Gray skies and threatening thunderstorms couldn’t stop Margraten’s annual Memorial Day Ceremony from going forward on May 27. American Legion Post NL01 “Margraten” was there in force with over 20 Legionnaires and family members! As always it was a lovely ceremony and our Sgt-at-Arms Mark Chernek, did a wonderful job laying the wreath for our Post. 150 years later, Memorial Day remains one of our most cherished and sacred observances. The spirit of this day is magnified when sharing it with those you respect and love. It’s truly our honor to take part in this tribute with our Dutch Brothers and sisters.... Our family! Together we sow virtue and reap honor. I feel there is no greater privilege than to pay tribute to our fallen heroes. ~ Commander Ray
Dates to Remember

5 June – Verna Jones Visit

15 Jun - Gen Membership Meeting

06/13/20/27 Jun - Bowling 4Fun

17 Jun/1 Jul - Bagger 4 A Day

21-24 Jun - 4th DEC/94th CONV

4th of July @ USAG Schinnen

VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS

LEARN ABOUT YOUR BENEFITS

The American Legion, the largest veterans service organization in the U.S., is hosting a town hall meeting to provide information, resources and feedback on transitioning from the military and accessing your benefits while living abroad.

TRANSITIONING MILITARY AND VETERAN AFFAIRS BENEFITS BRIEFING

1100-1400 TUESDAY, 5 JUNE 2018
Multi-Purpose Room Gellenkirchen, AB Germany Bldg. 298
Hosted by Verna Jones, Executive Director & Joe Sharpe, Veterans Employment and Education

THE AMERICAN LEGION
@ www.legion.org

1. Enter the Main Gate and take an immediate left
2. Turn left at the next road
3. Turn right at the next road
   1. You can park in the parking lot to your right
   2. There is limited parking available in front of bldg's 53 and 94 on your left also

Main Gate
Parking
Bldg 298
Multi-purpose Room

Map of USAG Schinnen

2
Margraten Post NL01 2018 – 2019 Officers

Commander
Ray Perez

Adjutant
Rick Ojeda

1st Vice
Jim Brotherton

2nd Vice
Harvey Briggs III

Sgt-at-Arms
Mark Chernek

Finance Officer
Dale Snyder

Service Officer
Ron Macauley

Historian
Dennis Owens

American Legion
Margraten Post NL01

[Images of various officers and activities]
1) Announcements:
   a) Sgt. at Arms introduced
   i) Guests Melissa Perez, Lita Snyder, Angelika Owens
   ii) First meeting of Post NL01 Paid Up For Life (PUFL) Member G. Anderson
   iii) New Member: Larry Studer

2) Officer reports:
   a) 1st Vice Commander Jim Brotherton
      i) Membership standings
      ii) June 2018 new membership packages will be coming
         (1) Requested that members do not send renewals to the address in Belgium. This causes excessive delays in the process
         iii) There is a small discrepancy in total membership numbers between Post NL01 and Department. This is being addressed
      iv) If any member has any questions concerning membership please don’t hesitate to contact 1st Vice Jim Brotherton
   b) 2nd Vice Commander Harvey:
      i) Fund Raising Opportunities
         (1) Commissary Bagging – 17 June and 1 July 2018 (Scheduled)
         (2) 4th of July Celebration (on 4 July) at USAG Schinnen (Registered)
   c) Service Officer Ron:
      i) VA Representative will be available on 16 and 17 May
         (1) Only a few appointments are still available
      ii) Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) Survey
         (1) ANC will be running out of burial space in approximately 23 years under the current rules of eligibility.
         (2) All retirees have been asked to complete a survey on eligibility. The link for the survey is:
            https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/eligibility-survey
   d) Historian Dennis:
      i) Received Scrapbooks for documenting Post NL01 History
   e) Adjutant Rick:
      i) None
   f) Finance Officer Dale:
      i) Submitted financial report
      (1) Motion to accept the report and voted by membership to approve subject to audit
      (2) Bonding/Insurance policy is purchased and enroute to the Post

3) Old Business:
   a) Commander Ray took the floor to discuss the up-coming Post NL01 events
      i) Wereth 11 memorial ceremony on 28 April. Please arrive NLT 10:30
         (1) Provided sign-up sheet for this event
      (2) Wreath will be handled by comrade Andy Clevenger
      (3) Ceremony Location:
         (a) Hauptstrasse
            4770 Wereth (Amel – Ambleve)
         (b) GPS Coordinates: 50 20 55.14N – 006 13 55.37E
         (c) Website: http://www.wereth.org
         (d) Those attending need to bring 15 euros for Lunch
ii) Faces of Margraten setup on 1 May 2018, show 09:45, 10:00 start
(1) Post NL01 will assist in displaying pictures of those buried there
(2) Post NL01 will assist in tear down on 6 May
(a) Details on times for tear down will be coming
iii) Joker B17 Crash Memorial May 12 2018
(1) Bus will depart 08:00 from Geilenkirchen NATO Air Base Main Gate
(2) Everyone may ride on the bus, but if you are not a holder of a National Military ID card or a NATO ID card you will be required to sign a waiver

b) 1st Vice Jim took the floor to announce that a card for Department of France National Executive Committee member Nola Maloney will be available during the break and after the meeting for signing. Nola suffered a severe aneurism but is doing much better now.
i) Adjutant Rick will mail the card once it has been signed by all those who wish to.

