DEPARTMENT COMMANDER  James Dennis

Greeting fellow Legionnaires;

I started of the month with a trip to the National Headquarters in Indianapolis. Comrade Haggan gave Department president Dennis, My sister Vikki, a fellow legionnaire Reed and myself the “Nickel tour”. We meet with a lot of the staff at Headquarters and learned a lot of interesting information. Then we visited the John h. Geiger Operations center. I learned a lot on how National’s membership and support divisions worked.

Then I was off to a 4th of July parade in West Jefferson, Ohio. Madam President and I always enjoy joining American Legion Post 201 in this yearly event. This year, I got to march in front of the parade carrying the American Flag. Thank you, American Legion Post 201, for allowing us to join your activities. From there we went to My Sister Michelle’s house for a 4th of July family BBQ. We had a great time.

After my return home, I have been in an administrative function. Working on issues to assist Posts, getting paper work for National, and overseeing what our department is doing. I have learned so much this month administratively. Thank you, Department Officers and Chairmen for teaching me about your jobs, this will assist me in answering questions to our Posts.

Membership: Our VCAL and his Vice Commanders are working diligently to assist our posts in their Awareness drives. Thank you, Post NL01, GR01 and GR45 for the awareness drives this month. Thank you to all the Posts for the quick renewal response. I feel we will hit the 50% mark before October and hopefully we will have100% before December. Please let VCAL Brown and myself know if you are doing an awareness drive. The Department want to assist you.

The Commander visiting posts. I am a person who would rather be invited to a post then a surprise visit. I would like to travel in August, if any posts want me to stop by. I have mainly evenings and weekends free. A must apologize to Post GR14 for not attending their 4th of July party and thank you for the invitation.

A special note: my new email address is departmentdennis@gmail.com. Please send all emails to this address starting in August.

Everyone keep up the great work and let’s see what August brings.

Thank you, James Dennis / Commander / Department of France
# Department Officers - 2018 Membership Year

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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The American Legion, Department of France website

[http://www.amerlegiondeptfrance.org](http://www.amerlegiondeptfrance.org)

Also Visit The Department of France Facebook page

WANTED TODAY…pictures and stories of your posts, your members. Share your experiences, let everyone know what you are doing and contributing to your “American Legion Family”
I had the chance to visit GR07—GR45—NL01—GR79 and GR01 Kaiserslautern 4th of July fest and Awareness Drive. I visited GR 45 and presented their Post Charter, they will have an Awareness Drive on the 29 August 2017, they also need the password for Mylegion.org. While visiting NL01 1st Vice Commander Jim Brotherton they need to get with Max Rice for password/code for mylegion.org.

We will be doing a Awareness Drive on the 19 AUGUST 2017 FOR GR02 ON RAMSTEIN.

I visited GR07 membership meeting, but they are getting a new post home, then the Commander stated they can do an Awareness Drive. I talked to the Commander from GR20, Larry Barnwell, he just got out the hospital, he is not doing so well, but he will see if a member can help the post get back up and running.

Communicated on the Phone with:
Department Commander James Dennis
Ait NEC James Settle
Department Past Commander Doug Haggan
Department Adjutant Rice
Department Judge Advocate Keith Abernathy
All Department Vice Commander Logan-Dale -Buchanan -Etter
GR01 Commander Gray and 1 Vice Commander Young, 2 Vice Commander Garcia
GR03 Commander Hall
GR07 Commander Odom
GR09 Commander Aman
GR14 Commander Joe James and Adjutant Hackworth
GR20 Larry Barnwell
GR42 Commander Settle and Adjutant Greaux
GR45 Commander Hammerquist
GR79 Commander Chamberlain
GR1982 Commander Houston

Remember, if you need to contact me I am just an E-mail away vcalbrown50@gmail.com. In closing, please keep those in harm’s way and their families, not only in your thoughts but your prayers as well.

For GOD and Country...Joe D. Brown / VCAL
Meeting with NL01 1 Vice Commander Brotherton

4 JULY Fest

GR79 8 JULY Fest

Americanism Chairman Carl Hackworth…

It is requested that all Americanism reports be sent to me prior to our DEC´s.

