



Legion News

DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE



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

June 2025

Vol. 23 / Nr. 6



DEPARTMENT
COMMANDER

Dennis Owens

Greetings Department of France,

This is my last Newsletter Article before our Convention in a couple of weeks with new elections. I can say without a doubt that this has been a stellar year in my opinion. I made the call to all of you to do well on your Memberships, and you pulled through. As I write this, we are 61 members over our 2025 Department Goal of 3000 members. That means we are over our goal set by National by 102.07% with 92.07% Renewal!!! You guys and gals Knocked our Membership out of the Park!!! It was almost ten years ago was the last time we hit our 100% Membership goal. But, even better than that, only two of the 55 Departments Worldwide made their 100%, us and the Department of Hawaii, and we are Number One!!! I am so proud of you all.

This weekend, our National Commander will be visiting the Department of France, and I will be more than pleased to meet him because of all of your splendid efforts!

If you are planning to attend the Department Convention and have not yet made your hotel reservation through me, please do so asap as time is running out. I gave back to the hotel

the rooms that were not already reserved by our members. I can still get a couple of rooms, maybe up the last day, but no guarantees, so make your reservations asap.

This has been a wonderful year for the Department of France. We have seen a massive resurgence in membership revitalization of both Post GR20 at Spangdahlem AFB, and also in Stuttgart Post GR06. I am so impressed with the drive from the following Posts, GR20 Revitalization efforts in November with great thanks to Vice Commander Joe Schram and GR20's Adjutant Ken Keckler for that massive recruiting effort with me to put GR20 at 300% with 60 members over their goal, TH02 with 125% blasting past their goal by 29 more members, NL01 also blasted past their goal by 29 more members with 116% and now with 206 members places NL01 in the Large Post category. Post GR06 stands proudly at 114% with 28 members over their goal, EG02 sits at 110% with 6 members over their goal, China Post did us proud by coming in at 104% with 41 members over their goal! China Post CH01 carries us every year with over 1/3rd of our Department goal. Thank You Commander Carson for your brilliant effort! Post GR03 did us proud by coming in at 106% with 3

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2024 - 2025MY

COMMANDER

Dennis Owens NL01

ADJUTANT

John Fleming CH01

NECMAN

Hans Stockenberger CH01

ALT NECMAN

Lee Preston GR42

VCAL

Quincy Foster GR05

VICE COMMANDER

Jim Brotherton NL01

VICE COMMANDER

John Gerdeman GR03

VICE COMMANDER

James Settle GR42

VICE COMMANDER

Todd Johnson GR07

CHAPLAIN

Ken Keckler GR20

FINANCE OFFICER

Larry Atkins CH01

SERVICE OFFICER

Frank Phillips GR1982

JUDGE ADVOCATE

James Settle GR42

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

James Dennis GR30

ADJUTANT EMERITUS

Robert Fuelling FR01

members over their goal, GR1982, GR07 both came in with 103%! Special mention to IR03 by renewing 100% of their members early July last year making them the first to go to 100% for this year. That is why we have a lot to celebrate this year!

We have lost a few members also this year, so let's all keep our missing Comrades in your hearts.

Our VCAL, a couple of Vice Commanders and myself, being so

pleased with our year threw a Family/Mother's Day BBQ for the entire Department on the 10th of May. It was FANTASTIC with over 80 people there. I hope that one was the first one of our annual Department Family Day BBQs. I will vote for that!

When I was elected as Commander of this Department, I gave a thank you speech and concluded that speech with, "I have a two-word motto for this year, it is simple, "Be Nice". And you all have. Our DEC's and I am positive that

this Convention will also be Drama Free. For that, I am pleased with all of you. Look forward to holding our 2nd DEC on the 25th of October in the Mayor's Conference Room in St. Avold!!!

Very Best wishes to you all,

Commander Dennis

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT



John Fleming

Consolidated Post Report / Consolidated Squadron Report (CPR/CSR) – We need to finalize these NOW. It is available on myLegion.org, so please log in and complete the Report. You must click the SUBMIT button at the end of the Report for it to be recorded. The final date to submit is 9 August 2025. The Department has 7 out of 29 Posts SUBMITTED. We need to make this 29 from 29 Posts.

