



# Legion News

## DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE



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

April 2023

Vol. 21 / No. 4

### DEPARTMENT COMMANDER



Joshua Steinlicht

### Greetings Comrades,

Well, our 3<sup>rd</sup> Department Executive Committee (DEC) meeting at Saint Avoird, France has come and gone, and I could not be happier with the turn-out of delegates and Department Officers! The support from our Posts during this DEC is a testament to the Department's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope that we can keep the upward trend of participation going through the Department Convention and into the next administration year.

The American Legion recognizes April as Children and Youth Month, and the Defense Department also celebrates the Month of the Military Child. This is the time of year that we should honor the sacrifices made by the dependent children of our military members to support our Veterans. As Legionnaires, we should commit ourselves to strengthening

the family units by working with the organizations in our communities and assisting them with providing the services necessary to the military Families. Supporting and sponsoring the programs that are vital to the education and development of our youth into becoming upstanding and patriotic citizens are paramount to securing the enduring future of our military services and Veterans organizations such as ours.

The 84<sup>th</sup> American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest will occur in Indianapolis on 21-23 April. I want to wish the best of luck to our Department Orator, Kennedy Lange as she prepares for competition at the national level. I also want to wish her parent guardian, and the Department of France Americanism Chairman Joseph Schram safe travels as they make their journey to the United States for a weekend filled with competition.

I hope that every Post has a great month and that we make some good strides in meeting our annual membership goals. Let us all celebrate the Military children in our lives and our communities, remember that we are the examples for our youth to follow and the image and manner in which we portray ourselves can leave a lasting impression on our leaders of tomorrow.

- Joshua E. Steinlicht



#### WHAT CAN I DO?

The American Legion has been actively involved with children's issues since the early 1920s. In many instances, the American Legion has been the driving force on behalf of children on the federal, state and local levels.

In 1986, April was formally designated as Child Welfare Month (now called Children & Youth Month) and has continued on an annual basis. During this special time, we encourage each of you to show your community that the American Legion Family is dedicated to America's youth.

Each year the Committee on Children & Youth focuses on three primary areas of concern. They may include:

#### Child health

- Immunization programs
- School nutrition programs
- Teen pregnancy prevention programs

#### Child safety

- Child pornography
- Drug abuse prevention
- Drug trafficking
- Alcohol abuse prevention
- Child/sexual abuse and neglect
- Teen suicide prevention

#### Family support

- National Family Week activities
- Day care safety
- Foster care
- Temporary Financial Assistance
- Missing and exploited children



### April is Children & Youth Month

#### WHERE DO I BEGIN?

To start, consider:

- Obtaining speakers to talk about particular concerns or topics within your community.
- Asking local law enforcement to do a bike safety demonstration, finger printing or to talk about internet safety.
- Conducting a community project with and for children.
- Forming a Community Committee on Children & Youth to discuss current problems, generate solutions and then take action.
- Sponsoring a carnival or talent show featuring young people to raise money for a community project.
- Featuring a youth panel at a local school where participants can discuss some of their concerns.
- Using videos, if applicable, entering the aid of an individual familiar with the subject matter to both present it and be available to answer questions following the viewing.
- Use these suggestions, or develop your own projects, but get involved. Remember, the only limitation you have for youth programs and activities is your own imagination!

#### LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Legislation to improve conditions for children is a focal point of The American Legion's Children & Youth program. By working on behalf of sound legislation, The American Legion, in accordance with mandated positions, strives to bring into enactment the laws necessary to meet the needs of all children.

Whether the legislation involves a local matter, pertains to a problem of a particular state or is an item of national concern, it requires the efforts of all interested in the well-being of children and youth if it is to become law.

Most state assemblies begin their sessions early in the year. This is the best time to present legislation with any new legislation or changes needed in current laws. Within each community, there is a great deal of local legislative action, which deserves continued attention: city ordinances affecting children and youth, appropriations for schools and school budgets, immunization, child abuse and neglect statutes, juvenile courts, local public welfare departments, playgrounds, traffic regulations and other such matters relating to the health and welfare of children.

There is a great need for informed public participation in local government matters. And when it comes to local matters affecting our children and youth, The American Legion should make itself heard.

