

THE DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE AUGUST 2007 NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION
Department of France

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Any Department Officer, Committee Chair, Program Director or Post can input material to this newsletter. input is due the Last week of the month for next month's newsletter.

Department Calendar

Department Commander's Corner



My fellow Legionaries,
On the 7th of July I attended GR01 4th of July Vet's day Grill Party along with Adjutant Maloney, and Comrade Hohn, and Vice Commander Abernathy. I had the opportunity to DJ for this post, for this event. I also had the opportunity to talk with the VFW Commander's, Amber Putnam and George Gilgore we discussed some issues which affect both of our organizations, I believe this year we should be able to work together. I talked to the following Post Commanders and the Adjutant from PO01, about upcoming events GR03,GR05,GR06, GR07, GR09, GR13, GR 14, GR42, and we discussed how we can all work together to make this the best Department at National. On a sad note the Past Commander of PO01 Comrade Stuart Schuyler is in the states where he had open heart surgery; however he is recovering, and is awaiting for a flight back to Portugal. I was informed by Comrade Sherman, that Comrade Gatchell was admitted to the local German hospital on the 22nd of July 2007, I will keep all updated to the condition of Comrade Gatchell. I was informed by Comrade Wells PO01 that Landstul Regional Hospital is asking for assistance and support in the form of Phone Cards for our returning home Wounded Warriors. If your post can support this please contact me and we will make things happen. I also had a chance to talk to the Membership Chairman Comrade Umland, Membership is looking good and we should do better this year in the membership area, if you are having problems or need assistance with membership please contact Comrade Umland for assistance. At the 83rd Department Convention we left the Department Judge Advocate position vacant, I am pleased to announce that that position is no longer vacant Comrade Bob Hohn, stepped up and accepted the position, I am sure he will be an added asset to the Department. I would like to take this time to thank Chaplain Moore for keeping the Department well informed on the current status of our fellow Legionaries, and those that have moved to Post Everlasting, and sending sympathy cards and letters in the Departments Name. I would like to thank all the post that responded with information for the Department Calendar, it is now in the making and will be presented at the 2nd DEC in October in St Avold. Please note Adjutant Maloney's article. If you have sent paperwork direct to National for action please let her know so she can try to track it down, and in the future allow the Department Adjutant to do all correspondence to National, this will make the Department run more smoothly and effectively Remember if you need to contact me I am just an E-mail away dicharlybrown@hotmail.com. In closing please keep those in harm's way and their families, not only in your thoughts but your prayers as well.

For GOD and Country
Joe D. Brown
Department Commander

From the Department Adjutant:

My Fellow Legionnaires,
I hope all of you are enjoying your summer in a safe fashion.
Remember – sunscreen saves your skin!!!

From the Adjutant's corner I only have a few things:

- 1) If you are making inquiries direct to National Headquarters – Please stop now. All information and inquiries are to be sent through the Adjutant. National has contacted me on several issues Post's have sent them. This takes more of their time trying to get your request to the correct office and they must also report it all back to me. Your doing it the correct way will save everyone time and frustrations. In addition, there are things National cannot do for you without proper permission from the Department.
- 2) If you have new officers in your Post please send me their contact information.
- 3) If you have not mailed your Consolidated Post Report please do so ASAP. Some of you may need the form. Let me know and I will get one to you.
- 4) The Adjutant's new email address is: Dept_Adi@yahoo.com There is an underscore between Dept and Adj.
- 5) August is the month to start contacting the schools in your area (DODDs or International) concerning Oratorical and Boys State. Also if there is JROTC in your area there are many awards your Post can be presenting to these committed young folks – remember they are all a part of our future for America!

I will be going to National Convention this month and will bring back whatever brochures I can. Please let me know what you are needing. If they do not have them I will order them from National.

