misinterpretations, delays, and possible denied entrance, information in the **INSTALLATION ACCESS ROSTER REQUEST (AE Reg 190-16) must be typed and returned to me NLT 6 May. Also include a copy of their Passport/Ausweiss.** Fill out Only the bottom portion: NAME, Nationality, DOB, ID CARD NUMBER, VEHICLE TYPE, AND PLATE number they will be riding in when they approach the gate. Please request this form from Michael Young at [michael.young63@yahoo.com](mailto:michael.young63@yahoo.com) ASAP to meet his 6 May deadline.

For **SHORT-TERM PAPER PASS (3 DAYS OR LESS)**, DoD ID cardholders age 18 or over who are registered in IACS and have sign-in privileges may sign in up to four visitors at a time at the installation gates.

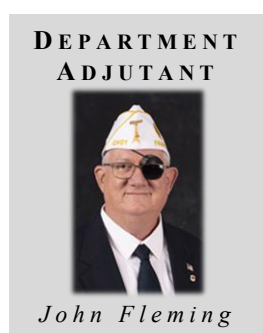
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Visitors must be able to provide a state-issued ID card (European Union members) or passport, and are required to be escorted at all times while on the installation. Minors ages 10 and under do not require a paper pass, but must be accompanied at all times.

Also, please remember that our 4<sup>th</sup> DEC, Department Convention, and 1<sup>st</sup> DEC will be held at the Best Western Hotel Polisina, Marktbreiter Str. 265, 97199 Ochsenfurt, Germany, and via Video link between 18 and 20 June 2026, with our dinner banquet/Awards ceremony on the evening of the 20<sup>th</sup> of June. All Posts must start thinking of who they wish to send as Delegates for their Post now and get the required Delegate Letters into Adjutant Fleming if attending Virtually or to bring them with the Chief Delegate at the events. Remember, we will need a Delegation Letter for all five events, the 4<sup>th</sup> DEC, all three sessions of the Convention, and the 1<sup>st</sup> DEC. I am looking forward to seeing as many Posts as possible at this Convention.

Very Best Wishes,

Commander Dennis



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### Department Adjutant's Corner

Greetings Comrades,

**Consolidated Post Report (CPR)** – is now available on myLegion.org, so please log in and start adding the 2025-2026 Report. This report covers the period 1 June 2025 to 31 May 2026. You can also download a copy of the form if you would like to use it to keep notes of your Posts activities. [CPR](#)

**Certification of Officers:** Thank you to the Posts who have recently held elections and sent in the Notification forms. I can add all Post Officers to the Post Officers Roster on myLegion.org. Reminder, after Post elections or a change in the Post Officers, it is required to send two forms to the Department Adjutant.

1. Notification of Post/Squadron Commanders & Adjutants: This form must be sent to the Department Adjutant immediately (within 24 hours) after Post elections. The form should be dated the date of the elections/appointment.

2. Post Officer Certification of Service Form: This form has been revised and sent to all Posts. It needs to be forwarded to the Department Adjutant as soon as possible after the Post elections (within 15 days). The Effective Date of Election of Appointment is the date of the original election or appointment. For example, if an Officer was elected on 1 May 2023 and reelected on 1 May 2024, the Effective Date block will show 1 May 2023.

These forms are critical to keep the current Post Officer informed of Department news. If I do not have the correct information, your Post may not receive vital information.

Please contact me for any questions or if you need the forms.

Dates to Remember:

11 May 2026, 1900 CET, Commander's Advisory Committee meeting.

7 June 2026, 1400 CET, Commanders and Adjutants meeting.

18-21 June 2026, 4<sup>th</sup> DEC/Convention/1<sup>st</sup> DEC, Location TBA

Thanks, and best wishes.

John Fleming

DEPARTMENT  
VCAL



*Jim Brotherton*

Good day, Legionaries. We recently held our annual awards committee meeting. While I cannot tell you who won what, I will say congratulations to all the winners and runners-up. The actual results will be announced at our annual Convention banquet in June.

