Department Commander John Shanahan

2017 Membership Drive & Current Standings. Here’s an update on our membership drive and current standings: As of the 1st of February, we have met our 85% membership goal – and we have done so once again on schedule. Congratulations to Post commanders and adjutants, to VCAL Joseph Schram, our Membership Chairman, to John Fleming, our membership administrator and to all the membership team for once again rising to the challenge and ensuring that we’ve met our goals.

Why is Our Membership Program Important?

We focus on two components – retention of existing members and recruitment of new members. We do this in order to maintain and preserve our core mission – to serve God and country through service to one another and to our communities.

We are the front-line troops in the mission of serving our brother and sister veterans. Our job is to ensure that they are aware of and obtain access to all of their veterans benefits and such medical/psychological care as needed that they have earned from service to the nation. Additionally, we represent their needs to the Congress to ensure that the resources needed for those benefits and care are provided. Veterans have stood up and answered the Nation’s call and the Legion, along with all Americans, has a duty to ensure that we remain vigilant and that benefits promised are provided.

Our Legion membership, then, is the vehicle by which we come together as a unified team to support one another and to raise the funds needed to support our efforts. Our members are essentially “paying it forward” so that we might ensure that the benefits we have received are available to the service members that come behind us and that their particular needs are met.

There are two positive steps that Posts can take to build your membership and ensure that your members remain on board. (1.) All Post Commanders are asked to take a careful look at your membership roster on myLegion.org. Have you renewed all of your 2016 members and turned in your transmittals? Are you working your list of expired members from last year? (2.) Join the Department in the membership drives set for this spring to bring new members (and new Posts) on board. We’ve had a great reception from young and old veterans (and currently serving
personnel) at each of these events. I want you to experience first-hand the excitement and interest that our new members bring to these events – and benefit from the results. Photos from recruiting at RAF Lakenheath are shown here.

Planning for the Legion’s Centennial. Our Department’s Centennial Committee will be meeting in Paris later this month to refine the scope and work breakdown schedule for the 2019 Centennial celebration in Paris. I am especially grateful to chairman Curtis Bartosik and to the Committee for their interest in this event to date and for their work on behalf of our members to make this an outstanding event. We invite you to mark your calendars for March, 2019 and plan on joining comrades from Europe and from the United States for this event.

Third DEC Set for Ansbach, Germany. The Third DEC for this year is set for Saturday, March 18 in Ansbach, Germany. Post GR-1982 is hosting this event and is eager to show off its new quarters at USAG Ansbach. We will also have Jeff Stoffer, Director of the Legion’s Marketing, Media and Communications Division joining us to begin making plans for events marking the Centennial of the American Legion and its origins in Paris in 1919. Please hold this weekend open as we will have a busy and full meeting agenda for this DEC.

Department Convention Site Selected. 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 and look for the Convention announcement and booking details in the near future.

New Post at RAF Lakenheath. As the month began, we had the first meeting on Friday evening, 2 February of our new Liberty Post EG-02, Lakenheath, England. Gary Thomas has been elected as Post Commander and Mark Hostetler has been elected as Finance Officer. We followed the Post meeting with an Oratorical Contest at Lakenheath High School on Saturday morning, 3 February, and have a new winner to send to our Department Oratorical Contest in March. To complete the weekend’s work, we set up a recruiting stand at the Post Exchange at RAF Lakenheath on Saturday afternoon and Sunday, with another 22 members now signed up. I’m delighted to advise that the temporary charter application will go in with 42 members on board. What a great way to kick off the start of a new Post!

Recruiting and Rebuilding for Post FR-05. I’m delighted to report that, following the death of Post Commander Tony Di Pietro last year, we’ve been able to move ahead with efforts to rebuild and revitalize this Post, originally chartered in 1949. I had the opportunity to join efforts with the French Riviera-Monaco Council of the Navy League and participate in last month’s three-day reunion programme for the 6th Fleet. This very successful effort brought a Navy ship (the USS Carney), a guided missile destroyer, the current Commander of the 6th Fleet, and a large number of Navy veterans to the 6th Fleet’s former homeport in Villefranche, France and resulted in a number of new sign-ups for the Post. In addition, I’m pleased to report that Cornelis (Kees) Van Vliet, Navy League council president in the South of France, has joined Riviera Post FR-05 and is now serving as Post Commander, helping in the rebuilding effort. The photo above will introduce you to new Post Commander Kees Van Vliet.

2017 Washington Conference. I will be attending the 2017 Washington Conference as your representative later this month and working with other Department Commanders and National staff to share the Legion’s legislative programme with members of the United States Congress.
As you know, the Legion adopts its annual legislative programme at the annual convention each summer. In order to work that programme, we have to put boots on the ground – and that takes place in the early spring when the new Congress comes to town. We have a strong programme keyed to improvements in delivery of health care services to veterans and to reducing the waits and delays on VA appeals. In addition, our particular concerns here in Europe are focused on delivery of adequate VSO support for claims, timely resolution of appeals and providing access to VA services to veterans who are unable to travel to VA facilities. We’ll be working for each of these items with the Members of Congress and their legislative staff members and making sure that your voice is heard. And we’ll be supporting the Legion’s resolution to move Pershing Hall in Paris to the jurisdiction of ABMC and to make this important memorial accessible to veterans once again. I look forward to updating you on results over the coming weeks and months.

