Hello my follow Legionnaires. I hope all is well with you and your families.

October was a very busy month. On the 1st I visited GR03 for their monthly meeting. GR03’s meeting was great as they focused on actives in the community, including, working with the Scouts, Auxiliary and a fund raiser. My hat is off to them. While there, I talked to Commander Ed Sherman about the storage of Department equipment and the need to move it. Department Judge Advocate Mike Young and I made space at GR01 and we will be making arrangement to move it soon.

On the 6th I visited with GR07. They were also planning events in the community for the upcoming holidays. Keep going you are doing great.

On 10 to 14 October, N.E.C. Man William Marshall and I went to Indianapolis for the National Fall Meetings. We had a chance to meet with the National Commander, Adjutant, and others on his staff. We covered over 40 Resolutions, was able to reinforce the Dept. of France obligation, to our Vets, Widow, widower, children, and the Sick, overseas.

On the 16th, Bill and I arrived back in country ready for our 2nd DEC on 17 October. Altogether, 10 Post were represented and there was much discussion. Some of the items discussed were: the National Commander’s Visit, Committee reports, and were the next Convention is being held. We confirmed three new Vice Commanders, James Dennis, Michael Besant, and Kevin Keehnen. Welcome on board. Also discussed were Post GR45 and that Vice Commander James Dennis will be handling that issue. I realized the meeting was long; however, it was a necessity to understand where we are standing.

The Department of France 2010 Convention will be in Ireland, hosted by IR02, IR03 and IR63. The Convention Chairman is Liam Kane. There is more information about Convention 2010 later in the newsletter.

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I’ve gotten with IPC Joe Brown, and ask him to oversee some upcoming projects. I want to thank him for stepping up to the plate.

On 11 November, I look forward to seeing everyone at the Veteran Day Ceremony at the Lorraine American Cemetery, St. Avoid, France. For more info, please contact the Adjutant. I want to remind everyone, that the Holidays are upon us and to please be safe.

For God and Country

Robert Gray

**VCAL CORNER**

I had a usual busy month which kept me active at Legion Affairs.

As you are all aware by now, IR63 will host the 2010 Department Convention in Royal Hotel, Bray, County Wicklow. The venue is located south of Dublin approximately 15 miles beside the Sea. Brief details of the costs are detailed elsewhere in the Newsletter and also ways to get there. Each month we will let you know more about the agenda and the many proposals for the social scene. The Committee will meet again on Thursday, 5 November, and we would appreciate if you could contact us at my e-mail commliam@gmail.com if you have any queries and we will get back to you ASAP. It is vital that we know numbers by 31 December 2009, as we are holding the Convention in the middle of the Tourist season here in Ireland and beds are at a premium in June. Should you want to arrive early or stay on after the Department Convention, we will help and advise you on hotels, transport, and places to visit in our lovely Country. I will be at St. Avoid in November so we can discuss and hopefully have answers on Queries.

On the Post scene, I been in contact with my designated ones and was happy to see the Department get three new Vice Commanders on board. We welcome them and I am sure that they will, with your help, do a good job. Let us all keep up the good work on the Membership front. I’m sorry to see us lose our Membership Chairman, Fred Lane, but we all realize that one’s family must come first. On the matter of Membership let us all wish Mike Umland a speedy recovery to health and back to his great love of working for the Legion.

Over the four weekends of November I will be travelling to Germany, France and Ireland to attend functions and I will be meeting with Commander Robert and Adjutant John to finalize the Agenda for 2010 Department Convention.

It was nice to be back in St. Avoid for a DEC and Congratulations to our new Department Commander, who performed very well "in the Chair". Well done Robert.

Hope to see some of you in St. Avoid on Veterans Day and around Europe in November.