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 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 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:

9 June 2025 – Internal Affairs Committee Meeting
12-15 June 2025 – 4th DEC/Convention/1st DEC

Thanks, and best wishes.

John Fleming
Department Adjutant

DEPARTMENT VCAL



Quincy Foster

Dear Comrades,

I hope this message finds you well. Happy (belated) Memorial Day—and above all, thank you for your service and continued dedication. We had the distinct pleasure of once again meeting with the Mayor of

France and his staff, a meaningful exchange that strengthens our bonds. I was also honored to be approached by the President of the France Memorial Association of "Mont St. Pierre" from the village of Villers-Stoncourt, Moselle. She kindly asked if we would take a commemorative photo with her, a gesture that truly touched me.

Our sincere thanks go out to Commander of Post GR01 and all the members who graciously hosted lunch after the ceremony in Saint-Avoid. Your hospitality and effort were outstanding and deeply appreciated. I hope you all enjoyed a joyful and blessed Mother's Day with your families. The Department Family

BBQ was a great success, and I want to extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped bring this event to life—it wouldn't have been possible without you.

Looking ahead, I'm excited to see you all at the upcoming Department Convention, taking place 12–15 June 2025. Thank you for everything you do to keep our Department strong. Let's remember: we're not just a department—we are a family. And families take care of one another.

**God bless you all.
With gratitude and respect,**
Quincy

**DEPARTMENT
VICE COMMANDER**



Jim Brotherton

Good day Comrades, Legionnaires and friends, hope this finds everyone happy and healthy.

I've been asked to share my recent visit to the States with a narrative and pictures. A little weak on pictures but the stories were plenty, and I would like very much to share them with you.

On my visit to the east coast, I was able to visit four American Legion Posts or at least talk to members of these Posts. Three were in Virginia and one in North Carolina. It was wonderful seeing how our brothers and sisters across the pond function. At every Post or member I spoke to I was made to feel very welcome and felt like a member of their Post organization.

The Posts I visited were the John D. Sudduth American Legion Post 72 located in Warrenton Virginia. A great Post that is doing a lot in the community and supporting the Veterans. I might add you can not find a better steak dinner with all the fix'ns, at a very good price.



Members of American Legion Post 55 located in Fredericksburg Virginia. What was interesting about Post 55 was the name. The Post is named Bass-Bowen- Brittenham-Bundy-Franklin-Knox. This Post was originally chartered on September 26, 1919 as Post 55 Bowen-Franklin-Knox. Meanwhile Post 142, Bass-Brittenham-Bundy was originally chartered on September 16, 1955. In 2008 Post 142 joined with Post 55 and a new charter was issued on April 27, 2012 for the Bass-Bowen-Brittenham-Bundy-Knox Post 55.



The third American Legion Post visited was American Legion Post 330 in Culpeper Virginia. Though the Post was actually closed when we stopped, there were a few members present who took the time to welcome us and tell us about their Post. There is also a very large National Cemetery located in Culpeper with more than 9,000 veterans interned there. I wish I could have returned when the Post was open for business.



The last Post I visited on my travels was in Clayton, North Carolina. It was the most important to me because the small town of Clayton is where I lived as a youngster and was very happy to see that there was an American Legion Post located there. The American

Legion Leonard Moore Post 71 is really something else. It will probably be putting up the next Department of North Carolina Commander, and there is a District Commander there who would, should, be the Department Commander in the near future.



I cannot say enough to our members, if you are visiting family or friends in the States, make every effort to visit the local American Legion Posts in the area. You will be welcomed and made to feel like a long-lost friend.

The second part of my newsletter is to inform my friends, Department Comrades and the Posts under my purview that this is probably one of my last acts as Department Vice Commander. I've been at this for three years now and about time I let some deserving individual step up and take my place. It has been a great ride and a job I have thoroughly enjoyed. I feel I have helped not only the Posts assigned to me but also my fellow Department Officers, Department of France Legion members and even some of the visiting organizations.

Even though I will no longer be a Department Vice Commander, I stand ready to help anyone asking or needing help. Please reach out if I can do anything to help.

Much love and respect to all the members of the Department of France.

