Department Commander John Shanahan

2017 Membership Drive & Current Standings. Another month and another milestone – hitting the 95% mark. As of this weekend just passed, our Membership Team completed another membership drive at Posts GR-01, GR-07, GR-20 and EG-02. I’m delighted to report that we have added 45 new members as a result. We’re preparing the transmittal to National now and already have 49 members ready to transmit. That brings our total to 94 – and we top the 95% mark with three members to spare.

I can’t overstate the importance of all Posts and members working together to meet our membership goals. Keeping our membership up and bringing on board both currently serving members and veterans is the core of our business. On a personal note, I have to tell you that the young men and women we meet in our recruiting drives give me a great sense of satisfaction in the quality of our military. We’re bringing on board serious, capable and very dedicated troops, many of whom who will lead this organization over the next 40 years or so. They are truly a joy to talk to and to sign up in the Legion.

Liberty Post EG-02, Lakenheath, England Hits the 100-Member Mark. I’m delighted to report that our new Liberty Post EG-02 has hit the 100-member mark as of this weekend. Here’s a tip of the Commander’s cap to Post Commander Gary Thomas (pictured right) and members Mark Hostetler, Tim Litherland and Wyatt Hall for their great support. This Post is well positioned to be a leader in our Department. I look forward to more good news as they undertake their Post organizational meeting this coming Friday evening at the Liberty Club – with plenty of pizza for all.

The Home Stretch -- Working Our Post Renewals. At this point, the single most important thing we can do is to turn to the past-due renewal of existing and recently expired members. I ask each and every Post Commander and Membership Chairman to work your Post roster. If last year’s members have not renewed, please call them. Make sure that they renew ASAP. They can either send you a check or renew on-line. Remember – we eliminated the problem of on-line renewals with foreign addresses and credit cards in December. And please do the same thing with members who expired in 2015. Most members want to be members, but as we all know, some have the old “round to it” problem. Help them out – and help your Post as well. Let’s top our 100% goal and make sure that we bring all of our members on board.
Plan NOW to Attend the Department Convention. The Department will be holding its 2017 Annual Convention at the BEST WESTERN Leoso Hotel, Ludwigshafen, Germany, on 15-18 June, 2017. We’ve had a very successful convention here in the recent past (2015) and look forward to doing so again. Please mark your calendars for this event. The Convention announcement and booking details have been released and are available on our Department website and on our Facebook page. Plan now to be part of this exciting program and the opportunity to elect your 2017-2018 leadership.

National Vice Commander’s Visit to Europe. National Vice Commander Paul Martell is visiting us this first week of April in Germany to promote membership initiatives. Arrival was Friday, 31 March and his schedule includes a visit with Post GR-07 on Saturday, 01 April. Sunday, 02 April, he visited Post GR-20, and on Monday (today), he is set to visit Ramstein to meet with Posts GR-01 and GR-02. Tuesday, 04 April, he will meet with Post GR-06 and on Wednesday, with Post GR-1982. Thursday, 06 April he will travel to Grafenwoehr to meet with Post GR-45, and on Friday, 07 April, he will depart to the U.S. via Frankfurt. Department Vice Commander at Large Joseph Schram is coordinating his visit with local Post Commanders and will have a report on the visit when complete.

