

# THE DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE JULY 2007 NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
Department of France

Editor/Publisher  
*James M. Settle*

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*Joe D. Brown*

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*Nola Maloney*

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*William Marshall*

Alternate NECman  
Michael Umland

Department Vice-Commander At Large  
Liam Kane

The Department of France is not a USAREUR & 7th Army approved private organization.

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

*Department Calendar*  
7 July JWP 79 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festivities  
7 July Veterans Open House Kaiserslautern Post GR01

## Department Commander's Corner



My fellow Legionaries, I would like to take this opportunity, to thank all of you for having the trust and faith in me to properly perform the duties as your Department Commander. I will not let you down. Next I would like to congratulate the newly elected officers, I know we have a great team this year, and that we will move this Department forward and make it the best in National. Remember each post has a Vice Commander, (see VCAL Kane's Article) and they should have already contacted you, these Vice Commanders are there to assist you in all matters, if you are having difficulties, please contact them. I wish all of you a safe and happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July; please look out for each other during your festivities. Comrade Maloney is the new Department Adjutant, please insure that you contact her with all required reports and request for assistance. Remember if you need to contact me I am just an E-mail away [djcharlybrown@hotmail.com](mailto:djcharlybrown@hotmail.com). In closing please keep those in harm's way and their families, not only in your thoughts but your prayers as well.

For GOD and Country  
Joe D. Brown  
Department Commander

### From the Department Adjutant:

My Fellow Legionnaires,

I have been appointed by DCDR Brown as your Adjutant for the ensuing year. I congratulate all the outgoing Officers on a most arduous, but productive year. I congratulate all the incoming Officers and look forward to working with you. I wish all the Posts much success in the coming year with all their programs and Membership.

As in all other years, this one starts out with the Adjutant requesting all sorts of things from you. These requests enable me to keep us up to speed with National and ensure we get our entitlements taken care of. I will place my email; snail mail and phone numbers at the end of this message.

Post Commanders: If you have not done so already, please submit your Consolidated Post Reports ASAP – they are already late to National. They must be on the carbonless paper sent out from National a few months ago. Past Adjutant Maxwell may have put them into your Post Packets at convention. If you did not get one – PLEASE let me know right away. I will get Department and Post Rosters out as soon as I capture all the

information. If you have held elections over the past month please submit a Post Officer Roster to me – needed to update our roster. Thanking you in advance.

I ask that you not send me chain emails or jokes to my Adjutant email account. I want this account for the Department business only. The emails I receive will become a part of our files. Thank you.

August will be a busy month for me as I will be attending National Convention in Reno. If you are going to need something from me, please request it prior to 20 August. I will return after Labor Day weekend. With that I will end this month's info corner and wish you all safe journeys and a pleasant summer.

For God and Country "*Still Serving America*"

Nola Maloney  
Dept Adjutant

EMAIL: [Dept\\_Adj@yahoo.com](mailto:Dept_Adj@yahoo.com) There is an **underscore** between Dept and Adjutant in the email address that doesn't show up here.

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

Another year starts and once again CONGRATS to our new DEPT. COMM CHARLY BROWN lets all get behind Charly and give him 100% help and co-operation.

As your VCAL I am available to help and advice whenever you require it if I can't help I will get the info for you elsewhere.

I had a meeting with your 4 VCS and we have set goals for the coming year which we will keep as you can see we have new blood and lets help them in their new roles .Please use these VCS and Myself over the next 12 months that's what we are here for.

The following are the VCS and their Posts.

Keith Abernathy ([kaberna1950@aol.com](mailto:kaberna1950@aol.com)) Posts GR01 , GR06 , GR07.

Jerry Aman. ([Jerra503@aol.com](mailto:Jerra503@aol.com)) Posts GR03 , GR79 , GR1982.

Frank Hanchak ( [frank.hanch@us.army.mil](mailto:frank.hanch@us.army.mil)) Posts GR14 , GR20, GR45, IR63.

Darrel Shannon([dq.shannon@missouri.usa.com](mailto:dq.shannon@missouri.usa.com)) Posts GR05, GR09 , GR42.

