Department of FRANCE
BELGIUM-DENMARK-ENGLAND-FRANCE- GREECE- IRELAND- ITALY-
NETHERLANDS – PORTUGAL- SPAIN- CHINA 01- THAILAND- GERMANY
Volume 16 / Issue 6 -- June 2018

**DEPARTMENT COMMANDER**

James Dennis

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Americanism Chairman Carl Hackworth...

It is requested that all Americanism reports be sent to me prior to our DEC’s.

Carl Hackworth  
Dudenroder Str. 1  
63654 Buedingen, Germany

carl@hackworth.de / Tel.: 004960425454989 / Mobil: 00491764248922 / Fax: 004960425454987
2018 Membership Year PCC President Gary Thomas (r) and PCC Secretary Susan Houston

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 Convention 2018
The veterans resting in the Paris Post 1 Mausoleum were honored on Saturday, 26 May 2018.

A usual Plaque commemorating 30 May 1927 tenth year after WWI American Killed in action in France soldiers was discovered this weekend. Apparently Marechal Joffre and American officials attended a special mass which was supposedly the first memorial done in France at Eglise Saint-Etienne at 31 rue de la Madeleine 77170 Bri-Comte-Robert east of the Paris area.

What surprises me is that it says it is the first memorial mass celebrated in France. I attempted to research with local residents what military importance this tiny town had or why this church was chosen. It is the only time I have seen such a memorial plaque and I am sure Paris Post One would have taken photos and kept them in the office. However, nobody might recognize who is in the photos or where and why this place was chosen by highly placed military officials.

Gary Nadolski...Post Chaplain

“Yesterday, I had the pleasure of meeting Ginette Crosley the President of The American Legion, Paris Post #1 Auxiliary!!! She shared so many wonderful things with me and I am a better person because of our time together!!! I love my American Legion Family!!! And isn’t it wonderful that we have this family in so many different parts of the world!!!” (left in picture)
Memorial Day at Belleau Woods American Monument, France

Ginette Crosley...President Unit FR01

Richard Williams-Derby-Roosevelt (L), the great grandson of President Theodore Roosevelt

During World War II (1939-1945), the Battle of Normandy, which lasted from June 1944 to August 1944, resulted in the Allied liberation of Western Europe from Nazi Germany's control. Codenamed Operation Overlord, the battle began on June 6, 1944, also known as D-Day, when some 156,000 American, British and Canadian forces landed on five beaches along a 50-mile stretch of the heavily fortified coast of France’s Normandy region. The invasion was one of the largest amphibious military assaults in history and required extensive planning. Prior to D-Day, the Allies conducted a large-scale deception campaign designed to mislead the Germans about the intended invasion target. By late August 1944, all of northern France had been liberated, and by the following spring the Allies had defeated the Germans. The Normandy landings have been called the beginning of the end of war in Europe.
DEPARTMENT FINANCE OFFICER  Gary Miller

All qualifying Posts will be getting paid for their online renewals from Jan 1, 2018 and 100% membership award on June 1st., 2018. Checks will all be mailed to the VCAL, except for CH01 and TH01.

All budgeted expenses must be given me NLT 10 June 2018. You can scan your receipts in and email them to me @

billsfan_gary@hotmail.com or mail them to me @

8212 Hillers Road
Oklahoma City, OK 73132

If you haven’t sent your US banking status, do so now.

Newsletter Editor...David N. Greaux

REMINDER...all newsletter articles should be turned in prior to months end!

davidg1959@t-online.de
Kaiserslautern Post GR01

Dinner at post home with National Commander, guests and members...Post Commander David Garcia
Rolling Thunder: 'It was overwhelming'

Motorcycle rally staged to raise awareness about America's POWs and MIAs stirs emotions in Legion Riders who participated in the event.

Read more
The Detachment of France Convention will convene on Saturday, 09 June 2018!

Post GR79 Post Home
Gaststatte Zum Reegen
Im Reid, Riedweg 52
74078 Heilbronn-Frankenbach

Registration: 10:00 hrs
Forth DEC: 11:00 hrs
Convention: TBA
First DEC: TBA

Convention 2018 will be hosted by John Wayne Post GR79
SGT William D. Nelson Post GR09

Again, as in past years, GR 09 paid visits to the graves of locally buried American Veterans on Memorial Day and as in 2017 the Post was able to decorate each grave with more than just a small US flag. Thanks to the American Legion’s Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Fund, Post GR 09 received a check amounting to 550 dollars to “be used to honor and decorate individual graves of those veterans who were laid to rest outside American Battle Monument Commission controlled facilities.” For the 11 veterans in GR 09’s area this amounted to fifty dollars per grave. Accordingly each grave was decorated with an impressive flower and plant arrangement and with a streamer citing the Neu-Ulm’s American Legion. These floral arrangements also show German visitors to the cemeteries that Americans do not forget their comrades.