For God and Country, John

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department Officers - 2017 Membership Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMMANDER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>John Shanahan IR01</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:jshanahan@gmail.com">jshanahan@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ADJUTANT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Maxwell Rice GR79</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:colsvicboy@yahoo.com">colsvicboy@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NECMAN</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nola Maloney GR03</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:NECMaloney@gmail.com">NECMaloney@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ALT. NECMAN</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>James Settle GR42</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:james.settle@kabelbw.de">james.settle@kabelbw.de</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VCAL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Joesph Schram BE02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:joseph.schram@gmail.com">joseph.schram@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VICE COMMANDER</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Buckner BE02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:04lgb@ihsglobal.net">04lgb@ihsglobal.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VICE COMMANDER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Carl Hale FR01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:crthb@hotmail.com">crthb@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VICE COMMANDER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Christopher Buchanan GR1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:christopherbuck@hotmail.com">christopherbuck@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VICE COMMANDER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Marcus Briscoe GR06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:marcus.briscoe@online.de">marcus.briscoe@online.de</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CHAPLAIN</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Casby Logan GR07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:casbyj@hotmail.com">casbyj@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HISTORIAN</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tyler Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:Tyler.j.johnson@outlook.com">Tyler.j.johnson@outlook.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FINANCE OFFICER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gary Miller GR06</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:billsfan_gary@hotmail.com">billsfan_gary@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SERVICE OFFICER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Claybough GR1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:profsoldier72@yahoo.com">profsoldier72@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>JUDGE ADVOCATE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Keith Abernathy GR79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:keithabernathy1992@yahoo.de">keithabernathy1992@yahoo.de</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SERGEANT-AT-ARMS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Percival Tumbaga</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:tumbaga.percival@stripes.com">tumbaga.percival@stripes.com</a></td>
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<td>James Settle GR42</td>
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<td><strong>ASSISTANT ADJUTANT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Fuelling FR01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:Rfue1704@aol.com">Rfue1704@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSISTANT ADJUTANT</strong> (Membership/Records)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Fleming CH01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:pastcmdr.fleming@gmail.com">pastcmdr.fleming@gmail.com</a></td>
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My Fellow Legionnaires, SAL Members, Auxiliary Members and all other VIPs;

Since I saw some of you at the 3rd DEC I have been traveling – still am – not expected home until 15 April…. That being known, I will keep this short.

What a wonderful surprise it was to see so many Legion friends and meet new ones at the 3rd DEC held in Ansbach last month – our coming together is the best way we are going to air issues, solve problems and move forward. I want to thank Commander Ken Aungst and his Post for the outstanding support provided for the 3rd DEC – I do not believe a single accommodation was overlooked – what a TEAM!!!

Though the day was long, and not all business got addressed due to time, a lot business got conducted in an orderly, civilized manner – as it should be at all meetings! I appreciate everyone’s good manners in following proper protocol during the meeting, this helped to allow us to be as timely as possible in conducting business at hand.

I was thrilled to see some of our American Legion Auxiliary members join us that day and take information back to their Units. More important; their interest in getting the Department Auxiliary going in a positive direction shows their concern and caring for their role in “Legion Family”. I look forward to seeing many more at the Department Convention in June. Hopefully we will have enough for a quorum and can elect Officers. The functions and service of the American Legion Auxiliary are a vital part of our being “Legion Family”.

I received word from PDCDR Haggan a few days ago, the Overseas Grave Decoration Fund has been exhausted. If you did not get your order in it is too late now for 2017. I ask that you think about the graves of our Comrades who have gone before us and are buried in cemeteries throughout Europe who deserve to be remembered – especially on Memorial Day – put your order in beginning in November this year for Memorial Day 2018. Let them not be forgotten!!

I want to thank Alternate NEC James Settle for putting out information to all of you as he receives it!! It is of great assistance to me while I am busy with other issues.

The Commander and I will be working on the National Commander’s Tour Group over the next few weeks and will begin putting out information for all. May’s Newsletter will certainly have some details in it. Stay tuned!!

Next month will be Spring Meeting for the NEC (May 10-11). I have not received the agenda yet (may have arrived in my mail while I’ve been away). Will send you a report via the June Newsletter.

Just a reminder; FODPAL is accepting nominees for the “Earl J. Cox” annual FODPAL Award. I know we have Legionnaires who are well deserving of this award – bring them forward so they can be recognized for their efforts within our Department and the FODPAL Group. You can email your nomination/s with photos to me at NECMaloney@gmail.com. During Spring NEC Meeting is when the FODPAL NEC’s meet to discuss the nominees. Award is announced at FODPAL Breakfast during National Convention – August 18-24, Reno, Nevada this year.

With that I will close out this month’s article with wishes for a successful month and safe travels for all!!!

