



Legion News

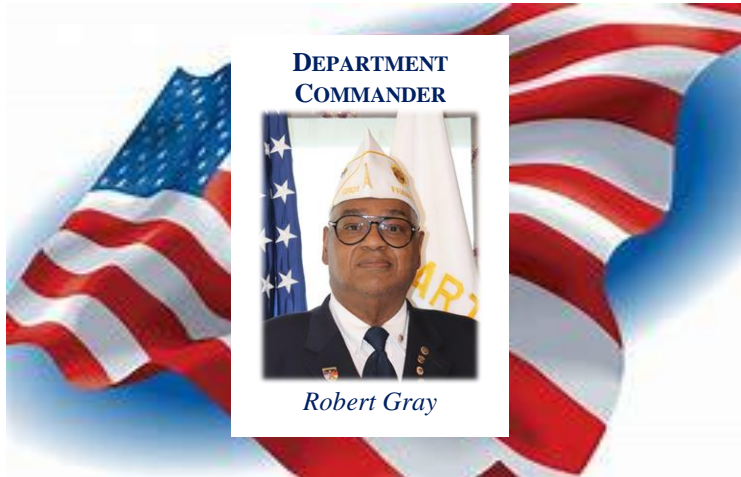
DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE



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

January 2024

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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**



John Fleming

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

DEPARTMENT
VCAL



Dennis Owens

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 09:00-16:00		
	Sunday, 28 January 11:00-16:00		
	Suggested topics to cover		Presenter
Saturday, 27 January 2024			
09:00	Opening Comments		Dept. Commander Robert Gray
09:05-09:45	Importance of being an effective Commander Leadership		VCAL Dennis Owens
09:45-10:00	Questions-Break		
10:00	Comments from our Four Vice Commanders		
10:00-10:15			VC Jim Brotherton
10:15-10:30			VC Quincy Foster
1030-10:45			VC Rick Ojeda
10:45-11:00			VC John Gerdeman
11:00	Questions-Break		
11:00-11:45	Importance of the Post Adjutant		VCAL Dennis Owens
		How to be an effective Post Adjutant	
		The importance of your Post CPR/CSR	
11:45-12:00	Questions-Break		
12:00-12:45	Chaplain's Comments		Dept. Chaplain Ken Keckler
		The Important Roll of the Post Chaplain	
		Four Chaplains, Memorial Day and other Ceremonies	
		Curating Monuments and Memorials	
12:45-13:00	Questions-Break		
13:00	Americanism		
13:00-13:15		Oratorical Program	Doug Clemence
13:15-13:30		Boys State Program	Joseph Schram
13:30-13:45		Boy Scouts	Trey Jaeger
	Questions-Break		
13:45-14:00	American Legion Riders		ALR Director Jim Brotherton
		Programs	
		Accomplishments	
		Recruiting	
	Questions-Break		
14:00-14:45	Historian Comments		Department Historian Joseph Schram
		Importance of our History	
		Maintaining a good Record of your Post	
		History Year Book Contest	
14:45-14:45	Questions-Break		
15:00-15:30	Post Finance Officer Issues		Dept. Finance Officer Gary Miller
		How to run Post Finances/ Appointment of a Post Finance Officer	
		The Importance of a proper Post Financial Audit	
		IRS and Non Profit Organizations	
		Filing the 990 to the IRS for Posts that make less than ??? \$\$\$ Per year	
		Dangers of Inurement in the eyes of the IRS	
		Accomplishments and Duties of the Department Finance Officer	
15:30	Questions-Break		
15:35	Closing Comments		Dept. Commander Robert Gray
15:40-??:??	Open Discussion Time		Everybody