4) New Business:
a) Commander Ray gavelled to Order and called for new business
i) Commander Ray asked acting Sgt. At Arms to introduce new guests and prospective members who had just joined the meeting
(1) Acting Sgt. At Arms Andy introduced Henry and Mary Brown and their daughter Amara. Henry and Mary signed up to the post!
ii) 1st Vice Jim motioned for the Post to sponsor a chapter of the Legion Riders
(1) Motion was accepted and open to discussion
(2) Finance Officer Dale asked whether the chapter would be under the insurance of the Post or provide their own.
(a) 1st Vice Jim didn’t wasn’t sure but thought that they would have to provide their own insurance. He will research and report findings
(3) Service Officer Ron asked what “Sponsored by the Post” actually entailed?
(a) 1st Vice Jim explained that it just meant that the chapter had the approval of the Post and that the elected officers of the chapter would be sworn in by the Post Commander
(4) Commander Ray asked how many people would be interested in Legion Riders Chapter
(a) Three members present indicated interest. It was also stated that there is an additional four who were interested.
(5) Post NL01 Approved the Post NL01 Chapter of Legion Riders after the motion was seconded and voted on
iii) Comrade Andy presented a motion to build up a Post NL01 Honor Guard on behalf of Sgt. At Arms Mark Chernek. The goal would be to have it set up by Veterans Day if possible. Estimated cost of a uniform would be $185 to be covered by the individual. Eight to 10 members required
(1) The Motion was seconded and opened for discussion
(a) Service Office Ron commented that it might be possible for the honor guard to be paid up to $50 per person to offset travel expenses to and from funeral service where they served
(b) Past Commander Ray Vincent asked if there might be alternatives for a uniform? Maybe one that is not so expensive. The important thing would be that all members were presented in a uniform manner.
(i) Comrade Andy stated they could look into alternatives
(c) Service Officer Ron asked of Department Funds could be used for an honor guard?
(i) Commander Ray stated that that would not be possible
Margraten Post NL01 Meeting cont.

(d) Commander Ray asked how many members would be interested?
1. 8 members responded with interest
2. The motion was voted on by the membership and passed
iv) Service Officer Ron motioned that the Post support a co-sponsored, Post NL01 and Retiree Counsel barbecue. The Post could provide some food and assist in running the barbecue. Ron stated that he would take the lead if approved
1. The motion was seconded and open for discussion
(a) No discussion
2. Motion voted on by membership and approved
v) Historian Dennis made a comment that a newcomer’s guide was needed to provide information to members who were new to the Legion
1. Adjutant Rick will develop a guide for the new-comers
vi) Commander Ray informed the membership about the upcoming visit of the National American Legion Veterans Affairs representative to NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen on 5 June 2018 from 10:00 - 14:30 at the A&FRC
1. Service Officer Ron asked if the Garrison Commander should also be invited since we are sponsored by USAG Schinnen?
2. Commander Ray will send an invitation to the Garrison Commander

5) Open points of order for the membership (Good of the Legion)
   a) Past Commander Ray Vincent pointed out the amount of work involved by the post in meeting and exceeding our membership goals. Thanks to Commander Ray, Comrade Andy, 1st Vice Jim and the membership in general for helping the Post to meet these goals.
   b) 1st Vice Jim asked that 2nd Vice Harvey, Commander Ray, Comrade Kiara, Past Commander Ray Vincent, and Comrade Andy come forward for a presentation
   i) 2nd Vice Harvey was presented with his Certificate of Completion of the Service Officer’s Training
   ii) Commander Ray, 2nd Vice Harvey, Past Commander Ray Vincent, Comrades Andy and Kiara were presented with the Family First Award Pin
   c) Commander Ray requested Past Commander Ray Vincent to come forward.
   i) Commander Ray presented Past Commander Ray Vincent with a Commander’s Award Plaque

6) Conclusion:
   a) POW/MIA
   b) Commander Ray Perez adjourned at 19:44hrs.

7) Upcoming Events:
   a) 28 Apr: Wereth 11, POC Ray P
   b) Bowling League POC David Ehnis
   c) 1-6 May: Faces of Margraten - Need Volunteers to set up pictures on the 1st
   d) 12 May: B-17 Joker Ceremony - POC Ray P
   e) May 18: General Membership Meeting and Pep Rally
   f) 26/27 May - Memorial Day ceremonies - 3 confirmed so far.
Wereth 11 Remembrance Ceremony

Margraten Post NL01 had the unique opportunity to remember and pay tribute to 11 very special heroes. It was a complete honor to take part in this ceremony. These 11 heroes are very close to our hearts and I’d like to thank Solange Dekeyser for organizing such a beautiful Ceremony. Of course thanks to the Langer family! Their children and grandchildren who spoke and assisted with the wreath laying was incredible. It was great to see our friends from The USA, Belgium, Netherlands, Spangdahlem AB, and BE02.

As Commander of Post NL01, I was so very proud that we were 15 Margraten Strong at the ceremony.

To the members of the Post: My heart is full of pride and I salute your dedication and devotion to our fallen heroes!

~ Commander Ray
Post NL01 had the beautiful opportunity to directly assist the Stichting Verenigde Adoptanten Amerikaanse Oorlogsgraven (SVAAO) (Foundation United Adopters American War Graves) with Faces of Margraten.

Faces of Margraten founder, Sebastiaan Vonk had a simple vision: To honor their American liberators by putting a face to a name. The vision maybe simple but the results are profound.

