

Margraten Post NL01 Newsletter



Spring, 2022 Edition

Commander's Comments



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Post Commander

- Joshua Steinlicht

1st Vice Commander

- Mike Head

2nd Vice Commander

- Rodney Harris

Finance Officer

- Tom Nunn

Adjutant

- Rick Ojeda

Sgt-At-Arms

- David Huffstutler

Service Officer

- John Pope

Historian

- Adam Rudolph

Chaplain

- Timothy Pape

Judge Advocate

- Jeff Danico

Immediate Past Commander

- Dennis Owens

Greetings Comrades,

Spring is now upon us, and your American Legion Post has been hard at work with our annual Oratorical Contest, membership awareness and Veteran recognition. With Spring, we have completed the 2021-2022 administration and held our annual elections. I am honored that the members of the Margraten Post have placed their trust in me as their Post Commander for another year. I want thank all of the officers who made up last year's Post Executive Committee (PEC) their leadership helped us to meet our goals last year. I want to send a special thanks to those officers who were not re-elected this year, you will be missed in the new administration. Mike Head, Rodney Harris and Tom Nunn, thank you all for the time you committed to leading our Post and for helping me to stay on track during the multiple meetings and events we attended together. The energy and effort you spend last year will be hard to match!

Moving forward into the new administration, I want to welcome Adam Rudolph as our new 2nd Vice Commander and welcome Back our Post Historian Duke Francis! I look forward to working with you in the coming year! It is important to note that we are still searching for a 1st Vice Commander, if anyone is interested, please contact me.

I have provided the PEC with my four priorities for this year and would like to share them with the Post (in no particular order of precedence):

1. Find a new Post Home that meets our needs
2. Identify and better employ the use of committees
3. Build our ability to better support children and youth
4. Establish an Auxiliary

All of these priorities can be realized with the support and efforts from our membership, so I encourage everyone to get involved!

Joshua E. Steinlicht
"For God and Country"

Facebook: American Legion Post Margraten NL01

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March General Membership Meeting

Notes from March General Membership Meeting and other news

- Membership Report...currently at 71% for the year
- Post Oratorical Contest winner Ronnie Macauley was presented his prize from the Post 1st place win and his prize from the Department 2nd place win
- Post Election Results:
 - Commander Joshua Steinlicht
 - 1st Vice Commander (Vacant)
 - 2nd Vice Commander Adam Rudolph
 - Service Officer John Pope
 - Sergeant at Arms David Huffstutler
 - Chaplain Timothy Pape
 - Historian Duke Francis
(appointed, pending ratification)

2022-2023 Appointed officers

Adjutant Rick Ojeda
Judge Advocate Jeff Danico
Finance Officer Richard Maurer

Dennis Owens is our Immediate Past Commander

- Covid restrictions continue to change
- Next PEC 10 April at 1800 at Sporthall
- Next General Membership Meeting 18 February at 1900 location TBD
- Any news you'd like to share? Contact the Historian!



American Legion in the News

American Legion teaming up with local veteran-owned distillery

The American Legion

APR 07, 2022 [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [More](#)

Veteran-owned and operated Hotel Tango Distillery, headquartered in Indianapolis, Ind., is proud to announce their Memorial Day giveback program, Operation: Red, White & Bourbon. For every bottle of their Red, White & Bourbon limited-time offer bottle sold, Hotel Tango will donate \$1 to The American Legion to support veteran programs. The program runs from April 4 until July 4; you can purchase Hotel Tango spirits online or find a store by visiting their [website](#).

“As a veteran-owned company, we are proud to partner with The American Legion to support veterans all across the country,” said Travis Barnes, Hotel Tango’s Founder & CEO. “The national Legion & local Legions provide many helpful services for veterans. They are also a beacon for most communities and can be a very nostalgic and supportive place for those who grew up with and alongside veterans in their hometown like myself.”

