DEPARTMENT COMMANDER  James Settle

My Fellow Legionaries
On the 24th of May I along with VCAL Brown, Vice Commander Foster, Chaplain Moore, Auxiliary President, and SAL Members attended the Memorial day Ceremony at Saint Avold France. In addition GR01 Commander, comrade Purdy along with other GR01 members were also present for this sacred ceremony. Once again this was a solemn event filled with respect, and honor for are fallen heroes, In addition three family members of those interned at Lorrain Memorial cemetery were also present. it was an honor for us all to participate in this ceremony, especially the wreath laying ceremony which included many civilian and military officials. In addition Kaiserslautern Post GR01 hosted its annual Grill for Memorial Day, as always the food and conversation were GREAT. Thank you Commander Purdy and members of GR01 for a great grill and time.

Commanders/Adjutants if you have not yet registered for MyLegion you are behind the power curve. We currently have sixteen (16) post registered (see attached listing of those post. I encourage you to get with the program, this is a vital tool to assist you and your post in its daily operation. In addition CPR deadline is approaching fast, we have seven (7) post (see attached listings) that have either submitted via MyLegion or via snail mail. The CPR is a very important document it helps National prepare its statistics to present to Congress what The American legion is doing for Veterans, and their families. Reminder to all the CPR can be filled out online at MyLegion this online form also gives you an opportunity to add additional information.

National Commander Michael Helm and party arrived here in Germany at Frankfurt Airport. As it looks now we will have a busy schedule for the Commander. John Wayne Post GR79 hosted a Dinner Ball for the Commander and his party on the 30th of May at their Post Home, in Frakenbach, Heilbronn. on the 31st of May we traveled to Ramstein Air Base where the commander received many briefings and visited LRMC, USO, and Fischer House, to mention a few. There was also a Dinner Ball hosted by Kaiserslautern Post GR01 on Sunday the 31st of May for National commander Helm and party. The Commander departs on 3 June 2015. His plans also include visiting Normandy, Flanders Field, and Paris. I thank all of you for your strong support during the National Commanders visit to The Department of France and Europe. On a sad note, Commander Helm and his wife Debbie had to depart Germany on May 31st due to the passing of Commander Helms mother, Helen Helm. Commander Helm and Debbie will return on 4 June at the Brussels’ airport to continue their tour of the Department of France. The Department of France sends its condolences and prayers to the Helm family during this sad time in their lives.

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

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
National commander's fundraising goal easily met

At the beginning of his year as national commander of The American Legion, Michael D. Helm issued a challenge to The American Legion Family: raise a combined $4 million this year for the Legion’s various charities. Legionnaires, American Legion Auxiliary members and Sons of The American Legion answered the challenge – in a resounding fashion.

Donations made during the annual Spring Meetings in Indianapolis pushed Helm’s fundraising campaign above the $4 million mark. The Sons helped the push with a donation of more than $128,000 to the Child Welfare Foundation. During the meetings, more than $34,000 was collected for Operation Comfort Warriors and more than $21,000 for the National Emergency Fund.

Donations this year will also go to fund the Legacy Scholarship Fund, Endowment Fund and Soldier’s Wish, as well as the Auxiliary’s Emergency Fund, Spirit of Youth Scholarship Fund, Children of Warriors National Presidents’ Scholarship and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.

“I think setting the goal and opening all the charities to the entire American Legion Family put everybody in that spirit-of-giving mode and maybe (created) a little bit of competition between each other,” Helm said. “Not only was it coming together as a family to raise money for American Legion charities, but also an individual, personal competition between departments or posts, Auxiliary units, (SAL) squadrons and (Legion Rider) chapters.”

Helm said he was proud not only of the Legion Family’s generosity, but also of its work ethic. “As I’ve traveled all across the United States, those posts, units, squadrons and chapters that are doing things for their communities and for the veterans in their communities – that’s what makes this organization great,” he said.

On Day 2 of the National Executive Committee meeting, National Legislative Commission Chairman Brett Reistad urged a focused effort on protecting the budgets of the departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs.

“We need to redouble our efforts during these tight economic times,” he said. “Our nation’s military budget and the budget for treating our wounded veterans must not be subject to … sequestration. We need to do what is right. We will need the help of every member of The American Legion to win this fight in the Senate.”

Reistad said the organization has been busy on Capitol Hill. “The American Legion continues to be an active and vocal participant in our nation’s legislature this year,” he said. “Already this year, The American Legion has provided testimony for almost 20 congressional hearings and will do so for nearly half a dozen more over the next two weeks.”

Helm praised the National Executive Committee for its leadership and urged its members to spread the word about what was discussed during the meetings.

“Make sure you take (information) from here home to your departments,” he said. “Don’t just go home and put your red hat away and wait to come back here again. It’s very important that you take this organization back to your department. And if you do, we’re going to continue to be a very successful organization.”
## DEPARTMENT OFFICERS - 2015 MEMBERSHIP YEAR

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**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.legion.org/fodpal

Thank You. David N. Greaux / davidgreaux@t-online.de
DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE / MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN  Joe D. Brown

Some photos of National Commander Helm and his party while visiting Germany...
On 12 May 2015 I had the privilege of installing the new officers of Post GR 1982. Before the oath was administrated to the new offices the outgoing commander, William E. Godard, was commended for his outstanding performance in steering GR 1982 along its well established course and his professional performance of duties after the sudden death last year of its Post Commander Richard Miller.