Most Sincerely,
Your NECLady
Nola
Membership
The Department of France’s weekend membership blitz has proven to be a huge success. With membership drives in Wiesbaden (GR07), Spangdahlem (GR20) Kaiserslautern Community (GR01) and Lakenheath (EG02), the department has meet its 95% cut-off. The great news this weekend is that Liberty Post EG02 has surpassed the 100-member mark. Kudos goes out to Commander Gary Thomas and his membership team for a job well done.

National Vice Commander Paul Martel accompanied me during our membership blitz and was very impressed by the commitment made by the Post leadership. During the membership drives, he had the opportunity to speak with the different Post members as well as local military leadership. He will continue his tour with the membership blitz through Ansbach (GR1982) and Grafenwoehr (GR45) with his departure planned for Friday, 07 April.

Convention
The deadline for the convention registration is less than 6 weeks away (15 May). The convention registration letter is available from multiple sources.

VA&R representative Visit
Louis Celli, the National Veterans Administration & Rehabilitation (NV&R) representative will be in Germany and Belgium the last week of May and the first week in June to provide briefings concerning VA disability claims. This is a great chance to ask questions regarding your own VA claims. The dates and places of the briefings are being updated so that the Comrade Celli can cover the best amount of territory in the small amount of time available. Announcements will be made through local military community newsletters, AFN radio and social media. Check the Department’s Facebook page for more details.

April is Children & Youth Month
Since 1926, the American Legion and its affiliated organizations have donated countless hours of volunteer effort and over one-half billion dollars in support of programs and activities for the benefit of children and youth. That is Dedication – Be A Part Of It!
Department of France Convention  
15-18 June 2017  
BEST WESTERN Leoso Hotel Ludwigshafen

1. Guest Details:
   Last Name:  
   First Name:  
   Street:  
   Zip / City:  
   Country:  
   Telephone:  
   E-Mail:  

2. Accommodation Selection:
   - Payment: Guests will be responsible for payment of their rooms and meals in the hotel. Includes breakfast buffet. Please check one of the options below:

   4 days / 3 nights  (Arrive 15 June, Depart 18 June)
   - Single Room: € 159  
   - Double Room: € 255  
   - Suite: € 342  

   3 days / 2 nights  (Arrive 16 June, Depart 18 June)
   - Single Room: € 106  
   - Double Room: € 170  
   - Suite: € 228  

   2 days / 1 nights  (Arrive 17 June, Depart 18 June)
   - Single Room: € 53  
   - Double Room: € 85  
   - Suite: € 114  

3. Saturday Evening Banquet

Meal will include:
   - Roast beef is a cold starter.
   - Consomme with marrow dumplings and swabian ravioli.

Your Main Entrée Choices (Please select your choice)
   - Salmon Filet  
   - Lamb Rump  
   - Vegan Pumpkin-Thai Curry and Basmati Rice.
Extra Fees
1. Registration Fee: €25
2. Saturday Evening’s Banquet: €25.00 (paid to hotel at end of stay)
3. Parking fee per car: € 8.00 (for entire stay)
4. Lunch Buffet: €18 (per meal)
5. Dinner Buffet: €20 (per meal)

Registration Fee: to be paid before start of Convention to the Convention Chairperson

VAT Form will be accepted from Eligible persons
Children up to 03 years are free of charge
Children between 3-12 years pay 50% of the price for the buffet. Children over 12 years pay normal price for the buffet

Cancellation deadline: No cancellation fee if cancelled before 15th May 2017. In case of cancellation after 15th May 2017, we reserve the right to charge 90% of the expected revenue.

