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**Do you have an article or announcement for the newsletter?**

**If so, please send all submissions to [Margraten.Post.NL01@gmail.com](mailto:Margraten.Post.NL01@gmail.com)  
Editor: Historian Ray**

Happy February, Comrades!

I hope your January went well. I sure think it flew by, but our Post was able to get a lot done so far this year. At our last meeting, we finally signed our official Constitution and By-laws, which means we can now petition the SHAPE commander for Trusted Organization status. I have made contact with him, and he is putting us on his agenda during his next visit to the Brunssum-Schinnen area. Also, we've had two Awareness Drives since the beginning of the year, and I'm happy to report that we've gained 11 new members over just the past two weeks. In order to keep the momentum rolling, I believe Comrade Historian Ray Perez is trying to organize another drive soon. When finalized, he'll get those details out to everyone.



You've all probably realized a common theme from my previous posts of trying to increase member involvement in our activities. That's because we REALLY need you. We are so glad that you are a member of the best post in the Department of France, and your financial contribution from your continued membership is greatly in need and appreciated. However, as we grow in stature, and we ARE doing that, we're going to need assistance with everything we want to do and accomplish in our future, for both community awareness and our veterans. That includes everything from wreath-layings, service officer training, awareness drives, participating in the fundraising activities, and attending our meetings.

I must say, though, that I've seen an increase in attendance in our membership meetings, and I've enjoyed speaking with you and getting to know you all better. I'm an amateur historian buff, and you all have a story to tell. I love hearing them.

So one more time, thank you all for joining Margraten Post NL01. We are happy to have you as members. Please consider renewing your membership, and look around and see if there is someone you could get to join. I promise, as we grow (and grow and grow and grow...), you will be proud that you're a member, and the rewards you get from your membership will far outweigh the minimal cost.

Remember, you are not only helping other veterans with your contributions, but also you and your loved ones.

I'll sign off for now, but until next time, take care and stay in touch. I hope to see every one of you soon so we can share a good story or two and a beverage of choice.

Commander Ray

## Dates to Remember

07/14/21/28 Feb - Bowling League



16 Feb - Gen Membership Meeting



16/24 Feb - Oratorical Contests



03 Mar - Post Officer Elections



11 March - Fort Epen Emael, Bel.



16 March - Post SO Training



**WE WANT YOU!**  
**TO JOIN AMERICAN LEGION POST NL01**  
**AWARENESS DRIVE CAMPAIGN**

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## Flossenburg Remembrance

By 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Jim Brotherton



The American Legion Post NL01, Margrten, was recently asked if we could represent the American Legion at a ceremony to be held 19 January in the city of Spa Belgium. For me little was known about the ceremony, thinking it was to remember military victims of the Second World War. We were to learn it went way beyond that. The ceremony in Spa was to honor victims of the Flossenburg concentration camp, the 4th largest camp in Germany. This particular camp was a granite rock quarry in the Bavaria, 10 km from the Czech border. This granite was used during the construction of the Nazi Party Congress Center in Nuremberg.



The camp was established in May of 1938 and received it's first occupants on the 3rd of May. This camp functioned until April 23, 1945, when the 90th Infantry Division liberated it. Flossenburg camp functioned

with 90 commandos and inventoried 84,000 men and 16,000 women from 30 different nations. When the prisoner's arrived they were told, "if they worked well, you will end up there" pointing to the crematorium "and you will go out by the chimney and there you will be free". In the evening the thought of every person was, 'how to survive the next day'.

This remembrance ceremony was held in the city center of Spa, where stands a monument containing the ashes, thought to have been brought back to Spa in 1949 by Mrs. Angele Willemet, whose husband died in Flossenburg on March 22, 1945. These ceremonies have been established by the child of the victims of Flossenburg and the children of the survivors of these atrocities who finally told of their experiences to their children several years later (1995).

Attending the ceremony, along with our Sgt-at-Arms Mark Chernek, we were honored and humbled having been asked to participate in this moving and emotional remembrance. It is not just the military, the soldiers, the airmen, that faced danger and death but the civilian populace caught in the occupied areas.

They also should NEVER BE FORGOTTEN!

## Flossenburg Remembrance Speeches

**Why are we here** today to remember the **Flossenbürg** concentration camp, the 4<sup>th</sup> largest camp in Germany with Dachau, Sachsenhausen and Buchenwald?

