My Fellow Legionnaires,

I want to thank everyone for allowing me to serve the 2nd Term as your Department Commander. I would also like to congratulate all the newly elected Department Officers. Together we will strive and continue to move this Department forward as I said we would during my first term. The Pandemic held us back some. As the EU countries start to open and the lockdowns are slowly rolled back, we must remember that Covid-19 is still around. We must remain safe and protect ourselves, practice social distance and wear a mask when and where required. We hope that we won’t see the 4th wave of this pandemic. If you intend to travel stay safe.

During June, we held our 4th DEC, Electronic Elections, IA Committee meeting, and our 1st DEC. Everyone who will start to have in-house Post Meetings, abide and follow the local laws. Our 2022 Membership begins this month. We must strive to reach 100% next year. Make sure that you reach out to all your Post Members to renew and instruct your Members how to renew online. Most of all let us not forget the Buddy Check, remember that some Post members might not have a smartphone or computer. Visit them to see how they are doing. This month we also celebrate our Independence Day, let’s celebrate safely.

Thanks
Greetings Comrades,

July is here. I cannot believe the year is half left! It is time for Membership renewals and CPR.

Congratulations to all the new and re-elected Department Officers. I know you will continue to move our Department forward.

1. Certification of Officers: Thank you to the Posts who have recently held elections and sent in the Notification forms. I can add all Post officers to the Post Officers Roster in Nationals database. Reminder, after Post elections or a change in Post Officers, it is required to send two forms to the Department Adjutant. Immediately after Post elections, the Notification of Post/Squadron Commanders & Adjutants form must be sent to the Department Adjutant. As soon as possible after Post elections, the Certification of Post Officials report needs to be forwarded to the Department Adjutant.

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

3. Consolidated Post Report: Consolidated Post Reports (CPR) target date is 1 July. However, due to the delay in submitting via myLegion and the continued difficulties with cOVID-19 restrictions, the target date has been extended to 31 July.
Comrades,

I am honored and humbled to be elected Department of France Vice Commander at Large. I sincerely thank you for your support as I assume this role and I endeavor to uphold the values of the American Legion and fully support the Department and Commander.

As mentioned in my candidate statement, I will faithfully execute the duties of this office. In the role as VCAL, I will support the Department Commander and help execute his vision. I will also fully engage with and assist the Vice Commander’s so they can serve the posts they are elected to oversee and support.

My own vision includes...

- Ensuring each post, especially those that are not co-located or are near DoD installations, receive the same level of support that their counterparts who are co-located receive; whether it be visits or zoom calls, help with veterans’ issues or weekly buddy checks, the onus is on leadership to ensure all posts are receiving the same level of support.
- Buddy checks – one reported instance of a comrade falling ill or requiring assistance and not receiving support is too many. Looking after one another is one of our most sacred duties and it is a duty that I take very seriously.
- Following through with the renewal of our relationship with the city of Saint-Avold. I will continue to liaise with the Mairie to promote our partnership and support for the Department HQ.
- Providing mentorship and guidance to those I serve and those who seek it.
- Facilitating communication between the Department and the posts and forming collaborative relationships based on shared our fraternity in the American Legion.
- Listening to the needs of our posts and members...I endeavor to be a leader who listens to what those I am blessed to serve are saying and implementing changes for the betterment of the whole organization.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you, the Department of France, and the American Legion.

Hello Everyone,

My name is Lee Preston and I was elected as one of your Department Vice Commanders. I want to thank you all for putting your trust and confidence in my abilities to perform in this position. I will do my utmost to fulfill the requirements required by the position of Vice Commander. As soon as I receive my Post assignments, I will be trying to contact the leadership of each Post to find out what I can do for them to help meet their goals and the Department requirements. As the COVID restrictions begin to lighten up I am looking forward to having the ability to visit my assigned Posts as well as any Post in the Department that would like to send me an invitation to visit. I would only ask that you try not to make your invitations to short notice. I do have some travel scheduled for this year and would like to plan these visits.

As a Legion Rider, I will be attending National Convention in August this year as well as riding the Annual Legacy Run. During the first DEC I requested that the Department donate $100 from the budgeted Department Legion Riders funds which passed. I will be matching this amount to donate to the Legacy Scholarship Fund. I am asking that the Post’s try to collect donations between now and the 1st of August for this program. If pots have collected donations and would like to give this to me so that I can make 1 check to present during the Legacy run; please get the donations to me prior to the August 2, 2021. If you would like me to come to your Post to pick up the Donation, please contact me so that I can plan to do this before August. Thank you all for considering making a Donation to the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

Once again, thank you all for having confidence in me and electing me to the position of Department Vice Commander.

Respectfully

Lee “PaPa Smurf” Preston
Department Vice Commander
Cell: +49 176-70599666
Home; +49 9721-498669
Greetings Comrades,

I want to thank everyone that had enough faith in me to reelect me as one of your Department Vice Commanders. I promise you that I will do everything in my power to fulfill my obligation to you and the Department. I feel my position is to be your voice to the Department because I am representing you and your Post. I cannot do that if I do not get any responses from the Commanders or the Adjutants. I need you all to help as a team effort to work together with myself, other Posts and their Commanders and Adjutants, Post members and most of all the Department. Remember, we are the largest U.S. Veterans Service Organization, and it is among the founding principles of The American Legion “to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness” as expressed in the Preamble to Constitution of the American Legion.

We must come together as a TEAM, not by just saying the words but by ACTION. The only way we can do that is by trusting, listening, respect, discussions and understanding each other and our members.

I would like to Congratulate ALL the other officers and Commander Santos Alvarado who was elected, and I am looking forward to working with you. I am looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Again, thank you for voting me and God Bless you and your families. Have a Happy and safe 4th of July!

Stay Safe!

Quincy Foster
Riley L. Pitts Post No. GR07 commemorated Memorial Day with a wreath-laying ceremony at the American Legion and Forty and Eight’s memorial to U.S. Army Medal of Honor recipient Technician Fifth Grade Alfred L. Wilson at Wilson Barracks (a.k.a. LRMC) in Landstuhl, Germany, on May 31.

Post Executive Committeeman John Wesley Pruitt (above) and Post Commander Todd Alex Johnson participated in the ceremony.

John Wayne Post GR79

GR79 Meeting
Department Legion Riders,

On 30 May 2021 I had the wonderful opportunity to attend “Rolling to Remember” formally “Rolling Thunder”. Rolling to Remember is a demonstration ride in Washington DC to help raise awareness for the thousands of POW/MIA still not accounted for and the 20+ Veterans and service members that lose their lives to suicide every day. Although put on by the AMVETS, there were thousands of riders that participated from all different organizations. I had the honor to meet several American Legion Riders, one group of Legion Riders from Ohio, one pair of Legion Riders from New York, and a Legion Rider from Pennsylvania.

Lee Preston

“Papa Smurf”
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 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.

Grande Chef de Gare 2021MY…Lee Preston

Grand Promenade – 17 July 2021 - Kaiserslautern Post GR01