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, not later than the 26th of the month for next month’s newsletter.

Department Calendar

Birthdays
George W. Bush 06 July
Shawn Ashe 07 July
Douglas Clemence 12 July
Keith Abernathy 21 July
J.D. (Charley) Brown 24 July
Michael Besant 25 July
John Miller 30 July

Department Commander’s Corner

I had the chance to visit GR03 I had the privilege to do their elections and installments. Comrade Sherman remains Commander along with Comrade Gatchell as Adjutant. We wish both you well and another good year. GR06 held their annual elections in June which I and VC Abernathy had the privilege to attend. VC Abernathy held elections and performed the installment of officers. Department Convention was conducted from 18-21 June 2008, turnout was very poor; however we were able to conduct Department business and hold our elections, congrats to all the newly elected officers. Thanks to the body for once again putting your trust in me and allowing me to once again be your Commander. As always membership remains a high priority within the Department I challenge all of you to strive to obtain 100 percent for 2009. Once again let me touch on communications, there was an improvement last year but we have a long way to go, please keep the chain informed of all, and any incidents. The awards manual is being revised this year, if you have any input for the revision please E-mail the Adjutant with your input. If you have any upcoming events please let the department adjutant know so he can alert other post who might be able to support your event. As always, I stress to all of you to take a few moments out of your busy day and say a small prayer for all of our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines, that are still in harm’s way that they may return home safely to their loved ones. May God bless you all. If you are having any problems please do not hesitate to contact your Post Officers, Department VC, or myself.

For GOD and Country

Joe D. Brown
Department Commander

From the Department Adjutant:

My Fellow Legionnaires,

As you know the Department had it annual Convention from the 18th-21st of Jun 2008. This being my first Convention, I had a lot to learn, in a short time. We did not have a big turn out this year, however we were able to conduct Department business and conduct our Elections. I would like to apologize to IR02, and IR03, for not publicly recognizing them during the awards portion of the convention for their 100% membership status for Membership Year 2007-2008. I am positive that we will have...
another great year within the Department, so long as we all remember to keep the communications lines open and the flow of information going. I wish all the newly elected Department Officers and post a successful year. If you are planning to attend the National Convention, be advised cutoff date for room reservations is July 10th 2008. Those of you that supply inputs to the Department Newsletter please send your input to americanlegion@hotmail.com. In closing please, remember if you need to contact me I am just an E-mail away pisces@t-online.de. Please keep those in harm’s way and their families, not only in your thoughts but your prayers as well.

James M. Settle
Department Adjutant

Department NECman’s Comments
NO REPORT FOR THIS MONTH
William Marshall
Department NECman

Vice Commander’s Corner
Vice Commander at Large Liam Kane
BE02, DK01, FR01, FR05, IR02, IR03, IT01, GC01, NL01, PO01, SP292, CH01

I would like to thank everyone in the Department for thecondolence cards and phone calls on the death of my Brother Joe. I am working on a LOI for the Vice Commanders to work from when communicating with their assigned post. I would like to thank everyone for allowing me to serve once again as the VCAL of the Department. I wish all a very successful Membership Year

Liam Kane
Vice Commander at Large

Vice Commander Shawn Ashe
GR05, GR06, GR30

Greetings my fellow Legionaries, Auxiliary, and S.A.L. Members
NO INPUT FOR THIS MONTH
Shawn Ashe
Department Vice Commander

Vice Commander Robert Gray
GR03, GR07, GR09, GR14

Robert Gray
Department Vice Commander

Vice Commander Frank Hanchak
GR01, GR20, GR45

Another year has come and gone. Another year has begun. Is it “Here we go again”! Or is it “A new beginning”!

Last month, I wrote the following…

I am looking forward to the Department Convention. As usual, I plan to run for a Department Office again this year. I hope the competition is heavy. We need more leaders and workers under those white caps. Please consider taking on this important and responsible job. There is too much talent out there to accept Status Quo…

As you know by now, we have re-elected Commander Joe Brown and VCAL Liam Kane. As I did last year, I pledge my total support and loyalty to these two dedicated leaders. We, the department membership, have demonstrated our trust and confidence in them. I know they have done their best this past year and they have pledged to do even better this year.

In his nomination speech, the speech maker stated that there have been many “knives” cast at our Department Commander. He further stated that it is time to stop this practice and get behind our commander and support him. I agree! We should be behind all of our Department Officers. Not with verbal “knives”, but with encouragement and words of support as opposed to words of condemnation!