“This partnership allows us to give back to soldiers of every generation, to show our appreciation of their sacrifice, and to help keep Legion centers all over America feeling supported.” said Nick Ladig, Hotel Tango’s president. Dean Kessel, Chief Marketing Officer for The American Legion, called the new relationship “a win-win partnership, as it will help The American Legion continue its mission of supporting servicemembers, veterans and their families. Hotel Tango and The American Legion are aligned when it comes to working to ensure those who served, and continue to serve, are supported, and equipped with the tools necessary to succeed in and out of uniform,” said

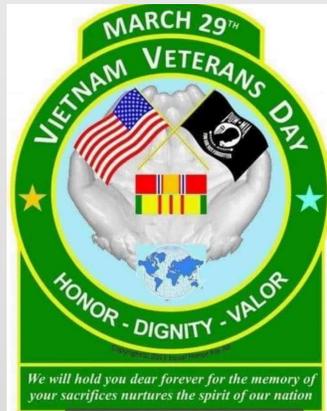
To learn more about upcoming events surrounding the partnership, follow The American Legion and Hotel Tango Distillery on social media:

- The American Legion: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).
- Hotel Tango Distillery: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

Source: <https://www.legion.org/news/255493/american-legion-teaming-local-veteran-owned-distillery>



Oratorical Contest winner Ronnie Macauley presented with his prizes for placing 1st at the Post level Annual Oratorical Contest and 2nd place at the Department level contest.



Recognized some of the Vietnam Veterans in our community for their service.





Attending a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery

Each year, on the 3rd Saturday of the month of May, the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery hosts a Memorial Day ceremony to commemorate the sacrifice of all the servicemen buried at his site. This event is **jointly organized by the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), the American Overseas Memorial Day Association (AOMDA) and the US Embassy Brussels**, in partnership with the local community.



“Every year people gather for Memorial Day ceremonies at all the American military cemeteries overseas. Senior American and local 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. Military units salute the fallen with military honors. Veterans of the war, whose numbers are dwindling each year, bear poignant witness to the sacrifices made. These solemn and moving ceremonies remind all of us of the true meaning of freedom and its cost in human life.” (AOMDA.org)

Why visiting during Memorial Day?

Visiting Henri-Chapelle during Memorial Day is the perfect opportunity to witness the gratitude local citizens still hold for the American servicemen that fell liberating their country. The participation of local children demonstrates the commitment to pass the torch of remembrance to the next generation.

For the occasion each of the 7987 headstones is ornate with a Belgian and an American flag. During the ceremony, a US Military band performs both American and Belgian national anthems. National and international officials and patriotic organizations participate in the laying of wreaths.



If you wish to attend our Memorial Day ceremony

Because family members have reserved sitting in the VIP section, we kindly ask you to inform us well in advance of your participation. To do so, please email us at henri-chapelle@abmc.gov or call at +32(0)87.68.71.73 (9am to 5pm Europe time). We will be able to assist you with the planning of your visit.

Before the ceremony you will be invited to meet the official party including the US Ambassador, veterans and other families. After the ceremony, a reception is organized by the local town where you will be able to meet le locals.

To learn more about the ceremonies organized in ABMC cemeteries you can visit www.abmc.org or follow us on www.facebook.com/usabmc/



“All Rise!” Judge Advocate’s Court (Jeff Danico)

Parliamentary Procedure – Order of a meeting

The second newsletter installment of Parliamentary Procedure provides an overview of a meeting agenda and the order of business.