GR 09’s Post Commander Post Jerry Aman has frequently stated at how surprised he was at the ease of obtaining these funds and will definitely submit a request again next year. Hopefully more posts will take advantage of this program and no one can say they didn’t know about it as FODPAL Secretary Doug Haggan and NEC Representative Nola Maloney frequently informed every one of the availability of these funds.

On Monday, 30 May, five GR 09 Legionnaires travelled to Stuttgart to meet with National Commander Denise Roham. Post GR 06 went to considerable effort to prepare a BBQ for the VIPs but sadly and embarrassingly only members from three posts from the Southern German area show up. Commander Roham’s party of seven comprised almost 50% of the people present. GR 06 and Commander Roham deserved more participation. Commander Aman was pleased that again the members of his post supported the Department of France and were the largest group present.
Department of France would like you to support **Boys State / Girls State program**
by making a donation and helping spread the word.

Young Americans living in Europe don’t have many of the same opportunities as their counterparts in the United States. Their participation in the Boys State and Girls State programs is contingent on their sponsoring Posts ability to raise the necessary funds to send them from their home in Europe to the United States.

The American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State are the premier programs for teaching how government works, while developing leadership skills and an appreciation of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Boys State and Girls State are summer leadership and citizenship programs for high school juniors. Boys and Girls are usually nominated by their high school during their junior year. In this exciting summer program, you can run for office, learn public speaking, draft and debate legislation, and actively participate in all phases of creating and running a working government.

The students will develop a confidence that will shape your future. Successful completion of Boys State and Girls State is recognized by employers, service academies and university admissions boards as an indicator of strong leadership and character traits. Many colleges and universities offer scholarships or admission preference to attendees of Boys or Girls State programs.

What is GoFundMe?

GoFundMe is a personal fundraising website that has helped thousands of people raise millions of dollars for the things that matter to them most.
Military Times: Damage closes USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor indefinitely

By: The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Damage to the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor in Honolulu was worse than expected and it will remain closed indefinitely, officials said.

Boat transportation to the attraction was suspended May 6 after one of the vessel operators noticed a crack on the outside of the memorial, Hawaii News Now reported. Tourists were allowed to disembark at the memorial after crews completed interim repairs. But the cracks reappeared hours later, indicating a more serious issue.

“There is a brow or an edge where the visitor ramp meets the memorial, and at that point, there’s been some fissures located on the exterior,” said Jay Blount, a spokesman for the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. “After further investigation on the interior, it was determined that the structure is not supporting the loading ramp the way that we need.”

Engineers are working to figure out possible long-term solutions.

“The amount of time needed to implement the repairs is unknown, but the (National Park Service) will continue to provide information to the public as our team of specialists works together to restore access as soon as possible,” memorial staff said Friday in a news release.

Other areas of the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center remain open.
NYT: Arlington Cemetery, Nearly Full, May Become More Exclusive

To preserve space for future war heroes in the country’s premier national cemetery, the Army is considering new rules that would turn away many currently eligible veterans.

By Dave Philipps / Photographs by Damon Winter / May 28, 2018

ARLINGTON, Va. — The solemn ritual of a burial with military honors is repeated dozens of times a day, in foul weather or fair, at Arlington National Cemetery, honoring service members from privates to presidents. But in order to preserve the tradition of burial at the nation’s foremost military cemetery for future generations, the Army, which runs Arlington, says that it may have to deny it to nearly all veterans who are living today.

Arlington is running out of room. Already the final resting place for more than 420,000 veterans and their relatives, the cemetery has been adding about 7,000 more each year. At that rate, even if the last rinds of open ground around its edges are put to use, the cemetery will be completely full in about 25 years.

“We’re literally up against a wall,” said Barbara Lewandrowski, a spokeswoman for the cemetery, as she stood in the soggy grass where marble markers march up to the stone wall separating the grounds from a six-lane highway. Even that wall has been put to use, stacked three high with niches for cremated remains.

