As of now, the 2nd DEC will be held in Heilbronn, 23 October 2021, at the Post Home of John Wayne Post GR79, located at Gaststaette Zum Reegen, Riedweg 52, 74078 Heilbronn-Frankenbach.

We will be preparing a buffet for the price of 15 Euro.

As for the Pandemic that is constantly changing, we will have to follow the 3G rule that is in place:

1. Must have taken both shots.
2. If you have taken both shots and 14 days have not passed you will need a negative 24-hour test.
3. If you have not taken the shots, you will be required to have a test that is no older than 24 hours.

This will be the first time, in a long time, that we will be able to meet in person for a DEC, so let’s all make it a successful one.

We as The Legion Family of Post GR79 look forward to hosting the 2nd DEC, and will be sending more information through the Department Adjutant in the near future.

1115-1145 Past Commanders Club
1200-1255 Registration
1200-1300 Lunch
1300 2ND DEC

Heilbronn POC: GR79 Commander Joe D. Brown
PH: 01701888034 / E-mail: vcalbrown50@gmail.com
Greetings Comrades,

Greetings from the road, on my way to National Commander and Adjutant Call In/NEC Meeting in Indianapolis.

1. 2nd DEC: As of now, the 2nd DEC will be a combination event with in-person meeting, GoToMeeting and Facebook Live. More information is in the Newsletter and details will be forthcoming. Hope to see many of you there.

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 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 September 2021!
Veteran from Lake Kiowa, Texas, Elected National Commander of The American Legion

PHOENIX (Sept. 2, 2021) – Paul E. Dillard was elected national commander of the nearly two-million member American Legion today in Phoenix, during the organization’s 102nd national convention. He first joined the nation’s largest veterans organization in 1969.

A native Texan, Dillard graduated from Whitesboro High School in 1965 before joining the U.S. Navy and serving in Vietnam through four campaigns including the Tet offensive. He later received an honorable discharge as a radarman second class petty officer from the Navy Reserve before attending Grayson County Junior College and East Texas State University.

Dillard worked several years in the manufacturing business as an Engineer, Plant Manager and Director of Manufacturing in Tennessee. Upon returning to Texas, he accepted a sales representative position with Sherman Foundry and became its airplane pilot. A career change was made when he and his wife, Donna, began their family and he entered into the insurance business specializing in Employee Benefits and later forming Dillard & Gann Insurance.

As a paid-up-for-life member of Post 265, Lake Kiowa, Texas, Dillard served as post commander, vice commander, adjutant and judge advocate. He coached American Legion Baseball for more than 10 years and served as his post’s Boys State chairman.

He served the 4th District as commander and vice commander and served the department as sergeant-at-arms, Membership & Organization chairman, National Security chairman, Uniformed Organization chairman, Board of Trustees chairman, and he served on the Finance Committee and the Long-Range Planning Committee. He was elected as Department of Texas (state) commander in 2007. His theme as national commander is “No Veteran Left Behind.”

On the national level, Paul has served as Alternate National Executive Committeeman, consultant to the Insurance Committee, Distinguished Guest Committee, Children and Youth Committee, Media and Communications Council. He has served as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, chairman of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission and chairman of the Legislative Commission. He was elected as national vice commander in 2013.

He married Donna in 1983. They have two sons, William and his wife Allison, and Jonathon and his wife Karri and two grandsons Jarrett and Lukas. All are members of the American Legion Family. Donna has been an active and dedicated member of the American Legion Auxiliary for several years and has served in numerous positions of leadership at all levels of the organization, including department president in 2017 – 2018.

Contact: John Raughter, (317) 630-1350, jraughter@legion.org

Hello Everyone,

Wow, it seems like the months are going by faster and faster. I just wrote my newsletter article for September and here I am writing again for October. OK, I am doing this article on the weekend of 18-19 September as I will be out of Country again from 21 to 30 September. I have sent E-mails to all my Posts and have had contact with NL01, EG02 and IR02. First, Tim Litherland contacted me and told me about EG02’s planned General Membership Meeting and elections on 14 October 21 at RAF Lakenheath. I was looking at making the trip but, the British COVID requirements are a little too tough to deal with. Therefore, I will forgo that thought and look at the possibility of attending Veterans Day activities which will include both EG02 and EG303. I hope that this will work out.

I have also heard from the Commander, IR02, Pat Mulcahy. They completed their General Membership Meeting with elections on 5 September 21. Pat remained as Commander and John Canty as Post Adjutant. They renewed 10 members prior to the start of the meeting and had good result for their elections. My hat goes off to Pat as this will be his 8th year as Post Commander. I am hoping that the COVID situation will settle down and I can make a trip to Ireland in April or May next year.

From the 8th to the 10th of October, I will be in Bonn/Meckenheim for the first Department of France, American Legion Riders meeting. I hope that we get a decent showing for this meeting. Please see the flyer under the Legion Riders portion of the newsletter.

As I have said before, I will be visiting NL01 on 16 October 21. This will be a general membership meeting and hope that I will have the opportunity to meet many of the NL01 Members. It will also be nice to have a talk with the Post leadership and gain some good insight to their vision for this membership year.

I want to thank all the Posts that I have been assigned for getting busy on membership and ask that they continue to stress the importance of Veterans helping Veterans and renewing their commitment to the American Legion.

Please keep up the buddy checks and take care of your members.

Respectfully

Lee Preston
Department Vice Commander

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**REMINDER**

*Virtual Commander and Adjutants Meeting*

**Sunday, 10 October 2021, at 1500 CET**
U.S. Army veterans Curt E. Hesse and José M. Jimenez have successfully completed the requirements of the Basic Training course of the American Legion Education Institute. Past Post Vice Commander Hesse is a Panama and Persian Gulf war era veteran. Jimenez, a Regular Army soldier and Global War on Terrorism era veteran, serves as Post Chaplain and member of the Color Guard.

