

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER *James Dennis*



Greeting fellow Legionnaires;

I had a great month. Outside of my normal administration duties, I enjoyed going to Rammstein for an Awareness Drive on the 19th of August. I joined VCAL Brown, VC Etter, VC Logan, VC Dale, Historian elect Perez and his wife, plus Department President Dennis. I was there five hours and we recruited 20+ legion members and one Auxiliary member. I observed the Vice commanders as they passed information and recruited. They all did an outstanding job. I assisted in completing the paperwork for the new members.

On the 12th of August, I assisted Mrs. Vaughan at "My Place" for their BBQ. My job was to grill the meats (Hamburgers, hot dogs, steaks, and bratwursts). The event started at 1300 and went to 1800. We had 40 adults, 10 children, and 2 dogs. Department President Dennis assisted inside as kitchen aide to Mrs. Vaughan.

Everyone enjoyed the day and are waiting on the next BBQ.

Now, back the administrative side. I hope all posts are on "My Legion" now. Adjutant Rice has all requests for new passwords turned in and the posts should have them by now. If your post's password has not arrived, check with Adjutant Rice.

We are having a Service Officer's training course on the 17th to 20th of October. If your Post has a Service Officer that would like to attend. Please contact Service Officer Buckner at serviceofficerdofr@yahoo.com

Membership: Our VCAL and his Vice Commanders are working diligently to assist our posts in their Awareness drives. Thank you, Post BE02, GR02 and GR45 for the awareness drives this month. Thank you to all the Posts for the quick renewal response. We are over the 50% mark and hopefully we will have 100% before December. Please let VCAL Brown and myself know if you are doing an awareness drive in your area, we at the Department want to assist you.

The Department Executive Meeting on the 21st of October. The first call is out. If you are going and staying overnight or for the weekend, contact Margraten Post NL01 at clevtdy@hotmail.com or contact the General Eisenhower Hotel at <https://www.jfcbunssum.com/community/general-eisenhower-hotel/>

Also, all Officers and Chairman need to turn in your reports to the Adjutant NLT 5 October 2017. He will not be returning to Europe until the 19th of October 2017.

Our new National Commander Denise Rohan is taking office and her brochure is included in this newsletter. Please take a look and get to know our National Commander.

A special note: my new email address is departmentdennis@gmail.com. Please send all emails to this address. Everyone keep up the great work and let's see what September brings.

Thank you

James Dennis/Commander/Department of France

Department Officers - 2018 Membership Year

<p>COMMANDER James Dennis GR30 <i>departmentdennis@gmail.com</i></p>	<p>ADJUTANT Maxwell Rice GR79 <i>colwickboy@yahoo.com</i></p>	<p>NECMAN/ FINANCE OFFICER Nola Maloney GR03 <i>NECMaloney@gmail.com</i></p>	<p>ALT. NECMAN James Settle GR42 <i>james.settle@kabelbw.de</i></p>
<p>VCAL Joe D. Brown GR79 <i>vcalbrown50@gmail.com</i></p>	<p>VICE COMMANDER Casby Logan GR07 <i>casbyf@hotmail.com</i></p>	<p>VICE COMMANDER David Etter GR01 <i>bigdavee59@gmail.com</i></p>	<p>VICE COMMANDER Christopher Buchanan GR1982 <i>christoperbucb@hotmail.com</i></p>
<p>VICE COMMANDER Jimmie Dale <i>jimmiedale87@gmail.com</i></p>	<p>CHAPLAIN Don Chamberlain GR79 <i>chamberlaindv@hotmail.de</i></p>	<p>HISTORIAN VACANT</p>	<p>SERVICE OFFICER Laura Buckner BE02 <i>serviceofficerdojr@yahoo.com</i></p>
<p>JUDGE ADVOCATE Keith Abernathy GR79 <i>keithabernathy1942@yahoo.de</i></p>	<p>SERGEANT-AT-ARMS Raymond Vincent Jr. <i>rvincent6603@yahoo.com</i></p>		<p>ASSISTANT ADJUTANT Robert Fuelling FR01 <i>Rfuel41704@aol.com</i></p>

The American Legion, Department of France website

<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"



New national commander: 'Are you ready?'

By Steve B. Brooks

Standing at the podium after being the first woman elected as American Legion national commander, Denise Rohan had one question for the delegates to the Legion's national convention in Reno, Nev.: "Are you ready?"

The Wisconsin resident challenged Legionnaires to work together to continue the organization's 98 years of service to the nation, and its veterans, military and their families.

"Are you ready to continue to join forces as part of the nation's largest veteran service organization's family?" Rohan asked. "Are you ready to Purple Up and show the nation that we are a family that not just takes care of our own members, we stand ready to take care of our active-duty military and their families, we take care of our veterans and their families and, in reality, when you look at our four pillars and all of our programs, are you ready to continue to take care of our entire nation's families?"

Rohan said her theme this year will be "Family First," and that the theme is based on The American Legion's motto of "For God and Country."

