Hello, Comrades.

I hope this inaugural printing of our newsletter finds everyone doing well. Thanks to Ray Perez for taking the initiative and putting it together.

From our first meeting together till now, it's been a whirlwind of activities for us. As a recap, Comrade Brotherton and I attended the Department of France’s Department Executive Committee (DEC) meeting back in February. While there, I was fortunate enough to have been elected to a department-level post as the Sgt-at-Arms. Not long after, Comrade Perez was elected to the DEC's historian position, so our newly revitalized post holds two DEC-level positions. Furthermore, I was asked to serve on the National-level National Security committee. As you can see, we have made great strides in garnering recognition for our post while also growing our membership. I believe we've just about doubled our number of members in just a few short months.

Likewise, some of the activities we've participated in included the Memorial Day wreath-laying at Margraten Cemetery, several Legion awareness events, including the 4th of July celebration at Schinnen, and we sent a group of officers to the Belgium-American Appreciation Day at Kleine Brogel. August 19, Comrade Perez assisted Post GR02 with an Awareness Drive at Ramstein Air Base, along with several other DEC officers. All of these events are helping to build awareness for our post. Furthermore, we've been working with our Canadian Legion counterparts, and now we'll be able to use their facility in Teveren for our post meetings. Perhaps in the future, we'll be able to cooperate and jointly participate on certain events. After all, they're our brothers in arms, as we've served alongside each other in major conflicts.

Soon, our Constitution and By-laws will be presented to the general membership. Once approved, we will be able to move forward with official organization status which will assist us in getting on the surrounding bases for future events, help us with fundraising, and open doors to base/post POCs to garner even more recognition for our post. And we're not going to have much time to catch our breath over the next several months. In October, our post will be hosting the next DEC meeting. More details will follow soon, but the venue will be at the International Conference Center in Brunssum. Then in November, we'll have some events, including another wreath laying, for Veterans’ Day. To round out 2017, we will be partnering with the Flanders Field Post for a barbecue and memorial events commemorating the Battle of Bastogne.

Finally, I want to thank you for your past service and for your continuing service to our veterans. I also want to offer a very special thanks to my officers that have done yeoman's work in moving our post forward. But all of you are important to our post, and I appreciate your time and dedication for the cause. I only ask that you continue to support our events when possible. Together, we're going to make Margraten Post NL01 the premiere post in Europe. I pray that I continue to represent you and our post well during the remainder of my tenure. I hope to see you all soon! ~Commander Ray
Chaplain’s Corner

It gives me great pleasure and pride to be the Chaplain for Margraten Post NL01. This is my first newsletter so I hope that my words will be inspiring and provide some spiritual healing for you, our Post and any friends and family members that you think of when reading this. Our Lord has promised us he would never forsake us but we need to share love and good will towards our fellow man. We must exhort one another instead of trying to break down each other. Keep the faith and look for the good in each person and we must be merciful to our fellow man. Each day we need to pray that Our Lord will open up the doors for us to share his love. The opportunities you have are numerous and all we have to do is look for those opportunities to serve. For all our sick and shut-ins, we send prayers of love and healing. May your life be filled with joy, love, and friends.

Prayer: Our Lord, grant us the ability to take self out of the way and that we may serve others just as you gave your son to save us. Please bring comfort to those dealing with mental and/or physical illness, be with our service members and their families. Protect our great nation and those who represent us in their decision-making efforts. We pray for comfort for our veterans and their families. AMEN

Eric “Maddog” Maddox
Post NL01 Chaplain
Ericlmaddox@yahoo.com

Dates to Remember

08 Sept - Membership Meeting
16 Sept - Awareness Drive
20 Oct - The RAD
20/21 Oct - DEC ICC Brunsum
11 Nov - Memorial Day
15-17 Dec - Bastogne Weekend

Do you have an article or announcement for the newsletter?
If so, please send all submissions to Margraten.Post.NL01@gmail.com
# Margraten Post NL01 2017-2018 Officers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commander</td>
<td>Ray Vincent</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rvincent6603@yahoo.com">rvincent6603@yahoo.com</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judge Advocate</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
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# Department of France 2017-2018 Officers

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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Membership Meeting Minutes 4 Aug 2017
By Historian Ray

Post Commander (PC) was not present due to active duty – 1st Vice Brotherton filled in. Historian (S) Perez filled in for the Adjutant who was out of the country. Service officer Ron had to leave a little early to support the retiree BBQ. All old business from the June 23rd meeting was covered.