**Our Centennial Coin Programme.** We are continuing to get very positive support for our Coin Programme and I want to encourage each of you to keep up this good work. The programme has a number of benefits for the Department and for each of you. It provides us with a supplemental source of revenue; it provides Posts with an opportunity to share in the revenues through coin resales (and we’ve kept the price down to make that possible); and it is a great way to build the reputation and awareness of the American Legion here in Europe. Thanks especially to John Purdy, Nola Maloney and Joseph Schram for their hard work to start this programme up and keep it running. Let’s continue to make it a success!

**Sharing a Special Concern.** John Purdy, long-time Commander of Kaiserslautern Post GR-01, is gravely ill. I ask each of you to keep John in your thoughts and prayers over the coming weeks as he struggles with his illness. Thanks very much to Michael Young for keeping up with John’s situation and letting me know how he’s doing. Let’s ask for the blessings of Almighty God on John and that he is comforted as he struggles to overcome his painful illness.

*For God and Country, John*

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**Did you know?**

*The American Legion*

**National Commander's Project…** In 2016, The American Legion’s Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) awarded $830,151 in cash grants, benefitting 600 veterans and 1,396 children. The grants help eligible veterans, with minor children, in financial need meet the cost of shelter, utilities, food, clothing and medical expenses. During his tenure as American Legion national commander, Charles E. Schmidt’s fundraising goal for TFA is $1 million. For more information or to make a donation to TFA, visit www.legion.org/financialassistance.
My Fellow Legionnaires, SAL Members, Auxiliary Members and all other VIPs;

I sincerely hope that you all had a fantastic, successful month of January 2017. January is the month I get all my prior year tax documents in order in preparation for Uncle Sam; in addition I try to make a plan for all my travels for the coming year during this month. Boy do I have a lot for this year and am happy to do it for the American Legion and Family!

Now is also the time that all Posts or members should start thinking of the FODPAL (Foreign, Outlying Departments and Posts of the American Legion) “Earl J. Cox Award”. The six NEC’s, one from each of the Departments in FODPAL, are the committee who determines, based on the write-ups and photo/s received, who will be awarded this prestigious award at the FODPAL Breakfast during National Convention in Reno in August 2017. Selection will be made during the Spring Meeting in Indianapolis in early May. All entries will be read and voted on by the group of six NEC’s within FODPAL. I would like to have our nominations not later than 20 March 2017 – this will give us the opportunity to make the selection from amongst the six Departments whose members are eligible to receive the award. In this newsletter you will find the criteria for the award. You can email your nomination/s to me at NECMaloney@gmail.com or you can hand your nomination to me also at the 3rd DEC 18 March in Ansbach.

I am told Post Commander Kenneth Aungst, Post 1982 has provided a room for the Auxiliary to meet at the 3rd DEC to be held at the Ansbach Post Home – this is great news - THANK YOU Commander Aungst!! I hope to see lots of our new Legion Members and their spouses at the DEC!!

Doug Haggan, Past National Vice and Department Commander has been diligently trying to get our Department web site updated. He sent the following in an email to all on the Post Mailing List: “If your Post has a Website or Facebook Page please give me the address, I will add ASAP. Remember this is YOUR WEBSITE, it is giving you another way to get the word out and tell people in and out of Department what we are doing now and what we plan on doing in the future. It just takes a few minutes of your time to tell your story and spread your word around the world. Just click on the link below it does not get any easier.

American Legion Department of France
Many people (not just our members) read our web site to see what is happening within our Department – be proactive and tell them!!!

Again - Just a reminder to the Posts to take advantage of the Overseas Graves Decoration Fund to assist you in honoring our brethren that are buried in private cemeteries throughout Europe. All it takes is a few minutes to write down the name of the veteran and address of their final resting place to make the request. The funds are limited so the earlier the request the better.

In last months Newsletter I told you our Department was awarded nine (9) Honorary membership appointments to the following standing Commissions: Americanism (1); Finance Commission (2); Internal Affairs (1); Membership & Post Activities Committee (1); Legislative (1); National Security (1); Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee (1); Veterans Employment & Education Committee (1). Those folks who have been selected for these positions will be receiving the letters from National in a few weeks. This is the most Honorary appointments we have had in a long time. These are Honorary Memberships that have no duties at the National level and are never called in to national meetings; specific duties from time to time are assigned by the Department to assist with matters in their area. In addition you will receive information from the National office, ALT NEC Settle, or myself to keep you abreast of what is happening throughout the organization. The more information we have to assist us in our Department and Posts helps us to stay strong, the information is designed to keep us informed and we in turn inform our members of issues or assist our Department in these areas.
I would like to remind everyone of a quote I recently heard Past President O’Bama say: “No matter our outward differences – we’re all in this together”. I believe this fits our organization quite well!

In closing I want to wish you and your families all very safe travels; I look forward to seeing many of you at the 3rd DEC!!

Most Sincerely,
Your NECLady

FOREIGN AND OUTLYING DEPARTMENTS AND POSTS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Still Serving America’s Veterans...Around the World

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2017 ERLE COCKE Jr. AWARD

It is that time of the year to pick a recipient for the 2017 Erle Cocke Jr. Award. This appreciation award is presented to someone in the FODPAL family who has gone the extra mile to promote the programs and values of The American Legion.

The following are the rules for the award

1: Legionnaire must be a member in good standing within The American Legion

2: Legionnaire shall believe in The American Legion’s 4 pillars and be active in Post, District or Department programs.

3: Legionnaire has participation in community activities, or in the assistance of Veterans and their families.

4: A standard write up with picture justifying the award will qualify as a Nomination Package.

