



The American Legion Flanders Field Post BE02



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

I would like to thank those members who voted for me during the election. I look forward to continuing my efforts for a least another year. I am very happy to announce that Post BE02 has now grown in membership by over 50%. Unfortunately, we have lost a number of members to retirement or PCS. This is just a fact of life with military service. Ever 3-4 years, we pick-up and move to another duty assignment. Therefore is it extremely important that we continue to recruit new members to our cause.

Post BE02 will continue to support its major projects for the next year to include the Adopt-a-Grave program, the Oratorical Scholarship Contest and Boys State / Girls State. In addition we will sponsor the SHAPE JROTC with a new Junior Shooting Program. We also will continue our support of the numerous ceremonies throughout Belgium. As our membership grows so will our commitment to expand our programs for our service members, their families and the community.

Our biggest goal is to expand our presence as a Veterans Service Organization so that we can support our veterans. We will assist with VA disability claims, hospital visitation and briefings at the area DTAPs.

We are here to "Make a Difference"

AUXILIARY & LEGION RIDERS: RELAY FOR LIFE

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 to join our team or 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!

www.relayforlife.be/teams/friends-flanders-fields

Help Support the Team!



AMERICAN LEGION "FLANDERS FIELD" POST BE02

POST BE02 OFFICERS

Commander: Joseph Schram
flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com

1st Vice Commander: Paul Dunn

2nd Vice Commander: Mike Metelko

Judge Advocate: Jeremy Clark

Historian: Karen Hemelheber

Finance Officer: Vacant

Chaplain: Gavin Wainwright

Asst. Chaplain: Rory Rodriguez

Post Service Officer: Vacant

Sergeant-at-Arms: Jeff Andrews

LEGION RIDERS

President: Paul Dunn

LEGION AUXILIARY

President: Ruth Alvarez

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Commander: Paul Vande Walle

FLANDERS FIELD AMERICAN CEMETERY

Superintendent: Christopher Arseneault

American Legion Auxiliary

President's Message



Almost a year ago I was confronted with the task of starting up the American Legion Auxiliary here in Belgium. From then to now, the Auxiliary, which was nothing more than an idea in our heads, has now blossomed into a growing membership of dedicated and hardworking women. Throughout this past year we have increased our membership from a measly one to an incredible 13 senior members from multiple nationalities and even two junior members, with more to come. We have participated in bake sales to increase our finances and have already started fundraising for our team participating in The Relay for Life which will help fundraise to defeat cancer. Also, we are

even sponsoring our very own candidate for Girls State with assistants from the American Legion. Later on this month we will even be attending ceremonies at the Ardennes cemetery and also the Flanders Field Memorial ceremony as an organization paying our respects for our fallen soldiers, sailors and airmen. While we are more than happy with our current status and growth, we do hope to increase our membership and our activities around our community. This year has been filled with growth and immense productivity which we hope to continue into the next year.

Ruth Alvarez, President of the American Legion Auxiliary Post BE02, Department of France, Flanders Field

Make a Gift to the American Legion Post BE02 today!

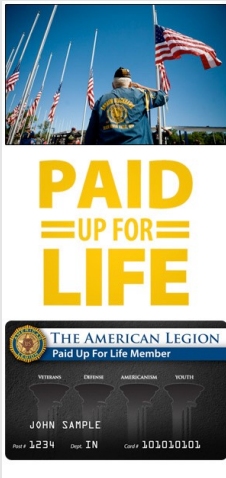
Your donation supports American Legion activities in Belgium.

Your donation creates an impact on our service people, veterans, their families, young lives, and the community by providing funds to support the myriad of activities and events supported by the American Legion

Legion Riders



Paid Up For Life Membership - PUFL



The American Legion has revised the Paid Up For Life program and streamlined the application process. Current members may now enroll in the Paid Up For Life program online or can print a personalized application and mail in their payment. Pay in full or choose 12 monthly installments.

- No more renewal notices. No more paying annual dues.
- No more worrying, "Did I renew my membership or not?"
- Join the other 200,000 PUFL Legionnaires in saying, "I believe in The American Legion and what it's doing. I'm in this for the long haul."
- Avoid future dues increases. No matter what inflation does, you never have to pay another penny in dues.
- Lifetime subscription to The American Legion Magazine!

Each Paid Up For Life member receives a permanent plastic card, as well as an annual paper card to verify continuing membership in The American Legion. The annual card is mailed in July of each year.

<http://www.legion.org/join/pufl>

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S VISIT

The Flanders Field Post BE02 would like to invite its members, their families and the community to attend one of our event on Thursday, 04 June 2015 to meet with:

American Legion National Commander, Mike Helm and the American Auxiliary President, Janet Jefford

- 11:30 – Lunch at SHAPE Club
- 15:30 - Townhall Meeting at USAG Benelux - Caserne Daumerie,
- 18:00 - Dinner / Meet & Greet at 3-Star Lounge on USAG Brussels



JUNIOR SHOOTING PROGRAM

The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program is a gun safety education and marksmanship program that encompasses the basic elements of safety, education, enjoyment and competition. Shooters use the .177 caliber air rifle. Both males and females can participate, through Legion sponsorship; disabled youth are encouraged to join, as competitive shooting is a sport that creates an equal playing field for all competitors.

Junior Shooting Sports is a three-part program that combines the Basic Marksmanship Course, Qualification Awards and Air Rifle Competition into a well-rounded activity.

