Fellow Legionnaires and Legion families,

April was not as busy as March. I took a little more time for Sonja this month. We made our 100% membership for National. Congratulations to all the Posts. Thank you to the Posts, Vice Commanders, Membership Chairman, and all the Legionnaires supporting this Department. I believe this puts us in Second place at National. Great Job everyone.

We have the National Commander, National President and the Sons of the American Legion commander visiting at the end of May. We sent out a schedule a few months ago. Please come out and greet our VIP guests. Sonja and I will be traveling through Germany with Commander Rohan and her party. Also Mrs. Jones from the VA will be speaking to our Veterans. Perhaps You would like to speak to her?

We are coming up on Convention time. 21 June to 24 June in Wustenrot, Germany. I hope to see most of you there. Heilbronn Post GR79 is working hard to insure a good atmosphere and comradery. Don’t miss it.

Memorial Day is just around the corner. We are still laying a wreath in St. Avold on the 27th of May. Everyone is welcome. If you have never seen the Memorial Day ceremony, you are missing an important event in the Department. Come join us.

NEC Maloney is in the United States with her Sister. She is doing well but still has a long way to go for a complete recovery.

I would like to inform the department of my agenda for the month of May- June.
May 4-9th…Sons of the Legion NEC meeting in Indianapolis
May 26th….Meeting in Heilbronn
May 27th….Memorial Day Ceremony in St. Avold, France
May 28th….7th June National’s Commanders visit
June 9th….Sons of the American Legion Convention
June 21-24th….Department Convention in Wustenrot, Germany

Please contact me in advance if you wish me to stop by. May and June is still open.

James Dennis / Commander / Department of France
# Department Officers - 2018 Membership Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMMANDER</strong></td>
<td>James Dennis / GR30</td>
<td><a href="mailto:departmentdennis@gmail.com">departmentdennis@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADJUTANT</strong></td>
<td>Maxwell Rice / GR79</td>
<td><a href="mailto:colwichboy@yahoo.com">colwichboy@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSISTANT ADJUTANT</strong></td>
<td>Robert Fuelling / FR01</td>
<td><a href="mailto:RJfu41704@aol.com">RJfu41704@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NECMAN</strong></td>
<td>Nola Maloney / GR03</td>
<td><a href="mailto:NECMaloney@gmail.com">NECMaloney@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ALT. NECMAN</strong></td>
<td>James Settle / GR42</td>
<td><a href="mailto:james.settle@kabeliu.de">james.settle@kabeliu.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VCAL</strong></td>
<td>Joe D. Brown / GR79</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vcalbrown50@gmail.com">vcalbrown50@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VICE COMMANDER</strong></td>
<td>Casby Logan / GR07</td>
<td><a href="mailto:casbyf@hotmail.com">casbyf@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VICE COMMANDER</strong></td>
<td>David Etter / GR01</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bigdave59@gmail.com">bigdave59@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VICE COMMANDER</strong></td>
<td>Christopher Buchanan / GR1982</td>
<td><a href="mailto:christopherbuch@hotmail.com">christopherbuch@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VICE COMMANDER</strong></td>
<td>Jimmie Dale / GR07</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jimmiedy87@gmail.com">jimmiedy87@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHAPLAIN</strong></td>
<td>Don Chamberlain / GR79</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chamberlain64@hotmail.de">chamberlain64@hotmail.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HISTORIAN</strong></td>
<td>Raymond Perez Jr. / NL01</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Raymond.perezjr@yahoo.com">Raymond.perezjr@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINANCE OFFICER</strong></td>
<td>Nola Maloney / GR03</td>
<td><a href="mailto:NECMaloney@gmail.com">NECMaloney@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSISTANT FINANCE OFFICER</strong></td>
<td>Gary Miller / GR06</td>
<td><a href="mailto:billyfan_gary@hotmail.com">billyfan_gary@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SERVICE OFFICER</strong></td>
<td>Frank Phillips / GR1982</td>
<td>fp <a href="mailto:Phillips59@gmail.com">Phillips59@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JUDGE ADVOCATE</strong></td>
<td>Keith Abernathy / GR79</td>
<td><a href="mailto:keithabernathy1942@yahoo.de">keithabernathy1942@yahoo.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SERGEANT-AT-ARMS</strong></td>
<td>Raymond Vincent Jr. / NL01</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rvincent6603@yahoo.com">rvincent6603@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPECIAL ASSISTANT</strong></td>
<td>James Settle / GR42</td>
<td><a href="mailto:james.settle@kabeliu.de">james.settle@kabeliu.de</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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
Duderroder Str. 1
63654 Buedingen, Germany

