



# Legion News

## DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE



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

May 2024

Vol. 22 / No. 5



**DEPARTMENT  
COMMANDER**

*Robert Gray*

### DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2024MY

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Hello, my American Legion Family, friends, and guests. I trust and hope that May will be a blessing to you and your family.

In March, the Commander of Brig Gen. Robin Olds Post TH01 suffered a fatal heart attack and was transferred to Post Everlasting. I apologize that there was no mention of his passing or the passing of several other Members to Post Everlasting. Please be assured that the Department is working to ensure that all PEL Members are recognized in the future.

The Eternal Flame Relay operation involving The American Legion will not take place as planned. As an event scheduled in France, the UK, and the United States, the event is still planned, however, we will not be participating in it. I wish to take this special opportunity to thank the Department of France, Post Commanders, and members who helped coordinate, prepare, and were willing to participate in this project. You have made the Department proud with our can-do attitude.

It was my sad duty to attend the funeral of one of our fallen comrades who has joined the ranks of Post Everlasting, Ervin Woodrow, Jr. He was laid to rest on the 5th of April 2024.



I had the opportunity to visit a First Aid Class for the Scouts given by Commander Joseph Schram, BE02. I was amazed at how the younger scouts were able to administer CPR and other medical functions. This is a particularly good program and should be taught more often. Commander Joseph Schram, my hat is off to you. You are doing an excellent job, and, sincerely, I thank you. You have made the Department of France proud.



I participated in an awareness drive conducted by GR01's Post Commander Dave Garcia, 1st Vice Commander Bruce Cole, Sergeant-at-Arms Curley Morgan, Auxiliary member Doris Garcia, member Ed Shelton, and Stephanie Keys, our photographer.



I attended the Hiring Our Heroes (HOH) event with GR01 Commander David Garcia. This was an extremely rewarding event at the Ramstein Offices Club. I did not realize that so many people were interested in The American Legion and did not know how to join or where we were located. For us, it was a remarkably busy day, full of all ranks, branches of service, and even dependents. There is a market out there, we have just got to stay vigilant in pursuing our membership. We were asked a lot of questions about the VA, and who our representative is.

In closing, my thoughts and prayers go out to every one of you who read this newsletter. May your journey in life be prosperous and fulfilling.

Robert Gray / Commander / Department of France

**AMERICAN  
LEGION**

**BE THE ONE**

*Be the One Day*

*May 1, 2024*

*On the first day of every month, Legion Family members are encouraged to wear a Be the One item to show their commitment to reducing the stigma around mental health issues among veterans and servicemembers. And to start a conversation about what Be the One is and how to save the life of a veteran. Legion posts should also promote Be the One on the first day of every month. [Visit legion.org/betheone](http://visit.legion.org/betheone).*

*V-E Day (1945)*

**May 8, 2024**

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



**DEPARTMENT  
ADJUTANT**



*John Fleming*

Greeting Comrades,

I hope this Newsletter finds everyone healthy and happy.

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.

Dates to Remember:

- 23 May 2024, 1900 CET – Commander Advisory Council, via Microsoft Teams
- 2 June 2024, 1400-100 CET – Commanders and Adjutants Meeting, via Microsoft Teams
- 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,

This Membership Year is just about to close. I can say that I am extremely pleased with the four Department Vice Commanders and what they have accomplished this year. I am hopeful that they will stay on next year as well. Our membership numbers are very high. At the time of this writing, they are almost at 100%. That alone is a great accomplishment of all Posts and their Membership Chairmen.

I am looking forward to the Department Convention and I hope to see many of you there.

Very best wishes, / VCAL Dennis Owens

**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](mailto:Davidg1959@t-online.de)

**DEPARTMENT  
NEWSLETTER  
EDITOR**



*David N. Greaux*

**DEPARTMENT  
Vice Commander**



*John Gerdeman*



I went to Heilbronn (GR79) On March 30 for their Easter day celebration. They had a special guest there, the Easter Bunny for the children of community. The Post had set up Easter egg hunts for the children. There were Three different ages groups 3 to 4 then 5 to 7 last 8 to 10. The children had

fun looking for the eggs After the egg hunt Commander Brown passed out to Every child an Easter bag with an Easter bunny and colored eggs. I think the children had a great time there.



