



Legion News

DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE



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

June 2023

Vol. 21 / No. 6

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER



Joshua Steinlicht

Hello Everyone,

Here we are in June, and this means it is time for Department Convention. The Convention will be held in Eitorf, Germany and should be a great time like we had there in 2019. I am asking those that think they might like to come to Convention, please submit a packet and I will do my best to get you a room. I know that the deadline has passed but, I might be able to get a room or two so, submit that registration and join us at the Department Convention!!!

I am going to push membership, membership, membership!! Get on the phone and call those members that have not renewed yet! Send emails! Send snail mail, do what it takes, get those members back! I am asking all the Post's to dig deep, roll up their sleeves, and get the job done before convention.

I attended the Memorial Day Ceremony at Lorraine Cemetery in Saint Avold, France on 28 June 2023. I will give a report on this at the 4th DEC.

Again, Convention is the time for you to be involved in what our leadership looks like next year, possibly represent your Post at Convention, and generally get to know some of the other members within the Department. As I said, I can possibly get a couple more rooms so if you want to come, submit a registration form and I will try to get you a room.

For God and Country

Lee Preston / VCAL

DEPARTMENT VCAL



Lee Preston

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2023MY

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NECMAN James Settle

GR42 james.settle@kabelbw.de

ALT NECMAN Hans Stockenberger

CH01 redsea_diver2000@yahoo.com

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VICE COMMANDER Peter Mock

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VICE COMMANDER Todd Johnson

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FINANCE OFFICER Gary Miller

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SERVICE OFFICER Frank Phillips

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JUDGE ADVOCATE James Settle

GR42 james.settle@kabelbw.de

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS James Dennis

GR30 departmentdennis@gmail.com

ADJUTANT EMERITUS Robert Fuelling

FR01 herman40153@gmail.com

Greetings Department of France,

It has been my absolute pleasure to serve you this past year as your Department Adjutant. Being the Adjutant, one becomes a greater inside view on our responsibilities as Officers and Posts.

One for example is our Consolidated Post Report (CPR), this important report each Post is required to send in to the Department each year is due now. This document builds the database that our National Commander uses when he briefs Congress on the Status of our Veterans. Please consider completing yours this month. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Our 4th DEC, Convention and 1st DEC is just two weeks from now, 15-17 June near Bonn Germany. There are still five rooms available from what I have heard. If you have not experienced this four-day event then please consider coming. You must be on a Delegates Letter from your Post Commander or Adjutant to be able to have voice and vote. We will be voting on new Officers to represent our Department for the 2023/2024 membership year. If you think you might be nominated as a Department Officer, please bring with you your DD-214 so we can verify your eligibility, even if you are already a current Department Officer.

This past weekend was Memorial Day remembrance. I have seen many Posts photos on your participation in this very important ceremony at your local American Battle Monuments Cemetery ABMC. Thank you for representing your Post and our Department at these ABMCs.

Remember that there is a WhatsApp Group for Adjutants. This is a place that if you have a question that other Adjutants can also appreciate the answer as well. Only one rule is please no traffic past 21:30 European Time. If any Post Adjutant wishes to learn more about the Adjutant roll, please just contact me. I have several videos for you to learn your roll and responsibilities.

Very Best wishes, I hope to see many of you in Bonn-Eitorf at our Department Convention.

Dennis

Dennis Owens

Adjutant, Department of France

DFR-Adjutant@dennisowens.com

DEPARTMENT
FINANCE OFFICER



Gary Miller

Message from the Department Finance Officer:

All Department personnel that have a budget from DEPT for 2023. There are many of you that have not made any expense claims for Membership year 2023. THANKS to all of you that have submitted your expenses so they can be reported on the monthly finance report. The membership year is quickly coming to an end, I encourage all of you to submit your expenses to me NLT 7 June 2023 deadline.

In addition, I have successfully opened a new checking account with Navy Federal Credit Union.

More to come in the next couple months...Thanks in advance.

DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER EDITOR...*DAVID N. GRE AUX*

REMINDER...ALL NEWSLETTER ARTICLES WILL BE TURNED IN BY THE 28TH 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



Hello Department of France,

Ok, as we all know, the Department Convention will be held in the Hotel Schützenhof, Eitorf, Germany. The dates are 15 – 18 June 2023. We, the convention committee, have received reservations for 28 people with, 22 rooms. I have been informed by the Hotel that we only have 5 rooms left available for our Convention.

Should you decide that you would like to come to Convention, please fill in the registration form and get it to me, lpreston1057@gmail.com as soon as possible. As I have said in my VCAL article, the Department Convention is the highlight of the membership year. All those that come could have the opportunity to represent their Post and take part in the selection of those Officers that will take our Department into the future.

Even if you are not a delegate, the comradery, learning how the Department works, and the possibility of moving to the next level within the Department are certainly worth the time and money spent. Only those that attend the Department Convention can have an impact on the leadership of our Department.

Therefore, take the time, fill in the registration, and attend the Department Convention. There are **ONLY** 5 rooms left! Make the commitment and send in your registration today. Don't get left out because you waited too long! There is a registration form here in the Department Newsletter. Fill it in and get it sent! Thank you to all that have already registered, and I cannot wait to see you all there.

I will be turning the rooms that have not been reserved back over to the hotel on 5 June 2023. If you want to come to Convention, get your registration turned in ASAP.

Yours in Comradeship
Lee Preston
Department of France
Convention Committee Member

DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE

95TH ANNUAL CONVENTION PACKAGE

Hosted by The Department of France

15 - 18 June 2023

Hotel Schützenhof
Windeckerstraße 2
53783 Eitorf-Alzenbach

Convention Package Consist Of:

- ❖ 4 days - 3 nights
- ❖ One convention coin per Department registered guest residing at the hotel
- ❖ Breakfast buffet
- ❖ Utilization of the conference rooms
- ❖ Mineral water and juice during our meetings
- ❖ Late morning coffee/tee and yogurt
- ❖ Afternoon coffee and pastry
- ❖ Evening dinner buffet (*includes Banquet on Saturday*)
- ❖ One drink of choice with evening dinner Beer 0,33 Wine 0,1

15-18 June 2023

Three Nights - single room	€394.00	per person
Three Nights - double room	€340.00	per person

16-18 June 2023

Two Nights - single room	€280.00	per person
Two Nights - double room	€245.00	per person

17-18 June 2023

One Night - single room	€165.00	per person
One Night - double room	€145.00	per person

Children: 0-3yrs Free 4-6yrs 25% 7-13yrs 50% 14+ 100% of Price per person in double room

Following expenditures to be paid at Convention.

Attending meetings only. Not staying at hotel	€25.00	per person, per day.
<i>* Includes use of conference room, Late morning coffee/tee and yogurt, Afternoon coffee and pastry & Mineral water and juice during our meetings. Please notify Convention Committee if you will be attending Convention Meetings only!</i>		
Elections and Banquet no overnight	€55.00	per person
Banquet only (<i>Saturday</i>).	€30.00	per person.
Breakfast only. Not staying at hotel.	€7.00	per person, per day.
Dinner only (<i>Thursday-Friday</i>). Not staying at hotel.	€18.00	per person, per day.

DO NOT RESERVE THROUGH THE HOTEL!!!
RESERVATIONS MUST GO THROUGH THE CONVENTION COMMITTEE!!!

* RSVP no later than **21 May 2023**

* All payments must be in Euros.

* Please make all Euros checks payable to **James Dennis**

Bank Transfer Information **NAME:** Lee Preston
IBAN: DE53100777770374911600
BIC: NORSDE51XXX
Verwendungszweck: Dept. Convention / Option 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6

** If any questions arise, please feel free to contact us at any time.*

Please fill out included reservation form and send in **no later than 21 May 2023** 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 convention committee person as soon as possible. If paying with credit card at convention attendee must still fill out form and send in.