For those traveling to National Convention: Please contact Doug Haggan – our Chief Delegate there to set up your room reservations. The Department of France is always housed with the National Headquarters' staff and the Hosting Department (this year it is Nevada). Doug's email is: dhaggan@sbcglobal.net His phone number is: 317-786-5623.

God Bless and keep you all safe in your journey's and remember to Thank a soldier of yesterday and today for the freedoms we enjoy! Keep your prayers alive for our troops who are in harm's way and for their families and what they are enduring for the sake of their loved one.

For God and Country "Still Serving America"
Nola Maloney
Department Adjutant

Department NECman's Comments

I will be attending the National Convention this Month being held in Nevada, I will ensure all information presented, will be disseminated at the second DEC in St. Avold . I recently received a letter from the National Commander thanking the Department of France for their donation to the Legacy Run.

William Marshall
Department NECman

**Vice Commander's Corner
Vice Commander at Large Liam Kane**

We all know this is our quiet month as far as activity is concerned .I have been in touch with all the VCs and they are all working making a great start to the year and keeping me informed of their activities and we hope to meet at Comrade Brown's Party at the end of this Month .

I had a great time at the 4th July Celebrations in the Residence of the US Ambassador in the City of Dublin representing the American Legion. On Sunday 8th of July all three Irish Posts were present in Dublin at the request of the President of Ireland to honor the Men and Women of Ireland who gave their lives for Peace serving in many Armies throughout the World. Members of all 3 Posts IR02, IR03, and IR 63 were also featured on National Television and in the National Press we got great publicity. Many of my Posts have contacted me, and I am making a roster to visit Posts, now that I am in the home stretch to retirement on 9/11. Thank you all for your help.

Liam Kane
Vice Commander at Large

**Vice Commander Darrel Shannon
GR05, GR 09, GR 042**

Greetings my fellow Legionaries, Auxiliary, and S.A.L. Members
This Month has been a very busy one for me on the 14th of July I visited Post GR09 in Neu Ulm which was their Annual picnic it was well organized and me and my family had a great time, Commander Amen informed me that Legionnaire Grasser and Legionnaire Garner are recovering well from surgery . I had the honor of performing the initiation of two new Legionnaires to GR09, So I would like to welcome Legionnaire Thorne and Legionnaire Nice to the American Legion.

I read an article in this months American Legion magazine (July, Problem Solved) this article is very special for me because I am from Farmington Missouri. and my Dad is a member of Post 416 and I had the Honor of being at the Robert Silvey Outpatient Clinic dedication ceremony ,this is proof that the American Legion is doing great things for the Veterans .

Remember if you need to contact me you can reach me at dg.shannon@missouri.usa.com

In closing please keep those who are defending our freedom and their families in your thoughts and in your payers.

Darrel Shannon
Department Vice Commander

**Vice Commander Keith Abernathy
GR01, GR06, GR07 and GR13**

Greetings my fellow Legionaries, Auxiliary, and S.A.L. Members
On the 7th of July, I was invited to a Veterans dy affare at Kaiserslautern Post GR01. There I met and talked with thoe Post Commender, Vice Commander, Chaplain, Service Officer and Many others who make up GR01. In addition to meeting most everyone, we had a truly wondreful time at the Picnic there. Music was provided by none other than the

Department of France Commander himself, did a bang up job to. I have been invited again on the 26th of August and I will attend. Last week I also picked up Augsburg Post Gr13. I worked in the Augsburg Community for four years. While I have know idea if I know anyone there today or not I really look forward to visiting the Post in the near future.

God Bless The United States, The American Legion and all its members.

