

The AMERICAN LEGION

Department of France



Volume 14 / Issue 6

June 2016

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER *Keith Abernathy*



On Sunday Morning I drove to St. Avold, France, to attend and take part in the Memorial Day festivities. When I left home at 0550 hrs. it was raining. When I arrived in Kaiserslautern at 0800 hrs. it was not raining. So the day turned out very well. There were many Guest Speakers there. The Main speaker was Brigadier General Jon Thomas, Wing Commander of the 86th at Ramstein Airbase. I laid the Wreaths for the Department Of France and La Societe'.

I have never seen so few people at the ceremony as this year. I would hope that we as Americans would restart our commitment and show our respect to those who gave their lives in war for their country. By few people I'm referring to American Legion Personnel.

After the ceremony I drove to Kaiserslautern Post GR01 where I was given a meal to help me continue my journey to Hanau, with Vice Commander Quincy Foster. Thank you GR01 for providing us with that good food. Thank you VC Foster very much for taking me to Hanau where I spent the night in preparation for Monday Morning.

On Monday morning VCAL Brown and I arrived at the Frankfurt Airport where we met and greeted National Commander Dale Barnett and his Party.

We then traveled to Landstuhl Medical Facility With a Motorcycle escort in the driving rain (pun intended) where the Commander received a briefing from the Hospital Commander at the Fisher House and we met several patients in the hospital proper. We then went to the USO and there we ate BBQ Steaks, Bratwurst and Hamburgers again provided by GR01 (again thanks to GR01) and talked to more patients and passed out Gift Certificates for the Commissary and Base Exchange. Monday evening, we dined at Chillies and had a merry time. On Tuesday we went into full mode and had many conferences over the course of the day and finished the day at GR01 for the Commanders Dinner. GR01 does it again (many thanks GR01) The National Commander and his party departed Ramstein for Luxemburg and SHAPE Headquarters and then on to Brussels.

I have some nice pictures of the Commanders Visit, but cannot post them all.

Membership: we have not yet reached 100% but we are working on it, You can help too. Get your post up to 100% and the Department will be there also.

Their two Children Caitlin and Joseph are very super children.

Keith Abernathy, Department Commander

Keithabernathy1942@yahoo.de

Pictures provided by Commander Abernathy





Dale Barnett, National Commander

Raising awareness and offering thanks

By Steve B. Brooks

A contingent of more than 30 Legion family members and supporters, ranging from Vietnam veterans to teenagers, participated in a 1.3 mile Veterans Awareness Walk May 18 in Bellevue, Neb.

The walk originated at Anderson Grove Presbyterian Church and moved along South 36th Street, getting plenty of honks and cheers of support from passing motorists. Legion Riders held U.S. flags as the walk departed and stood along a flag line waiting to arrive at its final, and very fitting, destination.

The walk came to a finish at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home (ENVH), where National Commander Dale Barnett and other participants visited with the residents, passed out American flags and thanked them for their service. Many of the residents are World War II veterans.

Walk coordinator Jim Costello, a member of Post 339 in Bellevue, said visiting the home was a perfect conclusion to the walk. “They do not have a lot of family in the area, and we basically become their surrogate family,” he said. “We go visit, we have ice cream socials, we have bingo for them. We interact with them and keep them active, and continue to remind them that we really appreciate what they’ve done for our country as veterans.”

Louise Nichols, Nebraska’s American Legion Auxiliary representative to the ENVH, called Barnett’s visit to the home “fantastic. What a nice gesture on his part to come here and honor our veterans.”

And Patti Howe, the volunteer coordinator for the home, said the visit meant a lot to the residents. “It means that they’re not forgotten,” she said. “It means that people know that there are veterans that live here and that Nebraskans care about their veterans.”

The Legion family had a strong relationship with the home before the walk arrived. “We could not do what we do without ... the Legion and Auxiliary,” Howe said. “Pretty much everything we need, I can ... make a phone call and get what we need, no matter what it is. They’re there for us.”

Having Bellevue as the site for the walk also made sense, Costello said. “We have Offutt Air Force Base here, we have a lot of veterans and their families who live in this area, and our post (does) a lot of work with the local veterans and their families,” he said. “I thought it was a great venue.

“The awareness walks ... (show) that The American Legion is in the forefront of helping our veterans (and) their families with their benefits, and the awareness of what The American Legion can do for them.”

Legion family members from all over the area attended the walk. District 11 Commander Gary Wooten drove 100 miles to participate.

“It’s an honor for us to have the national commander here, but it’s also a chance for us to raise awareness for the veterans, The American Legion and The American Legion family,” Wooten said. “I think many people don’t know what The American Legion does. They see is in the local community ... but they don’t understand what we do for veterans. I think if we can have them see us doing something that’s a little different, then we can raise that awareness and start talking to them about our other programs.”