4. Payment Methods for Registration Fee: €25
   (Include a message with Your Name & Department Convention)

(1) By Check (only US checks, no Foreign checks)

Send to: American Legion Post BE02
         attn: Department Convention
         Unit 28100, Box 017
         APO AE 09714

Or

Joseph Schram
attn: American Legion
Meersenstraat 33 C2
8310 Assebroek

(2) Cash at the convention

(3) Foreign Bank Transfer

    ING Account:
    IBAN: BE98 3774 3999 7693
    BIC: BBRUBEBB

(4) US Bank Transfer

    Andrews Federal Credit Union – Routing #: 255074111
    American Legion Post BE02 - Account #: 82019102

Send This Reservation Form to:
veal.schram@gmail.com

Deadline for Reservations is 15 May
An act of Congress honoring Vietnam veterans with a day of recognition was signed into law by President Trump on Tuesday, per a White House press release. March 29 is now designated as National Vietnam War Veterans Day by the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017 according to Gateway Pundit. The U.S. flag is to be flown in commemoration of those who served in Vietnam.

The bipartisan bill was sponsored by Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., and Sen. Joe Donnelly, D-Ind. The bill passed the Senate last month and the House last week.

Forty-four years have passed since the last U.S. troops withdrew from Vietnam. Due to the unpopularity of the war, veterans returning home were often met with disdain and did not receive support or gratitude for their service.

“Some of them were actually treated quite poorly,” Toomey said. “And that was a tragic period in our history driven by people’s perceptions of the war. Fortunately, that, I think, is behind us now. And I hope and I believe we’ve gotten to a place where the American people realize how much we really should be grateful to the men and the women who served this country in Vietnam during that very, very difficult time.”

Out of the 2.7 million U.S. service members who served in Vietnam, more than 58,000 were killed and more than 304,000 were wounded. An estimate by the Smithsonian suggests that approximately 271,000 Vietnam veterans may have post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Previously, a proclamation by President Obama declared March 29, 2012, Vietnam Veterans Day. With the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017 signed into law, Vietnam veterans will be commemorated annually for their service.
“Sleep is often thought of as a luxury that falls by the wayside when we are busy and stressed, said Kira M. Koon, Program Evaluator, U.S. Army Public Health Command. However, getting enough sleep is one of the most important things you can do. Sleep is a necessity to sustain your performance – just like food, water and air.”

There are many negative effects to sleep deprivation and inadequate sleep that can affect your performance on and off duty. Sleep deprivation can degrade concentration, slow reaction times, and increase stress and confusion.

Inadequate sleep is linked to an increased risk of diabetes and heart problems as well as depression and substance abuse.

For optimal performance, the National Sleep Foundation recommends service members need seven to nine hours of uninterrupted sleep every 24 hours. If uninterrupted sleep isn't possible, shorter periods of sleep that total between seven and eight hours can maintain performance, said Moon.

Getting quality sleep depends on many factors and U.S. Army Public Health Command sleep experts recommend following guidelines to get better, healthier sleep:

1. Stick to a sleep schedule. As much as possible, go to bed and wake up at the same time each day.

2. Establish a relaxing routine before bed to give you time to unwind. A relaxing routine might include reading or listening to soothing music and lowering the lights.

3. Have a dark, quiet, comfortable, and cool sleeping environment. Don't sleep in areas where there is regular activity. If needed, minimize exposure to noise and light by using ear plugs, blackout shades, or a sleep mask.

4. Avoid large meals and beverages right before bedtime. Avoid large meals and too many fluids two to three hours prior to bedtime because a large meal can cause indigestion that interferes with sleep and drinking too many fluids at night can wake you up during the night.

5. Avoid caffeine and nicotine. Coffee, colas, certain teas, and chocolate contain caffeine. Caffeine can affect you for eight hours. Additionally, nicotine can cause users to sleep only very lightly.

6. Avoid alcoholic drinks before bed. While many people think a drink or two will help them fall asleep, alcohol actually prevents you from falling into a deep sleep.

7. Avoid medicines that delay or disrupt your sleep. Some medications, such as heart, blood pressure, or asthma medications as well as over-the-counter and herbal remedies for coughs, colds, or allergies can disrupt sleep patterns. If you are having trouble sleeping, talk to your doctor to see if any medications you are taking might be affecting your sleep.

