



Legion News

DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE



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

May 2023

Vol. 21 / No. 5

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER



Joshua Steinlicht

Greetings Comrades,

There is nothing that I appreciate more than being able to recognize, reward, and award Legionnaires for their hard work! In April, our Department Awards Committee met to review all the awards submitted and make our selections for the Legionnaire of the Year, Post of the Year, Adjutant of the Year, Commander of the Year, and a select few other award recipients. Of course, I will not reveal which Posts or Legionnaires were selected for awards until our Annual Convention in June! For those Posts who did not submit any awards, I certainly hope that you consider submitting some awards next year; there is no better way to boost morale and encourage more participation by highlighting the achievements of our top performers.



In May, as the weather starts getting warmer and people start to really come out of their winter hibernations, there are a lot of great events and ceremonies for all of us to get out into the public and show our communities that we have outlasted the COVID Pandemic and that The American Legion is enduring and everlasting. I challenge every seek out those small cells of Americans who are hiding in our neighborhoods, let them know that we are here and that we are active.

May 8, 2023 - Victory in Europe Day, or V-E Day, is when Germany surrendered to its Allies in World War II.

Also, on the week of May 8, our Department's National Executive Committee (NEC) leadership will convene in Indianapolis for the annual Spring Meetings. Commission and committee meetings are May 8-9; the NEC meet May 10-11 where they will meet at the National Headquarters to review the reports and vote on resolutions. I want to wish NECMan James Settle and Alt NECMan Hans Stockenberger safe travels as they make their way to Indianapolis and again on their way back home at the conclusion of the Spring Meetings.



Please, please, please do not forget that Mother's Day is on May 14th!

May 20, 2023 - American Legion Family members celebrate Armed Forces Day to honor the men and women who serve in the United States military.

May 26, 2023 - National Poppy Day. The red poppy is a nationally recognized symbol of sacrifice worn by Americans since World War I to honor those who served and died for our country in all wars. It reminds Americans of the sacrifices made by our veterans while protecting our freedoms.

May 29, 2023 - Memorial Day. The American Legion Family honor the more than 1 million men and women who have lost their lives defending America since the Revolutionary War.

Check with your Post leadership for announcements and more information concerning local memorials and commemorations that are happening in your communities.



MEMORIAL DAY 2023



**AMERICAN
LEGION**

The American Legion and this publication

REMEMBER THAT FREEDOM IS NOT FREE.

As the end of this membership year is rapidly approaching, I want every Post to submit their Consolidate Post Report; let's show the rest of The American Legion what we are doing and of our great accomplishments and give the National Commander some great ammunition to take with him into battle at Capitol Hill.

- Joshua E. Steinlicht

	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23
Saturday				1 *Awards Due		
Sunday	1			2 C&A		
Monday	2 New Years Day			3	1	
Tuesday	3			4	2	
Wednesday	4	1	1 *ESOY Award Due	5	3	
Thursday	5	2	2	6	4	1
Friday	6	3	3	7	5	2
Saturday	7	4	4 Oratorical	8	6	3
Sunday	8	5 C&A	5	9	7	4 C&A
Monday	9	6	6	10	8 Spring Meetings	5
Tuesday	10	7	7	11	9 Spring Meetings	6
Wednesday	11	8	8	12	10 Spring Meetings	7
Thursday	12	9	9	13	11 Spring Meetings	8 4th DEC IA (T)
Friday	13	10	10	14	12	9
Saturday	14	11 MWC	11	15 Awards Committee	13	10
Sunday	15 Conv. Committee	12 MWC	12	16	14	11
Monday	16 MLK Jr. Bday	13	13	17	15	12
Tuesday	17 Americanism Brief	14	14	18	16	13
Wednesday	18	15	15	19	17	14
Thursday	19	16	16	20	18	15 4th DEC (T)
Friday	20	17	17	21	19	16 Convention (T)
Saturday	21	18	18 3rd DEC	22	20	17 1st DEC (T)
Sunday	22	19	19	23	21	18
Monday	23	20 Presidents Day	20	24	22	19 Juneteenth
Tuesday	24	21	21	25	23	20
Wednesday	25 CAC	22	22	26	24	21
Thursday	26	23	23	27	25 CAC	22
Friday	27	24	24	28	26	23
Saturday	28	25	25	29	27	24
Sunday	29	26	26	30	28	25
Monday	30	27 3rd DEC IA	27		29 Memorial Day	26
Tuesday	31	28	28		30	27 1st DEC IA (T)
Wednesday			29		31	28
Thursday			30			29
Friday			31			30
Saturday						
Sunday						
Federal Holiday			DEC		Internal Affairs (V)	
Commanders & Adjutants Mtg (V)			Commander Advisory Council (V)		Convention	
			Other			