Send to a Convention Chairperson:

James Dennis
Steigerwaldstr. 7
97318 Kitzingen
Germany

or: **Lee Preston**
Behring Str. 20
97464 Niederwerrn
Germany

or: **Frank Phillips**
Neuendettelsauerstr. 15
91560 Heilsbronn
Germany

Tel : 01705712861
departmentdennis@gmail.com

Tel.: 017670599666
Lpreston1057@gmail.com

Tel.: 01726879915
frank@fphillips.de

The AMERICAN LEGION, Department of France
95th Annual Convention, 15-18 June 2023 Room Reservation

PLEASE CHECK ONE: ☒

EXAMPLE Option ONE ☒ 15-18 June 2023 / Three Nights – single room €394.00 per person
Last Name: Greaux First Name: David Post: GR42

Option ONE: ☐ 15-18 June 2023 / Three Nights - single room / **€394.00 per person**

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Post: _____

Option TWO: ☐ 15-18 June 2023 / Three Nights - double room / **€340.00 per person / Total: €680.00**

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Post: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Post: _____

Option THREE: ☐ 16-18 June 2023 / Two Nights - single room / **€280.00 per person**

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Post: _____

Option FOUR: ☐ 16-18 June 2023 / Two Nights - double room / **€245.00 per person / Total: €490.00**

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Post: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Post: _____

Option FIVE: ☐ 17-18 June 2023 / One Night - single room / **€165.00 per person**

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Post: _____

Option SIX: ☐ 17-18 June 2023 / One Night - double room / **€145.00 per person / Total: €290.00**

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Post: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Post: _____

☎#: _____ e-mail: _____

☐ Will be paying with credit card at convention.

☐ Special needs: (reg. shower cabin, not shower head in bathtub – first floor access – wheelchair access etc.)

IMPORTANT DATES

1. June 6th: D-Day 79th Anniversary Commemorations Normandy (ceremony days and times vary)
2. June 7th: WW1 Unknown American Soldier Remembrance Ceremony - Oise-Aisne American Cemetery
3. June 10th: Concert de solidarité - Duke Blue Devils - Charity concert
4. June 17th: Paris Post 1 Monthly Meeting

End of WWII - Victory in Europe (V.E.) Day (May 8th) Ceremonies; Join us for Memorial Day in France (May 28th)!



Paris Post 1 Chaplain Gary Nadolski at the Victory in Europe (V.E.) Day ceremonies in his hometown of Sucy-en-Brie

Victory in Europe Day is the day celebrating the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces on Tuesday, 8 May 1945, marking the official end of World War II in Europe in the Eastern Front, with the last shots fired on the 11th.



American Legionnaires from different posts representing at the Victory in Europe Day ceremony. Paris Post 1 Historian Scott Rayl and his new friend Legionnaire Dominic from Freeport, NY Post 342.

Paris Post 1 commemorates the end of World War II on both sides of the Atlantic

Paris to Washington D.C.: crossing borders and oceans, we never forget..

A SPECIAL DAY HONORING VICTORY IN EUROPE (VE) DAY!



Check out Paris Post 1's D.C. meetup group and Victory in Europe Day in Washington D.C!

Written by Paris Post 1 Historian Scott Rayl

The first week of May is celebrated all over Europe as the anniversary of numerous liberated regions from German occupation and the eventual complete surrender of Nazi Germany on May 8th. This year's anniversary of V-E Day, I set out on an amazing adventure.

One of Paris Post 1's newest members Pierre Ouray found out that I was coming to Washington DC and invited me to stay with his family. Pierre is a retired Air Guard pilot and first-generation American of two French parents. In his retirement, he continues to fly with United Airlines and will be a leading influence for the remembrance community as a champion advocate within United's "United for Veterans" (U4V) group. Even before his membership, he participated for years in the field and organized fellow United employees to take a more active role around the globe.



V-E Day with Paris Post 1 in France!

Paris Post 1's Chaplain Gary Nadolski had a special day commemorating V-E Day in his hometown of Sucy-en-Brie in France.

Gary is an American veteran who has lived in France for decades. He and his wife Gigi attend many ceremonies throughout France every year commemorating the Americans who sacrificed their lives in France during World War I and World War II.