Then it was off to Kaiserslautern (GR01) For their Post officers' installment. The Department Commander Gray and SAL Detachment Commander Fleming were also presented at the meeting, The Post Commander Garcia turned the post gavel over to me. To install the new post officers. The New Commander is Dave Garcia for 2024-2025. Department Commander Gray recognized two members of GR 01 the Commander Dave Garcia and Carlos Gonzalez. Commander Garcia received a Department coin and a Department Commander coin for his year as

commander. Carlos Gonzalez received a department coin for his work on post grave registration. Congratulations to both of them.



I was in Stuttgart (GR06) for their membership awareness drive. The Post teamed up with 1775 Army Ball and USAA. They were grilling bratwursts and steaks to sell. The grill master was their 1st Vice Commander Micheal Pierce, if he was not grilling, he was dancing with the children. There is a sad note though. At the end of May, the Post Commander Greg Hochstrasser will be returning to the state. I wish him good luck in the future.

John P. Gerdeman  
Department Vice Commander

**DEPARTMENT  
Vice Commander**



*Jim Brotherton*

The American Legion based in the UK and members of the the Department of France, were invited and had the privilege to attend the

memorial plaque unveiling in the village of Owthorpe, England. This ceremony was to recognize two US paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne, preparing for the invasion into Normandy (D-Day) that died during training in the village area.

It was also a great honor to be able to do this with representatives from all three American Legion Posts situated in the United Kingdom. I want to thank Franklin Lee Johnson (EG01), Joseph Starnes (EG02), Stephen J. Herron (EG02), Gary

Thomas (EG303) and Lee Preton (Past Department Officer) who travelled from Germany to support this ceremony. I cannot thank you all enough. As a Department Vice Commander , it does not get any better than this, when you have all the Posts from one area and supporting members from within the Department come together and participate and support a function like this, again thank you all very much. Proud to serve with you.



**DEPARTMENT  
AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS  
DIRECTOR**



*Jim Brotherton*

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Department of France. The date for the 4th DEC/Conv/1st DEC is rapidly approaching. With this, we will be asking for each Post to contribute to the Veterans & Children Foundation. This is the program that is replacing the Legacy Scholarship Fund, which now has enough money to be self-supporting. Below I have attached just what this program stands for and its purpose. Please, let's all come together and show our Department support for this program.



[A Foundation of Hope](#)

The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation feeds and houses children of military personnel and veterans facing urgent, unexpected hardships. It prevents eviction, keeps the power on and fulfills basic needs to hold a family together through difficult times.

The foundation also covers rigorous training and accreditation costs for American Legion claims experts who provide free representation for veterans and families applying for disability benefits, survivor assistance, GI Bill opportunities and more.

Since its inception in 1925 as the American Legion Endowment Fund, the foundation has assisted millions of veterans, their families and children in need. In 2019, the American Legion Endowment Fund began doing business as the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation to more clearly state who benefits from tax-deductible donations to the

separate non-profit 501c3 element of the nation's largest veterans organization.

The foundation relies entirely on charitable donations from individuals, like-minded associations and corporate allies.

At any one time, more than 3,000 trained and accredited American Legion service officers are handling the needs of 750,000 or more U.S. military veterans who have become disabled through service to our nation, as well as their families, who may be caregivers, surviving spouses or dependent children.

The American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance program ensures that qualified military and veteran families with minor children at home can pay for food, shelter, clothing or other necessities when sudden, unexpected financial hardships strike. The program distributes between \$250,000 and \$1.2 million each year in one-time cash grants of up to \$1,500 each.

# Department of France Convention 2024

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 / Convention Chairperson / Audie Murphy Post GR30*



## THE AMERICAN LEGION



Department of France  
96<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
Hosted by Audie Murphy Post GR30

13 - 16 June 2024

Best Western Hotel Polisia  
Marktbreiter str. 265  
97199 Ochsenfurt, Germany

### Convention Package Consist of:

4 Days and 3 Nights

One Convention Coin per Department registered guest residing at the Hotel

Breakfast Buffet

Evening Dinner Meal including the Banquet on Saturday

Mineral water and juice during the meetings

Afternoon coffee and pastry

13 -16 June 2024

Complete Package - Single Room	470,00 Euro Per Person
Complete Package - Double Room	320,00 Euro Per Person

14 -16 June 2024

Two Nights with Banquet - Single Room	340,00 Euro Per Person
Two Nights with Banquet - Double Room	220,00 Euro Per Person

15 -16 June 2024

One Night with Banquet - Single Room	180,00 Euro Per Person
One Night with Banquet - Double Room	130,00 Euro Per Person

