Wishing One And All
A Merry Christmas!
Hello Comrades,

I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving and don’t forget about all the veterans that wanted be able to be home with their families as well as those that are still MIA. Keep them as well their families in your prayers as we celebrate the upcoming holidays.

A quick glance at this pass month activities:

9 Nov 2019, the Department conducted an American Legion Awareness Drive in Baumholder and signed up over 20 new members.

10 Nov 2019, we were in St. Avold for a Veteran Day Memorial Service: I want to thank all the Department Officers and the different Post Officers that were in attendance. I also want to say a special thank you to Michael Young from Post GR01 who made sure all the wreath was ordered and delivered to St. Avold for the ceremony.

23 Nov 2019, I attended Post GR79 Thanksgiving Party there were several other Dept. Officer in attendance as well as other members from a few other Post. I want to thank the Commander of GR79 and its members for their graceful hospitality it was a very enjoyable evening.

30 Nov 2019, we are planning another Department lead Awareness Drive in Wiesbaden for Post GR07.

Membership is still going strong, but we are cutting it close to have 75% membership on 2 Dec 2019 which is next week. We currently have a little over 71% and the upcoming awareness drive in Wiesbaden should help get us a little closer to our goal. I would like to say a special thanks to the VCAL, Vice Commanders and all the Post membership teams for all the hard work you are doing.

Buddy Check if your Post have not done one yet you might want to consider doing one over the upcoming holidays. There are a lot of veterans in our communities that have not been contacted by their Post since signing them up as members. I was guilty of that until I reached out on Veterans Day to all my members that had a membership year of 2018 and 2019. I did receive some positive feedback from those members I emailed. I was not trying to recruit any of them I was checking on them to see how they were doing and to see if they needed any assistance with anything.

I was surprised I had about 4 members that was trying to figure out how to renew their membership and I provided them with info on the subject. I had another member that had been hospitalized for about two years from being missed diagnosed. That person membership had expired at the end 2018 but with their permission since I had not checked on them in those two years, I paid for their 2020 membership.

Upcoming Events:

Oratorical Contest 22 Feb 2020 Time and Location TBD.

I need every Post that has a school in their communities to reach out to the schools and see if they have students that may be interested in competing in this program. If you do have students that compete and win you will need to submit their names to Department. If you have any questions, please contact Dept.

Comradeship,
Jimmie Dale
Commander
Department of France
DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE 2019 – 2020 / POST MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

EARLY BIRD KICKOFF – 50%
Department Cutoff – August 30, 2019
National Cutoff - September 11, 2019

PEARL HARBOR DAY – 75%
Department Cutoff – December 02, 2019
National Cutoff - December 11, 2019

LEGION BIRTHDAY – 90%
Department Cutoff - March 02, 2020
National Cutoff – March 11, 2020

FALL MEETINGS – 55%
Department Cutoff – September 30, 2019
National Cutoff - October 09, 2019

MID-WINTER – 80%
Department Cutoff – January 06, 2020
National Cutoff - January 15, 2020

CHILDREN & YOUTH – 95%
Department Cutoff – March 30, 2020
National Cutoff - April 08, 2020

VETERANS DAY – 65%
Department Cutoff – November 04, 2019
National Cutoff - November 14, 2019

PRESIDENTS DAY – 85%
Department Cutoff – January 31, 2020
National Cutoff – February 12, 2020

ARMED FORCES DAY – 100%
Department Cutoff – May 04, 2020
National Cutoff – May 13, 2020

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
News from the Department Service Officer:

Our Department Service Office is getting swamped with new Claims! We need your support. We will be offering a basic PSO training course on the 20th of March 2020. Anyone may attend this time. The course will give you an insight on how a PSO may help a Veteran. It will not allow you to “assist” the Veteran in filing a claim. You will learn the following:

- What forms are needed
- POC of our, current, 3 American Legion VA Reps
- What are presumptive condition
- What are secondary conditions
- Survivor Death Benefits
- Foreign Medical Program
- And so on…

At the end of the course, you will have to take a test. Upon successful completion of the test, you will awarded a certificate at the 3rd DEC the next day.

We need your support!
The American Legion Paris Post FR01 cordially invites you to our Centennial Gala December 14th 7:00 pm at the Marriott Champs Élysées.

Guest of Honor:
U.S. Embassy Consul General
Robert F. Hannan

Centennial Gala December 14th on the Champs Élysées!