Greetings Fellow Legionnaires,

I am still very happy about the participation from the 3rd DEC and with that, I am looking for maximum possible participation in our June activities. We will have the 4th DEC on the 15th of June immediately followed by the three session Department Convention 16 June and morning of the 17th of June. Also in the afternoon of the 17th of June will be our 1st DEC meeting.

I emailed out the Convention Package out to all Post Commanders, Post Adjutants and Department Leadership both current and Past Department Officers on the 11th or 12th of February 2023. The deadline for registering for the Convention is coming up by 21 May. If you need to see it again, or if it has not been passed on to you, please just send me an email and I'll send it to you. The location in Eitorf, near Bonn Germany, at the Schützenhof Hotel is a wonderful location with a river running right behind it. We did a Convention there in 2019. Both my wife and I had a wonderful time there. I really enjoyed the camaraderie we all shared each evening. In keeping with our Department Bylaws, there are now 12 Posts that can attend the meetings via Internet, they are GC01, SP292, CH01, TH01, TH02, EG01, EG02, EG303, IR01, 02, 03 and IR63. Plus, members of your Post that are 70 years old and older may attend via Internet and count as one of your Post Delegates. Remember, you are always given two Post Delegates per Post at all DEC's. However, you are granted more Delegates for the Convention. That formula looks like Each Post gets two delegates for their Post for the first 50 members that Post has, plus one more per Delegate per majority of each 50 members after that. Example, so if your Post has 176 members as of 1 June, you are eligible for 5 total Delegates in the Convention. This breaks down to first 50 gives you 2, 100 gives you 3, 150 gives you 4 and majority of 50 being 26 for a total of 176 members gives you the 5th Delegate. I truly hope to see a full house for the Convention.

A couple of dates to look at in our near future is our next Commanders Advisory Council meeting is the 25th of May at 18:00 and the next Commanders and Adjutants Meeting with our Department Commander is on the 4th of June at 14:00.



Also, please submit to me page 54 of the Department's Award Manual for The National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola Membership Incentive Cap Pin for each of your members that have recruited three or more new members. And page 55 the National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola Membership V.E.T.S. Incentive Pin for renewing 5 members that were not on the membership rolls for 2022. Remember to send these forms to me, not to National. I will verify your entrees and send them to Nation from our Department. There is a slight error on both pages in yellow for the deadline, where it says the year 2022, it is really 2023.



Post Adjutants, there is a new WhatsApp Group just for Adjutants, it is created to be a source for all Adjutants for questions and answers. Shoot me an email with your mobile phone number in it and I will add you to the group.

As always, I am available for everyone, not just Commanders and Adjutants if you have any questions.

Dennis Owens
Adjutant
Department of France
American Legion

**DEPARTMENT
VCAL**



Lee Preston

Hello Everyone,

Wow, I cannot believe that April has gone by so fast.

The Department is still not at 100% and we need to get there. I am asking all the Post's to dig deep, roll up their sleeves, and get the job done. Membership Awareness Drives, calling those members that have yet to renew, and looking everywhere for those new members is the key to getting there. Talk to new people, talk to members that have not renewed for a couple of years, talk to those that have been on the fence not knowing if they want to join or not. Now is

the time to inform them as to the things we do for those Veterans. We are living in tough times when the Administration is looking at cutting the budget by 22% in a way that will affect Veteran Benefits. Get out the message and let's get that 100%

Finally, the Department Annual Convention! The Convention will be held in Eitorf, Germany and should be a great time like we had there in 2019. The Convention Packages have been sent out to the Post Adjutants and should have been sent out to the Post Membership. If you are a Post Adjutant and you have not gotten this out to your membership, please do, we want as much participation as possible. Remember, getting your membership involved in the Department could help to keep them involved in your Post.