Ken Aungst, a motivator and “go-getter” for the Post stepped up to the plate and accepted the position of Post Commander when elected by the Post’s members. Ken has done a remarkable job in the past supporting GR 1982 Post Commanders and the US Military in Ansbach and it is hoped that he gets the same support for its members so that GR 1982 will continue to serve the Department of France and our men and women in uniform in the admirable manner they have in the past.
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”**
Greetings, Commander’s & 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 Haggan (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. It’s listed in the FODPAL site: www.legion.org Click Members Click FODPAL.

Commodore John Barry Post IR-03 plans to visit the unveil a granite memorial bench in memory of the late Brigadier General William J. Gormley III, Commander, Massachusetts National Guard, whose ancestors hailed from Lecarrow, Ireland. Will sound taps and present a folded flag to his widow. Castlebar, Co. Mayo has declared 4th of July 2015 as America Day and invites the American Legion and families to a fun packed day. A dedication of a bench at 6 P.M. in the Garden of Remembrance, May Peace Park in honor of CPL. Joseph A. Clancy a native of Westport, Co. Mayo who was killed in an aircraft accident in Vietnam. After the dedication March through the town to Cox’s Bar near the Linenhall for a Texas style BBQ, Blue Grass music and Elvis appearance. The National Day of Commemoration (12 July) at the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, Dublin 11 A.M. Contact: Michael P. Noone (Post Adjutant).

Commanders & Comrades, we need to think about membership. As of 26 May 2015, Portugal Post PO01 requires 8 members to be 100% membership, John F. Kennedy Post IR-63 requires 5 members to be 100% membership, Madrid Post SP262 requires 2 members to be 100% membership, Eifel Post GR-20 requires 1 member to be 100% membership, and Rivera Post FR-05 requires 3 members to be 100% membership. Membership is our Voice on Capitol Hill. I encourage the Posts to transmit each month to the Department Membership Chairman (Joe Dan Brown). Check out the Online Renewal at: www.legion.org

The Kaiserslautern Post GR01 has sent the registration/hotel form (Department of France Convention) to the Department Adjutant (Rice) and VCAL Brown. If you require the registration/hotel form, please contact the Kaiserslautern Post Commander (John Purdy). His email address: jothspur@t-online.de Commanders & Comrades, don’t wait till the last minute to register. Enjoy the Department of France Convention.

Commanders & Fellow Legionnaires, many thanks for what you do for your Posts and the communities you serve. This will be my last input as the Department of France Vice Commander. The Department of France Commander asks to continue membership and Post Renewals. Retention maintains strong membership within the Posts, Department, and the Organization. I have been re-assigned to William Beaumont Army Medical Center (El Paso, Texas). I will greatly miss the Commanders and Comrades (Department of France) and Posts. God Bless America.
American Legion Auxiliary National President Janet Jefford entered the chapel at the Luxembourg American Military Cemetery Wednesday, placed a wreath of red, white and blue flowers on an easel, and remembered those who fought in World War II.

"When I laid that wreath in there, I started crying," she said. "My dad, my uncles... I think of my mom and what she went through, what all the families at home went through."

Jefford and American Legion National Executive Committeeman John Miller from the Department of France spent the day honoring the memories of those who fought and fell, and the ordeals endured by thousands of families caught in the crossfire of World War II's last epic battle in the European Theater, fought in fog, snow, ice and subzero temperatures in the winter of 1944-45, by battle-weary combatants on both sides of the line, whose food, fuel, medicine and ammunition gradually dwindled. At the Luxembourg cemetery, the group learned from superintendent Scott Desjardins how the war in Europe came to a deadly crescendo in December 1944 when Hitler's Third Reich mounted its final major counterpunch to the Allied march toward Berlin. It became known as the Battle of the Bulge and produced more than 87,000 U.S. casualties and more than 120,000 on the German side.

The need to bury the dead – American and German alike – was urgent that winter, long before the Americans were able to finally break through the enemy line. By Dec. 29, 1944, the 52-acre parcel of land near the town of Hamm began filling with graves. The U.S. government began negotiating with the Hamm mayor and local landowners about the needed property. Newly liberated from Nazi occupation, three out of the four landowners who had title to what would become the Luxembourg American Military Cemetery donated their acres in perpetuity, at no charge. The town of Hamm purchased the acres of the other landowner and gave them to the United States, Dejardins explained, as an act of unmitigated gratitude.

At its peak, more than 22,000 were buried there. Following the war, families had the choice to repatriate their loved ones to the United States, and after the Germans were moved to a different cemetery, the site became the final resting place of 5,076, including 22 sets of brothers and of legendary U.S. Army Gen. George Patton, whose grave marker stands apart from the rest – not by his or his family's wishes, but because by the late 1940s visitors were already beating such a path to see his marker among the other soldiers that maintenance of the grass was nearly impossible.