Please join us, and our special guests, for an evening of entertainment, history and celebrating 100 years of friendship between the American Legion Paris Post 1 and France.

Our Guest of Honor, U.S Embassy Consul General Robert F. Hannan, has served the United States for several decades in the State Department all over the world. Mr. Hannan currently leads our Consulate in Paris, and he will speak with us about the American community in France.

The U.S Embassy in Paris is special because it is the oldest diplomatic mission for the United States. We would like to thank Mr. Hannan for his service, and for continuing the legacy that was originally started in Paris by America's founding fathers: Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.

Reserve your tickets today online: https://parispost1.yapsody.com/

Questions? please contact Bryan Schell at vicecommander@parispost1.com

Sneak peak from our history archive below, see more at the gala!
At 14 Rue Ernest Psichari in the 7th arrondissement of Paris, the American Legion was born in the year 1919.

20 years after the founding of the American Legion, a plaque was placed in the 7th to commemorate the birth of America's largest veterans organization.

The American Legion is in every state of the USA, and there are also posts outside of America, including Paris Post 1, which is in the Department of France. Within the Department of France, you also have posts located in China, Italy, Greece, Denmark, Belgium, Ireland, Germany, Spain, Thailand and the Netherlands. Each post is a veteran (member) funded non-profit organization.

We uncovered an old photo from 1928 with Loretta Young, famous American movie actress, and Legionnaire Maurice Chevalier, a famous French actor and singer.

Loretta won an Oscar nominee in 1949 and she won an Academy Award for Best Actress in 1947. Maurice also won many Academy Awards, and filmed with Charlie Chaplin. He was best known for his signature songs and films, and his time spent in a prisoner of war (POW) camp during WW2.

Their history together and with Paris Post 1 is unknown at this time...

Tours will be provided during the centennial weekend for French American history!
2020 MY OFFICERS

Commander Joe D. Brown  vcalbrown50@gmail.com
NEC Maxwell Rice  colwichboy@yahoo.com
First Vice Donald Chamberlain  chamberlaindw@hotmail.de
Chaplain John Portale  johnportale@arcor.de
Judge Advocate James Dennis  detachmentdennis@gmail.com
Adjutant James Dennis  detachmentdennis@gmail.com
Alternate NEC James Dennis  detachmentdennis@gmail.com
Second Vice Quincy Foster  qcfoster@yahoo.com
Historian Casby Logan  casbyj@hotmail.com
Sergeant-at-Arms Lee Preston  lpreston1957@gmail.com

07 March 2020 – SAL 3RD DEC hosted by GR42
06 June 2020 – SAL Convention hosted by GR79

Online Membership Processing Now Available for Sons of the American Legion

Memorials and Monuments

If you have Memorials or Monuments in your community, can you please take five or ten minutes go to COMMUNITY MEMORIALS / MONUMENTS on The American Legion National Website, and registrar them and tell us about local memorials or monuments.

I know Ansbach, Ramstein AB, Rhein Main, and Flanders Field just to name a few all have monuments.

WE NEED TO TELL OUR STORY FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE

Doug Haggan…Past National Vice Commander/Past Department of France Commander
Post NL01 hosted our first annual Thanksgiving Potluck on Saturday, 23 November. The event was a great success, with over 60 attendees from Post NL01, our Dutch counterparts from the Geuniformeerden Ontmoetingscentrum, the community, and their families. Live musical entertainment was provided by Music 4 Vets Nederlands and guests enjoyed a 50/50 raffle and a photo booth.
Margraten Post NL01 observed Veterans Day by paying their respects to the fallen at Henri Chapelle American Cemetery in Belgium followed by a visit to our namesake, the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten, in the Netherlands. A wreath was laid at each of the cemeteries and 30 roses were placed at graves special to our Post, including members of the Wereth 11, Medal of Honor recipient Truman Kimbro, Lt William Nellis, the three Tester brothers, Sgt John W. Farrington, Lt Carl Booth, Flight Nurse Wilma “Dolly” Vinsant, PFC Amaroso Carmelo, and graves of the Unknown. A special thanks to Andy Clevenger for researching each of the graves, allowing us to share the story of every fallen member as we placed the roses.
2020 OVERSEAS GRAVES DECORATION TRUST FUND GUIDELINES

Trust Fund Members...Consists of the current National Commander of The American Legion, who shall be chairman, and the immediate Past National Commander of The American Legion and his predecessor, who shall be known as the Trustees, and who shall serve respectively for three, two and one years to be calculated from the last day of the national convention of The American Legion. The American Legion National Adjutant will serve as recording secretary, The American Legion National Treasurer will be Financial Advisor, and the Chairman of the Finance Commission who shall serve so long as he or she remains as chairman. Each retiring trustee is released from any and all liability by reason of his acts as trustee. The Trustees are charged with the custody, control and administration of the fund, the income of said fund are used to honor, preserve and decorate the graves of those U.S. Veterans who served in the World Wars, Conflicts, and Hostilities and who are buried overseas.