For God and Country / Lee Preston / VCAL

**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 OFFICERS 2023MY

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SERGEANT-AT-ARMS James Dennis

GR30 departmentdennis@gmail.com

ADJUTANT EMERITUS Robert Fuelling

FR01 herman40153@gmail.com

To the members of the Department of France,

We are heading into that time of year for our Department Convention. The Convention Committee has planned and setup the Convention which will be held 15 – 18 June 2023. The Convention Package has been sent out to all the Commanders and Adjutants in the Department and hopefully it has been sent out to their membership. Everyone is invited to attend Convention even if not a delegate for their Post. Just come out and enjoy the comradery and meet other Department members. We have always had an enjoyable time at Department Convention and I hope to see a lot of members attend.

There is a Convention Package here in the Department newsletter. If you have not received it from your Post Adjutant please contact him or her and have it sent to you. Once you complete the registration form please send it to one of the Convention Committee Members email so we can get you on the list and your room reserved. Rooms will not be guaranteed after 21 May 2023 so, get your registration forms in as soon as possible so you don't forget. Thank you all for reading! Get your registration forms filled out and turned in so you can enjoy the fun as well as the comradery at the Department of France Annual Convention being held 15 – 18 Jun 2023 at the Hotel Schützenhof in Eitorf, Germany.

Thanks, Your Department Convention Committee.

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

<i>15-18 June 2023</i>		
Three Nights - single room	€394.00	per person
Three Nights - double room	€340.00	per person
<i>16-18 June 2023</i>		
Two Nights - single room	€280.00	per person
Two Nights - double room	€245.00	per person
<i>17-18 June 2023</i>		
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 (Saturday).	€30.00	per person.
Breakfast only. Not staying at hotel.	€7.00	per person, per day.
Dinner only (Thursday-Friday). 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**
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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. May 8th: Victory in Europe (VE) Day
2. May 11th-13th:
#WelcomeHome2023 West Potomac Park, Washington D.C.
3. May 20th: Paris Post 1 Monthly Meeting
4. May 28th: Memorial Day (ceremony times TBD)
5. June 6th: D-Day 79th Anniversary Commemorations Normandy (ceremony days and times vary)
6. June 7th: WW1 Unknown American Soldier Burial - Oise-Aisne American Cemetery

West Point visits Paris Post 1, Pershing Hall and the Arc de Triomphe!



The United States Military Academy at West Point visits France with a special day touring America's history with Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons from Paris Post 1.

"Mission Accomplished!" West Point Instructor CPT Jacob Morris stands with Cadet Liam Stanko after laying their wreath at the ravivage ceremony honoring the Unknown Soldier at the Arc de Triomphe.

Paris Post 1 thanks them for their visit, and for living West Point's motto, "Duty, Honor, Country," while representing American service members in France.



West Point cadets under the Arc de Triomphe with Paris Post 1 Chaplain, Gary Nadolski and his wife Gigi.

Paris Post 1 hosts cadets for a full day of American history!

History in Action: West Point visits France

A SPECIAL DAY FOR EVERYONE AT PARIS POST 1, THANK YOU FOR VISITING US!



Merci beaucoup West Point for visiting Paris Post 1!

These extraordinary university students and professors came to France, and spent a full day with our Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons from Paris Post 1. Our mission included:

- learning American history in Paris
- honoring General Pershing's legacy in France
- experiencing Pershing Hall
- working with historic books from the Pershing Hall Collection

Many thanks to this exceptional group, and to Commandant-en-second of the Gendarmerie Nationale in France, Lieutenant-Colonel Benoît Fief (photo on far right), who volunteered and provided support for the cadets trip to France.

We are very thankful for your participation and hard work!



Visit to Pershing Hall

Our first stop was at the historic Pershing Hall, created by Paris Post 1 in the 1930's, and the post's headquarters for over 60 years.

Created after World War I as an American memorial building and a permanent headquarters for Paris Post 1, Pershing Hall was dedicated to General John J. Pershing, who was a co-founder of the building, and his soldiers, many who were founders, creators, and users of this historic pilgrimage site.