The American Legion Family group moved from Luxembourg Wednesday afternoon to the heart of the Battle of the Bulge, the city of Bastogne, Belgium, where they were met by Mayor Lutgen Benoit, who is also a member of the nation's parliament and a devout supporter of American veterans and their sacrifices. At the Bastogne War Museum and monument, Jefford, Miller and Benoit placed two more wreaths and thanked the city for its efforts to keep the memory of the battle alive for future generations. That memory is expressed with reverence at the state-of-the-art museum, which tells the entire story of the war in a four-dimensional, multi-media facility newly refurbished in honor of the battle's 70th anniversary last winter.

"Bastogne is known to be the most American town in Belgium," said Marie-Lise Baneton, U.S. Army Public Affairs Officer-Europe, who has played an important role in the revitalization of Flanders Field American Legion Post BE02 from one member to more than 80 in the last three years. "You come in December, and you will see American flags everywhere. (The Battle of the Bulge history) is so important to the people of Belgium. They really try to educate the younger generation. They have special programs in the schools. They really feel it."

On Wednesday, The American Legion Family shared in that feeling, honoring the memories of all who put their lives on the line between Belgium and Luxembourg and Germany, to liberate Europe and bring an end to one of history's greatest nightmares. It is a feeling the people of Luxembourg and Bastogne want all future generations to understand and appreciate.
Greetings Comrades, Sisters and Brothers of the American Legion Family,

If you looked at the Legion.Org site, there was a video about Memorial Day and it mentioned that it is a day to remember. At the end of the video the words, “We must never forget”, are shown.

No, I don’t think we will forget our relatives, friends, neighbors or acquaintances that died in service to our great Nation and I don’t think we will forget our comrades who died in service to their country while we served with them. No, I’m sure we aren’t going to forget because we are/were personally involved and personally affected. When World War I was over, many of our comrades realized that someone had to help others remember the sacrifices that had been made.

The American Legion and other Veterans Service Organizations try to ensure that our comrades are not forgotten. Not to forget our comrades who fell in service to our country and their families, as well as our comrades who continue to serve or have served. As an integral part of Post meetings, we also recognize POW/MIAs in accordance with Resolution 288 adopted at the 67th National Convention. The words on the POW/MIA Flag say, “You are not forgotten.”

June 14th is Flag Day, so don’t forget to honor our flag. Maybe one day we will be able to protect our American Flag from desecration again. The Flag Bearer, or Color Sergeant was an important function during the Civil War and many lost their lives protecting our Flag. Many were awarded the Medal of Honor for their heroic deeds concerning our Flag. The raising of the Flag as depicted at the U.S. Marine Memorial in at the in Washington, DC (AKA Iwo Jima Memorial) incorporates the spirit of our devotion to the American Flag. On the battlefield, it means freedom will prevail and at home, it means pride in our service to our country.

No, we will not forget our fallen heroes or their families. No, we will not forget our POW/MIAs and their families. No, we will not forget our servicemen and women and their families. No, we will not forget our duties as members of The American Legion, to uphold the principles contained in our Preamble to The American Legion Constitution. No, we will not forget God as mentioned in our Preamble, Pledge of Allegiance and just about every State Constitution. No, we will not forget to keep God in first place in our lives and our deeds.

Yes, Remembrance is good, living and upholding the spirit of remembrance is better.

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.

SAL Detachment of France Chaplain / Mobile: 0049-(0)172-7417812 / gypsy_moore@yahoo.de

Special Days/Legion Events: 6th- D Day; 14th- Flag Day; 18th-21st - 4th DEC & Convention, Kaiserslautern, 21st - Father’s Day; 25th- Korean War started 1950.

Christian Religious Days: 4th - Corpus Christi (Cath); 7th - All Saints (Ortho); 19th Sacred Heart of Jesus (Cath); 29th Saints Peter and Paul.

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

Islamic Holidays: 1st Lailat al Bara’ah; 17th Ramadan.

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

Post Everlasting reported from April 25th to May 28th: None reported

Prayers for the Sick & Ill: George Hall, GR03, Thomas Callaghan, GR05 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 is in full swing and I hope we (Posts, Squadrons, Units, Chapters) are scurrying around collecting donations for the education of the children of our fallen heroes. The American Legion Riders Program was established to support the Legacy Scholarship Fund. That is our main purpose, but we can also support other Department and Post activities where possible.

I know it seemed like the Legacy Scholarship Fund received a lot of money last year, but we are far from the goal needed to ensure that we can support all of the children who lost a parent since 9/11/2001. Please keep up the good work we do to help these families.

The Department of France now has ALR Chapters attached to Post BE02, GR01, GR05, GR07 (the oldest foreign ALR Chapter outside of the U.S.), GR79 and GR1982, with a possible Chapter being considered in GR14. I still ask all Chapter directors to give me an update on number of Riders in your Chapter and number of events you held or supported. Riders from GR05 and GR79 have committed to support the National Commander’s visit in Germany. We still need Riders support outside of Germany if possible.

