

The AMERICAN LEGION

Department of France



Volume 13 / Issue 4

April 2015

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER James Settle



My Fellow Legionaries

First let me wish all of you a happy and safe Easter.

On the 21st of March 2015, the department conducted the 3rd DEC in Kitzingen, thanks to post's GR30 and GR42 for their combined effort to make the 3rd DEC a success, GREAT JOB, and the food was even better.

We were able to conduct a lot of department business during this last DEC, to include the ordering of the new Department Polo Shirts, Pershing Hall situation, approving the startup of a new post in Ireland, and many, many other issues confronting the Department. For the 3rd DEC we had eleven (11) posts present and voting, hopefully this trend will continue well into the future.

Our next big event is Memorial Day Ceremony at Lorrain Memorial Cemetery in saint Avold France on Sunday the 24th of May 2015. The department has requested twenty (20) reservations(seating arrangements) for this event hopefully you will be able to attend this solemn event. If you have not already ordered your wreaths through the Department Finance Officer it is to late the order had to be in on the 27th of March 2015. The Department will no longer be able to order wreaths, this will no longer be an available option since ABMC will no longer order wreaths for Saint Avold.

National Commander Michael Helm and party will be arriving here in Germany on the 30th of May 2015 at Frankfurt Airport. As it looks now we will have a busy schedule for the Commander. The Commander departs on or about 3 June 2015. His plans also include visiting Normandy, Flanders Field, and Paris. If you wish to help support this effort, or would like to have the National Commander visit your area, please contact me ASAP.

Now is the time to start working on your Post Awards Packets. I am sure VCAL Brown is already working on the Awards Committee meeting which will be held on the 25th of April in Heilbronn. Award packets are due in VCAL Brown's mail box NLT 19 April 2015.

The Department Convention will be conducted 18-21 June 2015 and is being hosted by GR01. For more information see information in this Newsletter.

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.

James M. Settle
Department Commander

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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

Pictures from the Department 3rd DEC / 21 March 2015





Dear Legion Family Members and Friends,

The American Legion is the nation's largest and most influential veterans service organization. An interesting fact about our longevity is that among the more than 13,500 American Legion posts operating today, some 5,400 were chartered in the first year of our existence. It's hard to think of a more successful franchise.

The key to such longevity is that our values – support for veterans, young people, the military and patriotism – are so timeless they have resonated with former military men and women from World War I to the Global War on Terrorism.

That is why it is so important to engage and recruit today's generation of veterans to join us as members of The American Legion. Tens of thousands have already done so, and they are making differences in their communities. Among the examples:

Younger veterans are seeing the value of Legion membership and are not only joining, but becoming leaders at their posts. Take, for example, Krista Mette, a 28-year-old post commander whose infant son is a member of the Sons of The American Legion. The Army veteran understands and promotes the Legion's values of giving back, helping others and continuing to serve.

In states such as Ohio, North Dakota, Florida and Indiana, Legion posts are working extremely effectively with college students to form campus posts. Other departments should look toward these shining examples of how to not only recruit eligible members but to help form the next generation of American Legion leaders.

Other Legionnaires are bonding through common interests such as music. Operation Encore is one music project that brings together singers and songwriters who share their military experience through music and lyrics. Erik Brine, Operation Encore's co-founder and a member of American Legion Post 272 in Norwood, N.J., says the project represents a way to showcase the talent of today's veterans. "We want to give people who have this kind of talent a chance to use it. And we want to show other people that these aren't just soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines; they are sisters, brothers, fathers and mothers."

These examples and many more illustrate how our organization exemplifies "veterans serving veterans." The common bond of military service knows no age limit. It will continue to matter for generations of Legionnaires not yet born.

Many posts throughout the country are having major success and growth by offering post-9/11 generation veterans the opportunity to lead and succeed, so they fully understand the value of their organization.

As I have mentioned in my 4x4 program, my goal for membership is to reach 4 million members combined in the Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion.

It's reachable. But it won't be achieved without active outreach, engagement and welcome to today's young veterans, who are the future of The American Legion.

I encourage you to share your post's story of American Legion connection with the post-9/11 generation and their families at www.legion.org/legiontown and, moreover, ask them to join us, offer their ideas and help lead us into our second century

For God and Country,

Mike Helm

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS - 2015 MEMBERSHIP YEAR

COMMANDER James M. Settle GR42 <i>james.settle@kabelbw.de</i>	ADJUTANT Maxwell Rice GR79 <i>colwichboy@yahoo.com</i>	NECMAN John Miller GR1982 <i>miller-roth@t-online.de</i>	ALT. NECMAN Liam Kane IR63 <i>commliam@gmail.com</i>
VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE Joe D. Brown GR79 GR03 GR07 GR13 GR30 GR42 & New Post Development <i>Joedan.pascal1@googlemail.com</i>	VICE COMMANDER Stephen Ward GR01 GR20 PO01 FR05 SP292 IR63 <i>wardtrans@yahoo.com</i>	VICE COMMANDER Quincy Foster GR05 GR01 GR02 GR14 FR01 IT01 <i>achange@qc foster.com</i>	VICE COMMANDER Jerry Aman GR09 GR06 GR1982 CH01 GC01 IR02 BE02 IR03 <i>Jerrya503@aol.com</i>
VICE COMMANDER Casby Logan GR07 GR05 GR09 GR45 GR79 DK01 NL01 <i>casby@hotmail.com</i>	CHAPLAIN Ronald Moore GR05 <i>gypsy_moore@yahoo.de</i>	HISTORIAN Michael Keating IR02 <i>michaelkeating@t-online.de</i>	FINANCE OFFICER Gary Miller GR06 <i>billsfan_gary@hotmail.com</i>
SERVICE OFFICER George Hall GR03 <i>hallgt@hotmail.com</i>	JUDGE ADVOCATE Keith Abernathy GR79 <i>keithabernathy1942@yahoo.com</i>		SERGEANT-AT-ARMS Christopher Buchanan GR1982 <i>christoperbuch@hotmail.com</i>



Doug Haggan...