[carl@hackworth.de](mailto:carl@hackworth.de) / Tel.: 004950425454989 / Mobil: 00491764248922 / Fax: 004950425454987

~ 2 ~
This month was busy for me, I was at Post GR07 Wiesbaden PX for Membership awareness drive, recruited 13 members and GR45 Membership awareness drive in Grafenwoehr, recruited 27 members, GR20 Membership awareness drive in Spangdahlem PX, recruited 22 members, thanks to Vice Commander Logan and Vice Commander Dale for their support. Thanks all the Post that made the 100% BE02-DK01-GR02-GR06-GR07-GR14-GR20-GR30-GR45-GR1982-IT02-NL01-SP292-PO01-TH01. The Department Awards committee went well with GR01-GR07-GR09-GR42-NL01 Awards were sent in. Awards have been ordered by the Department Finance Officer Gary Miller and The Department thanks Gary for stepping back up and taking over Finance duties.

We must remember the ideals of what the American Legion stands for, justice, freedom and democracy. We are here to support our veterans, their families, our communities and the care of our veterans through the programs set out at the National Level. Many of our Posts need to be more involved with these programs, I would strive to make that happen. All Post Commanders need to properly display your POW-MIA Table, American Flag and your Post Legion Banner at all your meetings.

I am looking forward to seeing all posts at the 94th ANNUAL CONVENTION.

As always, remember if you need to contact me I am just an E-mail away vcalbrown50@gmail.com M-0170-1888034.

In closing, please keep those in harm's way and their families, not only in your thoughts but your prayers as well.

Membership Chairman
The red poppy is a nationally recognized symbol of sacrifice worn by Americans since World War I to honor those who served and died for our country in all wars. It reminds Americans of the sacrifices made by our veterans while protecting our freedoms. Wear a poppy to honor those who have worn our nation's uniform.
Dear American Legion Family and Friends,

American Legion Family members leapt into action last August to provide aid to the Texas communities devastated by Hurricane Harvey.

Post 81 in Melbourne, Fla., was among those helping out. In the aftermath of the disaster, Legion Family members there collected about $20,000 worth of relief supplies, packed everything into a truck and dispatched it to Texas.

The next day, Hurricane Irma slammed Florida, causing widespread damage. Though fortunate to be spared the brunt of the storm, Post 81 lost its roof and sustained flooding damage.

Post members rallied to reopen the building in only nine days and began to serve its community as it recovered from Irma.

“I’m really proud of our post,” Commander Tracy “Stretch” Spence said. “When it came time to replace the whole roof, we’re talking $26,000 that we just didn't really have. The National Emergency Fund (NEF) was available to us, up to $10,000. We applied for it and they granted us $8,000, which really helped us because it saved us that money that we're able to roll back into the programs now.”

That NEF success story is just one of hundreds from last year. In all, 348 NEF grants totaling more than $367,000 were distributed to American Legion members, Sons of The American Legion members and posts. More than 300 of those grants were related to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

Not to be forgotten, smaller-scale natural disasters can wreak havoc on communities at any time. And NEF will be available to help our brothers and sisters recover, regardless of the disaster’s scale.

For example, NEF has provided assistance to those whose lives have been turned upside down by wildfires in California, tornadoes in Illinois, flooding in Louisiana and an earthquake in Oklahoma.

In the Southeast, Midwest and the Plains, springtime means it’s time to be on guard for tornadoes. Later in the summer, coastal regions will again be on watch for what is forecast to be an above-average hurricane season.