"I believe we were put here, where you are today, and in the positions you hold currently for the greater good," Rohan said. "We are not here to judge one another. We are here to nurture and take care of one another. Families grow through love and support for one another. As an American Legion family – we

need to treat each other in that same spirit – like part of our larger extended family."

Taking a cue from the U.S. armed forces, Rohan chose the color purple for her membership shirts. "I chose purple for this year's membership shirts to show that we are joining forces as an American Legion family," she said. "Just like all branches of the military started working together and joined forces, they purpled up over the last several years, it is time for The American Legion family to also purple up as we all work together for the common good."

A 33-year Legionnaire and current member of Post 385 in Verona, Wis., and U.S. Army veteran, Rohan has served as post and department commander. But when her husband, Mike, was first approached about joining The American Legion and Denise identified herself as an eligible veteran, she said she was informed 'Women join the Auxiliary.'

"That post that denied me membership 37 years ago, they have a picture of me on the wall with a sign that reads 'She could have been a member of our Post. Remember, women are veterans too!'" Rohan said. "It is a great reminder that since the birth of The American Legion back in 1919, our leadership knew that a veteran was a veteran regardless of race, religion or gender. Women could vote for national commander before they could vote for the president of the United States. I know that women have been

and continue to be in leadership positions in this organization.”

Rohan urged delegates to keep up the support for military families as servicemembers continue to be deployed across the world. “The American Legion family will stand tall next to our heroes and their families,” she said. “There are National Guard and reserve families living in your home towns who are feeling alone and afraid. Please continue to step up and make connections with those families. And, whenever possible, make that connection before the family member is deployed.

“Get to those Yellow Ribbon events that are happening prior to deployment. Get to know the Family Readiness Group leader for your units and let the families know what we do, who we are and what assistance we can offer on a daily basis.”

Rohan shared the story of being at a Veterans Day event in a community a few years ago. The main speaker, a Gold Star father, shared the story about his son who had been killed in Afghanistan. During his speech a girl in the choir began crying and was escorted to the back of the room.

“When the program was over, the mother, who I had never met, sought me out in the crowd,” Rohan said. “She wanted to say thank you to The American Legion on behalf of her family. You see, one of the times that her husband had been deployed there was a fire in her home, and they also had a broken water heater. The local American Legion stepped up, helped her apply for Temporary Financial Assistance and then came to her home and helped make repairs.

“The mom said she is confident that had it not been for The American Legion’s Temporary Financial Assistance program and the Legionnaires who helped repair their home, her husband may not have returned home safely. With things being taken care of at home, she knew that she did not need to trouble her husband with those issues. He could concentrate on his mission and could have one less worry on the battlefield, thanks to The American Legion family. Because that’s what we do and that’s who we are.”

Rohan said that along with Temporary Financial Assistance, she also will ask Legion family members to provide financial support to the Legion’s service officers program. “We witnessed history here

yesterday as President Trump signing The Veterans Appeals Modernization Act of 2017 here on our stage,” she said. “This will help claims and appeals get processed faster, but we need trained service officers to assist in getting claims properly submitted. The faster we can get veterans the benefits they earned, the faster they can go on to lead happy, productive lives. It doesn’t just help the veteran; it helps the entire family.”

Rohan also said it’s time for Legion posts to start inviting the community in to show all the great work they are doing. She said hosting a Veterans Day meal is a perfect opportunity to do so.

“Make sure to include current and expired members, members of your holding post, Blue Star and Gold Star mothers, student veterans, military recruiters, members of the National Guard and reserve along with their families, veterans in local care facilities or hospitals and their families,” Rohan said. “Let’s light up social media with the world’s largest Veterans Day celebration this nation has ever seen. Let’s feed the entire community, because putting on great community meals is another great part of who we are and what we do.

“To make a difference in someone's life, you don't have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful or perfect. You just have to care enough to be there.”

Rohan was employed with the University of Wisconsin Madison as the assistant bursar of student loans until her retirement in 2012. She managed the University of Wisconsin Madison, University of Wisconsin Green Bay and University of Wisconsin Colleges’ \$120 million loan portfolio made up of approximately 200 different federal, institutional and state programs in compliance with all laws, regulations and policy.

Elected as national vice commanders were Bobby Bryant of the Department of Oklahoma, Larry Marcouillier of the Department of Delaware, Paula Stephenson of the Department of Utah, William Flanagan of the Department of Illinois and Byron Callies of the Department of South Dakota.

Appointing to the remaining national offices were National Historian Richard Dubay of Michigan; National Chaplain Robert Vick of Florida and National Sergeant-at-Arms Roy Helms.



My Fellow Legionnaires, SAL Members, Auxiliary Members, Legion Riders and all other VIPs; It has been a busy past two months in the NEC world as well the Department Finance arena!! I will hit some highlights that took place while in Reno at The American Legion's 99th National Convention. It was a week filled with meetings, learning and comradeship. Department of France had its full 9 Delegates and several additional Alternate Delegates and 10+ guests. Photo of some of us outside Atlantis Hotel enclosed. Delegates, Alternates and Guests attended sessions pertaining to issues near and dear to the heart of the American Legion.

