DEPARTMENT COMMANDER...James Dennis

We are coming up on Convention time. 20 June to 23 June in Eitorf- Alzenbach, Germany. I hope to see most of you there. The Department 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 26th 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.

Please be informed for the upcoming events for the month of May- June.
May 3-10th Spring NEC meetings in Indianapolis
May 26th Memorial Day Ceremony in St. Avold, France
May 28th - 7th June National’s Commanders visit
June 9th Sons of the American Legion Convention
June 20-23rd Department Convention in Eitorf, Germany

Please contact me in advance if you wish me to stop by.

James Dennis / Commander / Department of France

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2019MY

COMMANDER James Dennis GR30 departmentdennis@gmail.com
ALT NECMAN Hans Stockenberger CH01 redsea_diver2000@yahoo.com
VICE COMMANDER Casby Logan GR07 casbyj@hotmail.com
VICE COMMANDER Dennis Owens NL01 info@dennisowens.com
HISTORIAN Raymond Perez Jr. NL01 Raymond.perezjr@yahoo.com
CHAPLAIN Harvey Briggs NL01 harvey.briggsii@gmail.com
JUDGE ADVOCATE Keith Abernathy GR79 keithabernathy1942@yahoo.de
ADJUTANT Hans Stockenberger CH01 redsea_diver2000@yahoo.com
SPECIAL ASSISTANT James Settle GR42 james.settle@kabelbw.de
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
DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE Joe D. Brown

Department Awards Meeting

GR06 Awareness Drive

GR79 General Membership Meeting

GR02 Awareness Drive

~ 3 ~
This year, The Generals Ward & Chennault and Lt. Helseth American Legion Post 1, Shanghai, China, is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the post.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary, China Post 1 member Joe Gentile came up with the idea to commission artwork for several plaques to memorialize the rededication of the Old Post Home in Shanghai, as well as the Heavenly Kingdom Museum in Ningbo, China, home of the General Frederick Townsend Ward exhibit.

On Dec. 14, 2018, several members of the executive committee – Scott Riebel, deputy commander of China Post 1, Kerry Kilburn, post JAG, and Gentile – traveled to Moody Air Force Base, home of the Flying Tigers, in Valdosta, Ga., to present the wing with a replica of the plaque that will be presented to the people of Shanghai at the rededication of the Old Post Home. Current Wing Commander Col. Jennifer Short hosted us in the SCIF, where we briefed her on the history of China Post 1 and the significant ties between our two organizations.

China Post 1’s historical ties to the 23rd and the Flying Tigers runs long and deep. Our members include Tex Hill, Robert Smith, and James B. “Earthquake McGoon” McGovern, whose remains were found in 2002 and repatriated in 2006 after being identified by another China Post 1 member at the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command.

Of the 15 surviving Flying Tigers, 12 are members of China Post 1.

Then on March 19, 2019, Commander Ron Burkett, his service officer Marlys Burkett, Gentile, Kilburn and Riebel traveled to Monroe, La., and the home of the General Claire Chennault Museum. The purpose of the visit was to re-establish a relationship with the museum, to present a duplicate of the plaque to the museum and make a donation on behalf of China Post 1.

We had the opportunity to meet with Nell Calloway, CEO of the Chennault Museum and granddaughter of Claire, who was kind enough to escort us through the museum, adding a personal touch to each of the exhibits. Following lunch, hosted by Ms. Calloway, we moved into the theater where China Post 1 presented a duplicate of the plaque to the museum as well as a donation for $1,000.
Dear American Legion Family and Friends,

Suicide is a national public health issue. Veterans are among higher risk groups, but suicide affects all Americans, which is why VA and The American Legion are working together to adopt a public health approach to suicide prevention. The public health approach looks beyond the individual to involve peers, family members and the community in preventing suicide. Preventing veteran suicide is a top priority for VA, but they need help from dedicated partners like the American Legion Family to reach veterans outside the VA health-care system.

Last year, VA released the National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide, a long-term plan that provides a framework for focusing national attention and community resources on veteran suicide prevention. The strategy brings together different sectors to reach veterans in the communities where they live, work and thrive. This strategy is more than a plan; it is a call to action. And it requires your help to succeed.

Linked below is your copy of the National Strategy and a toolkit that includes a guide to online suicide prevention resources. We strongly encourage you to review the National Strategy and determine how you can advance its four strategic directions: (1) Healthy and Empowered Veterans, Families and Communities; (2) Clinical and Community Preventive Services; (3) Treatment and Support Services; and (4) Surveillance, Research and Evaluation. In addition to applying the strategy’s principles to your organization, we invite you to take advantage of VA’s resources to educate your members and supporters, including your social media networks, about veteran suicide prevention best practices.