Bellevue is part of Nebraska’s Area A; the area’s vice commander, Rex Sears, drove 65 miles to walk alongside his fellow Legion family members. That the walks help raise money for the Legion’s National Emergency Fund (NEF) was one of the reasons Sears chose to attend.

“I’ve been (involved with the NEF) for quite awhile. When we had a flood in 2011 in Nebraska ... I also helped three individuals get National Emergency Fund (grants). It’s a super good benefit. I know every one that I got (a grant) for ... they really needed it.”

Barnett set a goal of raising \$1 million for the NEF during his tenure as national commander. “It helps so many people who are in need at critical times in their lives,” he said. “We know that a (natural disaster) might happen to any of us at any given time. We want the funds there ... to be able to help.”

DEPARTMENT ALT. NECMAN / AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS DIRECTOR *Ronald Moore*



Legacy Scholarship Fund - June 2016 Update- Legacy Run 2016 - Scheduled for August 2016 - Department of France Collection Date- July 2016

Why?

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund is for children of fallen Veterans killed while on active duty or called to federal duty since 09/11/2001. Various organizations help with monthly payments, but these funds do not cover the full cost of a good college or university tuition with books, travel and food.

Why Riders and Posts?

The sole purpose of the American Legion Riders and the Department of France A.L. Pony Express is to bring Legacy Scholarship donations from outlying Posts to the National Commander. Status as a Way Station or Messenger is open to all members of The American Legion Family regardless of affiliation with the A.L. Riders or having a motorcycle.

How can you support the Department of France Effort?

Several Posts function as Department of France Pony Express Way Stations and several members serve as Department of France Pony Express Messengers. These Posts and messengers should be actively collecting donations for presentation at the National Convention.

Every Post should have a donation can out and plans for further collection activities.

We have some time until the end of July 2016 and I hope that we can use that time effectively to raise funds for the Scholarship Fund.

What you can do?-

1. Please register your Post as a Department of France A. L. Pony Express Way Station. Each Way Station is authorized two messengers who will be sworn in and receive a badge from Ron "Gypsy" Moore as Coordinator for the Department of France A.L. Pony Express System.
2. Set out a collection can for the Legacy Scholarship Fund and hold these funds as dedicated funds until collection time at the end of July. Talk to people, set up an event to raise donations and then issue your Post's U.S. \$ check drawn on a U.S. bank or a U.S. Money Order for the amount you collected. These checks and money orders will be passed to the National Commander in an open envelope showing your Post's name and address.
3. Let people know about the Legacy Scholarship Fund and the fact that they can also donate online at the Legion.Org site.
4. Have members of your Post directly sign up as a "Supporter" of the 2016 Legacy Run by registering directly with the Legacy Run Registration in Indianapolis. Their registration fee lets them receive the same packet and patch that the riders who participate in the Run do. Wear it with pride.

The following link leads to the registration page. You can sign up as a participating rider, passenger or supporter. Registered participants, passengers and supporters receive the full info packet including patches as long as supplies last.

<http://www.legion.org/riders/legacyrun>

I hope all Department of France American Legion Riders, AL PE Messengers and Way Stations will either ride with me in August or at least sign up as a supporter for \$25. That way Legion Family members who are unable to take the time off to participate, can show their support by wearing the patch as a supporter.

I'm registered. It's for a good cause and gives the Department of France a lot of visibility because we send someone from so far away. I'm proud to wear the patch with Department of France on my vest and happy to let them know the Department of France is one of the best departments of The American Legion. I ride for and with you. Thank you in advance for your support and help.

For God and Country!

Ron "Gypsy" Moore, ALR Department Director

Dept of France AL PE Messenger Service Coordinator

Mobile: +49-(0)172-7417812

Email: gypsy_moore@yahoo.de

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE / MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN Joe D. Brown



France Membership by Post

Post	New 16	PUFL 16	Online Ren16	Trad Ren16	Total Mbr16	Total Mbr15	Renew%	%PrevYr
FR POST 0001	11	107	68	106	292	282	99,65	103,55
FR POST 0005	0	13	1	9	23	28	82,14	82,14
FR POST 0292	0	8	3	15	26	29	89,66	89,66
FR POST 1982	56	20	19	41	136	120	66,67	113,33
FR POST 9999	0	24	47	6	77	74	104,05	104,05
FR POST BE02	44	11	26	24	105	71	85,92	147,89
FR POST CH01	41	239	368	458	1106	1066	99,91	103,75
FR POST DK01	0	1	0	0	1	1	100,00	100,00
FR POST GC01	0	4	1	18	23	22	104,55	104,55
FR POST GR01	35	47	47	33	162	241	52,70	67,22
FR POST GR02	3	0	0	0	3	4	0,00	75,00
FR POST GR03	0	24	17	21	62	76	81,58	81,58
FR POST GR05	7	23	8	37	75	71	95,77	105,63
FR POST GR06	36	129	33	86	284	283	87,63	100,35
FR POST GR07	17	11	13	14	55	48	79,17	114,58
FR POST GR09	3	26	4	15	48	48	93,75	100,00
FR POST GR13	4	26	12	36	79	79	100,00	100,00
FR POST GR14	9	25	13	15	62	63	84,13	98,41
FR POST GR20	0	17	0	1	18	18	100,00	100,00
FR POST GR30	0	13	11	0	24	34	70,59	70,59
FR POST GR42	0	19	4	16	39	47	82,98	82,98
FR POST GR45	0	1	1	0	2	5	40,00	40,00
FR POST GR79	3	14	2	38	57	50	108,00	114,00
FR POST IR01	36	0	0	7	43	0	0,00	0,00
FR POST IR02	0	0	2	43	45	43	104,65	104,65
FR POST IR03	2	2	1	17	22	21	95,24	104,76
FR POST IR83	4	4	0	26	34	35	85,71	97,14
FR POST IT01	0	2	2	5	9	11	81,82	81,82
FR POST NL01	0	3	0	0	3	3	100,00	100,00
FR POST PO01	0	3	5	1	9	12	75,00	75,00
FR POST TH01	26	0	0	1	27	0	0,00	0,00
Total	337	816	708	1089	2950	2885	90,57	102,25