Mid-Winter Conference 27th & 28th of January 2024

Sunday, 28 January 2024			
11:00	Opening Comments from Dept. Commander Robert Gray		
11:05-11:45	Membership and www.mylegion.org	Membership Chairman James Dennis	
	Membership Issues		
	Transmittals		
	Reports		
	Recruiting		
	Renewals		
11:45-12:00	Questions-Break		
12:00-12:45	Judge Advocate's Comments	Judge Advocate James Settle	
	Constitution and Bylaws		
	Writing an American Legion Resolution		
12:45-13:00	Questions-Break		
13:00-13:15	Americanism Children & Youth		
	JROTC	Chris Buchanan	
	Junior Shooting	Chris Buchanan	
	Questions-Break		
13:15-14:00	Questions-Break		
14:00-14:45	Department Service Officer	DSO Frank Phillips	
	The New FMP		
14:45-15:00	Questions-Break		
15:00-15:45	Department Sgt. At Arms	SGT-at-Arms Jim Dennis	
	Maintaining Order		
	Behaviour During Meetings		
	Roberts Rules of Order		
	House Keeping		
15:45	Questions-Break		
16:00	Closing Comments	Dept. Commander Robert Gray	
16:00 - ??:??	Open Discussion Time	Everyone	

**DEPARTMENT
VICE COMMANDER**



Jim Brotherton

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

**DEPARTMENT
VICE COMMANDER**



Quincy Foster



Department of France

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.

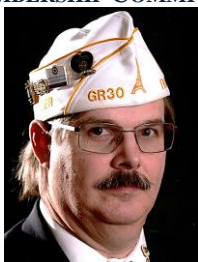
Please take this time to also consider how we can put together a Department wide meeting program. Where would be a good location, what would be some good agenda items? If you have some ideas, please pass them along so we can start building a package.

Wishing everyone a safe holiday season and a very Happy New Year in 2024.

**DEPARTMENT
AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS
DIRECTOR**



Jim Brotherton



James Dennis

NOTICE: The prices are a little cheaper then 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



The American Legion

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



Where: Best Western Hotel Polisina
Marktbreiter 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

Please fill out included reservation form and send in no later than 1 May 2024 to ensure a reserved room.
Please print clearly to avoid mistakes. Make copies as needed.
If reservations are made but not able to attend, please contact a Chairman Dennis as soon as possible.
If paying with credit card at convention, attendee must still fill out form and send in.

Convention Chairman: Jamers and Sonja Dennis
Steigerwald Str. 7
97318 Kitzingen Germany
Telephone: 09321-35390 or Handy: 01705712861
Email: audiegr30@gmail.com or sonja.dennis@t-online.de

The AMERICAN LEGION, Department of France 96th Annual Convention, 13-16 June 2024 Room Reservation		
PLEASE CHECK ONE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
EXAMPLE: Option ONE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13 - 16 June 2024 / Three Nights -Single Room / <u>470,00€ Per Person</u> Last Name: <u>Dennis</u> First Name: <u>Jamers</u> Post: <u>GRSO</u>		
<hr/> Option One: <input type="checkbox"/> 13 - 16 June 2024 / Three Nights -Single Room / <u>470,00€ Per Person</u> Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Post: _____		
<hr/> Option Two: <input type="checkbox"/> 13 - 16 June 2024 / Three Nights -Double Room / <u>320,00€ Per Person</u> Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Post: _____ Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Post: _____		
<hr/> Option Three: <input type="checkbox"/> 14 - 16 June 2024 / Two Nights -Single Room / <u>340,00€ Per Person</u> Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Post: _____		
<hr/> Option Four: <input type="checkbox"/> 14 - 16 June 2024 / Two Nights -Double Room / <u>220,00€ Per Person</u> Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Post: _____ Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Post: _____		
<hr/> Option Five: <input type="checkbox"/> 15 - 16 June 2024 / One Night -Single Room / <u>180,00€ Per Person</u> Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Post: _____		
<hr/> Option Six: <input type="checkbox"/> 15 - 16 June 2024 / one Night -Double Room / <u>130,00€ Per Person</u> Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Post: _____ Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Post: _____		
<hr/> Telephone #: _____ E-Mail: _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Will be paying with credit card at Convention		
<input type="checkbox"/> Special needs:(Reg. shower cabin, no shower head in bathtub, first floor access, wheel chair access, etc.) <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%; margin-top: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%; margin-top: 5px;"></div>		

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.

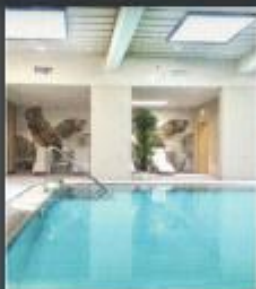
GET THE WORD OUT!