5: The 6 FODPAL NECmen (Alaska, France, Hawaii, Mexico, Philippines, and Puerto Rico) will hold a mutually agreed upon meeting NLT than the Tuesday preceding the Annual Spring FODPAL Meeting

2: narrowing the nominations for the Erle Cocke Jr Award down to two nominees. The two nominee’s packages must be delivered to the FODPAL Secretary NLT 1600hrs on the Tuesday preceding the Annual FODPAL Spring Meeting.

6: Voting to determine the recipient of the Erle Cocke Jr. Award will take place under “New Business” at the Annual FODPAL Meeting at The American Legion National Headquarters, Indianapolis, IN.

7: The Erle Cocke Jr award will be presented at the Annual FODPAL Breakfast at the site of The American Legion National Convention.

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

The month of January has been a challenge for membership. While we have reached the 85% cut-off, it was not until the last few days, that we were able to achieve that goal. I have been communicating with our membership throughout Europe and the United states asking for them to renew. This has been successful but slow and tedious. During this endeavour, I have learned the discrepancies with the online renewal system at National. In communication with National we were able to make some fixes to the system. It seems that there was a change in the programming denying the use of foreign addresses. A quick fix to this problem was that the member could call in their renewal using the customer services 1-800 phone number. This too has become a problem, because credit cards with foreign address had to be transferred to another system. Eventually, we were able to solve this problem.

Another bit of information come to my attention, some Posts were not out there recruiting for new members nor contacting members for renewal. For us as Legionaries and our Legion we need to grow and we need new members to do this. I plead to those Posts to get out there and recruit. There are many young service members who want to join but know nothing about the American Legion. Go out there and educate them.

I am working with the members who are currently assigned to the Department holding Post. I have asked if they would be willing to transfer to an active Post. I have had a number of affirmative replies and will notify the Posts of these transfers.

Branding is an important part of what we do. The American Legion logo should be seen where every we go. This can be done with banners, use of local military newsletter or the through the use of AFN radio. It is odd when I hear from a potential member that they did not know that the American legion is here in Europe.

Our next endeavour is to meet the 90% cut-off scheduled for March. That is another 150 new or renewed members. In the next month, we have planned to have membership drives at GR45, BE02, NL01 and EG02. We need the help of the Posts to achieve this goal.

New and Revitalized Posts

At the next DEC, we will vote on a temporary charter for Liberty Post EG02. This is a great achievement having a new Post in England. They are eager to become an active Post. They will be having their initial meeting on Friday, 03 February and hosting their first Oratorical Contest on Saturday, 04 February. We look forward to their contestant participating in the annual Department of France’s Oratorical Contest.

On 21 January, we had the initial meeting of NL01. During the meeting the membership elected their Command, Ray Vincent and voted to change their Post name to Margraten. If those that do not know, Margraten is the name of the local WWII American Cemetery in the Netherlands. We look forward to an active Margraten Post NL01.
Convention
I am working with the Best Western Ludwigshafen for our annual convention. The registration form is complete except for the menu selection for the Saturday evening banquet. Once I have that information, I will have the Department adjutant send the registration form to all of the Posts.

Eagle Scout of the Year National Scholarship
The American Legion provides for a national scholarship to be awarded to the Eagle Scout who is selected “The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year.” The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year receives a $10,000 scholarship. Three runner-up scholarship awards will be granted in the amount of $2,500 each.

The scholarship recipients will be eligible to receive their scholarship immediately upon graduation from high school (public, parochial, military, private, or home school) and must utilize the total award within four years of their graduation date, excluding active military duty or religious mission.

The scholarship may be used to attend a school selected by the student, provided it is state accredited, above the high school level, and within the continental limits of the United States, except in the case where the student may be from a possession of the United States, in which case he can select a school in that possession or in the continental United States.

The Deadline for application to Department of France’s Boy Scout Committee Chairperson is 28 February 2017. http://www.legion.org/scouting

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The Department Officers for 2017 Membership Year are:

**COMMANDER**
John Shanahan IR01
jhshanahan@gmail.com

**ADJUTANT**
Maxwell Rice GR79
colnwickboy@yahoo.com

**NECMAN**
Nola Maloney GR03
NECMaloney@gmail.com

**ALT. NECMAN**
James Settle GR42
james.settle@kabelbw.de

**VCAL**
Joseph Schram BE02
joseph.schram@gmail.com

**VICE COMMANDER**
Laura Buckner BE02
04lgb@shawglobal.net

**VICE COMMANDER**
Carl Hale FR01
crlhl@hotmail.com

**VICE COMMANDER**
Darren Dahlke GR06
djdstuttgart@yahoo.de

**VICE COMMANDER**
Marcus Briscoe GR06
marcus.briscoe@online.de

**CHAPLAIN**
Casby Logan GR07
casbyj@hotmail.com

**HISTORIAN**
Tyler Johnson
Tyler.j.johnson@outlook.com

**FINANCE OFFICER**
Gary Miller GR06
billsfan_gary@hotmail.com

**SERVICE OFFICER**
Paul Claybough GR1982
profsoilder72@yahoo.com

**JUDGE ADVOCATE**
Keith Abernathy GR79
keithabernathy1942@yahoo.de

**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**
Christopher Buchanan GR1982
christopherbunch@hotmail.com

**ASSISTANT ADJUTANT**
James Settle GR42
james.settle@kabelbw.de

**ASSISTANT ADJUTANT**
Robert Fuelling FR01
Rfuellg41704@aol.com

**ASSISTANT ADJUTANT**
John Fleming CH01
pastcmdr.fleming@gmail.com
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 Third DEC.