Flossenbürg is a village in Bavaria, 10 km from the Czech border; this place was interesting because of its large granite deposits. This granite was used during the construction of the Nazi Party Congress Center in Nuremberg, known for the disproportionate gatherings of Hitler's army. The camp was established in May 1938 and the first prisoners arrived on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Until 1945 Flossenbürg camp and its 90 commandos inventoried 84.000 men and 16.000 women from 30 different nations. In Flossenbürg, extermination was done by working in the quarry. When he arrived at the camp, an SS explained to my father: if you work well, you will end up there, pointing the crematorium, and you will go out by the chimney and **there you will be free**. In the evening the thought of every prisoner was: how to survive the next day?

The camp was liberated on April 23, 1945 by the 90<sup>th</sup> US Infantry Division.

**How and why the Victory Monument** contains an urn with Flossenbürg ashes?

We owe this urn to Mrs. Angèle Willemet. Her husband, Jules Willemet died on March 22, 1945. She made her first annual pilgrimage to Flossenbürg in 1949 with a group of 10 widows and 2 orphans. In August 1951 she founded the Flossenbürg Friendship Committee, of which she was the president until her death on April 30, 1985, at the age of 88. I found traces of 8 urns of ashes that she brought back to Belgium: the first was for Breendonk in 1952. On May 1959 a Flossenbürg box of earth was deposited at the Enclos des Fusillés in Liège. The other urns are in Mechelen, Ostend, Menin, Jodoigne, the National Monument to the Resistance in Liège, Mons and here in Spa where the urn was delivered on May 6, 1973.

**Why this ceremony?** First of all because my father was interned for 13 months in Flossenbürg before being transferred to Sachsenhausen, near Berlin. Until 1995 I never heard of my fathers' past. At the annual ceremony that same year, I saw my father crying for the first time on the steps of the crematorium. I discovered all the atrocities he had experienced during those 13 months. I discovered a man who had to fight to survive in this hell, not as Charles Dekeyser but as number 2264. Thanks to the initiative of Mister Karl-Heinz Lambertz, here present, a film was made about his life. The title: « I had an unbelievable chance » also refers to the capo of his barracks, Emile, who repeatedly pulled him out of range to be shot or hanged. Because death there was a game: one picked 3 or 4 numbers and without any reason, your life stopped.

We all have a duty to remember. By your presence here, you participate. We do not have the right to forget this part of the history, what our parents, and grandparents lived, what they fought for.

Today for a few moments we have remembered: Alexander Hurard, Henri Terryn, Paul Froidthier, Victor Pochet and many others because it is also forgetfulness that kills.

Henri Terryn, born in 1912, was our father.

Accused of being in the Resistance, the Gestapo came to our house to arrest him on March 27, 1944. He was in fact part of the Resistance Groups.

He was imprisoned in the St Gilles prison, where our mother's only happiness was to visit him.

We had little mail from him, saying all the love he had for his wife and daughters. He wanted to know how we were doing and always told us to stay in good spirits.

He was transferred on July 29, 1944 to the Beverloo Camp. Two little papers that he threw from the train that led him to hell were recovered by brave railroad workers and delivered to our mother.

On the first note was written: passed through Liege on August 12th direction Germany. Notify my wife. My spirit is good. Hope that you and the girls are doing fine. See you soon.

On the second note was written: Passed through Angleur on August 18<sup>th</sup> in the direction of Verviers to Germany. Kisses to you and the children. They are done!!

In each of his letters, Dad asked to inform the families of other prisoners who were on the same train.

Dad was tried in Nuremberg and then deported on December 16<sup>th</sup> 1944 to the Flossenbürg concentration camp in Bavaria.

Our father died on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 1945. Exactly 73 years ago today.

We are here with you today in his memory and in memory of all those who died to defend our country and to liberate Belgium from the Nazis.

Mister Jean Lucas, prisoner of war,  
Dear families and friends of deportees,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Reich caused a lot of horror in Europe as well as for Belgian families and soiled the name of Germany.

Germany still has to be ashamed for that. We regret and are sad to have caused so much sadness.

So I'm very grateful to have been invited to your commemoration, here at Spa, which allows me to express my compassion, as well of that of Flossenbürg and their parish.

Having a fractured pelvis, I cannot be here today but my son Lorenz offered to represent me and to convey my thoughts.

Thank you all for extending your hand of reconciliation!  
But even more: throughout the meetings since the annual commemorations of 1995, we have been able to establish very strong friendships with former Belgian deportees, their families and their friends. We can cry together but also party and laugh. That's wonderful!

