Happy New Year to my American Legion Family. I am happy to see everyone made it safe. At the beginning of every new year, there are always challenges, and as a family, we will not be alone in overcoming those challenges, either personal or community.

**Be the One:** I am glad that no one was injured, or lives were lost. The Buddy Check was utilized to prevent this. We need to continue with these checks and make this a habit. Please be aware of your surroundings during these tough times, and events in the community where we reside.

**Membership:** I want to thank everyone for holding that line in membership and being number one. Yes, we may have slipped down to second place, but we are back! As of 27 December 2023, we are number one with 86.50%. We only need 405 renewals/new members to reach 100%. We can do this. With this kind of percentage, membership shows us that we can unite and work together for a common good. Also, keep in mind it is not one person that holds this together in membership. It is a unity of the people who come together as one.

**Mid-Winter Conference:** It will be held on the 27th and 28th of January. VCAL Dennis Owens will be hosting the event. The Itinerary for the Mid-Winter Conference is in this newsletter. I encourage everyone to attend.
Christmas party: On the 20th of December, GR01, which is my Post, had their Christmas party. The food was excellent, and it was a great event, chatting with friends, and discussing the passing of the year.

In closing, I cannot stress enough about being aware of your surroundings in the community, using a Buddy Check, and understanding that we care and watch out for each other.

Department Adjutant’s Corner

Greeting Comrades,

Happy New Year Everyone. I hope everyone had a Great Christmas and that we all have an even better 2024!

Consolidated Post Report / Consolidated Squadron Report (CPR/CSR) — We need to be working on these now. It is available on myLegion.org, so every time you have an event you can start filling it in. Please do not finalize it until June 2024. The final date to submit is 31 July 2024.

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.
Post Data Form: As everyone should be aware by now, National voted to increase the National per capita by $5.00 effective 1 July 2024 for the 2025 Membership Year.

With this change, the National per capita, $23.50, plus the Department per capita, $6.50, will be $30.00. If your Post dues are $30.00 or less, you will need to complete a new Post Data Form to inform National of your Post’s new annual dues amount. If you do not change your Post dues, you will not receive any dues from Annual Members beginning 1 July 2024. These forms must be returned to me by 26 April 2024 so I can ensure that we meet the National suspense date.

Dates to Remember:

27-28 January 2024 - Mid-Winter Conference.
1 March 2024 - Eagle Scout of the Year is due to the Scouting Chairman
1 March 2024 - Gold Award Scout of the Year is due to the Scouting Chairman
10 March 2024 - Civil Air Patrol Cadet of the Year is due to the Adjutant
23 March 2024 - 3rd DEC, in Ansbach, hosted by GR1982.
1 April 2024 - Award Packets are due to the Adjutant (no joke)
6 April 2024 - Awards Committee Meeting
13-16 June 2024 - Convention Weekend, in Ochsenfurt, Germany, hosted by GR30.

Thanks, and best wishes.
John Fleming
Department Adjutant

Greetings Department of France,

As I get older it still amazes me how fast time fly’s past, we are looking at another trip around the sun and another New Year! I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank our Department Vice Commanders. Each one of them have stepped up to the task of direct communication with the Posts that I have assigned them. When they have that moment to sit with the Commander and Adjutant of each Post, they ask some 30 questions to encourage communication on the great things your Post is doing and find some areas your Post might need attention. From what I have heard they have reached most all of the Posts. Please if you have not had this opportunity do have this sit-down with your Vice Commander please do it, I am okay if it is face to face or via Zoom or virtual platform. Only good can come of it. Your Vice Commander is your direct link to the Department. He is your Advocate. Also note, I have asked them to reengage with your Post some six months after your initial face to face to see where your Post has improved and where your Post still needs some attention. They are there for you.

Another point I wish to bring up in the annual Mid-Winter Conference (MWC) scheduled this time on the 27th and 28th of January 2024, we have a lot in store for each Post. Attendance is not mandatory, but if you have the desire to grow as a Post Officer or if you wish to step up and become a Post Officer, then this MWC is for you. Almost each Department Officer is presenting what is important in their position and how that transfers to the Post Officer’s position. Please see the attached MWC Schedule and tune in when you wish. There is plenty of time for Q&A after each presentation as well as the end of both days. This MWC runs from 09:00 the 27th Jan to 16:00 and from 11:00 – 16:00 on the 28th of Jan. It will be virtual using WebEx. Watch for the link and I really hope to see you all there.