Some of my fellow comrades read my last months Newsletter input and asked for a chance to be “leaders and workers under those white caps”. I thank fellow Vice Commanders Shawn Ashe, Jerry Aman, and Robert Gray for stepping forward and being leaders and workers under white caps. I hope that all of us together can lead and work together for the betterment of this Department. I remind my fellow Vice Commanders that it is not the power or recognition for ourselves that we seek, but the power to influence and make changes for the membership that is what matters most!

It will remain to be seen if we will have “Status Quo”. It is up to the membership to insure that this does not happen. If you are not happy with our performance, please take the time to let your leadership know how you feel. Complaining behind the scenes is not the way to do it. You must let us know if you are satisfied with our service to you or if you are not satisfied. Only through your feedback can we know if we are serving you as we should.

I thank those of you who re-elected me as Department Vice Commander for the upcoming year. I hope to build upon my successes of last year and to improve upon my failures. Please don’t hesitate to let me know how I have failed you in the past. It is only in the revelations of those failures that I can turn them into successes.

Don’t forget to register to VOTE! There are only about 120 days till November 4th. Go to http://www.fvap.gov/ for details. Take a moment NOW and go online and get registered and start the process to submit your absentee ballot.
For God and Country, I remain,

NOTE: New mobile phone, and new Email address! 0171 473 9782 frank.hanchak@gmail.com

Frank J. Hanchak
Vice Commander

Vice Commander for the upcomming year. I hope to build upon my successes of last year and to improve upon my failures. Please don’t hesitate to let me know how I have failed you in the past. It is only in the revelations of those failures that I can turn them into successes.

Don’t forget to register to VOTE! There are only about 120 days till November 4th. Go to http://www.fvap.gov/ for details. Take a moment NOW and go online and get registered and start the process to submit your absentee ballot.
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Frank J. Hanchak
Vice Commander

Vice Commander Robert Gray
GR03, GR07, GR09, GR14
Vice Commander Jerry Aman
GR13, GR42, GR79, GR1982, IR63

NO INPUT FOR THIS MONTH
Contact me at E-mail Address Jerrya503@aol.com or phone
number 07307-4492 or 073075752
For God and Country
Jerry Aman
Department Vice Commander

Department Chaplain Ronald Moore
July 2008
Christian Religious Days: 11th- St Benedict (Cath); 24th- Pioneer Day (Mormons); 25th- St James
Jewish Holidays (Year 5768): None that I know of
Islamic Holidays: 31st -Lailat al Miraj.
Please visit the church, temple, synagogue or mosque of your choice.

Post Everlasting reported to June 29th:
Edward Carr, GR79 survived by wife Gisela
Joseph Kane, brother of VCAL Liam Kane

Prayers for the Sick & Ill:
George Hall, GR-03
Shawn Ashe, GR-42
Doug Clemence, GR-06
Nola Maloney, GR-03 and Past Department Commander
John H. Miller, GR-1982 and PDC (new Alt NECman as of August 28, 2009)
Phil Gatchell, GR-03
Edward Hayes, GR-03
Wife of Post GR03 Comrade Robert Pierce
Kenneth Grasser, GR-09
Brenda Dearborn, Dept of Maine present Americanism Chair and past chaplain
Harold M. Wild, GR-13
Ronald (Ron) Hansen, GR-06
Marlene Watson, Widow of GR-13 charter member William Watson
Paul Johnson, Dept of Wyoming 3rd District VC and Past Chaplain
Cindy Hogan, wife of a soldier stationed in Iraq
Donnie Swarengin, GR-09
Larry “Yard Dog” Ewerds, GR-07
Edwin F. Hoffman, GR-13
Robert Downs, GR-79
Brian Charters, IR-63
Michelle Gerdeman, daughter of Comrade John Gerdeman, Sr. GR-07
Harry Hall, GR-42
Rance Cottingham, GR09

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

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

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

Think I’ll end on a lighter note this month, with an inspiring and amusing poem shared by Department of Texas Auxiliary Chaplain Laurey Oxley:
Quote-
I was shocked, confused, bewildered
as I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all,
nor the lights or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven
who made me sputter and gasp--
the thieves, the liars, the sinners,
the alcoholics, the trash

There stood the kid from seventh grade
who swiped my lunch money twice.
Next to him was my old neighbor
who never said anything nice.