DETACHMENT OF FRANCE

Squadrons: GR01, BE02, GR06, GR07, GR14, GR42, GR79, CH01

Lee Preston... Detachment of France Commander “2017”

Hello Fellow SAL Members,
I hope that this newsletter finds everyone healthy and doing well. We are not doing very well on membership this year. I hope that all of the Squadrons are getting ahold of their membership to get those renewals. We have been standing at 50.845% for the last 5 months at least and have moved way down the list at National. Our membership chairman, Comrade Brown, has sent E-mails to all the Squadrons hoping to get the membership renewals rolling in. I encourage all of the Squadrons to get their transmittals in to the membership chairman as soon as possible so we can reach the 100% this year. The 3rd DEC will be held on March 4, 2017 in Kitzingen, Germany at GR30 post home. The Adjutant will get the call out to all of the Squadrons and I hope to have a great showing at this DEC. I thank each and every one of our members for all that they do for our Detachment. I hope to see everyone at the DEC. Until then, be safe, stay healthy and see you in March.

Lee Preston / Detachment Commander
NOW AVAILABLE !!!

The American Legion Centennial Coin

This special commemorative coin is issued by the Department of France, the birthplace of the American Legion from its founding in 1919.

The front of the coin is executed in a vibrant, deep blue, with gold lettering and the official logo of the Legion Centennial. The reverse shows the Legion family emblems against a bright gold background and the motto of the American Legion ringed in blue: For God and Country – Still Serving

**Coin prices:** €5/$5 each, plus €2/$2 shipping cost per coin, total €7/$7 for each coin if shipped. Send your order and US Dollar or Euro bank transfer payable to “Dept. of France, American Legion”

**Ordering By US Check (No European or Foreign Checks)**

Send to:  
American Legion Post BE02  
Attn: Centennial Coins  
Unit 28100, Box 017  
APO AE 09714

Or:  
Joseph Schram  
Attn: Centennial Coins  
Meersenstraat 33 C2  
8310 Assebroek

- **PayPal:** Paypal.me/JosephSchram
- **Foreign Bank Transfer:** ING Account: IBAN: BE98 3774 3999 7693 -- BIC: BBRUBEBB
- **US Bank Transfer:** Andrews Federal Credit Union – Routing #: 255074111  
American Legion Post BE02 - Account #: 82019102

Europe and All Outside USA  
**Contact:** Joseph Schram  
American Legion Post BE-02  
Unit 28100, Box 017  
APO AE 09714  
Email: vcal.schram@gmail.com  
Phone: +32-479-178539

All USA  
**Contact:** Nola Maloney  
Department of France NEC Rep.  
10095 N. Mill Crossing Way  
Tucson Arizona 85743 USA  
Email: NECMaloney@gmail.com  
Phone: +1-928-235-1291
I am a Son of the American Legion as well as a Legionnaire.

My father served in Korea, Germany, Vietnam and more in Germany. I have a Vietnam era photo of him holding an M16 with a tactical radio in the background. He served as a radio repairman in addition to other duties as assigned. He retired out of Mannheim, Germany and relocated the family to Irving, Texas, in 1981. Through his guidance and mentorship, I also served in the Army as a radio repairer.

In honor of my father’s military service, I support of our veteran communities within the American Legion, Department of France.

This past month, together in close coordination with the Department VCAL, Joe Schram, I traveled to the U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen, Netherlands, to meet with 13 members of the recently revitalized Post NL01. With the guidance of VCAL Schram, the members elected a new Post Commander and a Finance Officer. They discussed and voted to update the Post name, from the Rotterdam Post, to the Margraten Post, in honor of the 8,301 service members buried, and the 1,722 names listed as Missing, at the Netherlands American Cemetery. VCAL Schram and I will continue to provide guidance and support to the membership of this growing American Legion Post, NL01.

On 18 January I received a phone call from Mr. Erik Neillis, a son, and only child, of a WWII veteran. He was calling from New Jersey to request an American Legion Honor Guard for his father, Mr. Frank A. Neillis, who passed away. Frank was a 60-year American Legion member in Paramus / Rochelle Park, New Jersey. He was a World War II veteran who served in General Patton’s 3rd U.S. Army in the 95th Infantry Division. He fought in and around the battle for Metz in France. He was injured in November 1944 and was sent to a hospital in England. Frank returned to France in April 1945 and met his future wife, Gisele, in the town of Fontenoy (Aisne) near Soissons. When Frank returned home to Brooklyn, New York, he told her to come to America. They were married in Sept 1947. They are now buried together as of Monday, January 23rd, 2017 at the church and cemetery in Fontenoy (Aisne), France. I want to thank fellow BE02 Son of the American Legion member, Mr. Erik Guint, for traveling from Normandy to carry the U.S. flag during the funeral ceremony. I also thank VCAL Joe Schram and VC Laura Buckner, both from BE02, for also participating in the ceremony. Thank you to Paris Post 1 Service Officer (and VFW Post 605 Service Officer), Mr. Chuck Steiner, for coordinating with the SHAPE Retiree Service Officer to obtain the casket sized U.S. flag. Together, our American Legion Family from Belgium and France, helped render military honors. Veterans helping veterans, and their families.