History was made during this 99th National Convention with the election of the first female National Commander, Denise Rohan. You wonder what took them so long!!

In addition, an appearance by President Trump and the signing into Law of the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act. The bill creates three paths for veterans to appeal their claims:

- Take their appeal directly to the Board of Veterans' Appeals.
- Request a higher-level VA adjudicator to decide the case.
- Appeal, with new information, to the same adjudicator who denied their claim.

VA officials have said it would take them 18 months to establish the new system. The bill also forces the VA be more transparent with veterans about the status of their appeals. Some veterans have criticized the VA for going years without giving them an update. The legislation does not address the backlog of appeals. As the VA attempts to work through pending and backlogged claims more quickly, the number of appeals is expected to increase. About 12 percent of benefits decisions are appealed, according to the VA.

The Veterans Administration Secretary, David Shulkin addressed the assembly with five issues:

1. Veterans Care Program
 - a. Clinically driven referrals
 - b. Local clinical service performance
 - c. Walk-in Clinic
2. Modernize the A
 - a. EMR interoperability and IT Modernization
 - b. Infrastructure improvements and streamlining services
3. Improve Timeliness of Services
 - a. Access to care and less wait times
 - b. Decisions on Appeals
 - c. Performance on Disability Claims (30 days or less for a decision)
4. Focus on Using Resources More Effectively
 - a. Strengthening foundational services
 - b. VA/DoD/Community coordination
 - c. Deliver on accountability and effective management practices
5. Suicide Prevention
 - a. Reach VET Predictive Modeling
 1. Suicide rate one year ago was 20 Vets a day, today that number has increased to 23 a day – the highest rate is among female veterans who have never sought VA help.
 - b. Veterans Crisis Line Improvement – blocked calls down from over 30% in January to less than 1% today
 - c. Provide suicide prevention assistance to those Other Than Honorably Discharged – not Dishonorably Discharged
 - d. Decline in Veterans homelessness – 46% decline in the last five years
 - e. Employment – goal is to have employers hire over 1 million vets; currently over 700,000 have been hired
 - f. Medical Services versus Community Care
 1. No privatization of medical services, Yes to Veterans Choices

The President's budget for VA is \$186.5 million for 2018 – hopefully this will pass!! Shulkin teased that he would announce details of a new program next month called "decision-ready claims," which comes with the promise of deciding claims within 30 days of filing.

Others who addressed the assembly over the next three days were: National Commissioner of Boy Scouts of AMERICA, Charles Dalquist; Medal of Honor Recipient, Donald Ballard speaking on educating our young Americans – less than 1% of our country has served in the military; Secretary of Labor, Alex Acosta, speaking on the valuable skills our military possess and the issues they face when getting out of the service and seek employment in the private sector – 1 out of our jobs now requires licensing, he wants to see streamlining of this and a license good in one state should be good in all states. Brigadier General Kevin Vereen, USA Recruiting Command spoke on getting more young people to serve in the military – he asked us to tell our stories to young people, be ambassadors for our military, help them to become something bigger than themselves. The Army alone has 150 career fields. Today's biggest disqualifier for entering military service is obesity – 71% of our youth 17 to 24 years of age do not qualify due to obesity. We need to teach them that sleep, proper diet and exercise are the keys to qualifying for military service. Representative Amodei, Nevada, made a short appearance to welcome us to Nevada. Senator Ted Cruz received the Philip Onderdunk "Religious Liberty Award".

When we weren't attending meetings or listening to guest speakers, awards were given out, donations collected (a BIG shout-out to Robert Fueling, FR01, for donating on behalf of the Department and FR01 over \$2000 to the following programs: Child Welfare Foundation, National Emergency Fund, Operation Comfort Warrior, and the Legacy Scholarship Fund. Plus \$80 he received for selling the only 18 Eifel Towers he had – My cap is off to you Bob!!!).

In addition, I met our new National Vice Commander, Larry Marcouillier. National has agreed to pay for his visit to our Department. We can thank Doug Haggan for that!! Photo enclosed.

The Department received a \$1,600 check for having the highest percentage of new members. Deposit has been sent to the bank!!

The Department also received three awards from FODPAL – these to be disclosed and presented at the 2nd DEC, 21 October in the Netherlands.

In case you are still wondering why National had to raise its per-capita dues in 2016 – the answer is a decline in membership. Membership is the life blood of The American Legion. Since the late 1990's we have seen membership in the National organization decline; it just became too much of a loss to overcome without raising per-capita dues. There are 20 million U.S. veterans, if just 1/6th of those were members we rest easier knowing we could support the Four Pillars in a greater, longer enduring time frame and not have to raise dues again for a long time. We are doing well with membership and I applaud all of you help to keep this Department's membership up and growing!!! We are judged by Congress on our membership standing as well as the programs we support.

