My Fellow Legionnaires,

I want to thank all those that attended our 2nd DEC. This was our first gathering since the Pandemic started and it was great to see all those faces. The Pandemic held us back some. As the EU countries start to open and the lockdowns are slowly rolled back, we must remember that COVID-19 is still around. We must remain safe and protect ourselves, practice social distance and wear a mask when and where required. Everyone who has started to have in-house Post meetings, please abide and follow the local laws.

Our 2022 Membership is still active. Make sure when you check on your Members on Buddy Checks that you ask if they will renew.

In October we welcomed London Post EG01 to Department of France. They were transferred from Department of New York.

This month we celebrate Veterans Day, where we give thanks to all who served and Thanksgiving. When we celebrate these Holidays, we must remember and pray for all those that won’t be home to celebrate with their loved ones and for those that are unfortunate that have no one to celebrate with. Due to COVID-19 restrictions we will not be holding a service in Saint Avold this year.

Most of all let us not forget the Buddy Check. Remember that some Post members might not have a smartphone or computer. Visit them to see how they are doing.

History of the Marine Corps Birthday

The birthday itself was formally recognized in 1921 at the behest of Major General John Lejeune, who ordered November 10, 1775 to be officially recognized service-wide as the Marine Corps birthday.

The origins go back to the Revolutionary War in October of 1775. At that time the Continental Congress developed an official plan to use Marines to oversee a mission to intercept ammunition shipments from Britain. This, and a November resolution to create an official standing Marine Corps force, were key in building what eventually became the modern U.S. Marine Corps. Thus 10 November, 1775, the day the Continental Marines were created serves as the official Marine Corps birthday.
Greetings Comrades,

1. I have returned from all my travels in the United States and the 2nd DEC is in the books. We have some lessons learned and we move forward.

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

3. Membership Renewal: The 2022 Membership Year began 1 July. All members must create a new member account if their former account is not active. Go to this website log in or register: [https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEBusiness/Home](https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEBusiness/Home) Once logged in, click the “My Account” button. You can now update your information and renew your Membership online. Let us try and get 100% Renewals by 30 November 2021!

NOTE: IF YOU CHANGE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS, PLEASE LET ME KNOW. IF I DON’T KNOW ABOUT THE CHANGE, YOU WILL MISS EMAILS.
During the month of October, I have had contact with all my assigned posts through E-mail as well as a Zoom meeting with the Ireland Posts. EG01 was transferred to the Department in October, and I have had contact with this Post as well. I am keeping tabs on the COVID situation to see if there will be a possibility of visiting these Posts. I also had the privilege of attending the Retiree Appreciation Day on 15 October in Brunsum Netherlands with NL01. There were a lot of Retiree’s present with a lot of good information. On 16 October I attended the General Membership meeting for NL01. I was given the privilege of conducting the induction ceremony for 8 new members to NL01. I want to thank Commander Steinlicht and the members of NL01 for making me welcome to their meeting and giving me this opportunity. Congratulations to these new members and I know that they will become a valuable part of NL01 and The American Legion.

On 02 October 2021 Legionnaire Carl Hackworth was presented with his new American Legion Honourable Life Member service cap and Gold Life Member card by Department Vice Commander Lee Preston. Carl Hackworth received this tribute from Department for his fifty years of service to the American Legion.
Department of France Oratorical Contest

Date: Saturday, 05 March 2021
Venue: Margraten Post NL01 will be hosting the 2022 Oratorical Contest

Eagle Scout of the Year
Nomination Application Form Available as of 01 Nov
The deadline for nominations to Department Adjutant is 10 Mar 2022
Nomination forms can be obtained from Americanism Chairperson Joseph Schram (www.joseph.schram@gmail.com) or from the Dept Adjutant

Girl Scout Gold Award “Scout of the Year”
Nomination Application Form Available as of 01 Nov
The deadline for nominations to Department Adjutant is 10 Mar 2022
Nomination forms can be obtained from Americanism Chairperson Joseph Schram (www.joseph.schram@gmail.com) or from the Dept Adjutant