A special thank you to all of our members at Paris Post 1 for their service to their countries, and for not forgetting the lives of our comrades who paid the ultimate sacrifice.



Memorial Day at the American Cathedral

May 30th: Memorial Day @ The American Cathedral
(ceremony starts at 18h00, arrive early)

Officially founded in Paris in 1859, the Holy Trinity, now known as the American Cathedral, was the first American Episcopal church established outside the United States.

Its expatriate congregation met first in various Protestant chapels in the city, then built a small church on rue Bayard, which it quickly outgrew.

In 1881, construction began on today's soaring Gothic Revival structure, following a design by master architect George Edmund Street. An overflowing crowd attended the first service at the American Cathedral on September 12th, 1886, officiated by Rev. John Brainerd Morgan.

In 1917, Dean Frederick Beekman and his wife, Margaret, moved to France with units of the American Expeditionary Force. They organized a soldiers and sailors club in Paris.

Dean Beekman was Chaplain of Paris Post 1, and he was a co-founder of Pershing Hall located just a couple blocks away.



The American Overseas Memorial Day Association (AOMDA) was co-founded by several entities including Paris Post 1, the American Cathedral, and the American Chamber of Commerce in 1920. For over 100 years, the mission of the AOMDA and the American community in France has been to ensure Memorial Day is commemorated throughout France, and that we do our best to ensure all American graves are honored with an American flag.

With a large American veteran community in the neighborhood of Pershing Hall and the American Cathedral, Dean Beekman was instrumental in the creation of the World War Cloister at the Cathedral, where memorials are in place for those who gave their lives in World War I and World War II.

In 1947, Dean Beekman was made a Commander of the Legion of Honor at a formal ceremony in Paris.

He also served as President and Chairman of the Board of American Students and Artists Center in Paris, Chaplain of Paris Post 1 of The American Legion, and National Chaplain of the Military Order of Foreign Wars. We thank American veteran Frederick Beekman for his dedication to his country and his community!

Would you like to be a part of the legacy of Paris Post 1?

Our Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons strive to preserve our historic archive and book collection with many opportunities to share with researchers, historians and for anyone who has a passion for American history in France.

Would you like to help us with our history programs and projects?

Email: historian@parispost1.fr

NEVERFORGET ROSE

Ducher Family Rose Garden Since 1845



Never Forget rose is now available in the USA!

Never Forget is an easy-to-grow, Hybrid Musk rose that begins with gentle, pink buds that burst into clusters of white blooms with a delicious scent.

Created by Fabien Ducher of France, this vigorous white rose is named to honor the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, in honor of its 100th anniversary. Never Forget is a vigorous rose that will stand out in your garden as a memorable centerpiece with historical significance.

Everyone receiving Paris Post 1's newsletter can receive a discount of 25% off Never Forget roses with the code NEVERFORGET25. This code is valid now through 12/31/23 (for shipment to US mailing addresses only).

Paris Post 1 welcomed the Tomb Guards for their centennial pilgrimage to France. We planted the first Never Forget rose garden at the American Cathedral in Paris.

Plant your Never Forget garden at home today!

VISIT: <https://heirloomroses.com/products/never-forget-rose>



923

100 ANS

LE 10 JUIN 2023



20

The Chasseurs Alpins and Duke University celebrate 100 years in Paris!

June 10th: Memorial Day @ The American Cathedral
(ceremony starts at 18)

The Chasseurs Alpins (English: Alpine Hunters) are the elite mountain infantry force of the French Army. They are trained to operate in mountainous terrain and in urban warfare.

The Chasseurs Alpins, an elite troop, who have an immense aura with the Americans. During World War II, many American soldiers trained with the Chasseurs Alpins before their commitment in Europe.

In 1918, President Wilson received the Chasseurs Alpins, armed, at the White House. In memory of this epic moment, Duke University in North Carolina baptized their sports team in 1923 with the name of the "Blue Devils", whose effigy will be erected as their mascot.

On June 10, 2023, the mountain soldiers will celebrate their 100th anniversary of this baptism in Paris with Duke alumni. We hope you can join!