Keith Abernathy
Department Vice Commander

Vice Commander Frank Hanchak
GR14, GR20, GR45, IR63

I celebrated July 4th with the American Legion twice this year. The first celebration was shared with Omar Bradley Post GR-42 in Schweinfurt. The Post provided free slices of watermelon to the folks who were enjoying the festivities for the day. Although no money was raised and no new members were recruited, eight members were eager to serve them with fresh, delicious watermelon. Thanks to Commander Shawn Ashe and the post for serving their community on this most patriotic of holidays. I then traveled to John Wayne Post GR-79 in Heilbronn for their activity, which they celebrated on Saturday, July 7th. They had special guest in the form of Native Americans who performed various dances and rituals. Of note, was a special Veterans dance which was performed while the membership stood at attention and saluted the dancer. It was followed by a group dance with many of the attending Veterans participating. Thanks to commander Robert Cramer and 2nd Vice Commander Bob Rushing for their outstanding leadership. The Legion Family of Omar Bradley Post GR-42 in Schweinfurt held a Game Night at the Post Home on July 17th. There were some 30 people in attendance. Games included Risk, Chess, Trminos, Jeopardy, and card games. Chuck Vaughn, the club owner, made his famous chili, of which the ravenous hordes consumed about 6 gallons. There was plenty of other food as well. My congratulations to the post for a most successful activity. Don't forget the American Legion GR-42 Family FUN-ction. All Legion posts are invited. We will have Horse-back riding, a river cruise, and other activities! This will be a great family activity. Spend a day, or spend the weekend! Email me for details at the following E-mail address or phone number dvc3@amerlegiondepfFrance.org 0178-858-8398

Frank J. Hanchak
Vice Commander

Vice Commander Jerry Aman
GR03, GR79, GR1982

During the recent Department Convention I was afforded the privilege by the Department voters to serve our Department Commander and Vice Commander-at-Large as the Vice Commander for Posts GR-03, GR-79 and GR-1982. My first attempt to visit a post as part of my new responsibilities had to be postponed because bad weather canceled the event that I was going to attend. I ask that the above mentioned posts please provide me with dates of meetings or scheduled events in order to provide me sufficient time to schedule a visit to your post. By having this information I can best serve our Department officers who entrusted me with this important function. Please feel free to

contact me at E-mail Address JerryA503@aol.com or phone number 07307-4492 or 073075752

For God and Country
Jerry Aman
Department Vice Commander

Department Chaplain

Chaplain's Page August 2007
Special Days/Legion Events: Summer Youth programs and school preparation
Christian Religious Days: 1st- Lammas; 6th- Transfiguration of the Lord (Orth); 15th Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Cath), Dormition of the Theotokos (Orth); 29th Beheading of John the Baptist
Jewish Holidays (Year 5767): None that I know of.
Islamic Holidays: 11th- Lailat al Miraj; 28th Lailat al Bara'ah
Please visit the church, temple, synagogue or mosque of your choice.

Post Everlasting reported up to 20 July:

Margaret Barrett, mother -in-law of Post Commander IR03 Ron Howko
Father-in-law of Comrade William E. Van Houton, GR07
Leon L. Lindsey, SP292 Madrid
Donald Powers, Sr. - GR-03

Prayers have been said for their family and friends. Please remember them in your prayers also.

Prayers for the Sick & Ill:

Robert Crammer, GR-79
George Hall, GR-03
Shawn Ashe, IR-
Glen Foy, IR-02
Doug Clemence, GR-06
Nota Maloney, GR-03 and Past Department Commander
Tom Mayock, IR-63
Robert Loudon, GR-05
PDC John H. Miller, GR-1982
Phil Gatchell, GR-03
Edward Hayes, GR-03
Wife of Post GR03 Comrade Robert Pierce
Walt Lanti, past department commander 93-94
Kenneth Grasser, GR.09
Samuel Garner, GR-09
Brenda Dearborn, Dept of Maine- present Historian and past chaplain
Harold M. Wild, GR13
Ronald (Ron) Hansen, GR-06 and this year's nominee as Post Legionnaire of the Year
Stuart Schuyler Commander PO01

are undergoing, were undergoing or were scheduled for, medical treatment.

No other deaths or other illnesses were reported to me, but we continue to pray for those comrades, family members and friends of the Legion who have passed away or are ill.

