The Department 2nd DEC was conducted on the 25th of October, at GR1982's Post Home. A big thanks to GR1982 for hosting the 2nd DEC GREAT job GR1982. We had a very productive meeting Things discussed were National Commanders Visit, Veterans Day 11 November Saint Avold France, Oratorical Contest (February time frame), Boy's and Girl's State's. In addition we allocated an additional $1,000 dollars to assist Post with Boy's State cost, and a first, the Department has allocated $600.00 dollars to assist with the cost to units for Girl's State program.

It has been brought to my attention that some believe, that the new membership year starts in October, nothing can be further from the truth. The membership year starts during the Department Convention in June. While I am on the subject of membership I would like to see all our membership renewals completed by December 31st 2014. I encourage and challenge all Commanders, Adjutants, and Membership Chairmen to contact those members who have not renewed for 2015, and have them renew their membership ASAP.

The American Legion National Commander Michael D. Helm will be visiting the Department of France from May 29th till June 3rd 2015. We will be discussing more on his visit during the 2nd DEC. If you would like the National Commander to visit your post please have a presentation available during the 2nd DEC.

Our next upcoming event will be Veterans Day, which will be conducted on the 11th of November at 1100 hours at Saint Avold France, in the Lorrain Cemetery Chapel. Hopefully you will be able to take time out of your busy schedule, and join us for this small but important Memorial Service.

MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP. I cannot stress membership enough. It is the bloodline of our organization. It enables us to perform our missions to the Veterans and their Families, and supports not only National Programs but ours also. While you are out there recruiting, new members do not forget your current members, get them to renew in a timely manner. If you have any questions on membership do not hesitate to contact the Membership Chairman Comrade Brown, at joedan.pascal1@googlemail.com. He can answer your questions and resolve any problems you are having, with membership.

In closing, Please keep those in harm's way and their families, in your thoughts and prayers also.

Phone: 07138-67359 / E-Mail: james.settle@kabelbw.de
The Department Web Page is: www.AmerLegionDeptFrance.org
The department has a Face Book page at the following www.Facebook.com/ALDeptFrance. Please visit and like this page. Thanks
Dear Legion Family Members and Friends,

Inside every American Legion post, legacies are shared and passed from generation to generation. Stories about courageous veterans, bravery in battle, patriotism at home, community services and humorous anecdotes that only get better with time.

The Legion has a proud history. It is a history written in the annals of local posts.

Did you know, for example, that George Washington, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson were visitors of Gadsby's Tavern, now the home of Post 24 in Alexandria, Va?

Posts across America have withstood natural disasters and rebuilt in order to keep serving their communities. Post 138 in Port Tampa City, Fla., is one such survivor. It was a two-story building until 1960 when Hurricane Donna tore the upper level away. No matter. Now, the post's large back deck offers beautiful views of the sunset.

Every generation of Legionnaires has a knack for getting things done. Members of Post 11 (Wagner, S.D.) worked together to finance and construct their building in 1929. In fact, they dug the basement themselves by hand.

These are just three of dozens of entertaining stories on the Legion’s Centennial web page. Nearly every department is represented. Even though the centennial anniversary period is still four years away, now is a good time to show your pride and make sure your post is represented.

I understand that the Internet may be intimidating to some of our members. So to help you get started, Bob Ferrebee of Lloyd Williams Post 41 in Berryville, Va., has developed a step-by-step guide. Download the handy resource full of tips about how to get started, what to publish on the page and more.

The American Legion has a rich history that needs to be told so future generations will understand the rich legacy they are asked to continue. Visit the Centennial web page - http://centennial.legion.org/ - to learn about our history and to contribute stories and photos.

For God and Country,

[Signature]

Mike Helm
National Commander
DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE / MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN  Joe D. Brown

Greetings, Commanders & Legionnaires,

As the Department of France Vice Commander, I have been assigned the following Posts: John F. Kennedy Post IR63 Facebook site: www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionIRL Eifel Post GR-20, Rivera Post FR-05, Madrid Post SP-292, and Portugal (Nunv Alvares Pereira) Post PO-01. Doug Haggen (FODPAL Secretary) is asking the Department and Posts to submit pictures and small articles to the FODPAL website: http://www.legion.org Click Members FODPAL site listed at Quick Links. FODPAL (Foreign and Outlying Departments and Posts of The American Legion) is asking for special programs & events and Facebook sites. The Department of France Newsletters is posted on the FODPAL website. Click Newsletters. Also, listed in the FODPAL Newsletter site is Post IR63 Spring Newsletter 2014 (check-out there events. November 11, 2014, Flowers and Memorial Service at the grave of John O’Sullivan Carstown County, Louth. November 27, 2014, Thanksgiving Dinner and Annual General Membership Meeting (the family and I plan to attend). Also, I plan to conduct a Legion briefing at the Dublin U.S. Embassy (November 28, 2014). If you like a copy of the Spring Post Newsletter 2014 from Post IR-63, Dublin, Ireland, please contact ihshahanhan@aol.com Post IR-63 has many activities in the
coming months, if you like to attend. The family and I plan to attend the Veterans Observance Ceremony in Rokycany, Czech Republic (14 – 16 November 2014). Information of the event was passed out at the 2nd DEC (Ansbach, Germany).

The Commodore John Barry Post IR-03 published their October 2014 Newsletter. Click the FODPAL site, click Newsletter. Also, in the FODPAL site: Kaiserslautern Post GR01 POW/MIA Ceremony on Legion TV.