We don’t know when or where the next disaster will strike. But we do know the National Emergency Fund will be there to provide immediate financial assistance to those who qualify. Please support your fellow veterans with a kind contribution to NEF. www.legion.org/donate

Members of James LeBlanc Post 230 in Spring Lake, N.C., know how important NEF grants are in the wake of a disaster.

In 2016, a combination of nine-plus inches of rain and Hurricane Matthew left Post 230 under several feet of water. Drywall, furniture, wiring and flooring were damaged or destroyed.

The post has reopened and is back to serving its community.

“(The NEF grant) kept us going while I was still trying to get other funds raised,” Past Post Commander Mark Erskine said. “If it wasn’t for (the grant), we would have been doing nothing.”

Family First.

Denise H. Rohan
National Commander
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 American Legion, Department of France website
http://www.amerlegiondeptfrance.org
Also Visit the Department of France Facebook page

WANTED TODAY...pictures and stories of your posts, your members.
Share your experiences, let everyone know what you are doing and contributing to your “American Legion Family”
On March 25, 2018, I had the pleasure of being able to bring a group of French students from Grant Community High School in Fox Lake, IL to participate in a ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, France. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity that I know our students will never forget! The students learned that located at the base of the Arc de Triomphe is an eternal flame and tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Every night this flame is rekindled and wreaths are laid, decorated with the red, white, and blue colors of the French flag. March 25th of this year also commemorated the 99th anniversary of the founding of the American Legion. The American Legion Paris Post #1 invited our students to attend the ceremony and parade on the famous Champs-Elysees Boulevard. My father, Gary Nadeau, belongs to the American Legion Post and laid one of the wreaths. It was a wonderful opportunity to participate in something authentic as well as patriotic.

The tomb of the Unknown Soldier and Eternal Flame began as a way to honor those soldiers that sacrificed their lives during World War One. The Eternal Flame was first lit on November 11, 1923 by Andre Maginot, French Minister for War. Since that date, it has become the duty of the Committee of the Flame to rekindle that torch each evening at twilight.

Below are some impressions from our Grant students, as well as photos from the ceremony on March 25th. Thank you again for allowing us to be a part of this wonderful tradition!

“This was the first time I’d ever been to one of the largest and iconic intersections in the world, so marching in a parade right through it was amazing. It brings me some peace that I got to officially pay respects to all those soldiers that died without knowing if they’d be remembered or not... I loved participating in the ceremony, and I love that the tradition will continue. Most of all, I’m happy that the thoughts and memories of the Fallen Soldier can survive in our hearts.”
   - Lucas Mateski

“I am thankful that I had the opportunity to participate in this once in a lifetime experience. It was amazing to participate in this ceremony during our trip because I actually felt a part of it, and not just a tourist.”  - Michelle Sauer

“I thought the ceremony was very well done and respectful. It was very interesting to see and experience another country’s memorial customs. I felt the French patriotism and the emotions of the other people there. It was a very eye-opening and insightful experience. Definitely a day to remember forever, it was so impactful.”  - Marie Florov

“I enjoyed witnessing French patriotism and the respect they have for their military”  - Maya Kosar

“I thought that it was very eye-opening in showing other traditions about patriotism in France, and it was a great way to celebrate the accomplishments of the West.”  - Jacob Cacioppo

“I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the ceremony. I think it is very important to experience real aspects of culture and not simply be a tourist. This ceremony allowed us to do just that.”  - Haley Copenhaver
New Ruling: Chronic Pain Now a VA Disability

Military.com Week of April 09, 2018

A recent ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims may have a major effect on the outcome of many veteran's disability claims. On April 3, the court ruled that pain, without any underlying disability, may be a valid reason for awarding VA compensation benefits. For more details, see this Military Advantage article.
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.
Hello Ladies and Legionnaires;

In May, the National President will be visiting from 28th May to 7th June. We need to show our selves at these areas. So, please if you have time, come out and support us.

We have the Department Convention on 21-24 June in Wustenrot, Germany. I’m asking all the Units to come out and support us. We would like to some new faces and some old faces as well. Stop by and we can enjoy some time together.