The Army wants to keep Arlington going for at least another 150 years, but with no room to grow — the grounds are hemmed in by highways and development — the only way to do so is to significantly tighten the rules for who can be buried there. That has prompted a difficult debate over what Arlington means to the nation and how to balance egalitarian ideals against the site’s physical limits.

The strictest proposal the Army is considering would allow burials only for service members killed in action or awarded the military’s highest decoration for heroism, the Medal of Honor. Under those restrictions, Arlington would probably conduct fewer burials in a year than it does right now in a single week.

A policy like that would exclude thousands of currently eligible combat veterans and career officers who risked their lives in the service and who planned to be buried in Arlington among their fallen comrades.

“I don’t know if it’s fair to go back on a promise to an entire population of veterans,” said John Towles, a legislative deputy director for Veterans of Foreign Wars who deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. The group, with 1.7 million veterans, has adamantly opposed the new restrictions.

“Let Arlington fill up with people who have served their country,” said Mr. Towles, who is eligible under current rules because he was wounded in battle. “We can create a new cemetery that, in time, will be just as special.”

Arlington is not the only place for military burials, of course. There are 135 national cemeteries maintained by the Department of Veterans Affairs across the country. But Arlington is by far the most prominent, and curtailing burial there would mean changing the site from an active cemetery into something closer to a museum.

The Army is conducting a survey of public opinion on the question through the summer, and expects to make formal recommendations in the fall.

“What does the nation want us to do?” Arlington’s executive director, Karen Durham-Aguilera, said in an interview. “If the nation has the will to say we want to keep Arlington special and available, we have to make a change.”

In a fitting turn of history, the cemetery now faced with a threat of overcrowding was created to address overcrowding. Early in the Civil War, the heavy death toll in battles near the capital soon filled Washington’s existing cemeteries. Desperate for more burial space, the Quartermaster General of the Army, Montgomery C. Meigs, turned to a rolling green plantation just across the Potomac — the home of Gen. Robert E. Lee, whose decision to fight on the Confederate side marked him as a traitor in many Union eyes.

General Meigs’s men began burying corpses beneath simple wood markers in the fields, and then, in a grim rebuke to the absent owner, lined the flower garden with the graves of Union officers and built a tomb near the door of the plantation house to hold the bones of 2,100 unknown dead.
At first, Arlington was anything but a coveted resting place. Most early burials were of ordinary soldiers whose families could not afford to have their remains shipped home. But as revered Union officers later chose to be buried in Arlington among the troops, the cemetery rose in prestige. The Tomb of the Unknowns was erected after World War I, and on nearly every Memorial Day since then, the sitting president has laid a wreath there.

Among the limestone rows are milestones of human progress: The first explorer to map the Grand Canyon, the first person killed in an airplane crash, the first astronauts to die trying to reach space. Some distinguished themselves on the battlefield, others in later life, including Albert Sabin, who served briefly as a wartime Army doctor and went on to develop a polio vaccine, and Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., a wounded Civil War lieutenant of little distinction who later became a Supreme Court justice. Most would have been barred under restrictions now being contemplated by the Army.

The modern concept of Arlington — an egalitarian Elysian field where generals and G.I.’s of every creed and color are buried side by side — did not truly emerge until the cemetery was desegregated after World War II, according to Micki McElya, a history professor at the University of Connecticut who has written about the cemetery. “Many look to the place as a self-evident case for national inclusion and belonging, as an expression of the many and diverse become one,” Professor McElya said in an interview. That, she said, is the Arlington cited by Khizr Khan, the father of an Army captain killed in Iraq and buried at the cemetery, when he urged Donald J. Trump to visit.

“Look at the graves of brave patriots who died defending the United States of America,” Mr. Khan said in his speech at the 2016 Democratic National Convention. “You will see all faiths, genders, and ethnicities.”

Now, though, that all-inclusive idea is bumping up against the lack of space.

Arlington has tried to stretch what room it has. It ended the old practice of burying family members side by side, and now stacks them two or three deep in a single plot. In sections that hold only cremated remains, the rows are now spaced closer together. But planners say those measures can do only so much.

Under current rules, burial plots in Arlington are open to veterans who served long enough to retire from the military; to troops who were wounded in battle or received one of the three highest awards for valor; to prisoners of war; to troops who die while on active duty; and to a few civilians who serve in high-level government posts. Their spouses and dependents are also eligible.

The Army has laid out several proposals for changing those rules to keep Arlington open longer, but only the most restrictive options would make much difference — and those are the least popular among veterans.