Pictures provided by VCAL Brown

GR79



GR09



Saint Avold, France



Department Officers - 2016 Membership Year

COMMANDER Keith Abernathy GR79 <i>keithabernathy1942@yahoo.de</i>	ADJUTANT Maxwell Rice GR79 <i>colwichboy@yahoo.com</i>	NECMAN John Miller GR1982 <i>miller-rotb@t-online.de</i>	ALT. NECMAN Ronald Moore GR05 <i>gpsy_moore@yahoo.de</i>
VCAL Joe D. Brown GR79 <i>vcalbrown50@gmail.com</i> GR07 GR20 GR42 CH01 DK01 NL01 TH00(Thailand) Post9999 & New Post Development	VICE COMMANDER Lyndon Hudson FR01 <i>lyndonandmargaret@yahoo.com</i> GR03 GR06 GR09 GR13 GR79 BE02	VICE COMMANDER Quincy Foster GR05 <i>quincy@karssandra.com</i> GR01 GR02 GR14 FR01 IR01 FR05 IR63	VICE COMMANDER John Shanahan IR01 <i>jbshanahan@gmail.com</i> IR02 IR03 IT01 PO01 GC01 SP292
VICE COMMANDER Casby Logan GR07 <i>casbyj@hotmail.com</i> GR05 GR30 GR45 GR1982	CHAPLAIN Jimmie Dale GR07 <i>jimmiedale.87@gmail.com</i>	HISTORIAN Michael Keating IR02 <i>michael.keating@t-online.de</i>	FINANCE OFFICER Gary Miller GR06 <i>billsfan_gary@hotmail.com</i>
SERVICE OFFICER Paul Claybough GR1982 <i>profsoldier72@yahoo.com</i>	JUDGE ADVOCATE James M. Settle GR42 <i>james.settle@kabelbw.de</i>		SERGEANT-AT-ARMS Christopher Buchanan GR1982 <i>christoperbuch@hotmail.com</i>



Please send all input for the Department Newsletter to my email address at the latest three days prior to the end of the month. If possible. Constructive suggestions to improve the Newsletter are also welcome.

If you want to stay informed on what is happening with **YOUR** Department you can also visit the following sites, www.AmerLegionDeptFrance.org / www.Facebook.com/ALDeptFrance/ / www.legion.org/fodpal

Thank You...the Editor

David N. Greaux / davidgreaux@t-online.de



Department Vice Commander John Shanahan



John Shanahan – Suggested Goals for Department of France, 2016-17

As a candidate for Department Commander, I owe each member an outline of goals and initiatives that we might work on together to accomplish. Here's what I suggest:

1. COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY. Improve the openness and responsiveness of our internal communications through all levels in the Department. Use our Department's newsletter as a more pro-active tool to announce upcoming events and publish planned actions by **All** Department officers. Expand the use of social media (Facebook, etc.) in the Department to communicate and to announce events and activities. Use conference calls and electronic meeting facilities (i.e., Skype) to hold Department meetings as needed and to follow up on individual officer assignments, also as needed.

2. PLAN OUR WORK. Get back to basics and have an annual plan of action and a program of events for the Department. If we don't have such a plan, then we have nothing by which to measure our efforts and record our achievements.

3. ENGAGE OUR MEMBERS. Broaden the participation of Legion members in the work of the Department -- and do so by reaching out to more members and appointing them to the various committees to do the work of the Department. That gives us two benefits -- we have more hands to do the work, and we are bringing along more members to take up leadership positions in the Department.

4. WORK AS A TEAM. Build a spirit of teamwork and group focus on the mission. There's a great expression from the military that conveys what I'm trying to say: "Got your six" - "I've got your back, you've got mine and we're in this together." Teamwork -- that's the operational style that I'd like to see put to work in the Department.

