



# Legion News

## DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE



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

March 2023

Vol. 21 / No. 3

### DEPARTMENT COMMANDER



*Joshua Steinlicht*

Greetings Comrades,

Our 2023 Midwinter Conference (MWC) was an immense success! I want to thank all who took the time to join in for some or all our training sessions. I hope that those who attended found great value in the information that was presented. I would also like to thank our Vice Commander at Large, Lee Preston, for coordinating and facilitating this year's conference. Without VCAL Preston's work, we would not have had the efficiently conducted training that was informative and presented in a professional manner. I hope that our future MWCs will be conducted in the same manner and that we see an ever-increasing interest and greater participation from our Post members.

March 15<sup>th</sup> marks The American Legion's 104<sup>th</sup> birthday. Just as our founders traveled across Europe to attend the Paris Caucus, we will once again make a journey to France, though this time to Saint Avold, to come together and share our thoughts and ideas during our 3<sup>rd</sup> Department Executive Committee meeting. Like those attendees, who met with great intentions to establish a Veterans organization, comprised of Veterans, to forever take care of Veterans, we need to meet and conduct our business in honor of those who came before us. As we come together, I want to remind everyone of our

National Commander's initiative to **BE THE ONE** American Legion Family member, Veteran, or Servicemember who recognizes the signs of suicide in a fellow Veterans and intervenes by taking immediate actions to aid and assist someone who is at risk of suicide. It is especially important that we conduct our Buddy Checks this month to contact all our members



The Paris Caucus, 1919, digital photo, <https://www.legion.org/history>.

and to remind them about the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline which is a network consisting of more than 200 crisis centers nationwide. Veterans experiencing distress or a mental health crisis will now be able connect to the Veterans Crisis Line by dialing 988 then pressing 1. This will provide veterans with fast and easy access to veteran-specific mental health support. **It is of utmost importance that we do everything in our power to BE THE ONE to prevent the more than 6,000 annual Veteran suicides** by spreading the word and taking care of our brothers and sisters in crisis.



Joshua E. Steinlicht

	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23
Saturday				1 *Awards Due		
Sunday	1			2 C&A		
Monday	2 New Years Day			3	1	
Tuesday	3			4	2	
Wednesday	4	1	1 *ESOY Award Due	5	3	
Thursday	5	2	2	6	4	1
Friday	6	3	3	7	5	2
Saturday	7	4	4 Oratorical	8	6	3
Sunday	8	5 C&A	5	9	7	4 C&A
Monday	9	6	6	10	8 Spring Meetings	5
Tuesday	10	7	7	11	9 Spring Meetings	6
Wednesday	11	8	8	12	10 Spring Meetings	7
Thursday	12	9	9	13	11 Spring Meetings	8 4th DEC IA (T)
Friday	13	10	10	14	12	9
Saturday	14	11 MWC	11	15 Awards Committee	13	10
Sunday	15 Conv. Committee	12 MWC	12	16	14	11
Monday	16 MLK Jr. Bday	13	13	17	15	12
Tuesday	17 Americanism Brief	14	14	18	16	13
Wednesday	18	15	15	19	17	14
Thursday	19	16	16	20	18	15 4th DEC (T)
Friday	20	17	17	21	19	16 Convention (T)
Saturday	21	18	18 3rd DEC	22	20	17 1st DEC (T)
Sunday	22	19	19	23	21	18
Monday	23	20 Presidents Day	20	24	22	19 Juneteenth
Tuesday	24	21	21	25	23	20
Wednesday	25 CAC	22	22	26	24	21
Thursday	26	23	23	27	25 CAC	22
Friday	27	24	24	28	26	23
Saturday	28	25	25	29	27	24
Sunday	29	26	26	30	28	25
Monday	30	27 3rd DEC IA	27		29 Memorial Day	26
Tuesday	31	28	28	30	27 1st DEC IA (T)	
Wednesday			29		31	28
Thursday			30			29
Friday			31			30
Saturday						
Sunday						
	Federal Holiday Commanders & Adjutants Mtg (V)		DEC Commander Advisory Council (V) Other		Internal Affairs (V) Convention	

## Department of France Boys State/Girls State Fundraiser



If you are interested in supporting this GoFundMe,  
<https://gofund.me/f19fce87>.