FINANCE NEWS:

For those Posts who have US bank accounts or ones who have foreign accounts but can get US dollar checks I would like to see bank to bank transfers or a check from your bank to Departments account at Pentagon Federal when making transmittals.

The American Legion is still working hard to pass The American Legion Coin bill in the U.S. Congress. They are asking us once again to contact our Member of Congress and encourage them to cosponsor the bill. We cannot stress enough the importance of the passage of H.R. 2519 and S. 1182. These bills, if passed, would not only properly commemorate our 100th anniversary, but it would help The American Legion serve and support thousands more veterans with crucial funds that aide us in carrying out our Four Pillars. Remember - Congress only authorizes two coins per year and one has already been awarded for 2019, so there's only one left. **And the Legion has strong competition!**

With that I will close out this month's article with wishes for a safe September, a successful month and safe travels for all!!! I look forward to seeing many of you at the 2nd DEC, hosted by NL01 in the Netherlands, 21 Oct 2017.

Most Sincerely,
Your NECLady
Nola

“No matter our outward differences – we're all in this together” President O'Bama – during his outgoing speech in office.

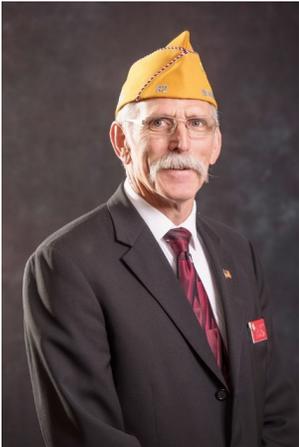
National Vice Commander, Larry Marcouillier to Department of France



Some Department representation at Reno 2017



Meet Sons National Commander Danny Smith



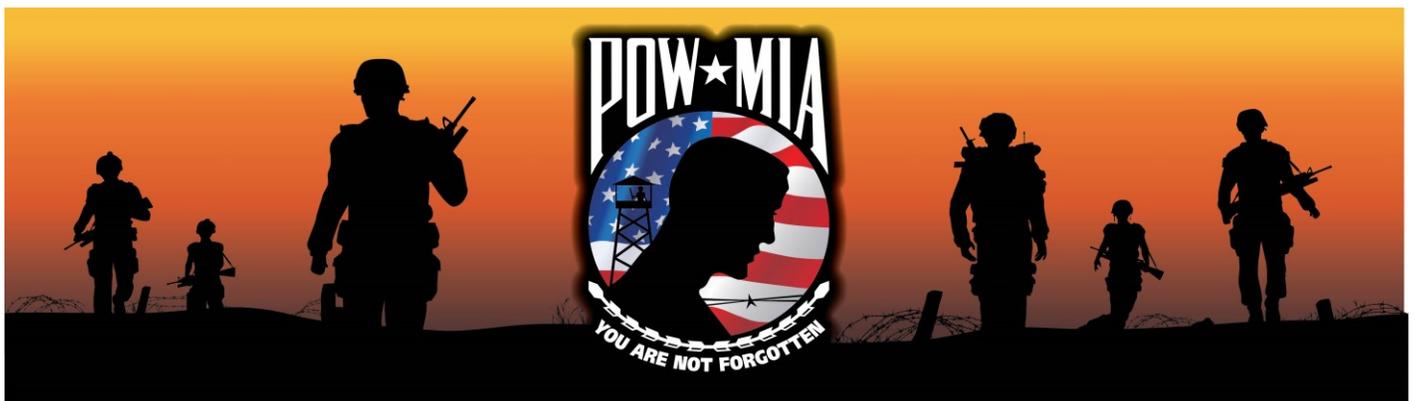
Danny Smith

Sons of The American Legion National Commander

2017-2018

Danny Smith was elected national commander of the Sons of The American Legion on Aug. 20, 2017, in Reno, Nv. during the 46th national convention of the Sons of The American Legion.

The newest National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion is Danny Smith. He is the first-ever S.A.L. National Commander from the Detachment of Nebraska. Smith is a 44-year continuous member of the Sons. His eligibility is through his father, a Korean War Air Force veteran. His parents were both charter members of their respective American Legion Post and Auxiliary Unit. He and his wife, Donna, have been married 42 years. Their children and grandchildren are all American Legion Family members. Danny has worked in the construction industry for over 46 years. He and his family have all served as volunteers at their nearby veterans home and he has been active in several other community organizations, as well. The new commander hits the ground running, wanting to pull closer together with other branches of The Legion Family tree. “We’re all brothers and sisters in this organization,” says Smith. “I would really like to see us come together as an organization and work together with those common goals we all share. We can do it.” “I’ve adopted The Legion’s Endowment Fund and also the National Emergency Fund as my big programs this year. I know that Sons will continue to support Child Welfare. I don’t believe I need to urge them to do that because everyone knows that’s our premier program. I just want to take support for additional American Legion projects to the next level, to the level we have done with Child Welfare, and make more of them premier programs within the Sons, as well.” “I want every member of the Sons to pause and remember that we’re all privileged to be a member because someone served and sacrificed. Veterans are my passion.”