For God and Country, Carl Hale
Vice Commander, Department of France / CRLHL@HOTMAIL.COM
The American Legion
Eagle Scout of the Year
Nomination Form

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City: ___________________ (State) ______
Age: ______
Telephone number: ( ) __________________
E-mail: ____________________________

Is your Boy Scout Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew chartered to an American Legion post, American Legion Auxiliary unit or Sons of The American Legion squadron?
If YES, please complete the following:

Post/Unit/Squadron Number: ____________________________
Street: ____________________________
City: ___________________ (State) ______

Are you the son or grandson of a Legionnaire, Sons of The American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary member? _____ if yes, please complete the following:

(Name of Member)
Relationship: ____________________________
Name: ____________________________

Eligibility Requirements

THE NOMINEE MUST:
- Be a registered, active member of a Boy Scout Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew chartered to an American Legion post, American Legion Auxiliary unit or Sons of The American Legion squadron.

OR
- Be a registered, active member of a chartered Boy Scout Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew, and the son or grandson of a Legionnaire, Sons of The American Legion or Auxiliary member.

AND
- Received the Eagle Scout Award.
- Be an active member of his religious institution and must have received the appropriate Boy Scout religious emblem.
- Have demonstrated practical citizenship in church, school, Scouting, and community.
- Have reached his 15th birthday and be enrolled in high school at the time of selection.
- Reside in the department state to which he applies

Note: Eagle Scouts still in high school who reached their 15th birthday during the nomination year remain eligible if qualified.
The Scout who best meets the qualifications outlined in the nomination application will be selected as the 2017 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year by the National Americanism Commission. The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year will join the youth champion delegation and participate in the 99th annual National Convention in Reno, Nev., Aug. 18-22, 2017.

Scholarships

The American Legion provides for a national scholarship to be awarded to the Eagle Scout who is selected "The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year.”

The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year will receive a $10,000 scholarship. Three runner-up scholarship awards will be granted in the amount of $2,500 each.

The scholarship recipients will be eligible to receive their scholarship immediately upon graduation from high school (public, parochial, military, private, or home school) and must utilize the total award within four years of their graduation date, excluding active military duty or religious mission.

The scholarship may be used to attend a school selected by the student provided it is state accredited, above the high school level, and within the continental limits of the United States, except in the case where the student may be from a possession of the United States, in which case he can select a school in that possession or in the continental United States.

Disbursement from the scholarship fund will be made jointly to the student and the school at the beginning of each semester or quarter. Only one request will be honored per semester or quarter.

DO NOT SEND THIS APPLICATION DIRECTLY TO NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS.

Applicant should type or print all information.

Section A – High School Record

Note: Please attach a copy of your official high school transcript.

Grade: ___________________________ Name of high school: ___________________________

Grade point average: ____________ in upper __________% of class. Number in class: __________

On one additional page (8 1/2 x 11 inches) list activities participated in during high school and also list awards, honors and recognition received.

Note: The screening committee will only consider information provided on the first page of Attachment A if more than one page is submitted.

Section B – Scouting Record

Note: This section will be reviewed closely by the selection committee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Unit No.</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cub Scout</td>
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<td>Boy Scout</td>
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<td>Varsity Scout</td>
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<td>Venturing Crew</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eagle Award</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2017-Eagle-Scout-Nom-Form.pdf
Section B – Scouting Record (continued)

On two additional pages (8 1/2 x 11 inches) (1) List leadership positions held in your Cub Scout Pack, Boy Scout Troop, Varsity Scout team, and/or Venturing Crew; (2) List other Scouting activities you may have participated in (Jamborees, Order of the Arrow Conferences, etc.).

Note: The screening committee will only consider information provided on the first two pages of Attachment B if more than two pages are submitted.

Section B1 – Eagle Scout Project

On two additional pages (8 1/2 x 11 inches) succinctly describe your Eagle Scout Project.

Note: The screening committee will only consider information provided on the first two pages of Attachment B if more than two pages are submitted.

Section C – Community Participation Record

On one additional page (8 1/2 x 11 inches) list community organizations in which you have held membership excluding high school and Scouting. Additionally list other activities that you were involved with that directly or indirectly improved life in your community.

Note: The screening committee will only consider information provided on the first page of Attachment C if more than one page is submitted.

Section D – Religious Award

Denomination: __________________________ Name of Religious Institution: __________________________

Name of Boy Scout Religious Emblem (Award) Received: __________________________ Month and Year Received: __________________________

(cannot be Cub Scout Religious Emblem)

On one additional page (8 1/2 x 11 inches) list religious youth organizations, clubs, groups that you have been involved in, to include honors awarded and offices held.

Note: The screening committee will only consider information provided on the first page of Attachment D if more than one page is submitted.

Section E – Career Interests

On one additional page (8 1/2 x 11 inches) describe your career interests and/or goals. The selection committee realizes that in many cases, applicants will not have decided on career goals, however, complete this section to the best of your ability.

Note: The screening committee will only consider information provided on the first page of Attachment E if more than one page is submitted.

Section F – Letters of Recommendation and Testimony

One letter each from your religious institution, school, your community and Scouting must be included. Two additional letters of recommendation and testimony may also be included. Please keep in mind that the letters of recommendation are an important part of this application and will be carefully reviewed by the screening committee.

Note: The screening committee will only consider the four required letters and the two additional letters of recommendation of Attachment F if more than the six required letters of recommendation are submitted. Letters of recommendation will be limited to one page.

Authorization

CERTIFICATION BY EAGLE SCOUT

I certify to the accuracy of the foregoing facts. If selected, I will be free to travel to The American Legion National Convention and participate as a member of the youth champion delegation, representing The American Legion and the Boy Scouts of America.