This marked the third year for the event. After it ran in 2016 it was decided that the event would run every two years. The first year in 2015, they found just over 3000 photos. In 2016 they had just over 4000 photos. This year we help setup up more than 5,850 photos! The end goal is of course 10,023! Post NL01 will continue to work directly with Mr. Vonk and the Faces of Margraten group to find and identify more faces of our fallen heroes.

It was hard to imagine that we could set up so many pictures is a single day. For myself, I took the time to read every stone and take a good look at every picture. I also had the honor of posting up the photo of MG Maurice Rose, the highest-ranking officer in the cemetery. He was the first photo my wife Melissa and I setup. As the hours of the day passed we took in more and more photos. One photo in particular was of Captain Joseph Mann from New York, Died Nov 16, 1944. The picture was of Capt. Mann in service dress holding his newborn child just before going off to war. So from time to time you can say…it got difficult. There were many lovely people at the cemetery while we were setting up that came up with tears in their eyes, saying thank you. We hugged a few strangers that day.

I can’t thank the Faces of Margraten Group enough for allowing our Post to participate in this one of a kind event. I also couldn’t be prouder of all the legionnaires and family members who came out and helped on both the setup and the recollection. ~ Commander Ray
In addition to Face they also had Voices of Margraten (VOM). VOM was an audio tour that the more than 20,000 visitors could take during the five day event. One of the main voices was that of Carmelo Amoroso. Leon Clevenger, the son of Legionnaire Andy Clevenger was selected to be the voice of Carmelo. He did an excellent job and was considered the star of the tour! Leon was presented with Certificates of Appreciation from both the FOM group and the Post. If interested, you can hear the full tour here.

Submit Photo

During the third edition of The Faces of Margraten tribute we were able to put a face to 5,850 names. However, thousands of photos continue to be missing. Do you have a photo of a soldier buried or memorialized in Margraten? Please submit it then through this page. It will mean another soldier whom we can give a face in 2020.

Fields of Honor – Database

In addition to using the photos for the FOM tribute at the cemetery, photos also will be stored for future generations in the Fields of Honor - Database. In this database, information and photos can be found on thousands of American soldiers, including many who have been buried in Margraten. The database can be visited at www.fieldsofhonor-database.com.

Post NL01 submitted 1Lt. Charles N. Todd

Anyone can submit a photo for The Faces of Margraten—it does not have to be a family member. SVAAO is hoping to connect with more libraries and historical societies in the United States.
Post NL01 Legionnaire Spotlight

From the Viet Nam era to active duty folks, our post is blessed with many incredible people representing all the services. Putting a few of our Legionnaires under the spotlight is a regular feature in our newsletter. I think it’s important to learn more about our comrades and benefit from their stories. ~ Commander Ray

CHUCK HAMILTON

My name is Charles Ray Hamilton, I was born on 21 October 1945 at the Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego California. When my parents brought me home my sister and brothers told them they had made a mistake and had picked me up from the monkey cage at the Balboa Zoo, they are a funny bunch. In early 1946 we moved to Lakewood Colorado where I became a Highlander Boy (military organization for youth) in 1952 until moving to Casper Wyoming in 1954. Living there gave me the opportunity to make a lot of life long friends, to enjoy the outdoors (hiking, Scouts, fishing, hunting/tracking, and how to handle weapons) and to appreciate the military (four years of High School ROTC) until I joined the Army on 10 October 1966.

Went to basic at Fort Bliss Texas and then on to advanced training at Fort Ord California as a Personnel Specialist, 71H. My first assignment was to the USA Combat Developments and Experimentation Command (Headquartered at Fort Ord with extended locations) where I added Mobile Computer Operations Specialist, 74E, to my MOS list. After 19 months of straight TDY and making SP5 I re-enlisted for Germany in November 1968.

Arrived at the 7th ICC in Karlsruhe Germany in December 1968. While there I worked on mobile IBM 360/40, Burroughs 880 and a Moby Dick computer (tubes and inch wide magnetic tape). I volunteered for the Seventh Army NCO Academy in Bad Tolz Germany and graduated from it in July 1969, in October I was promoted to SP6. The unit then split in two and I was transferred to Frankfurt in January 1970 as the Input Output Control NCOIC for computer operations located in mobile computer vans behind the IG Farbin building. While there I decided, at the encouragement of my older brother, to apply for OCS.

I was accepted for OCS and arrived at Fort Sill Oklahoma in October 1971 to start the 24 week Field Artillery OCS training. Had to start over in January 1972 due to a medical problem and then graduated in June 1972 as a Field Artillery 2nd Lieutenant. From there I went on to Fort Bliss for training as Air Defense Artillery officer with specific training in the Hawk weapons system. After that two years in Homestead Florida with Charlie Battery, 3rd Battalion 68th ADA on Handlin Mill Road in the Everglades I Graduated from the Security Officer program at Fort Gordon Georgia in November 72. Eleven lieutenants went from Fort Bliss to Homestead, I was the only one to stay in the army and transfer back to Germany all the rest left the military.