Greetings Comrades,
Greetings Brothers and Sisters of the American Legion Family,

Let me express my deepest gratitude to those comrades who have informed me of illnesses and passing of members in our family. I'm not saying that I am happy that someone is ill or has passed from this plane, but because I can inform as many of our family as possible. In keeping with the ceremonies of the American Legion, we should normally hold a Post Everlasting Ceremony honoring our passed comrades and helping his/her family and friends along the path of grief. Please remember that this ceremony is always at the convenience of the passed comrade's family who should always be invited if possible. Let us also remember the request of our National Chaplain that every veteran should receive military honors at his or her funeral whenever possible.

Our lives are often composed of births, marriages, service to our country, work, service to veterans and those tasks required for everyday living. Too often we may sit at home and wonder where the day went or even the month or year, because we are involved in so many tasks. Talk to a mother or father, and they can tell you what multi-tasking is. The computer didn't invent it, it just emulates our capabilities.

Time is constant in that it never stops for us. We may say, wait a minute, but the time won't do that no matter how nicely we ask. The only other choice is to be prepared for any situation or stage in life. Stop putting off those things that you had planned to do or need to do. Keep your affairs up to date, makes sure your family knows where those military records and important papers are. Take the time to pray and say thank you for your blessings.

In the Scouts we learn, "Be prepared", in the military we learn, "Hurry up and wait", in Church we learn, "You know not when I come", at home though, we tend to say, "I'll do it tomorrow". Say hi to that veteran today, hug your loved ones today and definitely visit God's place more often than you normally do.

I'll be in the States for the next month, preparing for the National Convention and the Legacy Run. I'll be reading my emails when I am able. I'll be thinking of you.

God bless our servicemen and women wherever they are, and please God, bless their families too. And please bless all veterans and their families, including those who read these words. Please feel free to contact me at E-mail address revronmoore@yahoo.de or at phone number 06196-569027

Rev. Ronald Moore
Department Chaplain

Service Officer Robert Gray

I wish to introduce myself, I'm Bob Gray, as the new department serve officer [DSO] of Europe. I'm looking forward to working with my team of professional post service office's (PSO), in which to serve the European community of wounded soldiers, retirement personal, vet's, widow's, children of our vet's, and the older vet's which need to come home, living or past on. The road will not be an easy one, by a realistic one. My plan is simple:

- Improve on our communications between myself, and POS's, by keeping weekly or bi-weekly reports in our community and of our claimant.
- Enforcing our knowledge of VA claims up-date, in our weekly communications, by e-mail, or phone
- If a claimant is in-need of assistance, there will be a 72 hour turn around time to get it into my hand for proessen, once everything has been completed.
- More communications between the POS's and the Retirement Service Officer {RSO}.
- Better education on Social Security and were to go for help.
- more understanding of our host nation's towards our citizens
- Being as sable to the public for help and guidance

I will send out a letter in more detail, once I've received a post roster, however, these are what I for see as a start to developing our communities into a stronger asset to the communities' I can be reached by e-mail, RLG052@yahoo.com I wish to thank everybody for letting me serve you

Robert Gray
Department Service Officer

Sons of The American Legion

I hope everyone had an enjoyable 4th of July 2007. I spent the day giving away free watermelons at the Schweinfurt Military Community Celebrations with the GR42 Legion Family. I had a great time. I am asking all the Squadrons to get on the ball and send in those 2008 transmittals to our Membership Chairman Michael T. Umland. Let's keep him busy! **"Don't be late for 2008"**

Reminder: Our 2nd SAL DEC is planed for 29 September 2007. The call will be sent out by our Detachment Adjutant James Dennis.