On another note. The number of award package submissions was rather disappointing. The Department has 28 eligible Posts assigned who may submit packages for awards; only four (4) Posts submitted a total of thirteen (13) individual categories. While the categories and individual awards available are almost endless, only eight (8) categories were considered.

Let me break down what was possible in some of the better-known categories, based on 20 March membership standings.

Post of the Year. This is broken down into four (4) categories, XL, L, M, and S, based on the membership numbers listed in the Awards Manual.

- XL- We have only one Post in that category. If they completed most of the items on the evaluation form, an automatic winner.
- L- We had only one eligible candidate at the time. Again, if they completed enough of the evaluation items, an automatic winner.
- M- Five Posts fell into this category, a little bit harder competition, but a better than even chance to win.
- S- Twenty-one (21) Posts eligible, 21!!!, only one (1) Post submitted a package.

We had the possibility of having four (4) Posts win this award, one for each category. We had only two Posts submit, one in each of two categories, and one of those submissions was disqualified.

Another example is the Commander of the Year, which also has a runner-up. Adjutant of the Year, again, also a runner-up. Here is a possibility of having sixteen awards presented. Comrades, we are better than this. We need to recognize our Posts' leadership and achievements. Our Department Officers need to work to inspire their assigned Posts to recognize their achievements and members.

I sincerely hope that in our next membership year, the Department of France can be more proactive in getting our Posts to participate in the Department Awards program. And not just the Awards Program, but other events such as attending DEC's, workshops, and Posts/Department sponsored events such as the Oratorical Contest. Encourage Posts to submit Newsletter articles showing where and what their Posts are involved in. We need to have people take pride in their Posts, take pride in their people.