Irish Veterans Charter #1 plans to dedicate (Spring, 2015) to the memory of U.S. SEAL Lt. Michael P. Murphy, Medal of Honor, Afghanistan, 2005. His parents from the States plans to bring the MOH at the dedication ceremony. A special evening dinner is planned at the White House Hotel town of Kinsale (West Cork). Commander Ron Howko (Commodore John Barry Post IR-03) is a guest speaker at the event. For more information of the event, contact Declan Hughes Declan@irishveteans.org or James Sikora james@irishveterans.org

I stress the importance of membership in the Posts, Department, and the National Organization. Membership is our Voice on Capitol Hill. Please send your Post transmittal to the Department Membership Chairman. I encourage the Posts to transmit each month to the Department Membership Chairman (Joe Dan Brown). Join the Paid Up For Life Program instead of paying Annual dues each Month and receiving renewal notices from National. If you have interest in the Paid Up For Life Program, please contact me at wardtrans@yahoo.com The National Commander ask the Legion Posts to contact their Post members and Unpaid members to renew their Post dues before the 31st of December 2014. Check out the Online Renewal at: www.legion.org

Commanders & Fellow Legionnaires, many thanks for what you do for your Posts and the communities you serve. The 2nd DEC scheduled 25 October 14, 1 P.M. at the Ansbach Legion Post Home (Katterbach). The Department of France Commander asks to continue membership and Post Renewals. Retention maintains strong membership within the Posts, Department, and the Organization. The Good Fellow Award must be submitted to the Department of France before the 3rd DEC. It’s a Recognition Award to a non-member of the Organization who had demonstrated outstanding service (Volunteer work) to the Legion Post. Please prepare the students for the Oratorical Contest (Department level, February 2015), Boy State and Girl State candidate. We give thanks to our Veterans on Veterans Day (November 11) and Thanksgiving Day (November 27). God Bless America.

Attendees at the Second DEC at The American Legion David Chavez Post 1982
Ansbach, Germany 25 October 2014
# Department Officers - 2015 Membership Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Officer</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commander</td>
<td>James M. Settle</td>
<td>GR42</td>
<td><a href="mailto:james.settle@kabelbw.de">james.settle@kabelbw.de</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Adjutant</td>
<td>Maxwell Rice</td>
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<td>NECMAN</td>
<td>John Miller</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALT. NECMAN</td>
<td>Liam Kane</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE</td>
<td>Joe D. Brown</td>
<td>GR79</td>
<td>GR03 GR07 GR13 GR30 GR42</td>
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<td>&amp; New Post Development: <a href="mailto:Joedan.pascal1@googlemail.com">Joedan.pascal1@googlemail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>VICE COMMANDER</td>
<td>Stephen Ward</td>
<td>GR01</td>
<td>GR20 PO01 FR05 SP292 IR63</td>
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<td>VICE COMMANDER</td>
<td>Quincy Foster</td>
<td>GR05</td>
<td>GR01 GR02 GR14 FR01 IT01</td>
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<tr>
<td>VICE COMMANDER</td>
<td>Jerry Aman</td>
<td>GR09</td>
<td>GR06 GR1982 CH01 GC01 IR02 BE02 IR03</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:Jerlya503@aol.com">Jerlya503@aol.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>VICE COMMANDER</td>
<td>Casby Logan</td>
<td>GR07</td>
<td>GR05 GR09 GR45 GR79 DK01 NL01</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:casbyj@hotmail.com">casbyj@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>CHAPLAIN</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Judge Advocate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sergeant-at-Arms</td>
<td>Hal Rittenberg</td>
<td>GR09</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rittenberg@t-online.de">rittenberg@t-online.de</a></td>
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To all Department of France Officers, Past Department Commanders, Post Commanders and Delegates, Committee Chairpersons and Program Directors

The Third Department DEC is planned for 21 March 2015

It will be hosted by GR30 / GR42

The Official Call will be sent out at a later date
Greetings to all Legionnaires,

I am proud to be one of the Vice Commanders for the Department of France assigned to the following Posts: Kaiserslautern- Post GR01, Paris-Post FR01, Ramstein-Post GR02, Budingen-Post GR14 and Rome-Post IT01.

During this quarter I visited the upcoming Post at Ramstein Air Base, GR02 for their first meeting along with Vcal Brown, VC Logan and Department Chaplian Moore. We met with Commander Jennifer Mcfford other officers and member. They are still waiting for their charter to be signed and we are doing a follow up on it. I would like to ask them to be patient a little long. The Department of France are doing all they can from here.

I also had the pleasure of visiting John Wayne Post GR79 for their meeting and 911 of 2001 Remembrance Ceremony in September. It was a nice turnout and I am glad I could make. You may have seen some of the pictures.

I attended the Department Sal 2 DEC in Heilbronn at the home of GR79 October 18th. I was told that was one of the best turnout for the meeting and there was a lot accomplished. Although I understand that there were still some posts absent.