No meeting anywhere, whether civilian or military, will be efficient without an agenda. To that end, most Legion Post Commanders establish a fixed agenda, which is comparable from post to post. This ensures the meeting flows and provides control over when and how business is conducted. Our Margraten Post NL01 agenda is:

1. Call to order by the Commander, or appointed chair in the Commander’s absence
2. Opening Ceremony
 - a. Salute the Colors
 - b. Chaplain’s Prayer
 - c. POW/MIA Ceremony
 - d. Pledge of Allegiance
 - e. American Legion Preamble
3. Roll Call
4. Commander’s opening comments
5. Reading of previous month’s meeting minutes
 - a. Our post e-mails meeting minutes to all members prior to meetings. This provides all members the opportunity to review and be prepared to comment and vote to accept the minutes. Distribution of the minutes via e-mail significantly increases the efficiency of the meeting. At this point, the commander requests a motion to accept the minutes. Once the motion process is conducted, a vote is taken to accept the minutes
6. Sergeant at Arms introduction of new members and/or guests
 - a. The Sergeant at Arms is the official gatekeeper of order. He/she also is responsible to ensure membership attendance is documented and prepares to announce any new members or guests
7. Officer and Committee reports
 - a. All officers are required to present either a verbal or written report to the membership. Most times there will be no need to vote for acceptance of officer reports, however, the Finance Report must be voted on each meeting. As with the previous meeting minutes, the commander will request a motion to accept the Finance Report to bring the report before a vote for acceptance
8. Unfinished business
9. Initiation of new members
10. New business
11. Memorial to departed Legionnaires or family members
12. The good of the American Legion
13. Miscellaneous actions: Food plans for next meeting, 50/50 drawing, recap of upcoming events, etc.
14. Closing ceremony
 - a. Chaplain’s prayer
 - b. POW/MIA table
 - c. Salute the Colors

Judge Advocate cont... (Jeff Danico)

15. Commander adjourns the meeting

This order of business provides the framework for the meetings to proceed in an organized manner. It ensures the commander or chair maintains order and provides the general membership the opportunity to plan their input.

The main moments for membership bringing discussions to the floor are:

1. Unfinished business a. This is the time to reopen motions and discussions that were tabled or postponed in a prior meeting
2. New business a. This is the time for members to enter new motions and business
3. Memorial to departed Legionnaires or family members a. Everyone has the opportunity to have the post pause for remembrance
4. The good of the American Legion a. Here we discuss anything that is of benefit of the American Legion

If the membership prepares for and follows this agenda order, the meetings will proceed smoothly. Even though this may seem elementary to some or even more members, it will be helpful especially for new members to understand how a meeting runs. Even seasoned members sometimes forget the order, so this is simply a good reminder to all. The next installment will cover how to make motions to present business before the membership. This will be getting more into the nuts and bolts of conducting business, and hopefully will be more interesting!

Member Spotlight



This edition we are spotlighting our
1st Vice Commander Mike Head.

Do you have any nicknames?

Old callsign was "cranium".

Where are you from?

Born in Germany but most of my family are in and around Atlanta Ga.

What is your background as a veteran?

10 years Combat Control Team as enlisted/10 years AWACS as an officer.

How did your affiliation with the American Legion start?

Friendship with Tom Nunn and Dennis Owens

What roles have you held in the American Legion?

1st Vice Commander Post, Squadron Commander Sons of the American Legion.

What are some of your proudest moments since being a member?

Establishing the new Squadron and being elected Squadron Commander.

What are you looking forward to in the future with the American Legion?

Continuing to work with Veterans for Veterans.

What is your favorite hobby?

Trekking.

What is your favorite travel destination?

To many to mention.

Are you a sports fan? If so, what is your favorite team?

Not really...

What is an interesting fact about you?

I work as a Forrest Ranger for a Dutch Nature Management organization.

Sons of the American Legion



For information on joining the Sons of the American Legion contact Commander Mike Head at headmp@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during World War I or since December 7, 1941, to date, as set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion.

There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership.

THE EMBLEM

The design of our emblem was taken from the



emblem of our parent organization, but is oval in shape so as to be easily distinguished.

The star in the center represents our country, and the five points of the star represent the five-point program of the Sons of The American Legion.

The sun in the background represents the Sons of The American Legion and the rays represent the loyalty of its membership.

The blue of the emblem, like the blue of our flag, stands for justice.