National Vice Commander/ FODPAL Secretary/ Past Department of France Commander

Mylegion.org

We still have a large number of Posts in the Northeast Region that have not registered with mylegion.org. This program is a tremendous time saver for the Posts, the Departments, and for National Headquarters. National Headquarters is making improvements to it almost daily. Please check it out, it's a program that isn't hard to use, and this leads me to my next subject.

Consolidated Post Report

If you use mylegion.org, it is so easy to enter and track everything you have done as the year goes along, and at the end of June when the Consolidated Post Report is due, you have it completed and ready to send. If you fill this report out manually, you need to get a committee together and start to help your Post Adjutant fill out the Consolidated Post Report. One person can't remember everything that a Post has accomplished throughout the year. You are going to need a lot of time to fill it out manually.

Department Commanders and District/Vice Commanders , it is vitally important that you start pushing your Posts to start preparing the Consolidated Post Report, and please look carefully at the Posts that you know of that don't have COMPUTER CAPABLITIES and must do their report manually. I made a request to all Posts in the Northeast Region at the beginning of the Legion year that we have 90% of our Posts complete the Consolidated Post Report.

Membership

As of today, 27 Mar 15, we are maintaining our # 4 spot locations nationally in membership, I know we can do better. On the bright side, we are closing the gap to first place since we are just 2 percentage points behind. We can't get the end of year blues; we must keep pushing to the very end of the 2015 membership year. Our Posts need to get every possible member transmitted, please don't sandbag, and please don't hold them for the 2016 membership year.

So Department Commanders and District/Vice Commanders, we still have a lot of work to do in 2015, we need to close the year out high note and be at the top, I know we can do it.



It is that time in the membership year! We're coming to the end of the 2015 membership year and everybody wants to shift into coast mode.

"Let's just stop working on the 2015 membership year and we'll take a couple of months off than we'll start working on 2016"

Well, that would be a nice idea if we could afford to do that, but we can't. We need to come back to reality, put our RALLY CAPS on and push hard to the end of the 2015 Membership year.

We do have a lot of good news it's not all bad news. For the second week in a row the Department of France was in the Green as far as Traditional Renewals. Not bad France, let's keep it going!

It has been the trend for the last couple of weeks that the Departments of Delaware and Vermont have been fighting for top spot in the Region. However, all is not lost, we do have a handful of Departments that could challenge them, and Maryland, Maine, and Connecticut are coming on strong.

The most important thing we must remember and cannot lose sight of is, TRADITION RENEWALS. District/Vice Commanders and Membership Chairmen must really need to put in some extra time to educate our Posts that Tradition Members are the easiest and the most important to keep. Tradition Renewals will bring in new members which will be a WIN WIN for everyone.

We are just going into the 7th inning, in the 2015 Membership year, by no means is it OVER YET!

"We must put on our



and keep this game going to the very end of the 2015 MEMBERSHIP year"

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



2015 MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS OF DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE March 2015 MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN										
#	POST	PUFL	REGULAR	NEW PUFL	TOTAL MEMBERS	ON LINE	NEED	2015 DEPT. GOAL	PERCENT OF 2015GOAL	NUMBER TRANSMITTED
1	DK 01 Copenhagen	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	100.00%	1
2	FR 01 France	96	185	0	281	72	0	281	103.00%	282
3	GC 01 Athens	4	22	0	26	3	12	26	19.00%	14
4	IT 01 Rome	2	10	0	12	3	1	12	91.66%	11
5	NL 01 Rotterdam	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	100.00%	3
6	PO 01 Portugal	4	16	0	20	8	8	20	60.00%	12
7	BE 02 Flanders Field	8	48	0	55	16	0	55	109.00%	60
8	IR 02 Father Francis Duffy	1	54	0	55	2	17	55	69.09%	38
9	IR 03 Comm. John Barry	2	20	0	22	0	3	22	86.36%	19
10	FR 05 Rivera	13	18	0	31	0	8	31	74.19%	23
11	IR 63 John F. Kennedy	3	34	0	37	0	3	37	91.89%	34
12	SP 292 Madrid	8	23	0	31	5	4	31	87.09%	27
13	GR 01 Kaiserslautern	37	139	0	176	39	0	176	136.00%	240
14	GR 03 Rhein Neckar	24	61	0	85	19	19	85	77.64%	66
15	GR 05 Rhein Main	26	38	0	64	10	0	64	110.00%	71
16	GR 06 Stuttgart	134	149	0	283	42	67	283	95.75%	271
17	GR 07 Riley Leroy Pitts	12	41	0	53	10	21	53	60.37%	32
18	GR 09 William D. Nelson	26	20	0	46	3	4	46	91.30%	47
20	GR 13 Dwight D. Eisenhower	27	51	0	78	14	0	78	102.00%	79
21	GR 14 Thomas W. Barnett	30	30	0	60	10	18	60	98.33%	59
22	GR 20 Eifel	17	1	0	18	0	1	18	94.44%	17
23	GR 30 Audio Murphy	14	17	0	31	15	15	31	106.00%	33
24	GR 42 Omar Bradley	19	27	0	46	6	10	46	104.00%	48
25	GR 45 Vilseck	3	57	0	60	1	57	60	5.00%	3
26	GR 79 John Wayne	12	35	0	47	0	0	47	104.00%	49
27	GR02	0	18	0	18	0	0	18	100.00%	18
28	GR 1982 Ansbach	19	125	0	144	12	81	144	70.83%	102
29	HQ9999	16	94	0	110	41	54	110	50.90%	65
30	CH 01 China	198	1050	0	1143	247	0	0	0.00%	0
Department Totals for			723	REGULAR 2,577	0			2015 DEPT. GOAL3300	79.99	2694
										National Goal for Department is 3,300Members

From the Editor...