5. RECRUIT MEMBERS AND BUILD POSTS. We need to be bold when it comes to recruiting new members and supporting our Posts. We need a two-tier strategy for member and Post development and we need a membership plan to execute that strategy -- a plan that the National organization tells us that we're supposed to have.

The first tier is **to support the members and Posts that we have** -- the Posts and members that are struggling and need support and regeneration. We might build a "Legion Tiger Team" of members from larger and more successful Posts to help the ones that are struggling with member recruitment and Post administration/reporting issues.

The second tier is to go where we have the opportunity **to build new Posts**, especially in areas that are populated by military installations and/or military communities. We've missed a number of Navy and USAF communities -- and some Army and joint commands. We need to sit down with a map of Europe and make up list of prospective locations and assign priorities to new member and Post development. And then we need to go and build the new Posts.

6. TRAIN OUR MEMBERS. Develop and execute an in-house training program that we can use to train our members, build leaders, get them certified as Legion extension course graduates -- and then draw on them to provide the leadership depth that we need to get the jobs done that we face.

7. PROTECT AN HISTORIC ASSET. Address the stewardship of Pershing Hall in Paris and organize a comprehensive effort to ensure that Pershing Hall is returned to the government (ABMC would be the preferred organization) so that we might accomplish the goals of (a.) preserving and protecting this national treasure; (b.) ensuring full and fair access by the Legion and other veterans organizations to the property, and (c.) ensuring that the building is operated on a long-term, financially-sustainable basis.

8. PROMOTE OUR SERVICE OFFICERS. Expand the Department's service officer network across Europe, with Deputy Service Officers trained and qualified who are pro-active in working with Legionnaires and other veterans who need support, help and interventions with the military and with the VA. I am keen to see this core business of the Legion get more of our attention and support as quickly as possible.

9. SUPPORT KEY PROGRAMMES. Develop and expand our key support programs: (a.) Chaplains, with the organization of a coordinated chaplaincy programme that focuses on hospital and home visits and reports on each; (b.) Americanism, with education officers trained and appointed to support the Oratorical Program and Boys State initiatives -- and better and quicker planning and information sharing on each; (c.) Support for Children and Youth, with a youth programs officer that leads a Department-wide campaign to get Posts to sponsor Scout troops and to provide "Veteran Mentors" for JROTC units.

10. PLAN OUR 100TH BIRTHDAY. Organize and plan and timetable for events and activities to mark the American Legion's 100th birthday; coordinate the plan with National, have it ready in draft form by the National Convention 2016; get it approved by the Second DEC and publish that plan and timetable to all Department members before the end of the 2016 calendar year.

Work Breakdown 2016-17	Key Work Activities to be Accomplished
Phase One: June - October (to 2 nd DEC)	Initiate/expand communications efforts. Develop annual work plan. Appoint support officers in key program areas (service officers, chaplains, membership). Appoint training officer and organize new in-service training program. Expand support to member recruiting, retention and post development. Appoint leadership for Centennial Program.
Phase Two: October - March (to 3 rd DEC)	Report on efforts to date. Implement training program for 2 nd DEC. Move forward on expanded service officer and chaplain programs. Identify early results on membership growth and new post development. Publish Centennial Program and Draft Timetable of Events to Department.
Phase Three: March - June (to 4 th DEC)	Progress Pershing Hall efforts with National and VA. Ensure that youth programs are fully operational. Promote successful/early completion of 2017 membership program. Move Centennial Program forward with new draft of schedule and updated list of events. Use 4 th DEC and Convention 2017 as a key checkpoint on how Department is progressing against goals.
Ongoing	Continue communications, outreach and team-building in Department.

What's above provides a sense of vision and a list of goals that I'd like to lay before the Department. Over the next two months, I intend to discuss these ideas, see how the members feel about each of them, and look to build an organization that will accomplish them. I welcome your thoughts, advice and feedback. Hopefully, these conversations will indicate a direction for our future and what it takes to sustain and support our Department in its role as a key part of America's premier veteran's service organization.

Executing what's above requires your personal support and a commitment by all of us to a team effort. Let's build a consensus from our Department Convention, engage with our members, both old hands and new -- and proceed to execute the tasks above.

I hope this meet with your approval. I ask for your help and support to move forward.

For God and Country,

John Shanahan

Contact Details: Phone: +353-86-835-7881 E-mail: jhshanahan@gmail.com SKYPE: JHShanahan



DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER *Lyndon Hudson*

Comrades,

Just a short and last monthly newsletter input prior to the upcoming elections:

1. I and VCAL Brown attended and participated in the elections at the William D. Nelson Post GR09 in Ulm this past weekend. It was a very good time and I thank Commander Aman for the hospitality.
2. I attended Memorial Day Services at the Patch Barracks Chapel on Monday, hosted by Post GR06 Stuttgart. GR06 members did a very good job. I know the level

of effort put in to organizing and executing the event was significant, however, they make it seem effortless. Good job GR06!