More specifically, a solidarity concert for the benefit of Entraide Montagne, hosted by the brass band of the 27th Bataillon de Chasseurs Alpin (BCA), will be organized from 7:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at the Invalides in the salons and gardens of the Military Governor of Paris.

The evening will be chaired by General Sanzey, Commander of the 27th Mountain Infantry Brigade and "father" of mountain troops and by Scott Greenwood, Associate Vice President, Alumni Engagement and Development and Interim Chief Engagement Officer at Duke.

To attend the event, please sign up directly at their event page:

<https://www.helloasso.com/associations/entraide-montagne/evenements/duke-blue-devils>



Flag Day, June 14, commemorates the date in 1777 when the United States approved the design for the first national flag. On this day, American Legion posts often hold a flag retirement ceremony or participate in community celebrations. At 7 p.m. EDT on June 14 is the annual Pause for the Pledge.

JROTC Award Presentation at Kaiserslautern High School, on 8 May 2023, presented by 1st Vice Commander David Garcia

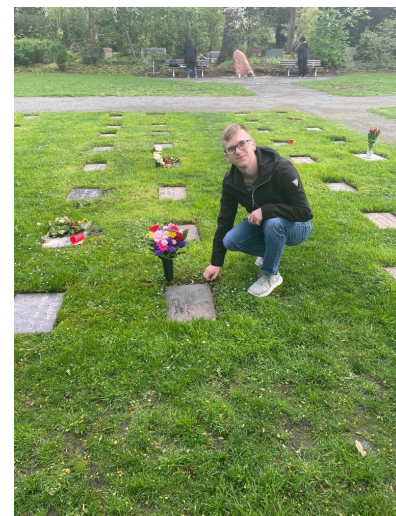
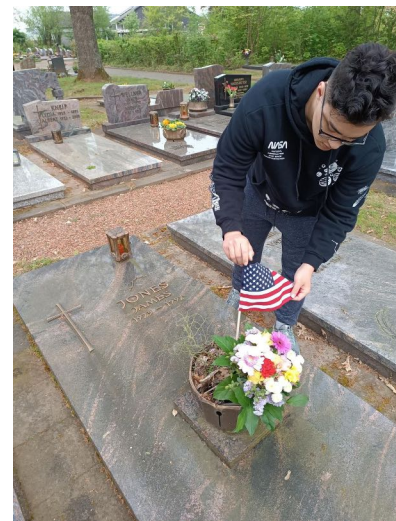


Sean Higgins awarded The American Legion Military Award



Emma Arambula awarded The American Legion Scholastic Award

2023 Graves Decorations Program decorated 43 American Military graves with flowers and flags at seven cemeteries in the Kaiserslautern Military Community between 29 April and 13 May in preparation for Memorial Day. Post Members were supported by several members of Air Force units, including members of ALS Class 23-5.





2nd Vice Commander Mike Young and Chaplain Isaac Smith

Kaiserslautern Kindergraves Memorial Service

On 20 May 2023, members of the Post and Auxiliary participated in the annual Kaiserslautern Kindergraves Memorial Service at the Daenner Kaserne Chapel and Kaiserslautern Cemetery.



HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN CHILDREN GRAVES IN KAISERSLAUTERN



During the years 1952-1971, 451 American children were buried in the Kaiserslautern city cemetery. Most of the children were infants who died of complications before reaching their first birthday. With a few exceptions, these little ones were the children of American military members stationed in the Kaiserslautern Military Community. At that time, assistance was not available to transport the deceased children to the United States for a stateside burial.

During the initial years, the City of Kaiserslautern donated the use of two public burial plots while local groups associated with the military community maintained these sites.

The lease for the gravesites expired in 1986, but the future of the graves was secured by donations from the German American Women's Club of Kaiserslautern, the Army and Air Force Spouse's Clubs, and other private sources. The Ramstein Area Chiefs' Group volunteered as executive agent and signed the lease with the City of Kaiserslautern. City officials agreed to consolidate the two original gravesites into one area where the children rest today. The Ramstein Area Chiefs' Group and the German American and International Women's Club provide oversight to the care and maintenance of the Kindergraves.