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

If you want to stay informed on what is happening with **YOUR** Department you can also visit the following sites,

www.AmerLegionDeptFrance.org / www.facebook.com/ALDeptFrance / www.legend.org/fodpal

DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE PAST COMMANDERS CLUB

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 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 during our Department Legion Convention 18-21 June 2015

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE... *David Greaux, PCC Secretary "2015"*

Post Everlasting



It is with deep remorse that I report the passing of Horst Schulte. Horst was the Commander for post GR13 from 2004 to 2009. Horst was a German who learned to be auto Mechanic. Went to USA, got drafted in US Army and served as mechanic both in USA & Germany. He lived in USA working for Volkswagen. He returned to Augsburg area (Schwabmuenchen) and worked for Mercedes Benz.

Member GR79 Orlando Dunn

It is my sad duty to report to you that Comrade Orlando Dunn member of John Wayne Post GR79 reported to Post Everlasting on March 5 2015.

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER *Quincy Foster*



On the 11th of February myself and Department Chaplain Ron Moore attended the annual Elections for T-W-B Post GR14 at the Orlethauser Haupt in Buedingen Orlethauser, Germany. Anthony Giordano was elected Commander, Joe James 1st Vice Commander who has been doing a great job as the post commander. Carl Hackworth was re-elected the Adjutant and Ricky Wood was elected the Judge Advocate. Jeffrey Lamar, Finance Officer. Donald Ellis, Chaplain. Joe Priester, Service Officer. Claudious Jackson, Historian and Maurice Roberts, Sergeant-at-arms.

March the 3rd I attended the regular monthly Executive Committee Meeting. They are planning on having their Annual Election in May. I discuss the fact that Wiesbaden USO are looking for some volunteer help during the summer and it would be a great opportunity for the posts in the Wiesbaden area. So if you live in around that area come out and help the USO June the 11th. They are the Scream for Ice Cream celebration for the end of the school year with a cook out, starting at 11am until 2pm. For more information please contact me.

Post GR01 will be having their Annual Meeting 11 April, 1300hrs at their post home in Kaiserslautern. There will be refreshments also. On 18 April they will be at the USO Warrior Center BBQ, 22 April will hole their Executive Committee Meeting. 13 May Baumholder High School JROTC Awards will be given out. They will be a Kinder Graves Ceremony held on the 16th of May and 25 May they will be attending the Memorial Day Ceremony at St. Avold. for more information please contact Adjutant Janice Lukacska and visit their website at www.kaiserslauternamericanlegion.org.

I was able to attend the 3rd DEC at GR30 post home in Kitzingen and we had a good turnout. The meeting went well and it was really nice to see old and new faces. We had a great time and thank you Gr42 and GR30 for hosting the convention and you did a great job.

In closing I would like to say may all our comrades that have gone to the PEL may they rest in peace!

God Bless You!!

Quincy Foster, Vice Commander
Department of France
The American Legion
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The American Legion Riders

The National American Legion Riders Advisory Committee convened March 5-6, 2015. Committee approved a draft document providing department leadership with guidance about post/department authority over the ALR programs, trademark issues, and eligibility. This guidance will be reviewed by the National Judge Advocate and released to the departments in late March as a resource for the department commanders, adjutants, judge advocates and department/post ALR chairmen.



DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN *Ronald Moore*

Greetings Comrades,
Greetings Sisters and Brothers
of the American Legion
Family,

April is a busy month, for religion as well as for The American Legion. Easter is one of the most important Christian holy days, celebrating the ascension of Jesus Christ. The Jewish holiday Pesach (Passover) celebrates the Israelites freedom from Egyptian slavery. It is a month where two of the three religions based on the Torah/Old Testament have religious festivities and all of us should ensure that we attend religious services of our choice.

We have troops serving in many countries and parts of the world. I heard over 130 countries recently, but we sometimes forget to consider these heroes who are also serving. I met L. Schott at the Mainz-Kastell Power Zone, a Navy Seabee serving in Africa and in Germany for a week of training before returning back to Africa. So whether our comrades are on ships, under the oceans, in the air or serving on land, we thank our military comrades and those government workers and contractors who support them. Who hasn't heard of the USO? Their support has always been a highly appreciated service over the many years of their existence.

Maybe it is a common problem that veterans sometime take their own lives after returning home from war, but

it is not something that we as veterans can, or should, consider to be normal or acceptable. Every person who has served our country is our comrade and we have a special responsibility to help them and their families in whatever way we are able.

I guess we can do that best by bringing them into our Posts and making them feel at home and ensuring that they know we respect and are proud of their service. We have Hometown to Heroes for our wounded troops returning to the U.S., so I guess we need the same principle in our Posts for all active duty personnel on the way to or coming back from "Harms Way".

So you might say, your chaplain is trying to make you go out and bring in new members. Well, you are certainly right. How else will they know how much I care for them and how they can do God's work in helping other veterans while helping themselves? Bring them into the fold, oops, I mean your Post.

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

Service to God and Country!