I have not got to visit GR01 during their monthly meetings however I have been to their post and been in contact with them. GR01 opened their post to support the Red Ribbon Run that had a turnout of over 1500 participants at Rhein Ordnance Barracks. In August they hosted the USO Landstuhl Warriors Center BBQ. And 11 September they held a Moment of Silence Ceremony, also that month they did a 5 year Anniversary-Membership drive, POW/MIA ceremony, and Post birthday early bird dinner. As you can see September was a busy month for the post. This month they had College Night and a booth was set up to Distribute information on Oratorical contest. If you would like more information on what is going on with events and post location take a look at their website. http://www.kaiserlauternamericanlegion.org/

Budingen Post GR14 hosted the 4th of July Picnic in their area. The post Adjutant Carl Hackworth spent over 6 weeks in the WVA hospital in the states. We thank God that Carl returned to us and GR14 was in full force at the 2 DEC Convention.

Last but not least, I got in touch with Commander Jagers of Post IT01 by e-mail and we are working on getting the post back in action. We have contacted a member in Naples who is interested in making it happen.

Remember: “For the Good of the Legion” and God Bless!

I am now set up at my home for VA, DAFS, SSA, ACG, CA. The address is AmKirchwald 3, 69251 Gaiberg

Phone H 06223 5475
Phone M 0176 7227 6350
Email hallgt@yahoo.com
Greetings Sisters and Brothers of the American Legion Family,

In my last newsletter article, I requested that the Post chaplains send me an email. I don’t need to stress the importance of all of the Post officer positions, but sometimes the position of chaplain is not always considered as important as it should be. Your Post chaplain keeps contact with your members, consoles where needed, defuses personal differences between members and, most importantly, ensures that God remains in first place in our family organizations. Post commanders, please look around and see if you are missing a chaplain. If not, please have him/her contact me by email. What, you don’t have one? Use the powers given to you and appoint one immediately.

We have quite a few issues to face this year. Some of those problems include a decline in membership, “erosion” of God in our country, breakdown of the family nucleus, and for our service members, longer and more frequent deployments away from family and home.

We are a family organization however, and we can work on both fronts, at home and in the field. Have an active family organization with Legion, Auxiliary and Sons, add a little spice with a few American Legion Riders in a chapter, and you have a win-win situation. Just think of it, everybody working towards the goal of “God and Country” and we can only prosper as a family organization and personally as individuals.

All of that breaks down to what we do is important, not because of the honor and recognition we personally receive, but because we continue to honor those who have given so much.

Unfortunately when I get involved in so many American Legion functions outside of the Department of France, it takes away the time I should personally spend with you. I’m trying to catch up on my correspondence and Department of France visitation schedule for all of our Posts. I hope to see some of you at the Veteran’s Day ceremony at 11 am, November 11, 2014 in St. Avold/France at the Lorraine Cemetery.

I wish all of you a wonderful Thanksgiving and hope that you get a chance to share it with your loved ones and friends. Let us also include our servicemen and women in a special prayer then, as well as for their families. Veterans Day is a day of recognition for all Veterans and service members. Don’t forget to thank them for our freedoms.

It was great to have seen so many comrades at our 2nd DEC. I look forward to seeing more at the 3rd DEC in March. Department Executive Committee meetings and Conventions are the closest things we have to official Church services in the Department of France. We are a family, so let’s commune together and put “For God and Country” to good work.

May God bless you and your family and keep all safe.

God bless our servicemen and women, as well as their families, no matter where they serve.

Rev. Ronald Moore, Chaplain
Department of France
Detachment of France
Mobile: 0049-(0)172-7417812
Email: revronmoore@yahoo.de

Special Days/Legion Events: 11th Veterans Day; 16-22- American Education Week; 23-29 National Family Week; 27th- Thanksgiving Day

Christian Religious Days: 1st All Saint’s Day; 2nd, All Souls Day (Cath.); 15th Nativity Fast begins (Orthodox through Dec 24); 23rd Christ the King; 30th- St Andrews Day; 30th Advent (to Dec 24th).

Jewish Holidays (Year 5775): None that I know of.

Islamic Holidays: 5th Ashura

Please visit the church, temple, synagogue or mosque of your choice.

Post Everlasting:

During the 2nd DEC hosted by Post GR1982 in Katterbach, Germany, a memorial service was held for the following comrades (in alphabetical order by family name):

Arthur Beasley, GR07 PEL 5 Aug. 2014
Ronald Coombs, GR01 PEL 23 Aug. 2014
Dennis Garmon, GR01 PEL 11 Oct. 2014
Martin Garvey, IR03 PEL 26 Jul. 2014
Phillip Gatchell, GR03 PEL 13 Aug. 2014
Thomas N. Hooks, IR63 PEL 21 Oct 2014
Michael Reynolds, IR03 PEL 11 Oct. 2014

Prayers for the Sick & Ill:
George Hall, GR-03 DSO
Joe D. Brown, GR79, PDC and present DVCAL
James Moss
Liam Kane, IR63 Dept (FR) altNEC
Martin Prak, GR05
James Settle, GR42 Dept (FR) CDR
Larry Besson, National Headquarters, Chairman Internal Affairs Commission

are undergoing, were undergoing or are scheduled for, medical treatment.

No other deaths or other illnesses were reported to me, but we continue to pray for those comrades, family members and friends of the Legion who have passed away or are ill. As mentioned at the 2nd DEC and in the newsletters, the list of sick and ill will be cleared each month. If you have members who should be included on the prayer list, please report them to me by the end of each month.

Department of France American Legion Riders (ALR) and ALPE Messenger Service

We are always looking for ways to make our Family organizations more interesting for young and old. We shouldn’t forget the draw of two of our Department of France programs that appeal to many, and cause people to listen up and take notice when these members arrive.