This must give us strength for the future! By planning and perfecting evil, Nazi horrors can never be matched or exceeded. However, racism, the « superior race », and torture, are still in this world and following the global migration to which the whole world is responsible for, they celebrate their return in force.

Oppose ourselves in word and action to everyone in context. We are all equal. No matter the color of the skin, the culture, the religion, we are all children of God whom he loves in the same way as a father and a mother.

Lorenz Sörgel – January 19, 2018 - SPA



## Margraten Post NL01 2017-2018 Officers

<b>Commander</b>	Ray Vincent	<a href="mailto:rvincent6603@yahoo.com">rvincent6603@yahoo.com</a>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander</b>	Jim Brotherton	<a href="mailto:Jim.brotherton01@gmail.com">Jim.brotherton01@gmail.com</a>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander</b>	Harvey Briggs III	<a href="mailto:Harvey.briggsiii@gmail.com">Harvey.briggsiii@gmail.com</a>
<b>Adjutant</b>	Andy Clevenger	<a href="mailto:clevtdy@hotmail.com">clevtdy@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Historian</b>	Ray Perez	<a href="mailto:raymond.perezjr@yahoo.com">raymond.perezjr@yahoo.com</a>
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<b>Service Officer</b>	Ron Macauley	<a href="mailto:Ronald.macauley.civ@mail.mil">Ronald.macauley.civ@mail.mil</a>
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	Mark Chernek	<a href="mailto:markchernek@hotmail.com">markchernek@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	VACANT	
<b>Chaplain</b>	VACANT	

## Department of France 2017-2018 Officers

<b>Department Commander</b>	James Dennis	<a href="mailto:departmentdennis@gmail.com">departmentdennis@gmail.com</a>
<b>Department Adjutant</b>	Maxwell Rice	<a href="mailto:colwichboy@yahoo.com">colwichboy@yahoo.com</a>
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<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	<b>Ray Vincent (NL01)</b>	<a href="mailto:rvincent6603@yahoo.com">rvincent6603@yahoo.com</a>

## POST GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Meeting minutes- Friday, 19 Jan 2018, Dutch Veteran Institute (VIP), Heerlen, NL



**Top Left:** Welcoming Tom Akerboom to the Post. **Bottom Left:** Jim Brotherton holding up our Charter. **Middle Right:** Sprit Flag from Dale Hemphill.

Commander Ray Call to Order: 17:50hrs  
Presentation of Colors- Hand salute  
POW/MIA- Sgt at Arms Mark  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Preamble  
Roll Call (Quorum) - Eight PEC  
Chaplain Eric excused and five members  
December Meeting Minutes- reviewed and Commander approved  
Announcements- Sgt at Arms Mark welcomed Angelique Owens (guest) and new member Tom Akerboom. He also passed out free hockey tickets for Laco Eaters Limburg.

Commander Ray expressed his appreciation and gratitude to Post members for the flowers sent to his father's funeral.

Post NL01 Constitution, Bylaws and December meeting minutes were signed by Commander Ray and Adjutant Andy for submission to Department and USAG BENELUX Commander, Col Kurt Connell.

### Reports:

- 1st Vice Jim- Membership update & Charter presentation.
- 2nd Vice Harvey- Post elections, Department attendees and hotel options. Adjutant Andy motioned the VIP for 3 Mar meeting, seconded by Historian Ray, unanimously voted/passed.
- Service Officer Ron- VA Benefits Representative. Presented Federal Benefits Book. (3) spots need to register for 16 Mar Service Officer Training. Standby for dates to schedule GK Dental Retiree Smile program. Encouraged members to support the Girls-Boys State program.
- Sgt at Arms Mark- Review of Margraten Peace Light and Eyewitness Museum. Wreath laying at concentration camp monument Spa Belgium. Spirit of America Flags presentation, encouraged Netherland American in Limburg (NAIL) participation.
- Finance Officer Dale- provided report showing expenditures and balances.

**Old business:** none

### New business:

Particular focus was raised for fundraising activities. Should also be coordinated with Awareness events. POC 2nd Vice Harvey will diligently promote this endeavor after Private Org status is obtained and bank account is established.

## POST GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING cont.

Discussion concerning available facilities for our Post's permanent home. The intent will be to find a room/facility on Schinnen and eventually move to NATO Industrial Complex (NIC), Brunssum (when that happens....).

Encourage all members to complete the online American Legion Basic Training program.

Online ticket information was discussed for the International Military Expo in Maastricht, 20-21 Jan.

