DEPARTMENT COMMANDER...James Dennis

"Fellow Legionnaires,

The winter months are almost over as we arrive in spring. March is a very busy month. We have the 3rd Sons of the Legion Detachment Executive Meeting on the 9th, the Centennial event on the 15-17th, the 3rd Department Executive meeting on the 23rd. I hope to see most of you at these events.

April is Children and Youth month, I hope everyone has some plans with our youth. Boy Scout of the year is due to National by the 1st (no joke). The National Oratorical contest is on the 5th to 7th. I wish Miss Victoria Geehreng from Post BE02, our Oratorical winner luck and congratulations to her and Mr. Caison Duplessie from Post GR1982, our second-place winner. Not to forget, Easter on the 21st.

A quick update on our membership status. Sons of the Legion is almost at 70%. We need to get those members in the year is almost over. As for the American Legion, we are over 90%. We still have Posts under 50% that need to transmit. Once again, congratulations to all the posts at 100% and above. Also thank you to our Department team continually working to increase our membership and assisting in the posts progression in their membership issues. At this late time in the year, I would still like to see both the Sons of the Legion and the American Legion to be at 100% by 8 May, 2019. We can do it, we have a great Department and great members.

Other events;
May 4th to the 9th / Spring NEC meeting
May 12th / Mother's Day
May 26th / Memorial Day at St Avold, France
May 27th / Memorial Day
May 18th / Armed Forces Day

I would like to thank everyone for their support. We are well on the way to bigger and better times in this Department. So keep up the good work and be safe.

James Dennis / Commander / Department of France
The following are some incentive dates and monetary numbers to keep and eye on.

**15 Feb** If the Department Membership is at 100% the Department Vice Commander's will get a $200.00 bonus.

**1 March** is the Big Twelve Competition if we are 100% Membership, National will give the Department $2000.00.

**1 May** if the Department Membership is 100%, the Department, the Department Commander, and the Department Membership Chairman will get $1000.00 each.

**1 May** if the Department Membership is 100% National will give the Department $2500.00 from the Membership Incentive Program.

**1 June** if the Department Membership is at 105% National will give the Department $5000.00 from the Membership Incentive Program.

**1 June** if the Department Membership is at 105% every Post in the Department will receive a $1.00 per member bonus.

There is a total of $12,500.00 at steak that National will give the Department.

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**You might be interested in...**

- [Legion Website](#)
- [Legion Facebook](#)
- [FODPAL Website](#)
- [FODPAL Facebook](#)
- [Alaska Website](#)
- [France Website](#)
- [France Facebook](#)
- [China Post 1 Website](#)
- [Hawaii Website](#)
- [Hawaii Facebook](#)
- [Puerto Rico Facebook](#)
- [South Korea Post 37 Facebook](#)
- [South Korea Post 38 Facebook](#)

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Newsletter Editor…*David N. Greaux*

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

*Davidg1959@t-online.de*
St. Louis Caucus centennial to be celebrated

The American Legion / Feb 20, 2019

In 2009, the Legion and U.S. Bank affixed a new plaque at the site of the Shubert Theatre, where meetings of the St. Louis Caucus were held in 1919. (Photo by Lowry Finley-Jackson)

Paris Post 1 prepares to celebrate a century

By Carl W. Hale

The American Legion Mausoleum in Paris, France. Photo by Jeff Stoffer / American Legion

Transitioning soon? File for your benefits now!

If you have an illness or injury that you believe was caused or made worse by your active duty service, you can file a claim for disability benefits 180 to 90 days before you leave the military. This may help speed up the claim decision process so you can get your benefits sooner.