Take The American Legion Riders, a Legion National Program, which includes members of the Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion. Any Department of France Post can start a Rider’s program and the chapter can only be an asset to your Post and Legion family. You will be surprised at the amount of interest generated by a few motorcycles standing around when you hold Legion Family membership drives. The program is not a motorcycle club or gang, just a Post organization emphasizing motorcycle safety and family fun. The Legion Riders were established as program in 2006, but now there are more than 100,000 members worldwide. The Post ALR GR07 Chapter is the first ALR Chapter established in a foreign country and we will keep it operating as long as we have ALR Chapters in the Department of France.

The American Legion Riders were a driving force for the establishment of the Department of France ALPE Messenger Service. This messenger service was developed as a separate National organization to collect donations for the Legacy Scholarship Fund which was established in 2006. When I established the service in the Department of France in 2007, it was open to Riders as messengers and Posts as Way Stations for the collection of Legacy Fund donations.

We have ALR Chapters operating at Post BE02, GR01, GR05, GR07 and GR1982. Posts GR14 and GR79 have expressed interest in starting a chapter and I have sent them generic Constitution/By-Laws/Applications, as well as additional information for both Post and perspective Riders. If you need copies, please drop me an email.

If I can be of any assistance in setting up an American Legion Rider Chapter in your Post or you, as a member of the Legion, Auxiliary or Sons, are interested in affiliating with a Rider Chapter, please contact me.

Post Commanders and Adjutants, it is easy to become an ALPE Messenger Way Station, just start collecting donations for the 2015 Legacy Scholarship Fund and let me know that you are doing so. Messengers are not required to be Riders and Posts do not have to have a Riders Chapter to be a Way Station. See how easy it is to increase your community image? Just do it.

Take a look at the short video presented at the National Convention for the 2014 Legacy Scholarship Run and you’ll see what we are accomplishing and doing. Over 1 million dollars collected this year.

http://www.legion.org/legiontv?pid=latest&v=AQaCX56_GKA

Ron “Gypsy” Moore, AL Rider Director and Chief Messenger Department of France
The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest

“A constitutional speech contest”

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation’s laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

Young orators earn some of the most generous college scholarships available to high school students. Over $138,000 in scholarships can be awarded each year. The overall national contest winner gets an $18,000 scholarship. Second place takes home $16,000, and third gets $14,000. Each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the national contest's first round receives a $1,500 scholarship. Those who advance past the first round receive an additional $1,500 scholarship. The American Legion's National Organization awards the scholarships, which can be used at any college or university in the United States. High school students under age 20 are eligible.

Speaking subjects must be on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution, with some emphasis on the duties and obligations of citizens to our government. Speeches are eight to 10 minutes long; three- to five-minute speeches on an assigned topic also are part of the contest.

The Prepared Oration

The oration must be on some aspect of the Constitution, with emphasis on a citizen's duties and obligations to our government. The same subject and oration used in the department contest must be used in the national contest. Contestants may have a copy of their prepared oration while waiting in the first holding room. They may consult the copy until they exit to begin the contest. The copy will then be surrendered to the contest official monitoring the first holding room.

Quotations must always be indicated as such. Where quotations are more than 10 words in length, the author's name must be given in the manuscript and cited orally. It is acceptable to utilize or incorporate short phrases in a foreign language to develop the argument, establish a point, etc. It should be understood that the vast majority of the prepared oration and/or assigned topic must still be delivered in English. Singing is not permitted and will result in immediate disqualification. The contestant may, however, quote a verse(s) of a song(s) provided proper attribution is made.

Assigned Topics

The assigned topic discourse must not consume less than three (3) minutes or more than five (5) minutes for delivery. The purpose of the assigned topic discourse is to test the speaker's knowledge of the subject, the extent of his or her research, and the ability to discuss the topic as related to the basic principles of government under the Constitution.

Assigned Topics for 2015 Oratorical Contest

Amendment 5

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.

Amendment 6

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining Witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

Amendment 8

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.


**Amendment 19**
The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.
Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

**Rules and Regulations**

**Eligibility**
Eligible participants must be citizens of or lawful permanent residents of the United States. All contestants must be bona fide students herein described as any student under the age of 20 years on the date of the national contest who is presently enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or home school). The curriculum of the school must be considered to be of high school level, commencing with grade 9 and terminating with grade 12. Students must be enrolled in high school or junior high school during the time of participation at any level of The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest. Contestants must either be legally domiciled within or attend an educational institution within the department that they enter competition. Contestants can enter competition through only one department.
High school students that graduate early during the school year are eligible to compete if they are not enrolled in a college, university, trade school or other institution of higher learning at the time of the department finals contest.
The three finalists of the national contest are ineligible for further participation at any level.

**Regulations**
The use of notes, amplification, lectern or speaker’s stand or any manner of prompting is not permitted. Props are not permitted.
Contestants and audience members may not use any form of electronic/digital data gathering, receiving and/or transmitting equipment.
Contestants must deliver their prepared oration in no fewer than eight minutes and no more than 10 minutes. The assigned topic runs no fewer than three minutes and no more than five minutes.

**What to wear**
Uniforms are not permitted. Appropriate business attire is required for all contestants. Contestants may not wear awards and medals from previous competitions.