Very Best wishes,
VCAL Dennis Owens
Department of France Mid-Winter Conference 27th & 28th of January 2024

Saturday, 27 January 2024

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:00</td>
<td>Opening Comments</td>
<td>Dept. Commander Robert Gray</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:05-09:45</td>
<td>Importance of being an effective Commander</td>
<td>VCAL Dennis Owens</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:45-10:00</td>
<td>Membership Issues</td>
<td>James Dennis</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Comments from our Four Vice Commanders</td>
<td>VC Jim Brotherton, VC Quincy Foster, VC Rick Ojeda, VC John Gerdeman</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Questions-Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00-11:45</td>
<td>Importance of the Post Adjutant</td>
<td>VCAL Dennis Owens</td>
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<td>11:45-12:00</td>
<td>Questions-Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00-12:45</td>
<td>Chaplain’s Comments</td>
<td>Dept. Chaplain Ken Keckler</td>
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<td>12:45-13:00</td>
<td>Questions-Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00</td>
<td>Americanism</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00-13:15</td>
<td>Oratorical Program</td>
<td>Doug Clemence</td>
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<td>13:15-13:30</td>
<td>Boys State Program</td>
<td>Joseph Schram</td>
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<td>13:30-13:45</td>
<td>Boy Scouts</td>
<td>Trey Jeager</td>
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<td>13:45-14:00</td>
<td>American Legion Riders</td>
<td>ALR Director Jim Brotherton</td>
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<td>14:00-14:45</td>
<td>Historian Comments</td>
<td>Department Historian Joseph Schram</td>
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<td>14:45-15:00</td>
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<td>15:00-15:30</td>
<td>Post Finance Officer Issues</td>
<td>Dept. Finance Officer Gary Miller</td>
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<td>Questions-Break</td>
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<td>15:35</td>
<td>Closing Comments</td>
<td>Dept. Commander Robert Gray</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:40-16:00</td>
<td>Open Discussion Time</td>
<td>Everybody</td>
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Sunday, 28 January 2024

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Opening Comments</td>
<td>Dept. Commander Robert Gray</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:05-11:45</td>
<td>Membership and <a href="http://www.mylegion.org">www.mylegion.org</a></td>
<td>Membership Chairman James Dennis</td>
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<td>11:45-12:00</td>
<td>Questions-Break</td>
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<td>12:00-12:45</td>
<td>Judge Advocate’s Comments</td>
<td>Judge Advocate James Settle</td>
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<td>12:45-13:00</td>
<td>Questions-Break</td>
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<td>13:00</td>
<td>Americanism Children &amp; Youth</td>
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<td>JROTC Chris Buchanan</td>
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<td>13:15-13:30</td>
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<td>Junior Shooting Chris Buchanan</td>
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<td>13:45-14:00</td>
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<td>ALR Director Jim Brotherton</td>
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<td>14:00-14:45</td>
<td>Questions-Break</td>
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<td>14:45-15:00</td>
<td>Department Service Officer</td>
<td>DSO Frank Phillips</td>
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<td>15:00-15:45</td>
<td>Department Sgt. At Arms</td>
<td>SGT-at-Arms Jim Dennis</td>
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<td>15:45</td>
<td>Questions-Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:00-16:45</td>
<td>Open Discussion Time</td>
<td>Everybody</td>
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As 2023 comes to a close, I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas, and as we prepare to welcome in the New Year I want to wish, not just my Posts, but all Posts a Happy New Year and a safe 2024.

Let’s all work together to make it one of the best years for all Posts, Department and the American Legion. I know I stand ready, along with my fellow Vice Commanders and Department Officers to help each and every one of you, to make your Post be the best it can be.

In the weeks and months to come a lot of new and exciting changes are coming down the pipeline. The new multi-year renewal option for one. I urge all Posts to reach out to their assigned Department Vice Commander and Officers if you have questions, problems, or ideas how we, as a department, can do better. We are there for you, use us.