### Following expenditures to be paid at Convention

Attending meetings only. Not staying at the hotel. 35,00 Euros 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.)*

Elections and meal, no overnight	60,00 Euros Per Person
Banquet only	35,00 Euros per person

\* 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: Jammers 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

**EXAMPLE:** Option ONE  13 - 16 June 2024 / Three Nights -Single Room / 470,00€ Per Person  
Last Name: Dennis First Name: James Post: GEBO

**Option One:**  13 - 16 June 2024 / Three Nights -Single Room / 470,00€ Per Person  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post: \_\_\_\_\_

**Option Two:**  13 - 16 June 2024 / Three Nights -Double Room / 320,00€ Per Person  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post: \_\_\_\_\_

**Option Three:**  14 - 16 June 2024 / Two Nights -Single Room / 340,00€ Per Person  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post: \_\_\_\_\_

**Option Four:**  14 - 16 June 2024 / Two Nights -Double Room / 220,00€ Per Person  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post: \_\_\_\_\_

**Option Five:**  15 - 16 June 2024 / One Night -Single Room / 180,00€ Per Person  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post: \_\_\_\_\_

**Option Six:**  15 - 16 June 2024 / one Night -Double Room / 130,00€ Per Person  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Will be paying with credit card at Convention

Special needs:(Reg. shower cabin, no shower head in bathtub, first floor access, wheel chair access, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**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

**Polisina**  
Hotel • Spa • Restaurant



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



**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 wohllicher Einrichtung.

Wir sind zertifiziert.



**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.



**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.



Trauung  
unter freiem  
Himmel





In today's turbulence with all the wars and unrest in the world, our personal and family anxieties, we need a little assurance that everything will turn out ok. I know it's very hard to believe or have faith but As Christians, placing our faith in God is not just a belief, but a way of life filled with hope, strength, and motivation. Trusting in God means we acknowledge His sovereignty, love, and guidance in all aspects of our lives. Through prayer, study of the Scriptures, and fellowship with other believers, we deepen our relationship with God and find comfort in His unwavering presence. By surrendering our fears and worries to Him, we experience peace that surpasses all understanding. Ultimately, putting our faith in God allows us to live with joy, assurance, and the serenity that He is always with us. Amen

What's on the dollar bill or our coins? *In God we trust*



In the solemn tale of the Death of an American Legionnaire, let us find solace in the legacy left behind. Through the pages of sorrow, a beacon of hope shines bright, inspiring us to honor the fallen hero with unwavering courage and resilience. May their spirit guide us forward in the last moments of the fallen comrade's life, their spirit ascended to Post Everlasting, where they will forever be remembered for their bravery and sacrifice. Our comrade's legacy will continue to inspire future generations, a shining beacon of courage and strength that will never be forgotten.

*Our Comrades who past 2023- 2024*

- Post IR01 Tom Kelly
- Post IR01 Richard Bono
- Post TH01 Bruce Templeton
- Post TH01 Robert Clark
- Post GR 79 Henry Meyers
- Post GR 79 Phillip White
- SAL Squadron GR 42 Gerald Brandt
- Sister to Gr 14 Beate Shive.

May their souls and the souls of all the Faithfull departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

God Bless you all. Chaplain Keckler



*Armed Forces Day* May 18, 2024

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

## Post TH01 Commander Bruce Templeman transferred to Post Everlasting:



1961 - 2024



On March 19, 2024 at approximately 2000 hours our commander Bruce Templeman suddenly suffered a fatal heart attack and died.



Bruce's funeral was held at Wat Sumang Khalaram, Loeng Nok Tha, Yasothon Province of Thailand on Saturday March 23. In attendance were Bruce's wife (Noi), Thai family members, and local friends. Also in attendance were many members of Brig Gen Robin Olds American Legion Thailand Post TH01. Bill Ahlberg, the

Commander of American Legion Thailand Post TH02 also was in attendance. Members of the VFW also attended the funeral including Randy Riggs the District 5 Commander and Rick Rees. Visitation and prayer service were held at Bruce's home. At 1:00 o'clock Bruce's body was moved to the village temple for the final service.



A special Honor Guard was formed comprised of members of Post TH01, members of Post TH02 and members of the VFW. The Honor Guard performed the traditional flag folding ceremony and presented the flag to Bruce's widow. Acting Commander Ted Potyrala presented the eulogy highlighting Bruce's impact to our Post. Chaplain Rob Davis delivered a touching prayer for Bruce. Post TH02 Commander Bill Ahlberg and his wife recited, in both English and Thai, a moving poem titled Miss Me, But Let Me Go.