Learn More
American Legion
Department of France

3rd Department Executive Committee Meeting

March 23rd, 2019
Katterbach, Germany

LOCATION:
Von Steuben Club
Enter through Main Gate
Sachsen bei Ansbach
GPS: 49.311666 / 10.655397

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

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

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

REGISTRATION: 1100-1300

No Base Access?
Contact Adjutant Estus Smith: estus@live.com
before 17 March 2019
DEC Preparations

The Department Executive Committee (DEC) meeting, hosted by Post GR1982 in Ansbach-Katterbach on 23 March, should be on your calendar by now. What may NOT yet be on your calendar are the dates for several very important preparatory actions that are critical to the success of this DEC. These dates include:

1 March – If you need to be added to the access roster, contact Post Adjutant Estus Smith at estus@live.com with your information by this date. The early date is required in order to get Garrison approval and the access roster finalized.

1 March – If you are planning to spend the night of 22 March in Katterbach, contact the Gasthaus Goldener Stern at phone 09872-1262 or Hotel-Gasthof zur Windmuehle at phone 0981-972-000 to make your reservations.

8 March – Attending the DEC and planning to eat the noon meal on-site? Please contact Estus at estus@live.com to confirm your meal. (Same caterer as last year, and “all you can eat”)

8 March – If you are planning to attend the “meet and greet” meal Friday evening, please confirm your attendance with Estus at estus@live.com by this date.

Should you have questions or need further information, please contact Post Adjutant Estus Smith at the email above or cell 0152-5406-8940.

″Chaplains Corner″

Harvey Briggs
Department Chaplain

Comrades,

We often find ourselves faced with challenges that affect us and our families. These challenges that we face can be caused by bad choices however, some can come from circumstances we have no control over. Regardless of the situation we often find ourselves sitting back and wondering why is this happening to me.

Each challenge or trial we go through is a test of our endurance. When your endurance increases that will help us through this race, we call life. For some people, knowing the fact that you will eventually be faced with these trials and tribulations it is not something to get excited about. We should look to find joy in the trials that we are facing because it is in that trial that we will find God leading us to something great.
DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE  Joe D. Brown

VCAL Brown and Commander Dennis at Pershing Hall, Paris France.

Awareness Drive Baumholder GR01

Department Oratorical GR06

Awareness Drive Grafenwoehr GR45

GR01 General Membership Meeting
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 2019

Did you know: Veterans make up 16 percent of our nation’s total adult homeless population?

The American Legion understands this cause is a huge concern and has put forth the Homeless Veterans Task Force to urge each State Department to work with their local public and private sector agencies and organizations to ensure local services and resources are available to homeless veterans and their families.

To help our struggling brothers-in-arms, the Legion works on a global level, lobbying for legislation affecting veteran homelessness, and acts on a local level, directly assisting veterans who have fallen on tough times and are without a place to live or facing the prospect of it.

Our Department Homeless Veterans Chairman, Eddie Guevara collaborates with homeless service providers and veterans’ service organizations to develop and implement initiatives that will help homeless veterans.

A veteran who is homeless or facing possible homelessness can contact our Department Chairman or their local American Legion Post, who will provide guidance and assistance to the veteran and his or her family.

For all inquiries on veteran homelessness and Legion outreach efforts, contact:

Email: pso.guevara@gmail.com / Cell Phone: +15121244628

Department of France Chairman Homeless Veterans

Eddie M. Guevara / Chairman Homeless Veterans
GR09 honors victims of WW II plane crash

On Saturday 23 February 2019 twenty-five GR09 Legionnaires, spouses, guests and local city official participated in a memorial ceremony at the site where a B-17 Flying Fortress bomber crashed during a bombing run on Ulm, Germany on 22 February 1945. The plane which had been “patched up” after being hit with flak on a previous flight encountered turbulence when descending to 17,000 feet and plunged to the ground after the fuselage of the plane broke apart. Three crewmembers were able to parachute to safety but seven were unable to exit the spiraling aircraft and perished.

In 2012 the nearby town of Pfaffenhofen erected a stone monument at the crash site and GR09 members have pledged to maintain it and ensure that its appearance would always be fitting for a memorial honoring these seven Americans.