Click on the above link, your Donation will go to help defray some if not all of the Transportation costs to Maryland and back.

Even a small donation could help Gary Miller reach their fundraising goal. And if you can't make a donation, it would be great if you could share the fundraiser to help spread the word.

Thanks for taking a look!

## DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2023MY

**COMMANDER** Joshua Steinlicht

NL01 [dfrcdrjsteinlicht@gmail.com](mailto:dfrcdrjsteinlicht@gmail.com)

**ADJUTANT** Dennis Owens

NL01 [dfrcdradjutant@dennisowens.com](mailto:dfrcdradjutant@dennisowens.com)

**NECMAN** James Settle

GR42 [james.settle@kabelbw.de](mailto:james.settle@kabelbw.de)

**ALT NECMAN** Hans Stockenberger

CH01 [redsea\\_diver2000@yahoo.com](mailto:redsea_diver2000@yahoo.com)

**VCAL** Lee Preston

GR42 [lpreston1057@gmail.com](mailto:lpreston1057@gmail.com)

**VICE COMMANDER** Jim Brotherton

NL01 [jim.brotherton01@gmail.com](mailto:jim.brotherton01@gmail.com)

**VICE COMMANDER** Peter Mock

GR07 [vonschauenburg@hotmail.com](mailto:vonschauenburg@hotmail.com)

**VICE COMMANDER** Todd Johnson

GR07 [amaroc.legionnaire@gmail.com](mailto:amaroc.legionnaire@gmail.com)

**VICE COMMANDER** Valérie Prehoda

FR01 [valeriehawk@icloud.com](mailto:valeriehawk@icloud.com)

**CHAPLAIN** Quincy Foster

GR05 [qcfoster@yahoo.com](mailto:qcfoster@yahoo.com)

**HISTORIAN** Joseph Schram

BE02 [joseph.schram@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.schram@gmail.com)

**FINANCE OFFICER** Gary Miller

GR06 [billsfan\\_gary@hotmail.com](mailto:billsfan_gary@hotmail.com)

**SERVICE OFFICER** Frank Phillips

GR1982 [francis.phillips2@va.gov](mailto:francis.phillips2@va.gov)

**JUDGE ADVOCATE** James Settle

GR42 [james.settle@kabelbw.de](mailto:james.settle@kabelbw.de)

**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS** James Dennis

GR30 [departmentdennis@gmail.com](mailto:departmentdennis@gmail.com)

**ADJUTANT EMERITUS** Robert Fuelling

FR01 [herman40153@gmail.com](mailto:herman40153@gmail.com)

DEPARTMENT  
VCAL



Lee Preston

Hello Everyone,  
February is almost gone, and we are heading into March.

Here are things that the Department will have to accomplish; first, we need to continue working on our goal, getting to 100% Membership. I am asking everyone to get out and make that push to renew and recruit and get your Post's and the Department to that magic goal, 100%. This is extremely important for your Post's and not just Department. Remember, there is strength in numbers, this is how The American Legion takes care of Veterans. Using our numbers to push the laws through Congress that help Veterans and those still serving get the benefits that we and they all Deserve. Remember the American Legion's involvement in getting the PACT ACT passed and signed. This was an extremely important accomplishment for our Veterans which includes all of us as well.

The Mid-Winter Conference conducted on 11 & 12 February 23 was a success and I really wish that we had more participation from the general membership. I do want to thank those that logged in to the presentations, several individuals stated that they had learned something they did not know. We had an average of 21 participants logged in for both days. The Power Point presentations were professionally done and showed the creativity of the presenter. Everyone including the presenters learned something from all of this. This is what the Mid-Winter Conference is all about, take advantage of it. I want to thank the presenters as well; they conducted the training professionally and produced great slide shows for the training.

The next subject will be the DEC being held in Saint Avold, France. I hope that all of the Post's are represented on 18 March 2023. The DEC is being held in the Novotel in Saint Avold; make your reservations early to insure getting a room if staying the night.

Finally, the Department Annual Convention! The Convention will be held in Eitorf, Germany and should be a great time like we had there in 2019. The Convention Packages have been sent out to the Post Adjutants and should have been sent out to the Post Membership. If you are a Post Adjutant and you have not gotten this out to your membership, please do, we want as much participation as possible. Remember, getting your membership involved in the Department could help to keep them involved in your Post.