Greetings Comrades,

I hope and pray you and your families enjoyed Christmas together, and I wish you a Happy New Year.

First, I want to congratulate all those post’s that made a 100% membership before 1 May and the Post's that made 100% before the cutoff date, Dec 31, 2023. For those that did not make a 100% yet you still have a chance to meet that goal. I salute you all.

If we have not been able to make contact this year. My New Years resolution is to make more of an effort to visit you posts. You are important to me and the Department.

I would like for all of us to take a little time out and remember those who are no longer with us and say, "job well done and make their soles rest in peace". If I can help you in any way, please contact me.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in the New Year so stay safe!
God Bless you and your family!!!!!!!

Quincy Foster / Dept. of France Vice Commander

For most of us the winter months are the hardest. Minimal riding opportunities available, most of us usually put the bike(s) away for some months. Take this time to check over your bike(s), focus on items of safety and use this down time to get everything in good working order. Each country has its own safety inspection requirements. I believe Germany requires a certified inspection, some of the others, not sure about. No mandated inspection required in the Netherlands. Bottom line you want your motorcycle ready to go next year when the riding weather returns.

Please take this time to also consider how we can put together a Department wide meeting program. Where would be a good location, what would be some good agenda items? If you have some ideas, please pass them along so we can start building a package.

Wishing everyone a safe holiday season and a very Happy New Year in 2024.
NOTICE: The prices are a little cheaper than reported in the December Newsletter!

Other information on the Convention: All drinks are "pay as you go". You can pay with a credit card at the Hotel for your stay for the Convention. Please add any "Special" needs you or your family may need on the registration form included, and as soon as you arrive at the Convention, you need to contact Sonja or myself before paying for your stay. If you arrive a day earlier, please annotate it on your reservation for accountability (this day is not included on the Convention packet). You must pay for this day extra. I can reserve the room for you.

James Dennis / Audie Murphy Post GR30

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The American Legion
Department of France
96th Annual Convention
Hosted by Audie Murphy Post GR30

Where: Best Western Hotel Polisina
Markbreiter Str. 265
97199 Ochsenfurt, Germany

When: 13 - 16 June 2024

Convention Package Consist of:
4 Days and 3 Nights
Breakfast Buffet
Dinner Meal including the Banquet
One Convention Coin per Department registered guest residing at the Hotel
Mineral water and juice during the meetings
Afternoon coffee and pastry

Cost: 13 - 16 June 2024
Complete Package - Single Room 470,00 € Per Person
Complete Package - Double Room 320,00 € Per Person

14 - 16 June 2024
Two Nights with Banquet - Single Room 340,00 € Per Person
Two Nights with Banquet - Double Room 220,00 € Per Person

15 - 16 June 2024
One Night with Banquet - Single Room 180,00 € Per Person
One Night with Banquet - Double Room 130,00 € Per Person

Following expenditures to be paid at Convention
Banquet Only (no overnights) 35,00 € Per Person
Attending meetings only. Not staying at hotel. 35,00 € Per Person, Per Day
Meetings and meal, no overnight 60,00 € Per Person, Per Day

(Includes use of conference room, afternoon coffee and pastry, & mineral water and juice during the meetings. Please notify Comrade Dennis if you will be attending Convention Meetings only.)

* Prices include Breakfast and Dinner Meals only >>> Lunch is Not included.*
We need all reservations on rooms by 1 May 2024

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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
Biosauna | Dampfbad
Finnische Sauna | Fitness
Kosmetik | Massage | Hallenbad

Ein Ort der Inspiration. Nehmen Sie sich Zeit,
dem Alltag zu entfliehen und genießen Sie
eine Massage, eine wohltuende Kosmetik-
behandlung oder entspannen Sie in unserem
eigenen Spa Bereich mit Hallenbad, 3 Saunen
und Ruherraum.

Die Küche – Einfach natürlich
frisch & regional

Unser Küchenchef, Michel Werner und
seine Mannschaft kochen fränkische Köst-
lichkeiten. Ob Frühstück, Kuchen oder Mit-
tag- und Abendessen – Sie schmecken stets
die Frische der Region. All unsere Gerichte
werden bewusst natürlich und frisch produ-
ziert. Zudem bieten wir ebenso vegetarische
und vegane Gerichte an.