SIGNATURE OF EAGLE SCOUT: __________________________ DATE: __________________________

PARENTAL CONSENT

We hereby certify that the information on this application pertaining to our son's age and grade in school is correct. We are willing and desirous that he become The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year. In consideration of the benefits derived from this honor, if selected, we hereby voluntarily waive any claim against The American Legion and the Boy Scouts of America totally and absolutely.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT: __________________________ DATE: __________________________
Authorization (continued)

SCOUT UNIT LEADER
The above named applicant is qualified in every respect to represent The American Legion and the Boy Scouts of America and has our recommendation.
SIGNATURE OF SCOUT UNIT LEADER: ___________________________ DATE: ____________

AMERICAN LEGION SELECTION COMMITTEE APPROVAL
DEPARTMENT AdjUTANT/SCOUT CHAIRMAN SIGNATURE: ___________________________ DATE: ____________
NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS REVIEWED BY DEPARTMENT SELECTION COMMITTEE: ____________

Selection Process

DEPARTMENT
- Nominations must be received by department headquarters no later than March 1, 2017.
- The application judged best in the department and a list of the members of the Department Selection Committee should be sent to: Assistant Director, Americanism Division, Attention: Eagle Scout of the Year, The American Legion National Headquarters, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.
- For additional information, applicants should contact their department headquarters.

NATIONAL
- Nominations must be received by national headquarters no later than April 1, 2017.
- The National Americanism Commission’s Youth Activities Subcommittee will review all department nominations, and, in their judgment, select The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINALIST
The selection will be announced in the National Americanism Commission Report to the National Executive Committee during The American Legion’s 2017 Spring Meetings in Indianapolis, May 10-11.

American Legion department (state) contact information is online:
@ www.legion.org/departments
The bravery of four World War II chaplains

On Feb. 3, 1943, the United States Army Transport Dorchester – a converted luxury liner – was crossing the North Atlantic, transporting more than 900 troops to an American base in Greenland. Aboard the ship were four chaplains of different faiths: Reverend George Fox (Methodist), Jewish Rabbi Alexander Goode, Reverend Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed) and Father John Washington (Roman Catholic).

Around 12:55 a.m., a German U-boat fired a torpedo that struck Dorchester’s starboard side, below the water line and near the engine room. The explosion instantly killed 100 men and knocked out power and radio communication with Dorchester’s three escort ships. Within 20 minutes, the transport sank and more than 670 men died.

As soldiers rushed to lifeboats, the four chaplains spread out, comforting the wounded and directing others to safety. One survivor, Private William Bednar, later said, “I could hear men crying, pleading, praying. I could also hear the chaplains’ preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going.”

Another survivor, John Ladd, watched the chaplains’ distribute life jackets, and when they ran out, they removed theirs and gave them to four young men. “It was the finest thing I have seen, or hope to see, this side of heaven,” he recalled.

As Dorchester sank, the chaplains were seen linked arm in arm, praying.

Fox, Goode, Poling and Washington were posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Purple Heart, and in 1948, Congress declared Feb. 3 to be Four Chaplains Day. The four chaplains were also honored with a U.S. postage stamp that year.

Every year, American Legion posts nationwide remember Four Chaplains Day with memorial services. This year, Four Chaplains Sunday is on Feb. 5 and Legion family members are encouraged to share on www.legiontown.org how they honored the chaplains.
Let's explore some common compensation case examples. Keep in mind that each case is so varied that it is impossible to cover all of the nuances in such a short format.

“I recently retired what should I claim” You should claim anything that is in your medical record and is chronic in nature. Many veterans come to me who have already filed a claim before. When I look at their medical records I don’t see evidence of 12 of the 15 things they claimed. When I ask why did you claim A,B,C. their response is a VSO at XYZ told me to just file for it and maybe I would get lucky. Think about this from the perspective of the VA rater, would you be sympathetic or have faith in the claim of someone who randomly claimed things without any medical evidence?

The less time between the in-service incident and your claim the easier it is to prove. Keep in mind that if you hurt your knee in 1980 and never went back to sick call for 20 years; in the VA’s thinking how bad could it really be? Also how does the VA know that your current knee pain has anything to do with the time you tripped in Korea and fell 20 years ago?

On Official Letter Head

DATE

Reference: VETERAN’S NAME

ADDRESS ETC.

To Whom It May Concern;

I am Dr. Quack, I am a board certified bone setter with a specialty in bone breaking. Mr. John Doe has been a patient under my care since DATE. He was diagnosed with YOUR CONDITION, etc.

I have personally reviewed his entire medical history to include his military health records (NAME DOCUMENTS). During his military service he had XYZ event occur on 1 Oct 1918 (EVENT OR EVENTS YOU CLAIM ARE THE CAUSE OF YOUR CONDITION). His in service medical treatment included ABC. His condition has deteriorated and limits his (mobility, decreases his quality of life, causes chronic pain, etc.)

Since leaving the military Mr. John Doe has been employed as a (florist) and led a sedentary lifestyle he has no other known risk factors that may have precipitated his current condition. I therefore conclude his (current disability) “is more likely than not” a direct result of his in service injury on 1 Oct 1918.

My objective findings of Mr. Doe includes (SPECIFY LAB WORK, X-RAYS, ETC.) (current disability) is a well-known medical complication of (in-service event) In my personal experience the majority of patients with (in-service event) go on to develop (current disability) ETC.