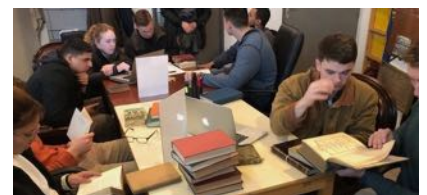
The West Point group met Paris Post 1 Commander Bryan Schell and Vice-Commander Rick Jones outside of Pershing Hall to view the historic facade that was created by American veteran and architect Francis Jacques. Francis Jacques graduated from Harvard in 1905, and the Ecole des Beaux Arts School of Architecture in 1912.

Two years after graduating during World War I, Francis volunteered in the American Ambulance Service for duty in France.

In 1917, Francis Jacques transferred to the American Expeditionary Forces as a Lieutenant, and he became a captain of engineers doing important liaison work between the American and French Armies.

Lieutenant Francis Jacques was a long term member of Paris Post 1. We are happy to be actively working with the descendants of Legionnaire Jacques in preserving his history in Paris Post 1's archives.

We are forever thankful to WWI American veteran Francis Jacques for his dedication in helping creating this unique American memorial building - Pershing Hall



Next stop: Paris Post 1's current office near Gare de Lyon!

After a tour and coffee at Pershing Hall, everyone changed locations to Paris Post 1's current office near Gare de

Lyon joining the post's Service Officer Tom Adams for lunch.

During a quick lunch break, former naval officer and retired history professor, whose PhD from Paris Sorbonne University concentrated on 18th and 19th century French Naval history, Tom Adams, was able to explain more about American history in France, and how the group would get ready for an afternoon of hidden history and preservation work with Paris Post 1's history book collection.

In January of 2023, Paris Post 1 was granted permission to pick up a large portion of the library that used to be inside Pershing Hall.

These books dating from the mid-1800's to World War II, used to be the knowledge center for many American veterans who lived and worked in France during and after both World Wars.

The focus of the Cadets was to:

- learn proper methods of preservation for historic books
- practice ways of handling inventory that is fragile
- review each book for data to complete inventory audit
- discuss historic facts and content of books and of the Pershing Hall Collection

Lots of smiles (and epiphanies) from our young historians as they handled this historic book collection!



Meeting Saint-Cyr cadets at the Arc de Triomphe!

We were delighted to join several other associations, and the École Spéciale Militaire de Saint-Cyr from Morbihan, Brittany, for the ravivage ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe.

The academy was founded in Fontainebleau in 1802 by Napoleon, and in 1945 moved to the Coëtquidan military camp in Morbihan.

West Point and the École Spéciale Militaire de Saint-Cyr were officially twinned on October 19, 2002. The twinning ceremony took place at West

Point, New York, and was attended by the respective superintendents of the two academies, as well as other dignitaries and military officials.

The twinning of the two academies reflects their long-standing relationship and shared values. The École Spéciale Militaire de Saint-Cyr was founded in 1802, just four years after West Point, and both institutions have a rich history of training military officers for their respective countries.

The twinning agreement formalized the relationship between the two academies and established a framework for academic and cultural exchanges between their cadets and faculty. It also includes joint research projects, military training exercises, and other collaborative initiatives.

The partnership between West Point and the École Spéciale Militaire de Saint-Cyr helps to strengthen the ties between the United States and France, and promotes international cooperation and understanding in the field of military education and training.

It was an historic moment seeing American and French cadets meeting each other under the Arc de Triomphe!



West Point's long legacy with France

West Point Military Academy was awarded the Cross of the French Legion of Honor on September 7, 1919. The award was presented to the Academy by the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Armies during World War I, Marshal Ferdinand Foch, during his visit to the United States.

The award was given to the academy in recognition of the service of its graduates who fought and died in the war, as well as for the role the academy played in training and educating American soldiers. It is one of the highest honors that can be given by the French government to a foreign organization or individual.

Paris Post 1's Center for Research is actively working on our membership archive from the 1920's, 1930's and those who are interred in our mausoleum to identify all members who graduated from West Point at our post

Our Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons strive to preserve our historic archive, and digitize our records to share with researchers, members and families of our veterans!

Would you like to help us with our history programs?