Flanders Field Post BE02 is current working with the SHAPE JROTC to implement a program at the SHAPE American HS

<http://www.legion.org/shooting>



**American Legion
Blood Donor Program**

People have held blood drives and given blood since community service became an American value. It's only natural that The American Legion - with community service as one of its pillars - be heavily involved in blood donation efforts.

The American Legion Blood Donor Program has existed officially since 1942 to help that cause. Each year - especially since 9/11 - Legionnaires have donated in spades, and departments have coordinated efforts at the post level.

POST BE02 ELECTION RESULTS

Post Commander:	Joseph Schram
1st Vice Commander:	Paul Dunn
2nd Vice Commander:	Mike Metelko
Historian:	Karen Hemelheber
Judge Advocate:	Jeremy Clark
Chaplain:	Gavin Wainwright
Sgt-at-Arms:	Jeff Andrews
Finance Officer:	Vacant
Post Service Officer	Vacant

MEMORIAL DAY IN BELGIUM

Join us this year at the [Flanders Field](#), the [Ardennes](#) or the [Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery](#) for an unforgettable experience. Or venture out to honor a number of American servicemen buried outside the cemeteries in an [isolated grave](#).

Each year thousands of Americans and Belgians gather at these ceremonies to honor the men who died for our freedom and who are buried far from home. Senior American and Belgian government officials, military officers, diplomats and other distinguished guests give testimonials in honor of the fallen. Chaplains offer prayers in the name of all faiths. American and Belgian military units salute their fallen fore bearers with military honors, and the United States Air Force performs a traditional flyover. The presence of American and Belgian veterans of the war, whose numbers are dwindling each year, are a poignant witness to the sacrifices made. Most of the attendees at the ceremonies are Belgian, who remember the sacrifice that America made for their country. Many families bring their children to these solemn and dramatic ceremonies to teach them the true meaning of freedom and its cost in human life.

However, the Memorial Day Ceremonies are more than a commemoration of the past. The American military personnel who participate in these ceremonies are all combat veterans. They have lost friends and comrades-in-arms in operations abroad. They know first-hand what the price of freedom really is. One sees it in their eyes. At the Memorial Day Ceremonies, we also commemorate the members of today's American armed forces who have made, and are making, the ultimate sacrifice for our peace and liberty.

[Saturday, 23 May at 10:00](#)

The Ardennes American Cemetery
Neuville-en-Condroz

[Saturday, 23 May at 16:00](#)

Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery
Aubel/Hombourg/Welkenraedt

[Sunday, 24 May at 15:00](#)

Flanders Field American Cemetery
Waregem

VENTURE CREW 511

Venturing is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women who are 13 and have completed the eighth grade, or age 14 through 20 years of age. Venturing's purpose is to provide positive experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults. Venturing Crew 511 - Charlemagne District from the Boy Scouts of America / Transatlantic Council



COMMITTEES

Veterans Affairs, Rehabilitation and Service Committee

Purpose: To assist veterans in obtaining needed hospitalization, in the pursuit of claims and in obtaining other veteran's rights and benefits; to visit comrades who are sick or disabled; to visit and comfort members of their families when sick or bereaved. To give comfort and assistance to members and their families when sick or bereaved, and to visit hospitalized veterans. To assist active duty military in transition to civilian life and National Guard and Reservists in the community in similar ways. The service committee is a key component of every successful post. Its duties and operations are especially important during the period immediately following the termination of hostilities. The service officer may be the chair; however, the responsibilities of the committee go beyond the day-to-day functions of a good Service Officer in filing claims, securing hospitalization, etc. The service committee also is concerned with jobs, with veteran contact, with visits to ailing comrades, with on-the-job training, and with pensions. This committee should also be responsible for maintaining contact with any members of the armed forces from the community served by the post.

Programs & Activities

- VA disability claims
- DTAP Briefings: Alternate Months at USAG Brussels, Chièvres, USAG Schinnen
- Hospital Visitation

The American Legion is the nation's largest veterans wartime service organization. The services provided include help with VA claims, assistance in finding employment, support for current members of the military, and financial advice.

To locate a service officer: <http://www.legion.org/serviceofficers>

For VA forms: <https://sites.google.com/site/americanlegionpostbe02/va-assistance-claims>

Preamble to the Constitution

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY WE
ASSOCIATE OURSELVES
TOGETHER
FOR THE FOLLOWING
PURPOSES:

- To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;
- To maintain law and order;
- To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;
- To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars;
- To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;
- To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;
- To make right the master of might;
- To promote peace and goodwill on earth;
- To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;
- To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.



DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE

CONVENTION

18–22 JUNE

The Department of France is conducting its annual convention at the Best Western Hotel in Ludwigshafen, Germany from 18–22 June. All members are welcome join in the event.

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 events)

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/130086797@No8/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.sitemn.gr/adoptagraveflandersfield/HOMECONTACT.php>

The American Legion Centennial Celebration

<http://centennial.legion.org/>

Event Calendar: May 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 VA Briefing SHAPE/Chièvres	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Memorial Day -Henri-Chappelle -Ardenne	24 Memorial Day - Flanders Field
25	26	27	28 SHAPE JROTC Awards Ceremony 18:00	29	30 Auxiliary & Legion Riders: Relay-for-Life	31 Auxiliary & Legion Riders: Relay-for-Life



Important Dates to Remember

Thursday, 04 June: Lunch at SHAPE Club National Commander, 12:00

Thursday, 04 June: Legion Dinner with the National Commander at the 3-Star Lounge at USAG Brussels, 18:00

Saturday, 22 August: Adopter Appreciation Day at the Flanders Field American Cemetery, 11:00