Liam Kane
Vice Commander At Large

departmentadjutant@gmail.com
2009 - 2010 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

EARLY BIRD/NEF KICKOFF *SEPTEMBER 10, 2009 50%
FALL MEETINGS OCTOBER 15, 2009 55%
VETERANS DAY NOVEMBER 17, 2009 65%
PEARL HARBOR DAY *DECEMBER 9, 2009 75%
MID-WINTER JANUARY 13, 2010 80%
PRESIDENT’S DAY *FEBRUARY 10, 2010 85%
LEGION BIRTHDAY MARCH 10, 2010 90%
CHILDREN & YOUTH *APRIL 14, 2010 95%
ARMED FORCES DAY MAY 12, 2010 100%
DELEGATE STRENGTH 30 DAYS PRIOR TO NATIONAL CONVENTION

Target dates fall on the second Wednesday of the month unless there is a holiday on that day or at the beginning of that week. Due to Veterans Day falling on the second Wednesday, the November target date will be on Tuesday, November 17th.

*This date is also a renewal notice cutoff date.
Immediate Past Department Commander

My fellow Legionaries, as your IPDC, I ask if you know what the value is of being a Legionnaire. It’s being able to support your family, your Community, your Nation, our past Veterans, our Veterans, our future Veterans, our Child Welfare, and Americanism just to mention a few the Four Pillars.

I thank the Legionnaires and Auxiliary members who took the time out of their busy schedules to attend our 2nd DEC in St Avold, France. It was nice to see some new faces and some that we haven’t seen for some time. I hope that you all attend the 3rd DEC in March next year. It will be at GR42 in Schweinfurt.

Don’t forget the 65% Membership cutoff to National. Get those transmittals in to the Membership Chairman Fleming. Posts have already made 65% are GR01, GR05, GR06, GR09, GR13, GR14, and GR42.

Halloween candy give away was support by Legion Post GR03, GR06, GR07, GR42, and SAL gave candy to ACS for kids.

On Veterans Day, 11 November 2009, Stuttgart Post has a ceremony at Patch Barracks, with guest speaker U.S. Army General William E. Ward, Commander, U.S. Africa Command. It would be great if the Department of France can support this event. Also, there is a ceremony at the Lorraine American Cemetery in St. Avold, France, at 1100hrs.

Posts that are having Thanksgiving dinner are: GR30, at the Post home on 26 November; for more Information contact Vice Commander James Dennis, GR09 is also having a Thanksgiving Day activity. If you and your family are planning a Thanksgiving at home, it would be nice for you to invite a Wounded Warrior, Veteran, or other Service Member, to your event.

I have talked to the following hospitalized Legionaries: Mike Umland was in the hospital in Stuttgart; he had a blood clot in his lungs, but is at home now. George Hall has been in and out of the Hospital for leg problems. Phil Gatchell was in the hospital in Mannheim; he is at home now. Frank Hanchak was also ill over this past month, but is feeling better now.

I have communicated with the Department Commander, Department N.E.C. Man, Vice Commander Besant, and Vice Commander Dennis in reference to ongoing issues within the Department. I also communicated with the following Commanders and/or Adjutants: GR01, 1st Vice Commander Young; GR03, Commander Sherman and Adjutant Gatchell; GR05, Commander Moore; GR06, Commander Clemence and Adjutant Miller; GR07, Adjutant Ginete; GR09, Adjutant Rittenberg and Past Post Commander Lindsey; GR13, Commander Cervenka; GR14, Commander Seeburger and Adjutant Hackworth; GR30, Adjutant Dennis; GR42, Adjutant Greaux; and Gr1982, Adjutant Besant. We discussed issues within the Department and upcoming events. I also had the opportunity to talk to the Oratorical Chairman Comrade Clemence. He stated that the Department Oratorical finals are on, and he will insure that the Posts are notified in a timely manner of the date, time, and place.

We still have some positions within the Department not filled. If you are interested please contact Commander Gray or Adjutant Fleming.

I would like to thank Comrade Lindsey, and Comrade Young for their Comments at the 2nd DEC. This Department has so much talent and experience, all you need to do is ask and someone will help, to ensure that this Department moves forward. If you have offended someone, apologize, and let this Department move forward for the betterment of the LEGION. If I can help you in any way please contact me at E-mail legionbrown@hotmail.com or at handy number 0171-925-9949, or at 07131-203738.