Carl Hackworth
Dudenroder Str. 1
63654 Buedingen, Germany

carl@hackworth.de / Tel.: 004960425454989 / Mobil: 00491764248922 / Fax: 004960425454987
Hello Comrades,

My name is Jimmie Dale and I am the Department Vise Commander for your post for this current 2017-2018 year. I am a member of Riley Leroy Pitts Post GR07 out of Wiesbaden. I’ve been a member of the American Legion going on 16 years now. I have been a Post Commander and 1st Vise Commander and currently the 1st Vise Commander. I have also assisted with the Adjutant duties when he wasn’t available. I have also served at Department as the Department Chaplin 2015-2016 and I’ve was the Past Commander Club President 2015-2016.

I’m a retire 1SG from the Army with a little over 27 years of service. I currently work full time at Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Germersheim.

I would like to try and visit each post at least once doing my tour as Department Vice Commander. Not so much as to try and teach you but for me to learn as well and become a better legiornoaire. If you need assistance with anything please let me know. I would like to assist your post if I’m available when you do an awareness drive or have a post activity planed.

Please feel free to contact me anytime my contact info is listed below:

Jimmie Dale / Department Vice Commander
Cell: 0174-243-0104 / Email: jimmedale.87@gmail.com

Department of France Past Commanders Club

2018 Membership Year PCC President Gary Thomas (r) and PCC Secretary Susan Houston

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 is planned in conjunction with the Department of France Second DEC
Post GR07 helped sponsor three students for the American Legion Boys State Competition held 18-24 Jun 17 at McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland. The students were Amzi Lucero and Kevin Donnelly. Chris O’Neill of Post GR07 helped escort the students to the competition, and he said that it was a great experience for each of them. Chris also served as a counselor for the event.

Chris O’Neill of Post GR07 served as a Legion Counselor in Charge (CIC) at this year’s Boys and Girls State Competition. He was also selected as a “City” Team Leader during the competition and his team was an Honor City.
THANKS
5TH SIGNAL COMMAND!

The US Army 5th Signal Command will officially inactivate on 4 August 2017. The Command has been a sponsor of Riley Leroy Pitts Post GR07 during its time in the Worms, Mannheim and Wiesbaden, Germany communities. Though 5th Signal Command is inactivating, the 2nd Theater Signal Brigade (2TSB) will continue the mission of providing IT Services for the Army in Europe. Post GR07 is truly honored to have had 5th Signal Command as its sponsor for many years. Thank you 5th Signal Command for many years of support to Post GR07!

Upcoming Wiesbaden Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD)

Wiesbaden Army Garrison will sponsor a RAD Saturday, 27 Oct 17 at the Mission Command Center (MCC), Bldg. 1000 on Clay Kaserne in Wiesbaden. Post GR07 will support the event and sponsor an information table. Finance and Accounting Representatives from Defense Finance and Accounting (DFAS) are scheduled to attend the event to conduct one-on-one audits with retirees, and to answer questions. The Federal Benefits Unit (FBU) from the US Consulate in Frankfurt will also attend to assist Retirees with questions regarding Social Security and Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits.

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER   Casby Logan

As Vice Commander for The Department Of France I have been assigned the following Posts: GR 14, GR05, GR45, FR01, IR01, SP292, and GR1982. During the month of August, I attended the General Membership meetings from GR1982. The meeting was a good meeting. The post participated in the BIG WINDY Run event that was held on Friday. The next event that is planned is the second fishing event for kids to be held at Soldiers Lake located at the entrance going to the Main PX. I attended the General Membership form GR45 along with VCAL at Large Charlie Brown on Thursday for the Installment of elected officers. The Post is fairly new along with the officers and I will be working closely with the Commander as needed.

I would like for the rest of the Posts commanders or adjutant to contact me as to when and where they hold their meetings. I can be contacted per email at casbyj@hotmail.com or per cell at (49) 173-654-9691.