Legionnaires play a crucial role in VA’s public health approach to suicide prevention. We urge you to become a leader in our mission by adopting the principles of the National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide and by contacting your local VA Suicide Prevention Coordinator (SPC) to collaborate and explore potential partnership, education and training opportunities. The Veterans Crisis Line resource locator will help you find a SPC in your area.

When we all work together, we can deliver on this comprehensive plan and save veterans’ lives.

Sincerely,

Brett Reistad
National Commander

Dr. Keita Franklin
Executive Director, Suicide Prevention
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

Comrades,
Our VA Claims processing is progressing steadily. The Department of France has, successfully, obtained over $500,000.00 in Claim monies since 1 June 2018. We have, as of 31 March 2019, over 186 ongoing Claims submissions. As of 4 April 2019, we have two newly accredited Assistant Department Service Officers. Harvey Briggs, from NL01 and David Fredlund from GR79.

It has come to my attention that some Post Service Officers are assisting the Claimant and instructing them to send the complete package to the VA or the Embassy. This is not the procedure set up within the Department of France DSO Guidelines and procedures. http://www.amerlegiondeptfrance.org/files/Post_coverages_DOFR2018.pdf

Sending Claims direct to the VA or Embassy does not give credit to the American Legion and if something needs to be addressed, the American Legion cannot assist without the Power of Attorney.

I have received the Claims packages from the Veterans, themselves, and have noticed that the forms were not filled out correctly or that if the forms were submitted, it would have been at a disadvantage to the Veteran. I have noticed this in at least five claims this year!

If the Veteran had submitted the Claim, without the DSO reviewing the Claim, the Claimant would have had a reduction in compensation or could have lost his entire compensation. Another situation was where the Claimant failed to complete the entire form. This would have caused a delay in the processing of the Claim.

In the above situations, the Veteran would, legally, have an option of suing the American Legion!

➔ If a PSO or other person assist in the preparation of a Claim and gives advice to a Claimant, that PSO or other person is liable!

➔ Only accredited Service Officers, in the Department of France, are covered by the Departments Liability Insurance.

➔ The PSO is not covered by bonding or liability insurance within the Department of France.

By law, an individual must be accredited by VA as an agent, attorney, or representative of a VA-recognized veterans service organization to assist in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of a claim for VA benefits. 38 U.S.C. §§ 5901-5902, 5904; 38 C.F.R. § 14.629.

Another issue that needs to be addressed. There is a misconception as to the authority granted to the Department Service Officer. The Department Service Officer CANNOT remove or fire a PSO or Assistant Department Service Officer. The ADSO is appointed by the Department Commander and only the Department Commander can remove the ADSO position.

If a PSO is not complying with the guideline set forth in the DSO Guidelines and Procedures, the Post Commander must make the Department of France aware of the situation. It is up to the Post to decide if an Internal Affairs Board will be called to address the matter. The Post will make the final decision of the violation of the DSO Guidelines and Procedures.

It is the duty of the DSO to protect the Department of France from legal and liability issues. To summarize, submit all VA paperwork to the Department Service Officer or Assistant Department Service Officer. This will protect the Veteran and the Department of France from having liability issues and better assist the Veteran in their Claim process. This will also protect the POST from possible liability issues!

A letter of instruction will be sent to all European Embassies to address who is authorized to assist Veterans in their Claim process (Accredited Representatives only).

Respectfully,
"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 of France Past Commanders Club

PCC President Leland Zickuhr
zickuhr.leland@gmail.com

PCC Secretary Raymond Perez Jr.
Raymond.perezjr@yahoo.com

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
Eddie M. Guevara
Chairman Homeless Veterans

Homeless Veterans Help

We reached centennial a miles stone in American Legion history 1919-2019. We remain committed, dedicated and ever watchful our Homeless Veterans.

The American Legion supports the efforts of public and private sector agencies and organizations that aid homeless veterans and their families. Additionally, the Legion supports legislative proposals to provide medical, rehabilitative and employment assistance to homeless veterans and their families.

The Legion recognizes that aiding homeless veterans requires a sustained coordinated effort, which should provide secure housing and nutritious meals; essential physical health care, substance abuse aftercare and mental-health counseling; as well as personal development and empowerment. Homeless veterans also need job assessment, training and placement assistance. The ultimate goal is total self-management for the homeless veteran.