Email: HISTORIAN@PARISPOST1.FR



Active duty, cadet, and veteran, standing together as Americans honoring France's Unknown Soldier

The Arc de Triomphe de l'Étoile is one of the most famous monuments in Paris located at the western end of the Champs-Élysées, not far from Pershing Hall, at the center of Place Charles de Gaulle, formerly named Place de l'Étoile - the étoile (in French) or "star" of the juncture formed by its twelve radiating avenues.

Beneath the Arc is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier from World War I. Interred on Armistice Day 1920, an eternal flame burns in memory of the dead who were never identified (now for both world wars). Every evening at 6:30 P.M. the eternal flame is rekindled in a ceremony called the ravivage.

The tomb's inscription reads:

Ici repose un soldat français mort pour la Patrie, 1914-1918

Translated to, "Here rests a French soldier who died for the Fatherland, 1914-1918," the United States chose their American Unknown Soldier in France, and after a voyage on board the USS Olympia, the American Unknown Soldier was interred in Arlington National Cemetery on November 11, 1921.

In 1961, U.S. President John F. Kennedy and First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy paid their respects at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier,

accompanied by President Charles de Gaulle.

This tradition continues to this day with American active duty, cadets and veterans joining with four French military Generals laying our wreaths and honoring the Unknown Soldier with a moment of silence.

We are very thankful for your participation and hard work!



Duty, Honor and Country

The motto of West Point was held at high regard on this special visit to France. An extraordinary amount of

work performed along with honoring those before us.

Beneath the Arc is the Tomb, our West Point cadets and professors exemplified duty, honor and country.

Both Saint-Cyr cadets and West Point cadets showed their duty, honor and country by singing historic songs from each of their own schools.



Group photo in front of the Church of Belleau, France

Western Front Pilgrimages

This trip for the West Point group, and their participation with Paris Post 1, was made possible through the kind generosity of several key people who should be recognized.

A very special thanks to Dr. Heather Warfield, President of Western Front Pilgrimages, and community partner of

Paris Post 1's Center for Research, for providing planning and ground support in France for the week-long trip for the West Point Group.

West Point Leadership

Three professors from West Point's Department of History courageously led a group of nine cadets from New York to France for their week-long trip.

- LTC (R) David R. Stry, Assistant Professor

Director of the Center for Oral History
- MAJ Rose Horswill, Assistant Professor

Military Division Executive Officer
- CPT Jacob Morris, Cadet Instructor

Thanks to the collaboration of many involved, the lives and minds of cadets have been elevated with layers of American history that they may have not known before.

We are very thankful for your participation and hard work, please join us again at Paris Post 1!



May 8, 1945

On Victory in Europe Day, or V-E Day, Germany unconditionally surrendered its military forces to the Allies, including the United States. On May 8, 1945 - known as Victory in Europe Day or V-E Day - celebrations erupted around the world to mark the end of World War II in Europe.

Mother's Day is a holiday honoring motherhood that is observed in different forms throughout the world. In the United States, **Mother's Day 2023 will occur on Sunday, May 14.** The American incarnation of Mother's Day was created by Anna Jarvis in 1908 and became an official U.S. holiday in 1914.



KAISERSLAUTERN POST GR01 KAISERSLAUTERN, GERMANY

Michael (Mike) Young Post Legionnaire of the Year 2023



Adjutant Fleming, 1st Vice Commander Young, and Commander Randel.

American Legion Kaiserslautern
Post GR01
Veteran Family
PICNIC
10 Jun 2023 **10:00 - 16:00**



Free Food and DRINKS **LIVE DJ**

Pulaski Park



FLANDERS FIELD POST BE02 *WEST FLANDERS, BELGIUM*

Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Day 2023

The American Legion "Flanders Field" Post BE02 hosted the 2023 Vietnam Veterans Day event at the AAFES PX on Wednesday, 29 March. Fourteen Vietnam Veterans and numerous others attended the ceremony with guest speakers, Commander Joshua Steinlicht, Department of France Commander; Commander Mark Primmer, VFW Post 605, and keynote speaker Colonel Ryan Raymond, Base Support Command SHAPE.



Commander Joshua Steinlicht presents a \$250 donation to SHAPE Air Force JROTC Master Sergeant Glenn Delery. The SHAPE JROTC Drill team was the overall winner of the European Drill Competition.