**Rev Ronald Moore, Chaplain
Department of France
S.A.L. Detachment of France
Mobile: 0049-(0)172-7417812
Email: gypsy_moore@yahoo.de**

Special Days/Legion Events: .Children & Youth Month; 5-11th- A.L. Child Welfare Foundation Week; 6th- U.S. entry WWI (1917); 10-12th- National Oratorical Finals; 15th Legacy Scholarship Applications due, Tax Day.

Christian Religious Days: 3rd- Good Friday; 5th – Easter & Orthodox Palm Sunday; 12th- Pascha (Orth); 23rd- St. George Day.

Jewish Holidays (Year 5775): 3-11th- Pesach; 15th Yom HaShoah; 23rd- Yom Ha'Atzmaut

Islamic Holidays: None that I know of.

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

Post Everlasting reported to March 27th:

Horst Schulte, GR13
Orlando Dunn, GR79

Prayers have been offered for her family and friends. Please remember her and those who have passed away in your prayers also.

Prayers for the Sick & Ill:

George Hall, GR03 Dept. Service Officer
James Settle, GR42, Dept. (FR) Commander
Joe D. Brown, GR79, PDC and VCAL
Chuck Wilson, BE02

are undergoing, were undergoing or were 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.

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

The riding season has basically opened up for those of us who "hibernate" for the winter. Please remember that the drivers of cars (or cages as we bikers call them) haven't seen us during the winter and can no longer judge our faster speed or shorter stopping distance. I personally wear a reflective warning vest so that drivers can see me better. It doesn't seem to impress the tailgaters, who don't seem to realize that they are technically trying to murder us in case of a fall or emergency stop situation. Keep your eye on your mirrors, keep your distance from the car in front of you and always ensure that you have enough room for an escape route if necessary.

Your trusty steed may have been resting for the winter, so be sure to check that all lights function, tire wear/tire pressure is in order, and that all of the fluids are properly topped off. With the new season starting, an oil change (with filter) and tune up with change of spark plugs can help make the riding season a long one this year.

OK, all of that is taken care of and you just want to get out and ride. If your bike is in order, you also need to ensure that you are too. The sun may be shining, but the temperatures are still very low. Dress in layers and ensure that you wear the recommended safety gear, to include helmet, gloves, boots (no, cowboy boots are not motorcycle boots), jacket and pants with protectors in the proper places. Some bases now require all riders to wear a safety vest and Clay Konzern is one of them.

Got all of that done, so now it's time to fine tune your rusty riding skills. Find a quiet parking lot and practice

turns to both sides, U-turns to both sides, pylon riding at slow speeds, avoidance of obstacles on the ground and emergency stops. Always remember the principles of riding: 1) You hit what you stare at, and 2) Look through the turn.

The Department of France now has ALR Chapters attached to BE02, GR01, GR05, GR07 (the oldest foreign ALR Chapter outside of the U.S.) and GR1982, with possible Chapters being considered in GR79 and GR14. I ask all Chapter directors to drop me a line so that we can communicate and coordinate various events within the Department of France.

Let's look at Poker and Legacy Runs, as well as membership drives, as ways of acquiring new members for Legion, Auxiliary and S.A.L. Raffles should also work at membership meetings and that Legacy Scholarship can or jar should be highly visible at every Post or Community function.

Thank you Department Commander James Settle for allowing me to present the Legacy Scholarship Plaque to Post GR1982, as the Post that made the largest donation to the 2015 Legacy Scholarship Fund. Congratulations Post and Chapter GR1982

Do you have any questions or suggestions? Just drop me a line.

I wish all a Blessed Easter or Passover and be sure to ride with God as your co-pilot

**Ron "Gypsy" Moore, AL Rider Director and Chief Messenger
Department of France
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Email: gypsy_moore@yahoo.de**

PARIS POST FR01

The Paris Post #1 commemorated The American Legion Founders Day at 10 AM on Saturday, 14 March 2015, together with members of the Post Auxiliary, French municipal representatives of the 7th and 16th Arrondissement, French Veterans and official flag bearers.

Post Post #1 Commander Carl W. Hale led the wreath laying ceremony at the site of the Paris Caucus meetings held in March 15 to 17, 1919. The plaque honoring the original site is located at Rue Ernest Psichari #14 which is only a short walk from the "Ecole Militaire" metro stop off of the Avenue de la Motte-Picquet.

Commander Hale delivered a short address to the participants and to the neighborhood families watching the ceremony from their apartment windows. Commander Hale said, in French, "This weekend around the United States and in Foreign and Outlying Departments and Posts of The American Legion there will be hundreds of ceremonies in honor of the "birthday" of the

American Legion. We are lucky enough to continue the tradition directly here in Paris, France. The Paris Post #1 is also celebrating the 96th anniversary of the French and American community commitment to keep alive the memory of those men and women who served in both World Wars. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the French veterans and flag bearers who faithfully are serving with us at the Patriotic ceremonies held in France throughout the year. I would like to thank the mayor's offices of the 7th and 16th arrondissement which support our ceremony coordination with representatives. Finally, I would like to thank the Prefecture du Police for their surveillance and protection during our ceremonies. Together we will continue to honor those who have served and sacrificed for our freedoms and liberties."

After the ceremony Commander Hale invited all present to participate in the 2015 Memorial Day and Independence Day ceremonies organized by the Paris Post #1.