Memorial Day

Ceremony at Lorraine American Cemetery, St Avold,
France



And the BBQ at Kaiserslautern Post GR01 on the way home.



American Legion Kaiserslautern

Post GR01

Veteran Family

PICNIC

10 Jun 2023 **10:00 - 16:00**



Free Food and DRINKS **LIVE DJ**

Pulaski Park



2023-WITH MISSION MARGRATEN PLUS. WE CELEBRATED THE RETURN TO EUROPE FOR THREE SPECIAL WWII VETERANS FOR THIS MEMORIAL DAY, DOMINICK CRITELLI (102 YEARS OLD), HANK SZLEPCSIK (94), AND EUGENE ZANGER (95). WHAT A GREAT TIME!





WE ALSO PAID OUR RESPECTS TO THE ONLY AFRICAN AMERICAN SOLDIERS MEMORIAL IN WERETH BELGIUM. GOOGLE THE WERETH 11. PROUDLY LAYING THE WREATH FOR POST NL01 WAS OUR OWN PATRICK FOWLER.



American Legion post Ireland 03 was chartered by Irish men that served in WW1 and WW2, our post is located on the wild Wild West coast of Co. Mayo. Our post is named in honor of Commodore John Barry, Barry was given his honorary title by George Washington, this gives you an idea of how long the Irish have served in the US military. We will observe Memorial Day over the 4th of July weekend in Castlebar, Co. Mayo at the Mayo Peace Park with the unveiling of two new US memorial stones. In October 2008 about 30 of us commonwealth and American Legion members proudly marched through the streets of Castlebar and ended up at the Peace Park and helped the then President of Ireland Mrs. Mary McAleese dedicate the park as a tribute to the Mayo men

that immigrated, adopted a foreign country and gave the ultimate sacrifice. On dedication day our Great Wall had 1,100 names, today just under 1,500 same with our US stone 59 names on dedication day the new stone has 107 names of Mayo men killed in WW1. We will be dedicating a brand-new stone on the day with the names of the seven Mayo men that received eight Medals of Honor and three Victoria Crosses won. If you are in country and would like to lay a wreath on the day let Commander Howko know, all are welcome. Honor those that served

Remember them...remember them.



June 14 is the birthday of the U.S. Army.

According to the U.S. Army Center of Military History's website – at history.army.mil – it was on June 14, 1775, that “the Continental Congress authorized enlistment of expert riflemen to serve the United Colonies for one year.”





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

Friday, May 19, 2023

DEPARTMENT
SERVICE OFFICER



Frank Phillips

SUBJECT: Procedures after a veteran passes away

After a veteran passes away, the surviving spouse has some entitlements. Below are certain benefits that the widow may apply for.

1. **Burial flag:**

- a. The American Legion does **not** issue a burial flag.
- b. The surviving spouse can obtain one through the American Embassy for burial purposes.
 - i. **Or** have the widow fill out the VA 27-2008 **Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes**
 - ii. Make sure the widow fills out their address as to where the burial flag is to be sent.

2. **Presidential Memorial Certificates:**

- a. The widow may request any number of the **Presidential Memorial Certificates**.
 - i. VA form 40-0247

3. **Free headstone or marker:**

- a. The widow may apply for a **free headstone or marker**.
 - i. VA Form 40-1330
 1. Make sure the widow puts the address, to where the headstone is to be delivered, to the company of the person setting the headstone.
 - a. It can take up to 6 months for the headstone to be delivered.

4. **Burial Benefits:**

- a. The widow may apply for **burial benefits OR**
 - i. VA form 21P-530EZ
- b. If the Veteran passed away, from a service-connected condition, the widow may apply for **DIC: Death, Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits**
 - i. VA Form 21P-534EZ
 1. The DSO Office will need a copy of the cause of death

The DSO will need a copy of the death certificate, as soon as possible. It is needed to stop the VA payments to the deceased veterans bank account. If not, the VA will recoup the payments made after the death of the veteran.

Any forms should be filled out, signed and sent to the DSO for VA submission.