Yours in Comradeship
Joe D. Brown
IPDC
**Chaplain’s Page**

**Special Days/Legion Events:** 11th Veterans Day; 15-21st American Education Week; 22nd National Family Week; 26th Thanksgiving Day

**Christian Religious Days:** 1st All Saint’s Day; 2nd All Souls Day (Cath.); 15th Nativity Fast begins (Orthodox through Dec 24); 22nd Christ the King; 29th First Sunday of Advent; 30th St Andrew’s Day.

**Jewish Holidays** (Year 5769): None that I know of.

**Islamic Holidays:** 26th Hajj Day; 28th Eid al Adha

Please visit the church, temple, synagogue or mosque of your choice.

**Post Everlasting reported from Oct 1st to Oct 30th:**
Father in law of Comrade Dean Strohsahl

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**Prayers for the Sick:**

George Hall, GR-03  
Shawn Ashe, GR-42  
Doug Clemence, GR-06  
Nola Maloney, GR-03 and Past Department Commander  
John H. Miller, GR-1982 and PDC & present Dept Alt NECman  
Phil Gatchell, GR-03  
Edward Hayes, GR-03  
Kenneth Grasser, GR-09  
Brenda Dearborn, Dept of Maine present Americaism Chair and past chaplain  
Harold M. Wild, GR-13  
Ronald (Ron) Hansen, GR-06  
Marlene Watson, Widow of GR-13 charter member William Watson  
Paul Johnson, Dept of Wyoming 3rd District VC and Past Chaplain  
Larry “Yard Dog” Ewerds, GR-07  
Edwin F. Hoffman, GR-13  
Robert Downs, GR-79  
Brian Charters, IR-63  
Michelle Gerdeeman, daughter of Comrade John Gerdemann, Sr. GR-07  
Harry Hall, GR-42  
Isadore Pink, GR-07  
Niece of Comrade Dave Mendez, GR-01  
Cyndia, wife of Comrade Dan Halsey, GR-03  
Marie-Anne Godefroid, wife of Comrade Carl Hale, FR-01  
James W. Johnson, Mike Pauia, GR-03  
Jerry Deaver, GR-07  
Rose Jeffries, GR-07  
Harry Jeffries, GR-07  
Gorrel Cheet, GR1982  
Dick Knoll, GR-09  
Kevin Murphy, GR05  
Bill Tilmann, GR14  
George Davis, GR42  
Michael Umland, GR and Past Department Commander  
A. “Ray” Cline, GR14  
Joe D. Brown, GR42, IPDC and Department Vice Com-  

Are undergoing, were undergoing or were scheduled for, medical treatment.

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Greetings Comrades, Sisters and Brothers of the American Legion Family,

Your chaplain has been busy doing “Service to God and Country” and meeting with other Posts and Legion officers outside the Department of France. Our New National Chaplain is John L. Beaver and full of the Legion spirit and a firm believer in “For God and Country”. I met with about 40 chaplains at the Chaplains Conference in September and managed to visit a few Posts in New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C. I was also appointed as Run Chaplain of the 2009 American Legion Legacy Run from Indianapolis to Louisville, having participated in the full 1,200 mile ride, including a memorial service with Past National Commander Rehbein at the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville, PA, as well as being honored to read the Holy Scriptures at the Patriotic Memorial Service at the National Convention in Louisville.

I don’t do these things for my honor, but to honor you who chose me to be Department of France Chaplain for 2009-2010. My name may be mentioned in all of the above mentioned programs and various Post and Legion Rider newsletters across the country, but the thrill for me is when I see Department of France behind my name. It is surprising how many people don’t
know about the Department of France, but many more now know that we are here doing our best to serve America and our troops. We see those troops when they prepare to go to Iraq or Afghanistan, see them when they return and visit those who may have been wounded or hurt while there. Guess where their families are? Many are right here, so we should be keeping contact with them as much as possible also.