The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation... Why you should give! Last October, in it's 51st year of service, the Foundation awarded \$611,381 to 21 organizations. The demand for grant money to serve our nation's children continues to rise. The Board has initiated a campaign to appeal to Posts and Units to include a line item for the Child Welfare Foundation in their annual budgets. If Posts alone earmarked as little as \$25 a year, this would raise over \$700,000 in yearly contributions. With these added funds, The American Legion could touch the lives of thousands of children throughout this nation. You can always contact me at davidgreaux@aol.com

David Greaux
Detachment Commander

POW/MIA information

Hello my fellow Legionnaires.

I was not able to get my comments into the July newsletter. Just too much going on at Post 09 between the convention and the end of June. First of all I would like to thank the Department Commander, Joe Brown, for asking me to serve another term as the Department POW/MIA Chairman. I have learned a lot about POW/MIA issues since I started two years ago. I have read a lot of information from the Special Forces magazine. The drop on POW and MIA information I have passed a lot of this on at the DEC's. I have learned much from the POW museum located on the Andersonville National Historic Site located 10 miles Northeast of Americus on GA 49. If you are interested on POW/MIA information you can contact Andersonville National Historic Site, 496 Cemetery Road, Andersonville, GA 31711 or at www.nps.gov/Ande.

The present Gulf War has brought about recent POWs and MIAs. Coming up on 21 September is POW/MIA Recognition Day. A time to reflect on their sacrifices. Please remember them in your up-coming meetings with special mention and services. I will make every effort to get all of the current information on POW/MIA issues to you via this column and at the DEC's.

Serving God & Country
Robert Lindsey
POW-MIA Chairman

Special note from the Grande Chef De Gare

Greetings Legionnaires my name is Shawn Ashe I am the Grande Chef De Gare (Dept Commander), of La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux better known as the forty and eight. At the 3rd DEC in Bastogne, Belgium resolution 2008-2 was brought before the membership and passed thus allowing the American Legion and the Forty and Eight to work together to better serve our veterans and military communities. I have spoken with the Department of France Commander and together we believe our organizations can bring forth solutions to some of the problems we have faced. Over the years The Forty and Eight has supported many Legion activities and will continue to in the years to come. The Forty and Eight is a independent veterans organization whose membership is taken totally from the members in good standing of The American Legion.

The Forty and Eight is made up of a Grande or Department and several Locales's or Posts. Grande Du Germany consists of three Locale's 1467, 1524, 1546. All of us here within the Grande are looking forward to working hand in hand with The American Legion to serve our veterans and our military communities in this time of regional uncertainties. With many of our military communities disappearing within Germany and new communities in the processes of expanding, our organizations must also be open to change. Our veteran organizations survival will depend on the fluidity of joint venture's here within Europe. With this resolution we can amplify our commitment of service to the

veteran through an aggressive and consistent public relation program, and maintain visibility in the community. This resolution has the ability to have the Legion Family form a strong partnership with the Forty and Eight and truly give our veterans, families, and communities, the service they deserve. For continued success we must truly focus on service to our veterans needs and give them first rate experience to lead them into the future. I thank you for your service to this nation during your time in the military and your volunteer activities to this day. We have a great weight on our shoulders as new veterans come home from the war front every day. Let's not fail them!

Shawn Ashe
Grande du Germany Chef De Gare

POST HAPPENINGS

Below is a partial listing of Post and their General Membership Meetings and dates. If you would like to attend a post meeting, please contact the respective Commander and or the Adjutant.

GR01: First Wednesday day of the month at Post Home
GR03: First Thursday of the month Post Home
GR06: Second Wednesday of the month Post Home
GR07: First Thursday of the month Post Home
GR13: Third Saturday of the month Post Home
GR14: Third Wednesday of the month Post Home
GR42: Third Sunday of the month Post Home
GR79: Second Saturday of the month Post Home
PO01: Third Wednesday of the month Post Com. House
IR03: First Saturday in April, first Sat. in Oct for elections

Editor's Note:

Please keep in mind; I will be on vacation from the 30th of July 2007 until the 20th of August 2007. If you need to E-mail me during this time frame please use this address americanlegion@hotmail.com
James M. Settle
Editor