Herb, who I always thought
was rotting away in hell,
was sitting pretty on cloud nine,
looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, 'What's the deal?
I would love to hear Your take.
How'd all these sinners get up here?
God must've made a mistake.

'And why's everyone so quiet, so somber? Give me a clue.'
'Hush, child,' said He, 'they're all in shock.'
No one thought they'd be seeing you.' Judge NOT.

MAKES YOU THINK!!!!!!

Unquote

July 4th is Independence Day. I hope you have a blessed celebration with families and friends. As our servicemen/women and veterans know, “Freedom isn’t free!” Make it a day to thank them too.

God bless our servicemen and women, as well as their families, no matter where they serve. Please bless and keep safe those who leave Europe to go down range.

Service to God and Country!
Pastor Ronald Moore,
Dept of France Chaplain
Home: +49-(0)6196-569026
Fax: +49-(0)6196-569027
Mobile: +49-(0)172-7417812
Email: revronmoore@yahoo.de

Rev. Ronald Moore
Department Chaplain

George Hall
Department Service Officer

Sons of The American Legion Frank Hanchak
Fellow Sons of The American Legion,

I would like to share my joy and optimism for the new SAL year. I would like to show my gratitude to the membership for electing me as the next Detachment Commander. I said, I would like to; but I must instead look to the future with the disappointed eyes of a grim outlook of what I predict the future to be based on current trends. Let me explain…

Three Squadrons were represented at the Convention. (With the exception of the hosting squadron, only David Sears of GR-01, and John Odom from GR-07 were present). Those who were in attendance expressed disappointment in the lack of support from the squadrons within the Detachment. I must say that I personally am not too disappointed in the turn out. I feel this way because this is the trend that has emerged in recent times. We all have busy lives and we are so over-involved with other activities that the SAL takes a back seat. This should be no surprise. We have been heading in the same direction for as long as I have been a member.

A considerable amount of time, effort and money was expended on this convention. The convention committee spent about $100 for food and another $200 for the facilities and other expenses. Other contributions of various food items and associated products cost another $200. The Auxiliary and other supporters gave of their time and energy as well in the preparation and execution of the weekend, all of this was expended for only 6 people who attended the meetings!

I firmly believe that these activities should be provided to the membership at little or no cost. In fact, no fees were charged for the weekend. Had you and your family attended, you could have spent almost 48 hours there; enjoyed food, games, and a campfire; spent the night (camping, or sleeping in the chalet); and all for the price of the few gallons of gas that would have brought you to Schweinfurt! (You might have even won the 50/50 raffle and taken your winnings home with you)! Not bad for a weekend!

There are very good reasons why the membership did not participate. I am not interested in criticizing this lack of participation. In fact, I feel optimistic in that I learned that to remain successful in the future, we must be more realistic in our expectations. I learned that the membership doesn’t really want family activities. You don’t want to come to a convention with your families. You don’t want to have an opportunity for fun with your children. For those of you with no children and families, you don’t want to come together with fellow members and share fellowship. You don’t want to contribute to the program and share your ideas and suggestions.

What could have happened had you and your family attended? This was a good opportunity for SAL members and their families to enjoy a FREE weekend of activities. There was a camping area, a sleeping area with over a dozen bunk beds, horseshoes, badminton, and other activities. There was a campfire (complete with Shawn’s famous bread pocket delicats); the chalet had a kitchen, an outdoor veranda, and separate shower facilities. Had more families attended, much more fun would have been shared with those who were there.

What did happen since you didn’t attend? Conner Ash, age 5, had a wonderful time!

What will happen in the future if you don’t attend? Unless more participation occurs, we must greatly scale back these activities. Instead of free activities, food, and overnight camping; we will be forced to meet at a restaurant and conduct business. There will be no free food; we will be forced to order from a menu and pay as you go. There will be no extras; we will take what is provided by the waitress and waiter staff. There will be no family games and other activities, we will conduct business and leave at the conclusion.

I hope I am wrong! I hope the feedback I receive from this message will be that you want to be part of a growing, thriving SAL program.

Thanks to all who serve our Organization and the youth of our community.