I have been contacted by a couple of Posts that they have donations for the Legacy Scholarship Fund. Please contact me if you need a pickup or an address where to send the donation.

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

Thank you for your service and support. Ride safe and ride with God as your copilot.

Ron “Gypsy” Moore, AL Rider Director and Chief Messenger
Department of France
Cell: +49 (0)172-741-7812
Email: gypsy_moore@yahoo.de

2016 Membership Cards Shipping Update

2016 American Legion Membership cards have been shipping and Alaska, Kansas District of Columbia and Florida have all been shipped.

This year’s card features a watermark of our organizations’ four operating principles; “Veterans, National Security, Americanism, and Youth.

Annual Bulk Shipments

The bulk shipments will be completed this Friday. Departments will have received their requested materials from the Membership and Internal Affairs Divisions. The bulk shipments are a major undertaking and takes about three weeks to complete with the shipping department working overtime to complete.
DETACHMENT OF FRANCE
Squadrons: GR01, BE02, GR06, GR07, GR14, GR42, GR79, CH01

18th ANNUAL DETACHMENT CONVENTION

Saturday, 06 June 2015

DJK Gaststätte
Josef – Reuss – Strasse 7
97424 Schweinfurt
Tel.: 09721-185057

Registration: 10:00 – 11:00
Forth DEC: 11:00
Convention: TBA
First DEC: TBA

POC: David Greaux / davidgreaux@t-online.de / 01715109356
Admiral Mark Ferguson, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe and Africa and Commander Joint Force Command, Naples is the newest member of The American Legion, Paris Post #1.

While in Paris on 31 May 2015 he met with the Paris Post Vice Commander Ed Canady (with his wife) and the Post Adjutant Michele Crosley, at the American Battle Monuments Commission Surenses American Cemetery to lay a wreath in honor of the WWI and WWII service members.

Post Vice Commander Canady presented Admiral Ferguson his new member card, the American Legion certificate of initiation, and his new American Legion cap. Admiral Ferguson was glad to be a member of Paris Post #1. He said that he had heard of Paris Post #1 many times over the years and had always wanted to become a member.
1. American Legion Auxiliary and Riders: Memorial Day Activities at the Flanders Field American Cemetery
On May 25th the Auxiliary had the pleasure of attending the memorial ceremony at Flanders Field with our brothers the American Legion Riders. Filled with memorable speeches and touching displays of remembrance and honor from those who laid their wreaths, the ceremony was one that should never be forgotten, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended either sitting in the grass or in the many rows of seating. During the ceremony the American Legion Auxiliary even had the pleasure of witnessing their own wreath placed among the many others who wished to honor those who had fallen. While admiring the many wreathes placed around the tomb of The Unknown Soldier, the Auxiliary even had the honor of meeting a sister member from Fluvanna County, VA, Mrs. Joanne Addotta. As the month continues the Auxiliary still has much to do. Next we tackle the Relay for Life where we and our brothers, the Legion Riders, will participate in raising money for cancer research and promoting awareness of this devastating disease. As the year progresses we continue to hope to maintain or productivity and to see our community being a part of such wonderful events.
Ruth Alvarez, President of the American Legion Auxiliary Post BE02, Flanders Field

2. Venture Crew 511: Memorial Day
Post BE02’s Venturing Crew 511 was ready at the Flanders Field American Cemetery in Waregem, Belgium to help for the Memorial Day ceremony. They assisted in guiding the VIP's and other visitors to their chairs was one of the tasks.

Philippe Colinet, Committe Chairperson, Venture Crew 511

3. SHAPE Air Force JROTC Award Ceremony
Recognition of hard work and excellence is at the heart of future and continued success. 28 May 2015 was an evening to do just this, recognize a couple of well deserving High School Jr. ROTC Cadets of the SHAPE American HS, Belgium. The American Legion, Flanders Field, Post BE02, represented by Chaplain Gavin E. Wainwright Sr. presented the certificates and medals for Military Excellence and Scholastic Excellence. While sitting in the audience and conversing with fellow Retirees and Legionnaires, there was a great sense of pride as we reflected on our past and looked at the future which is these young Cadets. Little do they know what’s ahead of them but their excitement elicited hope and huge expectations. Not only for the awards to come but a future where they will impact others, societies, and nations. I may be reaching a little but as a parent of a future Officer who once was a part if this great program, I know firsthand what is being instilled in these students, pride and a “can do” and “will do” attitude. It is my prayer that all that has children would look to such programs as opportunities to future success and not just another extra-curriculum activity. Our children need our support and this ceremony had a lot of it.

The deserving Cadets were Brett Cain, Military Excellence and Erin Reich, Scholastic Excellence.
4. Auxiliary & Legion Riders: Relay for Life charity event in Brussels
The American Legion Riders and the American Legion Auxiliary participated in the Relay for Life over the weekend of 30/31 May. The team was called the "Friends of Flanders Fields" and raised over $1,500 for the Relay for Life Charity.

Relay for Life is a festive event for all ages that focuses on solidarity and fund-raising for the fight against cancer. During 24 hours, the community players mobilize themselves in order to:

- Celebrate and pay tribute to the people who have conquered cancer, and support those who are still fighting the disease;
- Remember the people who have lost their fight against cancer and to support those who are still fighting the disease;
- Stand united in the fight against cancer.