Post Historian Larry Leap represents Wiesbaden at Town of Bad Nauheim’s Elvis Presley statue dedication

Post Historian and Americanism Committee chairman Larry C. Leap (left) represented Riley L. Pitts Post No. GR07, Department of France, at a dedication ceremony held on Friday, Aug. 13, 2021, where the town of Bad Nauheim unveiled a bronze statue of its most famous resident - Elvis Presley. Presley lived in Bad Nauheim during his year and a half service with U.S. Army Europe during the Cold War. The ceremony took place during Bad Nauheim’s annual European Elvis Festival.

When asked to comment on the privilege of representing his post at fellow U.S. Army veteran Elvis Presley’s statue dedication, Leap eagerly replied with a direct quote from the “King of Rock and Roll” himself:

“Thank you, thank you very much”
To The Department of France,

On behalf of the Department Legion Riders Director, Eddie Kane, I would like to invite all Department Legion Riders to our First Meeting. We have selected a location for this meeting which the information will be provided below.

We would like to get a good turnout for this first meeting therefore, we are inviting any Legion Riders from the Department of France as well as any representative from an American Legion Post within the Department that is looking to start a Chapter. We would enjoy having the Chapter Directors present for this meeting or an official representative for the Chapter Director. We have several things to discuss during this meeting which will be of interest for all members and Chapters within the Department.

Discussion Topics:

1. The Department American Legion Riders SOP
2. Existing Chapters within the Department
3. Expectations for the Future of The Department Legion Riders
4. Building blocks for cooperation between Chapters
5. Possible future events
6. Department Legion Riders Facebook
   https://www.facebook.com/ALRDOF
7. American Legion Riders Europe Facebook Group
   https://www.facebook.com/groups/alreurope
8. The way going forward

The point in this is to start doing things together as a Department and not all individual achievements. The more participation we have; the more ideas we have and, the more we come together as a Department program. Please mark the date in your calendar and come join us to make a strong Legion Riders Program in the Department.

Date: 9 October 2021
Start Time: 1200hrs
Location: CITY HOTEL Bonn/Meckenheim
   Bonner Straße 25, 53340 Meckenheim
   https://www.city-hotel-meckenheim.de/

Thank you all in advance for your participation in the first meeting! Please go to the Hotel Website and take a look. If you decide to spend the night, please make your own reservation through the Hotel or any of the online hotel booking platforms.

Please let me know if you are going to attend.

Lee Preston
Department of France Legion Riders
Assistant Director
Lpreston1057@gmail.com

October 13 marks the birthday of the U.S. Navy, which traces its roots back to the early days of the American Revolution. On October 13, 1775, the Continental Congress established a naval force, hoping that a small fleet of privateers could attack British commerce and offset British sea power.

The 2nd DEC is scheduled to be held in Heilbronn at John Wayne Post GR 79 post home. There will be a meal served for all that will be attending if they wish to eat. The meal that will be served will be a buffet. I would need a good head count no later than OCTOBER 18, 2021 of anyone that wishes to eat in order to have enough food available.

**Menu for your Dinner...15 Euro**
Mixed Salad with tomatoes, cucumber and paprika / Chicken Wings / Roasted Pork / baked beans / Pommes / Mac and Cheese / Vegetables / Gravy

If you will be attending and would like to stay overnight you can contact any of the hotels listed to make your reservations:

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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)

Our next meeting is planned in conjunction with the Department of France Second DEC
Post GR1982 Supports Kid’s Fishing Day

After a two-year pause, due to Corona, the USAG Ansbach MWR Outdoor Recreation conducted a Kid’s Fishing Day in Ansbach-Katterbach on 25 September. Legion Post GR1982, in conjunction with Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts 10708 and 9342, prepared and served a no-cost lunch to the participants and their parents.

Over 80 children from the local military community came out to participate, in warm and sunny weather. The lunch, consisting of hamburgers, hot dogs, bratwurst, chips, fruit and soft drinks, was well received by all. Each of the children also received a medal for their participation. The best part was that almost everyone caught at least one fish.

In addition to stocking the lake, Outdoor Recreation provided all of the fishing gear and also had licensed fishermen present to assist with taking the fish off the lines.

All in all, a great morning of fishing for the kids; and another successful community event for our Legion Post.

Provided by Estus Smith
2022 MY OFFICERS

Commander Joe D. Brown  vcalbrown50@gmail.com
Adjutant James Dennis  detachmentdennis@gmail.com
NEC Maxwell Rice  ricemax559@gmail.com
Alternate NEC Lee Preston  lpreston1957@gmail.com
First Vice Donald Chamberlain  chamberlaindw@hotmail.de
Second Vice Joseph Ray  Rayjoseph.earl@dhl.com
Chaplain Casby Logan  casbyj@hotmail.com
Historian Stephen Somers  stef.ss17@gmail.com
Judge Advocate James Dennis  detachmentdennis@gmail.com
Sergeant-at-Arms David Craig  dcdavid16@gmail.com

REMINDER: Second SAL Detachment DEC – 09 October 2021

Gaststette ZUM Reega Im Reid
Reidweg 52
74078 Heilbronn-Frankenbach Germany

12:00-13:00  Registration
13:00  Second DEC

POC is Comrade Joe Brown...Phone Number 01701888034 E-Mail  vcalbrown@gmail.com

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 CHEMINOT: Saturday 02 October 2021 - Schweinfurt, Germany