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE
97TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
HOSTED BY MARGRATEN POST NL01
12-15 JUNE 2025**

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER



John Gerdeman

This month I traveled to Kaiserslautern for the department BBQ on 10 May. There were about 75 people in attendance. I hope they all had fun there, I know my family did, with all the games and playgrounds to play on. Then the S.A.L Detachment Commander John Fleming initiative

six new members John Sr, John Jr, Richard, John, Charles Gerdeman and Marlon Weifenbach.

Then I went to Lorraine military cemetery in St Avold France. Were the Department Commander Owens and Vice Commander At Large Quincy Foster, Grand Chef de Gare Dave Garcia (40/8).

I laid a wreath in the name of the department of France. There was a touching ceremony before the wreath laying. This cemetery is one of the most beautiful places in the world. Learned this time that First Sargent Samuel Turley is buried in Lorraine military cemetery. My first Kaserne was named after him in Mannheim.

On a personal note, all you Post Commanders if you cannot find a grave

then go to the cemetery office and update your list of fallen comrades. They can look on their computer and tell you if they are still there. because here in Germany after a certain number of years they remove the graves.

Now I have some sad news I will not be running for Department Vice Commander this year. I think it's time to step down. I would like to say thank you to all the posts that invited me to their post events. I will miss seeing you all, but my email and telephone number are always there if you need help just call or write. I will help you in any way.

GOOD LUCK in the future

John P. Gerdeman

DEPARTMENT AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS DIRECTOR



Jim Brotherton

Good day Riders, Comrades and Legionnaires.

This will be my last newsletter for the ALR before we have the Convention in June. The last chance to make my plea for our Posts within the Department of France to make a donation to the American Legion Veterans & Children

Foundation (VCF), the new namesake for the Legacy Ride held every year. The scholarship fund that was supported by this event was very successful, so successful in fact it is now self supporting,

Last year was the first year the Ride was held to support the VCF, while there was a substantial contribution made to National to support this Foundation, it was not anything near what the scholarship ride was able to pull in annually over the last several years. Maybe it was because it was new, many organizations or individuals were not familiar with its purpose.

The short story is, "delivers needed aid for military and veteran parents who face unexpected financial hardships and threaten the stability of their homes. These one-time Temporary Financial Assistance grants are used to

cover housing, utilities, food and other basic needs for families with minor children at home".

To help support this event there will be an auction held during the banquet, an article painted with one of the Legions organization symbols, with all proceeds going to the VCF. I will also gladly accept any donations from our Posts or personal donations to support this worthy cause.



Please dig deep and let's make our Department donation to VCF something we can be proud of.

REMINDER...ALL NEWSLETTER ARTICLES SHOULD BE TURNED IN BY THE 28TH 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

DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER EDITOR



David N. Greaux

DEPARTMENT
SERVICE OFFICER



Frank Phillips

The American Legion Department of France Department Service Office

What we do

The Mission of the Department Service Office is to provide benefits information, assistance and advocacy to all who have served and their families. Many Veterans are unsure of their entitlement to VA benefits so we ask that anyone who identifies as having served to contact our office to be directed to an appropriate resource.

The Department Service Office provides services and help with the following benefits:

VA Services:

- Comprehensive VA benefits counseling
- BDD Transition VA Claims
- Assistance with Foreign Medical Program care enrollment
- VA Claims preparation, submission and follow-up on VA decisions
- Initiate and develop appeals on unfavorable VA decisions when appropriate to include representation at VA Hearings
- Survivors Death Benefits

**** We will not advise on Social Security or DoD matters. ONLY VA ISSUES!**

What do Department Service Officers do?

A DSO will ensure that Veterans and their families receive all federal VA benefits available to them. DSO's do this by providing effective and dedicated representation to veterans and their families, free of charge. *You will never receive a bill from us!*

DSO's are trained and accredited by the American Legion to represent veterans in their claims for VA benefits. DSO's are versed in applicable federal laws to provide the best representation possible.

The Department Service Office should be the first stop for all recently discharged service members and anyone who has served in any of our armed forces branches to receive a complete VA benefit explanation.

Department Service Office Staff

Office Visits by Appointment only:

Please call **Wednesday OR Friday**,
between 1300 and 1600 hours:
+49 964170587 1837 for an
appointment before visiting the office.