The two stars in the blue border stand for freedom and democracy.

The wreath below the star is in memory of our comrades, and those of our forefathers who willingly gave their lives for their country.

The 10 points of the emblem represent the 10 ideals of every Legion son.

TEN IDEALS

The Ten Ideals Program is a study program recommended for school-age children which includes subjects in:

PATRIOTISM	FAITH
HEALTH	HELPFULNESS
KNOWLEDGE	COURTESY
TRAINING	REVERENCE
HONOR	COMRADESHIP

FIVE-POINT PROGRAM OF SERVICE

This is the study program for those members who have completed the Ten Ideals. This is recommended for younger members but is not limited to just them. This program includes:

PATRIOTISM: Love of the flag; love of country.

CITIZENSHIP: Individual obligation of citizenship.

DISCIPLINE: Respect for and obedience to rules.

LEADERSHIP: Participation in group activities.

LEGIONISM: Knowledge of The American Legion.



The Five-Star Award, which can be presented to SAL members who show perfection in the Five Point Program of Service, is a gold plated medal bearing the SAL emblem and the symbolism of the five points.



UNIFORM

The basic uniform of the Sons of The American Legion is the squadron blue cap. Dress attire is determined by the activity and by the Sons of The American Legion leadership conducting the event or function. Optional attire such as casual, business casual, coat and tie is determined by the squadron, district and detachment.

Uniform caps are available through the National Emblem Sales Division of The American Legion. Also available are jackets, shirts and other items for purchase. For a catalog write to: National Emblem Sales, P.O. Box 1050, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Or visit emblem.legion.org.

Sons of The American Legion caps

All caps have red, white and blue piping. Caps include state and squadron number. All additional lettering is \$1 per character. District and detachment orders must be routed through Legion department headquarters for approval. Special state insignia is available at extra charge.

Squadron (French Blue)

(See National Emblem Sales catalog)



Cap: Standard SAL in the following colors:

- Squadron:** French blue with red, white and blue piping.
- District:** French blue base, white top, piping same as squadron cap.
- Detachment:** French blue base, gold top, piping same as squadron cap.
- National:** Solid gold, piping same as squadron cap.

American Legion Riders



Motorcycle Safety

Position Yourself

If the car you're following has its left turn signal on, move to the right side of the lane. This allows the cars following you to see without obstruction the turn signal of the car ahead and warns them of stopped vehicles up in front. If the car you're tailing has its right turn signal on, move over to the left side of the lane. This again permits cars following to see more clearly. Check your rearview mirror and use the escape route on either side of the car if traffic fails to stop.

What you can't see can hurt you Blind corners have claimed many motorcyclists. A good survival rule of thumb is never rely solely on signs. If you've never been on the road before you are, in essence, a rookie should never push it to the limit. Rarely do signs warn of gravel in the middle of the turn, off-camber turns or decreasing radius turns. Local riders will know every inch of the turn, but you won't. Remember road conditions can change since the last time you traveled it.

What's new can kill you

What's worse than having a new rider on a bike they've never ridden?-----Perhaps a new bike that an experienced rider hasn't ridden. Just because you've conquered your last bike doesn't mean that you can ride anything. Unfortunately, experienced riders often forget to be humble when handling a new machine. Different throttle responses, braking tendencies, cornering ability, center of gravity, and ergonomics can really throw you off. Treat any bike you haven't mastered with respect. If you don't, you may find yourself in over your comfort level.

STOP IT CORRECTLY!