Sponsored teams relay for 24 hours. At least one member of the team must be present on the track at all times.
Baltimore, Maryland August 23-26, 2015  USAA is the primary sponsor of The American Legion Legacy Run. We continue to seek additional corporate sponsorship for support vehicles, trailers, and other logistical needs.

Registration is open to all. As of today, 251 riders, passengers, and supporters have registered for the August event. We urge all departments, posts, squadrons, units and chapters to widely promote non-rider supporting registration at www.legion.org/riders/registration as a means of supporting the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. Each supporting registration of $25 earns a patch set and souvenir Event Guide commemorating the 2015 Legacy Run.
GR 09 does not forget its veterans

On Sunday, May 24, GR 09 members again visited the burial sites of all American veterans buried in the Ulm/Neu-Ulm and surrounding area. A total of nine graves were visited and at each grave a prayer was given by Chaplain Tom Snook and an American flag was appropriately placed on the grave.

Every year several members of the post volunteer to participate in this solemn event.

Chaplain Snook offering a prayer at the grave site of American veteran.

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Paid Up For Life

From April 21 – May 21, 571 Legionaires became Paid Up For Life members. No special marketing campaign was used to promote the program.

Becoming a Paid Up For Life member in The American Legion is easier than ever. For more information regarding the fund go to www.legion.org/pufl. After providing a name and ID number, the member will receive a cost quote; he or she can pay by credit card or print out a personalized form and mail it in with a check. Those without an ID number can contact Customer Service at 1-800-433-3318 for their personalized offer.
Baltimore Maryland
Site of the 97th American Legion National Convention
August 28th to September 3rd 2015

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.

Update on what we are working on for our attendees' enjoyment at the 2015 National Convention...

Friday, August 28, 2015 – Color Guard Competition at 5:00 PM at the Baltimore Convention Center. Applications are due by July 24 to the Convention & Meetings Office.

On Friday, August 28 OR Saturday, August 29, the Baltimore Ravens will host the Washington Redskins in a Pre-Season Game. We are working with the Ravens and more information on tickets will be forthcoming.

Saturday, August 29, 2015 – Competitive Concert Band Contests will return along with the new Exhibition Concert Band class. Contests will start at 1:00 PM at the Baltimore Convention Center. Applications are due by June 1 to the Convention & Meetings Office.

Sunday, August 30, 2015 – Patriotic Memorial Service featuring The Texas Tenors. Service starts at 11:00 AM in the Baltimore Convention Center.

Monday, August 31, 2015 – American Legion Family Night at Camden Yards Ballpark with the Baltimore Orioles vs. Tampa Bay Rays. Game time is 7:05PM. See the American Legion Baseball Player of the Year throw the ceremonial first pitch. Please see attached document for ticket information.

Tuesday, September 1, 2015 – National Commander’s Banquet. The Swing Dolls have been selected by National Commander Helm as the entertainment. The Swing Dolls perform a Musical USO Tribute and music made popular by The Andrews Sisters, The McGuire Sisters, female groups of the 1960’s and Mamma Mia. Tickets are $45.00 per person and each table is a round for eight (8) people this year. Departments may send their checks to the Convention & Meetings Office, payable to National Treasurer of The American Legion. Tickets at this time are still available.

Tour Opportunities are available during the National Convention. These are listed on our website at www.legion.org/convention.
AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NIGHT
Monday, August 31st at 7:05 p.m. vs. Tampa Bay Rays

Terrace Box (Sections 1-17 & 55-65): $19*
Left Field Lower Box (Sections 66-86): $19*
Lower Reserve (Sections 67-87): $12*
Upper Reserve (Sections 316-356, rows 13-25): $10*

*There is an additional 10% service charge per ticket

For any questions or accessible seating, please call 888.848.BIRD (2473) and ask for the Ticket Services team.

FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS:
1. Click on the link below
2. Select a quantity of tickets
3. Create a Baltimore Orioles ticket account
4. Purchase and print your tickets

http://www.orioles.com/tix/americanlegion

Tickets posted for re-sale are subject to cancellation. Offer is NOT valid at the Box Office.

"To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy"

THE AMERICAN LEGION CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE COIN COLLECTION

TRULY UNIQUE! — A commemorative series of intricately crafted coins, valued by collectors and patrons alike. THE AMERICAN LEGION CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE COIN COLLECTION honours 100 YEARS of loyal service, and sacrifice of America’s men and women in uniform. Each coin is unique, featuring dynamic scenes of heroism, patriotism, volunteerism, and all that The American Legion embodies. Every high-quality bronze coin is FLASh COATED WITH 24-KARAT GOLD. Produced exclusively for The American Legion by America’s oldest private mint, each coin is highly detailed, painstakingly polished, and fully encapsulated to ensure a lifetime of brilliance. Collect this rare set of 10 coins and you will also receive a FREE CUSTOMIZED PRESENTATION CASE (per only shipping and processing) making your collection a treasured heirloom you can share with others. Let THE AMERICAN LEGION CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE COIN COLLECTION be part of your legacy of service.