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 Kosmetikbehandlung oder entspannen Sie in unserem neuen Spa Bereich mit Hallenbad, 3 Saunen und Ruheraum.



ANFAHRT MIT DEM ZUG:
Ab Würzburg Hauptbahnhof.
Richtung ==> Treuchtlingen bis Bahnhof Ochsenfurt.
Weiter mit dem Taxi, das wir Ihnen gerne vorbestellen.
Telefonnummer Taxi: 09331-5570

ANFAHRT MIT DEM AUTO:
Über die A3, Ausfahrt Randersacker. Auf der B13 bis Ochsenfurt. Nach der großen Mainbrücke fahren Sie Richtung Kitzingen/Marktbreit. Hinter dem Ortsende, nach ca. 300 m. rechts abbiegen zur Hotelauffahrt Polisina.
Über die A7, Ausfahrt Marktbreit. Folge der Straße Richtung Ochsenfurt/Würzburg. Den Kreisverkehr Richtung Ochsenfurt verlassen. Nach ca. 3 Kilometern finden Sie das Hinweisschild zur Hotelauffahrt auf der linken Seite.

MIT DEM NAVIGATIONSSYSTEM:
Am Bürgerholz 1 | 97252 Frickenhausen am Main
49.66479°N 10.09449°E



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Best Western Hotel Polisina
Marktbreiter Straße 265 | 97199 Ochsenfurt
Telefon: +49 (0) 9331 844-0
info@polisina.de | www.polisina.de

Polisina
Hotel • Spa • Restaurant



Die Küche – Einfach natürlich frisch & regional

Unser Küchenchef Michel Werner und seine Mannschaft kochen fränkische Köstlichkeiten. Ob Frühstück, Kuchen oder Mittag- und Abendessen – Sie schmecken stets die Frische der Region. All unsere Gerichte werden bewusst natürlich und frisch produziert. 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 fränkisch, rustikalen Stil aufgearbeitet. Gefolgt von Natur und Moderne prägen die Zimmer im Anbau den Zeitgeist mit hellen, warmen Farben und wohnlicher Einrichtung.

Wir sind zertifiziert.



Der Biergarten

In den Sommermonaten bietet unser Biergarten schattige Plätze, an denen Sie den Tag mit einem kraftvollen Frühstück beginnen oder die lauen Sommerabende genussvoll ausklingen lassen können. Umgeben von belebender Natur – mitten im Wald.

Hochzeit | Tagung Familienfeier

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



Trauung
unter freiem
Himmel



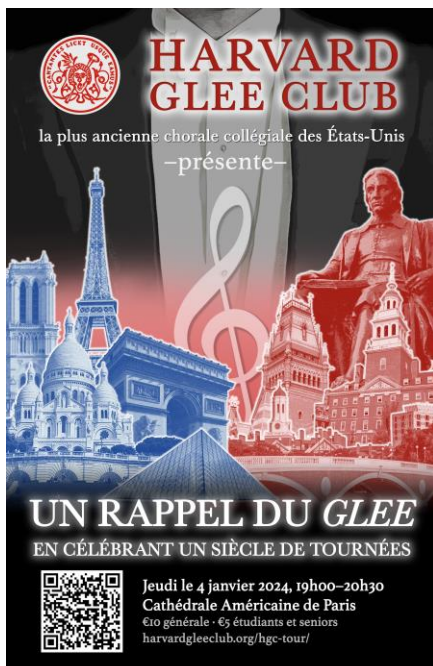
Paris Post 1 Legionnaire presents centennial medallion to French Ambassador to the USA

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 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!

Thursday January 4, 2024 from 19h00 - 20h30

Special thanks to Assistant Tour Manager Chris Perez of the Harvard Glee Club for contacting Paris Post 1 to share their upcoming concert date at the American Cathedral.

The Harvard Glee Club (HGC) is the oldest collegiate choral society in the United States with 165 years of history.

Among their alumni are many talented and successful Americans like conductor and composer Leonard Bernstein and members of the Roosevelt family (see photo below of freshman Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1920).