After a brief speech by GR09’s Post Commander Aman Pfaffenhofen’s Vice- Bürgermeister Erwin Stoetter thanked GR09 for organizing this event and paying tribute to those who died in the service to their country. Stoetter recognized that GR09 has kept up this tradition for five years.

This site is also listed in www.Legion.org/memorials.

DETACHMENT OF FRANCE

Detachment Commander Joe D. Brown
vcalbrown50@gmail.com

“The 3rd SAL DEC will be held soon in GR79 Heilbronn, 9 March 2019 and there are Detachments within the department that still have not submitted a transmittal this year, BE02 and GR06. As part of the American Legion Family our goal within the department is to achieve 100% throughout the department. so please send in your transmittal now!”

* The S.A.L. Convention will be on 08 June 2019
Sunday, Feb. 3, 2019 marked the 76th anniversary of the sinking of the United States Army Transport ship, The Dorchester and the selfless acts of four Army chaplains aboard. The Dorchester tragically sunk on Feb. 3, 1943, while crossing the North Atlantic, transporting troops to an American base in Greenland. A German U-boat fired a torpedo that struck the Dorchester, killing 672 of the 902 officers and enlisted men, merchant seamen and civilian workers aboard. Many of those survivors owe their lives to the courage and leadership exhibited by four chaplains of different faiths, who, in sacrificing their lives, created a unique legacy of brotherhood.

Every year, a memorial service, hosted by the American Legion, takes place in honour of the bravery and ultimate sacrifice made by the four chaplains. This year, under the direction of Commander Patrick Mulcahy, it was held in Rockchapel, Co. Cork, Ireland on a bright Saturday morning hosted by the Fr. Francis Duffy Post IR 02 Killarney, Co. Kerry. Before the ceremony, the haunting melodies of a lone piper could be heard for miles around the green, lush locality of this small Cork village, located on the bounds of Cork, Kerry and Limerick. Locals and visitors gathered at the church to honour the event. Uniformed personnel made their way up the aisle representing military and national organizations, the American Legion, the Irish United Nations Veterans Association, representatives from an Garda Síochána, (the Irish Police Force) the United Nations and O.N.E , the organization of National Ex-service-men and women. Upstairs in the church gallery, Donna, Harry and Tom McCann and John Curtin played and sang the mass. Fr Tucker, who celebrated the mass, welcomed the congregation before the opening prayers. He told the story of the four chaplains, and the sacrifices made by men and women who served their countries in the name of peace. Commander Mulcahy then invited flag-bearers to the altar. First was the National Flag of Ireland, the Tri-color, then the flag of the United States of America, third came the flag of the United Nations, followed by flags of O.N.E and an Garda Síochána. As the order was given, flags were ceremoniously hoisted and lowered and then placed at either side of the altar. It was an awe-inspiring moment during the ceremony, then those who bore the flags were given their orders to march back down the aisle. After candles were lit, Tom and Harry McCann, grandsons of Patrick and Kathleen Mulcahy, presented a cap to the altar as a reminder of the four chaplains and a memorial poppy flower, the national symbol of the flowers of Flanders Fields that embodies the sacrifices made by men and women who served and died for their country in all wars. Commander Mulcahy delivered a beautiful reflection. He acknowledged our Prisoners of War and those who are still Missing in Action, drawing people’s attention to an empty chair, a poignant reminder that many members of the armed forces have never returned home and cannot be with family and loved ones.

After mass, the piper led the procession as they marched from the church to Bruch na Carraige, a beautiful community center where refreshments were served to all. It marked the end of a moving ceremony, a fitting memorial tribute to four men, and to the many who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the sake of Peace.

Submitted by Helen Boderick for Commander Patrick Mulcahy
DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE
2019 MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM

By now most everyone knows about the new American Legion Membership Incentive Program, (to each Post a $5.00 bounty for every 2014, 2015, and 2016 delinquent member that a Post signs up).

