Hello Comrades,

It has been another busy month but first I hope everybody had a wonderful New Years. As always, I would like to thank the Department staff for all their hard work and continued support.

Membership: The Department membership is continuing to move upwards steadily, and I want to congratulate all the Post who have already achieved their 100% membership goal for 2020. But remember the National Commander set a 103% goal for all Departments and we cannot achieve this goal without every post support. The department is almost at another goal deadline we need to be at 85% by 31 Jan 20. The Dept is around 82%.

Poland: Is still in the planning phase for VCAL Brown and Vice Commander Owens to go down and do a site visit to access whether we should establish a Post there are not. We have pushed this visit back to Feb 20 and we are hoping to have this completed by our next DEC in Ansbach 21 March 20.

Oratorical: The contest is coming for the Department level on 22 Feb 20 in Ansbach. There have been a few emails sent out to remind post if they have a candidate please send their information to the Dept. Adjutant.

Commander Post Report (CPR): This report is still very important for each Post to turn in whether you are an active Post or not. You don’t have to wait to the end of the year to start plugging in the data on this form online. National track this data to feed its reports they use to brief congress and lobby on the behalf of veterans and their family members. So, don’t forget to turn in your post report even if you only did a Memorial Day event or grave registration before the end of May 20.

Jimmie Dale
Commander
Department of France
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
AMERICANISM MONTH
(February)

The Americanism Division represents one of the four pillars of The American Legion. The division oversees a wide variety of programs built on community service, citizenship, patriotic values and mentoring young people.
We are starting 2020 with a [new video](#) highlighting some of our legacy and history! Keep in touch as we will have more videos and articles to share on our centennial, our history and our activities here in France.

Our next 100 years will begin with planning our annual ceremonial calendar, starting our historic archiving project and continuing to build a strong American community in Paris.

*If you need a bit of inspiration this year, please consider contacting us to see how you could help us with our historic mission that is now starting its 2nd century.*

Our next ceremony will be at the Arc de Triomphe in March for 'Founders Day,' this honors the first American Legion caucus which was held in the 8th arrondissement of Paris in 1919.
INFORMATION ON THE DEPARTMENT FINALS

The Department Oratorical Finals will be conducted Saturday, 22nd of February 2019. The location of the Department Oratorical will be Katterbach Kaserne at the Ansbach Middle High School (BLDG 5924, Von Steuben Str. 33, 91522). The event will begin at 1300 hours, and the oratorical contestants must be present NLT (No Later Than) 1200 hours.

Those Post that have contestants participating in the Department Oratorical Finals, please provide me with their contestant name, affiliated school, and post. Please provide this information to me NLT 01 February 2020. If your Post Oratorical Contest is conducted after 01 February 2020 please let me know and we will extend the required provide date.

Please have your Post representative (Oratorical Contestant) fill out all documents prior to this event this will save everyone time when the event is over.

Please make sure you notify the Department of your Post Contestant. Provide the below information.
Name:
High School:
Sponsored by Post:

If your post has members that are interested in volunteering to help for this event please have them contact Comrade Christopher Buchanan at E-Mail christopherbuch@hotmail.com

If you need to have access (No ID Card) to Katterbach Kaserne Please provide the GR1982 Adjutant Estus Smith at E-Mail estus@live.com with the below information at least 5 weeks prior to the Department Finals.

Name: Last First MI
Passport: Number
Citizen of what Country:
Auto: Make and Model
Vehicle: License Number

James M. Settle james.settle@kabelbw.de
NECMAN Department of France / Assistant Adjutant / PDCDR
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 conditions
- 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 be awarded a certificate at the 3rd DEC the next day.

We need your support!
Preface: WASHINGTON -- Beginning New Year’s Day, 2020, commissaries, post exchanges and recreational facilities across the Department of Defense will open their doors to more than 4.1 million additional veterans.

Privileges will be extended to veterans who are Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war, and all who have any level of service-connected disabilities. Individuals who are designated, as primary family caregivers of eligible veterans will also be granted privileges if they are recognized under the Department of Veterans Affairs’ Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.

Source: https://www.army.mil/article/233261/commissaries_exchanges_welcoming_more_veterans_in_2020

Currently for Germany only

Following this checklist will assist you in obtaining your privileges. Please complete each question.

☐ Question: Do you have a Veteran Affairs Claim Decision letter stating that you have a Service-connected disability of 0% or above?
  ➔ If you do have a service-connected condition, continue to next question.
  ➔ If not: Visit your nearest Veteran Service Organization or VA Office to submit your Claim.
      o Proceed to next question when accomplished.