Mail Your Member Reply Form and Start Your Collection NOW!

90-DAY SATISFACTION GUARANTEE OR YOUR MONEY BACK!
Army Staff Sgt. Bunyan D. Price Jr., 20, of Monroe, N.C., and Sgt. Rodney L. Griffin, 21, of Mexico, Mo., assigned to 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, were passengers aboard an UH-1H Iroquois (Huey) helicopter that was on route to Fire Support Base Katum, South Vietnam, when it was diverted due to bad weather. After flying into Cambodian airspace, the aircraft came under heavy enemy ground fire causing the pilot to make an emergency landing in Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia. The Huey’s four crewmen and its four passengers survived the landing. One crewman was able to evade being captured by enemy forces and later returned to friendly lines. The other three crewmen and one passenger were captured. Two of the captured crewmen were released by the Vietnamese in 1973, and the remains of the other two captured men, were returned to U.S. control in the 1980s and identified. Price and Griffin died at the site of the crash during a fire fight with enemy forces. Their remains were not recovered after the fire fight. Price was buried, April 11, in Belmont, N.C. Griffin was buried, April 25, in Mexico, Mo.

From 1992 through 2008, joint U.S./Kingdom of Cambodia (K.O.C.) teams investigated the site without success. On Feb. 18, 2009, a joint team interviewed witnesses in the Memot District of Cambodia who claimed to have information on the loss. The witnesses identified a possible burial site for the two unaccounted for servicemen. The team excavated the burial site but was unsuccessful locating the remains.

From Jan. 16, 2010 to March 11, 2011, joint U.S./K.O.C. teams excavated the area, but were unsuccessful recovering the crewmen’s remains.

In February 2012, another joint U.S./K.O.C. team re-interviewed two of the witnesses. The witnesses identified a secondary burial site near the previously excavated site. The team excavated the secondary burial site and recovered human remains and military gear from a single grave.

In the identification of Price, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) analyzed circumstantial evidence and used forensic identification tools, to include mitochondrial DNA, which matched his brothers and sisters.

In the identification of Griffin, scientists from DPAA and AFDIL analyzed circumstantial evidence and used forensic identification tools, to include mitochondrial DNA, which matched his brothers.
A delegation delivering Samsung Galaxy tablets, gift cards and words of appreciation from The American Legion Family continued its tour of the Kaiserslautern Military Community June 2.

Landstuhl Fisher House Manager Vivian Wilson met with several American Legion Family members, including Auxiliary National President Janet Jefford, Department of France National Executive Committeeman John Miller, France Department Commander James Settle, France Department Adjutant Max Rice, Air Force 2nd Lt. Jacob Helm and other guests who are visiting troops in Europe and commemorating sacrifices made during World War II.

Miller presented eight tablets to the Fisher House and the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC) as part of the Legion’s Operation Comfort Warriors program. Jefford distributed commissary and Amazon gift cards from the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.

Wilson explained the Fisher House mission of providing free and pleasant lodging to families and patients receiving medical care at them. “The last thing we want families to worry about is finances and lodging,” she said. “It is our honor to serve them, and we want this to be as positive an experience as they can have when something bad is going on in their lives.”

As the delegation toured the hospital and visited patients and staff, Miller noted a positive change that has occurred. “I’ve been coming to this place since 2003 and this is the emptiest that I’ve seen it,” he said. “Let’s hope it stays this way. The LRMC is often the place where U.S. troops wounded in war zones are sent for stabilizing treatment.

National Commander Michael Helm will join the group in Brussels Thursday and participate in D-Day remembrance ceremonies at Normandy, France, on June 6.
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

BEST WESTERN Leoso Hotel Ludwigshafen
Reservation Department
Pasadena Alle 4
67059 Ludwigshafen
Tel: 0049 – 621 – 59 51 500
Fax: 0049 – 621 – 59 51 104
Email: sales@leoso-hotel-ludwigshafen.de

BOOKING – American Legion Department of France – Convention 2015

Please reserve the following:

Guest Details:

Lastname:
Firstname:
Street:
ZIP / City:
State:
Telephone:
Telefax:
Email:

Room reservation:

Arrival Date:
Departure Date:

Room Type: 0  EUR 52.00 per Single room / night
0  EUR 83.00 per Double room / night

Children (0-11 years) sharing parent’s room free of charge without extra bed

Parking $2.00 for entire Stay

BEST WESTERN Leoso Hotel Ludwigshafen · Pasadena Alle 4 · 67059 Ludwigshafen
Tel. +49 (0) 621 591 500 · Fax: +49 (0) 621 591 5101 · ab@leoso-hotel-ludwigshafen.de · www.leoso-hotel-ludwigshafen.de
IHR Hotelbetrieb GmbH Ludwigshafen · Geschäftsführer: Josef Haas · Handelsregister: Mannheim · HRB 72465 · USt-IdNr DE111421437 · Value Added Tax No.
Präsident: Norbert Venderhegt · Inhaber: Rüdiger Rieß · eMail: rs@leoso-hotel-ludwigshafen.de
### Banquet - reservation:

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### 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:**
- **Valid:**

### For Hotel use only:

Herewith we re-confirm the above mentioned booking:

**Reservation Number:**
World's Tallest Flagpole

Standing 400 feet tall, the new ACUITY Insurance Flagpole is the tallest flagpole in North America. Visible from a considerable distance, the flagpole is located on the company's headquarters campus along Interstate 43 between Milwaukee and Green Bay on Lake Michigan.