Promoted to 1st Lieutenant while in transit to the 570th USAAG in Munster Germany after advanced training in the Nike Hercules Missile system at Fort Bliss Texas in June 1974. Assigned to the 509th USAADA Detachment Headquarters in Vorden Germany as the Executive Officer and Detachment Security Officer. It was interesting work supporting the 12th Guided Group Weapons a Dutch ADA unit located in five different locations in Germany. Since I was the only single officer I was appointed as the Family Housing Officer for the three American housing areas, that took a lot of time. I was promoted to Captain in June 76 and reassigned as the S2 Security Officer for the 570th USAAG in Handorf Germany. I worked with the 1st British Corp, 1st German Division, the Dutch 12th GGW, all American units assigned to the 570th USAAG/5th USAAG (added in 77 when the two USAAG’s joined) and the major German towns Security Committees in the Northern portion of Germany. I basically lived out of my suitcase for two years.
I was reassigned back to Fort Bliss Texas for the ADA Officer Advanced Course in November 1978. After completing the course, I was assigned to the J3 Post Operations to run the Central Tasking Office. While in the Advanced Course we all had to write a Staff Paper about what we would do to improve Fort Bliss operations. My paper dealt with the support tasking requests being given to some units on Fort Bliss to be organized instead of ending up at just a couple of the units by spreading the taskings around evenly to all units. It ended up that I was given the hot potato to set up the new office and organize how it would operate supporting the requests received not only from the organizations on Fort Bliss but from any agency in the US requesting ADA personal and/or equipment. Luckily two senior NCO’s and a secretary were assigned to help me get the office up and running, great people who did a great job. The office was a success and after a year I was reassigned to be the Commander of the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, School Battalion. It was a great command and a real challenge with the additional primary duties as the Battalion Supply Officer and back-up Battalion Executive Officer. I requested and received approval to spend nine months doing a Degree Completion Program to finish up my Management Bachelor’s Degree that I had started on in 1964. After completing my degree in November 81 I requested and received a branch transfer back into Automated Data Systems Management.

In January 1982 I was reassigned to Allied Forces Central Europe in Brunssum, The Netherlands. En route I went to the Automatic Data Processing Officer Advanced Course at Fort Benjamin Harrison and then on to Kessler Air Force Base for training on the Worldwide Military Command and Control System. I arrived at AFCENT in June 1982 and was assigned to the Information Systems Division (ISD) as a Systems Analyst/Programmer. Over the next four years my experience in mobile computer operations was put to good use helping plan and implement field automation usage in the Central Region. I was promoted to Major in April 1984 and retired on 31 October 1986.

After retirement I worked for the City College of Chicago (CCC) as a Test Administrator, Field Representative, Senior Field Representative, Instructor, Area Manager (The Benelux and Northern Germany including Berlin), Programmer and Systems Analyst over the next sixteen years until CCC closed out of Europe. I found a new home with Central Texas College working as Administration Specialist, Test Administrator and Education Counselor for the next ten years until I fully retired on 31 January 2012. Working in Education was very satisfying by seeing people accomplish their goals and you were able to help them do it.

I have four great children, currently five grandchildren, our dog and my partner/wife/best friend Josee.

Retirement is great
On 12th May 2018, members of the American Legion "Margraten" Post NL01, USAF Airmen from Brunssum and Geilenkirchen and NATO Civilian Isabelle Engels attended the Memorial Ceremony at Bérismenil, Belgium (La Roche-en-Ardenne). They commemorated the 10-man crew of the B-17 Flying Fortress, nicknamed “The Joker” which crashed on 13 April 1944. The Joker was part of the 384th Bomb Group – 545th Squadron, assigned to England. Its mission on that fateful day was ball-bearing production in Schweinfurt, Germany. During the raid, the Luftwaffe attacked the formation twice. Sadly, its top turret gunner, SSgt James H. Young was killed during the second attack. The aircraft sustained heavy damage, and though still airworthy, could not reach England. Upon reaching Belgium, the crew decided to bail out because their chances were greater for escape and evasion. All survived the jump and subsequently, the war. Despite assistance from the local population, seven airmen became POWs. Two of the crew, however, succeeded in reaching Switzerland. During the course of the ceremony, flowers were laid at the local WWII and WWI monuments. The procession then traveled to the B-17 monument and crash site where Lt Colonel Tramel recounted the story of the crew. Additionally, he offered a special thanks to the Belgian citizens and members of the resistance who assisted the American Airmen. Two messages from the crews’ families were also read. This Memorial Day was different from the past one as Sylvain Colla, the last eyewitness, left us in May 2017. As the former president of France, Mr. Sarkozy, remarked during the tribute of the last soldier from Word War I: “WWI is no longer stories, it is now history.” In a similar vein, The Joker is no longer a story. It has quietly passed on to history and it is now up to us to maintain its memory. Click here to watch the video of Isabelle Engles telling the story of The Joker. It’s very informative!
This past Memorial weekend you can easily say that the American Legion Margraten Post NL01 was active doing the ‘Legions’ work. On the 26th of May we had the honor to attend a memorial service in the Dutch village of Oud Beijerland, just south of Rotterdam. In this village there is a memorial that has been erected to remember the 87-aircrew members that crashed in the immediate area during WWII. Anton de Man, who was a boy of 4 years old living in that village and remembers the conflict clearly to this day, has accomplished this. He and a small group of dedicated individuals have built this memorial and is still a work in progress. They give lectures at the local schools so that the memories live on and these events will not be forgotten. The top of the memorial is a steel plate in the shape of the area where the aircraft crashed, this is called the Hoeksche Waard. It has the silhouette of a B-17 and four Spitfires, positioned to represent their return flight to England after flying their missions over Germany. A flight never completed. There are 87 names listed on the panels at the base of the monument. Ten (10) are of the Royal Netherlands Air Force flying out of England. There are 77 allied aircrew members also listed representing the Royal Air Force (England), the Royal Canadian Air Force, the Royal Australian Air Force, the Polish Air Force and the Royal New Zealand Air Force. There are also 15 names listed for the United States Army Air Corp. Of these 15 aircrew members, one was returned to the States, 7 are still listed as Missing in Action (MIA) and 7 are laid to rest in the American Cemetery, the Netherlands (Margraten). Again, it was an honor to attend this remembrance, proud to represent The American Legion and our Post NL01, Margraten. Look forward to working with this group of dedicated individuals who honor us and keep the memory alive.
Memorial @ Henri-Chapelle
Remembering those who laid down their lives for our freedoms