☐ Question: Do you have a Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)?
  ➔ If you have a VHIC card, proceed to the next question.
  ➔ 1. If not: you must be enrolled in the Veteran Health Care System! You can accomplish this by filling out the VA Form 10-10EZ or calling 001 877 222 8387.

  https://www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply/
  2. Plan to visit the States to obtain a VHIC card.

a. Prior to departing to CONUS, you should contact the local VA hospital in the area you are visiting. Visit https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/allstate.asp
   Ask them if your records are on file in their system and make an appointment. (If your files are in the system, you will not need a copy of your decision letter)
   i. Please be aware that it takes 5 to 10 working days to receive, via mail, your VHIC card.
   ii. They will not send the card overseas; they only send the card to an APO address or to a local US mailing address (relative).
      a. Proceed to next question when accomplished.
Question: Do you have an Installation Access Card (IAC) to access a military installation?

➔ If you have a base installation pass, please proceed to next question.
➔ If not: You will need the following documentation in order to apply for your installation pass

Veterans residing in Germany:
  o Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)
  o Valid Passport
  o PGCC (German Police Good Conduct Certificate (Führungszeugnis))
    ▪ This may be obtained at your local city hall (Rathaus)
  o Current German residency permit (Aufenthalterlaubnis).
  o AE Form 190-16A (Application for Installation Access)
    ▪ AE Form 190-16A can be found online at https://www.aepubs.eur.army.mil/
  o AE Form 604-1B (Security Questionnaire)
    ▪ AE Form 604-1B can be found online at https://www.aepubs.eur.army.mil/
  o LNSP – Local National Screening Program (If residing in the EU - will be submitted through IACS)

Tourist visiting Germany up to 90 days:
  o Valid Passport
  o Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)

➔ Contact your nearest military IACS office for an appointment or walk in possibility.
  o Visit https://home.army.mil/imcom/index.php/garrisons Then search IAC
    ▪ Be aware that the Installation Pass will limit you to access Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and one US military installation.
      ▪ Proceed to next question when accomplished.

Question: Do you have a German “Pink” customs card?

➔ If you have your German Customs Form, please proceed to last question.
➔ If not: Contact the nearest US military customs office.
  o Visit https://home.army.mil/imcom/index.php/garrisons Then search “customs”.

Veterans residing in Germany:
  o You will need the following
    ▪ Valid Passport
    ▪ Current German residency permit (Aufenthalterlaubnis).
    ▪ VHIC (Veteran Health Identification Card)

Tourist visiting Germany up to 90 days:
  o Flight Itinerary showing when you entered Germany and when you leave
    ▪ Must use privileges a minimum of 30 days or more!

Once you visit the local US Customs Office, on base, and have met the requirements, you will be issued a Status Verification form that you must take to the local German Tax Office (Zollamt): You will be issued a German Customs Certificate (Pink Card). At the end of each month, you must take the receipts of all US purchases (Commissary and PX) to the Zollamt and pay German taxes on your purchases.

  o Proceed to next question when accomplished.

Question: Why are you not shopping yet?

Frank Phillips (Francis Dale Phillips) USAG ANSBACH MPD VSO, UNIT 28721 BOX 6511, APO AE 09177
Tel: +49 9802 83 2269 Wed & Fri 1300-1600 email: francis.phillips2@va.gov
DETACHMENT OF FRANCE

Detachment Commander Joe D. Brown
vcalbrown50@gmail.com

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Sergeant-at-Arms Lee Preston  lpreston1957@gmail.com

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

Online Membership Processing Now Available for
Sons of the American Legion

Renew Online
Today

Enjoy the benefits of membership

time to renew

14 February
Early on Feb. 3, 1943, an enemy torpedo struck the Army transport Dorchester as it carried 902 officers and enlisted men, Navy armed guard, merchant seamen and civilian workers in the North Atlantic. The Coast Guard cutter escorts Comanche and Escanaba rescued 230 men.

As Dorchester took on water, four Army chaplains – Lt. George L. Fox (Methodist), Lt. Alexander D. Goode (Jewish), Lt. John P. Washington (Roman Catholic), and Lt. Clark V. Poling (Dutch Reformed) – calmed frightened soldiers, aided the wounded and guided the disoriented toward safety.

On deck, they opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. When there were no more available, the chaplains removed their life jackets and gave them to four young men. “It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven,” said John Ladd, a survivor.

As the ship went down, men in rafts saw the four chaplains, arms linked and braced against the slanting deck, singing hymns and praying.

Congress attempted to confer the Medal of Honor on the chaplains but was prevented by strict requirements of heroism under fire. It authorized a one-time posthumous Special Medal for Heroism, awarded by President Eisenhower in 1961; it was intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.
American Legion
Department of France

3rd Department Executive Committee Meeting

March 21, 2020
Katterbach, Germany

LOCATION:
American Legion Post 1982 Home
Enter through Main Gate
Sachsen bei Ansbach
GPS: 49.306547, 10.645799

Accomodations available
Gasthof Goldner Stern
Ansbacher Str. 3
91560 Heilsbronn
09872 1262

Gasthof Hotel zu Windmühle
Rummelsberger Str. 1
91522 Ansbach
Tel: 0981 972000

Army Ansbach Lodging
Urlas Housing, Bldg. 8152
91522 Ansbach
09802 837014

No Base Access?
Contact Adjutant Estus Smith: estus@live.com
before 1 March 2020

The American Legion Family
3rd DEC in Ansbach-Katterbach
Post GR1982 in Ansbach-Katterbach will be hosting the Third Department Executive Committee meeting (3rd DEC) on 21 March 2020.