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)172 6879915 Email: francis.phillips2@va.gov



For God and Country

The American Legion

Department of France

Department Service Officer

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



3 February 2021

Reporting the Death of an American Legion Member

This guideline is to assist American Legion Posts to report the death of an American Legion Member to the Department of France.

Notification of Death to Post:

1. Post Commander
2. Post Adjutant
3. Post Chaplain
4. Post Service Officer

Documents needed:

1. Point of Contact:
 - a. Surviving spouse / relative
 - b. Telephone number / email contact info
 - c. Where to send flowers / condolence cards - address
2. Date Member passed away.
3. Date / location of Burial
4. Membership number
5. Death certificate / cause of death
Photocopy suffices

Responsibilities:

1. Post Commander
 - a. Inform the Post members
2. Post Adjutant
 - a. Inform the American Legion Department Adjutant
 - i. POC
 - ii. Date Member passed away.
 - iii. Date / location of Burial
 - iv. Membership number
3. Post Chaplain
 - a. Contact surviving relative(s)
 - b. Inform Department Chaplain
4. Post Service Office
 - a. Send copy of Death Certificate / Cause of Death to Department Service Officer
 - b. Assist Post Chaplain
 - c. Inform Survivor(s) of eligible benefits.

Point of Contact information for Department Officers is located at the following website:

[Department of France Officers](#)

Department Service Officer: Francis (Frank) Phillips
Office of General Counsel (OGC) Accreditation # 43742
Mailing Address: USAG Ansbach MPD VSO, Unit 28721, Box 6511, APO, AE 09177
Telephone: +49 (0)172 6879915 Email: francis.phillips2@va.gov

GR 09 HONORS GRAVES OF VETERANS BURIED IN LOCAL CEMETERIES.

On Sunday, 28 May, GR09 members visited the twelve graves of American Veterans buried in the Neu-Ulm area and as in previous years the Post was able to decorate each grave with more than just a US flag. Thanks to the American Legion's Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Fund, Post GR09 received 600 dollars to "be used to honor and decorate individual graves of those veterans who were laid to rest overseas and outside American Battle Monument Commission controlled facilities." Accordingly, each grave was decorated with an impressive flower and plant arrangement and a streamer recognizing Neu-Ulm's American Legion. This demonstration of patriotism also exhibits to German visitors to the cemeteries that Americans do not forget their comrades in arms.

1st Vice Morgan Anthony placing flag on grave of WW II Veteran Henry Beard, Chaplain Snook preparing to say a prayer.

GR 09 members have participated in this traditional Memorial Day event of respect and honor since 2012.



GR 09 TURNS OLD INTO NEW.



Snook in the rear.

On 27 May GR 09 held its annual elections for post officers and the members present were apparently more than satisfied with their officers from the previous year and all were unanimously reelected to serve for another year.

Past Department Commander Keith Abernathy informing newly elected officers of their duties. From left to right: Abernathy, 2nd Vice Ted Wright, Post Commander Jerry Aman, 1st Vice Morgan Anthony, Sergeant-at-Arms Javier Becerra and Chaplain Tom



Juneteenth - Jun 19, 2023

A federal holiday, Juneteenth commemorates the emancipation of enslaved Black Americans.

Fishing Fest

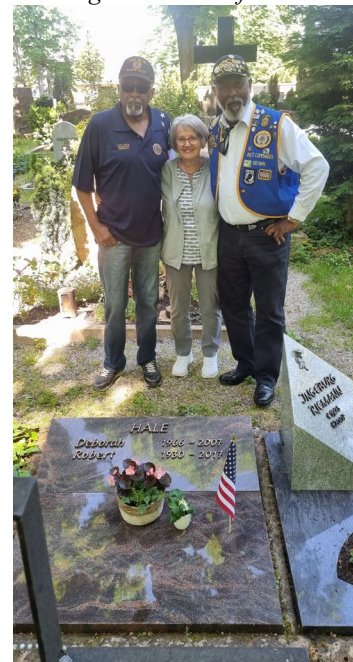


Memorial Day

Past Legionnaires daughter Gloria Saulisbury



Past Legionnaires Wife Ula Hale



GR79 General Membership meeting: Two new members, attendance by Department NECMAN Settle.