“Everybody wants to see Arlington stay open,” said Gerardo Avila, a wounded Iraq veteran who spoke to Congress on the issue on behalf of the American Legion. He said that while he would gladly give up his own spot to ensure a place for a future Medal of Honor recipient, the Legion, with 2.3 million members, does not share that view.

“You are voting your own rights away,” he said. “I’m not sure our members are willing to do that.”

Army surveys indicate that the public supports giving priority to troops killed in battle or awarded the Medal of Honor. But it is not hard to find graves in Arlington of arguably deserving men and women who did neither.

On a recent evening, Nadine McLachlan knelt before the grave of her husband, Col. Joseph McLachlan, to trim the grass with scissors before arranging a bright vase of lilies. Colonel McLachlan was a fighter pilot who strafed the beaches of Normandy on D-Day; a week after the invasion, he was shot down and, though wounded, made his way back through enemy lines to safety. He went on to fly more than 100 more missions, earning the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross and 17 Air Medals for acts of heroism in flight.

He survived the war and lived for six more decades, until 2005. So under the most restrictive proposals, he would not qualify for burial at Arlington.

“My Joe was a wonderful man — very courageous, very kind,” Ms. McLachlan said. “I’m not sure that’s fair, to cut out men like him. They were in the line of fire, even if they made it. Being buried here with his friends meant a lot to him. It really is a dilemma.”
The History Of Flag Day

The Fourth of July was traditionally celebrated as America's birthday, but the idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the Flag is believed to have first originated in 1885. BJ Cigrand, a schoolteacher, arranged for the pupils in the Fredonia, Wisconsin Public School, District 6, to observe June 14 (the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of The Stars and Stripes) as 'Flag Birthday'. In numerous magazines and newspaper articles and public addresses over the following years, Cigrand continued to enthusiastically advocate the observance of June 14 as 'Flag Birthday', or 'Flag Day'.

On June 14, 1889, George Balch, a kindergarten teacher in New York City, planned appropriate ceremonies for the children of his school, and his idea of observing Flag Day was later adopted by the State Board of Education of New York. On June 14, 1891, the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia held a Flag Day celebration, and on June 14 of the following year, the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution, celebrated Flag Day.

Following the suggestion of Colonel J Granville Leach (at the time historian of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution), the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames of America on April 25, 1893 adopted a resolution requesting the mayor of Philadelphia and all others in authority and all private citizens to display the Flag on June 14th. Leach went on to recommend that thereafter the day be known as 'Flag Day', and on that day, school children be assembled for appropriate exercises, with each child being given a small Flag.

Two weeks later on May 8th, the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution unanimously endorsed the action of the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames. As a result of the resolution, Dr. Edward Brooks, then Superintendent of Public Schools of Philadelphia, directed that Flag Day exercises be held on June 14, 1893 in Independence Square. School children were assembled, each carrying a small Flag, and patriotic songs were sung and addresses delivered.

In 1894, the governor of New York directed that on June 14 the Flag be displayed on all public buildings. With BJ Cigrand and Leroy Van Horn as the moving spirits, the Illinois organization, known as the American Flag Day Association, was organized for the purpose of promoting the holding of Flag Day exercises. On June 14th, 1894, under the auspices of this association, the first general public school children's celebration of Flag Day in Chicago was held in Douglas, Garfield, Humboldt, Lincoln, and Washington Parks, with more than 300,000 children participating.

Adults, too, participated in patriotic programs. Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior, delivered a 1914 Flag Day address in which he repeated words he said the flag had spoken to him that morning: "I am what you make me; nothing more. I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself."

Inspired by these three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day - the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 - was officially established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3rd, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day.
Military Times: **Damage closes USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor indefinitely**

By: The Associated Press

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THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE
94TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
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Kretschmerstrasse 1
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WHEN: 21-24 June 2018

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Wyndham Hotel Group
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Site of the 100th American Legion
National Convention
August 24rd to August 30th 2018

If you are planning on attending the 100th National Convention in Minneapolis, MN (and I hope to see some new faces in Minneapolis) please e-mail me at dhaggan@sbcglobal.net with the following information, THE DATE YOU WILL ARRIVE AND DEPART, THE PERSON YOU ARE SHARING A ROOM WITH IF ANY, AND ANY SPECIAL ROOM REQUIREMENTS.

Updates will be e-mailed out, posted on the Department Website, and posted on the Department Facebook page in the coming weeks.

Hope to see you in Minneapolis