Civil Air Patrol Cadet of the Year
Nomination Application Form Available as of 01 Nov
The deadline for nominations to Department Adjutant is 10 Mar 2022
Nomination forms can be obtained from Americanism Chairperson Joseph Schram (www.joseph.schram@gmail.com) or from the Dept Adjutant
AMERICAN LEGION’S 2021
JUNIOR THREE-POSITION AIR RIFLE TOURNAMENT
The American Legion is currently holding its 32nd Junior Three-Position Air Rifle Tournament, which provides sporter and precision competitors an opportunity to test their marksmanship ability in competition with other junior competitors

2021-2022 American Legion Three-Position Air Rifle Championships:

- Sept. 1, 2021 – Registration opens for first round of Postal Match
- Dec. 15, 2021 – Registration closes for first round of Postal Match
Since August 20, 2021, more than 200 aircraft and 35,000 Afghan evacuees have arrived in the Kaiserslautern Military Community, home to the American Legion Kaiserslautern Post GR01. These evacuees were sheltered, fed and cared for by volunteers in the surrounding community. While this mission has been unrelenting, Post GR01 and its members without hesitation immediately inquired about an avenue to participate in this history-making venture “Operation Allies Refuge”. Michael Young, the Department of France Family Support Network Chairman reached out to several agencies supporting this operation and was directed to contact Civil Affairs, Public Affairs, the USO and The Red Cross. After establishing his contacts, Comrade Mike Young coordinated with his Department Commander Santos Alvarado, and discussed the logistics of collecting items to support Operation Allies Refuge. Information was dispatched throughout the Department of France describing each type of donation needed, the urgency of the needed items, where and how to ensure these needed items can be received at the designated locations within the Kaiserslautern community. Department of France Legionnaires came from as far away as Frankfurt and Kitzingen located in the Bavarian area of Germany. The District Auxiliary President Sonja Dennis, her husband James, District Secretary Christa Purdy and Grande Du Germany “The Forty and Eight” Family Support, responded with much needed items spanning from basic necessities such as food, clothing (men’s, women’s, children’s) different types of fruits. Locale Post GR01 along with Commander Curley Morgen and Past Department Commander Robert Gray made several trips to local vendors and purchased clothing, fruits, cases of Lays Potatoe Chips (special request from the evacuees), shower clogs, shoes, especially jackets in preparations for the Fall weather, blankets, several electric water warmers, socks and numerous other items. The Rhein Ordnance Barracks location setup special plastic dry wall containers following the American Legion notification of many donations coming their way to support their operation located adjacent to Ramstein Air Base. The Department of France donated an approximate total of 2,000-3,000 lbs of different items. Monetary donations were submitted through different websites totaling $1,000 - $1,500.

Kaiserslautern Post GR01 has been in existence since 1953 and has never been in any sort of evacuation effort of this magnitude. We were ecstatic to be a part of this expansive humanitarian effort. I want to thank everyone for their generous donations to include Past National Vice Commander Doug Haggan and Department of France Commander Santos Alvarado.

“For God and Country”
Michael P. Young
Department of France
Family Support Network Chairman.
Happy Birthday GR09 (20 years)

On 21 October 2001, Nola Maloney, Department of France Department Commander officially welcomed the Neu-Ulm American Legion Post William D. Nelson, GR 09 into the American Legion Family.

The application for the founding of the chapter was submitted to the Department of France on 15 November 2000. The charter members were as follows: Jerry Aman, Link Barnett, Callan “Joe” Baye, Ernest Carson, Richard Darrah, Robert Crocker, Carlos Fonseca, Samuel Garner, Kenneth Grasser, James Howard, Eddie Johnson, Richard Monahan, James Self, James Smith and Jesse Swanner. Chapter members transferring from other posts were: Charles Courtney, John Horner, Robert Lindsey, Hal Rittenberg and Vernon Young.