Past Legionnaires Wife Marlies Easterling



Lorraine Cemetery, Saint Avold, France



PCC President Joshua Steinlicht

Department of France Past Commanders Club 2023MY



PCC Secretary Lee Preston

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

Past and Present Department Commanders, Department Vice Commanders At Large, Department Vice Commanders, Post Commanders, SAL Detachment Commanders, SAL Squadron Commanders, Auxiliary Department Presidents, Auxiliary Unit Presidents... so if you were just voted into the office, you are eligible to join

Initial dues for the Past Commanders Club is only \$25.00

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





GRANDE CHEF DE GARE *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.



Memorial Day 2023
Grand Chef de Gare David Garcia (L) with Voyageur Robert Gray at Lorraine Cemetery, Saint Avoird, France

The following are the Grand Officers for the 2024 Membership Year:

Cheminot Nationale *Lee Preston*

Alt. Cheminot Nationale *Joe James*

Chef de Gare *David Garcia*

Chef de Train-At-Large *Joe Brown*

Conducteur *John Gerdeman*

Commissaire Intendant *David Greaux*

Avocat *John Gerdeman*

Garde de La Porte *John Pruitt*

Commis Voyageur *Michael Young*

The next Promenade is planned for 15 July 2023.

The Call will be sent out to the Membership.

Korean War starts (1950) Jun 25, 2023



The Korean War "began on June 25, 1950, when the Northern Korean People's Army invaded South Korea in a coordinated general attack at several strategic points along the 38th parallel, the line dividing communist North Korea from the non-communist Republic of Korea in the south. North Korea aimed to militarily conquer South Korea and therefore unify Korea under the communist North Korean regime.

FRAUD ALERT

Medical Identity Theft



US DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION

The VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) and FBI seek your help to stop medical identity theft scams.

Medical identity theft occurs when someone steals or uses your personal information to receive medical care or submits fraudulent claims for payment to health insurers without your authorization. Medical identity theft can be committed by anyone, including family members, caregivers, healthcare providers or pharmacy staff, telemarketers, and fraudsters.



If you or a family member has experienced any of the following, you may be a victim of medical identity theft:

- Received VA benefits or healthcare insurance correspondence you did not request or initiate (such as appointment reminders or benefit determination letters)
- Were sent bills, explanations of benefits, or other paperwork for services not received
- Solicited for or received prescription drugs, durable medical equipment, or medical supplies that you did not order or authorize
- Discovered incorrect information within your medical records
- Denied insurances (life, long-term care, or supplemental) due to inaccurate medical history
- Contacted about or informed of action to collect on unknown outstanding medical expenses in your name
- Noticed missing mail or unauthorized access to your financial records

How to Protect Yourself

- Secure all your personal and health insurance information. Do not allow others to use your health insurance (an illegal act) and be cautious with whom you share your data.
- Beware of unsolicited "free" healthcare service offers or promised compensation.
- Check your explanations of benefits carefully to ensure the accuracy of dates, locations, providers, and services billed.
- [Notify VA](#) and your insurers if your identity or that of a covered family member is compromised.
- [Alert your local VA](#) if your [VA ID cards](#) are lost or stolen.
- Monitor your credit reports for new inquiries, opened credit lines, or unknown debts.



- [VA OIG fraud toolkit](#)
- [HHS OIG medical identity theft alert](#)
- [FBI healthcare fraud resources](#)
- [FTC medical identity theft alert](#)
- [VA Identity Theft Information](#)

BE A
**VOICE FOR
VETERANS**
REPORT WRONGDOING

Submit Complaints of Suspected Medical Identity Theft to the VA OIG or FBI

VA OIG

Online: va.gov/oig/hotline

Phone: (800) 488-8244 | Fax: (202) 495-5861

Mail: VA Inspector General Hotline (53H)

810 Vermont Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20420

FBI

Online: tips.fbi.gov

Via your local field office:

fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices

May 2023