I hope to see everyone at the convention and thank you for making my tour as VC memorable.

Regards, VC Hudson

Department of France Past Commanders Club



Jimmie Dale...President "2016"

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

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

Our next meeting will be in conjunction with the Department of France
Annual Convention 16 -19 June 2016

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

DETACHMENT OF FRANCE

Squadrons: GR01, BE02, GR06, GR07, GR14, GR42, GR79, CH01

Lee Preston... *Detachment of France Commander "2016"*



Hello Fellow SAL Members,

Look how fast this year has gone. We will hold our 4th DEC, Convention, and 1st DEC on 4 June 2016. I am sure that everyone has seen the call sent out by the Adjutant. We have done a great job on membership and these accolades go out to all of the Squadrons as they are the ones that get the membership rolling. We are in first place in the Eastern Division, 10% ahead of the second place Detachment. This is a testament to ALL of your dedication to our organization. We are in 5th place overall at National and the way it looks; we will finish at that position. Great job to everyone in membership this year. Remember to get out and look for those that have not yet made the commitment to your Squadron and our Detachment yet and let them know; this is a way to support our Soldiers, members, Family, and Veterans. I want to take this opportunity to apologize for not attending the Memorial Day services in Saint Avold this year. I had an immediate family issue that had to be taken care of over the weekend which made the travel impossible. I have completed a budget for the upcoming membership year and will present this to the 1st DEC should everyone feel that I should continue as your Detachment Commander. If not, I would truly like to express my thanks to everyone for allowing me to represent you all for the 2015/2016 membership year. The 4th DEC, Convention, and 1st DEC will be held at the DJK Gaststette in Schweinfurt. Please take the time to make the trip and elect those individuals that YOU think will best represent our Detachment. Remember, if you would like to host a DEC or the Convention; you must have representation and bid on this great opportunity to support your Detachment. Thank you all again for a great year!

Lee Preston

Detachment Commander

DETACHMENT CONVENTION 2016

Saturday 04 June 2016

10:00 -11:00 Registration (*4th DEC*)

DJK Gaststätte

Josef-Reuss-Strasse7

97424 Schweinfurt, Germany

POC: David Greaux / dgreaux@t-online.de / 49-9721-86102 / 01715109356

Post Everlasting



Elemer Michaelis – GR42... Legionnaire Michaelis was a 21 year member of Omar Bradley GR42. He was a soft spoken, good hearted man. He passed away in his home in Florida.



FLANDERS FIELD POST BE02
PROUDLY PRESENTS



The Department of France
92nd Annual Convention
16-19 June 2016
Houffalize, Belgium



Convention reservation letter can be found at the Flanders Field Post BE02 webpage:
<https://sites.google.com/site/americanlegionpostbe02/department-convention>

Reservations Deadline: 01 May 2016
POC: flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com



**Department of France Convention
16-19 June 2016**

Domaine Ol Fosse d'Out, Houffalize, Belgium

1. Guest Details:

Last Name: _____
First Name: _____
Street: _____
Zip / City: _____
Country: _____
Telephone: _____
E-Mail: _____

NOTE: Your registration includes the price for each sleeping room and the banquet

2. Payment Methods

(Include a message with Your Name & Department Convention)

(1) By Check

Send to:
American Legion Post BE02
attn: Department Convention
Unit 28100, Box 017
APO AE 09714

Or
Joseph Schram
attn: American Legion
Meersenstraat 33 C2
8310 Assebroek

(2) PayPal

Paypal.me/JosephSchram

(3) Foreign Bank Transfer

ING Account:
IBAN: BE98 3774 3999 7693 BIC: BBRUBEBB

(4) US Bank Transfer

Andrews Federal Credit Union – Routing #: 255074111
American Legion Post BE02 - Account #: 82019102

Send This Reservation Form to:
flanders.field.post.be02@gmail.com

Deadline for Reservations is 01 May

3. Transportation Requirements:

Train Station, Libramont Time of Arrival: _____

Brussels International Airport Time of Arrival: _____
Name of Airline: _____

Liege Airport Time of Arrival: _____
Name of Airline: _____

4. Accommodation Selection:

Accommodation in Half-Board: Includes breakfast buffet and all-in service supper

4 days / 3 nights (Arrive 16 June, Depart 19 June)

- 3 x breakfast buffet
- 3 x supper All-in in self-service Drinks included (water, soft drinks, beer, wine)

Double Occupancy per Adult € 267.00 2nd Occupant: _____
 Single Occupancy: € 312.00

3 days / 2 nights

- 2 x breakfast buffet
- 2 x supper All-in in self-service Drinks included (water, soft drinks, beer, wine)

Double Occupancy per Adult € 199.00 2nd Occupant: _____
 Single Occupancy: € 229.00

2 days / 1 nights

- 1 x breakfast buffet
- 1 x supper All-in in self-service Drinks included (water, soft drinks, beer, wine)