**National Finals**
The 2015 National Finals is April 10-12 in Indianapolis, at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel, 2544 Executive Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46241. Quarterfinal and semifinal contests are scheduled for Saturday, April 11, with the finals scheduled for Sunday, April 12.
All contestants and chaperones will arrive the Friday of the contest weekend. All contestants and chaperones will stay at the official contest hotel.
A mandatory pre-contest orientation session for all contestants will take place the Friday evening of the contest weekend. A banquet honoring all contestants will be Sunday afternoon, following the national championship contest. All contestants and chaperones will depart for home later that afternoon.

**State and Local Oratorical Contests**
Arrangements for contests leading up to the department finals shall be the responsibility of each American Legion department.
Each department may certify one contestant to the national contest. If for any reason the department finals winner is unable to compete in the national contest, the runner-up may be substituted following approval from the National Americanism Commission. A runner-up accepted into national competition will be entitled to all national awards, entitlements and compensation that the department winner would have received had he or she participated.

Department of France Competition – TBD
Stuttgart Post 6 Competition – Tuesday, 13 Jan. 2015

For more information on the American Legion Oratorical Contest please visit the American Legion National Website at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org). Post 6 Oratorical Director: Douglas Clemence – refclemence@yahoo.de
Post IR-63... With much sadness, we report the transfer to Post Everlasting of Thomas Noel Hooks, retired Specialist 6, U.S. Army and a member of our post. Although a Legion member for only a short time, he was proud of his Army service and of his Legion membership. Tom was a much-appreciated Army mess sergeant whose decorations included the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal. Tom was a Warrenpoint, County Down native. His funeral Mass is 10:30 AM on Thursday at Newry Cathedral, with burial to follow in the family plot. The Legion will be present with an Honour Guard to escort Tom and to present the family with the American flag in grateful recognition of his military service.

Post GR01... It is my sad duty to inform you that Comrade Dennis Garmon member of Post GR01 reported to PEL on the 11th of October 2014. Please keep Comrade Garmon's Family in your thoughts and prayers during this trying time in their life's.

Post GR01... It is my sad duty to inform you that Comrade Ronald Coons of Post GR01 reported to PEL on 23 August 2014. Please keep the family of Comrade Coon's in your thoughts and prayers.

Post IRo3... With deep regret, I report that our dear Comrade Michael Christopher Reynolds, a Korean War era US Army Veteran, entered Post Everlasting this date 11 October 2014. Chris, as he was known locally, was in poor health for several months and passed away peacefully in the loving care of his wife and family at his home in Mohill, County Leitrim, Ireland.

Veterans Day originated as “Armistice Day” on Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I. Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and Nov. 11 became a national holiday beginning in 1938. Veterans Day is not to be confused with Memorial Day—a common misunderstanding, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Memorial Day (the fourth Monday in May) honors American service members who died in service to their country or as a result of injuries incurred during battle, while Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans—living or dead—but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.
Congratulations to Casby Logan as being elected PCC President
For the remaining 2015 Membership Year
Who is illegible 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 illegible to join

Initial dues for the Past Commanders Club is only $25.00 which will entitle the new member to a Past Commanders Club cap, Past Commanders Club pin and membership card

Renewal dues for the Past Commanders Club is only $10.00

Our next meeting will be on 21 March 2015 at the Third Legion DEC

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE... David Greaux, PCC Secretary “2015”

The Flanders Field Post BE02’s Adopt-a-Grave program is continuing to go strong. Many of the adopters during the research of their adopted soldiers have found next of kin. Some of these next of kin have already visited the Flanders Field American Cemetery to honor their fallen relative and hopefully more will follow. From the pictures that have been submitted, the legacy of the program will continue for many years after the centennial.

Members of Post BE02 were invited to participate in the annual Retiree Appreciation Day at both SHAPE and USAG Schinnen. It was our opportunity to introduce the Flanders Field Post BE02 to the many retirees that reside in Belgium and the Netherlands.

Commander Schram had the opportunity to give a tour of Brugge to Comrade John Pelose, Post 86, and family who were visiting Belgium from their home in Braintree, MA. Comrade Pelose gave Post BE02 a license plate and a monetary donation.

Our oratorical contest winner, Ruth Alvarez was interviewed by AFN radio in regard to the American Legion’s Oratorical Contest. Ms. Alvarez has been a great help advertising the contest to the military communities here in Belgium.
Ruth and her father, Comrade Juan Alvarez participated in the “Light on the Front” event on 17 October. Participants carried torches from Nieuwport to the French border representing the front lines during WWI at the end of 1914.

The American Legion Post BE02 hosted a presentation of the documentary “The Forgotten Angel of Bastogne” on Thursday evening, 23 October at 19:00 at the Multipurpose Room (MPR) at the Brussels American High School. The presentation was free of charge to the students, their families and friends, the school staff and service members. “The Forgotten Angel of Bastogne” is the true story of Augusta Chiwy, a Belgian nurse whose volunteer service in a U.S. Army medical aid station during the Battle of the Bulge exemplifies the best of people in the worst of times.

Post BE02 held a general meeting on Saturday, 25 October at the SHAPE health clinic. During the meeting the members were presented a slide show of the activities offered by the Venture Crew 511 - Charlemagne District. During the meeting the members also voted to sponsor a young man to the next Boy’s State event.