Margraten Post NL01 was honored once again to represent the American Legion at the Henri-Chappelle Memorial Day Ceremony. The temperature was on par with the high spirit of this beautiful ceremony. Paying tribute to the men who laid down their lives for our freedom is one of the most important duties we do at Margraten Post and as the sands of time move forward it becomes more difficult to remember the horrors of war. Luckily we have some of the Greatest Generation still with us to recall and remind us. But we all know those days are drawing rapidly to a close. Our prayers also go out to the loved ones of these fallen heroes, many of whom made the journey over from the states. We especially want to thank the Belgian people who take care of our boys. They flew their colors proudly, honoring us like they have done from the very beginning. We greet them all with ever-grateful hearts. Special thanks to Superintendent Chris Arsenalt for reserving a section of 21 chairs for legion members and their families. His planning and execution of the ceremony was outstanding. I would also like to thank all the members who made it out and participated!
#LegionStrong

Besides posting a wreath for the ceremony we also laid nine floral tributes. Seven for the men of the Wereth 11 who rest there, David B. Todd who we serve as the Primary Sentinel of Memory, and 1st William Nellis who we serve as Sentinels of Memory.

David Bradstreet Todd was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson B. Todd of Summer St. in Lynnfield, Massachusetts. He had two brothers. David was a gifted student. During his time at the Huntington School for Boys won a number of academic awards in subjects as diverse as French, Chemistry, and History. Each year, he earned a scholarship medal. He was a member of the tennis team and the manager of the track team. During his senior year, he was the editor of the school publication. When he graduated from the school in June 1942, he was the highest ranking student in his class. David then went on to attend Dartmouth University. However, that only lasted for a year since he entered the service in October 1943. He was Killed in Action in Germany on 21 November 1944 at the age of 19. ~ American Legion “Margraten” Post NL01 - Primary Sentinels of Memory. David Rests at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial
Dad: 2030 [8:30pm] 23 Jan 91 I finished the last letter in a hurry so it could get out in the mail. I had a few items to tell you. First, the landing last night revealed what the noise was [they heard] in the [aircraft] midsection the first 1/2 of our flight. When we landed, the [ground] crew chiefs took their time getting the stairs up to the door of the a/c [aircraft]. Seems they were looking over the left wing where it meets the fuselage. The skin of the a/c was peeled back pretty good. It appears as though some rivets came loose and started peeling the skin back. Maintenance had already done a temporary fix on the wing, but it didn’t work. Some of the crew dawgs [members] got their picture up there with it.

Now, we are pulling alert [duty] in cabin village at Riyadh AB. The cabins are expandable hooches. We don’t mind spending time out here because there are mattresses on the cots.

0719z [7:19am]

Contact! Some times it’s neat to sit up in the cockpit and watch the A/R [air refueling] in progress. One time the boom on the KC-135 tanker hit our copilot’s windscreen, put one heck of a deep 7-inch scratch on his window. I was in the observer’s seat in the cockpit on that one. I heard that a boom went right through the pilot’s window, him, and his seat on a B-52 one time. Boy, this is a rough A/R. If somebody pukes on this a/c, it’s usually during this time, during A/R.

Dad, I received Gramps package on the 24th of Jan. He sent it out on the 11th. 13 days, not bad! 0729z [7:29am] Off A/R now disconnect. On load 35,000 lbs. of [jet] fuel. Try that at Texaco!

Last night was pretty exciting. I guess you heard on the news that Riyadh was hit again by scuds. Well this time, I was not in the safe place (airborne). First, we heard the sirens, then two loud explosions (Patriots), then one thundering massive explosion and we felt the villa shake. This morning at our intelligence briefing we learned that 2 scuds were incoming to the Riyadh area; 1 in Riyadh and 1 at Eskan. The 2 Patriots were fired off to hit the Riyadh scud, but they decided the 1 scud for Eskan wasn’t going to hit a populated area so they didn’t waste any Patrios on it. Boy, when the scud landed, we felt it.

Are you wondering why some of the Patriots go horizontal? These Patriots were designed for incoming fighters flying at mach 1 or 2, not scuds which are ballistic at over mach 3. When the scuds are acquired on the Patriot radar, there is not much time to respond. So when you see a horizontal Patriot, it is trying to intercept a scud prior to impact and some of them hit the scud around 50-300 feet above ground level.

1050z [10:50am]

Excitement just ripped through the plane. There were numerous high fives, thumbs up, and wide grins. We did it as a crew! More importantly our Weapons Director [WD] directed our CAP (combat air patrol) birds [F-15’s] to take out 3 MIG 23 fighters. Most of the a/c crew were listening to the radio. I was standing behind the weapons director. He was calm, cool, collected, and remembered to put a tape recorder on his console. The cheers went up as we heard ‘Splash 3, fire balls on the ground, no chutes seen.’ Today, our crew got it’s first kill.