Double Occupancy per Adult € 152.00 2nd Occupant: _____
 Single Occupancy: € 167.00

Standard Accommodation: Includes breakfast buffet

4 days / 3 nights (Arrive 16 June, Depart 19 June)

Double Occupancy per Adult € 254.00 2nd Occupant: _____
 Single Occupancy: € 299.00

3 days / 2 nights (Arrive 17 June, Depart 19 June)

Double Occupancy per Adult € 197.00 2nd Occupant: _____
 Single Occupancy: € 227.00

2 days / 1 nights (Arrive 18 June, Depart 19 June)

Double Occupancy per Adult € 146.00 2nd Occupant: _____
 Single Occupancy: € 161.00

Send This Reservation Form to:

flanders.field.post.be02@gmail.com

Deadline for Reservations is 01 May

Barnett dismayed by military budget caps

American Legion National Commander Harold Barnett expressed dismay for a 2017 pay-and-benefits proposal for military members.

According to **Military Times**, the budget by Congress would increase the existing pay gap between servicemembers and their civilian counterparts due to small pay increases. While the House is in favor of a full pay raise, the Senate opposes it. The proposed budget also includes slashing commissary discounts, forcing military families to pay an enrollment fee for health care, and decreased funding for basic allowance for housing.

"The caps put in place by the Budget Control Act are doubly painful," Barnett said. "We've already warned how these cuts weaken our fighting forces and leave our military unready to fight in a dangerous world. Now we're seeing that they can't even keep up the back-end promises and take care of troops and their families

"This has to stop. We can't keep asking the military to bear the brunt of America's burdens and continue to turn around and ask them to give more."

John Wayne Post GR79

GREETINGS TO ALL

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO OUR 2016 – 4th of JULY CELEBRATION

When...9 July 2016

Where...Gartenfreunde Klingenberg; Im Heilbronn - Klingenberg, Bruch 74081

Time...1400

RIBS - HOT DOGS – HAMBURGERS - CHICKEN

SOFT DRINKS – WHISKEY - WINE – BEER - WATER

The cost for the meal will be 15 EURO and free for all kids attending that is under 12 years of age.

If you plan on attending please RSVP by July 4, 2016 with one of the committee members.

POC...2 Vice Commander Van Knutson / vanable@msn.com / 0179-2633993

POC...1 Vice Commander Charlie Brown / vcalbrown50@gmail.com / 0170-1888034



THE AMERICAN LEGION *Centennial celebration*

Susan Eisenhower joins 100th Anniversary honorary committee



Susan Eisenhower visits with World War II veterans at La Fiere Bridge near St. Mere-Eglise, France, on Saturday, June 6, 2015. Photo by Jeff Stoffer

The weekend before the May Spring Meetings at National Headquarters in Indianapolis featured a meeting of the national American Legion 100th Anniversary Observance Committee. The committee, which is tasked with planning and promoting the 15-month Centennial Celebration of The American Legion in 2018-2019, is made up of department adjutants, NECmen, past and present national officers and more.

The committee drafted a resolution, passed by the National Executive Committee later that week, to make an addition to the 100th Anniversary Observance Honorary Committee, which brings together luminaries in a variety of fields, who have somehow been touched by The American Legion, to help promote the Centennial. This committee is chaired by Theodore Roosevelt IV, grandson of Legion co-founder Theodore Roosevelt Jr., and includes former Legion Baseball player and Boys State participant Tom Brokaw; Jamie Corkish, former Junior Shooting Sports champion and 2012 U.S. Olympic gold-medal winner; NBC News Vice President and American Legion post service officer Val Nicholas; and a number of others.

The latest addition to the committee is Susan Eisenhower, a granddaughter of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, 34th President of the United States, Supreme Allied Commander-Europe during World War II, and a recipient of the 1946 American Legion Distinguished Service Medal and life member of the Abilene, Kan., post. Eisenhower is an author, educator, and respected international affairs and global security expert. She serves as CEO and chairman of The Eisenhower Group, Inc., a Washington, D.C.-based consulting company, and is chairman emeritus at the Eisenhower Institute of Gettysburg College, where she served as president twice.

Plans for the Centennial Celebration continue; the national convention in Cincinnati in August will once again feature an Exhibit Hall booth and two open workshops.



American Legion
National Commander Dinner
Friday, 03 June

Chicken & Ribs Dinner

Members, Family & Friends

Everyone Welcome

Starts at 18:00

3-Star Lounge, USAG Brussels



RSVP to the 3-star by 20 May

reservations3star@yahoo.com or

Call: +32 (0)27-17-9822

Price: \$15, Children \$7.50

Information:

flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com



Korean War

25 June 1950 – 27 July 1953

The Korean War began when North Korea invaded South Korea. The United Nations, with the United States as the principal force, came to the aid of South Korea. China, with assistance from the Soviet Union, came to the aid of North Korea.