8. Exercise is great, but not before bed. Avoid exercising within a few hours before going to bed. Exercise makes us more alert and raises body temperature, which makes it harder to fall asleep.

9. Don't lie in bed awake. If you find yourself still awake after lying in bed for more than 20 minutes, get up and do something relaxing, like reading or listening to music, until you feel tired.

10. Talk to your doctor if you continue to have trouble sleeping. An underlying health problem might be affecting your sleep.
On 26 March the Paris Post 1 completed a wreath laying ceremony at the Arc du Triomphe to commemorate the Legion Birthday.

Paris Post 1 Commander Ed Canady laid the wreath together with VFW Post 605 Commander Kristina Keenan.

Members from both the American Legion Paris Post 1 and the VFW Post 605 marched up the avenue Champs Elyse to the Arc du Triomphe. We thank the VFW for their comradeship and joint support of the Patriotic ceremony.
April 6, 2017, at 8:15pm CEST
To coincide with the 100th anniversary of the United States entering World War I, Flanders Field American Cemetery will host a ceremony on April 6, 2017. This special ceremony, coordinated in conjunction with the U.S. Embassy in Brussels, is free to attend and open to the public.
Here is some GREAT news out of the National Headquarters IT Department. After several weeks of trail and tribulations, the IT Department has come up with a fix to the Overseas Credit Card problem.

Please inform your Post Commanders, Post Adjutants, and members to spread the word that renewal of American Legion Membership can once again be done with a Credit Card from any Overseas location.

Doug Haggan  
FODPAL Secretary  
Past National Vice Commander  
Past Department of France Commander  
“Still Serving America’s Veterans...Around the World”

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DEPARTMENT FINANCE OFFICER  Gary Miller

ALL,

Due to my tax situation here in Germany, I must resign from the Department Finance officer position effective 17 June 2017 at the 1st DEC of 2018. I should be available to assist the newly appointed finance officer to ensure a smooth transition.

Some of the qualifications you might want to consider when appointing a new Finance Officer.

1. SOFA status, or access to an American post office, for receiving and sending mail.  
2. Has enough spare time to dedicate to the position (retired).  
4. Be able to be bonded.

I served the last 18 years as the Department Finance Officer, I think it is time to take a break and become just a Legionnaire again.

v/r  
Gary
Online registration now open for 2017 Legacy Run

March 21, 2017

It’s that time of the year again.

Online registration for the 2017 American Legion Legacy Run went live March 21. To register or for more information, click here. This year’s ride will leave Fort Dodge, Kan., Aug. 12 and travel west to Reno, Nev. – site for the 2017 American Legion National Convention. The cross-country motorcycle ride raises more for The American Legion Legacy Fund, which provides college money for the children of U.S. military personnel killed on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, as well as the children of post-9/11 veterans with a VA disability rating of 50-percent or higher.

Last year’s Legacy Run raised more than $1 million for the second straight year; in 11 years, the ride has raised more than $7 million.

Those registering online will be provided with a copy of their registration and release form, as well as a confirmation email. Those preferring to print out and mail a registration form with a check or money can send do so via email. A downloadable registration form will be available soon.

Registration packets and commemorative patches are expected to be mailed out in early August. To pre-order Legacy Run T-shirts, click here. These orders will be shipped directly from Emblem Sales.

Registration is open to passengers and riders, as well as to non-riding supporters. Non-riding supporters who register for $25 or more will receive the full registration package with map books and patches.

Because of the distance needing to be covered and the geography of the area along this year’s Legacy Run, mid-day stops cannot be planned for Legion posts or other large venues that provide food for purchase on-site. Participants are encouraged to purchase lunches during registration; those who do not pre-purchase the lunches will be expected to bring their own food each day and safely transport it.

Meals must be ordered in advance of departure. There will be no food available for purchase on stops, and there will be neither time nor available food outlets for riders to leave the group to find and eat lunch on their own each day. Those who do not sign up for lunches during registration but later decide to add them can do so via email.