You can also send an e mail to:
VSO@fphillips.de

Location Main Office

USAG Ansbach, Katterbach Kaserne
Building 5818, Room 318
91522 Katterbach-Ansbach, Germany
Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/6XJQnGnTDu42>



To check the status of a Claim:

Download and Install the
VA.GOV app.
(android and IOS)

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



James Dennis

Hello fellow Legionnaires,

Another week and we are creeping along to the 103% goal. We have 102% now. 30 more members before the National Convention and we have sealed the top rank at National. I am crossing my fingers.

Renewals are the key we need to look at. We are running at 92+% in Department renewals. It is good but we can do better. Hawaii has 100% renewals. If they can do it, so can we. I am looking for a 95% renewal rate for this year and 100% next year. Too much???? Na.

Convention:

We are coming up to our Convention. Time of change and time of renewal. Time to change our legion shirts to the 2026 membership year. Time to renew our duty to the Department of France and our Posts.

I hope to see all the Posts represented at the Convention this year. That means 4th DEC/ convention/ 1st DEC. The Department needs all the Posts and their votes to work efficiently.

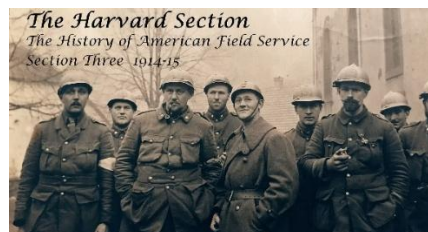
Enjoy reading.

James Dennis
Membership Chairman
Department of France

Department of France 2025 Membership Standings 23-May-25	2025 PUFL	2025 ACTPM	2025 Actual Mbsp.	2025 Post Goal	% of 2025 Goal	Next Cutoff Date National Convention Needed To Meet 103%	Plus or Minus to Cutoff	Members Needed To Reach 2025 Goal AHEAD/BEHIND	2023-2024 NOT RENEWED ESTIMATED	2023 NOT RENEWED ESTIMATED	2024 NOT RENEWED ESTIMATED	2025 Renew By Post	% of 2023 RENEWALS	POST HONOR RIBBON 31-Dec
1 Paris FR01	99	112	211	246	85.77%	246	35	-35	34	10	24	109	89.66%	232
2 Isabel La Catolica SP292	9	10	19	21	90.48%	21	2	-2	2	0	2	10	90.48%	21
3 David Chavez GR1982	42	108	150	145	103.45%	145	-5	5	47	28	19	67	85.16%	128
4 HQ9999 + AD	26	35	61	63	96.83%	63	2	-2	11	9	2	35	96.83%	63
5 Flanders Field BE02	18	65	83	105	79.05%	105	22	-22	33	11	22	56	77.08%	96
6 China CP01	338	720	1058	1017	104.03%	1017	-41	41	45	45	0	656	100.00%	994
7 Copenhagen DK01	1	0	1	1	100.00%	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	100.00%	1
8 London EG01	20	14	34	42	80.95%	42	8	-8	8	0	8	14	80.95%	42
9 Liberty EG02	12	49	61	55	110.91%	55	-6	6	8	7	1	36	97.96%	49
11 Athens GC01	1	20	21	23	91.30%	23	2	-2	2	0	2	20	91.30%	23
12 Kaiserslautern GR01	51	80	131	140	93.57%	140	9	-9	23	7	16	57	87.10%	124
13 Rhein Neckar GR03	17	30	47	44	106.82%	44	-3	3	1	1	0	24	100.00%	41
14 Rhein Main GR05	24	51	75	92	81.52%	92	17	-17	23	2	21	43	76.14%	88
15 Stuttgart GR06	115	103	218	190	114.74%	190	-28	28	29	12	17	51	90.71%	183
16 Wiesbaden GR07	29	54	83	80	103.75%	80	-3	3	10	10	0	46	100.00%	75
17 Sgt. William D. Nelson GR09	37	24	61	66	92.42%	66	5	-5	8	0	8	23	88.24%	68
18 Thomas W. Barnett GR14	19	12	31	37	83.78%	37	6	-6	3	0	3	12	91.18%	34
19 Eiffel GR20	19	71	90	30	300.00%	30	-60	60	0	0	0	6	100.00%	25
20 Audie Murphy GR30	11	6	17	20	85.00%	20	3	-3	3	0	3	5	84.21%	19
21 Omar Bradley GR42	18	9	27	31	87.10%	31	4	-4	4	0	4	9	87.10%	31
22 George S. Patton GR45	7	3	10	14	71.43%	14	4	-4	3	1	2	3	83.33%	12
23 John Wayne GR79	11	48	59	67	88.06%	67	8	-8	9	0	9	45	86.15%	65
24 Pride of Erin IR01	9	19	28	30	93.33%	30	2	-2	2	0	2	19	93.33%	30
25 Father Francis Duffy IR02	3	26	29	31	93.55%	31	2	-2	4	2	2	26	93.55%	31
26 Commodore John Barry IR03	2	14	16	16	100.00%	16	0	0	1	0	1	13	93.75%	16
27 John F. Kennedy IR63	3	4	7	7	100.00%	7	0	0	0	0	0	4	100.00%	7
28 Rome IT01	3	5	8	8	100.00%	8	0	0	0	0	0	7	100.00%	10
29 Margraten NL01	25	181	206	177	116.38%	177	-29	29	57	23	34	109	79.76%	168
30 Brig Gen. Robin Olds TH01	13	64	77	90	85.56%	90	13	-13	21	3	18	59	80.00%	90
31 Sgt Thomas Oliver Ahlberg TH02	9	132	141	112	125.89%	112	-29	29	0	0	0	103	100.00%	112
GRAND TOTALS	991	2069	3060	3.000	102.00%	3000	-60	60	391	171	220	1667	92.36%	2878