2nd Vice Briggs: Talked about the DEC – ICC was confirmed and Historian Ray will be in charge of the BBQ Lunch and Dinner. Waiting on the names of who is coming so we can sort out VIP pick up. We also discussed the need for extra rooms to accommodate the IAC and Past Commanders meetings. Food and beverages was also discussed along with the Wi-Fi, 50/50, and Auction.

1st Vice reported 4 new members pending membership numbers. Two perspective member that was present (Sarah & Rick).

Old/Unfinished Business:
1. 2nd Vice made the Motion that Comrade Maddox to become 2nd, Motion Carried!
Historian Ray Perez made the Motion that Comrade Maddox to become Chaplain, was 2nd, Motion Carried!
Photos Taken!!

2. Vote for Constitution and By-Laws – Historian Perez pointed out that these are living document and can be changed in the future as required. Historian Perez then made a Motion for Post NL01 to adopt the Constitution and By-laws. Was 2nd. At this point 1st Vice Brotherton acting as PC stepped aside and instructed 2nd Vice Briggs to take the PC position. This was a surprise to 2nd Vice Briggs... 1st Vice asked for discussion and Historian Perez repeated that the documents have been sent to the membership for two weeks and if you have anything to add to voice it now. 1st Vice elected to speak against the Constitution and By-laws. 1st Vice felt that there are several items that need to be discussed in a group. Before approving and sent to Dept.

Membership – States at least 51% of our members must be ID card holders. ~ 1st Vice Brotherton stated that the American Legion is not about cardholders. It’s about Veterans working for Veterans and the community. He pointed out that not all Veterans are ID card holders.

Officers – States in the current draft that Commanders and Vice Commanders must be ID Cardholders. ~ 1st Vice feels that is totally unacceptable. He feels the Post should take “The Right Person for the Job” approach.

Quorum – States in the current draft that 10% equals a quorum. 1st Vice feels with the current size of our Post, that the percentage is too low to speak for the Post.

Eligibility for Elected Positions - More experience required than what is specified in documentation.
Fines for Infractions - All reference to fines should be eliminated from our documents. It sends the wrong message on what we are about.
Membership Meeting Cont.

1st Vice thinks in the rush to bring the Constitution and By-laws to the table, we have overlooked what our main purpose should be and how we should be going about it. 1st Vice then made a secondary motion for the proposed Constitution and By-laws be sent back to the Post Executive Committee be worked out at their level to produce a worthy document. Acting PC Briggs put 1st Vice secondary motion to the floor to be 2nd. It was. It was voted to send back to PEC. After motion 1st Vice took PC and the meeting moved on.

DEC – It was encouraged for all Post members to attend.
Canadian Legion building for the Post Membership Meetings – We discussed the location and general information on the facility.

Awareness Drive was addressed – Harvey Briggs volunteered to help.

New Business:
Announcement made by Historian Perez on the Post newsletter requesting contributors for 4th of July and Belgium Friendship Day.

Special Guest, Cmdr. Schram went on the cover the Bastogne BBQ - 15-17 Dec.

Agenda for Bastogne Weekend:
Friday night – Assist with registering walkers – Also register for the Walk
Sat Morning 0800? – Is the Walk - BE02 is planning to put out a table to give free hot beverages and water for the walkers.
Sat Afternoon is the Wreath Laying at Patton and McAuliffe Monuments ~ Said the commanders but we have a group there so we will probably all participate.
Sat Evening – USO Dance – Tentative location is the Bastogne Barracks – Looking to get permission to sell beer! Also stated that Helen Patton, the Grand Daughter of Gen. Patton will be there.

USAG Gazette - We need to advertise. POC Historian Ray (Contact Made/Content Sent)
Historian Ray is the POC for Bastogne.