I look forward to hearing from and working with the assigned Posts.
The Second DEC will be hosted by John Wayne Post GR79

The Third DEC will be hosted by Omar Bradly Post GR42

SAL FISHING FEST

WHERE:
Frohnfalls, Manhardter Wald, 74535 Mainhardt
Forellenparadies

WHEN:
SATURDAY 12 AUGUST 2017 / 0700

MEET AT THE POST HOME…then we’ll drive to Forellenparadies and fish from 0800 till 12.00…then drive back to Post GARDEN for a fish Fry 14.00
Gartenfreunde Klingenberg; Im Heilbronn - Klingenberg. Bruch 74081

Contact vcalbrown50@gmail.com / M-01701888034 If you plan on attending.

Newsletter Editor...David N. Greaux
REMINDER...all newsletter articles should be turned in prior to months end!
davidg1959@t-online.de
Hello Legionnaires and Auxiliary

I hope everybody is well and had a good 4th of July party.

My Mother in Law ask me, if I like to go with the Auxiliary on a trailer in the parade to throw out candy to the public. I did that, I liked it and had fun with my nice, Mother in Law, My sister in Law and her Unit. After the Parade was a small Ceremony with a prayer and songs. I loved it. After this we, went to my Sister in Law with the rest of our family.

We were about 20 adults and about 6 children.

Before we had the BBQ, we played with the kids throwing water balloons at the family, they got nice wet and the kids had fun with this.

Also, I had a nice trip to Indianapolis with my sister in law and her husband, Jim and I went to see the National Headquarter Office and emblem sale. We were there a whole day. I was very happy to see this What they are doing and how they work. I always wanted to visit the National HQ.

Now our vacation is over and we have a lot of work to do, Answer E-Mails, and the Department Auxiliary is working on the project to go to Landstuhl Hospital before Christmas. When we work this out, we will put this in the newsletter and send the flyer to the Units.

I wish everybody a good year and take care.

Also, I would like to say to my Officers, Thanks for all your work you are doing and will be doing in the future.

God bless you all and take care.

Because we are one family.

Department of France / President / Sonja Dennis
Within the next decade, it may be possible for a Veteran to use a simple nasal spray to reduce pain if an ambitious research study at the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System completes early stage laboratory investigation and moves to human clinical trials. Dr. Nicholas Gilpin, who recently was awarded a research grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is working to identify the neurobiological mechanisms in underlying heightened pain states in the context of alcohol dependence and stress disorders. Gilpin and his staff are working to develop therapeutic strategies that reduce pain in Veterans living with PTSD and/or alcohol use disorder. For more information read the VA VAntage Point Blog.

For more on veteran benefit programs, visit the Military.com Benefits Center.
A New Lifetime GI Bill Is Likely To Become Law. Here’s How It Will Impact Vets

By Adam Weinstein...on July 13, 2017

No more “Post-9/11,” no more “Montgomery” (for those who remember it, anyway): A bipartisan slate of senators and congressmen, assisted by major veterans service organizations and other vets advocacy groups, is set to unveil its plan for a “forever” GI Bill today. And in a topsy-turvy year where very little is happening in Congress policy-wise, a broad, permanent bill of rights for student veterans and their families has a pretty good chance of sailing through the government.

“These are issues that are not rushed, but they’re urgent,” says Will Hubbard, vice president of governmental affairs at Student Veterans of America, which has taken point in helping to craft the GI Bill reforms and discussions around them. “Any one of these provisions can help thousands of veterans.”

Here’s what you need to know about The One GI Bill To Rule Them All.

1. The overview...Officially titled the “Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017” — it’s named for the past American Legion national commander who hand-wrote the original GI Bill in 1944 — the proposal that will soon be considered by members of the House and Senate veterans’ affairs committees is chock-full of reforms to benefit Purple Heart recipients, reservists, veterans’ surviving dependents, and victims of for-profit school closures. Unsurprisingly, Colmery’s Legion helped shape the new reforms and fully supports them. “This bill, as currently written, would launch a new era for all who have honorably served in uniform, and for the nation as a whole,” Charles Schmidt, national commander of the American Legion, told T&P in an emailed statement.

2. A “forever” GI Bill...But the focal point for advocates of the bill is its “forever” provision: If passed, vets who become GI Bill-eligible after Jan. 1, 2018, would no longer have a 15-year “use it or lose it” time limit on their educational benefits. They could enroll in schooling and access their benefits anytime, for life. It’s a reform geared to helping veterans who decide to retool for a second career later in life… or had to put their educations on hold the first time around to raise a family.