So what we do is very important, not because of the honor and recognition we personally receive, but because we honor those who have given so much.

Unfortunately when I get involved in so many American Legion functions outside of the Department of France, it takes away the time I should personally spend with you. I’m trying to catch up on my correspondence and Department of France visitation schedule for all of our Posts. I hope to see some of you at the Veterans Day celebration in St. Avold at the Lorraine American Cemetery.

I wish all of you a wonderful Thanksgiving and hope that you get a chance to share it with your loved ones and friends. Let us also include our servicemen and women in a special prayer then, as well as for their families.

I also hope to see more of our Posts at the 3rd DEC in March. A Department Executive Committee meeting or Convention are the closest thing we have to official Church services in the Department of France. We are a family no matter what our differences may be, and it is nice when we can all get together and put “For God and Country” to good work. If there is a reason that people are feeling hurt or upset, it sure doesn’t help by being absent. Communication is a skill we all learned, so let’s put it to better use.

May God bless you and your family and keep all safe.

God bless our servicemen and women, as well as their families, no matter where they serve.

Rev. Ronald Moore,
Department of France Chaplain
Home: 0049-(0)6196-569027
Mobile: 0049-(0)172-7417812

Legion Riders

11 November 2009: I would like to invite you to join us for the American Legion Riders 2nd Annual Ride to the Lorraine American Cemetery in St Avold, France, on Memorial Day, Wednesday, 11 November 2009. We will depart the former Vogelweh/Kaiserslautern PX/BX parking lot at 08:30 to insure we arrive in time to participate in the ceremonies.


This event is open to all riders and groups and we would love you to join us and represent your group. We had 40 bikes last year in the rain and hope for a better turn out this year. This is a rain or shine event and I look forward to riding with you!

We need a head count of those participating, so please let me know if you plan to attend no later than Friday evening, 6 November.

12 December 2009: The American Legion Riders will be organizing a trip to Bastogne, Belgium for the 65th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge on Saturday 12 December 2009.

Plans are to charter a bus to Bastogne, but we haven’t received enough response to date to be able to commit to anything. This is the 65th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge and there will be historic walk, wreath laying, Re-Enactments and much more, so I encourage you to join us. If you have never been to Bastogne, it is a beautiful little city with great little shops, restaurants, etc. so bring the family and enjoy.

We must have a count of those planning to attend to determine if we will be able to arrange for a bus, so please let me know not later than Wednesday 25 November how many in your group will attend.

www.bastognehistoricwalk.com

Eddie Kane
Dept ALR Director

Catching a Yellow Jacket in your shirt @ 70 mph can double your vocabulary.
On 3 October 2009, Germany celebrated its Reunification Holiday. In Augsburg, there was a special ceremony also celebrating 60 years of the German Paratrooper Association. Eight members from the former 11th Airborne Division stationed in Gabligen Kaserne, (near Augsburg) returned to Augsburg from many parts of USA. They were stationed here from 1956-1958, participated in active training, and were the cadre and trainers for, at that time, the new German Bundeswehr Airborne Troops. There was a Mass in the DOM (Cathedral) with many German Reserve Military Associations, German Airborne Association members, and German veterans. The Mass was celebrated by a Priest who was a Paratroop Officer that landed in Crete and who participated in the battle of Monte Cassino, and then became a priest. The various groups marched to the Rathaus Platz, (City Hall) and heard speeches from numerous speakers. That was followed by a meal in Restaurant "Zeughaus". The eight US paratroopers who flew over from the USA were all over 65 and from various places in the USA to include one native American from Maine. The Commander of Post GR13 attended and participated in all the events.

Rick Cervenka
Commander
Augsburg Post GR13
The following people attended the Tipperary Memorial Weekend to honor Irishmen and Women who had died on active duty for the cause of peace in various Armed Forces since WW2.