Friday, 15 September 2017

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE *Joe D. Brown*



My fellow Legionaries, Auxiliary, and S.A.L. Members,

The numbers for the 2018 membership year are looking good so far, but there are posts that STILL have not submitted a transmittal for this membership year. There have been two awareness drives this membership year, GR02 Ramstein (28 members), GR06 recruited 9 new members on the 26th of August and GR45 (5 members) and 10 applications filled out to possibly join at a later day. I recruited two new members from Hanau for GR14 located in Budigen. The SAL fishing day hosted by GR79 had 3 SAL Posts that attended, GR07, GR42, and GR79, there were a total of 54 Rainbow Trout caught for the fish fry that was done at GR79 post home. One new member was signed up during the fish fry.

If there are posts that do not have access to mylegion web site, the officers need to contact the department adjutant to get an account setup to further assist the membership chairman and the post with membership. Future awareness drives are being planned during the month of September at GR06 located in Stuttgart, and GR07 Wiesbaden. I'd like to thank those Posts that were proactive in getting their meeting schedules and upcoming events to me, however, I invite those that haven't to please do so.

We must remember the ideals of what the American Legion stands for, justice, freedom and democracy. We are here to support our veterans, their families, our communities and the care of our veterans through the programs set out at the National Level. Many of our Posts need to be more involved with these programs, I would strive to make that happen. All Post Commanders need to properly display your POW-MIA Table, American Flag and your Post Legion Banner at all your meetings.

I look forward to getting out to each post and assisting in any way I can.

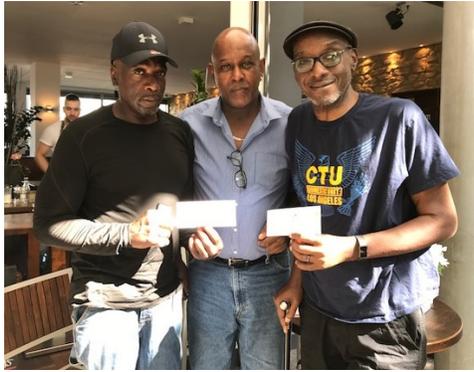
Thank you, and as always, remember if you need to contact me I am just an E-mail away vcalbrow50@gmail.com M-0170-1888034. In closing, please keep those in harm's way and their families, not only in your thoughts but your prayers as well.

Membership Chairman

GR02 Awareness Drive



New members for GR 14 from Hanua



GR45 Awareness Drive



GR79 Sal Fishing (Gr42 GR07)



2017 - 2018 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

EARLY BIRD/NEF KICKOFF	SEPTEMBER 13, 2017	50%
FALL MEETINGS	OCTOBER 12, 2017	55%
VETERANS DAY	NOVEMBER 15, 2017	65%
PEARL HARBOR DAY	DECEMBER 13, 2017	75%
MID-WINTER	JANUARY 18, 2018	80%
PRESIDENT'S DAY	FEBRUARY 14, 2018	85%
LEGION BIRTHDAY	MARCH 14, 2018	90%
CHILDREN & YOUTH	APRIL 11, 2018	95%
ARMED FORCES DAY	MAY 9, 2018	100%
DELEGATE STRENGTH	30 DAYS PRIOR TO NATIONAL CONVENTION	

Target dates fall on the second Wednesday of the month unless there is a holiday on that day or at the beginning of that week.

The November target date will be on the third Wednesday due to Veterans Day falling on that previous Saturday.

To maximize the December renewal notice, and allow for MLK holiday, the January target date will be on the third Thursday of the month.



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

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER *Dave Etter*



Greetings Comrades! Our 2017-2018 membership year is well underway, and we are doing well on getting those renewals in. But, don't let my words lull you into complacency and slow your roll – what you are getting is the easy stuff. It gets harder to convince eligible veterans to join as time moves toward the holidays. It gets harder to convince your fellow comrades to renew if they don't see how the post is providing for our members kids and families. Try this – couple an Awareness Drive with a recognition dinner for your Riders. When doing a fundraiser for your Scout troop, insure you have a table with pamphlets on Boys State, Oratorical Contest, Sons of the Legion, Auxiliary, etc to draw interest in joining. Make sure you carrying a few blank applications on you when volunteering at the USO or the Clinic. Bottom Line is that if you are proud of being a Legionnaire, others will want to join in. Dave Etter, Dept VC.



04 September 2017

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER *Laura Buckner*



"Post Service Officer Training Opportunity"

Trainers from National American Legion will be offering training to all Post Service Officers and anyone interested in becoming a Post Service Officer. Training will be held at the GR02 Post home in Kaiserslautern, Germany from noon Tuesday Oct 17 to noon on Friday Oct 20. If you plan on attending, please send a reservation email to serviceofficerdofr@yahoo.com NLT Fri 13 Oct.