3. The name change...The proposal also would permanently change the GI Bill program’s name to just “GI Bill” — no “post-9/11” or other generational distinctions would be made anymore. Advocates say the idea is to make permanent the idea of “one GI Bill for all generations of veterans” — which has a certain Lord of the Rings corniness to it. But it’s also a nod to the idea that these benefits can’t be taken away from future vets down the line.

4. Fixes for Purple Heart recipients and reservists...The new bill guarantees full benefits for all Purple Heart recipients. It shocks a lot of vets to learn that full GI Bill coverage doesn’t currently extend to certain combat-injured service members — particularly reservists who didn’t volunteer for their deployments or who got a non-medical discharge before reaching full benefits eligibility. Advocates say closing this loophole could restore benefits for thousands of Purple Heart recipients, mainly Guardsmen and reservists who served alongside their active-duty colleagues. Additional provisions would restore certain benefits for other qualified reservists, as well.

5. Help for victims of for-profit schools...The bill also restores educational benefits for vets who got screwed when their school programs got shut down. After the Obama administration’s crackdown on shady for-profit schools led to the shuttering of Corinthian and ITT Tech, most students got some kind of restitution — except for vets, whose benefits came through the VA instead of the Department of Education. Under the new provisions, those vets would be able to recover their educational assistance for future use.

6. Helping survivors and dependents...Under current laws, spouses and dependents of a GI Bill veteran who dies can earn benefits of their own under the Fry Scholarship program, but don’t qualify for more robust educational assistance under the Yellow Ribbon program offered on many college campuses. The new bill would extend Yellow Ribbon eligibility to those survivors.

7. Paying for it all...Anyone who can remember back to this spring may recall that a similar GI Bill overhaul went nowhere after questions were raised about how it would offset new spending. That proposal would have been funded by a $100 reduction in monthly basic pay for new beneficiaries — a plan derided as a “GI tax” by critics. “That’s totally off the table, no longer under consideration,” Hubbard tells Task & Purpose. The biggest proposed savings in the new GI Bill appear to come from a change in housing allowances for student veterans. Those allowances are currently fixed at the generous DoD basic allowance for housing for an E-5 with dependents. Under the new plan, GI Bill vets would receive the same BAS as similarly situated active-duty service members. It’s a subtle shift — “Nobody will see less money,” Hubbard guarantees — but it would realize long-term cost savings by not increasing future housing allowances willy-nilly. Last year, the CBO analyzed a similar plan in a bill tabled by Congress and concluded it would reduce annual federal spending by $3.1 billion.

8. Lots of diverse groups helped put this bill together...Hubbard says that the springtime debate over funding of a new GI Bill ultimately was a positive, shocking many vets’ advocates into action and involvement in the new draft proposal. “That was our way of really getting the conversation going on this,” he says, adding that any realistic legislation needs a funding plan. “To be honest, looking at where we were and where we are now, it really worked."

Since that dialogue started in May, SVA has hosted numerous GI Bill roundtables and sought input from more than 40 organizations, including vets’ charities and consumer groups, plus government stakeholders. Much of the credit, Hubbard says, goes to a “tiger team” of organizations who were out front with SVA, engaging veterans on reform proposals: The Veterans of Foreign Wars (which had criticized the spring bill’s “GI Tax”), the American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, Got Your Six, The Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors. “The major difference with this effort is, for this process, we’ve had such a broad community of support,” Hubbard said.

House Veteran Affairs Committee Chairman and Republican Rep. Phil Roe of Tennessee plans to introduce the bill today at a press conference with his committee’s ranking Democrat, Rep. Tim Walz of Minnesota; Republican Sen. Johnny Isakson of Georgia, Roe’s counterpart in the Senate, is expected to file the bill in the upper chamber.

Democrats engaged on veterans affairs, like Sen. Jon Tester of Montana and Rep. Mark Takano of California, also see a lot to like in the bill. Veterans issues, like bringing accountability to VA, have enjoyed more bipartisan support than just about anything else in Congress in recent years — and extending an already-popular program that directly benefits transitioning veterans could be more popular still. Liberals are satisfied that benefits will be fair and broad-based, while conservatives are happy that the plan doesn’t break the federal budget.