Historian Ray proposed a Post event to visit The Wereth Eleven. Sgt at Arms Mark proposed a Post event to visit WWII Fort Eben Emael with GOC Kerkrade. Contact the POC's for further info.

### Open Points of Order:

Commander Ray will write and Letter of Appreciation to Dale Hemphill for the Spirit of America Flag.

Historian Ray/Adjutant Andy will email hotel info to Department representatives for 3 Mar meeting.

### Conclusion:

Sgt at Arms Mark- POW/MIA table adjourned 19:31hrs

### Upcoming Events

Weekly Legionnaires bowling team, January 6, 7, 19, 27.

27 Jan Awareness Table, Schinnen Commissary 10:00-16:00.

2 Feb Awareness Table, Geilenkirchen AFRC Education and Employment Fair 08:00-14:30.

**NEXT MEETING:** 16 Feb 2018, 17:00 arrival- 17:30 gavel

# Flags Across America

A campaign supported by the Spirit of America Foundation and Forgotten Heroes Ltd.



*"Lest We Forget"*

Introducing "Old Glory's" Companion Flag.  
Dedicated to our veterans and heroes of 9-11-01.

The *ONLY* flag of its kind that honors veterans and heroes from the Revolutionary War to present day Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**Get your "Old Glory's" Companion Flag today!**

Please help us support our veterans by a purchase of one or more of our flags or our other *American made* products or by donation.

Please call: 574.256.1303 or go to our website at: [www.spiritofamericausa.com](http://www.spiritofamericausa.com)

**Dale Hemphill - Designer "Spirit of America" flag**

574-340-1192

email - [dhemp31628@aol.com](mailto:dhemp31628@aol.com)

## Together, we make a difference

The American Legion provides life-changing assistance and guidance for veterans, military personnel, their families and communities.

[JOIN US](#)

## Faces of Margraten: May 2-6, 2018; Search for Photos

Rows, endless rows of white marble crosses and stars of David. This is what one sees when overlooking the American War Cemetery and Memorial Netherlands in Margraten, the Netherlands. 8,301 American soldiers have been buried in this cemetery; another 1,722 names are listed on the Walls of the Missing. We do know the names of all these men and women, but who were they? Where did they come from and what did their lives look like prior to World War II? The Stichting Verenigde Adoptanten Amerikaanse Oorlogsgraven (SVAAO)(Foundation United Adopters American War Graves) hopes to make a unique tribute to the men and women buried there by trying to give as many names of the soldiers buried in or memorialized at the Margraten Cemetery as possible a face, by decorating their graves or names on the Walls of the Missing with a personal photo through the project "The Faces of Margraten" during a Memorial week once every two years.



### Submit Photo

During the second edition of The Faces of Margraten tribute in 2016 we were able to put a face to 4,000 names. However, thousands of photos continue to be missing. Do you have a photo of a soldier buried or memorialized in Margraten? Please submit it then through [this page](#). It will mean another soldier whom we can give a face in 2018.

### Fields of Honor – Database

In addition to using the photos for the unique tribute at the cemetery from May 2-6, 2018, photos also will be stored for future generations in the Fields of Honor - Database. In this database, information and photos can be found on thousands of American soldiers, including many who have been buried in Margraten. The database can be visited at [www.fieldsofhonor-database.com](http://www.fieldsofhonor-database.com).

Post NL01 submitted 1Lt. Charles N. Todd



First Lieutenant Charles N. Todd

Anyone can submit a photo for The Faces of Margraten—it does not have to be a family member. SVAAO is hoping to connect with more libraries and historical societies in the United States this year in hopes they reach the 6,000th photo by the time The Faces of Margraten occurs in May. To see if your family member or friend already has a photo on file, visit the Fields of Honor website.

## Post NL01 Legionnaire Spotlight

From the Viet Nam era to active duty folks, our post is blessed with many incredible people representing all the services. Putting a few of our Legionnaires under the spotlight is a regular feature in our newsletter. I think it's important to learn more about our comrades and benefit from their stories. ~ Historian Ray

### HARVEY BRIGGS III



My name is Harvey Briggs! I'm a military brat. Army to be specific. I claim Columbia, South Carolina as home being that is where my immediate family is located and the place where I lived at the longest. I enlisted in the military December 16, 1998 as Aircraft Armament Journeyman and I left for basic military training located at Lackland, AFB TX. My first duty station was Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.

While serving at my first base I was tasked with my first deployment which happened to be in support of 9/11. An eye-opening experience for a young E-3 that never been far from home along with the understanding of what it looked like to see Air power being delivered!