SIGNED

Dr. Quack, M.D.
The following information is provided by David Chavez Post GR1982 Leadership…

Date: Saturday, 18 March 2017
Time: approx. 0930-1700

Suggested schedule for the DEC meeting is as follows…
0930 - 1130 Sign-in
1130 - 1230 Past Commanders Meeting
1130 - 1230 Buffet Lunch
1230 – complete Department Executive Committee Meeting

Location: Legion Home, Bldg 5515, Katterbach Kaserne, Ansbach, GE (See directions below.)
Address for Navi: Katterbach Kaserne, 91522 Ansbach/Katterbach

Buffet lunch: 1130-1230 (served on site) Cost: $15.00/person
Buffet menu will include Wiener Schnitzel, Schweinebraten, Bratwurst, Chicken Wings with various beilage and salads. Soft drinks, water and coffee are available and included in this price. Coffee, water and soft drinks will also be available at reasonable cost throughout the day.

We are planning to work an access roster for those Comrades who do not have ID cards. We will need full name, nationality, date of birth, passport number, as well as your vehicle make, model and license plate number. This information must be emailed to either Estus Smith or Chris Buchanan NOT LATER THAN 4 March 2017. Email info is as follows: Estus Smith – estus@live.com / Chris Buchanan – christopherbuch@hotmail.com

The other option is to ride with someone who has an ID card. They can then sign you in at the gate.

Should anyone be coming by train and need a ride from the Ansbach Hauptbahnhof, please email Estus Smith with your arrival time. We can pick you up.

Directions to meeting area: Exit Autobahn A-6 at the Ansbach Exit, take highway B-13 north to Ansbach. At junction of B-13 and B-14, take B-14 east toward Nurnberg. Travel about three KM to Katterbach and installation, continue past installation, turn right, travel across railroad crossing, then right again to entrance gate. (Note: Do not take the left turn BEFORE Katterbach into the housing area and PX/Commissary area.) Turn left just past Entry Control Point, travel 300 M to stop sign at Service Credit Union. Turn left and travel 600 M toward housing area. Legion Home (Bldg 5515) is first building on the right after entering housing area. Parking is available across the street in front of the Legion Home.

For those planning to stay overnight, rooms are available at the Hotel Windmuehle, Rummelsberger Strasse 1, 91522 Ansbach (approx. 3 km from meeting area). POC Phone: 0981-972000. Email: info@hotel-windmuehle.de Internet: www.hotel-windmuehle.de

Room prices: Single room is 71-81 EURO. Double room is 101-114 EURO. Those needing rooms should coordinate directly with the hotel. Contact info above

WHAT WE NEED FROM ATTENDEES:
Not later than 4 March – Information noted above for Comrades without ID cards.
Not later than 11 March – Who will be joining us for the buffet lunch? We need to get a headcount for the caterer. Email to Estus Smith is best way to communicate this.

More information & updates to follow…
The Flanders Field Post BE02 hosted its 4th annual Oratorical Scholarship Contest on Saturday, 28 January at the Brussels American High School. This year’s winner is Amanda Macauley, a senior form the AFNORTH American High School in Brunsum, the Netherlands. She will compete at the Department of France’s Oratorical Contest on 25 February in Stuttgart, Germany
Valentine's Day in the United States

Valentine's Day is celebrated on February 14. It is a festival of romantic love and many people give cards, letters, flowers or presents to their spouse or partner. They may also arrange a romantic meal in a restaurant or night in a hotel. Common symbols of Valentine's Day are hearts, red roses and Cupid.

Valentine's Day: one of the most romantic days of the year.©iStockphoto.com/Kais Tolmats

There are a number of Saints called Valentine who are honored on February 14. The day became associated with romantic love in the Middle Ages in England. This may have followed on from the Pagan fertility festivals that were held all over Europe as the winter came to an end. Traditionally, lovers exchanged hand written notes. Commercial cards became available in the mid nineteenth century.
More State IDs No Longer Accepted at Bases

Driver's licenses from five additional states will no longer be accepted as official forms of identification for gaining access to military bases DoD-wide starting Jan. 30, officials said.

Those holding non-enhanced drivers' licenses issued by Kentucky, Maine, Montana, Pennsylvania and South Carolina will join those from Washington, Minnesota and Missouri in no longer being able to enter federal facilities using their state IDs as their primary form of identification, Defense Department officials confirmed.

Those state IDs don't comply with official standards under the 2005 Real ID Act, which requires states to meet minimum security requirements for state-issued ID cards such as driver's licenses, according to the Department of Homeland Security. Some non-compliant states, including Alaska and Oklahoma, have received deadline extensions from DHS, while the five set to be blocked Jan. 30, as well as the three already on the list, have not.

DoD officials said that while Homeland Security officials have issued a list of other acceptable forms of identification, including U.S. passports, Veterans Health ID cards and Native American tribal ID cards, installation commanders are free to develop their own lists of supplemental forms of ID.

For example, officials at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, plan to accept birth certificates, utility bills and vehicle registrations as supporting ID documents, while officials at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, accept Social Security cards but not utility bills or vehicle registrations.

Some base officials, including those at Fort Huachuca, previously had announced that they would start enforcing the new ID requirements Jan. 10. But that statement was based on outdated information, a DoD official said. An original compliance deadline of Jan. 10 was pushed to Jan. 30 because of the upcoming presidential inauguration, the official said.

"Each of the services issued notices down their chains informing them of the new date, but we have found that word hasn't made it some bases," said Navy Cmdr. Linda K. Rojas, a DoD spokesperson. "As they pop up, we are correcting them."
American Legion donates eight tiny houses for homeless vets to 2x4's for Hope

By Matt Dutton Herald-Whig / Posted: Jan. 23, 2017 10:15 pm Updated: Jan. 24, 2017 8:13 am

QUINCY -- Twenty-four homeless veterans from the area will soon have a place to call their own, thanks to American Legion Post 37, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 37, various individuals and 2x4's for Hope.