Erecting a flagpole of such height where temperatures frequently fall below zero has required a team of experts to ensure structural integrity and maintainability. The pole supports a 60-foot-wide by 120-foot-long American flag. A brick paver patio featuring the names of Sheboygan County residents killed in active duty is installed at the flagpole's base.

Flagpole Facts:

- 400-foot flagpole weighs approximately 420,000 pounds
- There are two versions of the 60- by 120-foot flag:
  * 220 pound flag is flown during normal conditions
  * 350 pound flag is flown during harsher weather
- Each star is 3 feet high and each stripe is 4 1/2 feet wide
- 680 cubic yards of concrete used in foundation
- Over 500 gallons of paint cover the pole
- 11-foot diameter at base tapers to 5 1/2-foot diameter at top
- Three pendulum-style tuned mass dampers reduce movement and vibration
- Designed to withstand a low temperature of -42°F

SMALL BUSINESS

On May 21, 2015, House Small Business Committee Chairman Steve Chabot (OH) joined Reps. Hanna (NY), Bost (IL), Knight (CA), Curebelo (FL), Gibson (NY), and Rice (SC) to introduce the Veterans Entrepreneurship Act of 2015 (H.R. 2499), a bill to encourage and equip veterans in starting their own small businesses by removing barriers to capital.

There are over 21 million veterans living in the United States. Sadly, the unemployment rate among those that have served in active duty since September 2001 is substantially higher than the national average. It is The American Legion’s hope that an investment in our veteran entrepreneurs would promote the growth of the veterans small business industrial base and spur the hiring of veterans. Because we know that veterans hire veterans.

The Veteran Entrepreneurship Act seeks to address this reality by making it easier for a veteran or spouse of a veteran to obtain the private capital needed to start a business. The legislation does this by waiving the upfront guarantee fee for a Small Business Administration 7(a) express loan – all at no cost to the taxpayer. The American Legion has a resolution that supports the elimination of guarantee fees for government guaranteed loans for veterans.
American Legion National Commander Mike Helm has emphasized the importance of welcoming and supporting the post-9/11 generation of veterans and their families. While the Legion’s timeless values resonate with military members from World War II to the current global war on terrorism, today’s tech-savvy veterans use digital media to create and share content relevant to their lives.

In an effort to reach these younger veterans, The American Legion is working with We Are The Mighty (WATM), the first media and lifestyle brand for, by and about the military community. Launched in November 2014, it showcases their talents, accomplishments and interests through relevant entertaining and informative content in order to celebrate military life, empower the community, broaden awareness and eliminate stereotypes.

From this relationship comes “Our Post,” a series which shares unexpected stories and encounters from various Legion posts across the United States.

“We think these stories will resonate with young veterans and get them interested in wanting to know more about the Legion and wanting to be part of its future,” Helm said.

Hosted by young Marine Corps veteran and actor Johnny Jenkinson, “Our Post” starts at historic Post 43 in Hollywood, Calif., and traverses the United States to tell compelling stories and experiences of Legion members while breaking down outdated stereotypes. Viewers young and old, veteran and civilian, will relate to the human side of the many fascinating, funny and authentic people who make The American Legion one of the country’s most respected institutions.

“We have a unique opportunity to capture their attention with great stories about the many Legion families whose rich history and service has shaped the fabric of our country,” Helm commented. “Our Post” premiered May 12. The first four episodes can be viewed in a dedicated area on the WATM website: legion.wearethemighty.com

DD FORM 214 — SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT Please share this with anyone who had active duty service between January 1957 to December 31, 2001, and planning for retirement. In a nutshell it boils down to this: You qualify for a higher social security payment because of your Military service, for active duty any time from 1957 through 2001 (the program was done away with 1 January 2002). Up to $1200 per year of earnings credit credited at time of application – which can make a substantial difference in social security monthly payments upon your retirement. You must bring your DD-214 to the Social Security Office and you must ask for this benefit to receive it!

Soc Sec website: http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm

This is something to put in your files for when you apply for Social Security down the road. It is NOT just for retirees, BUT anyone who has served on active duty between January 1957 to December 31, 2001.

Regional Resource Coordinator Maryland’s Commitment to Veterans Project State of Maryland- Southern Region Human Services Partnership Building La Plata, Maryland 2064
The Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial in France covers 113.5 acres and contains the largest number of graves of our military dead of World War II in Europe, a total of 10,489. Their headstones are arranged in nine plots in a generally elliptical design extending over the beautiful rolling terrain of eastern Lorraine and culminating in a prominent overlook feature. Most of the dead here were killed while driving the German forces from the fortress city of Metz, France toward the Siegfried Line and the Rhine River. Initially, there were over 16,000 Americans interred in the St. Avold region in France, mostly from the U.S. Seventh Army's Infantry and Armored Divisions and its cavalry groups. St. Avold served as a vital communications center for the vast network of enemy defenses guarding the western border of the Third Reich.