Flag Day is a holiday celebrated on June 14 in the United States. It commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777 by resolution of the Second Continental Congress.[1] The Flag Resolution stated "That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."



The Harvard Section History of the American Field Service Section 3 (1914-1915)

During World War I, universities in the USA experienced a huge exodus of students and teachers who joined the war effort. In some cases, university classes had to stop due to the sheer number who had gone to France to fight.

Special thank you to historian Thomas Fife for writing his new book on the history of Americans during World War I. The book is the first part of a two-volume history of a group of Ivy-League, young American men that volunteered to drive ambulances for the French Army during World War I. The story opens with France declaring war on Germany and documents the creation of the American Ambulance Hospital of Paris.

[Website: The Harvard Section by historian Thomas Fife](#)

The Harvard Section Podcasts

Would you like to follow Tom's book, and the new cairn honoring Richard Hall in September?

Prior to joining World War I, many American ambulance drivers traveled to the front lines to evacuate the wounded in the war. The United States had not yet entered the war.

Tom's book is based on his research of hundreds of previously unpublished letters, diaries, and photographs. His book, *The Harvard Section*, provides a unique perspective of WWI that culminates with the death of a young man named Richard Hall, the first American ambulance driver to give his life for France during the First World War.

Both of Tom's podcasts are available on the same website for the American Field Service USA. The first podcast is at the top, and the second podcast is just below the first on the same webpage (click link below).

Podcast #1: The Curious Trunk & the Lost Cairn: An AFS Historian's Journey

Podcast #2: Driving Change: The Legacy of AFS Volunteers (scroll down for podcast #2)

Rebuild Richard Hall's Memorial Cairn



New Cairn honoring Richard Hall Eastern France (September)

Would you like to follow Tom's book, and the new cairn that will be erected in September?

Richard Hall was buried on December 27, 1914 in a little military cemetery in the village of Moosch, France. Hall's friends constructed a memorial cairn in his honor.

Within a few weeks of the construction of the cairn, Section Three was transferred out of Alsace, never to return. Since his death, family members have taken pilgrimages to the cairn, and in the 1920s, the graduating class of his Alma Mater at Dartmouth commemorated a block of New Hampshire granite emblazoned with a bronze plaque.

Tom Fife and his group of family, friends, descendants of ambulance drivers, including Richard Hall's family, will be dedicating a new cairn in September in honor of Richard Hall and ambulance drivers from the Harvard Section who gave their lives during World War I.