Currently I'm the 2nd Vice Commander for what I think is the best American Legion in the world! I have been humbled and honored to work with these dedicated individuals who have at one time been a part or still is defending this great country of ours!



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# Letters To Dad

## JOURNAL OF AIR FORCE SERGEANT DENNIS OWENS DURING THE AIR WAR of DESERT STORM - 1991

The following are excerpts from the daily journal kept by Post NL01 Legionnaire, USAF Sergeant Dennis P. Owens during his tour of duty as an aircrew member in an E-3A AWACS in Desert Storm. He was the computer system technician. It is presented exactly as he wrote it.

Dear Dad: Noon 15 Jan 91

Well this is the D-Day, actually 0800 on Jan 16 my time = midnight EST Jan 15 the deadline for Insane [Saddem Hussein]. So far since 7 Jan 91 when I left the states I've logged 48.6 hours of flying time. That's 17.3 getting over here [from Tinker AFB, Oklahoma] and 2 flights already. My crew is scheduled fly our third mission tonight. Showtime [crew briefing] is 6:15 pm tonight. It will be a 15 hour mission. We will be airborne tomorrow at the 0800 deadline. Most of us on my crew do not know what the plan is yet. We will be briefed when we land tomorrow. We will have a part in the action we are told.

We thought the war started last night and then realized what happened was pretty funny after the fact: We got a report that a company size group of tanks were 8 miles south of the Kuwait border heading south. The call was made to the nearest tanks in the area. They proceeded north to intercept them. We got another report that some of our tanks were surrounded by 'blacked out' tanks - send help. Well, the radio call was received by the tanks that were doing the surrounding. Both sets of tanks were U.S. Nobody fired a shot.

When we arrived, the allotted villas in the AWACS area were full. We have the best 14 crews AWACS has. My crew was handpicked by Col. Bliss. They have five of our crews in a high rise building. Each crew has 2 apartments. Each apartment has 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, a kitchen, and one common area room. We are on the 5th floor, that equates to 126 stairs to climb. There is NO furniture in the apartment at all. We have a mummy sleeping bag and a cot. However, there is a telephone and a TV/VCR. We now get AFRTS [Armed Forces Radio and Television Service] live which is a plus. We can receive CNN live when they show it. There is no refrigerator or water cooler. We drink bottled water which we carry up those 126 stairs. I'm writing this letter on a plywood pallet on 12 water bottle boxes.

The food over here is good. The 4 army chow tents are OK. The flying is long. The jets are in pretty good shape. Now, those guys that bust their butts for us, are the maintenance folks over here. Not only are the jets' 781's [AF Form 781, Aircraft Maintenance Log] in good shape along with the equipment, but those are clean planes out there. Those [maintenance] guys have and show pride in what they do.

The mood over here is very good as we face the next few days. By the time you get this letter, the war should have started and all my anxiety would have been answered. I suspect they will arm us with .38 [revolvers] tonight. My main concern is not self defense if we crash land, but defense on the bus on the 20 minute ride to and from the base. We are the most vulnerable on that long ride. They say we will have a SP [Security Police] es- cort and .38's on our side. But when?

Hey, get this, it's now 1600 [4:00pm], 15 Jan 91 over here. That's only 16 more shopping hours for Insane. Col. Voellger, the 552d AWAC Wing Commander is over here. Here's a quote from him: "The quickest way home is through Baghdad." I agree and we are ready. Hair raised and butts puckered, we're going in! Say a prayer for us. Love, Dennis

# Margraten Post NL01 2018 Awareness Campaign

**27<sup>th</sup> January - USAG Schinnen Commissary:**  
**Post NL01 had an excellent kickoff to our Awareness Campaign this year!**  
We were able to welcome seven new members to Margraten Post NL01!

Welcome, Chuck Hamilton, Bennie Kirk, Troy Becher, Angelo Borelli, Michael Milewski, Steve Smalley, and Kenneth Harris to Post NL01!

Thanks to Legionnaires; RayV, RayP, Mark, Ron, Kiara, and Andy!



We also had a visit with the US Ambassador to the Netherlands Mr. Pete Hoekstra. We traded him a Department of France Centennial coin for one of his! 😊

**2<sup>nd</sup> February - NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen:**  
Post NL01 took part in the “New Year, New You” Info & Job Fair. We were able to welcome four new members! Please Welcome, Jason Whitford, Kyle Irish, Sarah Nagengast, and Allen Wusterbarth to the Post! Thanks to Legionnaires; RayP, JB, and Mark!