COMMODORE JOHN BARRY POST IR03 *DUBLIN, IRELAND*

Ireland 03 post will be front and center for Granting WW 2 vet Don Graves 98th birthday wish in Kinsale, Co. Cork Ireland, on 3 May. Don and party depart Texas on Saturday arrive in Ireland on Sunday sleep in and head to Cork on Monday. Tuesday Don and party will have the red carpet rolled out for them at Collins Barracks in Cork, Don will talk to the members of the NCO course and active members of the Irish Defense Forces. Wednesday, 3 May from 3-5pm will be Don's 98th birthday party. Ireland post 03 Commander Ron Howko will present Don with a 5,000 year old piece of bog wood from his backyard on behalf of the four American Legion posts in

Ireland and Don will be inducted into the Irish Veterans chapter 1 who's HQ is in Kinsale and named in honor of US Navy SEAL Michael Murphy, Medal of Honor recipient and his Guided missile ship the USS Michael Murphy. Don Graves, a survivor of Iwo Jima, Last Letters is behind a fund raiser for Don and party, please go to GO fund me granting WW2 vet Don Graves 98th birthday wish and give what you can.

Ron Howko

Commander Ireland 03

DEPARTMENT
SERVICE OFFICER



Frank Phillips

The American Legion Department of France Department Service Office

What we do

The Mission of the Department Service Office is to provide benefits information, assistance and advocacy to all who have served and their families. Many Veterans are unsure of their entitlement to benefits so we ask that anyone who identifies as having served to contact our office to be directed to an appropriate resource.

The Department Service Office provides services and help with the following benefits:

Services:

- Comprehensive VA benefits counseling
- Assistance with Foreign Medical Program care enrollment
- Claims preparation and submission
- Claims follow-up to ensure final decisions
- Initiate and develop appeals on unfavorable VA decisions when appropriate to include representation at VA Hearings
- Survivors Death Benefits

What do Department Service Officers do?

A DSO will ensure that Veterans and their families receive all federal benefits available to them. DSO's do this by providing effective and dedicated representation to veterans and their families, free of charge.

You will never receive a bill from us!

DSO's are trained and accredited by the American Legion to represent veterans in their claims for benefits. DSO's are versed in applicable federal laws to provide the best representation possible.

The Department Service Office should be the first stop for all recently discharged service members and anyone who has served in any of our armed forces branches to receive a complete benefit explanation.

Department Service Office Staff

Office Visits by Appointment Only:

Please **Call Wednesdays OR Fridays**
Between 1300 and 1600 hours

Telephone: +49 9802 83 2269 for an appointment before visiting the office.

E Mail contact.

usarmy.ansbach.id-europe.list.vso@army.mil

Francis Phillips

Director, Department Service Office

(Europe)



Location Main Office

USAG Ansbach, Katterbach Kaserne

Building 5818, Room 318

91522 Katterbach-Ansbach, Germany

Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/6XJQnGnTDu42>

Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Day 2023

On 29 March, 2023, the Stuttgart Army Garrison, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Patch Barracks Commissary, and the American Legion Stuttgart Post 6, participated in the National Vietnam War Commemoration Day. This day has been set aside by Presidential Proclamation to thank and honor U.S. Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the Nation.

Stuttgart Garrison CSM Malave was on hand to give a few brief remarks and present U.S. Vietnam veterans with a commemorative lapel pin as a "lasting memento of the Nation's thanks." Family members also received a special families pin.

Each veteran and family member received a pin, a copy of the Presidential Proclamation signed by President Joe Biden, a commemorative coin, and a certificate of Honor from the American Legion, Post 6.

On hand for the ceremony and making presentations was Stuttgart Garrison CSM Malave, Panzer Main Exchange Manager Robin Boylan, Sales Manager Matthew Skender, Patch Commissary Store Director Scott Harmon, Stuttgart Post 6 Commander Michael Pierce, and Post 6 Adjutant Douglas Clemence.

A special table was placed for Bill Campbell, the only Vietnam veteran who has passed to the Post Everlasting. His wife is pictured with Commander Pierce.





May 20, 2023

American Legion Family members celebrate Armed Forces Day to honor the men and women who serve in the United States military.