American Legion

- 1) The American Legion Post BE02 held a general meeting at the SHAPE Bowling Center on Saturday, 28 March. The meeting will be followed by some friendly games of bowling. Friends, family and members of Venture Crew 511 participated in the event.
- 2) Superintendent of Flanders Field American Cemetery and member of American Legion Post BE02, Chris Arseneault was interviewed by a Waregem, Belgium Newspaper. The article can be found at: <http://www.hln.be/.../aantal-bezoekers-verdriedubbeld-a22653.../>

It has been a year since President Barack Obama visited Flanders Field in Waregem. The number of visitors since the arrival of the president about tripled said Chris Arseneault, superintendent of the only American WWI cemetery in Flanders. The visit by President Obama helped evoke a large response to the "adopt-a-grave program." The program was launched by the American Legion, a veteran's organization of soldiers and veterans of US forces, in early April 2014. The programs goal was to keep the memory of the 368 fallen American soldiers alive in Flanders Field, by allowing the citizens of Waregem to adopt a grave of an American Soldier.

- 3) On Saturday, 28 March Comrade Ray Shuttuck assisted the Chiévres Airbase MWF personnel during their annual Extravagance. During the event, Ray dressed as the Easter Bunny provided candy to many of the young children in the local military community
- 4) The Adopter Appreciation Day planning committee in cooperation with members of the Flanders Field Post BE02 meet on 07 March to plan the adoption ceremony scheduled for 22 August. In 2014, the American implemented their Adopt-a-Grave program at the Flanders Field American Cemetery.
- 5) The American Legion BE02 provided the opportunity to local Eagle scouts to participate in the Eagle Scout of the Year National. The Post received 1 application (Austin Muraille, International School of Brussels) which was forwarded to the Department of France for their review. The deadline for the application to Post BE02 was 01 March, 2015
- 6) Venture Crew 511 participated in the Dead Man's Ridge Walk – 17th Airborne Division on the Sunday 22 March 2015. The event was the 7th walk to honor the men of the 17th Airborne Division. This year, we will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the participation of the 17th Airborne Division in the Battle of the Bulge. Venture Crew was chartered by the Flanders Field Post BE02 in October 2014

American Legion Riders

- 1) The Seattle Seahawks Seagulls and Legion Riders Paul Dunn & John Jackson took time out to pose for a picture during their visit of USAG Brussels.
- 2) American Legion Riders Paul Dunn, Shawn Taylor, Joe Gross, Jeff Andrews, Chris Villi, John Jackson and Mike Metelko attended the Boys Scout's Merit Badge University on SHAPE on Saturday, 21 March 2015. The Merit Badge University event, hosted by the Boy Scouts of America, Charlemagne District, Transatlantic Council, gives Boy Scouts, ages 11-18, the opportunity to earn merit badges ranging from recreational activities like photography and horsemanship to Eagle Scout required merit badges like communications and sustainability. The American Legion Riders received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Boys Scouts for assisting in the Merit Badge University.

American Legion Auxiliary & American Legion Riders

The American Legion Riders along with the American Legion Auxiliary will be participating in the Relay for Life this May. Our team is the "Friends of Flanders Fields". If you would like donate in support of our team please use the link below! If you would like more information please contact me via private message. Thanks in advanced for any and all help you can provide! <http://www.relayforlife.be/teams/friends-flanders-fields>.

Links

American Legion Post BE02 Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/americanlegionpostbe02/home>

Flanders Field Post BE02 Facebook page: www.facebook.com/pages/American-Legion-Flanders-Fields-Post-BE02/152286224925159

Flickr account: (Pictures of Post BE02 event) <https://www.flickr.com/photos/130086797@N08/sets/>

Friends of Flanders Field Relay for Life donation page: <http://www.relayforlife.be/teams/friends-flanders-fields>

Adopt-a-Grave program's website: <http://www.sitemen.gr/adoptagrawflandersfield/HOMECONTACT.php>



THE AMERICAN LEGION

COMMODORE JOHN BARRY POST IR-03

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

1. Our Post has been invited to attend and participate in the Listowel Military Tattoo in Co. Kerry from 1 – 3 May. This is a three day event dedicated to objects and affairs of a military nature. A parade involving veterans from ONE, American Legion, United Nations Veterans, Permanent Defence Forces, Munster Fusiliers and others will take place on Sunday. A display of vintage military vehicles and about 400 reenactors in all types of uniforms will be of special interest. A Hangar Dance on Sunday evening featuring the Bombshell Belles rounds off Sunday night. We will discuss this matter at our next meeting.
2. On Tuesday, 2nd June, at approximately 3:00PM we are expecting a party of 54 Americans from the general Boston area to visit Lecarrow, Co. Roscommon (Beside Coffee's Pub on the N-61 about half way between Roscommon Town and Athlone). The purpose of the visit is to unveil a granite memorial bench in memory of the late **Brigadier General William J. Gormley III**, Commander, Massachusetts National Guard, (US Army) whose ancestors hailed from Lecarrow. Gen Gormley died suddenly in Hawaii on 15th February, 2013. The event is sponsored by Gen Gormley's brother, Richard, Mayor of West Roxbury, MA and, also Commander of the local VFW Branch. The American Legion is invited to participate in the ceremony. We will sound TAPS and present a folded flag to his widow.
3. Castlebar, Co. Mayo has declared Saturday, 4th July 2015 as America Day and invites the American Legion and families to a fun packed day. We have been asked to help with the dedication of a beautiful bench at 18:00 hours in the Garden of Remembrance, Mayo Peace Park in honour of **Cpl Joseph A. Clancy** a native of Westport, Co Mayo who was killed in an aircraft accident in Vietnam. We will play TAPS at the ceremony. A large turnout, involving family members and visitors from the U.S is expected.. After the dedication, we are invited to march through the town to Cox's Bar near the Linenhall for a Texas style BBQ, Blue Grass Music and I'm told that Elvis is expected to make an appearance. Y'all come now for a memorable evening.
4. Don't forget the National Day of Commemoration on Sunday, 12th July at Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, Dublin. Although the ceremony is scheduled to start at 11:00 AM, we advise those attending and hoping to secure a seat, to be in place by 9:30 AM. Bring an umbrella.