The American Legion has stepped up its support for homeless veterans, coordinating a Homeless Veterans Task Force among its departments to augment homeless service providers and fill in the gaps where no assistance programs are available. All departments have a Homeless Veterans Task Force chairperson and an Employment chairperson who are capable of providing assistance to any homeless or financially destitute veteran who contacts them. The two chairpersons also can coordinate activities with posts in their departments to aid homeless veterans and their families and prevent future homelessness among veterans.

I remain your Department point of contact for all inquiries on veteran homelessness.

For God and Country

Department Homeless Veterans Chairman Eddie Guevara
Email: pso.guevara@gmail.com
Cell Phone: +15121244628
John Wayne Post GR79

GR79 General Membership Meeting / Easter Party

SAL CONVENTION 2019
Hosted by GR07

When:
Saturday, 08 June 2019

Location:
ZUM REEGEN
IM RIEDWEG 52
74078 HEILBRONN-FRANKENBACH
REMINDER!

Department of France 95th Annual Convention
20-23 June 2019
RSVP no later than 15 May 2019

REMINDER

Hotel Schützenhof, Windecker Str. 2, 53783 Eitorf-Alzenbach
RSVP no later than 15 May 2019

REMINDER

RSVP no later than 15 May 2019

REMINDER!
Military Spouse Appreciation Day 2019

National Military Spouse Appreciation Day is celebrated on the Friday before Mother’s Day in May. This year it will be observed on Friday, May 10th, 2019.

Armed Forces Day is a day to recognize members of the Armed Forces that are currently serving. In 1947, the Armed Forces of the US were united under one department which was renamed the Department of Defense in 1949. President Harry S. Truman supported the creation of a day for the nation to unite in support and recognition of our military members and their families. On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced that Armed Forces Day would take the place of other individual branch celebrations, and all branches of the military would be honored this single day. Armed Forces Day takes place on the third Saturday in May.

Got a VA Rating? You Can Get a Free Lifetime National Parks Pass

An entrance station at Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming. (National Park Service)

Military Times: Here are 12 big changes veterans caregivers will see in the next year

By: Leo Shane III

Memorial Day History

Memorial Day is a US holiday to honor and remember those who died while serving in the military. It is a day to raise our awareness about the Nation’s freedom and the price for this freedom. Every year U.S. soldiers and their families pay that price. Memorial Day is a day for reverence and honoring of those who gave their lives defending the Nation and its values. In 1971, Congress declared it a national holiday. It also marks the unofficial start to the summer season.
In Montargis where I live there has been a twining since 1966 between French and British veterans. Every year we visit each other at different occasions. The town is located in East Sussex and is called Crowborough. Two weeks ago the association "The Friends of Montargis" came to visit our association "The Friends of Crowborough". For many years my husband Frank M. Crosley was a member of this association as vice president; several ceremonies were held with members of PP1 and auxiliaries, in Montargis. On 14 April at the gala diner, I presented the "Centennial Coin" to the Chairman of the "Royal British Legion" Crowborough branch, Mr. David Harris, RAF (ret) on behalf of the friendship between the two legions.

Crosley Ginette

CONGRATULATIONS MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE
GOAL NUMBER ONE HAS BEEN ACHIEVED

This means around May 15th 2019 each Post in the Department of France will receive a $.50 per member bonus from The American Legion National Headquarters. So, you still have time to add members to your Post count.

THE NEXT GOAL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE IS THE 105% GOAL

Make the 105% GOAL and each Post in the Department of France will receive a $1.00 per member bonus around July 31st 2019 from The American Legion National Headquarters.
Hi All Legion Riders,

April has come and gone so fast. We took the time to take a trip on the trike. We spent 4 days on the road from Wednesday, 17 April and completed the tour by attending the GR79 Easter Party on Saturday, 20 April. We had a good time and GR79 put on a great Easter party. I also attended the Grand elections for the 40&8 on 27 April. It was nice seeing the folks in Budingen again.

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. Please remember that the deadline to sign up for the convention is 15 May so that we can guarantee you a room. As I have stated several times in the newsletter; I have found a place to have the September get together. The place is Gasthof Sonnenberg (https://www.hotel-sonnenberg.de/). I am asking again for some feedback as to the interest in this. I have received an offer from GR79 to host this in Heilbronn as well. I REALLY need to know if there is any interest in this idea at all.