**With the last membership transmittal sent out we have received word that Post NL01 has reached 100% membership goal for 2018!**





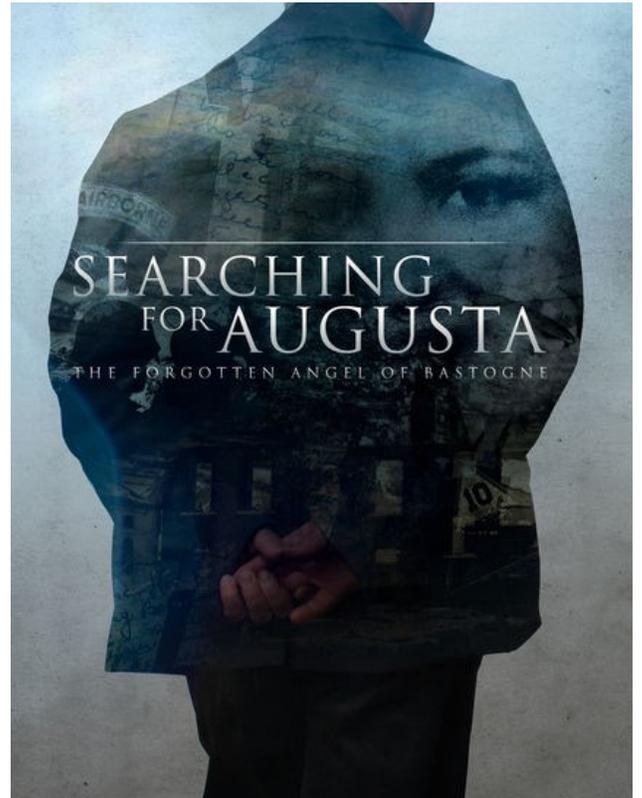
**Come out and Join the Margraten Legionnaires Bowling Team!**

We're always looking for more people to take part in the fun. Every Wednesday from 6-9 pm at the Schinnen Bowling Center. Events are always posted on the Post NL01 Facebook page.

If interested please contact Team Captain Dave Ehnis at [davidehnis01@yahoo.com](mailto:davidehnis01@yahoo.com)



OR CHAT ONLINE AT <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/gochat/>



**Movie of the Month:**

**Searching for Augusta - The Forgotten Angel of Bastogne**

This true story begins with two nurses, Renee LeMaire and Augusta Chiwy, as they treat patients in the Bastogne aid station. Renee was killed on Christmas Eve and became famous as The Angel of Bastogne. Augusta's story was lost to history for sixty-five years. Augusta Chiwy's story is one of great courage and heroism in the face of racial discrimination. An excellent documentary! Five Stars!



American Battle Monuments Commission   
@abmcpage



# Basic Training

Learn about The American Legion in this self-paced online course



Basic Training Graduate

Congratulations Raymond!

You have passed the course 1 time.  
Your last graduation date was 10/08/2017.

Print your certificate: [B&W](#) | [COLOR](#)  
Order your cap/lapel pin [here](#).

Where you left off

[Resume](#)



History & Organization



Veterans Affairs & Rehab



National Security



Americanism



Children & Youth



Course Conclusion



Final Exam

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. 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 course is free for members. The training took me a little over 2 hours to complete, but there is no time limit on the course. You can return to where you left off anytime you wish for as many times as you want. Once complete you will get a printable Certificate of Completion and the opportunity to order the redesigned lapel/cap pin pictured above.

I found this training to be a great jumping off point for any new legionnaire. Anyone who participates in Awareness Drives should have this information in their toolbag!

As an Historian I of course found the History & Organization module to be the most interesting and fun but the section on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation was very eye-opening.

This Basic Training package is an outstanding gateway of knowledge into the nation's largest veterans service organization and an opportunity not to be missed.

*After taking the course it opens your eyes to what we really can accomplish and do, I never really knew how much the Legion was involved in.. Should have joined years ago! ~ Post NL01 Sgt-at-Arms Mark Cherek*



# How to Become A Sentinel of Memory

By Historian Ray

Over the past year the American Overseas Memorial Day Association (AOMDA) Foundation has been focusing on the restructuring the adoption program of over 14,000 American soldiers who have their last resting place in Belgium. The program to honor our fallen is call the Sentinel of Memory program. Last issue I wrote about what the program consists of. This article will cover the steps on becoming a Primary Sentinel of Memory.