Best Western
Hotel Polisina

Das Hotel lebt in und vor allem von der Natur.
Aus Respekt zur Tradition wurden die Zimmer
im Stammhaus bewusst im fränkischen, rus-
tikal hochwertig aufgearbeitet. Gefolgt von Natur
Und Moderne prägen die Zimmer im Anbau
den Zeitgeist mit hellen, warmen Farben und
wohnlicher Einrichtung.

Hochzeit | Tagung
Familienfeier

Hoch über dem Mainufer, mitten im Grü
nen gelegen, bietet das Best Western Hotel
Polisina nicht nur einen perfekten Rückzugso
rt für Ruhe und Entspannung, sondern es
liefert auch durch die jahrelange Erfahrung im
Tagungs- und Bankettbereich ein perfektes
Ambiente inmitten der schönen Natur.

Der Biergarten

In den Sommermonaten bietet unser Biergar
ten schattige Plätze, an denen Sie den Tag mit
einem kraftvollen Frühstück beginnen oder
die lauen Sommerabende genussvoll ausklingen
cönnten. Umgrenzen von beliebter
Natur – mitten im Wald.
Paris Post 1 Legionnaire presents centennial medallion to French Ambassador to the USA
Paris Post 1 Legionnaire Wes Lam recently attended an alumni event for his university at the French Ambassador's residence in Washington D.C.

The event was called the SciencesPo Transatlantic Forum organized by SciencesPo American Foundation and hosted by the French Ambassador at his residence in DC.

During the evening, Wes presented one of Paris Post 1 centennial medallions to Ambassador Bili with one of Paris Post 1 centennial medallions.

Thank you Wes for introducing Paris Post 1 to Ambassador Bili!

Harvard Glee Club at the American Cathedral in Paris!

Successful Centennial Year for the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC)
Paris Post 1 was honored to attend the ABMC’s centennial reception with U.S. Ambassador to France Denise Bauer, ABMC Secretary Charles Djou, ABMC Executive Director Ed Ryan plus commissioners and employees from the ABMC, ABMF and the U.S. Embassy in Paris. The historic event was at the U.S. Chief of Mission’s Residence in the historic Hotel de Rothschild on rue de Faubourg Saint-Honoré this past month marking an exceptional year for the ABMC.

The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) operates and maintains 26 cemeteries and 31 federal memorials,
monuments, and commemorative plaques in 17 countries throughout the world, including the United States.

Since March 4, 1923, ABMC’s sacred mission remains to honor the service, achievements, and sacrifice of more than 200,000 U.S. service members buried and memorialized at their sacred sites.

The centennial reception was sponsored and supported by the American Battle Monuments Foundation (ABMF). The American Battle Monuments Foundation is the non-profit partner of the ABMC. Their mission is to honor the sacrifices of the men and women who fought to protect our freedoms, died, and are buried or missing away from the homeland, as well as the millions of others who have served with honor and distinction when called to duty. Through education and outreach, the ABMF ensures that these legacies remain relevant so that future generations may live in liberty.

In the photo above, ABMF Board Secretary John Crawford giving an impressive speech about our duties to continue preserving these sacred sites and legacies. Mr. Crawford was the recipient of the Myron T. Herrick Award at Paris Post 1’s Centennial in 2019.

Paris Post 1 is grateful for the strong bonds that we have developed with the ABMC in France, and we look forward to next year’s annual ceremonies which we continue to grow together year after year.

**NEVERFORGET ROSE**

*Duchêne Family Rose Garden Since 1947*

Never Forget Rose at Oise-Aisne American Cemetery in France

More good news from the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) in France!

A very special thanks to Executive Director for Operations Ed Ryan and his team for moving forward with the plan to plant the white Never Forget roses in their new rose beds that are on the approach to the office building at Oise-Aisne.

Paris Post 1, the Society of the Honor Guard Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the American Rose Society joined together to propose the Never Forget rose to the ABMC in France. After a successful test grow this past year, everyone is delighted and honored to have the historic Never Forget rose dedicated to the Unknown Soldier growing at the Oise-Aisne American cemetery in France.