Well, not much more to say. I’ll jot down some more things later for you. We have a 0315 showtime tonight [3:15am briefing] for another 15.5 hour scheduled flight. This is the first time our crew has had more than 24 hours off at one time since the war started. Love, Dennis
Margraten Post NL01 Monthly Meeting 18 May

1) Meeting Minutes
   a. Date: 18 May 2018, USAG Schinnen Bowling Alley

2) Post Commander Ray Perez Call to Order 17:35 hrs.

3) Presentation of Colors:
   a. Hand Salute

4) POW/MIA:

5) Pledge of Allegiance

6) Preamble

7) Roll Call:
   a. Present 2nd Vice Harvey, Finance Officer Dale, Historian Dennis, Service Officer Ron, Sgt-At-Arms Mark (approved late arrival at approximately 18:15)
      i. 1st Vice Jim still in USA
     b. 24 members
     c. 2 new members
     d. 3 members-first time attendance
     e. 4 guests

8) Chaplain’s Prayer
   a. 2nd Vice Harvey performed the Chaplain’s prayer

9) March meeting minutes:
   a. Motion made by Comrade Andy to approve the meeting minutes as previously distributed to the post
   b. Motion seconded, no discussion
   c. Minutes Reviewed and approved by Commander/Adjutant.

10) Announcements:
   a. Sgt. at Arms introduced
   i. Guests

11) Committee reports:
   a. Commander Ray discussed the creation of the new Ways and Means committee
      i. Designated committee for the discussion and organization of fundraising events for Margraten Post NL01
      ii. Committee consists of the following members:
         1. 2nd Vice Harvey – Chairman
         2. Comrade Andy
         3. Finance Officer Dale
         4. Sgt-at-Arms Mark
         5. Commander Ray
         6. Service Officer Ron
         7. Comrade Kiara
         8. Adjutant Rick

12) Officer reports:
   a. 1st Vice Commander Jim Brotherton
      i. Commander Ray spoke for 1st Vice
         1. Post NL01 membership target for 2018 is 53
         2. Currently up to 58 Members
         3. We are on schedule and surpassing expectations!
      ii. Legion Riders
         1. Insurance is still being worked by 1st Vice Jim
   b. 2nd Vice Commander Harvey
      i. Commissary Bagging will be on 17 June and 1 July
      ii. Sign up sheet passed around. Any help appreciated
      iii. Current schedule for Commissary Bagging:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>17 June 2018</th>
<th>Times</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ray Perez</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Andy Clevenger</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kiara Valencia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Chernek</td>
<td>15:30 – 18:00</td>
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iv. 4 July—we are registered—need volunteers by 15 June meeting
1. Menu will be pulled pork and coleslaw, brisket, sausage, bake beans
2. Should make approximately $1500
3. Commander Ray asked 2nd Vice Harvey if he would make his beans for the event. After a unanimous declaration that 2nd Vice Harvey’s beans are officially “FAMOUS”, he consented.

c. Service Officer Ron:
   i. Good showing for VA rep—Service Officer Rn noted that an appeal going on for 6 years was finally approved.
   ii. VA rep will be returning 18 – 19 July
   iii. Historian Dennis said VA rep is willing to talk to us at one of our meetings about what the VA does. Need to coordinate.

iv. Service Office Ron said the Retiree Counsel will hold the retiree BBQ on 10 August from 12:00 until ?
   1. Post NL01 will provide food at small profit
      a. A Vote among the retiree counsel approved Post NL01 to provide the food
      b. We can expect 40 to 50 people
      c. Some food donations from commissary might also be possible

d. Historian Dennis:
   i. Many activities with pictures have been recorded – “Post NL01 History is being made”
   ii. Scrapbook is coming along great
   iii. We had 15 Active Duty Air Force members at the Joker Ceremony
   iv. Comrade Andy discussed the discovery of a B17 crash site memorial in Waldenrath from an October 14 1944 raid
      1. The crash site was recognized by the Geilenkirchen Top 3 several years ago
      2. We should make this an annual memorial for the Post since it is so close by
   v. Commander Ray challenged the honor guard to be ready by October 2018 for the 75th anniversary of the crash

e. Sgt at Arms:
   i. Comrade Andy spoke for the Sgt-at-Arms
   ii. Honor guard commander would be Mark
   iii. The Honor Guard will be looking for 7 people minimum (4 – 6 for flag and commander)
   iv. If interested contact Sgt-At-Arms Mark or Comrade Andy
   v. See them for uniform info (at own cost)

f. Adjutant Rick:
   i. None

g. Finance Officer Dale:
   i. Submitted financial report
   1. Motion to accept the report and voted by membership to approve subject to audit
   2. If any Post NL01 wishes to review the financial report, a copy will be provided upon request
   3. Private org status is approved. Bank account will be created once 1st Vice Jim is back

13) Old Business:

   a. Commander Ray stated that he, Historian Dennis and Angelika Owens will be attending the Oud Beijerland Remembrance on 26 May.