“We look forward to these reforms advancing through the committee,” Dan Caldwell, policy director for the fiscally hawkish Concerned Veterans for America told T&P in a statement. He added a thank you to SVA “for working with CVA and other veteran groups to develop a set of reforms that ensure the GI Bill is sustainable in the future and addresses current gaps in the program.”
Veterans diagnosed with mesothelioma as a result of active duty are entitled to benefits from the federal government

Did you know that veterans have a higher incidence of mesothelioma and other asbestos-related diseases than the general population? In fact, veterans make up approximately 30 percent of ALL U.S. cases of mesothelioma.

Did you know…Navy Veterans remain the highest risk group of veterans for asbestos related diseases. Navy ships used asbestos in equipment throughout.

What is the cause of this disturbing fact? The military made widespread use of asbestos from 1930s to the 1990s. Asbestos was used in everything from shipbuilding to the construction of barracks. Each branch of the military used asbestos. Every naval ship constructed in this time period contained asbestos. Asbestos was used in boiler and engine rooms, as well as in electrical products. This means that U.S. Navy veterans are especially at risk for getting mesothelioma, particularly those that worked at shipbuilding facilities, or in engine and boiler rooms. U.S. Coast Guard vets face similar risks of exposure. Asbestos was also widely used in military buildings and equipment, such as military vehicles and aircraft. This means veterans of the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, and U.S. Marines also faced potential exposure. Asbestos fibers are dangerous when airborne. Veterans who served in any of the following occupations faced the highest risk of exposure to asbestos: mechanics, pipefitters, boiler tenders, electricians, carpenters, steamfitters and firemen.

What is mesothelioma?
Mesothelioma is a serious, incurable cancer that can affect the lining (mesothelium) of the lungs, chest, abdomen or heart. It usually takes 15-60 years to develop. This is why veterans who served years ago remain at risk. It is primarily caused by exposure to asbestos fibers that are inhaled or ingested. The fibers become lodged in the body, which can cause internal tissue scarring and eventually the growth of cancerous cells. Like other cancers, mesothelioma is diagnosed in stages depending on its severity at the time of diagnosis, with Stage 1 the least severe and Stage 4 the most progressed. While it cannot be cured, there are some potential treatments, like surgery and chemotherapy.

Mesothelioma VA Benefits
Veterans with duty-related mesothelioma can receive monthly disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The amount of benefits depends in part on the degree of disability, as determined by the VA, although vets with duty-related mesothelioma are usually given the 100 percent disability rate. If eligible, single veterans can get about $2,800 in monthly benefits. Married veterans could collect more. Spouses and dependents may also qualify for compensation under the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation program. That monthly benefit of $1,195 is paid to the surviving spouse of a veteran who died from a service-related disability. The VA also offers benefits to support caregivers of veterans, including home-based care.

How to claim disability benefits
To qualify, a veteran must have been honorably discharged from the service, and contracted mesothelioma from his or her time on active duty. To obtain benefits, a veteran must file the required VA form, along with supporting medical records, including a physician's diagnosis of mesothelioma. Because it can be complicated to complete the form and gather needed records to prove mesothelioma was contracted during active service, consulting with an attorney experienced in pursuing mesothelioma disability claims is usually helpful. After reviewing a patient's complete record, the VA will make its benefits decision. The crucial factor is demonstrating to the VA that the asbestos exposure was primarily, if not exclusively, related to active service. The VA will assess the level of asbestos exposure during a veteran's military service compared to any exposure during civilian occupations. Once the VA determines a veteran is eligible for disability benefits, it then assesses the degree of disability on a scale starting at 10 percent. The VA typically gives 100 percent disability ratings to veterans with service-related mesothelioma.
RENO NEVADA
Site of the 99th American Legion National Convention
August 18rd to August 24th 2017

If you are planning to attending the National Convention in Reno (and I hope to see some new faces in Reno) 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 $135.00 plus tax. Cutoff for the reservation is 1 July 2015.

Plan now to be there, a good time will be had by all