Thanks! Laura Buckner - DSO, Dept of Fr

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***



Newsletter Editor...David N. Greaux

REMINDER...all newsletter articles should be turned in prior to months end!

davidg1959@t-online.de



The American Legion Flanders Field Post BE02

Announces its "Adopt a U.S. Tommy" Program

The initiative provides an opportunity to honor those Americans who fought and died while serving with the British Commonwealth during WWI and WWII

We launch the new program to keep the memory alive and to pay our respect to these fallen Soldiers

Anyone can adopt a grave as long as they respect the policy of the program

For more information: send an email to
adopt.a.us.tommy@gmail.com





The American Legion



The USO



Present their
2nd Annual
USO Dance



Pachthof, Borlo

Sat, 09 Sept

9 - 12 pm



Free Admission



Flanders Field Post BE02

presents

American Legion Night

3-Star Recreation Center

Salsa



&



Salsa

**Like to make Salsa or dance the Salsa, then the
3-Star Rec Center on USAG Brussels is the place for you**

Friday, 13 October

Salsa making starts at 17:30 with judging at 19:00

Salsa Dancing starts at 18:30 with a dance contest starting at 20:00

For more information and contest rules, contact us at:

Flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com

STUTTGART POST GR06

Stuttgart Patch Gym Care Fair. Nine new members recruited...*Marcus Brisco*



DETACHMENT OF FRANCE



Detachment Commander Joe D. Brown
ycalbrown50@gmail.com

The Second DEC will be hosted by John Wayne Post GR79 on 07 October 2017

The Third DEC will be hosted by Omar Bradly Post GR42

Riley Leroy Pitts Post GR07 Wiesbaden-Mannheim-Worms

Post GR07 2017-2018 Officer's Installation Ceremony



(Left Photo) John Odom Sr. – Commander. (Right Photo) Lee Vaughan – Service Officer/Sgt-at-Arms, Curt Hesse – 2nd Vice Commander, Jimmie Dale – 1st Vice Commander & Dept. Vice Commander, and Dept. Vice Commander Dave Etter

On 12 August, 2017 Department of France Vice Commander Dave Etter visited Post GR07. Comrade Etter helped post members move supplies into their new post home, officiated an Officer's Installation Ceremony for the 2017-2018 Post Officers, and shared ideas for how to improve the post. A sincere thanks goes to Comrade Etter for taking time out of his day to assist Post GR07!

Post GR07 Has A New Post Home...

Marsweg 3, 65191 Wiesbaden (Crestview Housing Area)

The Wiesbaden Army Garrison recently provided a facility for Post GR07 to call its home. The facility is wonderful and it provides a space to hold meetings and special events. The facility is also co-located with the VFW and other community private organizations, and is accessible for persons requiring wheelchair or ramp access. Thanks sincerely to the Wiesbaden Army Garrison for supporting Post GR07!

Welcome New GR07 Members!

COL Todd Fish

Mr. Kendall Washington

CSM Chad Pinkston

Mr. Mark Owens

Mr. Douglas Earle

Mr. Johnny Byrd

Mr. Dwight Hill

<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionPostGR07> A special thanks goes to Post GR07's Assistant Adjutant (Chief Warrant Officer) Michael Murley for developing the Facebook Page so that Post GR07 can share special events, photos and information with others!

Post GR07 Looking For Legion Riders... Although motorcycle riding season may be over soon, Post GR07 still wants to re-start its Legion Riders Chapter. If you are interested just contact our Legion Riders POC Ronald Morgan at Email: rcmorgan@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED! IN WIESBADEN GARRISON... Volunteers are needed in the Wiesbaden Army Garrison Community. If you are interested please contact Post GR07 Commander John Odom Sr. at Email: johnlilbro@gmail.com. Your support will be greatly appreciated and your volunteer hours will be tracked and recognized by the Army Garrison Volunteer Program.

Did You Know Wiesbaden Garrison Has a Veterans Affairs (VA) Representative?... Wiesbaden Army Garrison has a VA Representative conveniently located on Clay Kaserne in Wiesbaden in building 1023E. To find out more about filing VA disability claims, or to make an appointment just call CIV 0611-143548-1323 or Army DSN 548-1323. *Post GR07 has been informed that Military ID Cards are not required for veterans to get an appointment.*

Department of France



American Legion
Auxiliary



Department of France / President / Sonja Dennis

Hello Everyone;

I was with the Legion in Mannheim for the Awareness drive on the 19th. The Department Commander and I was there from about 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. I recruited one member for Kaiserslautern Post GR01.

Now I am considering going to Landstuhl hospital to visit the patients and give them a little present with "get well" cards. If we go in December, I am looking for a volunteer to be "Santa Claus" for this visit. I have a suit you can use, so if you're interested, contact me at Sonja.dennis@t-online.de

Everyone is welcome to join us on this visit. I will send out more information later via Newsletter and by E-mail. Any Units willing to join us can contact Department Secretary Mattson at ammattson52@gmail.com

I would like all the Units to go out with their Posts for the Awareness Drives. We as the American Legion Family need to work together and build our family together. Let's see how many ladies we can get to join the Legion family in this Department this year.