Please contact us if you are interested in joining Tom's group for their ceremony and dedication of the new cairn.

[Website and Fundraiser: Rebuild Richard Hall's Memorial Cairn](#)

8 May ceremony in Montargis France - ALA President Unit Paris FR01 & Legionnaire Adjutant AL Paris FR01



Paris Post 1 Historian in the Sayat News:

Congratulations to Paris Post 1's Historian Larry Roeder for being featured in an article in the Sayat local news. Sayat was a historic area for volunteer ambulance drivers during World War II, the history which motivated Larry to start the American Volunteer Ambulance Driver Society. We are grateful for the work that Larry is doing, and we look forward to supporting him through this year and next while he continues to compile, analyze, write and share the history of these heroes and his experience as a family descendent.



VE Day in Sayat:

Victory in Europe Day was commemorated at the Sections Sanitaires des Volontaires Américains, in memory of Alan Muhr and Burnham Robinson, both volunteer ambulance drivers during World War II.

Their memories will not be forgotten. Research is being performed by Larry and his team, and we will share this with you this year.

Special thank you to Sayat Maire Nicolas Weinmeister, David Reid, President of the Vichy Chapter of the Association France - Etats-Unis, and Julien Fleury with Radio France for their support and dedication to preserving the history of American volunteers in Sayat.



Congratulations to our new Eagle Scouts!

Eagle Scout Ceremony at Marymount School: Congratulations to our new Eagle Scouts from BSA Troop 112!

In the photo above (left to right), Paris Post 1 Commander Bryan Schell and new Eagle Scouts: Antoine Lewden, Philip Akram Hoff, Rohan Patel and Aaron Groverman.

Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Scouts BSA program of Scouting America. Since its inception in 1911, only four percent of Scouts have earned this rank after a lengthy review process.

Requirements include earning at least 21 merit badges, 14 of which are mandatory for the award. The Eagle Scout must demonstrate Scout Spirit, an ideal attitude based upon the Scout

Oath and Law, service, and leadership. This includes an extensive service project that the Scout plans, organizes, leads, and manages. Eagle Scouts are presented with a medal and a badge that visibly recognizes the accomplishments of the Scout.

We are all blessed to have these wonderful Eagle Scouts in our community, and we can't thank you enough for your contribution and dedication to Scouting.

Thank you for your extraordinary work for your community, country and family!



Local Scouts lead the way in Paris

BSA Troop 112 Scouts ensure Paris Post 1's mausoleum is ready for Memorial Day plus a news article by Eagle Scout Thomas Ravel who will soon be leaving for university in the USA.

The American community in France is getting ready for Memorial Day with veterans, scouts and families attending ceremonies throughout France.

Thanks to the scouts at BSA Troop 112 and members of our post, Paris Post 1's mausoleum is ready to go, and our flagbearers have practiced for this special annual ceremony.

Photos include local youth and parents who took part in flag training, and also upkeep of the Never Forget roses at our historic monument, the final resting place of several hundred American veterans from World War I all the way to the present day.

A special thanks to BSA Troop 112, and big congratulations to the new Eagle Scouts! Paris Post 1 is grateful to have so many youth and parents who support our community programs and dedicate many hours, days, and weeks on end to scouting activities!

With so many amazing achievements, we asked some of our scouts to write an

article for our news to share their own experience with you. Special thank you to Eagle Scout Thomas Ravel for sending us your article.



French Veterans and Students

Honoring Americans in Normandy

Special thank you to Cyril Prefaure, President of the Association des Anciens Combattants du Centre Tarn (81) and member of the OSS Society, and his group of students for honoring American veterans who are buried in Normandy. Cyril, a French military veteran, accompanied students from the 4th and 3rd year "Defense" classes of Madame Marie Poux, history teacher at the Louisa Pauline college in Réalmont (Tarn - 81), as part of a school memorial trip to the D-Day landing beaches, from April 27 to May 3. In total, their group included 52 students and 7 chaperones.