Finally, I will be out of country from 1 March 23 until 8 April 23. I will have email capability but, give me some time to reply. I may not get a reply to you for a day or two. Thank you all for your understanding.

For God and Country, Lee Preston, VCAL.

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## *American Legion Birthday*

*Mar 15, 2023*

*On this day 104 years ago, members of  
the American Expeditionary Force  
convened in Paris for the first American  
Legion caucus.*







## Unit GR01 member provides needed support to active-duty family

In January 2023, Christina M. Randel (1<sup>st</sup> Vice President) of The American Legion Auxiliary District of France donated a hospital care bed for disabled people to an active-duty US Army Soldier who is stationed in Kaiserslautern, Germany. Remarkably, the bed was never used as it was purchased for her grandmother, but she passed away before she was able to use it. The price was about €9,000. The bed is fully electric with side rails and all the rest. Additionally, a special mattress to eliminate bed sores was included in the purchase. Christina was fortunate enough to find this poor child who is severely disabled (brain is regressing) and is unable to eat on his own and has a peck. To make matters worse, TRICARE refused to pay for such a bed. In the spirit of focusing on service to Veterans, service members and community, the District of France Auxiliary donated this bed to a needy military family.



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## Start of Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003)

*March 19, 2023*

20 March 2003 marked the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom with preemptive airstrikes on Saddam Hussein's Presidential Palace and military targets followed by approximately 67,700 "boots on the ground" with 15,000 Navy personnel on ships in the region (Belasco).



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## Congressional Medal of Honor Day

**Mar 25, 2023**

March 25 was established by Congress as National Medal of Honor Day to "foster public appreciation and recognition of Medal of Honor recipients." There are 3,511 recipients who have received the Medal of Honor since the Civil War. [Listen to Medal of Honor stories conducted by The American Legion.](#)





# U.S. Consulate & KMC Tourist Passport Outreach Event

**Wednesday, 29 March 2023**

**9 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

**Ramstein Air Base, Bldg 3450 (IDRC JMPC)**

**Expedited Processing of Tourist Passports**

A representative from Immigration Visas will be also there to answer questions

If you have passport questions, please send an e-mail to:

Kaiserslautern

[usarmy.rheinland-pfalz.id-europe.mbx.kmc-mpd-passport@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.rheinland-pfalz.id-europe.mbx.kmc-mpd-passport@army.mil)

Baumholder

[usarmy.rheinland-pfalz.id-europe.mbx.bmc-mpd-passport-and-id@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.rheinland-pfalz.id-europe.mbx.bmc-mpd-passport-and-id@army.mil)

Please use the QR Code to sign-up for the KMC Passport Outreach Event or go to:

<https://book.appointment-plus.com/d4q8n4bs/>



## **"MUST-BRING" ITEMS**

### **To Obtain or Renew a Tourist Passport:**

- ✓ Completed passport application (DS-11 or DS-82) with 2D barcode printed on letter-size paper and one-sided (Go to <https://pptform.state.gov/> to complete online—see instructions on right side).
- ✓ "Original" or "Certified Copy" citizenship and name change documents: i.e. birth certificate, consular report of birth abroad, naturalization certificate, certificate of citizenship, marriage certificate, divorce decree, adoption decree, legal name change document, court orders, etc.
- ✓ Existing Passport (if applicable). A no-fee passport may be used to prove citizenship if applicant never had a tourist passport.
- ✓ Military CAC/ID (for parents of children under 16, include copies of both parent's ID cards).
- ✓ Two 2x2" or 5x5 cm identical passport photos (not older than 6 months; no eye glasses permitted).
- ✓ Money Order or Cashier Check (Made out to "Department of State") - one money order/check per application
- ✓ One photo copy of all citizenship and support documents, passport and ID Card (both sides)

## **Mailing Addresses to enter on applications:**

### Kaiserslautern

USAG Rheinland-Pfalz  
Kleber Kaserne Passport Office  
Unit 23175, APO AE 09227

### Baumholder

USAG Rheinland-Pfalz  
Baumholder Passport Office  
Unit 23746, APO AE 09034

## **Passport Fees:**

First-time applicant over age of 16	\$165
Replacing a lost or stolen adult passport	\$165
Adult Passport Renewal	\$130
Minor Child under the age of 16	\$135
Replacing a lost or stolen minor child passport	\$135
Passport Book & Card (adult renewal)	\$160
Passport Book & Card (first-time adult applicant)	\$195
Passport Book & Card (minor child under the age of 16)	\$150