Frank J. Hanchak
Commander
Detachment of France
Sons of The American Legion
Boy Scouts by David Sears (Re-Run from last month)

The American Legion Department of France and Boy Scouts of America Transatlantic Council
By Dave Sears

The Department of France has had a long term partner in the European theater with similar goals and agendas. With the recent European Command down-sizing and right sizing over the past two decades. We have lost a few relationships as smaller military bases have closed and consolidated to the larger Kaserns. However, some relationships are stronger than ever with the assistance of “homesteading” military veterans and long time Scouters residing in the European theater.

The American Legion and the Boy Scouts of America has had long ties for nearly 90 years. Similarly, the Department of France and the Transatlantic Council have share a wonderful relationship for the past 55 years.

The American Legion, at its first National Convention, voted approval and support to the Boy Scout movement. Since that time in 1919, The American Legion's support of Involvement in Scouting is part of the Legion's Americanism Program. Nationwide, 2,515 Scout units are chartered to the Legion, with a total membership of 78,087. Hundreds of other units benefit from financial and other forms of support by local posts.

Supporting Boy Scout activities is natural for Legionnaires, who bring their service-learned skills and experiences as veterans to bear to help build character and positive traits in “Young America.” Few other Post activities generate more goodwill from the community. The Scouting Program also gives Legionnaires the opportunity to touch the lives of the youth of our nation and share with them the skills necessary to build a generation of young people ready to do their duty to God and Country.

Based on the principle of duty to God and Country, the Scouting Program serves youth, ages 6 through 21, regardless of ethnic background, creed, or physical or mental ability. In cooperation with organizations like The American Legion, Scouting offers a way for you and other dedicated volunteers of your Post and the Community to bring fun, adventure, and leadership skills to young people, and to provide effective citizenship training, and personal fitness opportunities for youth.

Scouting utilizes the service-learned skills and abilities of the veteran in building character and desirable habits in "Young America." It's a Post activity that brings public credit and goodwill to the Post. Legion-sponsored Scout units should be a "must" in every Post.

The newest kid on the block, Venturing has been an up swinging program for the past decade. Venturing is an effective coed young-adult program designed to improve character, citizenship, and fitness. Venturers exercise leadership, citizenship, fitness, social, outdoor, and community service endeavors. Venturing provides a variety of challenging activities to teach young people 14 - 20 the real world meaning of values, ethical decision making, and life skills. Venturing teaches leadership and problem solving skills to help youths mature into confident, successful adults. Venturing crews organize around a special vocation or interest of the youth members. The specialty clusters include outdoors, sports, art/hobbies, youth ministry, and Sea Scouting.

The Transatlantic Council (802) of the Boy Scouts of America was created in May 1950 to make the Scouting program available to United States citizens and their dependents living in west-and-central Europe, the Near East and North Africa. The boundaries of the Council constantly shift due to changing political alliances and circumstances in nations where servicemen are stationed. Transatlantic Council has served nations as diverse as Norway and Ethiopia. In landmass, it is the largest of the councils of the Boy Scouts of America.

There have been American Scouts overseas since almost the inception of the movement, often for similar reasons as the present day. Troops existed, but until the creation of the Council, they were under the direct service of the Boy Scouts of America.

As American families came to Europe in the earlier stages of occupation, the Boy Scout program came with them. But until 1950 it was a hit-and-miss proposition. In that year, General Thomas T. Handy, then EUCOM commander, backed the program with an order giving logistics support to the program. Contacts were made with the National Council, Boy Scouts of America with the objective of establishing a local council with headquarters in Germany. With this approval the Scouting program became of age in Western Europe. In November 1950, the EUCOM Scouting Advisory Council was formed to give logistical support to both Boy and Girl Scouting. This organization, now known as the European Scouting Fund Council and representatives of both the Army and Air Force with the Transatlantic Council BSA and the North Atlantic Girl Scouts in its membership is...
continued logistical support for American Scouting in Europe.

Transatlantic Council is administered by the International Division of the Boy Scouts of America, with agreements with SHAPE and NATO.

Membership. Transatlantic Council members are the children of international business people, diplomatic corps officials, and U.S. military personnel. Transatlantic serves Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, and Venturing crews in 23 countries on three continents.

Chartered Organizations

The chartered organizations of Transatlantic Council units include American military bases, schools and churches, international schools, U.S. embassies, multinational corporations, parents' groups, veterans' groups, and fraternal organizations.

Trail medals are issued for the hiking and cleanup of several World War I and World War II sites throughout the Council territory.