Historian Ray made announcement about the NL01 Bastogne House for 1 bedroom left. Now we have only one bed left!! (Bed is still available) Meeting was adjourned after 57:50.
NEXT MEETING IS 8 SEPTEMBER! SEE YOU ALL THERE!!
Memorial Day Margraten
By Historian Ray

HONOR IS THEIRS WHO KNEW THE PATH OF HONOR

These are the words you will find engraved on the south wall within the Court of Honor of the Netherlands American Cemetery we often refer to as “Margraten”, named after the nearby village. Those inscribed words have stayed with me the most since my first visit years ago. Flanking the entrance to the Court of Honor on the north side is the museum room. On the exterior wall of the museum is an inscription taken from General Dwight D. Eisenhower’s dedication of the Golden Book in St. Paul’s Cathedral in London; It read’s: “HERE WE AND ALL WHO SHALL HEREAFTER LIVE IN FREEDOM WILL BE REMIDED THAT TO THESE MEN AND THEIR COMRADES WE OWE A DEBT TO BE PAID WITH GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE OF THEIR SACRIFICE AND WITH THE HIGH RESOLVE THAT THE CAUSE FOR WHICH THEY DIED SHALL LIVE”. You will find other engravings on the walls of honor. These engravings include the names, rank, organization and the State of the 1,723 Americans Missing of the Army and Army Air Forces. The cemetery occupies 65+ acres of gently rolling farmland. The site was liberated on September 13, 1944, by troops of the U.S. 30th Infantry Division as part of the advancement into Germany. This battlefield cemetery was one of the first to be used for the interment of American soldiers who fell on German soil. There are 8,301 graves representing 8,302 souls. Notable burials include 7 Medal of Honor recipients & a Maj General. On May 28th our Post took part in the Memorial Day ceremony by offering a wreath representing Post NL01 remembrance and respect. Members of the American and Dutch military assisted with the laying of the wreaths during the ceremony. Notable attendees included; Maj. General J.A. van der Louw, Adjutant General to His Majesty the King, The Honorable Shawn Crowley, Charg d’Affaires of the US, Honorable Ronald Plasterk, Minister of Interior and UK Relations, Th. J.F.M. Boves, King's Commissioners, and Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

If you haven’t had the opportunity to visit Margraten, I highly recommend it. You will of course be saddened by it, probably be in awe of it, but mostly I think you will see the Honor of it.
The Independence Day Celebration took place on USAG Benelux, Schinnen, NL on 4 July 2017. The weather cooperated and it was a gorgeous day! Margraten Post NL01 did not have an official Information Table however, members met in fellowship and representation of the Post. A few new members were signed and many current members renewed their annual memberships. Additionally, 100th Legion Commemorative Coins were sold for Post fundraising. Introductions were made with representatives from the Canadian Legion to inquire about possibilities to hold meetings and events at their facility in Teveren (stand-by for developments). Many Post members joined in the fun with activities at the event. Commander Ray was in the dunk tank and Sgt of Arms Mark performed with the Music 4 Vets band. A special performance was given when Commander Ray and Comrade Dennis joined on stage playing the tambourine and cowbell. A pyro-technic and firework show concluded the night’s celebrations.
KLEINE BROGEL AIR BASE, Belgium – Warm and sunny conditions welcome the more than 200 U.S. Air Force and Belgian Armed Forces Air Component service members and families as they celebrated Belgian-American Friendship day.

The tradition dates back more than six decades - a festivity commemorating less of a specific date and more about the two countries close ties stemming from the Allied liberation of the country in World War II.

The event is a result of the larger bilateral agreement between both countries as the Americans work on the installation provided and maintained by the Belgians.

NL01 & BE02 were allowed to set up an Information Table and bring awareness to the men and women of the USAF that are stationed there.

Commander Ray Vincent was allowed to address the masses where he thanked the Commander, Chief, and the 1st Sargent for making the day possible. Commander Ray also gifted Commander Baily and 1st Shirt Warren, American Legion Centennial Coins. He went on to talk about how impressed we were with the US/Belgium relations and how even today the Belgium people come up to us and thank us! Cmdr. Ray said “Thank You, for always making us feel welcome over here”.

"We were honored to be allowed to take part in the great traditional celebration and very much look forward in participating next year!"
Margraten Post NL01 had a very successful Awareness Drive at AAFES Commissary USAG Benelux-Schinnen. We’ve added two new members to the Post and one renewal. Special thanks to Post Commander Ray Vincent, 2nd Vice Harvey Briggs III, and Historian Ray Perez for their help and dedication.