World War II divided Korea into a Communist, northern half and an American-occupied southern half, divided at the 38th parallel. The Korean War (1950-1953) began when the North Korean Communist army crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded non-Communist South Korea. As Kim Il-sung's North Korean army, armed with Soviet tanks, quickly overran South Korea, the United States came to South Korea's aid. General Douglas MacArthur, who had been overseeing the post-WWII occupation of Japan, commanded the US forces which now began to hold off the North Koreans at Pusan, at the southernmost tip of Korea. Although Korea was not strategically essential to the United States, the political environment at this stage of the Cold War was such that policymakers did not want to appear "soft on Communism." Nominally, the US intervened as part of a "police action" run by a UN (United Nations) international peace-keeping force; in actuality, the UN was simply being manipulated by US and NATO anti-Communist interests.

With the US, UN, and South Korean (ROK) forces pinned against the sea at Pusan, MacArthur orchestrated a daring amphibious assault on Inchon, a port on the western coast of Korea. Having made this landing, MacArthur crushed the North Korean army in a pincer movement and recaptured Seoul, the capital of South Korea. Instead of being satisfied with his rapid reconquest of South Korea, MacArthur crossed the 38TH Parallel and pursued the North Korean army all the way to the northernmost provinces of North Korea. Afraid that the US was interested in taking North Korea as a base for operations against Manchuria, the People's Republic of China secretly sent an army across the Yalu River. This Chinese army attacked the US/UN/ROK forces. Only after the appointment of Lt. General Matthew Ridgway as commander of ground forces did American morale improve and the initiative begin to swing against the Chinese Communists.

Although President Truman hoped to end the war quickly and pressed MacArthur to be more tactful, the brilliant strategist went against presidential orders and continued spouting incendiary lines about his hopes to reunify Korea. After gaining the support of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), Truman relieved MacArthur of command. The move was extremely unpopular in America; MacArthur was perceived as a popular war hero. Only the support of the JCS saved Truman from impeachment after the firing.

Ridgway took MacArthur's command and held off the Communists with strong fortifications and entrenchments just north of the 38TH Parallel, sending occasional offensives against the Iron Triangle, the Communists staging area for attacks into South Korea. Peace negotiations dragged on at Kaesong, then moved and continued to drag at Panmunjom through 1951 and 1952. The US tried using strategic bombing to intimidate the Communists into negotiating a peace treaty, but they wouldn't budge, particularly on the issue of POW (Prisoner of War) repatriation. Neither side wanted to appear weak, and so the talks went on, occasionally breaking down for months. Only after Eisenhower, who was a war hero and was unafraid of Republican criticism (since he himself was a Republican), became President, could the US make substantial concessions to the Communists. In 1953 a peace treaty was signed at Panmunjom that ended the Korean War, returning Korea to a divided status essentially the same as before the war. Neither the war nor its outcome did much to lessen the era's Cold War tension.



Cincinnati Ohio
Site of the 98th American Legion National Convention
August 26rd to September 1st 2016



If you are planning on attending the 98th National Convention in Cincinnati OH (and I hope to see some new faces in Cincinnati) please e-mail me at dhaggan@sbcglobal.net with the following information,

THE DATE YOU WILL ARRIVE AND DEPART, THE PERSON YOU ARE SHARING A ROOM WITH IF ANY, AND ANY SPECIAL ROOM REQUIREMENTS.

The room cost per night is \$155.61 all included. Cutoff for the reservation is 15 July 2016.

Hope to see you in Cincinnati



Legion expands Legacy Scholarship eligibility and aid

Through its Legacy Scholarship, The American Legion

has been caring for the children of the men and women who honorably served their country and gave the ultimate sacrifice while on active-duty military service on or after 9/11. The renewable scholarship has assisted children with paying for the rising cost of higher education.

After Thursday's approval of Resolution 1, the scholarship's eligibility requirements are expanding and the amount of financial aid awarded is increasing.

Children of post-9/11 veterans with a VA disability rating of 50 percent or higher are now eligible to apply to the Legacy Scholarship, which will award up to \$20,000 in aid. The National Executive Committee passed the Committee on Youth Education's resolution during the Legion's annual Spring Meetings in Indianapolis.

Changes to the scholarship will go into effect starting with the 2017 application, which is due April 20, 2017.

"The American Legion will continue to ensure that the children of the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice during the war on terrorism will receive the assistance they need in obtaining the best education possible," said American Legion National Commander Dale Barnett. "The children of the fallen will remain a priority with the Legacy Scholarship. However, we are expanding the qualification criteria because it is critically important that we meet the needs of children of veterans who live with the aftermath of war every day."

Since the Legacy Scholarship's inception following the Sept. 11 attacks, more than \$440,000 has been awarded to help children of the fallen with the expense of graduate or post-graduate tuition, books, room and board, meal plans, transportation and other supplies needed to achieve a higher education.