**\*\*\* Applicants with incomplete applications or missing documents will not be serviced by the Consulate. \*\*\***



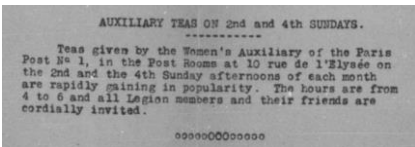
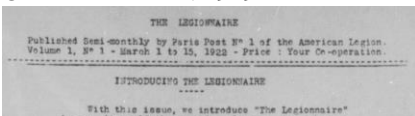


The American Library Association installed its central library in Paris at 10 rue de l'Élysée. The collection numbered 25,000 books and 115 periodicals. Paris Post 1's Legion and Auxiliary used the rooms at the library for their events and meetings.

## Since 1919, Paris Post 1's Auxiliary has supported our veterans, youth and community

A special thank you and recognition for everyone's hard work and dedication of our Auxiliary!

## PARIS POST 1'S AUXILIARY WAS CHARTERED IN 1919



The Auxiliary hosts tea at the Paris Post 1 Rooms at 10 rue l'Élysée in the 1920's. Paris Post 1's Auxiliary has supported the Franco-American community, and they have provided programs to our youth for over 100 years!

Since 1919, our Auxiliary has had a strong presence at our annual ceremonies, they raise funds for wounded soldiers, and they do community outreach for our veterans and their families.

We are very thankful for our Paris Post 1 Auxiliary!

THANK YOU!! MERCI BEAUCOUP!!

In October 1934, Paris Post 1's report on the Welfare Committee outlines the Auxiliary's "relief work" to involve:

- repatriation
- temporary assistance
- hospitalization

- support and advice
- legal assistance
- family troubles
- education
- investigations of every nature

Our Auxiliary still keeps busy!

Special thanks and much gratitude to our Auxiliary members who live in France and around the world, we are proud of your legacy and contribution to The American Legion Family for over the past 100 years!

## PARIS POST 1 AUXILIARY SINCE 1919



Paris Post 1 Legion Sergeant-at-Arms Michele Crosley, with her mother, President of Paris Post 1's Auxiliary Ginette Crosley at the American Cemetery in Suresnes.

## Paris Post 1's Auxiliary visits the U.S. Army's Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany

Special thanks to Anna Marie Mattson for continuing her hard work and visits to our wounded troops and hospital staff near Ramstein Air Base

NEW YEAR AND HOLIDAY CARDS WERE DELIVERED FROM STUDENTS IN FRANCE PLUS MUCH NEEDED SUPPLIES & GIFTS!



The American Legion Auxiliary at Paris Post 1 has made their regular visit and donation run to the Chaplain's Closet at the Landstuhl Military Regional Center (LRMC) to honor and commemorate our military caregivers and the soldiers who are recovering at the hospital.

Soldiers returning from serving international duty are often recovering at Landstuhl prior to returning down range. There are many "high need" clothing items and supplies that Paris Post 1 purchased before each trip, and the community can help us!

Paris Post 1's Auxiliary has been supporting wounded warriors and caregivers for many years. Before the Covid sanitary restrictions, Beth Herwood would prepare her delicious pastries for Americans who would gather at the American Church and the American Cathedral in Paris to make cards. Ginette Crosley has been supporting this effort by spearheading monetary funds for travel and the Chaplain's Closet. Anna Marie Mattson, delivers the donations and cards to Landstuhl. A team effort for sure!



Soldiers at the Aeromediovac breakfast receiving some holiday cards to help cheer up their morning!



Nurses in the Emergency Room receiving holiday cards, thank you for saving lives!



Donated items made it safely to the Chaplain's Closet!

Special thanks to all of our donors who helped make this trip happen!

### Never Forget rose from the Unknown Soldier Centennial is available in Europe!

Merci beaucoup to the Famille Ducher Roseraie for their dedication to our American veterans and honoring our fallen from World War I with the Never Forget rose



In 1845 in Lyon, France, Claude Ducher organized the first international exhibition ever dedicated to the queen of flowers: the rose. That same year, he created his rose nursery that would one day be internationally recognized.