Flanders Field Post BE02 is happy to announce the establishment of an American Legion Auxiliary here in Belgium. Ms. Ruth Alvarez, daughter of Comrade Juan Alvarez, is leading a group of women through the charter procedures and hopefully will have the Auxiliary organized by January.
Preparing your survivors for the future
By Lt. Col. Gregg G. Lofgran, Army Retirement Services Operations Officer

Many Retired Soldiers have spent countless days, weeks, and even years preparing for their retirement, looking forward to the joys of grand kids and living the dream of their “Golden Years”. Yet many do not plan for the inevitable …

I was reminded of the challenges of planning and paying for a funeral and interment when I read an article in the Fayetteville, N.C. Observer about the widow of a Retired Soldier who was struggling to pay for her husband’s funeral and burial costs. Although the Soldier assured his wife that the Army would pay for his funeral and interment, the remaining bills amounted to more than $5,000, causing a significant financial strain on the surviving spouse who has been forced to look to her church, friends, and the internet for support.

With the average cost of a funeral coming in between $6,000 and $10,000, I’m sure you’re wondering how much of that cost the Army covers. The short answer: Not much. Effective Oct. 1, 2013, the funeral allowance is only $734 for non-service-connected deaths. Service-connected deaths are eligible for reimbursement up to $2,000 but this still just barely covers a third of what the funeral might cost.

A significant benefit to Retired Soldiers is being buried in a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemetery. This benefit is available for eligible veterans, their spouses and dependents at no cost to the family and includes the gravesite, grave-liner, opening and closing of the grave, a headstone or marker, and perpetual care as part of a national shrine. For veterans, benefits also include a burial flag and military funeral honors. Family members and other loved ones of deceased veterans may request Presidential Memorial Certificates. These benefits could cost over $10,000 if paid for out of your own pocket.

The VA operates 131 national cemeteries, of which 71 are open for new casketed interments and 19 are open to accept only cremated remains. Burial options are limited to those available at a specific cemetery but may include in-ground casket burial, or interment of cremated remains in a columbarium, in ground or in a scatter garden. Contact the national cemetery directly, or visit www.cem.va.gov to determine if a particular cemetery is open for new burials, and which other options are available.

The funeral director or the next of kin makes interment arrangements by contacting the National Cemetery Scheduling Office or national cemetery in which burial is desired. The VA normally does not conduct burials on weekends. Gravesites cannot be reserved; however, VA will honor reservations made under previous programs. Contact any VA office, visit http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/burial_benefits/need.asp or call (800) 535-1117 for further information.

Arlington National Cemetery’s eligibility requirements for burial and inurnment are different from other national cemeteries that are maintained by the Department of Veteran Affairs. However, most veterans, who have at least one day of active service for other than training and an honorable discharge, are eligible for above-ground inurnment. For more information about eligibility for burial at Arlington, visit http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil or call (877) 907-8585.

Many states also have state veterans cemeteries as well. Eligibility is similar to VA national cemeteries, but may include residency requirements. These programs are run solely by the states. For specific state benefits, review the MyArmyBenefits state fact sheets at: http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Home/Benefit_Library/State__Territory_Benefits.html.
A POW/MIA Ceremony was held at Rhine Ordnance Barracks 19 September 2014 at the Front Gate Flagpole Kaiserslautern, Germany. AFN Kaiserslautern conducted an interview with Department of France Vice Commander Stephen A. Ward. Also, in attendance was Kaiserslautern Post Commander Robert Leist, Past Department Commander VFW George Gilgore, VFW Sembach Post Commander Lisa Collins, Kaiserslautern Post Adjutant Janice Lokacsko, and soldiers from the ADA unit (ROB).
This is from some Soldiers in Afghanistan Displaying the Post 6 license plate that we sent them with the $200.00 Worth of snacks. We used the WI-FI money to buy the goods.

On Sunday 09 November 2014 there will be a Sunday Brunch at the GR30 Post Home. It starts at 11:00 hours. Cost is only €6.50 per person.

If you are planning to attend please contact Charles Vaughan (Commander GR42) so he can get a head count…gabiplace@hotmail.com

Navigation address is: Otto Hahn Str. 21, 97318 Kitzingen
Army announces new Retired Soldier logo
By Mark E. Overberg, Deputy Chief, Army Retirement Services

On July 29, Secretary of the Army John McHugh approved a new logo for the Soldier for Life program. The new logo, which incorporates the Army trademark, includes one variation for Retired Soldiers and another for veterans. The new logos will be incorporated into existing Army regulations and be available for issue and purchase over the next year.

Secretary McHugh's decision reinforces the Army leadership's belief that Retired Soldiers and veterans are Soldiers for Life whose dedicated service to the nation should be recognized. The Army expects the lapel buttons will initiate conversations with Americans who see them. This will allow Retired Soldiers and veterans to tell their Army stories and reinforce the bond between Americans and their Army.

Items newly approved by Secretary McHugh include:

- Soldier for Life - Retired lapel button for wear by Retired Soldiers on civilian clothing
- Soldier for Life lapel button for wear by veterans on civilian clothing
- Soldier for Life Retired Identification Badge for wear by Retired Soldiers on the Army Service Uniform (ASU)

Unit commanders will award the SFL lapel button to Soldiers of all components who complete their military service with an honorable discharge before earning a military retirement. Commanders will award the SFL-Retired lapel button and a similar window sticker to retiring Soldiers of all components as a part of the Army Retiring Soldier Commendation Program package that also includes and United States flag and a letter of commendation from the Army's senior leaders.