Please arrive no later than 09:00
A sign up list was passed around for members wishing to attend the Margraten and Henri-Chapel memorial ceremonies

Those attending Margraten, please arrive no later than 13:30 with ceremony start time of 15:00 on 27 May 2018
Margraten Current Attendees: (If you have a Legion Cap, please wear it)
For those attending Henri-Chapel Memorial, please arrive no later than 14:30 for 16:00 ceremony on 26 May 2018
Henri-Chapel Current Attendees: (If you have a Legion Cap, please wear it)

   (1) This visit has been arranged by Margraten Post NL01
2) **New Business:**
   a) Commander Ray gavelled to Order and called for new business at 18:50
   i) Harvey just received degree—recognized by Commander Ray
   ii) Flyers for Verna’s visit will be handed out – making history on 5 June 11–14:00 at the Multipurpose room bldg. 298 (Old school gym). Set up on 30 June 16:00
   iii) Thanks to Kyle Irish for his help in the arrangements
   b) Ron – 18 August Schinnen information/Welcome expo 11:00 - ?
   i) AL is welcome and can sell food and Recruit
   ii) Motion to accept – seconded by Andy
   iii) No discussion—Motion carried
   c) Mark — Peace light foundation will do photo shoot for Christmas Card 2 June
   i) The foundation organizes the carrying of the Peace Light from Bethlehem to Margraten
   ii) 3 Active Duty (or AL uniform) needed for photo
   (1) Any interest contact Mark
   iii) Troy and Kiara volunteered
   iv) Also – new privacy law in Netherlands – do we need to do this?
   (1) Commander Ray will check with legal

3) **Open points of order for the membership (Good of the Legion)**
   a) Commander Ray recognized our bowling team
   i) We came in 3rd place with 262.00 dollars
   ii) Money donated to the Post
   iii) Kiara first Place women, Ray’s wife second place, Andy High series score
   b) Commander Ray—Faces of Margraten
   i) 5850 faces set
   ii) Took over 6 hours to setup
   iii) Commander Ray presented certificates and pins to:
   (a) **Non-AL** - Angelika, Mellisa, Leon-Played an soldiers voice of one of the veterans, Suzanne (for Dave Ehnis), Steve
   (b) **AL** – Dennis, Andy, Troy, Scott, Paz
   iv) Commander Ray has 20 VIP passes for Margraten
   (1) Passed out to people who will definitely be attending
   v) Dennis Requested photos of two newest members with membership applications and the commander
   (1) John Sandler – 10 year veteran of the Army
   (2) Chris Scott -- 3 Year veteran of the Army
   vi) Mark – Please arrive at Margraten no later than Be there by 13:30 if you want to avoid traffic
   (1) Flowers sent to marine veteran friend of Mark
   (a) His wife passed away and he was extremely appreciative and surprised that anyone from the AL, especially from a Post in Europe would take the time to send thoughts and condolences
   vii) James – Trips to battle areas, Hurtgen Forest, Bridge Too Far – One day tour with SO Ron
   (1) Ron will advise on possible dates
   (2) MWR trip to Arnhem 16 June and Normandy 23 July
   viii) Andy
   (1) Several Post NL01 members went to the Museum in LaRoche en Ardennes after the Joker Memorial Ceremony
   (a) The museum is highly recommended and worth the visit
   (b) It contains one of only German Enigma encrypting machines

4) **Conclusion:**
   a) POW/MIA
   b) Commander Ray Perez adjourned at 19:34
WE WANT YOU!
TO JOIN AMERICAN LEGION POST NL01
PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR NEXT MONTHLY MEETING
15 JUNE: USAG SCHINNEN @ 1700L BLDG 3 ROOM A

www.facebook.com/PostNL01
Margraten.Post.NL01@gmail.com
Come out and Join the Margraten Legionnaires Bowling Team!

We’re always looking for more people to take part in the fun. Every Wednesday from 6-9 pm at the Schinnen Bowling Center. Events are always posted on the Post NL01 Facebook page. If interested please contact Team Captain Dave Ehnis at davidehnis01@yahoo.com

Movie of the Month:

DUNKIRK

In May 1940, Germany advanced into France, trapping Allied troops on the beaches of Dunkirk. Under air and ground cover from British and French forces, troops were slowly and methodically evacuated from the beach using every serviceable naval and civilian vessel that could be found. At the end of this heroic mission, 330,000 French, British, Belgian and Dutch soldiers were safely evacuated.
The American Legion's official training program for officers, members, Legion College applicants and those who simply want to expand their knowledge of the nation's largest veterans service organization is now available online.

The American Legion Extension Institute has been rewritten, updated, streamlined and enhanced with videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline and additional features. The program should take less than two hours to complete. It is divided into six sections, with a quiz at the end of each one, followed by a final exam.

The course is free for members. The training took me a little over 2 hours to complete, but there is no time limit on the course. You can return to where you left off anytime you wish for as many times as you want. Once complete you will get a printable Certificate of Completion and the opportunity to order the redesigned lapel/cap pin pictured above.

I found this training to be a great jumping off point for any new legionnaire. Anyone who participates in Awareness Drives should have this information in their toolbag!

As an Historian I of course found the History & Organization module to be the most interesting and fun but the section on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation was very eye-opening.

This Basic Training package is an outstanding gateway of knowledge into the nation’s largest veterans service organization and an opportunity not to be missed.

After taking the course it opens your eyes to what we really can accomplish and do, I never really knew how much the Legion was involved in. Should have joined years ago! ~ Post NLDI Sgr-at-Arms Mark Chernek
How to Become A Sentinel of Memory

By Commander Ray

Over the past year the American Overseas Memorial Day Association (AOMDA) Foundation has been focusing on the restructuring the adoption program of over 14,000 American soldiers who have their last resting place in Belgium. The program to honor our fallen is call the Sentinel of Memory program. Last issue I wrote about what the program consists of. This article will cover the steps on becoming a Primary Sentinel of Memory.

1. Go to www.aomda.org and choose the language of your preference.

2. Click on “Register” and follow the instruction on the form. Your request is usually approved within 24 hours. Mine was a little over 48 hrs.