Purpose...Rather than barbecues, races or even parades, the real idea of Memorial Day is to remember those who served their country in uniform and are no longer with us. The American Legion has been in the forefront of such efforts since its existence – no matter how far-flung the fallen comrade.

The American Legion Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Fund was established in the 1920s, and provides all U.S. flags – from Emblem Sales, made in the USA – flown at cemeteries and burial sites in foreign countries where American troops are buried or otherwise memorialized. The first fundraising for the decoration of overseas graves took place in 1921-1922, and its current organizational plan has been in force since 1935.

The Trustees shall use the income of the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Fund to honor, preserve, and decorate the graves of those who served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America in World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, and of those who served during the period of the Vietnam Hostilities, who lie overseas. They may adopt and use such methods and means as they may deem advisable, including the active cooperation and aid of overseas Departments and Posts of The American Legion and any other agencies, and in pursuance thereof may prescribe details, methods, and practices deemed necessary, expedient, or convenient. The income shall be used exclusively to honor, preserve, and decorate the graves and for no other purpose, and under no circumstances shall the Trustees have the power or authority to expend, use or divert the Trust Fund or any part thereof for any other purpose.

In addition to the above guidelines this fund will financially aid Departments and Posts outside the continental United States of America to honor and decorate individual graves of those veterans who were laid to rest outside American Battle Monument Commission controlled facilities.

Funds Request Procedures

Fund requests will be sent to The American Legion National Adjutant. The following information is required for each request for funds.

1. The name of the Veteran.
2. The cemetery name and location (city and country) where the veteran is at rest.
3. A quote in writing (not to exceed $50.00) from a local florist, for flowers to decorate each veteran’s grave.
4. A mailing address for Emblem Sales use so they can mail each Department or Post “U.S.A. made American flag” for each grave to be decorated.
5. A mailing address for The American Legion National Treasurer so he can mail each Department or Post the requested funds for each grave to be decorated.
6. After the Grave Side Ceremony in May of each year a picture with caption must be forwarded to the FODPAL Secretary.

OPENING DATE TO REQUEST OVERSEAS GRAVES DECORATION TRUST FUND MONEY IS 1 NOVEMBER OF EACH YEAR

REQUESTED FUNDS FROM THE OVERSEAS GRAVE DECORATION TRUST FUND ARE DISPENSED ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASES ANNUALLY UNTIL THE INCOME EACH YEAR IS DEPLETED
The Pride of Erin Post IR01 held its AGM at the Ashling Hotel, Dublin on Saturday afternoon, 23 November 2019. We are delighted to announce the report of our election (or appointment) of officers for 2020.

Post Commander -- John Shanahan
First Vice Commander -- Ralph Day
Second Vice Commander -- Michael Collins
Finance Officer -- Ralph DeYear
Sergeant at Arms -- George McSheffrey
Chaplain -- Aidan Murray
Adjutant -- Vincent Hourican

After reviewing programs and events from 2019, the new team of officers laid out a schedule of major events for 2020 and a quarterly meeting schedule for the coming year that combines both business and social events for the Post.

Our Vice Commanders will be focused on membership growth and member support in both the United States (Ralph Day) and Ireland (Michael Collins). Our Chaplain will be managing our Buddy Check program in addition to providing spiritual support to members and prayers at meetings. Our Adjutant will be responsible for Post administrative matters and our Sergeant at Arms will be responsible for event organization and execution. Our Finance Officer continues to be responsible for oversight of our accounts and manages expenditures.

We are a robust team of Legionnaires with an exciting program planned for the coming year. Come and join us!

John Shanahan / Post Commander / The Pride of Erin Post IR01 / Dublin, Ireland

Newsletter Editor…David N. Greaux

REMINDER…all newsletter articles should be turned in PRIOR to months end!