VCAL Liam Kane ([commliam@gmail.com](mailto:commliam@gmail.com)) Posts Be02, DK01, FR01, FR05, IR 02 IR03, IT01, GC01, NL01, PO01, SP292.

Since I arrived home from the Dept. Conv. I have been busy keeping up with my new job and contacting as many Posts as is possible. Great progress has been made with the US Embassy in Dublin and all systems are almost ready to go thanks to the Embassy staff and also to Carl Hale.

On Sat night /Sun morning I represented the American Legion at a 4th July Celebration in Dublin and it was a huge success .Maybe one thing was wasted on me as there was a free bar which was still going at 2a.m when I left with a full load who were glad of my sober state. Next Sunday many of our American Legion. People will gather in Killmainham Jail to celebrate the Irish National Day of Remembrance with other Irish Veterans who served with other Countries at the invitation of the Irish govt. All three Irish Posts will be well represented.

On a personal note I would like to thank everyone who helped me over the last year when I had the HONOUR to be YOUR DEPT. COMM and thanks for the MANY e-mails that I received re same since I returned. I am available to serve for God and Country at all times.

Hope you all have a HAPPY 4th JULY

Liam Kane  
*Vice Commander at Large*

***Vice Commander Darrel Shannon***

Greetings my fellow Legionaries, Auxiliary, and S.A.L. Members

Greetings my fellow Legionnaires  
My name is Darrel Shannon and I am a member of John Wayne Post 79 in Heilbronn and I am the

newly elected Department Vice Commander for GR05, GR09, GR42. I am looking forward to working with all my posts, and all the officers in the Department I believe that with all the knowledge and commitment that we all have we can make a difference.

Remember if you need to contact me you can reach me at [dg.shannon@missouri.usa.com](mailto:dg.shannon@missouri.usa.com) In closing please keep those who are defending our Freedom and their families, in your thoughts and in your prayers.

Darrel Shannon  
Department Vice Commander

### **Vice Commander Keith Abernathy**

Hello everyone:

I would like to introduce myself to everyone in the American Legion, Department Of France. But, first I would like to congratulate Joe D. Brown on being elected Department Commander.

I'm a newly elected Department Vice Commander who was also installed at the 83rd Department Convention in Wüstenrot by Heilbronn, Germany.

As Department Vice Commander, I will be Visiting Gr01, Kaiserslautern, Gr06 Stuttgart, and GR07 Mannheim. I'm looking forward to visiting these Post and conversing with the members in each.

A little about myself: I was born and raised in Joliet, Illinois. Joliet is about 30 miles Southwest from Chicago. Some of you might know it for the Prisons there. I visited one as a student back in 1955 or 56. I joined the Army in 1959 and remained on Active Duty over 27 years and retired in 1986 and remained here in Germany. My 27 years were spent in Air Defense Artillery with units here, the States and Korea. I enjoyed my time in the Service, but it went entirely too fast. I am already enjoying my time In The American Legion and the Good Lord willing I'll be a member a lot longer than 27 years.

Again I'm looking forward to meeting you all on my visit to your Post.

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

Keith Abernathy  
Department Vice Commander

### **Department Vice Commander Frank Hanchak**

I want to thank the membership for placing trust in me and electing me to serve as your Department Vice Commander. I will continue to serve faithfully as I have thus far. My service to the Department will continue as it has > with hope and anticipation towards the future. I will strive to implement the goals I have as I outlined at the caucus.

I have been asked by VCAL Kane to serve the Budingon Post GR-14, Eiffel Post GR-20, Vilseck Post GR-45, and John F. Kennedy Post IR-63. I look forward to serving these posts, their commanders, and their membership.

My immediate goal is to visit these posts within the first thirty days of the recent convention. So far, I have coordinated with GR-14, GR-20, and GR-45 and hope to report on my visits with all of them in my next newsletter report. I will be at GR-14 on July 18<sup>th</sup>, GR-42 on July 4<sup>th</sup>, and GR-45 on July 9<sup>th</sup>. I will also be at the GR-79 Post Function on Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup>.