On February 8, 2022, the remains of an unidentified presumed American soldier were discovered in the civilian cemetery grounds of Villers-sur-Fère, France. After an investigation by local authorities, military experts and archeologists, it was established that the remains were those of a U.S. soldier who fought in the area during World War I.

Oise-Aisne American Cemetery honors the service and legacy of 6,012 buried service members and 241 Missing in Action memorialized on the Wall of the Missing. Most of them lost their lives while fighting in this vicinity in 1918 during World War I. A new headstone was engraved and installed to welcome the remains of this unknown soldier.

Are you interested in reading the history of how the Never Forget rose and garden were created? Its an amazing and beautiful story!

**Unknown Soldier Art Exhibit Visits Paris!**

“This exhibition is a poignant reminder of the immense sacrifices that our elders did to defend democracy and freedom. “The Unknown Soldier symbolizes the debt our present and future generations owe to the valiant soldiers who fought side by side, and the long standing alliance between France and the United States.”

Thierry Chaunu ~ President of the American Society of Le Souvenir Français, Inc.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Military Women’s Memorial in Washington D.C. and the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, in Arlington, Virginia, the History of the Unknown Soldier art exhibit was successfully created for display. With special help from United Airlines and Cavalier Logistics, this art exhibit was brought from the USA to France earlier this year in October.

Over the course of the last few months, this special art exhibit traveled over 1,800 kilometers to complete a tour de France!

First visiting Chalons-en-Champagne for its grand opening, the Unknown Soldier art exhibit next traveled to the Verdun Museum, and then down to the south of France to the Chateau de Castries.

With a lot of gratitude to Le Souvenir Français for their generosity, this historic art exhibit made it back to Paris for a recent showing at their headquarters. Members of Paris Post 1 and the American community in Paris were grateful to be able to attend the event which took place at Le Souvenir Français’ Paris headquarters.

Special thanks to LSF President Serge Barcellini for his generosity in supporting the event, and for giving an exceptional speech on the history of World War I, the Unknown
Soldier and the close history with France and the United States (see video links of his presentation below).

Paris Post 1 would also like to thank our friend in the community Jane McDonald with Espace Canopy who joined us for this great event with others from this Paris based non-profit association. Jane was kind to help us with English translation during the event presentation.

Special thanks to everyone for joining us at all of the art exhibitions, and for your dedication to having this historic art exhibit from the USA on display in France!

Paris Post 1 was grateful to have several members of The American Legion attend including Tomb Guard co-founder Richard Azzaro and President Lonny LeGrande of the Society of the Honor Guard Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

These plaques were placed on the site of the allied 1781 French-American victory, in cooperation with the County of Gloucester, VA, the National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association, Inc. and the National Park Service.

The Battle of the Hook has often been ignored, yet it is one of the most important episodes of the siege of Yorktown. These interpretive markers are the latest addition to a series of markers, sculptures, and memorials interpreting Yorktown's battlefield and its surroundings).

Legionnaires in Idaho supporting activities for the youth on Halloween

As autumn approaches, costumes, candy and community.

Special thanks to our friends in Moscow, Idaho for sharing their Legion activities this autumn. Paris Post 1 Legionnaire Brenda Hokenson joined with her community to organize events like the Halloween Trunk or Treat with friends Carrie from the American Legion in Pullman, Washington, and Joanne Eastburn, President of Moscow's Moose Lodge. 100 American Legion Halloween Safety color books were handed out!

Brenda and her husband Chad Trautman from Plummer Idaho Legion Post 69 (and SAL Area-A Vice Commander) assisted Valued Veteran Compass with hosting a dart tournament fundraiser for American Warfighters. They provided a static
display of military uniforms, and set up a POW/MIA display along with a missing man table. The event was 11 hours with 30 teams, live bands and a music DJ!

We are grateful for our veterans staying active in the community!

Thanksgiving with Benjamin Franklin VFW Post 605 at the École Militaire

Every year the VFW in Paris has their Thanksgiving feast, and it's delicious! (especially the pecan pie)

Throughout the year Paris Post 1 and Benjamin Franklin VFW Post 605 work together on helping and serving American veterans who live in France.