A similar part of the uniform across Europe is the World Crest. All Scouts, American, German, French, Italian, Polish, Spanish, and on, wear the World Crest patch on their uniforms has a sign of international brotherhood.

American Legion Service

The many other ways that you or your post can support Scouting include, monetary contributions through Friends of Scouting campaigns, signing up to serve as Merit Badge Counselors for the more than 100 merit badges offered to the Boy Scouts, sponsoring a Scouting event for your local Boy Scout Council. Information about any of these activities can be found by contacting your local Boy Scout Council or your American Legion Boy Scout Chairman.

Submitted By Comrade David Sears

An article from Gilbert Wells (Reported by Stars and Stripes)

Many military retirees living overseas want better services

By Travis J. Tritten, Stars and Stripes
To make good on his military health care benefits, Jim Houtsma and his family must trek eight hours from his home in the southern Philippines to a hospital in Manila.

There, Houtsma, a retired U.S. Army first sergeant, and his family must still make out-of-pocket payments for care but can be treated in a hospital that has bed sheets, air-conditioning and water in the toilets.

Most importantly, Houtsma said, he can get the paperwork in Manila he needs to apply for medical reimbursements through Tricare, the Department of Defense’s health care program for active-duty and retired service members and their families.

But those reimbursements often get tangled in red tape or lost, he said. "When I file a claim, it is nit-picked to death and sent back to me three or four times," said Houtsma, who retired from the Army in 1983 after 20 years of service. "If I spend $3,000 or $5,000 for hospitalization, it might take a year to get the money back."

Such dissatisfaction is common among retired service members living overseas — at least Navy and Marine Corps retirees — a 2007 survey reported. Many Navy and Marine retirees in Asia, Europe and elsewhere are unhappy with the support they get from the government after retirement, according to that survey last year by the Secretary of the Navy’s Retiree Council.

About 41 percent of 425 overseas retirees polled said they were unsatisfied in general, the OCONUS Retiree Survey found.

The survey marks the first time overseas retirees were surveyed as a group, according to one of the survey’s directors and the U.S. Navy Personnel Command.

Article continues below:

Some retirees in the Philippines, Okinawa and mainland Japan told Stars and Stripes they feel entitled to benefits earned over decades of service despite not living in the country they served.

But more than half surveyed by the Navy Department said they never access a military base, cannot use
military postal services and are dissatisfied with dental care.

To improve quality of life for overseas retirees, the U.S. government should offer better access to services such as health and dental care, commissaries, exchanges and pharmacies, and eliminate postal weight restrictions, which block many retirees from using military post, according to survey results.

The Secretary of the Navy’s Retiree Council, which advocates for retired sailors and Marines, was briefed on the findings in April.

Health care is the biggest concern in the Philippines, where thousands of retirees live around former American bases in Angeles City and Subic Bay — both abandoned by the U.S. military since the early 1990s — or in far-flung villages. Retirees there face a lack of health care facilities that accept military health care coverage and have no access to mail-order pharmacies, Geoff Patrissi, a director of the OCONUS survey, said in an e-mail to Stripes.

Anthony Grimm, a retired Army master sergeant who lives in Angeles City with his family, said he must buy medications in the local Philippine economy because there’s no access to the Tricare mail-order pharmacy.

The mail-order pharmacy is the "least expensive option" outside of using a military pharmacy, according to Tricare. However, to use the mail-order pharmacy, a retiree must have a military postal address and a prescription from a U.S.-licensed physician — two things hard to come by in the Philippines.

Grimm said he is not always reimbursed for the medication bought from Filipino pharmacies.

"A lot of retirees feel like they are being shortchanged," he said.

Retirees said there is a lack of health care, mail access and other services in Japan, where the U.S. military maintains bases across the county and nearly 48,000 active-duty servicemembers.

David Mizukami, a retired master chief petty officer and veteran of two wars who lives in Sasebo, Japan, said he was forced to travel to Hawaii when his daughter needed specialty medical treatment for a tumor.

The two spent months in Hawaii while doctors did medical testing and, despite retiree medical coverage, Mizukami had to pick up the bill for the hotel, food and a rental car, which added up to about $5,000, he said.

For dental service, Mizukami said, there’s no coverage available through the military’s provider because Japanese dentists are not certified by the United States. He said he must go to Japanese dentists who routinely charge $1,500 to $3,000 for a tooth crown.

