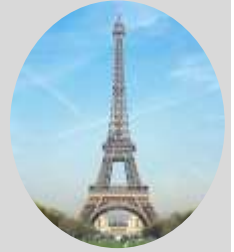




Legion News

DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE



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

August 2021

Vol. 19, No. 8



DEPARTMENT COMMANDER *SANTOS ALVARADO*

As everyone is aware, we are possibly heading to the 4th wave of this Pandemic. We must still practice safe distance and wear a mask. Vaccination is steadily being offered to everyone, no matter what age. Many EU countries are slowly starting to implement curfews and lockdowns. The count has started to rise again here in Germany. Everyone has started to have in-house Post Meetings but must still abide and follow the local laws. If you intend to travel outside of Germany, remember all the restrictions that have been put in place. This Month is the National Convention in Phoenix, AZ. I hope to attend it this year, but due to the

increase of the Delta virus, I must see how the restrictions will be before I fly out. Our 2022 Membership has begun last month. We must strive to reach 100% this year. Make sure that you reach out to all your Post Members to renew, instruct your members on how to renew online. We and National are aware of the problems everyone has with MyLegion, we must be patient as they try and work out all the bugs. Most of all let us not forget the Buddy Check, remember that some Post members might not have a smartphone or computer. Visit them to see how they are doing. Let's enjoy this month and stay safe.

National Convention: The American Legion's 102nd National Convention will take place in Phoenix, Arizona, August 27 – September 2, 2021.



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DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT...*JOHN FLEMING*

Greetings Comrades,

August is here and we are off to National Convention in Phoenix 27 August to 2 September, then on to the China Post 1 Annual Reunion/Meeting in Seward, Alaska, 24-26 September, and then we have National Commander and Adjutant Call In/NEC Meeting 1-7 October, so some of your Department Officers will be busy traveling for the next few months.

1. 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 in Nationals database. Reminder, after Post elections or a change in Post Officers, it is required to send two forms to the Department Adjutant. Immediately after Post elections, the Notification of Post/Squadron Commanders & Adjutants form must be sent to the Department Adjutant. As soon as possible after Post elections, the Certification of Post Officials report needs to be forwarded to the Department Adjutant.

2. Membership Renewal: The 2022 Membership Year begins 1 July. All members must create a new member account if their former account is not active. Go to this website log in or register: <https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Home> Once logged in, click the "My Account" button. You can now update your information and renew your Membership online. Let us try and get 100% Renewals by 31 August 2021!





AMERICAN LEGION LIBERTY WALK 2021

Saturday August 28th, 2021

Commemorate the " Battle of the Vierstraat Ridge"
by the 27th & 30th US Divisions Aug/Sep 1918.

Place to be: Visitors Center Kemmel

Start walk: 09.00-13.00

7, 12 or 18 km

Expo visitors center: 09.00-15.00

FOOD AND DRINKS AVAILABLE



**FOR MORE INFORMATION:
americanlegionlibertywalk@gmail.com**

The organization is not responsible for any accidents, damage or theft.
Responsible publisher: Joseph Schram, American Legion Flanders Field Post BE02



DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER... LEE PRESTON

Hello Everyone,

I hope that everyone had a great July as we head into August. During this month I had contact with all my assigned Posts per e-mail. I received the schedule for NL01 meetings, and I am in the process of selecting one of those dates to attend a General Membership Meeting. My travels will start as soon as I return from National Convention and COVID allows for travel to England and Ireland. I will be leaving on 10 March heading back to the States to participate in the National Legion Riders Legacy Run and National Convention. So far, I have donations from Department, GR42, and myself for the **Legacy**

Scholarship Fund. I hope to have a lot of information to get out to my assigned Posts when I return. I hope that everyone has a safe and healthy August. I will try to take the time to put some of the information in the September Newsletter but, as this is my first time going to National Convention, I do not know what the time looks like to get on the computer. Thank you all for your service to our country and now to the American Legion!

Lee Preston
Department Vice Commander



DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER EDITOR...DAVID N. GREUX

REMINDER...all newsletter articles should be turned in PRIOR to months end!

Davidg1959@t-online.de

Fourth of July at GR79



GR79's newest member



Membership Meeting



The Purple Heart history runs long and deep. The original honor was established in 1782 by General George Washington. Back then it was called the Badge of Military Merit.

Despite the fact that General Washington wanted the honor to be a permanent one, it was mostly forgotten about after the Revolutionary War up until the 20th century.