The memorial, which stands on a plateau to the west of the burial area, contains ceramic operations maps with narratives and service flags. High on its exterior front wall is the large figure of St. Nabor, the martyred Roman soldier overlooking the silent host. On each side of the memorial, and parallel to its front, stretch the Tablets of the Missing on which are inscribed 444 names. Rosettes mark the names of those since recovered and identified. The entire area is framed in woodland.

**Visiting Hours**
The cemetery is open daily to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., except December 25 and January 1. It is open on host country holidays. When the cemetery is open to the public, a staff member is on duty in the visitor building to answer questions and escort relatives to grave and memorial sites.

Lorraine American Cemetery
Avenue de Fayetteville
57500 St Avold
France
tel +33 (0)3 87 92 07 32
Father's Day in the United States is on the third Sunday of June. It celebrates the contribution that fathers and father figures make for their children's lives. Its origins may lie in a memorial service held for a large group of men, many of them fathers, who were killed in a mining accident in Monongah, West Virginia in 1907.

**GENERAL INFORMATION...**

Hopefully you don’t have a reservation at Landstuhl the next few months.

*For your info, RAO Staff:* L470 Road Leading to LRMC Closed Until Mid-July. Access to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC) will not be available for the next three months via the Hauptstuhl exit on Autobahn 62 (A62), or by taking the L470 (the uphill road that passes by the US Army Heliport) exit from L395 (the long straight road running from Kaiserslautern to Landstuhl to Hauptstuhl). Approximately 1,000 meters of the road closed May 5 for repaving and other improvements and is expected to open again in mid-July, according to German government road service officials.

To access LRMC from A62, take the US Hospital/Landstuhl-Atzel/Martinshoehe exit and follow the sign toward US Hospital/Martinshoehe. At the next next intersection, turn right at the sign for US Hospital and Gate 3. Almost immediately after you turn right, you will encounter a barrier in the right lane that says, "frei bis Heliport" which means the road is accessible to the Heliport. You are free to maneuver around the barrier, but look for oncoming traffic. Take your next right to Gate 3 which is on Dr. Hitzelberger Strasse that leads to the main entrance to LRMC.

From downtown Landstuhl on the main street (Kaiserstrasse), you can find LRMC by following the white signs for US. Hospital and other signs for Bann, Mittelbrunn and Burg Nanstein. The US Hospital signs will guide you toward signs for Gate 3. You will also encounter the barrier in the right lane going this route.
25 June 1950…Korean War begins

Armed forces from communist North Korea smash into South Korea, setting off the Korean War. The United States, acting under the auspices of the United Nations, quickly sprang to the defense of South Korea and fought a bloody and frustrating war for the next three years.

Korea, a former Japanese possession, had been divided into zones of occupation following World War II. U.S. forces accepted the surrender of Japanese forces in southern Korea, while Soviet forces did the same in northern Korea. Like in Germany, however, the “temporary” division soon became permanent. The Soviets assisted in the establishment of a communist regime in North Korea, while the United States became the main source of financial and military support for South Korea.

On June 25, 1950, North Korean forces surprised the South Korean army (and the small U.S. force stationed in the country), and quickly headed toward the capital city of Seoul. The United States responded by pushing a resolution through the U.N.’s Security Council calling for military assistance to South Korea. (Russia was not present to veto the action as it was boycotting the Security Council at the time.) With this resolution in hand, President Harry S. Truman rapidly dispatched U.S. land, air, and sea forces to Korea to engage in what he termed a “police action.” The American intervention turned the tide, and U.S. and South Korean forces marched into North Korea. This action, however, prompted the massive intervention of communist Chinese forces in late 1950. The war in Korea subsequently bogged down into a bloody stalemate. In 1953, the United States and North Korea signed a cease-fire that ended the conflict. The cease-fire agreement also resulted in the continued division of North and South Korea at just about the same geographical point as before the conflict.

The Korean War was the first “hot” war of the Cold War. Over 55,000 American troops were killed in the conflict. Korea was the first “limited war,” one in which the U.S. aim was not the complete and total defeat of the enemy, but rather the “limited” goal of protecting South Korea. For the U.S. government, such an approach was the only rational option in order to avoid a third world war and to keep from stretching finite American resources too thinly around the globe. It proved to be a frustrating experience for the American people, who were used to the kind of total victory that had been achieved in World War II. The public found the concept of limited war difficult to understand or support and the Korean War never really gained popular support.
**Flag Day, is a day for all Americans to celebrate and show respect for our flag, its designers and makers. Our flag is representative of our independence and our unity as a nation.....one nation, under God, indivisible. Our flag has a proud and glorious history. It was at the lead of every battle fought by Americans. Many people have died protecting it. It even stands proudly on the surface of the moon.**

*As Americans, we have every right to be proud of our culture, our nation, and our flag. So raise the flag today and every day with pride!*  

**The History Of Flag Day**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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