#### PROMOTE YOUR ACTIVITIES

You should publicize your programs and activities. Have the mayor or another local official issue a proclamation declaring April as Children & Youth Month. The post commander should issue a town release proclaiming April as Children & Youth Month and let what the post will be doing for this annual observance.

Remember, programs supporting the children and youth of your community are never futile; the news media to your activities and keep them informed.

#### REPORT SUCCESSES

Following the observance of Children & Youth Month, the Children & Youth chairmen need to turn their attention to the annual reporting of expenditures and activities. Be sure you have an accurate record of all money spent for the benefit of children and youth by your post during the current year, as well as the number of children who received service and assistance.

Shortly after the first of the year, American Legion departments receive copies of the Consolidated Post Report (CPR) for later distribution to posts. This form has been developed to track necessary information about The American Legion's overall programs. It is the responsibility of the post Children & Youth chairman to report his/her program activities to the individual designated in the post to complete the Consolidated Post Report. The CPR can be done online at MyLegion.org by the post adjutant.



	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 *ESQY 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	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

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**DEPARTMENT  
VCAL**



*Lee Preston*

Hello Everyone,

March has come and gone and with that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Department Executive Committee Meeting was completed. I do want to apologize for not coming in online but, the B&B that I had on that day had terrible internet and my cell phone would not get in to my mobile data (no connection).

We are heading into the final push for membership!!! Let's get this done and make that 100% for your Posts and the Department.

Next, Department Annual Convention! The Convention will be held in Eitorf, Germany and should be a great time like we had there in 2019. I have received Convention Registration forms for 9 people which includes 3 wives. Department Officers and those wishing to remain or become Department Officers should already have registered for Department Convention. Also, those individuals needing specific rooms such as Handicap, shower or tub preference or, floor level preference needs to get their registrations in as soon as possible to get your necessities guaranteed. The longer you wait the harder this will become. Thank you all for your interest in the Department Annual Convention.

Again, 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.

Let's get these Convention Registration sent in!

For God and Country, Lee Preston, VCAL

## **American Legion Commander: Keep the Federal Government open**

“On the behalf of the two million members of The American Legion, I encourage Congress to quickly come to a consensus to keep the federal government open and functioning. We are very concerned about the impact of a shutdown on our uniformed personnel who may not get paid until the government reopens. Many of our servicemembers and their families do not have the cash reserves to rely upon in the absence of a regular paycheck and would suffer unnecessary disruption to their lives. The American Legion would be very disappointed if our elected officials cannot make the necessary compromises to keep the government open.”

Article from Legion.org





Greetings All,

I want to thank you all for the outstanding attendance we had at our 3<sup>rd</sup> DEC. We had 20 Posts in attendance which is a record since many years! I know we would have 22 if not for a couple of people sick at that moment. Speaking of DEC attendance, we are keeping track of each Posts attendance at our DEC's, see attached chart. This goes back to following our Department Constitution & Bylaws. I am very happy Commander Steinlicht is bringing our Department back in tune with our C&Bs like holding a DEC in our Department HQ in St. Avold. I hope to spend more time there next year and take in the Lorraine American War Cemetery practically next door to the hotel. We already have hotel reservations there at the Novotel Hotel for the 28<sup>th</sup> of October next year to meet our requirements to meet there once a year on our 2<sup>nd</sup> DEC, mark your calendars.