In 1921, after World War I, Claude Ducher attended, and supplied the white roses for the choosing of the Unknown Soldier ceremony which took place in Châlons-en-Champagne (at the time known as Châlons-sur-Marne).

After the Unknown Soldier was chosen, the body was transported under guard by Legionnaires of Paris Post 1 to the port city of Le Havre. On October 25, 1921 from the port in Le Havre (in the photo above), the Navy cruiser USS Olympia left for the USA, with not only a full crew, but also with a Marine detachment unit whose duty was to guard the Unknown Soldier until they all safely arrived in Washington, D.C.

The Unknown Soldier was then laid to eternal rest in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

Since the end of World War I, Claude Ducher's roses have grown popular internationally, creating well known favorites such as: 'Marie Van Houtte', 'Reve d'Or', 'Gloire de Ducher', 'Ducher', 'Mademoiselle Cecile Brunner', and many others which are still cultivated around the world.

Continuing the family tradition, Florence and Fabien Ducher created the Never Forget rose in 2021 in partnership with the Society of the Honor Guard for the Centennial of the Unknown Soldier. This same rose is now available (in root form) for shipping in Europe (USA is this spring/summer).

Visit the website for Roseraie Ducher for more details!



## National Vietnam War Veterans Day

*Mar 29, 2023*

March 29 is designated as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. This is a time to pay special tribute to the 9 million Americans who served during the Vietnam War era, to the 58,000 names memorialized on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., and to those who never received the recognition they deserved when they returned to America from war.





**DEPARTMENT  
SERVICE OFFICER**



*Frank Phillips*

On 2 February the DAI Nürnberg brought together representatives from the [U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL MUNICH](#) , [AMERICAN LEGION - ANSBACH POST 1982](#) , [U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS](#) and [DEMOCRATS ABROAD GERMANY: NORTH & CENTRAL BAVARIA CHAPTER](#) for a special U.S. Citizen Services Day!

Americans had the chance to renew their passports and receive notarial services from the US Consulate Munich and get first-hand information from the American Legion and the VA about benefits for veterans. Members of the Democrats Abroad were also present, helping with voter registration.

2 February also marked “Groundhog Day”- Delicious Groundhog cake was served while visitors watched a livestream from Pennsylvania witnessing Punxsutawney Phil himself predicting six more weeks of winter!

To introduce our youngest visitors to our library, Groundhog Day books were read, and fun crafts kept everyone busy! If you missed the chance to stop by, keep your eyes open for another U.S. Citizens Day at the DAI this Fall! Check our social media and website for regular updates.







*For God and Country*

# The American Legion

## Department of France

### Department Service Officer

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



Monday, February 6, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Veterans Service Office

**Introduction:**

There is a great need for accredited service officers on the European continent to be able to assist veterans with the Veteran Affairs process. There has never been, officially, an office where veterans can sit down and visit with an accredited officer to discuss their benefits.

Since we have publicized our office, we are, increasingly being fully utilized. To include the general officers of the military. The reputation of this office is outstanding.

The Veterans Service Office was established on 15 February 2018. The Military Personnel Division Chief was very instrumental in assisting with the establishment of this office. At this time, there were only two accredited representatives assisting veterans with their Veteran Affairs Benefit Claims. Myself, Francis Phillips, member of the American Legion and Mark Kistner, member of the Veteran of Foreign Wars. We were, at that time, both the head of the Department service Officers program, at the beginning. Mr Kistner relinquished his duties in 2021.

Today, the Veteran Service Office, has a staff of four accredited representatives, all from the American Legion, and will increase the staff to seven accredited officers by the end of April 2023.

This office is entirely staffed by volunteers. Each staff member puts in a lot of volunteer hours to assist our veterans. The Director, averages about thirty-five to forty hours a week, and the other staff members average around twenty-five to thirty hours a week.

In the continental United States, these staff members would receive a salary. Fifty percent would be subsidized by the State and the rest by the state American Legion Departments. The American Legion Department of France has only thirty-five hundred members and cannot finance this office and we do not have a "State" to pick up the rest of the salary.

The Veteran Service Office is the only physical office in the European continent, Africa and the Middle East. There is a Veteran Affairs office, located in Landstuhl. Their mission is for transitioning military service members. Appeals and basic veteran claims are being directed to our office from their office for assistance.