Congratulations to Commander Brown and all of the newly elected officers of this Department. I vow to serve Commander Brown and all of you faithfully and well.

Frank J. Hanchak  
Department Vice Commander

### **Department Vice Commander Jerry Aman**

Jerry Aman  
Department Vice Commander

### **Department Chaplain**

**Special Days/Legion Events:** 4<sup>th</sup> of July- Independence Day; Korean War ended (July 27, 1953).

**Christian Religious Days:** 11<sup>th</sup>- St. Benedict Day (Cath); 15<sup>th</sup>- St Vladimir Day (Orth); 24<sup>th</sup>- Pioneer Day (Mormon)

**Jewish Holidays (Year 5767):** 24<sup>th</sup>- Tisha B'Av

**Islamic Holidays:** None that I know of.

Please visit the church, temple, synagogue or mosque of your choice.

### **Post Everlasting reported in June:**

Joseph A. Stacy, Rome IT01 Post Commander

Prayers have been said for Comrade Stacy and his family and friends. Please remember him in your prayers also.

### **Prayers for the Sick & Ill:**

Robert Crammer, GR-79

George Hall, GR-03  
Shawn Asche, IR-  
Glen Foy, IR-02  
Doug Clemence, GR-06 and Dept Vice Commander  
Nola Maloney, GR-03 and Past Department Commander  
Tom Mayock, IR-63  
Robert Louden, GR-05  
PDC John H. Miller, GR-1982  
Phil Gatchell, GR-03  
Edward Hayes, GR-03  
Wife of Post GR03 Comrade Robert Pierce  
Walt Landi, Past Dept Cmdr 93-94

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

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

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

The DEC's and Convention at Wüstenrot were a very moving time for me, one full of emotion and one allowing a greater number of Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons of the Legion to get together and really live together as family of The American Legion. Sure it was a long way to travel for some folks, but an Auxiliary lady and three of our comrades from Ireland were there. Paris Post FR01 was represented and voting. It might not have been a five star hotel where we stayed, but Peter the Wirt and his team treated us like royalty and his wife Silke, a highly trained chef, supplied some of the best food I have ever had in Germany or even on the continent. So we had 9 Posts at the 4<sup>th</sup> DEC and 10 Posts for the convention and 1<sup>st</sup> DEC. Was your Post there and was someone able to tell you about all of the things that were discussed and accomplished at the meetings?

We are not a political organization, needing to bicker and try to show that someone else is at fault. Politicians in America do a lot of that and they forget to serve the people who chose them to serve. We are a service organization, dedicated to helping our fellow veterans and their families. But we can only do that if we work together as a team, for the good of the Legion, for the good of the veteran and for the good of our Legion family. It doesn't really matter who is the head of our department, we are legionnaires and know what our duties and obligations are without someone telling us. If we want to make it a better Legion and department, let us start at home in the Post and make it better from the bottom up.

Many religious and business organizations know the importance of getting members together outside of the place of worship or work. It gives people a chance to interact with others outside of their immediate area, to exchange ideas and realize how large and complex the actual organization is. Most of all, it shows that no one is alone in the service or work we do within the organization.

A lot of comedians in the states claim they didn't vote, so they can't be blamed for what is going wrong in America. We are legionnaires and we had a chance to have our say, either we did it actively or we did it passively, but we have to complete our mission.

As chaplain and I would like to thank you for your trust and confidence in re-electing me, I am supposed to talk about God and service in His name. If you had been at the meetings, you would know how actively I disagreed with people taking God's name in vain. It just isn't done in an organization that has "For God and Country" in its preamble to the Constitution. It isn't done where other legionnaires can hear and be hurt by it. Sure we did it in military service but that was to show others how tough and mean we were because we were too young to know better, and somehow, it became habit when we did get older and meaner. Part of the service we can do is to show our younger legionnaires, that you don't have to use God's name in vain and curse to prove that we are to be respected.