When the holidays arrive, it is the Thanksgiving feast that the VFW provides the American community in Paris that really makes us feel at home.

We are truly grateful for the opportunity to share a meal with everyone, and we thank VFW Post 605 for their dedication to our community and country.

Paris Post 1 wishes everyone a happy holiday season!

International Federation of Mountain Soldiers (IFMS) Congress in Grenoble

Every year the VFW in Paris has their Thanksgiving feast, and it's delicious!

The Corps of Chasseurs alpins is part of a bigger entity called “Chasseurs à pied”, created by the Duc of Orléans in 1838 and originally famous for the speed and the particular spirit of the troop (later defined by Maréchal Lyautey). The first battalions of Chasseurs alpins were created in 1888.

The International Federation of Mountain Soldiers (IFMS) is an apolitical federation made up of recognized national associations that have been officially recognized by the country they represent.

The International Federation of Mountain Soldiers (IFMS) is committed to the defense of their own countries and support the efforts for the building of understanding between nations like the United States and France.

This year Paris Post 1 Auxiliary Anna Marie Mattson, who is a member of the IFMS, attended their International Congress in Grenoble (see photos above and below).

The Federation pursues the following four goals:
- To work together towards peace, liberty and to preserve human rights.
- To preserve the memory and honor of comrades killed in combat or in the mountains.
- To preserve the true spirit of comradeship unique to mountain troops.
- To set an example for future generations and to direct them towards mutual recognition, respect and understanding.

Paris Post 1 is honored to be a part of this historic association, and to have the history of our mountain soldiers preserved and remembered!
Post GR01 hosted a Christmas Dining Out on 20 December 23 and Simultaneously recognized and handed out longevity pins and certificates to loyal and dedicated members. Post GR01 wishes everyone the best life has to offer for year 2024.
The American Legion Post TH02 hosted a holiday event for the Take Care Kids Foundation on 16 Dec 2023. This event was presented by the Members of TH02 with sponsors from VFW Post 9876, Rotary Club Pattaya Marina, The Royal British Legion and The Pattaya News. The event was attended by over 110 people.
GR79 HOMELESS DINNER

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 of France
Past Commanders Club 2024MY

Who is eligible to join the Department of France Past Commanders Club?

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Hello Comrades,

Holy Moley! Another Year is Gone! Where did it go? Happy New Year Everyone. I hope everyone had a Great Christmas and that we will all have an even better 2024!

**Membership:** We need to continue working on membership in the Squadrons. As of 18 December 2023, the last report I received from National, we are # 3, with 86.31%. However, we only need 23 renewals/new members to hit 100%. We can do this.

**Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR):** We need to be working on these now. It is available on myLegion.org, so every time you have an event you can start filling it in. Please do not finalize it until June 2024. The final date to submit is 31 July 2024.

I started my Squadrons CSR recently and received a message when I saved it stating that the final day to submit for the 2023-2024 CSR is 31/08/2024. The minimum needed to receive credit for submitting the CSR is to fill in the Paid-to-Date Membership Count, Current Year and Paid-Up Final Membership Count, Prior Year, and the contact information at the bottom of the form.

**Meetings:** We need to start planning on attending the 3rd DEC. Meeting dates and times are announced well in advance so everyone can plan. If no one from your Squadron can attend, an email requesting a Squadron excusal should be sent to the Adjutant.

**Upcoming Events:**
27-28 January 2024 - Department Mid-Winter Conference.
2 March 2024 - 3rd DEC, 1300 CET, at the Gaststätte “zum Reegen”, Riedweg 52, 74078 Heilbronn.
1 June 2024 - 4th DEC/Conference/1st DEC, 0900 CET, 1300 CET, at the Gaststätte “zum Reegen”, Riedweg 52, 74078 Heilbronn.

Take care and be safe!

John Fleming
Commander
Detachment of France

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**DATES TO REMEMBER:**
13 January 2024 – Grand Promenade / Wreck, Heilbronn Germany
27 April 2024 – Grand Elections, Kaiserslautern Germany.
Summer Wreck, July 2024 – Location and time to be announced.