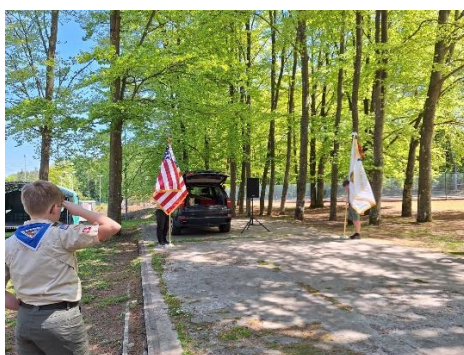
This trip was to honor the memory of the American soldiers who fell during the D-Day landings, and to organize a moment of reflection with the students in this important place of remembrance.

Their ceremony included the laying of a large wreath of flowers adorned with the French and American flags. The presence of 9 college flag bearers representing the Association of Veterans of the Centre Tarn, Le Souvenir Français Association of Réalmont, the PG-CATM (Prisoners of War - Combatants from Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco) of Réalmont, American flags from Mrs. Meredith Wheeler, and the OSS remembrance association flag.

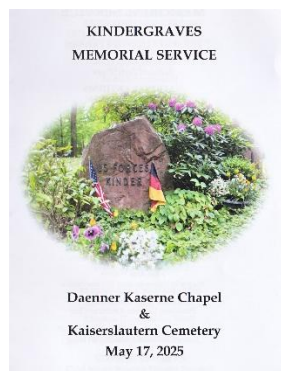
A solemn musical performance with Jérôme Dumont, former Drum Major of the Foreign Legion Band, who performed the American national anthem and taps on the trumpet.

Special thank you to Cyril Prefaure and Madame Marie Poux and her student class for honoring American veterans in Normandy!

DEPARTMENT MOTHER'S DAY BBQ, OPENING PRAYER, COMMANDER OWENS PRESENTING SCOUT LEADER PAUL SKINNER, CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO BOY SCOUT TROOP 12



PICTURES FROM THE KINDER GRAVE CEREMONY IN KAISERSLAUTERN ON THE 17TH OF MAY



Although gone from us, they are not forgotten...

Wir sollten sie niemals vergessen...



Donations to help support the Kindergraves may be sent to:

Kaiserslautern Kindergraves Memorial Foundation
86196/0011, Box 6
APO, AF 08094

Website:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/American-Kindergraves-Kaiserslautern/5428587286103>



HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN CHILDREN GRAVES IN KAISERSLAUTERN

During the years 1952-1971, 431 American children were buried in the Kaiserslautern city cemetery. Most of the children were infants who died of complications before reaching their first birthday. With a few exceptions these little ones were the children of American military members stationed in the Kaiserslautern Military Community. At that time, assistance was not available to transport the deceased children to the United States for a stateide burial.

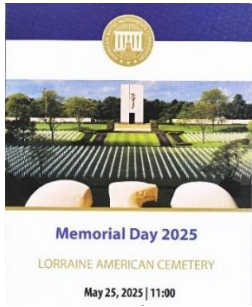
During the initial years, the City of Kaiserslautern donated the use of two public burial plots while local groups associated with the military community maintained these sites.

The lease for the gravesites expired in 1986, but the future of the graves was secured by donations from the German-American Women's Club of Kaiserslautern, the Army and Air Force Spouse's Clubs and other private sources. The Ramstein Area Chiefs' Group volunteered as executors again and signed the lease with the City of Kaiserslautern. City officials agreed to consolidate the two original gravesites into one area where the children rest today. The Ramstein Area Chiefs' Group and the German-American and International Women's Club provide oversight to the care and maintenance of the Kindergraves.





PICTURES FROM THE LORRAINE MILITARY CEMETERY IN ST. AVOLD FRANCE, MEMORIAL SERVICE. ALSO, THERE ARE PICS OF COMMANDER OWENS EXPLAINING THE AMERICAN LEGION TO SOME VISITORS





SGT WILLIAM D. NELSON POST GR09 NEU ULM, GERMANY

WILLIAM D. NELSON, GR 09 MAY ACTIVITIES

Annual elections were held on 24 May and GR 09 was fortunate in adding two new officers to their team with the election of Philip Borders as First Vice Commander and Delano Stewart as Second Vice Commander. Stewart a long time PUFL member and new legion member Borders will bring new ideas and stimulus to the post. The post welcomes you both.