Davidg1959@t-online.de

David W. Craig
Department of France
Legion Riders Director
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GR09 Participates in German Memorial Day

On 17 November, on German Volkstrauertag (Memorial Day), seven members of the William D. Nelson Post GR 09, Neu-Ulm, participated with members of Germany’s Traditionsverein Ulmer Artilleristen (Traditional Association of Ulm Artillery soldiers) in a wreath laying ceremony at the Ulm memorial honoring fallen soldiers and persons who have suffered at the hands of oppressors.

The Traditional Ulmer Artillery Association was formed in 1909 and GR09 has participated in this somber affair since 2008. With this comradeship the American Legion also passes along to their German hosts the Legion’s principles of honoring its departed veterans. As in previous years the members of the Vereine expressed their gratitude to GR09 for their participation.

After the ceremony everyone retired to a local clubhouse for a social gathering.
Post Commander, Comrade Eddie Guevara and Post 1982 made the U.S. Army Europe's home page by making a difference to the Ansbach Military Community, thus promoting the American Legion Americanism program.

KATTERBACH KASERNE, Germany -- A sense of security can go a long way in making anyone feel more comfortable. Soldiers who participate in the International Martial Arts Self Defense Class held on Katterbach Kaserne, Ansbach, Germany, are strengthening that sense through their ability to defend themselves and others.

"Practically all of our Soldiers are away from home, and this activity provides them with something to do during their spare time," said Eddie Guevara, the International Martial Arts Self Defense Class (IMA-SDC) Sensei (instructor).

The IMA-SDC, not only gives Soldiers something they could find at home, but also an opportunity to cultivate new friendships, and feel more secure in their new environment.

Guevara, who is the founder of the class, saw the need for Soldiers to have something to do other than the average trip to the movie theatre or bowling alley, and decided to offer something productive for them to do in their free time.

Several Soldiers expressed interest in martial arts and once they looked into finding a place that offered lessons, the closest available classes they could find at that time were off post in the downtown area of Ansbach, Germany.

"I've always wanted to learn Martial Arts, and how to properly defend myself," said Caroline Riggens, a member of the class.

Wanting to offer Soldiers a chance to learn the art form on post, Guevara reached out to the U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) program. He offered to design and teach a program that would help students not only learn how to defend themselves, but also give them a chance to improve their self-esteem and confidence.

The IMA-SDC is a small intimate class that caters to each student’s personal goals. Although it falls under the BOSS program, the course is open to anyone who has access to the installation, to include family members, Department of Defense Civilians, and Local Nationals.

The class is designed for all skill levels, which start from the beginner level, a white belt, all the way up to the most advanced level, a black belt. Guevara takes the time to assess each student’s skills, and offers one-on-one training to more inexperienced martial artists.

"This class is really great, we have two black belts and one brown belt," said Caroline Riggens. "It’s not just Sensei, we have other teachers that we can learn from."

Guevara often gives his students the opportunity to share techniques they have previously learned with the class. Students who attend often develop lasting relationships with each other due to their shared interest in the art form.

"We get to meet people in the community who are like-minded," said Anthony Riggens, marketing accountant for the Morale, Welfare, and Recreational Services, and spouse of Caroline Riggens. "We have a great group of people. We integrate very well."
The class not only built lasting friendships, it helped the students improve their self-esteem and boost their confidence, while also improving their ability to defend themselves.

Like most people, Caroline Riggens is the type of person that does not like to go out alone when it is dark. Although Germany is known to be a safe country, she still has her reservations. The class has been able to give her a much needed boost of confidence.

During the class, students learn various techniques on how to defend themselves should they ever find themselves in a situation where it is needed. They focus on their reflexes and how they should react. The class meets weekly on Wednesdays at the American Legion Post 1982 in building 5515 on Katterbach Kaserne, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The class is free, the only requirement is that you must be in good health.

For more information please contact your local BOSS representative or email Eddie Guevara at: pso.guevara@gmail.com.

Through this initiative 4 became members of the American Legion and Post 1982.

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La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux (The Society of Forty Men and Eight Horses) is an independent, by invitation, honor society of American veterans, more commonly known as “The Forty & Eight”.

The Forty & Eight is committed to charitable and patriotic aims. Our purpose is to uphold and defend the United States Constitution of the United States, to promote the well-being of veterans, their widows, widowers, and orphans, and to actively participate in selected charitable endeavors, which include among others, programs that promote child welfare and nurses training.

Membership is by invitation, and open only to honorably discharged veterans and honorably serving members of the United States Armed Forces.

Grand Mid-Winter Promenade…07 December 2019!!!