HGC became one of the first American college choruses to concertize in Europe when it accepted the invitation of the French government for an extensive tour during June and July of 1921, performances at sites including major concert halls in major cities and a World War memorial at Strasbourg Cathedral. Not only was this Tour documented by almost daily reports in the French and American press, but it also inspired the writing of new pieces of men's choral music specifically for HGC by two young French composers: Poulenc's *Chanson à boire* (allegedly based on a Tour reception for HGC) and Milhaud's *Psaume 121*.

Most recently, HGC toured the Dominican Republic, where they sang for Mass at the oldest cathedral in the Americas, they performed a joint concert with the country's National Choir, and they met the minister of the presidency at the National Palace. This winter, they are embarking on the 100th year anniversary of their first tour of Europe. On January 4 at 19h00, HGC will be hosting a concert at the American Cathedral for the second stop on their European tour.



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 years annual ceremonies which we continue to grow together year after year.



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 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!



American Revolution: Battle of Hook interpretative plaques installed!

On the York river in Gloucester Point, Virginia, Tyndall's point Park is home to colonial and civil war era fortifications. The river between Yorktown and Gloucester Point provide a good defensive position to control the upper parts of the York River and the inland countryside.

During the American Revolution, this position was fortified by British forces and placed under the command of the famed British General Banastre Tarleton.

Here at the Hook on October 3rd, 1781, in the largest cavalry action of the American War of Independence, the Duc du Lauzun's Legion and Lieutenant Colonel John Mercer's Select Battalion of Militia defeated Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton's British Legion and a detachment of the Royal Welch Fusiliers.

This action, involving as many as 1,300 troops, half of them mounted, ended operations and destroyed Lord Cornwallis' hopes of escaping through Gloucester. British forces retreated

inside their works at Gloucester Town, today's Gloucester Point.

Friend of Paris Post 1, Thierry Chaunu, President of American Society of Le Souvenir Français, Inc. proudly unveiled two interpretive markers in October.

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 Ecole Militaire

Every year the VFW in Paris has their Thanksgiving feast, and it is 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.

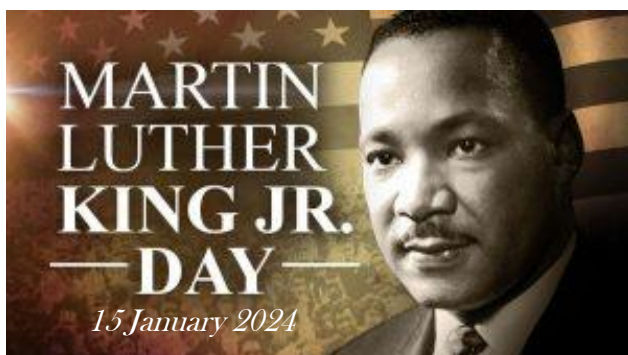
This year Paris Post 1 Auxiliary Anna Marie Mattson, who is a member of the IFMS, attended their International Congress in Grenoble (see photos above and below).

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!

KAISERSLAUTERN POST GR01 KAISERSLAUTERN, GERMANY

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.



SGT THOMAS OLIVER AHLBERG MEMORIAL POST TH02 *PATTAYA, THAILAND*

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



PCC President



Tim Litherland

Department of France Past Commanders Club 2024MY

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

PCC Secretary



Frank Phillips

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

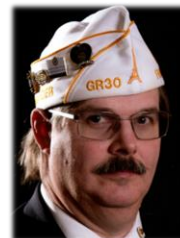
DETACHMENT
COMMANDER



John Fleming



DETACHMENT
ADJUTANT



James Dennis

DETACHMENT OF FRANCE

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



GRANDE CHEF DE GARE *DAVID GARCIA*



GRANDE CORRESPONDANT *DAVID GREAUX*

La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux (The Society of Forty Men and Eight Horses) is an independent, by invitation, honor society of American veterans, more commonly known as "The Forty & Eight".

The Forty & Eight is committed to charitable and patriotic aims. Our purpose is to uphold and defend the United States Constitution of the United States, to promote the well-being of veterans, their widows, widowers, and orphans, and to actively participate in selected charitable endeavors, which include among others, programs that promote child welfare and nurses training.

Membership is by invitation, and open only to honorably discharged veterans and honorably serving members of the United States Armed Forces.

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.