Well, the Department of France is going to take this Membership Incentive Program one step further.

If the Department of France surpasses the 105% National Membership Goal by close of business (1700hrs Central European Time) on May 1, 2019, each Post in the Department of France will receive a $1.00 rebate for each of it’s members.

This Incentive program is totally separate from and is not connected in any way to the Department of France monetary award program as set forth in the Department Awards Manual.
You are cordially invited to join us at our American Legion Centennial Celebration and GR79 Awards dinner on the 9th of March 2019 at 1800 hours at our Post Home.

DATE: 9 March 2019
TIME: 1800 hours
LOCATION: Gaststätte "Zum Reegen" Im Reid, Riedweg 52, 74078 Heilbronn - Frankenbach

STILL SERVING AMERICA
John Wayne Post 79
Individualism, Courage, and Dignity

GR 79 2nd Vice Commander
Charlie Brown

Please confirm your participation by replying. Thank you.
Hi All Legion Riders,

Upcoming Events; my wife and I will participate in the Erlangen Toy Run again this year. The date for this event is 4 May 2019. The Department convention will be held 20-23 June 2019 and I hope that we can get some riders to attend. During the last Convention when I accepted the position of Department Director, I was approached by a couple of riders that thought we should do a get together for all the Department riders. I have found a place and have since posted this information in the newsletter three months in a row as well as sending it to the Chapter Directors. I am mentioning it this one last time and will stop making any plans for this until I receive information as to how many riders would be interested. Again, the place is Gasthof Sonnenberg (https://www.hotel-sonnenberg.de/). I would like to do this about mid-September after school vacation has ended. Please look at the hotel and speak with your riders about the idea and give me feedback!!!!

I will not be able to attend the next DEC hosted by GR1982 in Ansbach which will be held on 23 March 2019. Please bring any donations your post and chapter should have for the Legacy Scholarship fund and give them to Dave Greaux. As this is the premier program for the Legion Riders please do your best to collect donations to be sent back to National for this extremely worthy program.

Again, should any chapter in the Department of France like me to attend a function please let me know. I need at least 2 months lead time for me to plan attending functions at your post’s. Thank you for your understanding.

“For God and Country”
Lee “Papa Smurf” Preston

La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux (The Society of Forty Men and Eight Horses) is an independent, by invitation, honor society of American veterans, more commonly known as “The Forty & Eight”.

The Forty & Eight is committed to charitable and patriotic aims. Our purpose is to uphold and defend the United States Constitution of the United States, to promote the well-being of veterans, their widows, widowers, and orphans, and to actively participate in selected charitable endeavors, which include among others, programs that promote child welfare and nurses training.

Membership is by invitation, and open only to honorably discharged veterans and honorably serving members of the United States Armed Forces.

GRANDE ELECTIONS / BÜDINGEN, GERMANY / 27 APRIL 2019
Hosted by Locale V1546
How to Get a Historic M1 Rifle and Other Military Surplus Weapons

U.S. Marine Corps Col. Randall Hoffman, Commanding Officer of MCRD Parris Island Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Fires the M1 Garand rifle during the Hearst Doubles Match at Camp Perry Ohio July 31, 2018. (Yamil Cassareal/Marine Corps)

22 Feb 2019 / Military.com | By Matthew Cox

New Rules for VA Loan Refinances

19 Feb 2019 / Military.com | By Jim Absher

Court: Retirees Can Be Court-Martialed for Crimes Committed After Service

Week of February 25, 2019
Military.com

The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the Defense Department's authority to prosecute retired service members for crimes they commit, even after retirement. Read More
CONVENTION PACKETS AND INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE THIRD DEC ON 23 MARCH 2019 IN KÄTTERBACH, GERMANY.

Convention Committee 2019
David Greaux...GR42  Lee Preston...GR42  Michael Young...GR01