Last 3 DEC Attendance Count				1st DEC 22/23	2nd DEC 22/23	3rd DEC 22/23	DEC Attendance	
Post	Name	Location	Vice Commander	18. Jun 22	29. Oct 22	18. Mar 23	Last 3	Count
BE02	Flanders Fields Post	Chievers Belgium	Prehoda	1	0	1	BE02	2
CH01	The Generals Ward & Chenault Post	China	Preston	0	2	0	CH01	1
DK01	Copenhagen Post	Copenhagen Denmark	Brotherton	0	0	0	DK01	0
EG01	London Post	London England	Brotherton	0	Present	2	EG01	2
EG02	Liberty Post	Lakenheath England	Brotherton	1	Present	2	EG02	3
EG303	Molsworth	Molsworth England	Brotherton	0	Present	2	EG303	2
FR01	Paris Post	Paris France	Johnson	2	0	1	FR01	2
GC01	Athens Post	Athens Greece	Preston	1	1	0	GC01	2
GR01	Kaiserslautern Post	Kaiserslautern Germany	Johnson	1	1	2	GR01	3
GR02	Ramstein Post	Ramstein Germany	Johnson	0	0	0	GR02	0
GR03	Rhein Nechar Post	Rhein Nechar Germany	Prehoda	1	0	1	GR03	2
GR05	Rhein Main Post	Rhein Main Germany	Johnson	0	2	1	GR05	2
GR06	Stuttgart Post	Stuttgart Germany	Mock	0	2	0	GR06	1
GR07	Riley Lee Pitts Post	Wiesbaden Germany	Prehoda	2	1	2	GR07	3
GR09	William D. Nelson Post	Senden Germany	Mock	1	2	2	GR09	3
GR13	Dwight D. Eisenhower Post	Augsberg Germany	Mock	0	0	0	GR13	0
GR14	Thomas W. Barnett Post	Buedingen Germany	Prehoda	0	0	0	GR14	0
GR20	Eifel Post	Spangdahlem Germany	Johnson	0	0	1	GR20	1
GR30	Audie Murphy Post	Kitzingen Germany	Mock	1	1	EXCUSED	GR30	3
GR42	Omar Bradley Post	Geldersheim Germany	Mock	1	1	1	GR42	3
GR45	George S. Patten Post	Vilseck, Germany	Mock	0	0	0	GR45	0
GR79	John Wayne Post	Heilbronn Germany	Mock	0	0	1	GR79	1
GR1982	David Chavez Post	Ansbach Germany	Johnson	1	2	2	GR1982	3
IR01	The Pride of Erin Post	Dublin Ireland	Brotherton	0	0	2	IR01	1
IR02	Fathere Francis Duffy Post	Cork Ireland	Brotherton	0	2	1	IR02	2
IR03	Commodore John Barry Post	Mayo Ireland	Brotherton	0	1	0	IR03	1
IR63	John F. Kennedy Post	Dublin Ireland	Brotherton	0	1	0	IR63	1
IT01	Rome Post	Rome Italy	Preston	0	0	0	IT01	0
NL01	Margraten Post	Brunssum The Netherlands	Prehoda	2	2	2	NL01	3
SP292	Madrid Spain Post	Madrid Spain	Prehoda	0	0	0	SP292	0
TH01	Brig. Gen. Robin Olds Post	Ubun Thailand	Preston	0	1	2	TH01	2
TH02	SGT Thomas Oliver Ahlberg Memorial Post	Chon Buri Thailand	Preston	0	0	2	TH02	1

Now is the time that all Post Adjutants look after their Post CPR status. Online, I have seen the report for the Department of France DFR CPR Status, it shows that only 5 Posts out of 32 have finalized and saved their CPRs. I really hope we can all submit our CPR Reports. If you have any questions about your report, please just ask me. Our goal is to be a realistic 90% complete. Please help us achieve that goal.

On a social note, I would like to thank GR01 Adjutant John Fleming for the idea of an Adjutant's WhatsApp Group. It is designed as a place to ask questions that other Post Adjutants could benefit from hearing the answers and announcements. The group is up and running now. We have a lot to share between Posts. If you wish to join, please let me know.

Very best wishes,

Dennis Owens  
Adjutant  
Department of France

**American Legion Kaiserslautern**

**Post GR01**

**Veteran Family  
PICNIC**

**10 Jun 2023**

**10:00 - 16:00**



**Free Food  
and DRINKS**

**LIVE DJ**

**Pulaski Park**





## Kaiserslautern Post GR01 Celebrates The American Legion 104<sup>th</sup> Birthday.



Kaiserslautern Post GR01 Legion Members



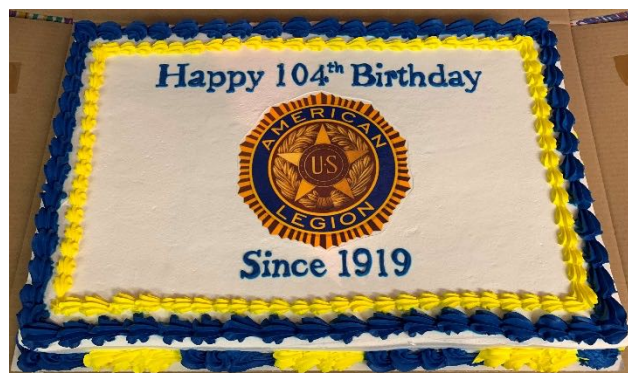
Kaiserslautern Unit GR01 Auxiliary and Guests



Everyone enjoying some great food!