Check back at www.legion.org/riders for updated route information and hotel suggestions within the next few weeks.
The American Legion Post GR30 and Auxiliary Unit GR30

Would like to invite you and your family to our Annual Easter Party!!

At the Post Home ”My Place”, Kitzingen
Otto Hahn Str. 21
Tel.: 09321-31644
8 April 2017 at 13.00 hrs.

There will be food and fun for all!
8 Euro for non-post members
Children under 12 are free

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BASKET

WITH RESERVATION, ONLY
MAKE RESERVATION NO LATER THAN 1 APRIL 2017
Elsbet Jenkins

On behalf of Bend Schmieder (Son). He wants to thank everyone for the cards and attending the funeral.

Elsbet was the Department President as well as a past Unit President of Unit GR30. She also held other positions in the Unit and was a great asset to the Auxiliary, Post and the community. She will be missed in the Wuerzburg area.

May she rest in peace.

Audie Murphy Post and Unit GR30

28 March 2017

SUBJECT: Overseas Grave Decoration Trust Fund

The National Treasurer just notified me that the funds in the 2017 Overseas Grave Decoration Trust Fund have been depleted.

1 November 2017 is the opening date to request funds from the 2018 Overseas Grave Decoration Trust Fund, please remember funds from the Overseas Grave Decoration Trust Fund are dispensed on a first come first served bases until funds are depleted.

We want thank everyone for their participation in this program, and remember now is the time to start planning to request funds from the 2018 Overseas Grave Decoration Trust Fund.

What is a member of the Military? It is a person who gives up their today so we may live tomorrow

Doug Haggan
FODPAL Secretary/Past National Vice Commander/Past Department of France Commander
“Still Serving America’s Veterans...Around the World”
Department Spotlight: Centennial challenge coin a hot seller for Department of France

Editor’s note: This is a weekly series of Department Spotlight stories featuring unique programs and initiatives of departments throughout The American Legion. Department adjutants are invited to recommend subjects for their departments by emailing magazine@legion.org.

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 that has been a hot seller since it was introduced last summer.

American Legion National Executive Committee member Nola Maloney, an Air Force veteran, proposed the idea of a centennial challenge coin soon after she was elected to the NEC at the department convention in 2016. "I said I'd like for us to have a special coin because we are the birthplace of The American Legion," she explained. "This is where our veteran brothers first started our organization. I also knew that our department would need some kind of subsidy because of the centennial."

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, including many U.S. military installations.

"It's a classic challenge coin, and a good one," said Maloney, who is delighted by sales so far. "We're not even through our first year, and we've already sold a third of our coins."

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, and may be ordered by emailing Maloney at NECMaloney@gmail.com or by sending a check payable to The American Legion Department of France to her U.S. address at:

Nola Maloney, NEC
10095 N. Mill Crossing Way
Tucson, AZ 85745

Add $2 per coin for standard shipping and $13 per coin for priority shipping.
Department of France Past Commanders Club

PCC President Anthony Giordano / PCC Secretary David Greaux

Who is eligible to join the Department of France Past Commanders Club?
PAST AND PRESENT Department Commanders, Department Vice Commanders At Large, Department Vice Commanders, Post Commanders, SAL Detachment Commanders, SAL Squadron Commanders, Auxiliary Department Presidents, Auxiliary Unit Presidents…so if you were just voted into office you are eligible to join

Initial dues for the Past Commanders Club is only $25.00
Renewal dues for the Past Commanders Club is only $10.00

Our next meeting is planned in conjunction
with the Department of France Convention 15-18 June 2017.

John Wayne Post GR79

GREETINGS TO ALL - YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO OUR

EASTER PARTY FEST

When…April 15-2017
Where…Gartenfreunde Klingenberg; 1M Heilbronn-Klingenberg Bruch 74081
Time…14.00

POC: 2Vice Commander Charlie Brown / vcalbrown50@gmail.com / 0170-1888034
Legionnaires / Voyageurs visited Robert Hale out of GR79 in the hospital on 01 April 2017.
The season is now for National Post History Contest entries

Post historians who have been chronicling the activities of their post over the last membership year should start finalizing their entries for the first round of judging in the National Post History Contest, which will take place during department conventions this spring and summer.