Also, I would like to say to my Officers, Thanks for all your work you are doing.

God bless you all and take care.

Because we are one family.

***Commemoration of the city of TROYES by the American troops 25 August 1944.
Represented are several members of the Legion Family.***



Eric Guint SAL BO2, his two daughter's junior auxiliaries Paarisunit FR01, Veronique Guint, Eric ' sister and myself at the ceremony. We have been attending 5 ceremonies of liberation of towns this week.

Thank you, Ginette Crosley, Unit President Pris FR01



Developing ALA Leaders at All Levels

ALA Academy



The American Legion Auxiliary's newly launched ALA Academy is now available to all members, free and online. This series of online courses will expand your knowledge of the ALA and help you better serve our mission.

Here are ways the ALA Academy will be useful to you:

- ★ Learn how your membership helps veterans, military, and their families
- ★ Learn communication, leadership, strategic thinking, team building, and more
- ★ Learn why your membership is meaningful
- ★ Learn about tools to work the mission
- ★ Learn about ALA culture
- ★ Receive consistent training
- ★ Learn anytime at your own pace

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Legion Coin bill passes Senate...*Aug 04, 2017*

On Aug. 3 the U.S. Senate passed S. 1182, The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act before it went on recess. The legislation still needs a vote in the House of Representatives; Legionnaires are encouraged to ask their representatives for co-sponsorship of this important legislation by sending a prepared message [here](#).

The U.S. Congress only authorizes the minting of two commemorative coins per year. Unique among U.S. Mint products, the Legion centennial coin will help raise money for important causes, as well as commemorate important aspects of American history and culture. The funds gained from this bill, introduced in June, would support the Legion's four pillars of service: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism and Children and Youth.

National Commander Charles Schmidt issued the following statement after Thursday's passage of the Legion Coin legislation:

"On the behalf of our nation's American Legionnaires, I extend our sincere thanks to the members of the U.S. Senate, especially Senators Joe Donnelly, Todd Young, Johnny Isakson, and Jon Tester, for the passage of S. 1182 The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act.

"This bill will authorize the U.S. Mint to produce a commemorative coin celebrating the 100th birthday of The American Legion, the nation's largest wartime veteran service organization with more than 2 million members and 13,000 posts across the U.S..

"The American Legion assists veterans and their families access the benefits they earned while defending our Nation. We ensure America's veterans receive healthcare and disability compensation for their injuries, and the education and training required to be contributing members of society following their military service.

"S. 1182 is budget-neutral and will generate funds for veteran-support activities in every community in America – at no cost to the taxpayer. One hundred percent of the funds raised by The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act will go to support veteran programs.

"Again, we are thankful for the Senate's steadfast support of our veterans and military families. We look forward to swift passage of this bill's companion, H.R. 2519, in the House of Representatives so that the President can sign this important legislation into law."

MILITARY REPORT THE MILITARY'S LARGEST BENEFITS UPDATE

Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act

Military.com | Week of August 28, 2017

President Trump recently signed legislation at the American Legion's National Convention that will go a long way toward fixing the beleaguered Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) appeals process. The Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 creates three appeals 'lanes.' Veterans would choose the one that best suits his or her needs. The three lanes will be: (1) Local Higher Level Review Lane in which an adjudicator reviews the same evidence considered by the original claims processor, (2) New Evidence Lane in which the veteran could submit new evidence for review and have a hearing, and (3) Board Lane in which jurisdiction for the appeal would transfer immediately to the Board of Veterans Appeals.

For more on the appeals process, visit the [VA Claims and Appeals section on Military.com](#).

Legacy Run donations top \$1.2 million

By Steve B. Brooks



Legion Riders present checks for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund during The American Legion's 99th annual National Convention in Reno, Calif., on Tuesday, August 22, 2017. Photo by Clay Lomneth/The American Legion.

The American Legion Riders came into Reno, Nev., having ridden more than 1,400 miles from Dodge City, Kan., and raised more than \$555,000 for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. But the Riders were far from done.

After another successful Legacy Run, the Legion Riders and American Legion departments donated more than \$667,000 on The American Legion National Convention floor Aug. 22. That brought this year's Legacy Run total to a ride record \$1,224,653 – the fourth straight year the ride has raised more than \$1 million.

The American Legion Department of Minnesota led the way, donating \$200,000 on the national convention floor. Other top department donations on Tuesday were the departments of Missouri (\$78,241), Wisconsin (\$67,627), South Carolina (\$67,056) and Ohio (\$50,000).

American Legion Post 133 (Millbrook, Ala.) donated \$15,133, while the Legion Riders from Stevens-Christian Post 557 in Wintersville, Ohio, contributed \$13,500.