Everyone enjoying some great food!



Happy 104<sup>th</sup> Birthday, American Legion

## **American Legion Wreath Ceremony – 78th anniversary of the Assault on Ludendorff Bridge: The First Allied Crossing of the Rhine**

*Story by Todd Johnson / Photo by David Crawford for The American Legion*

REMAGEN, GERMANY — On March 7th, officers of Riley L. Pitts Post No. GR07 of The American Legion, the department chaplain of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Europe, and others participated in a wreath ceremony to mark the 78th anniversary of the first Allied crossing of the Rhine in March 1945. The annual event took place at the Ludendorff Bridge ruin in Remagen, Germany.





## Griffis newest post member — Jarvis and Johnson complete Legion Basic Training



**Jerry Griffis**



**Harold Jarvis**



**Louis Johnson**

*Story and photos by Todd Johnson for The American Legion*

RILEY L. PITTS POST No. GR07, Wiesbaden, Germany — U.S. Army veteran Jerry Griffis was recently sworn in as the newest member of Riley L. Pitts Post No. GR07 located in Crestview Housing Area at U.S. Army Garrison, Wiesbaden. Griffis, currently serving on active duty with Armed Forces Network (AFN) Wiesbaden, is a Global War on Terrorism era veteran.

Harold Jarvis and Post Sergeant-at-Arms Louis Johnson have successfully completed the requirements of the online Basic Training course of the American Legion Education Institute. Jarvis, a member of the Sons of The American Legion, recently transferred to Kaiserslautern Squadron No. GR01, near Landstuhl, Germany, where he temporarily resides. Johnson, currently serving on active duty with U.S. Army Europe and Africa at Lucius D. Clay Kaserne, Germany, is also a Global War on Terrorism era veteran.

The Basic Training course of the American Legion Education Institute provides a pillar-by-pillar understanding of Legion services, programs and history. The core Legion topics are History & Organization, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth.





Photo from Legion.org

### **Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola, National Commander of The American Legion**

Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola (pronounced Tree-Ola) was elected national commander of the nation's largest veteran service organization on Sept. 1, 2022, in Milwaukee during The American Legion's 103rd national convention. His theme as national commander is "V.E.T.S., Veterans, Education, Teamwork and Sponsor."

A life member of American Legion Post 1682 in Rockland County, N.Y, he served in the U.S. Navy and Navy Reserves from 1969 to 1974. He completed a tour aboard the USS *Nitro*, an auxiliary ammunition ship with the Sixth Fleet. He was honorably discharged as a boatswain's mate third class. He is also a member of Sons of The American Legion Squadron 1682 based on the World War II service of Jim's father.

Jim spent his entire working career in the automotive service industry, where he began as a parts manager at a local Chevrolet dealership and went to serve in many capacities of management. At the time of his retirement in 2017, he was director of service and parts at a New York Metro Mercedes Benz dealership. After a brief time at home, he began an entirely new career as a school bus driver for the Falmouth School District and part-time motor coach operator.

Jim served in many offices at every level of The American Legion. He was elected department (state) commander of New York for 2010-2011, and chaired several national commissions to include the Legislative Commission, Veterans Employment and Education Commission and the Membership and Post Activity Committee. He served on the National Security Commission and was elected national vice commander for 2016-2017.

He married his wife Saveria (pronounced Sa-Vare-ee-ah) in 1973. They have two daughters, Laura and Jeanette; a son-in-law, Michael; and three grandchildren, Alexander, Abigail and Natalia. The Troiolas include three generations of American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion membership.

Jim currently lives in Maine to be close to a daughter and his grandchildren, while still being within driving distance to the Department of New York.

**Commander's Bio from Legion.org**

# NL01 MARGRATEN POST *BRUNSSUM, THE NETHERLANDS*

WE HAD A GREAT TURN OUT FOR OUR MARCH GMM WITH OUR PACK THE HOUSE FAMILY BBQ AND ELECTIONS.