Thank You.
Sonja Dennis / President / Department of France

'Why Memorial Day'

Oliver Wendell Holmes (Edited by Matt Grills)

Not long ago I heard a young man ask why people still kept up Memorial Day, and it set me thinking of the answer. Not the answer that you and I should give to each other – not the expression of those feelings that, so long as you live, will make this day sacred to memories of love and grief and heroic youth – but an answer which should command the assent of those who do not share our memories, and in which we of the North and our brethren of the South could join in perfect accord.
Mother's Day is a holiday honoring motherhood that is observed in different forms throughout the world, and Mother’s Day 2018 occurs on Sunday, May 13, in the United States. The American incarnation of Mother’s Day was created by Anna Jarvis in 1908 and became an official U.S. holiday in 1914. Jarvis would later denounce the holiday’s commercialization and spent the latter part of her life trying to remove it from the calendar. While dates and celebrations vary, Mother’s Day traditionally involves presenting moms with flowers, cards and other gifts.
The Meaning of the Flag Draped Coffin

Our founding fathers used God’s word and teachings to establish our great nation. We should be proud to live in this country and even more proud of those who serve and protect our “God given” rights and freedoms. It is important that we all understand the meaning of the flag draped coffin in order to better honor the many widows and widowers who have received this flag.

Have you ever noticed the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly fold the United States flag 13 times? Did you think it was a symbol of the 13 colonies? Well, it’s not!

The first fold of the flag is a symbol of life.

The second fold of the flag is a symbol of belief in eternal life.

The third fold of the flag is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans’ departing the ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of the country to attain peace throughout the world.

The fourth fold of the flag represents the weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance. The fifth fold is a tribute to our country for in the words of Stephen Decatur “Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong”.

The sixth fold is for where people’s hears lie. It is with the heart that they pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.
The seventh fold of the flag is a tribute to its Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that they protect their country and their flag against all her enemies.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.

The ninth fold of the flag is a tribute to womanhood and mothers. For it has been seen through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The tenth fold is a tribute to the father, for he too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of their country since they were first born.

The eleventh fold of the flag represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrew eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The twelfth fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christian eyes, God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The thirteenth fold, the stars are upper most reminding us of our Nation's motto, "In God We Trust".

Finally, after the flag is folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for them the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today.

There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning. In the future, you’ll see flags folded and now you will know why.
President Harry S. Truman led the effort to establish a single holiday for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country.

On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force Days.

The single day celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under the Department of Defense.

To download this poster, right click on the desired file format below and select “Save Target As” to save the file on your computer.

PDF (4.76MB) | JPEG (18.1MB)

MILITARY REPORT THE MILITARY’S LARGEST BENEFITS UPDATE

Some Vets Still Can't Apply for New Veteran ID Card

Military.com Week of April 02, 2018

Some veterans continue to have problems showing proof of service for the VA’s new ID card program. But sources disagree on what's causing the issue. For more details, see this Military.com article.
THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE
94TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
HOSTED BY JOHN WAYNE POST GR79

WHERE: Hotel Restaurant Cafe SCHÖNBLICK
Kretschmerstrasse 1
71543 Wüstenrot, Germany

WHEN: 21-24 June 2018

Convention Package Consist of:
4 Days and 3 Nights
Breakfast Buffet
Dinner Meal
Banquet on Saturday
One convention coin per registered guest

COST:

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Complete Package/Double Room 175.00 Euro Per Person
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Two Nights with Banquet/Double Room 120.00 Euro Per Person
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One Night with Banquet/Double Room 65.00 Euro Per Person
Banquet Only (no overnight) 25.00 Euro Per Person

Prices include Breakfast and Dinner Meals only…Lunch is not included.
* We need half for a down payment on all Rooms by 1 May 2017

Please send payment to:
John Wayne Post GR79 - Henry Meyers
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BIC--HEISDE66XXX

POC: Charlie Brown / vcalbrown50@gmail.com
THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE

94TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

ROOM RESERVATION FORM

HOSTED BY JOHN WAYNE POST GR79

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