Baltimore, Maryland August 23-26, 2015 Registration opened February 3, 2015 at www.legion.org/riders/registration for the tenth anniversary of The American Legion Legacy Run. Over 220 riders, passengers, and supporters have already registered. Staff is preparing emergency medical data cards and other safety material to be distributed to the registrants. USAA is the primary sponsor of the Legacy Run. We continue to seek additional corporate sponsorship for support vehicles, trailers, and other logistical needs.

We urge all departments, posts and chapters to promote registration, even among non-riders and riders who cannot participate, to support The American Legion Legacy Run and The American Legion Legacy Scholarship. Each supporting registration of \$25 earns a patch set and souvenir Event Guide commemorating the 2015 event.

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. All departments and posts with chapters and their riders are encouraged to sign up for the newsletter online at www.legion.org/newsletters.

2015 Rolling Thunder. Emblem Sales will provide merchandise and support staff to support the annual Ride to the Thunder (RTTT) rally hosted by the Department of Virginia over Memorial Day weekend, May 22-25, 2015. The ALR gathering at the Fairfax, VA American Legion Post 177 continues to grow in popularity. The Virginia ALR will conduct an escorted ride from Fairfax into the Pentagon North parking lot for the Rolling Thunder activities in Washington, D.C. on Memorial Day, Sunday, May 25, 2015.

Sons of The American Legion

The Sons of The American Legion membership for 2015 currently stands at 304,258 members or 84.9% on March 26, 2015. At present, the Sons are running 3,815 members ahead this same date last year. Ten detachments have already achieved 90%membership for this next target goal.

The SAL National Update Newsletter (spring edition) is presently being printed and scheduled to be processed and mailed in early April 2015.

The next membership target date is April 8, 2015 which will be their 90% membership target goal.

Pulled twice from exchanges, OxyElite Pro supplement now found to contain Prozac drug



WASHINGTON — A fitness supplement that was twice pulled from exchange store shelves, first following soldier deaths and then after an outbreak of liver disease, has now been found to contain the active ingredient in the prescription drug Prozac, the Food and Drug Administration [announced Saturday](#).

OxyElite Pro Super Thermogenic is sold as a weight-loss supplement, but the FDA said it has discovered the product contains fluoxetine, a drug used in treating mental disorders such as depression, bulimia and obsessive-compulsive disorder. Fluoxetine and other drugs in its class can have serious side effects such as suicidal thinking, seizures and abnormal bleeding, the FDA said in its warning. The agency said consumers should not buy or use OxyElite Pro. The Marine Corps Exchange, the Navy Exchange and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service said Monday that they do not stock it.

The supplement was [first pulled from military bases in 2011](#) after it and other supplements were found to contain the unregulated synthetic stimulant methylhexanamine, known as DMAA, which was [suspected in the deaths of two soldiers at Fort Bliss, Texas](#).

The manufacturer, USPLabs, removed DMAA and tweaked the ingredients in 2013. But soon after the FDA said the supplement was suspected in 24 cases of nonviral hepatitis in Hawaii and appeared to contain an ingredient called aegeline, which had no history in the food supply and had not been safety tested.

Lawyers representing USPLabs wrote a letter to the FDA about its warning Saturday saying the company did not produce the OxyElite Pro found to contain fluoxetine. It said production of the supplement stopped in May 2013.

"USPLabs immediately conducted an investigation and determined that the product shown in the [FDA] public notification and tested by FDA was not manufactured or distributed by or for the company. It is a counterfeit," Covington and Burling, a business and corporate law firm, wrote in the letter posted on USPLabs' website.

The supplement was not listed Monday among the company's products on its website. A separate website dedicated to OxyElite Pro contained a legal disclaimer in small print at the top and bottom of the page: "This site is not run by or affiliated with USPLabs in any way."

The unaffiliated website also included advertisements and links to Amazon sales of EpiBurn Pro, a product labeled with the company's logo and listed on its official website.

The USPLabs letter to the FDA said a "brief Internet search" found a Brazilian website selling OxyElite Pro and that might have been the source of the samples that the FDA found contained fluoxetine.

"Neither USPLabs nor its contract manufacturers has ever ordered or in any way handled fluoxetine for any purpose of any kind," according to the letter.

The American Legion College Course

The American Legion's official training program for officers, members, Legion College applicants and those who simply want to expand their knowledge of the nation's largest veterans service organization is now available online.

The American Legion Extension Institute has been rewritten, updated, streamlined and enhanced with videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline and additional features. To register and take the course, visit www.legion.org/alei. (*Due to high traffic volume, you may experience some delays. If you experience delays, please try again later.*) The program should take less than two hours to complete. It is divided into six sections, with a quiz at the end of each one, followed by a final exam.

The sections closely follow the Legion's Four Pillars of service. They include:

- History & Organization
- Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
- National Security

- Americanism
- Children & Youth

Upon completion, a participant must pass a final online exam to receive a digital certificate of recognition; a lapel/cap pin will also be delivered to those who successfully complete the course. The names of those who have passed will be recorded and indexed at The American Legion National Headquarters. Graduates will have the option to click a box upon completion to recognize their accomplishment on The American Legion national website: www.legion.org.

The online course is \$4.95 for members of The American Legion and Sons of The American Legion. The registration fee is \$9.95 for non-members. Payment can be accepted securely and conveniently on the course registration page.

The American Legion Extension Institute online training program replaces the series of printed booklets that had been printed and sold through National Headquarters.

