

## Riley Leroy Pitts Post GR07



### In Memoriam Legionnaire John Odom Sr. Post Everlasting



On 5 December, 2018 Mr. John Odom Sr., a Life Member of American Legion Department of France, Post GR07 joined Post Everlasting. During his numerous years in the legion he served in various positions, including GR07 Post Commander, GR07 Vice Commander, GR07 Chaplain, GR07 Sergeant-In-Arms, GR07 Finance Officer, GR07 Ways & Means Chair, Sons of American Legion (SAL) Commander, and GR07 Auxiliary Chair. He also served as a Department of France Vice Commander and Chaplain, and he was a dedicated Forty & Eight (40/8) member and served as Grande Chef, Grande Amonier and Grande Ritual Director in the 40/8.

John called Mannheim, Germany his “home away from home” and he always participated in military community events to help improve quality of life for Veterans, Service Members and Family Members. He ensured Post GR07 sponsored annual events with the local Department of Defense Schools Europe (DoDDS-E) including American Legion Oratorical Contests, Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (JROTC) events, and Memorial Day and Veterans Day observances. He was often recognized by military leaders as a VIP at major events such as the naming of “Riley Leroy Pitts” Street at former Funari Barracks in Mannheim, Germany, and at the inauguration of “Riley Leroy Pitts Hall” at Clay Kaserne in Wiesbaden, Germany.

John leaves behind his family in the United States and he always spoke of his unwavering love for his children, grandchildren and relatives. Our brother, John Odom Sr., will be deeply missed by his fellow Legionnaires, Veterans, Military Service Members, Family Members and Friends, especially in the German communities of Worms, Mannheim, Heidelberg and Wiesbaden.

### “Eulogy for a Veteran”

**From: Post GR07 in Remembrance of Mr. John Odom Sr.**

Do not stand at my grave and weep. I am not there, I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow. I am the diamond glints on snow.

I am the sunlight on ripened grain. I am the Gentle autumn rain.

When you awaken in the mornings hush, I am the swift uplifting rush,  
of quiet birds in circled flight, I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry, I am not there, I did not die.



## **Post GR07 General Membership Meetings!**

When: 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at 3pm at GR07 Post Home

Bldg. # 07005, Crestview Housing Area

Marsweg 3, 65191 Wiesbaden, Germany

Interesting in joining or attending a meeting? Find us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionPostGR07/>



### **Riley Leroy Pitts Post GR07**

Honors Army Captain Riley Leroy Pitts

An American Hero

Post GR07 is proudly named in honor of Captain Riley Leroy Pitts who was mortally wounded in Vietnam and posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. After his company landed in an airmobile assault, several enemy forces opened fire with automatic weapons. Captain Pitts led an assault which overran the enemy positions to reinforce another company engaged against a strong enemy force. As his company moved forward intense fire was received from within 15 meters of his position. His rifle fire proving ineffective against the enemy due to the dense foliage, Pitts picked up an M79 grenade launcher and began pinpointing the targets. Seizing a grenade taken from a captured Viet Cong, he lobbed it at a bunker to his front but it hit the foliage and rebounded. Without hesitation, Pitts threw himself on top of the grenade which, fortunately, failed to explode. He then directed the repositioning of the company to permit friendly artillery to be fired. Upon completion of the fire mission, he again led his men toward the enemy positions, personally killing at least one more Viet Cong. Displaying complete disregard for his personal safety, he maintained continuous fire, pinpointing the enemy's fortified positions, while at the same time directing and urging his men forward, until he was mortally wounded. (Source: Wikipedia)

### **Wiesbaden Veterans Affairs Representative Services**

Wiesbaden Army Garrison has a Veterans Affairs (VA) Benefits Advisor located in Building 1023 East, Room 169, on Clay Kaserne in Wiesbaden, Germany. For more information regarding services and appointments to discuss VA Claims, benefits etc. just call 0611-143-5481323.

### **Martin Luther King Jr. Observance**

Martin Luther King Holiday will be observed as a U.S. Federal Holiday on 21 January, 2019. Most Wiesbaden Army Garrison facilities will be closed for the holiday, however AAFES, Commissary and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) facilities may be open during limited hours. For more information, please check the Wiesbaden Army Garrison website at: <http://www.wiesbaden.army.mil/>

**Happy New Year 2019 from Post GR07!**