Department Service Officer: Francis (Frank) Phillips

OGC Accreditation # 43742

Mailing Address: USAG Ansbach MPD VSO, Unit 28721, Box 6511, APO, AE 09177

Telephone: +49 (0)9802 832269 DSN 314 467-2269 Email: francis.phillips2@va.gov

**Scope:**

The Veteran Service Office provides services to all veterans. We assist in all phases of the Veteran Affairs processes.

Our office has expanded from being open two days a week to now being open four days a week. With the increase of staff members, we are now capable of assisting more veterans in a timely matter.

Our coverage consists of the entire European Continent, Africa, and the Middle East. The office covers Thailand and China, as well as Australia.

This Office offers multiple means of communication to the veterans; E mail, teleconferencing and Video conferencing.

Currently, the Office has three representatives located on the USAG Ansbach Kaserne and one representative in the Heilbronn area, to cover Stuttgart.

In April 2023, we will have, additionally, one representative in SHAPE, one in England and one in Heidelberg.

**Achievements:**

In the fiscal year 2022, the Veteran Service Office has achieved over 20 million dollars in awards for our claimants. This includes awards for veterans transitioning out of the military, widows of deceased veterans, representation of veterans before the VA Board of Appeals, new claims and increases.

Currently, the Veteran Service Office is handling over four hundred active cases. The Director, Francis Phillips, is representing veterans for their appeal processes on an average of two veterans a month.

**Current activities:**

1. February 2, 2023: In conjunction with the United States Consulate in Munich, participated in an Outreach in Nuremberg. The purpose was to give veterans overseas access to Consular and Veteran Affairs Services. The event was a huge success and will be repeated bi-annually.
2. The Director has monthly videoconferences with the Senate Veteran Affairs Committee to address concerns of the veterans living abroad.

**Director Francis Phillips:**

1. The Director has been recognized with the US Army Public Service Meritorious Award in 2022.
2. The Director will be recognized with a medal from the Daughters of American Revolutions. Has received highest volunteer hours awards for three consecutive years for volunteering from 1750 to over 2000 hours a year.
3. Is, currently, a Consular Liaison Volunteer with the United States Consulate of Munich.
4. Is assisting, incarcerated veterans with the Consulate of Munich.
5. Has been interacting with the Senate Veteran Affairs committee, for over four years, with concerns for veterans living overseas.

**Conclusion:**

The American Legion, Department of France, is grateful for the opportunity to establish this office. It provides the resources needed to help veterans navigate the complicated veteran Affairs processes. The support of this office, provided by the USAG Garrison, is substantial to our mission. This office is being utilized and is expanding.

It is a privilege to be a part of the USAG Ansbach military community and an integral part of the Best Hometown in Europe.





## SGT WILLIAM D. NELSON POST GR09 *NEU ULM, GERMANY*

### *GR 09 and village officials pay tribute to WW II Americans who perished in plane crash*

At 1600 hours on 22 February the William D. Nelson Post GR 09 conducted a memorial service in memory of seven WW II US Army Airmen who died near the village of Pfaffenhofen on 22 February 1945 when their B-17 bomber broke apart in mid-air and crashed during a bombing run to Ulm.

In 2012 the village placed a monument at the crash site in memory of the seven who died in the defense of freedom and in the service of their country and since 2014 both GR 09 members and village officials have paid tribute to these Americans. This ritual has been ongoing and neither a snow storm in 2016 nor the Covid-19 virus in 2021 kept members from meeting at the monument and placing a floral arrangement at the site.

Joining Post Commander Jerry Aman and seven GR 09 Legionnaires were Dr. Sebastian Sparwasser, Bürgermeister (Mayor) of Pfaffenhofen, Josef Walz, former Bürgermeister of Pfaffenhofen and nine German guests. In his speech Bürgermeister Sparwasser recounted the story of the ill-fated flight of the B-17 and thanked GR 09 for their dedication to maintaining the legacy of this event.

After the ceremony all members visited a local gasthaus to celebrate the continuation of this partnership

Further information on the ill-fated flight with photos can be found at [www.legion.org/memorials](http://www.legion.org/memorials), location: Germany.



Post Commander Aman thanking attendees for their participation.



GR 09 Legionnaires with Burgermeister Sparwasser. Staunch legion supporter Peter Arenz in wheelchair on sidelines.