'Teach our kids about freedom and reverence,' American Legion National Commander says

INDIANAPOLIS (March 26, 2015) – "A teachable moment," is how American Legion National Commander Michael D. Helm characterized a photograph of children climbing on the Vietnam Women's Memorial, which has gone viral in social media. "I am not angry with the children in the photograph who probably did not understand the significance of their actions and weren't intending to be disrespectful. I do not know enough about the circumstances to know if their parents or caretakers were aware of it. But when I hear stories of joggers running through the grounds of the Vietnam Memorial or of people speaking loudly near the Tomb of the Unknowns, I can't help but think that America needs a refresher course on dignity, reverence and respect. Baseball caps should come off when the Star-Spangled Banner is played and everybody should stand. The Internet is showing us that these type of incidents are no longer isolated but are sadly becoming too common."

Vietnam War veterans eligible for Patriot Flights

They can take a free one-day excursion to D.C. memorials

Vietnam War veterans are now eligible for a free one-day excursion to visit the Vietnam War Memorial and other monuments in Washington, D.C.

Capital District Patriot Flight has been flying World War II veterans and Korean War veterans from the [Albany International Airport](#) in Colonie to the memorials in the national's capital.

Patriot Flight is a hub of the National Honor Flight Network.

Last year, the nonprofit group added 16 Korean War veterans.

"The board of directors has decided to open flights to Vietnam War veterans," said [Frank DeSorbo](#), Patriot Flight president. "Patriot Flight wants to recognize some special dates in 2015," said DeSorbo of Glenmont, who is also [D-Day Revisted Association](#) president. "Naturally, World War II would be our priority with Korean and then Vietnam. We would love to take flights to honor the ending of all three wars. This year's flight will mark the 70th anniversary of the ending of World War II, the 60th anniversary of the ending of the Korean War and the 40th anniversary of the ending of the Vietnam War."

Priority of Vietnam War veterans is based on age and if they have never been to the Vietnam War Memorial, DeSorbo said.

A number of seats are available for the next Honor Flight on May. 16.

The veterans' trips are free. Guardians pay \$350.

"Patriot Flight's primary mission is to honor our World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War veterans," said DeSorbo, who noted the nonprofit originally honored only aging World War II veterans when it was founded in 2008 by [Bill Peat](#) of Brunswick.

Veterans and guardians receive a Patriot Flight shirt, flight, bus ride, name tag, lunch, dinner, and snacks. They also receive a gift at the end of the flight. The day's itinerary includes visits to the war memorials and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. More than 600 veterans have benefited from the free flights since 2008.

The "Come Meet Patriot Flight" video will be part of a presentation at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the [Holiday](#) at the Atrium, across from Water's Edge Lighthouse on Freemans Bridge Road in Schenectady.

Applications for veterans and guardians, and personnel who assist disabled veterans, can be downloaded from [PatriotFlight.com](#).

Donations are needed to help finance the excursions.

Mail applications or donations to Patriot Flight, Box 190, Delmar, NY 12054.

For information, call DeSorbo at 426-0461, 956-0587 or 459-2857, Ext. 331, or email him at fomservice@aol.com.

BALTIMORE MARYLAND

Site of the 97th American Legion National Convention

August 28th to September 3rd 2015



The Baltimore Hilton



The Inner Harbor

If you are planning on attending the National Convention in Baltimore (and I hope to see some new faces in Baltimore) please e-mail me at dhaggan@sbcglobal.net with the following information, **THE DATE YOU WILL ARRIVE AND DEPART, THE PERSON YOU ARE SHARING A ROOM WITH IF ANY, AND ANY SPECIAL ROOM REQUIREMENTS.**

The room cost per night is \$159.00 plus tax. Cutoff for the reservation is 12 July 2015.

Hope to see you in Baltimore, a good time will be had by all.



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Ansbach troops could see COLA fall to zero in coming days

KAIERSLAUTERN, Germany — Military personnel stationed in Ansbach could see their cost-of-living allowances reduced to zero over the coming weeks as adjustments to the pay supplement, which offsets the cost of living in high-priced overseas locales, take effect across Germany.

Personnel stationed in Wiesbaden and Garmisch will also see significant reductions in their cost-of-living allowances, known as COLA, while those in Grafenwöhr, Vilseck and the Kaiserslautern military community will experience modest cuts.

The adjustments are the result of an annual survey of overseas goods and services, which found prices in some German locales have fallen relative to prices stateside, according to U.S. Army Europe's human resources division, which coordinated the assessment.

Because the allowance is designed to keep overseas purchasing power on par with the U.S., a drop in prices overseas — or a rise in stateside prices without a corresponding uptick in the cost of overseas goods and services — can lead to a reduction of the pay supplement.

In Ansbach's case, both falling local prices and rising costs in the U.S. contributed to a 10-point reduction in COLA, which will be phased in over a month beginning March 16, said William A. Gordon, chief of military pay policy in USAREUR's human resources division.

"Europe as a whole is in a deflationary period," Gordon said. "The costs of goods and services in Europe are going down. And the costs of those same services in [the continental United States] are going up. So that's the problem that we're running into."

Prices on over half of the roughly 120 goods and services surveyed in the Ansbach area in November were found to have declined over the previous year, Gordon said. Hardest hit were prices for phone service, furniture, household goods and transportation.

Meanwhile, the U.S. consumer price index for urban consumers — a measure of the cost of goods and services across the country — recorded an overall 1.6 percent increase in the cost of goods and services in the States over a similar period, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"All of that combined together led to the 10-point decrease in the Ansbach area," Gordon said.