The Legacy Scholarship fund is the premier program for the American Legion Riders and we, as Legion Riders, should be supporting this program. Many of the riders in the Department are wearing the Pony Express pin on their vests. Please do your best to collect donations and bring them to the Department convention in June. I have $80 so far donated from GR42, GR1982 and GR07. I understand that many Riders Chapters are collecting and donating to charities in their home locations and this is a good thing but, as this is the premier program for the American Legion Riders; I am asking for you to please do a little for this program as well. I know that there are Chapters that donate directly to National for this program; please let me know that this is what you are doing and, if you do not mind, the amount so that I can recognize your Chapter at the convention. Thank you all in advance for your help on this 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. Short notice is also sometimes possible but, no guarantee. Thank you for your understanding.

“For God and Country”
Lee “Papa Smurf” Preston
*NOTE...on the convention packets passed out at the 3rd DEC, Windereckerstrasse 2 was used as the street address. It has been brought to our attention that some navigation systems would not take that street name. Please try the street name Windecker Str. 2.

**Convention Package Consist Of:**

4 days - 3 nights / One convention coin per Department registered guest residing at the hotel / Breakfast buffet / Utilization of the conference rooms / Mineral water and juice during our meetings / Late morning coffee/tee and yogurt / Afternoon coffee and pastry / Evening dinner buffet (includes Banquet on Saturday) / One drink of choice with evening dinner

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<td>€305.00 per person</td>
<td>€250.00 per person</td>
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<tr>
<td>21-23 June 2019</td>
<td>€215.00 per person</td>
<td>€180.00 per person</td>
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<tr>
<td>22-23 June 2019</td>
<td>€120.00 per person</td>
<td>€105.00 per person</td>
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**Following expenditures to be paid at Convention.**

- Attending meetings only. Not staying at hotel: €16.00 per person, per day.
  - *Includes use of conference room, Late morning coffee/tee and yogurt, Afternoon coffee and pastry & Mineral water and juice during our meetings. Please notify Convention Committee if you will be attending Convention Meetings only!*

- Banquet only (Saturday): €25.00 per person.
- Breakfast only. Not staying at hotel: €8.00 per person, per day.
- Dinner only (Thursday-Friday). Not staying at hotel: €15.00 per person, per day.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** From 20-23 June, you MUST register and pay for your hotel room through the Convention Committee. If you book directly through the hotel, you will have to pay the daily €16.00 fee per day, per person for use of the conference room.

**Convention Committee 2019**

Lee Preston...GR42
David Greaux...GR42
Michael Young...GR01
RSVP no later than 15 May 2019 / All payments must be in Euros / If paying prior to convention, please make all Euros checks payable to David Greaux

Bank Transfer Information

NAME: David Greaux
IBAN: DE37 933011000005356
BIC: FLESDEM
Verwendungszweck: Dept. Convention / Option 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6

Please fill out included reservation form and send in no later than 15 May 2019 to ensure a reserved room. Please print clearly to avoid mistakes. Make copies as needed. If reservations are made but not able to attend please contact a convention committee person prior to convention. If paying with credit card at convention, must still fill out form and send in by 15 May 2019.

Send to a Convention Chairperson:
David Greaux or: Lee Preston or: Michael Young
Brunnhöhe 21 or: Behring Str. 20 or: Box 7043 PSC 2
97505 Geldersheim or: 97464 Niederwerrn or: APO AE 09012
Germany or: Germany or: Germany
Tel.: 01715109356 or: Tel.: 017670599666 or: Tel.: 017627649912
Davidg1959@t-online.de or: Lpreston1957@gmail.com or: Michael.young63@yahoo.com

The AMERICAN LEGION, Department of France
95th Annual Convention, 20-23 June 2019 Room Reservation

PLEASE CHECK ONE:

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<th>Option ONE</th>
<th>20-23 June 2019 / Three Nights – single room €305.00 per person</th>
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<tr>
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<td>First Name: <strong>David</strong></td>
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<th>Option ONE</th>
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<th>Option FIVE</th>
<th>22-23 June 2019 / One Night - single room / €120.00 per person</th>
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<th>Option SIX</th>
<th>22-23 June 2019 / One Night - double room / €105.00 per person / Total: €210.00</th>
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<td>Last Name:</td>
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*#*: e-mail: 

☐ Will be paying with credit card at convention.

☐ Special needs: (reg. shower cabin, not shower head in bathtub – first floor access – wheel chair access etc.)
Indianapolis, Indiana

Site of the 101th American Legion National Convention
August 23rd to August 29th 2019

If you are planning on attending the 101th National Convention in Indianapolis, IN (and I hope to see some new faces in Indianapolis) 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 Indianapolis

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.

Congratulations goes out to Lee Preston, newly elected Grand du Germany Chef de Gare 2020MY.

Our next Promenade is planned for 20 July 2019, hosted by V1467