3. If your registration was successful, go to the site and click “Login” Give your email address and password.

4. You are now automatically linked to the page for your personal account. Please take the time to fill in your profile information so that they can effectively reach you in the future.

5. Click on “Honor Them” and then click on “Serve as a Sentinel of Memory”. Once that page comes up, click on the hyperlink “Primary” Sentinel of Memory”

6. Fill out the Primary Sentinel of Memory Application. Make sure you give full detailed answers. Make sure you select the right cemetery. You will also be asked why you are able to fulfill the obligations of being a Primary Sentinel at the cemetery you selected. Saying you live locally and normally visit the selected cemetery a couple of times a year is an acceptable answer. If you’re interested in a particular serviceman please provide his name. You will also have the option to select to be put on a waiting list or be assigned any available serviceman.

7. Once you have completed the form, click on “Send”. Your application will be forwarded to the Administrator for the Remembrance Honors. After approximately 72 hours you will receive an answer. Mine took closer to 6 to 8 weeks but that was when the AOMDA was still getting going through the 14,000 graves. Should be much quicker now. Your name will then be on the page of the serviceman your Primary Sentinel for. (if you don’t want your name to appear on his page, you can make that adjustment through the privacy settings of your account)

8. You will receive an email from the AOMDA with your serviceman’s information and a Certificate of Appreciation for your commitment to serve as a Primary Sentinel of Memory. The pledges last for three years and you will be sent an email when the end of your pledge nears with the option to renew.

News: Dale Snyder just became a Primary Sentinel of Memory!
Department of France Centennial Challenge Coin!

March 2019 is firmly circled on The American Legion Dept. of France calendar. That’s when Legionnaires across Europe will celebrate the organization’s 100th birthday in Paris, where a gathering of soldiers, sailors and Marines that month in 1919 gave birth to what would become the largest organization of U.S. veterans. To honor the centennial, and to help cover anticipated costs of celebrating the anniversary, the Department of France has struck a commemorative challenge coin. The coins have been purchased by members, collectors and post leaders to distribute among military personnel, supporters and others who help the department fulfill the Legion mission in communities overseas. The challenge coin features the Eiffel Tower – the image of which is embroidered on Department of France Legion caps – above the organization’s national 100th anniversary logo. On the flip side appear the emblems of all four American Legion Family groups – the American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, Legion Riders and The American Legion. The challenge coins are $10 each, plus shipping, add $2 per coin for standard shipping and $13 per coin for priority shipping. To date Post NL01 has sold over 120 coins!
Words from Service Officer Ron

We consider ourselves quite lucky to have Ron Macauley as our SO. As you read in our last newsletter, Ron’s civilian job carries many of the responsibilities and tasks asked of a Legion Post Service Officer. Part of Ron’s job entails keeping veterans’ informed of their benefits and any change in policy that could affect those benefits. ~ Commander Ray

VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Make a One-On-One Appointment!

DATE: 18 & 19 July 2018
TIME: 9 am-4 pm
PLACE: JFC Brunssum Library Conference Room

The Veteran’s Administration (VA) will have a representative at the JFC Brunssum library on 18 & 19 July 2018 from 9 am - 4 pm to meet with anyone who would like a one-on-one appointment. If you have any questions about your *Veteran’s benefits, now or in the future, this is the person to speak with.

*To those who are looking for answers specifically on disability and compensation there will also be a VA representative present who specializes in this area.

To schedule an appointment, please call DSN: 314-606-244-3848 or CIV 045-526-3848 -or- E-mail: ronald.macauley.civ@mail.mil
Available Now for Download.
The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic, mutual-help, and community service organization, which now numbers 2.4 million - men and women - in more than 14,000 American Legion Posts worldwide. These Posts are organized into 55 Departments – one each for the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico, and the Philippines.

The American Legion has its headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana, with offices in Washington, D.C. In addition to thousands of volunteers, serving in leadership and program implementation capacities from the communities to the Legion’s standing national commissions and committees, the national organization has a professional staff of about 250 employees.

Membership eligibility in The American Legion is based on honorable service within the U.S. Armed Forces between April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918 (World War I); December 7, 1941, and December 31, 1946 (World War II); June 25, 1950, and January 31, 1955 (Korean war); December 22, 1961, and May 7, 1975 (Vietnam War); August 24, 1982, and July 31, 1984 (Lebanon/Grenada); December 20, 1989, and January 31, 1990 (Operation Just Cause – Panama); or August 2, 1990, until the date of the end of hostilities as determined by the government of the United States.

PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
For God and Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.
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Thanks to everyone who contributed to this newsletter. Thanks to Isabelle Engels for her lovely article. Thanks to Sebastiaan Vonk and the FOM group for allowing us to use their photos. Thanks to Historian Dennis and Andy for their pictures as well.

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Bagger for a Day<br>The Post will be bagging groceries all day at the USAG Schinnen Commissary.

4th of July Celebration BBQ<br>Post NL01 will have a vendor tent set up and will be serving Pulled Pork and Slaw, Brisket Nachos, and Texas Sausage w/ Baked Beans. Opens at 1600 to Sellout or Firework, whichever comes first.

VA One-on-One Appointments<br>18 & 19 July at JFC Brunssum Library Conference Room. 0900-1600

Post Membership Meeting<br>Monthly Membership Meeting will take place 20 July on USAG Schinnen Bldg. 3 Classroom A @ 1700. Gavel @ 1730. Will have a meal available. All proceeds go to the Post. Adjutant Ojeda will send out the agenda NLT 16 July.