Retired Soldiers and veterans who were presented the previous lapel buttons may continue to wear them or purchase the new lapel buttons when they become available in the next few months through the military clothing sales, AAFES, and retail stores. Retired Soldiers who have already purchased the U.S. Army Retired ID Badge for their ASUs may wear it or may purchase and wear the new SFL Retired ID Badge when it becomes available.

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On behalf of the District III Frontiersmen, Department of Europe, Veterans of Foreign Wars it is my distinct honor to request your presence at the Rokycany 2014 Veterans festivities in Rokycany, Czech Republic.

This is the 25th Anniversary of the event, and we would like you to be our guest at our Banquet on Saturday night, 15 November 2014, as well as participate in the Sunday ceremonies which will take place in the town square. The festivities will be especially rewarding as considerable time and planning has been accomplished to ensure that this year’s event will be memorable. Please respond to Herbert Hall at hall.herbert@gmail.com as to whether you can attend. I look forward to seeing you at this year’s event.

Blane Gish - District III - Commander 2014 - 2015

Legion wants feds to leave veterans preference alone

Suggestions that the policy is unfair to non-veterans in the federal work force are unjustified

WASHINGTON (Oct. 9, 2014) -- The federal government’s veterans preference policy has been criticized in report released last August by the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB), which suggested that such preference causes resentment among civilian federal workers, and decreases the number of women being hired into the federal work force.

The Washington Post and Government Executive have reported on MSPB’s findings without challenging the conclusions.

“We’ve seen the report and its claim that veterans preference for federal jobs is creating resentment among federal workers who are civilians,” said Michael D. Helm, national commander of The American Legion, “and the claim that it interferes with the hiring of women.

“To any civilian workers who have problems with veteran’s preference, The American Legion’s message is simple: Become a veteran. Those who have served in uniform have earned such preference.”

Helm also took issue with MSPB’s finding that veteran’s preference had a negative impact on the hiring of women. “The federal government has been hiring fewer people in general since fiscal 2011 – that includes women. But the good news is that more women veterans and more veterans in general are being hired.”

Noting that the percentage of women employees in the federal work force has dropped only one percent since 2000, Helm said veterans preference needed to remain in place to help veterans compete with civilians in the job market. “We understand that some individuals abuse the policy, and that needs to be corrected. But helping those who have served in uniform get jobs, especially those who are disabled, is a policy that must remain in place.”

Mark Reinhold, associate director for the Office of Personnel Management, wrote in a letter that “OPM does not concur in your somewhat negative assessment,” and that MSPB “seems really to be taking aim at the entire civil service system in its current form.”

Helm said The American Legion will closely monitor any suggested changes to veteran’s preference policy. “We urge the Office of Personnel Management – and Congress -- to continue supporting our veterans in the federal job market with its hiring policies.”
TRICARE Beneficiaries Will No Longer Receive Mailed Paper Letters for Benefit Updates

As of October 1, the Department of Defense is no longer sending paper letters to notify TRICARE beneficiaries about changes to their coverage and eligibility status. Beneficiaries will now receive emails or post cards directing them to online resources where they can view their information. If you are a TRICARE beneficiary you will get correspondence from TRICARE, in one of two ways. If you have a valid email address in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), you will get an email telling you to go to milConnect to read your letter. If you do not have an email address in DEERS, you will get a post card directing you to milConnect. The emails and post cards will not contain private information, only a short generic message to inform you of a change to your coverage or eligibility.

The American Legion Riders

The National American Legion Riders Advisory Committee…will convene in Indianapolis in February 2015 to provide long range planning for the American Legion Riders programs, including the 2015 American Legion Legacy Run to Baltimore, Maryland. Contact information for the Committee is located at www.legion.org/riders/contacts.

“Hip pocket” promotion for ALR programs available online…To answer the requests from posts and chapters for ALR promotional material, we have developed a downloadable advertisement available at www.legion.org/riders. The ad may be locally printed. The ads will promote The American Legion itself—using the ALR program as one example of how all our programs support veterans, families, children, and the community.

2015 Rolling Thunder…(May 22-25, 2015) Each year national staff has supported the annual Ride to the Thunder (RTTT) rally hosted by the Department of Virginia American Legion Riders over Memorial Day weekend. The Virginia American Legion Riders have developed a close relationship with the RT organization and we expect that this national ALR gathering in Washington, DC supporting Rolling Thunder will continue to grow.

ALR Training events…Assistant Director Bill Sloan, ALR program office, Internal Affairs, will present American Legion Riders program updates, information and training on October 24 in Mahnomen, Minnesota during the Minnesota Fall Conference. ALR training presentations, along with other LEAD training modules, are available for interested departments.

The American Legion Riders Newsletter…The American Legion Riders Update e-newsletter provides members and department leadership with information on the American Legion Riders program, The American Legion Legacy Run, and other ALR program news and developments. We strongly urge all departments to encourage newsletter participation.
On October 3, Department of Defense (DoD) Secretary Chuck Hagel approved a potential deployment of up to 4,000 service members (an increase from the previously announced 3,000) to Liberia as part of Operation United Assistance. Then, on October 7, AFRICOM Commander General David Rodriguez said U.S. efforts in West Africa could last a year or more, is expected to cost $750 million over the next six months, and there could be additional troop deployments beyond the 4,000 to help build and support treatment facilities there. There are 300 servicemembers in Liberia with another 50 in neighboring Senegal. In addition to active duty forces in Senegal, the Kentucky Air National Guard 123rd Contingency Response Group has stood up a staging base/cargo hub to support the operation. All military operations support the lead federal agency -- the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Military operations include two Ebola testing laboratories, manned by personnel from the Naval Medical Research Center, which are fully operational. The labs can process 100 samples each day. Military personnel are to complete a 25-bed hospital for infected medical personnel by October 18. Construction of two treatment centers for other Ebola victims should be completed by the end of the month. The Naval Mobile Construction Battalion-133 sent 15 construction-specialty Seabees to conduct site surveys for future hospitals, supply storage, and training facilities for health care workers.