Left to Right: VCAL Liam Kane, IR63; Armida Flores, Assistant Military Attaché, US Embassy in Dublin and IR63; Mark Cooney, IR63; Rico Stines, IR02; Michael Haslam, Chairman of Comm. and retired Member of Irish Defense Forces and United Nations; Michael Coyne, IR63; and Libby Coyne, Auxiliary

Attached is photo from the Dinner at Lynn's Restaurant (Convention Photo)

Lionel A. Morais, Rome Post IT01
We in IR63 thank you for selecting us as the host Post for next year’s convention.

Cead mile Faile

There are many reasons to visit Ireland next year. First of all you may use it for your summer break. The beautiful countryside will cheer you no end and we at IR63 together with our fellow Legionnaires in IR02 and IR03 will guarantee you a pleasant time.

Bray is the nearest big town south of Dublin. It has everything you need: shops, eating out in restaurants –Irish, Greek, Italian, Chinese, Indian, French and American.

The clean, fresh air by the sea, which is only 20 minutes away on foot, where there are amusement arcades, coffee shops on the sidewalks, aquarium and golf available free of charge.

Pubs galore around the town with nightly singsongs and traditional Irish music.

Dublin City is only an hour away by bus and rail link (beautiful scenery on the way). Places of interest include Europe’s oldest Zoo, Guinness Brewery, Irish Distillers, Dublin Castle, St. Stephens Green, The General Post Office, scene of the Easter Rising against the British in 1916, Kilmainham Jail, where the Irish leaders were executed, including one who was strapped to a chair and shot. Yes we have our history on your doorstep so enjoy.

To Get to Bray you can fly from Germany by Aer Lingus from Frankfort, Dusseldorf, and Munich and by Ryanair from many smaller local airports to Dublin. Flights are also available from Paris, Lisbon, Madrid, Brussels, Copenhagen, and Amsterdam, you can go on line: www.aerlingus.com, or www.ryanair.com. Lufthansa and germanwings also fly to Dublin. You can arrange a group flight of 20 or more people with Aer Lingus. There is a direct bus link from Dublin airport to Bray leaving on the hour every hour.

What to bring:

Besides your ordinary summer wear, you might need a light raincoat (not needed in 2003). Your Post Flag (we will supply poles and bases), and plenty of money, especially for our raffle on Saturday Night. (P.S. Cigarettes cost over €8.50 for pack of 20.)

What you will bring back:

Great memories of a really good Convention and a happy time in Ireland.

Department of France Convention 2010

Hosted by Ir63
16 - 20 June 2010
Royal Hotel, Bray, Co Wicklow

Package consists of the following:

Fare consists of:
Bed and Irish or Continental breakfast.
1 Convention coin for each person registering.
Banquet on Saturday Night.
Bus Trip & BBQ.

2 Night Package
Single room €155.00
Double room €211.00
Triple room €282.00

1 Night Package
Single room €90.00
Double room €124.00
Triple room €159.00

4 Night package
Single room €290.00
Double room €377.00
Triple room €506.00

3 Night package
Single room €219.00
Double room €290.00
Triple room €393.00

Family rooms available on request.
Package for 5 Nights please contact me.

Booking Dates:
31st December 2009 (Numbers attending)
Booking deposit 25% must be paid on or before 3rd D.E.C.

1ST MAY FINAL DATE FOR BOOKING AND PAYMENT
Your cooperation for the above will be greatly appreciated.

Thank You, Liam Kane, Convention Chairman
For Our Members in the States

Free Meal for Veterans
on November 11th, "Veterans Day"

[Image of Applebee's logo]


FREE Meal At Applebee's on November 11

Valid Veteran and Active Duty Identification to Obtain Free Entree:
* U.S. Uniform Services Identification Card
* U.S. Uniform Services Retired Identification Card
* Current Leave and Earnings Statement (LES)
* Veterans Organization Card (i.e., American Legion and VFW)
  * Photograph in uniform
  * Wearing uniform

(Thank you Mr. Julian Bosworth for this information)

The following is extracted from the Air Force Retiree Web site,
Release No. 10-04-09
Oct. 30, 2009
Tricare announces H1N1 immunization policy

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFRNS) - Immunizations against the H1N1 virus will soon be available, and people are eager to take precautions. Tricare Prime, Standard and Extra beneficiaries can get their shots from network and non-network providers without paying a deductible or making a co-payment.