The 3rd DEC will be conducted in the American Legion Home in Building 5515 on Katterbach Army Airfield in Katterbach. We will have a new caterer this year. We anticipate an outstanding meal. Parking is available on the side and in front of the building. A map with directions to this location will also be published shortly.

PSO training will be conducted in the same location on Friday, 20 March 2020

Noon Meal at the DEC
We are planning a buffet menu similar to last year. Price for the buffet lunch is $20.00 or 18.00 EURO. Let us know NLT 15 March 2020 if you plan to eat the buffet with us. Reply to Estus Smith, Post Adjutant, at email estus@live.com to confirm your attendance. He will inform the Gasthaus about numbers of participants to ensure that we all have space and meals. Email him NLT 15 March 2019.

Access Issues
This DEC will be hosted on a military installation, so we need to discuss access to the installation.

If you have an ID card, either as Active Duty, DoD Civilian or Retire Military, and are registered in the European IACS system; then you have no problem. If you are not in one of these categories, then you have two options. The easiest option, for everyone concerned, is to ride with someone who has an ID card. They can then sign you in.

The other option is to provide us the information that we need to put you on an access roster that we will work for this meeting. The issue here is that we will need the information no later than THREE weeks before the events. That is NLT 1 Mar 20.

If you wish to be put on the access roster, we need your full name, citizenship, date of birth, passport number, as well as your vehicle license number. Provide this info to Estus Smith, Post Adjutant, at email estus@live.com not later than 1 March 2020.

Rooms
For those of you planning to arrive on Friday, we have four options for overnight accommodations. The Gasthaus Goldner Stern is located at Ansbacher Str. 3 in 91560 Heilsbronn, approx. 12 KM east of Katterbach front gate. Prices are 47 EURO for a single or 70 EURO for double room. These rates include international breakfast. Please call the Gasthaus and make your reservations directly. Phone number is 09872-1262.

The Gasthaus Zum Loewen located at Marktplatz 6, 91560 Heilsbronn, approximately 12KM east of Katterbach. Prices are 45 EURO for a single or 75 EURO for double room. These rates include international breakfast. Please call the Gasthaus and make your reservations directly.

Friday evening. (That is 91560 Heilsbronn, not 74076 Heilbronn.) We would like to have Post and Department Commanders and Vice Commanders, as well as any other interested Legionnaires at this dinner. If you wish to join us, please contact Estus Smith at email estus@live.com to confirm your attendance. He will inform the Gasthaus about numbers of participants to ensure that we all have space and meals. Email him NLT 15 March 2019.
reservations directly. Phone number is 09872-1231.

The Hotel-Gasthof zur Windmuehle, Rummelsberger Str.1, 91522 Ansbach is also available. It is just off Hwy B-14 as you leave Ansbach toward Katterbach. Distance from Katterbach front gate is 5 KM. Room prices are 81.00 EURO for a single or for double room. This also includes breakfast. Please call the hotel and make your reservations directly. Phone number is 0981-972-000.

Lodging on post is also available, but not on the same installation. The Urlas Guest House is in Bldg 8152, Urlas Housing. This is approximately 5 KM from Katterbach Front Gate. Prices are $80. for a single and $105. for a double. Retired Soldiers will need to present their “Pink Card”. Telephone is 09802-83-7014. Please call and make your reservations directly, but not earlier than 13 March. They can only reserve rooms one week prior.

Directions to the Installation
Katterbach Army Airfield is located in 91522 Ansbach-Katterbach, just southeast of the small town of Katterbach. If you come in from Autobahn A-6, exit at Ansbach exit, then follow highway B-13 north into Ansbach. At the B-13/B-14 crossing, take B-14 east toward Nurnberg. Katterbach is about 5 KM east of Ansbach. Travel completely through Katterbach and the installation on B-14, then follow signs to right, across the railroad tracks, then right again to the installation access point.

Address for your Navi is Bismarckkaserne bldg 9026. If your Navi does not recognize that without a zip, use 91623 as the Postleitzahl or zip code.

This takes you to the Entry Control Point at the Main Gate. The strip map (extract from Google Maps) will show directions from the Main Gate to the Legion Home. This will be provided separately. You must enter the installation through the Main Gate.

If you are using a Navi, be careful that it takes you from A-6 to B-13, then to B-14 to the installation entrance. Several other options show on Google maps and may show on your Navi, but these roads are closed or fenced at the installation perimeter.

Grande Chef de Gare 2020MY…Lee Preston

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.