The Department of France approved the application and forwarded the chapter application to the USA for final approval and granted the post a temporary charter to operate as a chapter under the Department of France. At that time the following officers were elected:

- Commander - Richard Monahan
- Vice Commander - Jess Swanner
- Adjutant - Robert Lindsey
- Chaplain - Robert Lindsey
- Sergeant-at-Arms - Sam Garner
- Finance Officer - Charles Courtney
- Service Officer - Ken Grasser

Monthly officer meetings and quarterly full membership meetings were held.

At the April 2002 GR 09 Chapter general membership meeting elections of post officers were held and the following officers were elected:

- Commander - Robert Lindsey
- 1st Vice Commander - Jess Swanner
- 2nd Vice Commander - Jerry Aman
- Finance Officer - Charles Courtney
- Chaplain - Thomas Snook
- Sergeant-at-Arms - Sam Garner
- Adjutant - Hal Rittenberg
- Judge Advocate - Jerry Aman
- Service Officer - Ken Grasser
- Historian - Richard Monahan

On 4 July 2002 the official swearing in ceremony of all members and the presentation of the post’s colors was performed by National Executive Council member Mike Umland.

From its initial 15 members qualifying it as a small post GR 09 grew rapidly and in 2008 qualified as a mid-sized post with 64 members and since then has been recognized numerous times by Department and National for achieving 100 % membership, the Five Year All Time High Award in 2006, a one-time Outstanding Medium Post award and five times received the Small Post of the Year award.

During its 20-year existence GR 09 members have served in critical Department positions such as Sergeant-at-Arms, Department Vice Commanders and Department Commander.
Since its formation GR 09 has on Memorial Day each year visited the graves of Americans buried in the area and since 2019 has received the yearly donation of the Overseas Graves Trust Fund. GR 09 has also generously supported many of the Legion’s charities and veteran’s programs and the Fisher House program. The post also participates in local host country activities such as Volkstrauertag and German/American annual BBQ parties.

In March 2011 GR 09 hosted the Department’s 3rd DEC and the 90th annual convention in 2014.

Sadly, the following charter members of GR 09 have been summoned to the Post Ever Lasting: Callen Baye, Ken Grasser, James Howard, Eddie Johnson, Richard Monahan and James Smith. John Honer and Vernon Young transferred members have also joined them.

Wishing GR 09 and its present members a Happy Birthday.
I would like to thank the Posts and Department Officers who have supported this newsletter and myself as Newsletter Editor over the past years. EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, if you are interested in the position of Newsletter Editor, please contact Department Commander Santos Alvarado.

Signing out…
Legion Post Supports National Night Out

The USAG Ansbach celebrated National Night Out on 6 October 2021. The purpose of this program is to let neighborhood residents get better acquainted with their local Emergency Services personnel, equipment and tactics. Members of the local Military Police, CID and Fire Department attended the event and presented their equipment. Legion Post 1982 provided and prepared hot dogs, as well as bratwurst and pulled pork sandwiches; as well as soft drinks, coffee and water for this event. Since this event occurred right at “supper time”, everyone was happy to take part in the meal.

Post 1982 Supports Retiree Appreciation Day

Legion Post 1982 provided coffee and hot dogs for the UASG Ansbach Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) on 21 October 2021 on Katterbach Airfield. Local VFW Posts provided pastries, pretzels and soft drinks for this event. All of the pastries were consumed during the morning and over 200 hotdogs were eaten during the noon break. It was nice to see that the Retired Soldiers and family members had a healthy appetite. AND they love free food!
Department of France Past Commanders Club

PCC President/Secretary Quincy Foster  
qcfoster@yahoo.com

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 office you are eligible to join

Initial dues for the Past Commanders Club is only $25.00 (cap, pin, membership card)  
Renewal dues for the Past Commanders Club is only $10.00 (membership card)

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN VETERANS DAY AND MEMORIAL DAY

VETERANS DAY honors those who have served in the past, present, and even pays tribute to those who will serve in the future.

MEMORIAL DAY is, as the name implies, a time to pay respect and honor those who have died either while serving their country, as a result of military service, or after they have finished serving as a retired or separated veteran.

Grande Chef de Gare…Lee Preston

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.