"I feel like a second-class citizen. I’m an American citizen who fought two wars. … I don’t have what I feel are the just benefits that should be [provided] to me,” Mizukami said.

On Christmas, retirees on Okinawa feel the pinch.

It’s that time of year when anyone who doesn’t have a visa under the status of forces agreement and cannot get access to military postal service must take their stateside-bound Christmas packages to a Japanese post office.

The costs quickly add up to much more than what active-duty and SOFA-status residents pay for postage, said Stanley Stewart, a retired Marine master gunnery sergeant and Vietnam War veteran.

"When you go to the Japanese post office, it is about five times what you would pay on the base,” he said.

Half of overseas retirees who participated in the OCONUS survey were unable to use postal services, mostly due to weight limits. Many bases restrict retiree shipments to one pound or less, and in Japan, retirees without SOFA status are not permitted to a military post office.

Of the retirees who could use military post offices, more than half were dissatisfied by the service, according to the OCONUS survey.

Paul Cassity, a retired Marine Corps gunnery sergeant, said he has been frustrated with the lack of mail service since he retired to Okinawa in the 1990s.

"I cannot even mail a letter," Cassity wrote in an e-mail to Stripes. "I have fought this for over 14 years … that retired folks can’t use the post office, let alone get a mail box.”

Retiree survey results

Last year, the Department of the Navy asked 425 overseas military retirees how well they are supported. Many said they were unsatisfied with services and wanted improvements. Here’s a breakdown of what the Secretary of the Navy’s Retiree Council survey found:

* 41 percent were generally dissatisfied with retiree support services, and among Marines, that number was 51 percent
* 50 percent were unable to use postal services due to
children of fallen heroes in the War against Terrorism since September 11, 2001.

Then National Commander Bock called the 1st Legacy Run to the National Convention in Salt Lake City into being. With little preparation and few public relations, The American Legion with help from the American Legion Riders, was able to raise $180,000 in a short period of time and present it to the National Commander at the National Convention. The Legacy Scholarship Run was such a success and it created a wave of interest throughout The American Legion Family nationally.

I was in Salt Lake City as one of the Department of France National Convention delegates and I saw Legionnaires on motorcycles and wearing leather vests that showed exotic names and locations on the backs, as they went in and out of our Convention Hall. I didn’t know what they were doing at an American Legion event. Up until then, the American Legion Riders had not yet become a program of The American Legion, but that was soon to change. I talked to some of those motorcycle riding Legionnaires, all of whom had to be members of The American Legion Family first, either in the Legion, Auxiliary or Sons of the Legion (S.A.L.), and I listened to and felt the spirit, dedication and belief in what they were doing. I found myself catching that spirit because here was a direct way to help our servicemen and women through their children, if the serviceman or women should have to pay that ultimate sacrifice.

In August last year, I got on a motorcycle one cool early morning at Indianapolis Freeway Post 500, and roared off with 300 other motorcycles heading for the National Convention in Reno, Nevada. National Commander Morin was riding in a sidecar at the head of the column. Excitement was in the air and everybody was looking grim and serious. We had a long ride ahead of us and a lot of stops to collect donations. But most of all, we knew we were working for a good cause. At every stop along the way, motorcycles and cars met us and dropped off donations for the National Commander. Every evening there was a tally and every evening we had more than the day before. No long evening parties, just a bite to eat and a coke and then drag weary bones to bed to get some rest for the long hard ride the next day.

If you want to get a little of the feeling of that ride, follow this link to a video that was made by The American Legion along the way. First our National Commander talks about what we are doing for this fund, then you see a small clip of what we did in 5 days of riding 2,100 miles.
http://legion.org/programs/legacyrun/overview

The little dog shown at the beginning of the rider part is named Pug, his Rider is known as Pugman and they were both on the Run.

So you think to yourself, I don’t ride a motorcycle and I’m not a member of the Legion Riders, so there isn’t much I can do and, I can’t be in the States anyway. But that is just the point folks, you don’t have to be a rider or be in the states to help. Turn your Posts into Donation collection points so we have central places to
collect funds. Help coordinate moving donations from Department of France countries to the central collection point in Germany. Become part of the spirit of the Old West when the Pony Express moved letters across the United States, stopping at Way Stations to change horses and pick up mail along the way. That’s the way it was done in the Wild West and it is the same way we can do in Old Europe, bringing a breath of fresh air into our Posts, excite the interest of the membership and, maybe even generate interest in prospective members. Whether you ride a motorcycle, sit or ride in the coach (car) or coordinate from the Post as Station Masters or Clerk, you will be part of the great organized effort of the Department of France.