Joseph J. Sadowski Remembered

Post Commander Jerry Aman of the William D. Nelson Post Gr 09, Department of France, Neu-Ulm/Ulm, Germany was surprised in 2016 when he learned that a Department of France legion post had previously been formed in the same Ulm/Neu-Ulm cities several years prior to the formation of the present GR 09 William D. Nelson Legion Post.

The Joseph J. Sadowski, Post # 2, Ulm Germany received its temporary charter from the Department of France, 49 Rue Pierre Charron, Paris, France on September 12, 1964 and at the time of its formation the post had 150 members; Robert M. Dninell was the first Post Commander and the post was active until May 1969 and even though American military personnel remained in Ulm and Neu-Ulm the information was never passed on which is why in November 2000 when the application was submitted to form a post in Neu-Ulm no thought was given to reactivating the Joseph Sadowski post, instead the members formed a new post which they named after WW II Medal of Honor winner William Nelson. Obviously, they were not aware of this earlier honor to a WW II hero.

The fact that a post with 150 members had lasted only five years and that Americans still residing in the Ulm/Neu-Ulm area were unaware of this bothered Aman. "Wouldn't it have been proper to have reinstated the Joseph J. Sadowski post" Aman kept thinking and as the weeks and months went by the name Joseph Sadowski stayed in his head until he finally decided to obtain more information. Aman was able to obtain copies of the application for a temporary charter, the correspondence between the post and the United States Army Europe (necessary for approval to form a Private Organization), and the temporary charter approval letter from Department Headquarters to the National Headquarters in Indianapolis.

Further research by Aman revealed that Sadowski, from Perth Amboy, New Jersey, was a Medal of Honor recipient, who was killed on 14 September 1944 when trying to rescue one of his soldiers from a burning tank after his unit encountered intensely severe enemy fire in a

battle in Valehy, France. Furthermore, Aman discovered that in September 2009 the citizens of Valhey erected a monument honoring Sgt. Sadowski.

In June 2018, after the Department of France's annual convention, Aman traveled to Valey, a small non-descript village with about 2000 residents located approximately 30 kilometers north of Nancy. In his best Google translated French Aman kept asking for the location of the monument and finally a young man who spoke English showed up and said, "you must have walked right past it, I'll lead you to it." And there it was, right in the center of the village, a monument dedicated to an American soldier who gave his life to save the country of France and this village. It was placed at the exact spot where Sgt Sadowski was caught in a hail of enemy small-arms fire, bazooka, and grenades from the windows of adjacent buildings, and mortally wounded while trying to rescue a comrade from a burning tank.



It was fitting, thought Aman after having read the inscriptions on the monument and the Medal of Honor citation, that members of the Department of France, Neu-Ulm, Germany had selected Joseph Sadowski as the namesake for their post. After Aman explained to the young man the purpose of his visit and how an American Legion post had previously been named in his honor the young man said that he would personally see to it that the monument was kept in a

respectable condition.

There was never any doubt in Aman's mind that someday he would again visit the site and on 19 March 2023 after the 3rd DEC in St. Avold, France, Aman again drove to Valey. The town had not changed, still the drab buildings, dusty streets and shuttered windows but there in the village center, Sgt. Sadowski's memorial still stood there in all it's splendor. Yes, the young man had kept his word but then again, thought Aman, most likely all the residents of Valey still saw to it that the monument was kept in fine condition because even 78 years after WW II the French still pay honors to those Americans who gave their lives for their country's freedom.



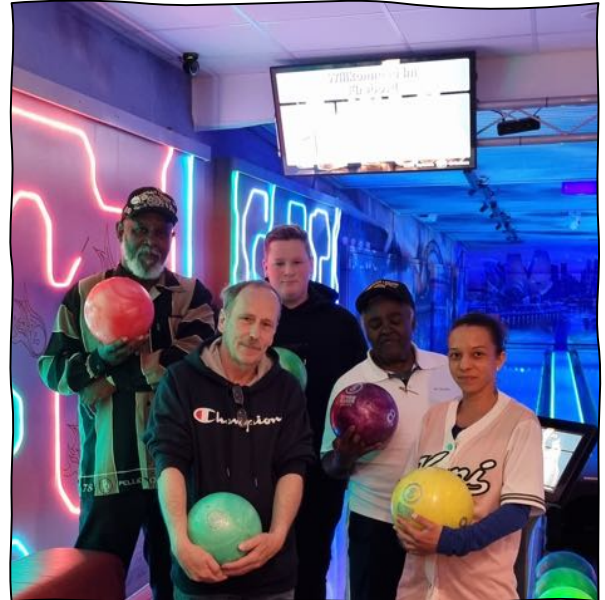
GR79 Easter Bunny



Easter Egg Hunt



Easter Fest with Department Vice Commander Peter Mock



GR79 Legion & SAL Bowling

DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER EDITOR...*DAVID N. GREUX*