For those that wonder why we perform the honor guard duties and want to know how it impacts the family, friends, and community this one picture tells it all.

Bruce served with the USMC 1978-1984 and the USAF 1984-2011. His duty for the Marines was as a cook and security guard and in services with the DC Air National Guard. His duty stations include Marine Barracks NAS Norfolk and Andrews AFB DC.



Bruce was a PUFL member of the American Legion with 20 continuous membership years. Bruce transferred to Post TH01 in 2016. He served the post as Sergeant at Arms 2016-2017, 1st Vice Commander 2018-2020, Commander 2020-2024. Bruce also served as an Embassy volunteer helping American veterans living in Thailand who needed help. At the time of his death Bruce was also acting Commander of VFW Post 10217. Bruce truly was a veteran serving veterans.

We will miss Bruce greatly. Bruce left a large void in the Post and in our hearts that will be hard to fill. Rest in peace our Comrade and Brother in Arms:



*Bruce A. Templeman  
Commander Of American Legion Post Thailand Post TH01*

A video Tribute to Bruce [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJNNHob1\\_OQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJNNHob1_OQ)



The poster features a large, stylized American flag in the background. At the top left is a circular logo with a red and blue design. At the top right is a circular logo with a red and black design. The main text is in a bold, red, sans-serif font, reading "AMERICAN LEGION LIBERTY WALK 2024". Below this, the date "Saturday, 24 August 2024" is written in a black, sans-serif font. Underneath the date, the text "Commemorate the 'Battle of the Vierstraat Ridge' by the 27th & 30th US Divisions Aug/Sep 1918." is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom center is the official seal of the American Legion, which is a circular emblem with a gold border and a blue center containing a white star and the letters "US". Below the seal, the text "FOR MORE INFORMATION: americanlegionlibertywalk@gmail.com" is written in a black, sans-serif font.



**Memorial Day**

**May 27, 2024**

*On 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.*

## EASTER 2024



## GR79 MEMBERSHIP MEETING



**DETACHMENT  
COMMANDER**



*John Fleming*



**DETACHMENT  
ADJUTANT**



*James Dennis*

# DETACHMENT OF FRANCE

Hello  
Comrades,

I hope this Newsletter finds everyone in good health.

Membership: I am asking all Squadrons and Posts to check their membership roster and contact any member who is marked at Expired. As of 22 April 2024, the last report I received from National, we are #15, with 98.21%. However, we only need three (3) renewals/new members to hit 100%. There are 25 2023 Expired Members, 14 2022 Expired Members, and 79 2021 Expired Members on our rosters. Some have been Members for over 30 years. We should be able to find

3 Members that are just waiting for someone to ask them to renew. 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.

Upcoming Events:  
1 June 2024, 4th  
DEC/Conference/1st DEC, 1100  
CET, 00 CET, at the Gaststätte  
"zum Reegen", Riedweg 52, 74078  
Heilbronn.

Take care and be safe!

John Fleming  
Commander

**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*



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.

Grand Elections were held on 27 April 2024. The following are the Grand Elected Officers for the 2024-2025 MY:

Cheminot Nationale *Lee Preston*  
Chef de Train-At- Large *Quincy Foster*  
Avocat *John Gerdeman*

Alt Cheminot Nationale *Joe James*  
Conductor *John Brotherton*  
Garde La Porte *Joe Brown*

Chef de Gare *David Garcia*  
Commissaire Intendant *David Greaux*  
Commis Voyageur *Michael Young*

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**Saturday, 27 July 2024** – Grand Summer Wreck. Heilbronn, Germany.

**Grand Cheminot/Locale 1546 Chef de Gare Lee Preston and Locale 1546 Conducteur James Brotherton attend Memorial Dedication in Owthorpe, England 13 April 24**

In remembrance of two paratroopers killed in the area of Owthorpe, England during pre-D-Day training of parachute jumps. Jake T. Quisenberry, McClean County, Kentucky, Member of Company I, 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, was born 7 July 1917 and passed away 27 March 1944 during Exercise Curveball III when his parachute failed.

Thomas P. McGinley, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, member of Company D, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, born 27 February 1922 and passed away 13 April 1944 during Exercise Pitch when his parachute also failed.

We stood in honor of these two soldiers that gave the ultimate sacrifice to help insure the freedoms of others. May they rest in peace!