I AM HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE OUR NEW POST LEADERSHIP...

COMMANDER - DENNIS OWENS

ADJUTANT - RICHARD SIMMONS

1ST VICE COMMANDER - ADAM RUDOLPH

2ND VICE COMMANDER EARL MCCOY

HISTORIAN - DANIEL FRIEDMAN

SGT AT ARMS - MARK CHERNEK

POST SERVICE OFFICER - JOHN POPE

CHAPLAIN - RICHARD OJEDA

JUDGE ADVOCATE - JEFF DANICO

FINANCE OFFICER - SHAUN REYNOLDS

AND OUR NEW IPC - JOSHUA STEINLICHT

WE INDUCTED 7 NEW MEMBERS OR THOSE WHO WERE NEVER INDUCTED PROPERLY INTO THE AMERICAN LEGION, CONGRATULATIONS TO THEM.

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER JIM BROTHERTON OFFICIATED OVER THE ELECTIONS PROCEEDINGS, THANKS JIM!

I WISH TO CONGRATULATE PAST COMMANDER JOSHUA STEINLICHT FOR A GREAT TWO YEARS AS COMMANDER OF OUR POST. HE WILL BE A HARD ACT TO FOLLOW. JOSH, YOU HAVE MY FULLEST RESPECT! THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO IN YOUR NEW ROLL!

WE HAVE A GREAT OFFICER LINE UP THIS YEAR AND I ANTICIPATE WE WILL BE VERY ACTIVE THIS YEAR NOW THAT PRESIDENT BIDEN SAID THAT THE COVID IS BEHIND US!

TO ALL, VERY BEST WISHES,  
DENNIS OWENS, COMMANDER NL01.





# 2023 ORATORICAL CONTEST

ANSBACH, GERMANY

Department of France put on a wonderful Oratorical Contest on the 4th of March 2023 at the High School in Ansbach. DFR Americanism Chairman Joseph Schram organized a spectacular competition hosted by Post GR1982. We had Seven Students from all over Europe competing for the opportunity to represent our Department at the National competition being held 21-23 April 2023 at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel in Indianapolis, IN.

Our competition was tough and fair with a clear winner rising above all others. Kennedy Lange from the Ansbach High School in Germany goes on to represent our Department at Nationals. She is the picked up a \$1000 check for first place from our competition. Being a freshman, she still has three more chances to bring the National Oratorical honors to the Department of France. We are proud of you Kennedy, very best wishes to you!







*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.





GR79 BOWLING



GR79 LEGION RIDERS





**THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE  
JOHN WAYNE POST GR 79**



**GREETINGS TO ALL - YOU ARE CORDUALLY INVITED TO OUR**

**EASTER PARTY FEST**

**When APRIL 8- 2023**

**Where Gartenfreunde Klingenberg;**

**74081 Heilbronn—Klingenberg IM Bruch**

**Time 13.00**



**Charlie Brown [vcalbrown50@gmail.com](mailto:vcalbrown50@gmail.com) Commander 0170-1888034**  
**Ray Charles 2 ViceCommander [raywharton62@gmail.com](mailto:raywharton62@gmail.com) 01795050403**

**“Still Serving America’s Veterans...Around the World”**

CONGRATULATIONS!!! Your Ansbach Cougars are the National 2023 Army Marksmanship Champions.



9th JROTC Battalion, Ansbach, Germany







**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).

# *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 the 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.



**I attended the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of France on the 11 March 2023, 3rd Dec Executive Committee meeting/Video Conference. 6 Detachment Officers were present and voting and only 3 Squadrons were present, a quorum was present. The Detachment has 11 Squadrons and just 3 were present, a very poor showing for Detachment. The Detachment membership at this time is standing at 97 %, we have 11 Squadrons and 9 made 100%, hats off for the Squadrons making it and thanks for the hard work. If you need help for Membership, the Detachment Adjutant and MEMBERSHIP Chairman are at your disposal. The Squadrons that made 100% are GR01, GR05, GR07, GR42, GR79, BE02, FR01, and NL01. The next Detachment meeting will be on 4 DEC and Convention and 1 DEC in . The Church in Baumholder.**

**Detachment Commander  
Charlie Brown**







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

### 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*



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*