Motorcycles differ from cars in two critical ways: stability and vulnerability. Because bikes ride on two wheels, they are less stable and must be balanced, especially at low speeds. With no roll cages, seat belts or air bags in play, riders are left at the mercy of the elements, other riders and the road. Even the seemingly simple act of stopping at a traffic light highlights these differences. The proof? Motorcycle dents, dings paint scratches and human scratches, scuffs, aches and pains caused by dropping a bike at a stop

Historian's Corner

- **1945 – On Okinawa, American forces launch Operation Iceberg, the invasion of Okinawa. Two corps of the US 10th Army (General Buckner) land in the area of Hagushi, in the southwest of the island.**
 - US Task Force 51 (Admiral Turner) provides the 1,200 transports and landing ships including seven Coast Guard-manned transports, 29 LSTs, the cutters Bibb and Woodbine, and 12 LCI(L)s, with over 450,000 Army and Marine Corps personnel embarked. The troops landed are from US 3rd Amphibious Corps (Geiger) with US 6th and 1st Marine Divisions, on the left or northern flank, and 24th Corps (Hodge) with US 7th and 96th Infantry Divisions, on the right or southern flank. On land, US forces encounter almost no resistance on the first day and establish a beachhead three miles deep and nine miles wide. (Okinawa is 70 miles long and a maximum of 10 miles wide.) Kadena and Yontan airfields are captured. Japanese forces on the island, consisting of the 130,000 troops of the Japanese 32nd Army (General Ushijima), are entrenched in concealed positions and caves, mostly to the south of the American landing area along the Shuri Line. (There are also 450,000 civilians on the island.) At sea, US TF58 and TF54 as well as the British Pacific Fleet conduct air and naval bombardments. Japanese conventional and Kamikaze air strikes hit the battleship USS West Virginia, and the carrier, HMS Indomitable, along with eight other ships.
- **1945 – The US 1st and 9th Armies link up at Lippstadt, cutting off the German forces in the Ruhr which consist of 325,000 men mostly from German 15th Army and 5th Panzer Army of German Army Group B (Field Marshal Model).**
 - Other elements of US 1st Army capture Paderborn while US 9th Army units take Hamm. To the north, forces of British 2nd Army have crossed the Mittelland Canal near Munster and are advancing to Osnabruck.
- **1945 – The US 158th Regiment (General MacNider) lands at Legaspi in the southeast of Luzon and takes the town and nearby airfield.**
 - Elsewhere on Luzon American forces are beginning to advance toward the southeast of Manila after much hard fighting against the Japanese forces of the Shimbu Group (General Yokoyama). Forces of the Japanese 14th Army (General Yamashita), in the north of the island, have also engaged by American and Filipino forces.



Basic Training

- 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.
- Already taken the old course? 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.

How Does it Work?

- Course Structure
- The Course is arranged into 5 major topic areas and 1 concluding section. Each section will present information about the topic via text, images and video.
- Evaluation
- At the end of each topic area there is a quiz that will help gauge your understanding of the material.
- When you've completed each section quiz, you'll be able to take the final exam. The exam will take roughly ~30 minutes to complete.

Link to Training: <https://www.legion.org/alei/basic-training>



• **History & Organization**

Learn why and how The American Legion came into existence after World War I.



• **Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation**

The foremost pillar of American Legion service, learn the ways in which the organization is dedicated to compassionate care, timely delivery of benefits, career development and other areas of advocacy for those who have served in uniform.



• **National Security**

Outlined here is The American Legion's position on a strong, well-equipped and effectively deployed U.S. military, including a decent quality of life for those now in uniform and retirees of the Armed Forces.



Americanism

This pillar of American Legion service is filled with respect for the nation that those in the military swore with their lives to defend, from proper treatment of the U.S. flag to voter education to youth programs that make life-changing differences



• **Children & Youth**

The American Legion's long-held position that "every child deserves a square deal" is explained here, to include such programs and efforts as the Child Welfare Foundation, the Family Support Network, Temporary Financial Assistance and other initiatives that aim to help children and youth follow their dreams, no matter their circumstances.



• **Course Conclusion**

See how all the pieces of American Legion service and advocacy fit together to best serve our nation and learn where other committees and commissions play vital roles.



• **Final Exam**

Take an online test to see how well you understand the nation's largest veterans service organization.