During a brief ceremony Monday morning, Dennis Boden, commander of Post 37, presented a $1,407 check to Chris Lawrence of 2x4's for Hope. The effort, Lawrence said, is a community endeavor involving many different organizations.

"These houses are not going to be really big," Boden said, "but they are bigger than the areas that we had when we were in the military. The area I had in Vietnam wasn't much bigger than a broom closet, but it was our space. I think it's kind of the same thing with these tiny homes. They have a place they can call their own."

Each tiny house, consisting of 85 2x4's, costs $255 to build. Each of the homes will house two veterans. Post 37 is sponsoring eight of the 12 planned homes. Boden said he would like to sponsor another eight in the future.

"These are going to be erected in the Quincy area," he said. "There are 12 locations that are yet to be determined where these houses will be built. Once these houses are built, they will go through the procedure of finding the homeless veterans that need this."

Boden used the ceremony as an opportunity to address his own preconceived notions on what it means to be homeless and how his perception has shifted since becoming involved in the tiny home project.

"At one time, I thought that a homeless veteran was a person who was sleeping in the park, sleeping under the bridges and what not," he said. "The actual definition of a homeless veteran is someone who does not have a permanent residence. They may be staying with family, they may be staying with friends, and they may be the ones that are living under bridges and sleeping in the parks."

The tiny houses also serve another purpose that is crucial to helping the veterans get back on their feet.

"A lot of the homeless veterans have benefits due from the Veteran's Administration," Boden said. "If they don't have an address for them to send their mail to, they're not likely to be able to pick up the benefits they've earned from their tour of duty in the service."

During Monday's ceremony at the Legion in Quincy, Lawrence recounted the shock she felt when she first discovered how significant an issue homelessness has become for veterans. Already invested in a similar program in Haiti, the Lawrences shifted their focus back home, and 2x4's for Hope was born.

"We did find out recently that there are an average of 600 (homeless veterans) in the four (county) Tri-State area," Lawrence said, discussing the combined homeless veteran population in Adams, Brown, Pike and Schuyler counties. "We know there is a need."

Lawrence said 2x4's for Hope is wants to find another nonprofit group to become a partner and fulfill construction needs for the project.

"Habitat for Humanity are the ones who offered some of the pieces of property for the tiny homes project," Lawrence said, without specifying where they are. "I don't know the size of the tiny homes. Most of them that are being built are about 250 square feet, which is pretty small, but yet it's a roof over their head and gets them off the street."

To make a donation to 2x4's for Hope, call 217-617-8500 or email my2x4forhope@yahoo.com.
OVERSEAS GRAVES DECORATION TRUST

**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 Treasure 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.

THE 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 American Legion National Commander commends Iowa City flag defenders

INDIANAPOLIS (January 27, 2017) American Legion National Commander Charles E. Schmidt praised the patriotism of a young FedEx driver and another man who confronted flag-burning protesters Thursday in Iowa City. The driver, Matt Uhrin of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, used a fire extinguisher to douse smoldering flags and angrily rescued at least one from demonstrators at a pedestrian mall in downtown Iowa City.

“We have been told that a flag-protection amendment to the Constitution is unnecessary because no one burns flags anymore,” Schmidt said Friday. “In recent weeks, we’ve all seen that’s far from accurate. Mr. Uhrin and another young man who stepped in to stop the flag burners in Iowa City clearly understand that deliberate destruction of our nation’s most profound symbol of unity is both a violation of logic and an insult to all who have served our country in uniform. As leader of the nation’s largest organization of wartime veterans, I commend them for stepping up in defense of our nation’s colors.”

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 in 1989 that flag burning is a legal act of free speech protected under the First Amendment. The American Legion, the Citizens Flag Alliance and the majority of the U.S. public disagree and continue to work with Congress to pass a constitutional amendment giving it the power to prohibit physical desecration of the U.S. flag.

With a current membership of 2.2 million wartime veterans, The American Legion, www.legion.org, was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, Americanism, and youth programs. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through more than 13,000 posts across the nation.

*Media contacts: John Raughter (317) 630-1253/ 317-441-8847 (cell), jraughter@legion.org*
Presidents' Day in the United States

Washington's Birthday, also known as Presidents' Day, is a federal holiday held on the third Monday of February. The day honors presidents of the United States, including George Washington, the USA's first president.

George Washington was the first president of the United States of America. His first term as president was from 1789 to 1793 and his second term from 1793 to 1797. Before he became president, he played important roles in the military, leading the American Continental Army to victory over the British in 1783. Washington is often seen as the father of the United States and is probably the best known American politician ever.

The likeness and name of George Washington can still be seen in many places in the United States. There is the portrait of him and three other American presidents carved into Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota. His image is also used on the one-dollar bill and the quarter-dollar coin. The capital of the United States, Washington D.C., Washington State and at least three universities are named after him.

Washington's Birthday was first celebrated as a holiday in the District of Columbia in 1880. It was made a federal holiday in 1885. The holiday was originally held on the anniversary of George Washington's birth, on February 22. In 1971, this holiday was moved to the third Monday in February.

This holiday is legally designated as "Washington’s Birthday". Though other institutions such as state and local governments and private businesses may use other names, it is the federal government’s policy to always refer to holidays by the names designated in the law.