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





DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN / AMERICANISM COMMITTEE *Joseph Schram*



Eagle Scout of the Year

Congratulations to Sam Gray, Crew 802, for being selected the Department of France's 2023 Eagle Scout of the Year.

Sam will now advance to the American legion National Competition.



Civil Air Patrol Cadet of the Year

Congratulations to Frederick P. Atienza III, Civil Air Patrol Cadet Squadron NHQ-120 from Chièvres Airbase, for being selected as the Department of France's 2023 CAP Cadet of the Year.



National Oratorical Contest

Congratulations to Kennedy Lange, Freshman from Ansbach High School for her participation in the American Legion National Oratorical Contest held in Indianapolis on 22 April.





Congratulations to Charles “Trey” Yeager, Post GR14, for earning the American Legion Square Knot Award.



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 2023MY...*David Garcia*

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

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

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

REMINDER: GRAND ELECTIONS: Saturday 06 May 2023.
Hosted by Voiture 1524 / Heilbronn, Germany



National Poppy Day - May 26, 2023

The red poppy is a nationally recognized symbol of sacrifice worn by Americans since World War I to honor those who served and died for our country in all wars. It reminds Americans of the sacrifices made by our veterans while protecting our freedoms. On Sept. 27, 1920, the poppy became the official flower of the American Legion Family to memorialize the soldiers who fought and died during the war. In 1924, the distribution of poppies became a national program of The American Legion.



Taps Song, is it?

Many believe Taps is a song, but officially it's not. Taps is a bugle call which is a signal, not a song so there are no "official" Taps Lyrics as well. The signal was also known as the Drum Taps, The Taps, or in soldiers' slang: Taps.

The official military Taps is played by a single bugle or trumpet at dusk, during flag ceremonies and at military funerals by the United States Armed Forces. The duration is usually around 59 seconds but can vary at times.

There is a popular myth about the origin and history of Taps. However, the true story is that in July 1862, after the Seven Days battles at Harrison's Landing (near Richmond), Virginia, the wounded Commander of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, V Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, General Daniel Butterfield reworked, with his bugler Oliver Wilcox Norton, another bugle call, "Scott Tattoo," to create Taps. He thought that the regular call for Lights Out was too formal.

Military Taps was adopted throughout the Army of the Potomac and finally confirmed by orders. It wasn't soon after that other Union units began using Taps. It became so popular that even a few Confederate units began using it as well. After the

war, Taps became an official bugle call. Col. James A. Moss, in his Officer's Manual first published in 1911, gives an account of the initial use of Taps at a military funeral:

"During the Peninsular Campaign in 1862, a soldier of Tidball's Battery A of the 2nd Artillery was buried at a time when the battery occupied an advanced position concealed in the woods. It was unsafe to fire the customary three volleys over the grave, on account of the proximity of the enemy, and it occurred to Capt. Tidball that the sounding of Taps would be the most appropriate ceremony that could be substituted."

Even though it's a bugle signal, many started putting words to Taps.

Words to Taps. (Note: there are no "official" words to Taps but the most popular Taps Lyrics are below)

*Day is done, gone the sun,
From the hills, from the lake, from the skies.
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.*

*Go to sleep, peaceful sleep, may the soldier
or sailor, God keep. On the land or the deep, Safe in
sleep.*

*Love, good night, must thou go,
when the day, and the night need thee so?
All is well. Speedeth all To their rest.*

*Fades the light;
And afar Goeth day,
And the stars Shineth bright,
Fare thee well;
Day has gone, night is on.*

*Thanks and praise, for our days,
'Neath the sun, 'Neath the stars, 'Neath the sky,
As we go, this we know, God is nigh.*

These Taps Lyrics are the most popular, however several adaptations have been created.