Personnel in Garmisch and Wiesbaden will see 6-point reductions, while Kaiserslautern, Vilseck and Grafenwöhr get 2-point cuts. COLA in Hohenfels, meanwhile, will jump 2 points based on new price data.

COLA payments supplement troops' spendable income, which is the portion of income left after paying for housing expenses, taxes, savings, life insurance, gifts and contributions. If the cost of a market basket of goods and services in an overseas location is 30 percent higher than the U.S. average, the COLA index for that location would be 30 points — enough to restore purchasing power to U.S. levels.

A 10-point reduction, as is coming to Ansbach, translates to a \$10 decrease in COLA for every \$100 of spendable income.

A single private living in the barracks in Ansbach can expect about \$165 a month less per month as a result of the adjustment. Personnel who earn more — and therefore receive higher COLA payments — will see their COLA fall by larger sums.

An Ansbach-based Army staff sergeant with six years of service, two dependents and living off base, for example, will see a drop of about \$282 per month.

COLA rates in Germany are already at or near their lowest levels in years as a result of the euro's recent nosedive against the dollar. The allowance is adjusted twice a month based on the exchange rate, and has fallen roughly 50 percent across Germany over the last year as the euro tanked.

Ansbach's rate is currently set at 14 and has been as low as 12 earlier this year — before the euro hit an 11-year low against the greenback. The 10-point reduction, were it to kick in today, would slash the rate to 4. If the euro remains weak, the rate could fall to zero.

In announcements to the force about the impending COLA cuts, Army officials have noted that the reductions aren't as much a pay cut as an adjustment that is necessary to bring purchasing power back in line with stateside locations.

"If individuals are using COLA for the right reasons, the dollar is stronger, so their buying power is greater when the dollar is stronger than the euro," Gordon said. "So the only people that really hurt are the people that are using COLA for something other than what it was set up to be."

American Legion says VA must ‘hold true to its mission’

WASHINGTON (March 30, 2015) – The American Legion’s national commander, Michael D. Helm, admonished the Department of Veterans Affairs for eliminating its informal claims process, which has been used in roughly half of all such claims filed by veterans.

“VA needs to hold true to its mission, which is to serve America’s veterans and not penalize them,” Helm said. “Why on earth would (VA) Secretary McDonald approve a regulation change that invalidates about half of all disability claims being filed?” The new rule went into effect March 25.

On March 20, The American Legion, joined by several other veterans service organizations, filed a lawsuit against VA to have a new rule eliminating the informal claims process to be declared unlawful. The case will be heard by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

According to the Federal Register, informal claims account for about half of all VA claims filed. The American Legion has repeatedly requested such data, but VA has yet to provide it.

Helm said that hundreds of thousands of veterans and family members will be harmed by VA’s new ruling. “It seems to me that VA is trying to reduce its claims backlog by denying veterans their right to file for benefits via any written

communication available to them. Forcing men and women – especially those with serious mental conditions -- to use a standardized form in order to get their benefits is a cold-hearted decision that betrays VA’s mission.”

In a March 25 Stars & Stripes article, VA spokesperson Walinda West justified the elimination of informal claims by arguing that disabled veterans should be able to fill out a 2-4 page form and to state otherwise “is an unfair characterization.”

Helm said West’s argument was a logical fallacy that trivialized VA’s mission. “She didn’t respond to criticism of VA’s action. Instead, Ms. West cast doubt upon anyone who may challenge that action. It is no stretch of reality to say a veteran suffering from severe PTSD might have trouble filling out a form put together by bureaucrats.”

The rule issued by VA also allows it to ignore the awarding of benefits for service-related conditions that are not specifically identified in a claim. For example, if a veteran’s medical record clearly indicates treatment for PTSD – yet that condition is not specified in the claim – VA is under no obligation to award benefits to the veteran.

“VA is trying to shirk its duty to veterans,” Helm said, “and we are going to court to stop them.”

Department Convention 2015

Here is a copy for the Hotel Booking Form. Please pass this on to all your Member that will be going to the Department Convention. POC for this is John T. Purdy from GR01. All questions should be directed to him and all mail in forms.

John T. Purdy / Tel 06371-62687 / jothspur@t-online.de



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Email: sales@leoso-hotel-ludwigshafen.de

BOOKING – American Legion Department of France – Convention 2015

Please reserve the following:

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Room reservation:

Arrival Date:

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2nd page of reservation form – American Legion Department of France – Convention 2015

Banquet - reservation:

- | | | |
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| 18. June 2015: | <input type="checkbox"/> x | EUR 16.00 per person for LUNCH-Buffet |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> x | EUR 21.00 per person for DINNER-Buffet |
| 19. June 2015: | <input type="checkbox"/> x | EUR 16.00 per person for LUNCH-Buffet |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> x | EUR 21.00 per person for DINNER-Buffet |
| 20. June 2015: | <input type="checkbox"/> x | EUR 16.00 per person for LUNCH-Buffet |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> x | EUR 32.00 per person for BANQUET Dinner-Buffet |
| 21. June 2016: | <input type="checkbox"/> x | EUR 16.00 per person for LUNCH-Buffet |

Conditions:

Cancellation deadline: A cancellation free of charge is till **01st May 2015** possible.

In case of cancellation after 01st May 2015 we reserve the right to charge 90% of the expected revenue.

Child Policy: Childs until 03 years are free of charge
Childs from 3-12 years will pay 50% of the price for the buffet Childs over 12 years should pay 100% of the price for the buffet

Booking guarantee:

Credit card Details: Credit Card: _____
Card Owner: _____
Card Number: _____
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Herewith we re-confirm the above mentioned booking:

Reservation Number:

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