On August 14, 1945, it was announced that Japan had surrendered unconditionally to the Allies, effectively ending World War II. Since then, both August 14 and August 15 have been known as "Victory over Japan Day," or simply "V-J Day." The term has also been used for September 2, 1945, when Japan's formal surrender took place aboard the U.S.S. Missouri, anchored in Tokyo Bay. Coming several months after the surrender of Nazi Germany, Japan's capitulation in the Pacific brought six years of hostilities to a final and highly anticipated close.



Post GR1982 Tosses Ping-Pong Balls for Beer Mugs at Independence Day Party

Post GR1982 participated in the Independence Day Celebration on Katterbach Army Airfield on 3 July 2021. We conducted our traditional Beer Mug Ping-Pong Ball Toss event. Participants toss ping-pong balls at a wall full of beer mugs. If the ball lands in a mug, they win the mug.

This is our largest fund raising event of the year, and a real favorite with the Soldiers, Civilian Employees and Family Members of the local military community. We had several hundred “customers”, many of whom won beer mugs. We also made \$1870.- during the evening. A great day for all!



Post GR1982 Conducts Open House



Post GR1982 hosted an Open House at their Post Home on Katterbach Army Airfield on Sunday, 18 July 2021. They offered free hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, macaroni and cheese, chips and soft drinks to the members of the military community. The purpose of the Open House was to give people a reason to get out and socialize a little with other members of the community. Approximately 120 members of the community came out to take part in the event and visit with their neighbors.

The JROTC Cadets from Ansbach High School assisted with grilling and prepared snow cones for the guests. There was also the opportunity for face painting for the kids. Approximately 30 children (and a few adults) took advantage of the face painting.





Department of France

To The Department of France,

My name is Lee Preston, and I am the Assistant Director, Department of France American Legion Riders. On behalf of the Department Legion Riders Director, Eddie Kane, I would like to invite all Department Legion Riders to our First Meeting. We have selected a location for this meeting which the information will be provided below.

We would like to get a good turnout for this first meeting therefore, we are inviting any Legion Riders from the Department of France as well as any representative from an American Legion Post within the Department that is looking to start a Chapter. We would enjoy having the Chapter Directors present for this meeting or an official representative for the Chapter Director. We have several things to discuss during this meeting which will be of interest for all members and Chapters within the Department.

Discussion Topics:

1. The Department American Legion Riders SOP
2. Existing Chapters within the Department
3. Expectations for the Future of The Department Legion Riders
4. Building blocks for cooperation between Chapters
5. Possible future events
6. Department Legion Riders Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/ALRDOF>

7. American Legion Riders Europe Facebook Group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/alreurope>
8. The way going forward

The point in this is to start doing things together as a Department and not all individual achievements. The more participation we have; the more ideas we have and, the more we come together as a Department program. Please mark the date in your calendar and come join us to make a strong Legion Riders Program in the Department.

Date: 9-10 October 2021

Start Time: 1200hrs

Location: CITY HOTEL Bonn/Meckenheim
Bonner Straße 25, 53340 Meckenheim
<https://www.city-hotel-meckenheim.de/>

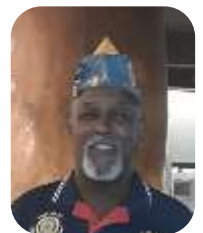
Thank you all in advance for your participation in the first meeting! Please go to the Hotel Website and take a look. If you decide to spend the night, please make your own reservation through the Hotel or any of the online hotel booking platforms.

Lee Preston
Department of France Legion Riders
Assistant Director
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DETACHMENT OF FRANCE

Detachment Commander Joe D. Brown
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Sergeant-at-Arms David Craig dcdavid16@googlemail.com



The American Legion Legacy Run

The route for the 2021 Legacy Run is set and registration now is underway [here](#). The run is scheduled to take place from August 22-26, and will leave from Rogers, Ark., and end in the national convention city, Phoenix. As we know more information, it will be announced publicly and posted here. If you have any questions, you can forward them to legacyrun@legion.org.



Grande Chef de Gare...*Lee Preston*



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.



Grand Promenade/Elections 2022MY, Kaserlauteren, Germany 17 July 2021

Grand du Germany Elected Officers for the 2022MY

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Grand Chef de Gare | <i>Lee Preston</i> | Correspondant | <i>David Greaux</i> |
| Cheminot Nationale | <i>Keith Abernathy</i> | Alt Cheminot Nationale | <i>Michael Young</i> |
| Chef De Train At Large | <i>John Gerdeman</i> | Conductor | <i>Dave Garcia</i> |
| Commissaire Intendant | <i>David Greaux</i> | Avocat | <i>Victor Brown</i> |
| Garde La Porte | <i>Quincy Foster</i> | CommisVoyageur | <i>Robert Gray</i> |

Our next Grand Cheminot is planned for 02 October 2021. The CALL will be sent out to the Locales.