Entries in the One-Year Post Narrative and One-Year Post Yearbook categories will be judged by the department historian during the convention. The first-place finisher in each category, certified as such by the department historian, will be sent to National Headquarters in Indianapolis where it will be judged by a group of past and present department and national historians during Fall Meetings, Oct 9-12. All department-winning entries must arrive at National Headquarters by Sept. 15.

Contact your department historian for more information; a directory of departments can be found at www.legion.org/departments. The National Department History Contest, for the best narrative and yearbook entries by department historians, will also take place during Fall Meetings, and those entries must arrive by Sept. 15 as well.

Now is also a good time to start planning a narrative or yearbook for the next membership year. They can serve as references and templates for future post members to continue the activities and community service that make your post special. Guidelines and advice can be found in the Post Officer’s Guide (www.legion.org/publications), beginning on page 147.
Commissary Military Star Card to Roll Out in October

Military.com | 23 Mar 2017 | by Amy Bushatz

Shoppers at the Fort Drum commissary. Ashley Patoka/Northern Regional Medical Command

Commissaries will begin accepting the Military Star credit card in October, said officials with the commissary and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, which manages the card program.

The Military Star card, operated by AAFES through the Exchange Credit Program, is a popular credit card choice among young service members because approval does not require a long credit history or a good credit score. The card, which historically has been accepted only at exchange facilities across the services, often carries a low credit limit starting at $800 and does not have a yearly fee.

A 2016 law ordered AAFES and the Defense Commissary Agency to expand the program to be accepted at the more than 200 commissaries worldwide. That rollout will be done as part of a previously planned commissary point of sale (POS) system upgrade, DeCA officials said.

"Before the decision was made to allow Star Cards to be used in commissaries, DeCA had already planned to replace its POS system, so the rollout of this system has nothing to do with the ability of our patrons to use their Star Cards in commissaries," said Kevin Robinson, a commissary spokesman. "However, now that Star Cards will be accepted, the function of processing this form of payment will be integrated in DeCA's current and future POS systems."

Robinson said the point-of-sale upgrade is being paid for through funds from the 5 percent surcharge commissary shoppers pay on each transaction. Star Card use costs will be covered by AAFES, he said.

There are currently about 2.1 million Star Card holders, AAFES officials said. Although the card comes with perks for users, including 5 cents off per gallon at exchange gas stations and rewards points that are converted into exchange gift cards, failure to pay off the card can bring serious ramifications. For example, unlike most credit card debts, Star Card default can result in military paycheck garnishments.

AAFES is also running a pilot program to test service member interest in using the card at Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs, including child care services, starting this spring at Fort Hood, Texas, officials said.

For MWR, the exchanges and the commissary system, using the Star Card means lower transaction fees, which AAFES officials say will pay directly back into MWR programs.

"MWR is able to avoid the fees they pay when other credit is used -- such as Visa or MasterCard," said Christopher Ward, an AAFES spokesman. "And since a significant portion of Military Star earnings provide funding that support quality-of-life programs -- $691 million over the last 10 years -- it only helps to ensure those funds continue to be funneled right back to the very channels now accepting the card."

Prior to fall 2015, the Star Card could be paired with a co-branded Chase Bank credit card. Although both accounts were included on one physical card, they appeared as two lines of credit on users' credit scores.

Chase still offers a military-specific card, but it is no longer paired with the Star Card program.
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If you are planning to attending the National Convention in Reno (and I hope to see some new faces in Reno) please e-mail me at dhaggan@sbcglobal.net with the following information, THE DATE YOU WILL ARRIVE AND DEPART, THE PERSON YOU ARE SHARING A ROOM WITH IF ANY, AND ANY SPECIAL ROOM REQUIREMENTS.

The room cost per night is $135.00 plus tax. Cutoff for the reservation is 1 July 2015.

Plan now to be there, a good time will be had by all