Best wishes,

Jim Brotherton

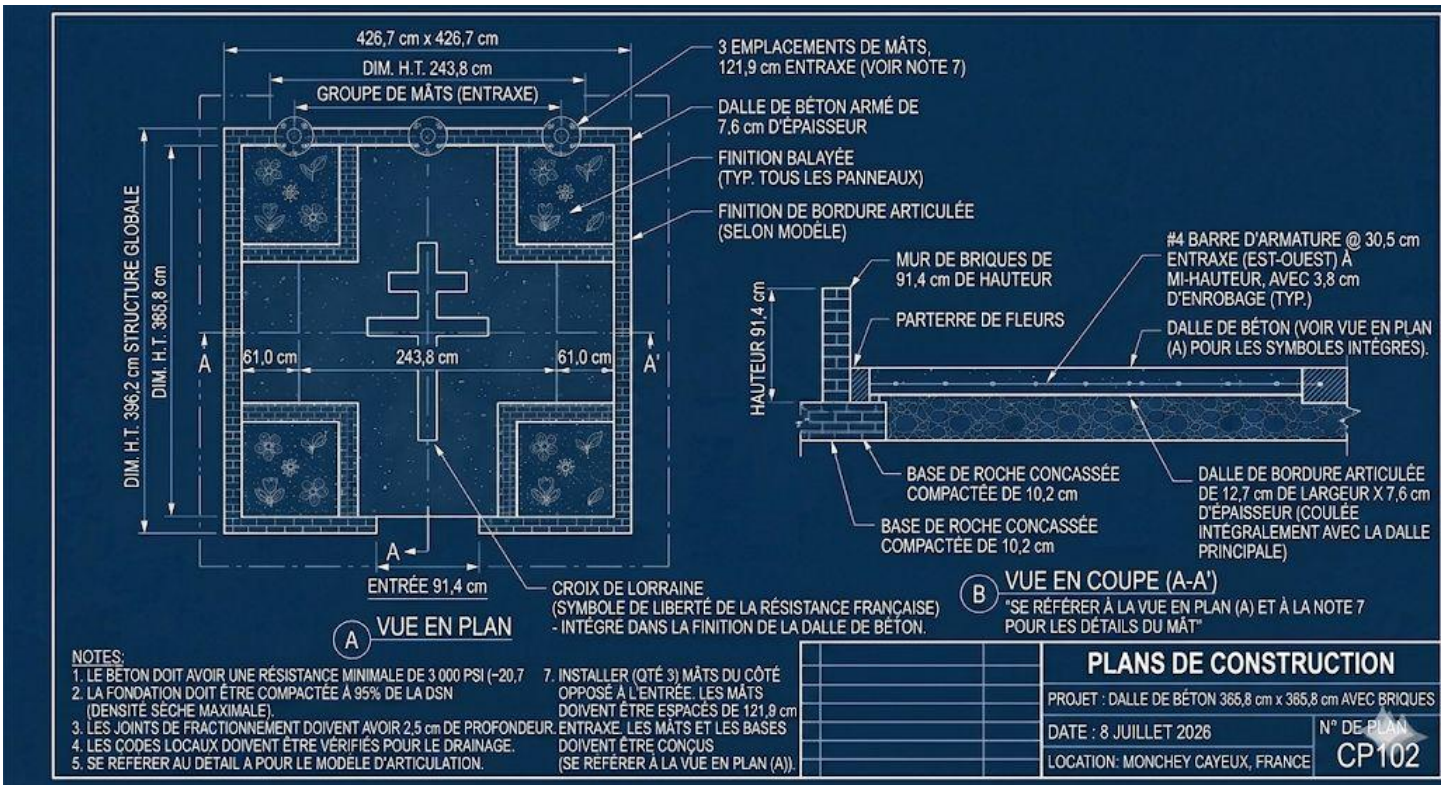
DEPARTMENT  
VICE  
COMMANDER



*Valerie Prehoda*

Greetings from northern France to all my DFR comrades-in-arms! Hope y'all have enjoyed another great month on our glorious terra firma! Due to jetlag and a hyper-active four-legged companion who is giving me 3 weeks' worth of undivided attention, my input will be minimal for this month's newsletter. While I was tending to my affairs at my desert hideaway in far west Texas, I received an invitation from ABMC to participate in the Flanders American Cemetery Memorial Day commemoration on 24 May 26, to which I RSVP'd with pleasure.

I have contacted TAL National in regards to adding DFR to the 250 Challenge and am waiting their response...in the meantime, here is a rendition and detailed plan for our POW/MIA monument, which overlooks the Lt Wilson's B-17 crash site:



With regrets, I won't be able to attend our BBQ coming up soon, but hope that for those of you who can attend, it will be a convivial time of camaraderie. Plus, I sort of over-indulges in good Texas BBQ recently LOL!

See y'all in June, and Semper Fi!

**PLEASE PAY AT THE BAR**

**Must have a ticket to pick up your plate**



**MENU-1**, 1 Hamburger, 1 hotdog, soda with side items \$ 12 or € 12

**Menu -2**, 1 Hamburger, 1 wurst, soda with side items \$ 12 or € 12  
1 soda included with menu, second drink is extra



**Menu-3**, 2 Hotdogs, soda with side  
Items \$ 10 or € 10



**Menu-4**, 2 Wurst, soda with side items  
\$ 10 or € 10

1 soda included with menu, second drink is extra

**SIDE ITEMS**

**Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Desert**

**SPIRIT'S Available and Priced at the bar**

## *Visitors to GR09, Neu-Ulm*

On Monday, 27 April, GR09 was privileged to host Craig and Silka Chapman, members of American Legion Post FL 9, Jacksonville, Florida. The Chapmans are active in their post as Legion Rider members, Auxiliary, and with their Boots on the Ground program. When planning their trip to Germany, they thought it would be interesting to meet with members of a post in Germany, also with a number 9, and were delighted when they received the invitation to meet in Neu-Ulm.

After a casual lunch with four GR09 members at GR09's meeting location, the group went on a sightseeing tour of the city of Ulm and ended a pleasant afternoon in the courtyard of the Ulmer Cathedral, swapping information on their respective legion posts and the customary license plate.