The Department of France held a Membership Awareness Drive for GR02. Post GR02 has been around for awhile but over the years the membership has subsided to minimum numbers. The Ramstein military community is arguably the largest in Europe and could be a hotbed for Legion memberships. Participating in the Awareness Drive was Department Commander James Dennis, VCAL Charly Brown, VC James Settle, VC Jimmie Dale, VC Casby Logan, and Historian Ray Perez. Department Auxiliary President Sonja Dennis was also present. The awareness drive was a great success with 24 new membership applications filled out for Post GR02. Three new members were also signed up for GR07 and one for NL01 for a total of 28 members. The auxiliary also added a new member!

Coins to a stateside member named Paula and her granddaughter. VC Casby also bestowed his Dept. of France Officer medal to Paula, who lost her son to injuries sustained in combat in 2014.
SEPT 12 2017
DOD JOINT SERVICE

PRISONERS OF WAR/MISSING IN ACTION
TRI BOARDER BREAKFAST CEREMONY

Commemoration day to honor America’s POW/MIAs, those returned and those still missing and unaccounted for from our nation’s wars.

What: POW/MIA Breakfast Ceremony
When: 12 Sept 2017  (8:00 AM)
Where: Schinnen Community Activity Center
Ticket Cost: 5 (Euro)

The American Legion Mobile App
This app offers a succinct description of the Legion’s forms of advocacy, opportunities to join, donate and find nearby posts.
https://www.legion.org/mobileapps
The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act

To celebrate 100 years of service to community, state and nation, The American Legion is working with the U.S. Mint and the U.S. Congress to produce limited-edition, exquisitely crafted commemorative coins. Authorized by Congress, commemorative coins celebrate and honor people, places, events and institutions in American society.

Unique among U.S. Mint products, these coins help raise money for important causes as well as commemorate important aspects of American history and culture. Proceeds from the sale of the coins would support the programs and services offered under the four pillars of our organization: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Children and Youth, and Americanism.

The American Legion begins its centennial recognition at the 100th National Convention in Minneapolis, site of the 1st American Legion National Convention, in August 2018. In March 2019, the organization will celebrate its 100th birthday in Paris, and Sept. 16, 2019, will mark the 100th anniversary of the organization’s congressional charter.

If authorized by Congress, coins minted would be issued only during the one-year period beginning on Jan. 1, 2019.

The American Legion is honored that the authorizing legislation is being sponsored on a bipartisan, bicameral basis by Sens. Todd Young, R-Ind., and Joe Donnelly, D-Ind., and Reps. Phil Roe, R-Tenn. and Tim Walz, D-Minn.

WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?

» Sign on as a co-sponsor or vote in favor of H.R. 2519 or S. 1182 The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act, allowing the U.S. Mint to strike a limited-edition American Legion centennial commemorative coin with proceeds from sales dedicated to the organization’s four pillars of service.

» Email Chris Bennett in Congressman Walz’s office at christopher.bennett@mail.house.gov or Kevin Marsh in Senator Young’s office at kevin_marshall@young.senate.gov to add your Member of Congress.

FOR MORE INFORMATION Matthew J. Shuman, American Legion Legislative Division Director (202) 861-2700 mshuman@legion.org

KEY POINTS

» Sales of the U.S. Mint’s commemorative American Legion Centennial coins would support:

» Services for veterans, such as health-care and claims assistance, job fairs and help for homeless veterans

» Military personnel and their families, including comfort items for the hospitalized and financial assistance for military families

» Americanism programs that promote law and order, patriotism, citizenship, flag respect and education.

» Children & Youth programs like Boys State and Nation, Family Support Network, Oratorical competition and more.

The American Legion – what it has done, what it is doing and what it will continue to do – is exactly what my grandfather and his fellow co-founders intended to achieve.