1. Go to [www.aomda.org](http://www.aomda.org) and choose the language of your preference.

2. Click on “Register” and follow the instruction on the form. Your request is usually approved within 24 hours. Mine was a little over 48 hrs.

3. If your registration was successful, go to the site and click “Login” Give your email address and password.

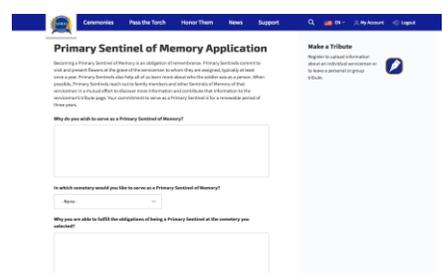
4. You are now automatically linked to the page for your personal account. Please take the time to fill in your profile information so that they can effectively reach you in the future.

5. Click on “Honor Them” and then click on “Serve as a Sentinel of Memory”. Once that page comes up, click on the hyperlink “Primary” Sentinel of Memory”

6. Fill out the Primary Sentinel of Memory Application. Make sure you give full detailed answers. Make sure you select the right cemetery. You will also be asked why you are able to fulfill the obligations of being a Primary Sentinel at the cemetery you selected. Saying you live locally and normally visit the selected cemetery a couple of times a year is an acceptable answer. If you’re interested in a particular serviceman please provide his name. You will also have the option to select to be put on a waiting list or be assigned any available serviceman.

7. Once you have completed the form, click on “Send”. Your application will be forwarded to the Administrator for the Remembrance Honors. After approximately 72 hours you will receive an answer. Mine took closer to 6 to 8 weeks but that was when the AOMDA was still getting going through the 14,000 graves. Should be much quicker now. Your name will then be on the page of the serviceman your Primary Sentinel for. (if you don’t want your name to appear on his page, you can make that adjustment through the privacy settings of your account)

8. You will receive an email from the AOMDA with your serviceman’s information and a Certificate of Appreciation for your commitment to serve as a Primary Sentinel of Memory. The pledges last for three years and you will be sent an email when the end of your pledge nears with the option to renew.



2018 Visites non-stop  
Non-stop bezoek  
de/van 10h - 16h

24 & 25 MAR 25 & 26 AUG  
28 & 29 APR 9 SEP  
26 & 27 MAY 29 & 30 SEP  
23 & 24 JUN 27 & 28 OCT  
21 JUL 24 & 25 NOV

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## Department of France Centennial Challenge Coin!

March 2019 is firmly circled on The American Legion Dept. of France calendar. That's when Legionnaires across Europe will celebrate the organization's 100th birthday in Paris, where a gathering of soldiers, sailors and Marines that month in 1919 gave birth to what would become the largest organization of U.S. veterans. To honor the centennial, and to help cover anticipated costs of celebrating the anniversary, the Department of France has struck a commemorative challenge coin. The coins have been purchased by members, collectors and post leaders to distribute among military personnel, supporters and others who help the department fulfill the Legion mission in communities overseas. The challenge coin features the Eiffel Tower – the image of which is embroidered on Department of France Legion caps – above the organization's national 100th anniversary logo. On the flip side appear the emblems of all four American Legion Family groups – the American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, Legion Riders and The American Legion. The challenge coins are \$10 each, plus shipping, add \$2 per coin for standard shipping and \$13 per coin for priority shipping. To date Post NL01 has sold over 115 coins!



Visite guidée : chaque jour sur réservation  
Geleid bezoek: elke dag op reservatie  
sauf journées de fermeture - uitgezonderd sluitingsdagen  
[www.fort-eben-emael.be](http://www.fort-eben-emael.be)

avec le soutien du  
Commissariat général au Tourisme



**Mathilde and Marcel SCHMETZ**  
**Always remember our liberators**



# REMEMBER MUSEUM 39-45

## Words from Service Officer Ron

We consider ourselves quite lucky to have Ron Macauley as our SO. As you read in our last newsletter, Ron's civilian job carries many of the responsibilities and tasks asked of a Legion Post Service Officer. Part of Ron's job entails keeping veterans' informed of their benefits and any change in policy that could effect those benefits. ~ Historian Ray

On behalf of the Schinnen Deputy Garrison Manager Mr. Witkowski and Retiree Council President Mr. Conrad Payne you and your spouse are invited to the annual Schinnen Retiree Council Meeting on Saturday 24 March 2018 1200-1500hrs or UTC (whichever is earlier) at the Schinnen HQ conference room.