The Army announced units will deploy to the region beginning in mid-October and run through November. With the previously announced unit deployments, this will bring Army commitment to 3,200 soldiers; including 1,800 Fort Campbell, Kentucky-based soldiers (which includes 700 troops from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) (DoD is sending 100 Marines from its special Africa crisis response force to serve as “bridging capability” until the soldiers of the 101st begin arrive), 101st Sustainment Brigade, 86th Combat Support Hospital of the 44th Medical Brigade, and a Military Police company from the 16th Military Police Brigade. These units will provide medical and logistic support, as well as site security, to the Joint Task Force. Soldiers will also deploy from other Army bases including: Fort Hood and Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Carson, Colorado; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Stewart and Fort Benning, Georgia; Fort Eustis, Virginia, and Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

For troops deploying for this operation to West Africa, in addition to their regular pay, they will receive extra pay of $150 per month in hazardous duty-location pay, and, for those who are eligible, they will also receive $250 per month in family separation pay. The extra pay is for troops deployed to Liberia, Senegal, and Sierra Leone. Most of the troops will be based in Liberia while others deployed to Senegal will be based at the Intermediate Staging Base for the shipment of supplies and personnel into the rest of the region. The Defense Department currently has no plans to send troops to Sierra Leone.

The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), a DoD combat support agency, announced on October 8, DLA distribution sites around the world are supporting the movement of supplies to the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) area of responsibility. DLA Distribution-Europe, in Germersheim, Germany, has processed 1,400 cots for air movement to Liberia’s capital, Monrovia, and prepared 100 pallets of Meals, Ready to Eat, and 150 pallets of bottled water, for movement to Liberia and Senegal. DLA’s mapping division is providing maps of these locations for DLA-Europe and Africa regional commands. DLA Distribution, in Sigonella, Italy, shipped 800 cots to Monrovia, and 60 cans of insect repellent to U.S. Army Africa troops. DLA Distribution-Barstow, California, sent 200 tents, and DLA Distribution-Susquehanna, Pennsylvania, has prepared 20 tents and 550 cots and mosquito netting for shipping.
Top Ten' Flag Myths

The Flag Code is The American Legion Flag Code.
On Flag Day, June 14, 1923, The American Legion and representatives of 68 other patriotic, fraternal, civic and military organizations met in Washington, DC for the purpose of drafting a code of flag etiquette. The 77th Congress adopted this codification of rules as public law on June 22, 1942. It is Title 4, United States Code Chapter 1.

A flag that has been used to cover a casket cannot be used for any other proper display purpose.
A flag that has been used to cover a casket can be used for any proper display purpose to include displaying this flag from a staff or flagpole.

The Flag Code prohibits the display of a United States flag of less than 50 stars.
According to the U.S. Army Institute of Heraldry the United States flag never becomes obsolete. Any officially approved American flag, irrespective of the number or arrangement of the stars and/or stripes may continue to be used and displayed until no longer serviceable.

The Flag Code does provide for penalties for violations of any of its provisions.
The Flag Code is simply a guideline for proper flag etiquette. The law does not provide penalties for violation of any of its provisions.

You must destroy the flag when it touches the ground.
As long as the flag remains suitable for display, the flag may continue to be displayed as a symbol of our great country.

The Flag Code prohibits the washing or dry-cleaning of the flag.
There are no provisions of the Flag Code, which prohibit the washing or dry-cleaning of the flag. The decision to wash or dry-clean would of course depend upon the type of material.

There has been a change to the Flag Code that no longer requires the flag to be properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.
There has been NO CHANGE to Flag Code section 6(a), which states: “It is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flag staffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed twenty-four hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.”

The mayor, a town official, or the Post Commander can order the flag to be displayed at half-staff.
The gesture of placing the flag at half-staff means that the Nation or the state mourns the death of a highly regarded National or state figure, hence only the President of the United States or the Governor of the state may order the Flag to be half-staffed in accordance with Flag Code section 7(m). Those individuals and agencies that usurp authority and display the flag at half-staff on inappropriate occasions are quickly eroding the honor and reverence accorded this solemn act.
The Flag Code states that when the flag is no longer a fitting emblem for display it is to be disposed of by burning in private.

The Flag Code as revised and adopted by the Congress of the United States in 1942 has never included the word(s) "private" or "in privacy." Section 8(k) of the Flag Code states: "The flag, when it is in such a condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning." Since 1937, The American Legion has promoted the use of a public flag disposal ceremony. This ceremony is a fitting tribute and an overt expression of patriotism, which enhances the public's understanding of honor and respect due the American flag.

The Flag Code prohibits the “fringing” of the flag.

Fringing of the flag is neither approved of nor prohibited by the Flag Code. The American Legion considers that fringe is used as an honorable enrichment to the Flag. Additionally the courts have deemed without merit and frivolous, lawsuits that contend that the gold fringe adorning the flag conferred Admiralty/Maritime jurisdiction.