# JOHN WAYNE POST GR79

HEILBRONN, GERMANY



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



VALENTINES PARTY

# DAVID CHAVEZ POST GR1982

ANSBACH, GERMANY

Your Ansbach Cougars are the National 2023 Army Marksmanship Champions.



9th JROTC Battalion, Ansbach, Germany





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## DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER EDITOR...*DAVID N. GREUX*

**REMINDER...ALL NEWSLETTER ARTICLES WILL BE TURNED IN BY THE 28<sup>TH</sup> OF THE MONTH. I WOULD PREFER IT IF YOU SENT IT IN WORD FORMAT. IF YOU MUST, PDF WILL ALSO DO.**

*Davidg1959@t-online.de*

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**DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN / AMERICANISM COMMITTEE *Joseph Schram***

### **Boys State 2023**



18-24 June 2023 at McDaniel College in Westminster MD.

The Department of France has coordinated with the Department of Maryland to have their candidates from Europe participate in their weeklong training program. High school juniors are selected by local American Legion posts to attend the program. Expenses associated with attending this program are paid by the sponsoring American Legion post.

The Department Maryland's Boys State program is conducted annually and typically begins on Father's Day and runs through the following Saturday. To be eligible for Boys State, a youth must be a male who has successfully completed their junior year in high school (or equivalent) by the beginning of Boys State. Any boy who has previously attended a Boys State is not eligible.

American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for high school students. Participants are exposed to the rights and privileges, the duties, and the responsibilities of a franchised citizen. It is a participatory program where each participant becomes a part of the operation of his local, county and state government. The training is objective and practical with city, county and state governments operated by the students elected to the various offices. Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, chorus, and recreational programs.

Once the candidate is selected by the sponsoring American Legion Post, candidates are asked to complete the required documentation located at: <http://mdlegion.org/boysstate/>. Travel arrangements will be coordinated by the sponsoring American Legion Post and the Department's Boys State director. Candidates will depart from home station to Baltimore Washington International (BWI) Airport on Saturday, 17 June 2023. Staff from the Department of Maryland will coordinate for transportation from BWI to the McDaniel College.

Further information can be obtained from the Department of France's Boys State coordinator, Joseph Schram at [joseph.schram@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.schram@gmail.com).

# Department of France Americanism Updates

## Department of France Oratorical Contest

**Date:** Saturday, 04 March 2023

**Venue:** Ansbach American High School  
Kattebach Kaserne  
Neukirchener Str.,  
91522 Ansbach, Germany

**Time:** 10:00 Rehearsal  
12:00 Contestants & Judges Arrive  
13:00 Semi-Final Contest Begins  
16:00 Finals Contest



**Volunteer to Help - We need help to conduct the contest**

- Moderators (4x)
- Time Keeper (8x)
- Escorts (8x)
- Tabulators (8x)

Please visit: [www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094bafa62da6ff2-department](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094bafa62da6ff2-department)  
Review the available slots and click on the button to sign up.

## Civil Air Patrol Cadet of the Year

**Nomination Application Forms are NOW Available**

**The deadline for nominations to Department Adjutant is 10 Mar 2023**

Nomination forms can be obtained from Americanism Chairperson Joseph Schram ([www.joseph.schram@gmail.com](mailto:www.joseph.schram@gmail.com)) or from the Dept Adjutant





## **Girl Scout Gold Award "Scout of the Year"**

**Nomination Application Forms are NOW Available**

**The deadline for nominations to Department Adjutant is 10 Mar 2023**

Nomination forms can be obtained from Americanism Chairperson Joseph Schram ([www.joseph.schram@gmail.com](mailto:www.joseph.schram@gmail.com)) or from the Dept Adjutant



## **Eagle Scout of the Year**

**Nomination Application Forms are NOW Available**

**The deadline for nominations to Department Adjutant is 10 Mar 2023**

Nomination forms can be obtained from Americanism Chairperson Joseph Schram ([www.joseph.schram@gmail.com](mailto:www.joseph.schram@gmail.com)) or from the Dept Adjutant



# **BSA Transatlantic Council Friends of Scouting Campaign Challenge**

Each American Legion Post is challenged to donate a designated donation determined by its membership. Additional donations from the membership then add up a total of \$1,000



[Friends of Scouting - Transatlantic Council \(tac-bsa.org\)](http://tac-bsa.org)

# *Post Histories*

## **Post Historical Book Competition**

1. The American Legion National Historian hosts an annual one-year narrative history and yearbook (pictorial) history contest for the post level. Details can be found in the Post Officers Guide (pages 125-131).