"I was so thankful when I found out I received the scholarship because my father was the main supporter in our family, and I knew it would be hard for my mom to pay for college," said Eva Marie Witt from Springfield, Ohio. "The (Legacy) Scholarship pays honor and tribute to my father, and I am just so thankful that I've been able to pay for my college and not have that extra worry and stress on top of everything I'm already dealing with."

With the increase in aid awarded, the Legacy Scholarship is now a needs-based one. The grant amount each scholarship

recipient will receive will be based on his or her financial need after all federal and state aid is exhausted. Recipients will have a year to use the grant and may reapply to the scholarship up to six times. And the number of scholarships awarded and the amount of financial aid granted to each awardee (this includes returning applicants) will be determined on donations to the scholarship fund and one's financial needs.

Scholarship recipients are selected by The American Legion's Committee on Youth Education during the organization's annual Spring Meetings in May; all applicants, whether recipients of the Legacy Scholarship or not, will be notified immediately thereafter. This week, 31 scholarships of \$1,612 were awarded.

New and returning Legacy Scholarship applicants can apply online at www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy; completed applications must be submitted by April 20.

For children of the fallen, this includes legally adopted children, the parent did not have to die in combat or on foreign soil. And for children of post-9/11 disabled veterans, it is important to note that the veteran must have a 50 percent or higher disability rating from the VA, not from the Social Security Administration. Paperwork showing the VA disability rating – and a military death certificate for the fallen servicemember – will be required in the application process.

The Legion Riders' annual Legacy Run has helped obtain donations to the scholarship, including \$1 million last year. "The American Legion Riders have worked hard to raise funds over the years for the Legacy Scholarship," Barnett said. "I want to personally thank them for the work they have done to raise awareness and funds for this important scholarship. And also thank them for their support as the criteria for the scholarship has been updated to help more young men and women. This program would not be nearly as successful without the dedication of our American Legion Riders."

Donations to the Legacy Scholarship made be made online at www.legion.org/donate or by mail to

American Legion Charities

Attn: American Legion Legacy Scholarship Donation

P.O. Box 361626

Indianapolis, IN 46236



The History Of Flag Day

14 June 2016

The Fourth of July was traditionally celebrated as America's birthday, but the idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the Flag is believed to have first originated in 1885. BJ Cigrand, a schoolteacher, arranged for the pupils in the Fredonia, Wisconsin Public School, District 6, to observe June 14 (the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of The Stars and Stripes) as 'Flag Birthday'. In numerous magazines and newspaper articles and public addresses over the following years, Cigrand continued to enthusiastically advocate the observance of June 14 as 'Flag Birthday', or 'Flag Day'.

On June 14, 1889, George Balch, a kindergarten teacher in New York City, planned appropriate ceremonies for the children of his school, and his idea of observing Flag Day was later adopted by the State Board of Education of New York. On June 14, 1891, the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia held a Flag Day celebration, and on June 14 of the following year, the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution, celebrated Flag Day.

Following the suggestion of Colonel J Granville Leach (at the time historian of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution), the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames of America on April 25, 1893 adopted a resolution requesting the mayor of Philadelphia and all others in authority and all private citizens to display the Flag on June 14th. Leach went on to recommend that thereafter the day be known as 'Flag Day', and on that day, school children be assembled for appropriate exercises, with each child being given a small Flag.

Two weeks later on May 8th, the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution unanimously endorsed the action of the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames. As a result of the resolution, Dr. Edward Brooks, then Superintendent of Public Schools of Philadelphia, directed that Flag Day exercises be held on June 14, 1893 in Independence Square. School children were assembled, each carrying a small Flag, and patriotic songs were sung and addresses delivered.

In 1894, the governor of New York directed that on June 14 the Flag be displayed on all public buildings. With BJ Cigrand and Leroy Van Horn as the moving spirits, the Illinois organization, known as the American Flag Day Association, was organized for the purpose of promoting the holding of Flag Day exercises. On June 14th, 1894, under the auspices of this association, the first general public school children's celebration of Flag Day in Chicago was held in Douglas, Garfield, Humboldt, Lincoln, and Washington Parks, with more than 300,000 children participating.

Adults, too, participated in patriotic programs. Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior, delivered a 1914 Flag Day address in which he repeated words he said the flag had spoken to him that morning: "I am what you make me; nothing more. I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself."

Inspired by these three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day - the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 - was officially *established* by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3rd, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating **June 14th** of each year as **National Flag Day**.



La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux
GRANDE DU GERMANY



Fellow Voyageurs Grande du Germany,

Congratulations goes out to our newly elected Grande Chef de Gare Robert Gray. I would also like to thank our voyageurs who stepped up to take positions for the 2017 membership year.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our Grande Wreck on 16-17 July 2016. Keep an eye out for the "Call".

Merci... 'I am always happy when you all get to see me'!

David Greaux - *Cheminot Nationale 2015-2016MY* - davidgreaux@t-online.de



Grand Elections 2016-2017 Membership Year