“A far-flung motto used by the Legion Riders is ‘Legion first,’” said Legacy Run Chief Road Captain Bob Sussan, who also serves as chairman of the American Legion Riders Advisory Committee. “Many departments have in-state Legacy (Runs) to raise funds for the scholarship. Several years ago The American Legion Riders in the Department of Florida, on their in-state Legacy Run, noticed a sign on the wall. This is the expression on the wall ... and many Riders chapters had adopted this saying: ‘For the cause, not for the applause.’”

The six-day Legacy Run, sponsored by USAA, drove through Kansas, Colorado and Utah before finishing up in Reno. More than 200 motorcycles completed the ride.

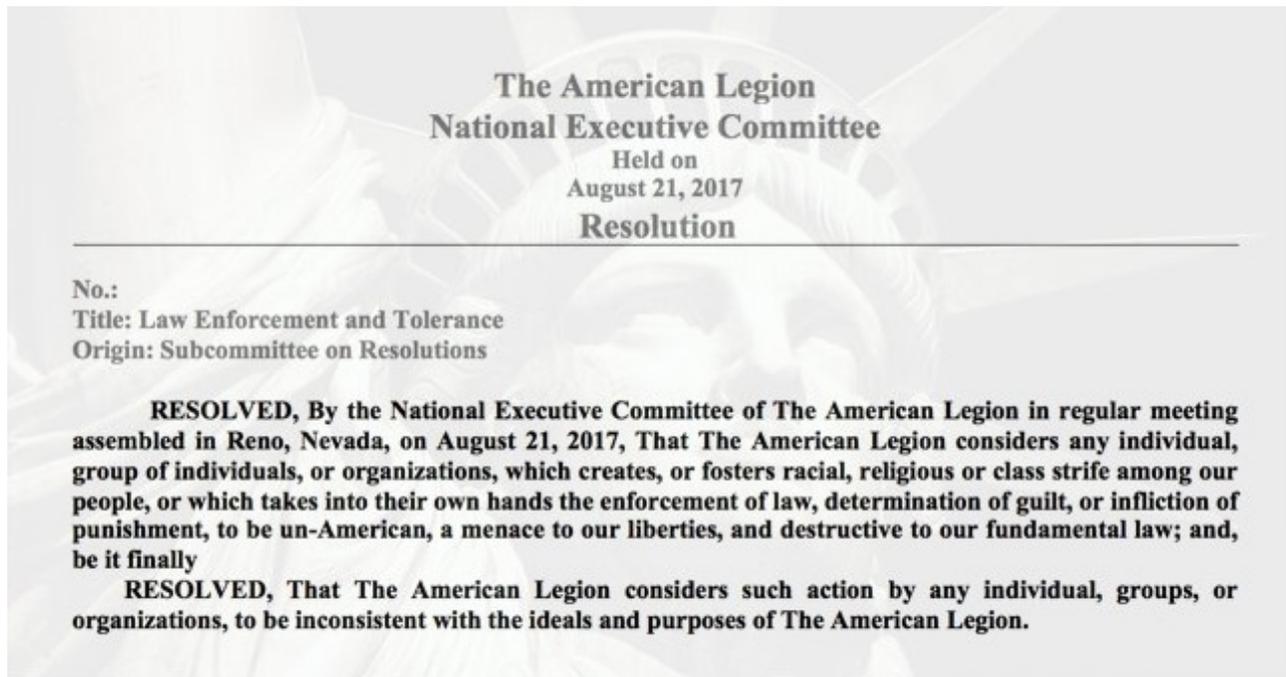
This year's ride was dedicated to longtime Chief Road Guard Verlin Abbott, who was killed in a motorcycle accident in Indianapolis a week before the Run left Kansas.

“This year was bittersweet,” Sussan said. “This was Verlin's ride. He was my best friend, my right hand, and as I feel as though I've lost a part of me, he's gone but never forgotten. He will always ride with us.”

The Legacy Fund provides college money for the children of U.S. military personnel killed on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, as well as children of post-9/11 veterans with a combined VA disability rating of 50 percent or higher. In 12 years, the Legacy Run has now raised more than \$8 million.

Legion reaffirms 94-year-old statement aimed at hate groups

Aug 22, 2017



The American Legion today re-affirmed an existing position first passed nearly a century ago that is aimed squarely at groups that espouse racist beliefs.

“In 1923, The American Legion passed a national resolution at our convention in San Francisco that is as relevant today as it was 94 years ago,” National Commander Charles E. Schmidt said after the Legion’s National Executive Committee unanimously reaffirmed National Resolution 407, titled “Law Enforcement and Tolerance.”

First passed when many destructive forces were harming American society, the resolution resolves that “The American Legion considers any individual, group of individuals, or organizations, which creates, or fosters racial, religious or class strife among our people, or which takes into their own hands the enforcement of law, determination of guilt, or infliction of punishment, to be un-American, a menace to our liberties, and destructive to our fundamental law.”

The statement also further resolved that “The American Legion considers such action by any individual, groups, or organizations, to be inconsistent with the ideals and purposes of The American Legion.”