Post Commander Aman presenting Certificates of Appreciation. L to R. Javier Becerra, Tom Snook & Anthony Hicks.

Although the number of GR 09 members able to participate in the annual Memorial Day decorations of veteran's grave site diminishes with the years that does not stop the post from participating in this yearly important event. Again this year the post was the recipient of a fifty US dollar contribution from the American Legion Overseas Graves Trust Fund for floral arrangements for each grave for veterans interned in the local area and on Sunday, 25 May Post Chaplain Snook and Commander Aman set out and visited each grave in the surrounding area. This is a solemn event honouring two WW II veterans, one Korean war veteran, a Vietnam Purple Heart recipient and eight others who served honourably. GR 09 has been receiving this fifty dollar payment

since 2017 and has visited these graves yearly since 2006.

Several of the members who normally take part in this event happened to be visiting the US and could not participate.

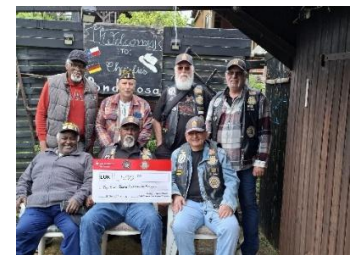


Floral arrangements for grave visitation

JOHN WAYNE POST GR79

HEILBRONN, GERMANY

GR79 Legion Riders donating \$500.00 to the Toy Run in Erlangen, Germany



Memorial Day 2025 Gave Site Visits



Past GR79 Commander Hale



Micheal Riley



Dennie Perry



Jr. Rushlow



Remi Drummond



June 14 is the birthday of the U.S. Army. According to the U.S. Army Center of Military History's website – at history.army.mil – it was on June 14, 1775, that “the Continental Congress authorized enlistment of expert riflemen to serve the United Colonies for one year.”

**DETACHMENT
COMMANDER**



John Fleming



DETACHMENT OF FRANCE

**DETACHMENT
ADJUTANT**



James Dennis

Hello Sons,

Membership: If you have not paid your 2025 Membership dues, you are listed as EXPIRED as of 1 February 2025.

The Membership report I received dated 24 April 2025 shows the

Detachment in 47th place at 88.27%. That is 158 Members of the 179 Members we need to reach 100%.

Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR): The 2024-2025 CSR is available on myLegion.org, so this needs to be completed NOW. As of

28 May 2025, we have 3 Squadrons submitted from 11 Squadrons.

Dates to Remember:
7 June 2025 – 4th DEC/Convention/1st DEC

John Fleming
Detachment Commander

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

DETACHMENT OF FRANCE ANNUAL CONVENTION

HOSTED BY SQUADRON GR01 - KAISERSLAUTERN, GERMANY

7 JUNE 2025

PCC President*John Gerdeman*

Department of France

Past Commanders Club 2025MY

Who is eligible to join the Department of France

Past Commanders Club?

PCC Secretary*Kerwin Hester*

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 is only \$25.00 / Renewal dues for the Past Commanders Club is only \$10.00

GRAND CHEF DE GARE*DAVID GARCIA***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



Grand Chef de Gare Garcia (L) and Locale Chef de Gare V1467 Gerdeman lay a wreath at Lorraine Military Cemetery in St. Avold France, Memorial Day 2025

On Memorial Day 2025, Cheminot Nationale Lee Preston was able to get into the Arlington National Cemetery Amphitheater to hear the speeches of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, The Secretary of Defense, Vice President Vance, and President Trump.



DATE TO REMEMBER: Saturday 19 July 2025 / Grand Wreck – Kaiserslautern, Germany

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JUNE 19

Commemorates the emancipation of enslaved people in the United States on the anniversary of the 1865 date when emancipation was announced in Galveston, Texas. Celebratory traditions often include readings of the Emancipation Proclamation, singing traditional songs, rodeos, street fairs, family reunions, cookouts, park parties, historical reenactments, and Miss Juneteenth contests.



The Korean War "began on June 25, 1950, when the Northern Korean People's Army invaded South Korea in a coordinated general attack at several strategic points along the 38th parallel, the line dividing communist North Korea from the non-communist Republic of Korea in the south. North Korea aimed to militarily conquer South Korea and therefore unify Korea under the communist North Korean regime."