What can you do to help? Catch the spirit of the ride. Become part of the necessary group of people getting donations from one place to another so they can be taken to the National Convention for delivery to the National Commander.

The check you may write from your Post is a big donation already. But put a can out for the Legacy Scholarship Fund at all of your meetings and functions. Use other ideas to raise donations for these children. And remember, every little bit counts. And remember also, we only have a month to get those donations to the final collection point.

Just make sure all final donations are in check form in US dollars, made out to American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund and drawn on a U.S. bank.

I will be participating in the 2008 Legacy Run in August. I will be carrying the donations that I receive from the collection points within the Department of France directly to the National Convention and handing over your donations to the National Commander personally, for you and in your name. Write your Post name on the envelope. And you will be riding across the United States with me in spirit at least and I will think about the important task you have given me to do.

I ask the Posts to send an email to me at revronmoore@yahoo.de or to the Department of France Legion Riders atpostgr07alr@yahoo.com stating that you are ready to be a collection point or way station. I would prefer that you write to me before one of the department officers calls you to ask if you can be included in the Pony Express effort.

God bless our servicemen and women, as well as their families, no matter where they serve. Please bless and keep safe those who leave Europe to go down range.

And God bless you for your service to the Department of France.

Service to God and Country!

Ronald Moore, Dept of France Chaplain
Dept of France AL PE Coordinator
Home: +49-(0)6196-569026
Fax: +49-(0)6196-569027
Mobile: +49-(0)172-7417812

Email: revronmoore@yahoo.de

**PONY EXPRESS BADGE - REAL SIZE IS 1 3/8" PIN**

Please remember, only donation checks will be transported by any messenger. No goods or other mail of any sort can be accepted or delivered by the messengers. All envelopes will be subject to opening and inspection, no exceptions.

**Chaplain Rev. Ronald Moore**

**A Request for Assistance Tayeisha Jackson**

My name is Tayeisha Jackson and I am trying to earn money for a H.Y.P.E. Internship in Oklahoma in the next couple of weeks (July 11-21). If you do not recognize my name, you may remember me from the last American Legion Oratorical Contest, auxiliary meetings, or even some of the volunteer activities the Legion does. My reason for raising this money is great! I am a devout Christian and I desire only to get closer to God; thus, I feel that I should grab at every opportunity that comes my way, to do so. Below, I have written my motivation for going on this trip. It is hard to sum everything up in a few words, but I prayed daily for the chance to go, and here it is! However, the total cost is $1700 (including airfare and tuition, which includes meals, lodging, etc.), and I need all the support I can get to make this dream a reality. I have a long way to go! If you have any work you are willing to give me, I am ready to take on anything! Whether it be babysitting, gardening, cleaning or anything else, please let me know. My cell phone number is 0174-658-0341, and my home number is 0621-633-9637. Call me anytime. I work during the day, from 0800-1700, so my work number is 380-5803, or 0621-730-5803, if you’d like to call me there. If you
prefer e-mail, my personal e-mail address is tjay_M@hotmail.com. I am available for work any other time, especially on weekends! If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Yours truly,
Tayeisha Jackson

Department Events

Department Convention June 2008

Department Convention Ball Room June 2008
POST HAPPENINGS

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

GR01: First Wednesday day of the month at Post Home
GR03: First Thursday of the month Post Home
GR06: Second Wednesday of the month Post Home
GR07: First Tuesday of the month Post Home
GR13: Third Saturday of the month Post Home
GR14: Second Wednesday of the month Post Home
GR42: Third Sunday of the month Post Home
GR79: Second Saturday of the month Post Home
GR1982: Third Wednesday of the month Post Home
PO01: Third Wednesday of the month Past Com. House
IR03: First Saturday in April, first Sat. in Oct for elections

Editor's Note:
Please support your Newsletter, send all inputs to the below listed E-mail address. Note new suspense date for Newsletter inputs is the 26th of the month. Remember anyone in the Department can submit inputs to the Department Newsletter.
american legion@hotmail.com
James M. Settle
Department Adjutant / Editor