In closing, we had a wonderful memorial service instigated by the Auxiliary and beautifully carried out with taps blown by Mike Umland. I'm tough even though I don't take God's name in vain, but I had a few tears in my eyes from the moving music and emotions electrifying the ceremony. At the end of the ceremony, we all stood together holding hands and singing for our departed brothers and sisters. I wish someone from your Post had been there to pass on the light that we lit there. I plan to visit every Post this year to pass on that light and let you and your Post know that you are not alone. We are a force to do a lot good in "Service to God and Country".

God bless our department officers from last year and God bless you and our new department officers for this year. And as I asked at the meetings, always add a prayer for our servicemen and women. Oh God, please keep them and their families safe.

Rev. Ronald Moore,  
Dept of France Chaplain  
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Email: revronmoore@yahoo.de

#### Department Service Officer's News

Robert Gray  
Department Service Officer

#### **Sons of The American Legion**

I would like to introduce myself...My name is David Greaux and newly elected SAL Detachment of France Commander for the 2007-2008 membership year. I come out of Squadron Omar Bradley GR42. I would like to thank our SAL members that took the time from their busy schedule to attend our Annual Convention on 9-10 June 2007 and showed their support and confidence in myself and my fellow elected Officers. We have a good team and

looking forward to a successful and fulfilling year. A BIG THANKS goes out to GR79 for hosting this year's convention.

I had the pleasure of attending the 83<sup>rd</sup> Department of France Convention also hosted by GR79. Again GR79 did an outstanding job making sure we were all cared for and had an enjoyable time. I would like to Congratulation the newly elected Department of France Officers.

First thing on our agenda this year is **MEMBERSHIP...MEMBERSHIP...MEMBERSHIP!** Our SAL 2008 membership cards were available at Department of France Convention. So if the squadrons have not sent in their first transmittal for the 2008 membership year...you are holding us back. **"Don't be late for 2008"**

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> SAL DEC is planned for 29 September 2007. The call will be sent out by our Detachment Adjutant James Dennis.

Wishing all a safe and enjoyable "4<sup>th</sup> of July"

David Greaux  
Detachment Commander

[davidgreaux@aol.com](mailto:davidgreaux@aol.com)

**POW/MIA Information**

REMAINS IDENTIFIED AS WWIIMIA. The remains of a World War II navigator listed as missing in action for almost 63 years have been identified two years after they were found in Croatia, the brother of the deceased pilot said. Army Air Forces 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Archibald Kelly's B-24 crashed July 22, 1944, south of Dubrovnik, near the Adriatic Sea. The plane carrying 10 crewmembers was returning from a bombing raid on Romania. He was 23. Sam Kelly said he was notified in February by the Pentagon that dental records matched remains found in a shallow grave by children.

The above information submitted by: Robert Lindsey

**POST HAPPENINGS  
VETERANS Open House**

**A Community Event Proudly Premiered BY:  
THE AMERICAN LEGION (Kaiserslautern Post GR01)  
THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AND THE  
EURO KNIGHTZ MOTORCYCLE CLUB**

**WHEN:** 7 July 2007

**WHERE:** Rhein Ordnance Barracks, Bldg. 368

**TIME:** Begins at 1400 hours

**You have the chance to win:**

**A round-trip ticket to ANYWHERE in the USA!**

**SPONSORED BY UNITED AIRLINES\***

\*for veterans and ID card holders only

**TWO wonderful EUROPEAN trips!**

**SPONSORED BY TOP TOURISTIK and ENJOY TOURS\*\***

\*\*for everyone in the community

**other great give-aways, courtesy**

**of our KMC community!**

**EVENTS:** Horse Shoes, Card Games, Billiards, Dominos, Games for Kids, Music

**Come enjoy a good old fashioned BBQ,**

**All you need to do is bring a side dish.**

For more information, please contact:

Mike Young 017665897013  Dave Mendez 01608416616

Steve Ward 01714378855

**Coming soon: [www.K-TownAmericanLegion.org](http://www.K-TownAmericanLegion.org)**

Editor's Note:

Please bare with me. This is my first attempt at doing the Department Newsletter. It will get better I promise.

James M. Settle  
Editor