2. The One-Year Post History should be a one-year post chronicle. The history is to cover one year, beginning with the installation of officers, up to and including the installation of the next year's officers. The activities of all standing post committees should be given considerable coverage, particularly if one committee performs an outstanding service. You may want to include each committee in separate chapters: Americanism, Membership, Boys State, School Award Medals, Oratorical Contest, Junior Shooting Sports, Baseball, Children & Youth, Sons of The American Legion, patriotic observances, post parties, Boy Scout troops and other sponsored groups, to name a few. Collect and record of all post activities. Including photographs in the committee chapters adds to the attractiveness of the entry

3. To be eligible for the national contests, an entry in either category must be a first-place winner in the department's contest and must be certified as such by the department historian. The Post Historical Book needs to be submitted (hard-copy) to the Department Adjutant no later than 10 June. The contest winner will be announced at the Department Convention. The Department's winning Post historical book will be forwarded to the national historian to arrive in Indianapolis NLT 15 September 2023.

## **Post Bios and Pictures**

Please submit the following to the Department Historian:

1. Roster of your Post Officers with their Official Photograph and a biography of no more 500 words.
2. Roster of Post Chairpersons to include their Official Photograph and a biography of no more 500 words.
3. Any newspaper clippings, photographs, copies of programs, tickets, badges and other items pertaining to the post and its activities



Hello Department, Legion Riders,

I want to make sure that all the Department Legion Riders do not forget the follow:

We will be holding our 5<sup>th</sup> Department Legion Riders meeting on 15 April 2023 at GR01 Post Home in Kaiserslautern. Please see the flyer for information. I hope that we will have the same great turnout for this meeting as we had for all the other meetings. As most every Rider knows, we will be conducting elections for the Department Legion Riders positions. Our Department Director, Eddie Kane and, I, Assistant Director will be stepping down at that time. We are hoping that several of you will step up and run for the positions. We will be electing a Director, Assistant Director, and an Adjutant should we have enough Riders that are willing to run for the Positions.

**Don't forget to send me the list of Riders from your Chapters that will be attending the meeting and elections in Kaiserslautern!!!**



## Department of France American Legion Riders

This is the official notification that the Department of France, American Legion Riders will be holding their official meeting for the purpose of elections.

**Date:** 15 April 2023

**Time:** Registration 1200

**Meeting Begins Promptly at 1300**

**Place:** GR01 Post Home

**Rhein Ordenance Baracks**

**Kaiserslautern, Germany**

**Elected Officials:** Department Director

**Department Assistant Director**

**Other positions may be filled through appointment by the newly elected Director.**

Please let me know no later than 1 April 2023 if you are coming so that I can plan for meals: [lpreston1057@gmail.com](mailto:lpreston1057@gmail.com)

*Eddie Kane*  
Eddie Kane  
Director

*Lee B Preston*  
Lee Preston  
Assistant Director



The next event that will be held will be the Toy Run in Erlangen, Germany sponsored for the last 27 or 28 years by an MC in Erlangen. Chapter GR79 attends and donates to this event every year. If you would like some information for the Run or just donate, please contact me at [lpreston1057@gmail.com](mailto:lpreston1057@gmail.com) and I will get you in contact with GR79. I know that the Post's and Department have a lot going on but, please try to attend this ride or donate.

Please see the flyer for our elections and mark the date in your calendars as well as plan to be there. I cannot wait to see you all at our elections.

Thank you all

Lee Preston, Assistant Director, Department of France Legion Riders.



PCC President Joshua Steinlicht

## Department of France Past Commanders Club 2023MY



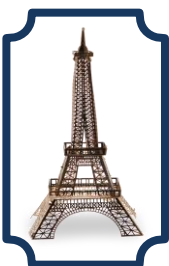
PCC Secretary Lee Preston

### 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 is only \$25.00

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



Grande Chef de Gare 2023MY...David Garcia



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.

**REMINDER:** GRAND ELECTIONS: Saturday 06 May 2023.

*Hosted by Voiture 1524 / Heilbronn, Germany*