Come meet the new Deputy Garrison Manager, visit with other Military Retirees from in and around the area, and enjoy a nice (no cost) lunch.

Please RSVP to let me know if you plan on coming. For those of you who do not respond I will take that as a "you are unable to attend".

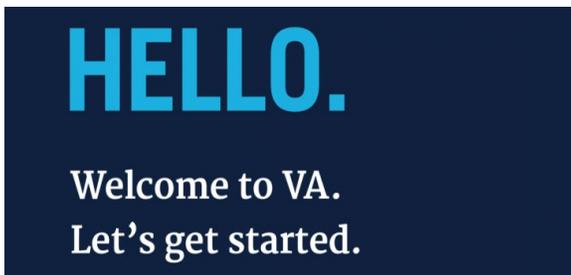
### The below is the Retiree Council's mission:

- Provide the commander insight into vital issues and concerns of the retiree community.
- Communicate with the Active Army.
- Receive advice and provide input on decisions and policies that affect the retired community.
- Review ongoing Army programs and proposals.
- Institute programs to strengthen link between the Active Army and the retiree community.

Encourage Retired Soldiers to develop public support for Army programs.

### VA launches welcome kit to guide Veterans to the benefits and services they've earned

This is where Veterans should start.



VA's onboarding process can be overwhelming at times. Veterans who have visited a VA outreach booth, VA eligibility office, or have gone through a Transition Assistance Program know that VA has no shortage of technical handouts, benefits books and materials. But, even with all of these resources, Veterans are telling us "Where do I start?"

Now, VA can point all Veterans to the [VA Welcome Kit](#).

Tricare Pharmacy Fees Set to Rise Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>. Prescriptions filled on base will continue to be Free!



WASHINGTON – Veterans can again submit online applications for new identification cards through the Department of Veterans Affairs website after the system was taken down in December following rollout problems.

The purpose of the identification cards is to help veterans prove their military history without having to carry around their DD-214 certificates, which contain sensitive information. The new IDs do not replace VA medical cards or defense retiree cards, nor do they qualify as official government-issued identification.



The Veteran's Administration (VA) will have a representative at the JFC Brunssum library on 20 & 21 March 2018 from 9 am - 4 pm to meet with anyone who would like a 1-on-1 appointment.

If you have any questions about your Veteran's benefits, now or in the future, this is the person to speak with.

To schedule an appointment, please call DSN: 314-606-244-3848 or CIV 045-526-3848 -or- E-mail: [ronald.macauley.civ@mail](mailto:ronald.macauley.civ@mail)



Four Chaplains Day marks anniversary of heroic chaplains' last sacrifice for others

It's been 75 years since the U.S. Army Transport Dorchester was hit by German submarine U-223 while transporting 902 servicemen, merchant seamen and civilian workers to Greenland.

On Feb. 3, 1943, four Army chaplains on board gave their lives to save others.

"It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven," recalled one survivor, quoted in an Army [history](#).



Post NL01 presenting Helen Patton with a Sprit Flag made by Dale Hemphill.

We caught up with Helen at the International Army Show in Maastricht, NL. The show contained a Military Fair, Army Vehicles & Tanks, Live Entertainment, Re-Enactments, an Area for Veterans, and Theme Expositions.

**THE AMERICAN LEGION – WHO WE ARE**

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic, mutual-help, and community service organization, which now numbers 2.4 million - men and women - in more than 14,000 American Legion Posts worldwide. These Posts are organized into 55 Departments – one each for the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, **France**, Mexico, and the Philippines.

The American Legion has its headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana, with offices in Washington, D.C. In addition to thousands of volunteers, serving in leadership and program implementation capacities from the communities to the Legion's standing national commissions and committees, the national organization has a professional staff of about 250 employees.

Membership eligibility in The American Legion is based on honorable service within the U.S. Armed Forces between April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918 (World War I); December 7, 1941, and December 31, 1946 (World War II); June 25, 1950, and January 31, 1955 (Korean war); December 22, 1961, and May 7, 1975 (Vietnam War); August 24, 1982, and July 31, 1984 (Lebanon/Grenada); December 20, 1989, and January 31, 1990 (Operation Just Cause – Panama); or August 2, 1990, until the date of the end of hostilities as determined by the government of the United States.



Comic strip artist Mort Walker, a World War II veteran who satirized the Army and tickled millions of newspaper readers with the antics of the lazy private "Beetle Bailey," died Jan. 27, 2018. He was 94.

**PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

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 good will 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.