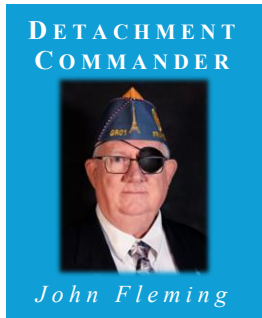
## JOHN WAYNE POST GR79

HEILBRONN, GERMANY

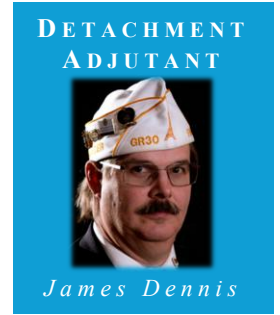




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# DETACHMENT OF FRANCE



Hello Comrades,

**Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR)** – is now available on myLegion.org, so please log in and start adding the 2025-2026 Report. This report covers the period 1 June 2025 to 31 May 2026. You can also download a copy of the form if you would like to use it to keep notes of your Posts activities. [CSR](#)

**Membership:** According to the 30 April 2026 SAL Membership report I received, we are at 104.19% of our 2026 Goal of 167! **CONGRATULATIONS on reaching the 100% goal!** Let's not stop now, please talk to your expired Squadron members and ask them to renew. Please talk to your Post members to see if they are eligible. If your Post does not have a Squadron, contact the closest Squadron or the Squadron of your choice and sign up. Talk to family members and sign them up. The Department has over 3000 Members. The Detachment should have at least that many.

**4<sup>th</sup> DEC/Convention/1<sup>st</sup> DEC:** I ask that all Detachment Officers and all Squadrons plan to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> DEC/Convention/1<sup>st</sup> DEC on 13 June 2026. New officer elections will be held during the Convention, so please plan to attend and **run for an officer position.**

We have changed the date of the 4<sup>th</sup> DEC/Convention/1<sup>st</sup> DEC due to some conflicts. The meeting will be hosted by Squadron GR01, in the Kaiserslautern Post/Squadron home, in building 368 on Rhine Ordnance Barracks.

Upcoming Events:

**6 June 2026** 13 June 2026 – 4<sup>th</sup> DEC/Convention/1<sup>st</sup> DEC, hosted by Kaiserslautern Squadron GR01

John Fleming  
Detachment Commander

**REMINDER...ALL NEWSLETTER ARTICLES SHOULD BE TURNED IN BY THE END OF THE MONTH. I WOULD PREFER IF YOU SENT IT IN WORD FORMAT, PDF WOULD ALSO DO. GET THE WORD OUT!**

*[Davidg1959@t-online.de](mailto:Davidg1959@t-online.de)*

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**DEPARTMENT  
NEWSLETTER  
EDITOR**



*David N. Greaux*

**PCC President**



*Jim Brotherton*

# Department of France Past Commanders Club 2026MY

**PCC Secretary**



*Richard Simmons*

**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 the office, you are eligible to join

*Initial dues for the Past Commanders Club are only \$25.00 / Renewal dues for the Past Commanders Club are only \$10.00*

**GRAND CHEF DE GARE**



*DAVID GARCIA*

## GRAND DU GERMANY



**GRAND CORRESPONDANT**



*DAVID GREAUX*

**LA SOCIÉTÉ DES QUARANTE HOMMES ET HUIT CHEVAUX (THE SOCIETY OF FORTY MEN AND EIGHT HORSES) IS AN INDEPENDENT, BY INVITATION, HONOR SOCIETY OF AMERICAN VETERANS, MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS "THE FORTY & EIGHT".**

**THE FORTY & EIGHT IS COMMITTED TO CHARITABLE AND PATRIOTIC AIMS. OUR PURPOSE IS TO UPHOLD AND DEFEND THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, TO PROMOTE THE WELL-BEING OF VETERANS, THEIR WIDOWS, WIDOWERS, AND ORPHANS, AND TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN SELECTED CHARITABLE ENDEAVORS, WHICH INCLUDE, AMONG OTHERS, PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE CHILD WELFARE AND NURSES TRAINING.**

**MEMBERSHIP IS BY INVITATION, AND OPEN ONLY TO HONORABLY DISCHARGED VETERANS AND HONORABLY SERVING MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES**

<http://www.fortyandeight.org/>

**DATE TO REMEMBER: 23 May 2026 – Grande Elections – GR01 Post Home, Kaiserslautern**

*This Newsletter approved by the American Legion, Department of France, Department Commander*

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