Ted Roosevelt IV, Chairman, American Legion 100th Anniversary Honorary Committee, grandson of American Legion founder Theodore Roosevelt Jr.
This year marks the 72nd year that the “Margraten” adoption program has existed. Fact is, that all the graves were adopted within the first two years, with many of the graves still in the hands of the same Dutch families, being passed on, generation to generation. The waiting list to adopt one of the graves was very long and left little chance of ever becoming an adopter. In 2008 a decision was made to allow the names on the Walls of the Missing to be adopted. Today all 1,723 names are adopted. While talking to Ton Hermes, who is the Chairman of the Foundation for Adopting Graves at the American Cemetery in Margraten, I learned that the current waiting list is a little over 300. Mr. Hermes also went on to tell me that Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery in Belgium had almost half of their 7,992 graves available for adoption. This is where the American Overseas Memorial Day Association (AOMDA) comes in. AOMDA has the privilege of honoring our fallen servicemen through their Sentinel of Memory program. They state that anyone-anywhere in the world - can become a Sentinel of Memory for any serviceman buried in Belgium. Simply visit his tribute page and add your name to his list of Sentinels. So the program not only covers Henri-Chapelle, but also Flanders Field, Ardennes, Isolated graves, and US graves in commonwealth cemeteries.

If you wish to become an adopter, you would apply to become a Primary Sentinel of Memory. Becoming a Primary Sentinel of Memory is an obligation of remembrance. Primary Sentinels commit to visit and present flowers at the grave of the serviceman to whom they are assigned, typically at least once a year. Primary Sentinels also help all of us learn more about who the soldier was as a person. When possible, Primary Sentinels reach out to family members and other Sentinels of Memory of that serviceman in a mutual effort to discover more information and contribute that information to the serviceman’s tribute page. Your commitment to serve as a Primary Sentinel is for a renewable period of three years. The first step in all this is visiting the AOMDA site www.aomda.org/en and registering an account. It took approximately three days for my account to be activated. After that you can submit to become a Primary Sentinel of Memory. I’m told due to the current backlog of applications the process takes 6-8 weeks. I submitted an application for five graves and I just hit five weeks so I hope to hear back from the foundation soon!
**Department of France Centennial Challenge Coin!**

March 2019 is firmly circled on The American Legion Department 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 50 coins!

**Upcoming Events & Activities:**

Friday, 08 September: General Membership Meeting – Canadian Legion Facility in Tevern @ 1700hrs.

Tuesday, 12 September: POW/MIA Breakfast Ceremony – See flyer on pg. 10 for information.

Saturday, 16 September: Awareness Drive – USAG Schinnen Commissary from 1000-1500hrs.

Friday, 29 September: PEC Meeting – Haus Altenburg Breberen @ 1630hrs.

Friday, 13 October: General Membership Meeting – Canadian Legion Facility @ 1700hrs.

Friday, 20 October: The RAD – Schinnen Community Events Center from 1000-1400hrs.

2017 2nd Department Executive Committee Meeting

Hosted by American Legion Maastricht NL Post NL 01

20-21 October • Located at the Internation Conference Center in Brunssum, NL

General Eisenhower Hotel & Suites are co-located with the center
https://www.jfcbrunssum.com/community/icc-international-conference-center/

20 Oct Friday • Hotel guest check-in (Breakfast Saturday included with room)
Welcome Social/ice breaker, Sports Bar 19:00-close. Drinks and snacks

21 Oct Saturday • Hotel guest check-in • Pre-registration 09:00-11:00 Sports Bar
Lunch 11:00-12:30 Terrace and Dining Room
Registration 12:13:00 @ the Sports Bar
Past Commander’s Meeting 12:30-13:00 Alliance and Limburg Room
DEC Meeting 13:00 • end Alliance and Limburg Room
Dinner 17:30ish-19:30 Terrace and Dining Room
Auction, Raffle, 50/50 19:30-20:00 in the Sports Bar
After party 20:00-close Terrace, Dinning Room, Sports Bar
Live music 21:00-24:00 (three sets with breaks) Sports Bar

22 Oct Sunday • Hotel guest check-out. (Breakfast included with room)
Post NL01 wrap-up and clean-up

Lunch/Dinner/Drinks:
Multi-coloured tickets will be sold at Registration and throughout all days. (meals, drinks, 50/50, raffle)
Prices: Lunch 10Euro, Dinner 20 Euro, Drinks- coffee, 50Euro cent, water/soft drinks 1.00Euro, beer/wine 2.00Euro
Lunch Menu: BBQ 2 sausages (Bratwurst/Nuremberg), assorted chips, veggie tray + (1) drink
Dinner Menu: BBQ Pork Ribs, Beef Brisket, green leaf mix salad, baked beans, mac-n-cheese, Texas toast + (1) drink
Sheet-cake (vanilla/chocolate) + ice cream