A temporary waiver allows retired Tricare Prime enrollees to get the H1N1 immunization from non-network providers without a referral or authorization, eliminating point-of-service charges. Prime enrollees will not be charged a co-payment or cost share.

Tricare for Life beneficiaries must follow Medicare rules regarding H1N1 vaccine. Medicare will pay for administering the H1N1 vaccine, but not the H1N1 vaccine itself if it is supplied to providers free of charge. Payment will be subject to normal billing and payment rules that apply to influenza vaccine.

Preventive medicine is a very important part of Tricare's goal of keeping retirees and families healthy, said Rear Adm. Christine Hunter, deputy director of the Tricare Management Activity.

"To that end, we make getting vaccinated as convenient and affordable as possible," she said. "Beneficiaries should talk to their primary care manager if they have any questions about the H1N1 vaccine or other vaccines."

The vaccine for the seasonal flu is not expected to protect against H1N1, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-
tion; therefore, immunization for the 2009 H1N1 strain is recom-

mended. Both vaccines can be administered on the same day.

CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recom-

mends that everyone get the H1N1 vaccine, but for certain
groups the vaccination is more critical. These include:

-- Pregnant women;

-- People who live with or care for children younger than 6
months;

-- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel;

-- Everyone between the ages of 6 months and 24 years;

-- People ages 25 through 64 with chronic health disorders or
compromised immune systems; and

-- Older people with diabetes, cardiovascular disease, asthma or
HIV.

(Courtesy of Tricare and Medicare)

http://lyris.dmasa.dma.mil/t/2315125/4673610/7628/0/ or
go to the
Department of Defense Pandemic Influenza Watchboard: Visit
http://fhp.osd.mil/aiWatchboard/index.jsp
http://lyris.dmasa.dma.mil/t/2315125/4673610/7630/0/

Veterans Day is for Ordinary People Accomplishing the Extraordinary

By Clarence E. Hill

When then-Governor Ronald Reagan introduced returning POW John McCain at a speaking engagement in 1974, the future presi-
dent asked, “Where do we find such men?”

He was speaking of many veterans, when he answered, “We find them in our streets, in the office, the shops and the working places of
our country and on the farms.”

In other words, President Reagan was referring to ordinary people accomplishing extraordinary things. And it isn’t just the men.

Army SPC Monica Brown was still a teenager when she went on a routine patrol as a medic in Afghanistan in 2007. Caught under in-
surgent fire in Paktika Province, she and her platoon sergeant ran a few hundred yards toward a burning Humvee.

Dodging rounds by only inches, Brown helped pull injured soldiers from the vehicle and rendered life-saving first aid. For her actions,
she was awarded a Silver Star, the nation’s third highest combat decoration.

When she enlisted at age 17, the native of Lake Jackson, Texas, had hopes of becoming an X-ray technician, but the Army convinced
her that being a medic would offer her the greatest opportunity to help her fellow soldiers. But to credit the Monica Browns and other
brave heroes in our military with helping only their comrades is short-sighted. They are helping us. It is America, not America’s mili-
tary that al Qaeda and other terrorists have declared war on.

Fewer than 10 percent of Americans can claim the title “military veteran,” and what a list of accomplishments can those 10 percent
claim. From defeating Communism, Fascism and Imperialism, to keeping the peace during the Cold War and battling terrorism today,
America owes a debt to her veterans that can never be fully repaid.

Historians have said that Dwight Eisenhower was prouder of being a soldier than he was of being
the president. While relatively few veterans reach the rank of general, pride in ones’ military service is a bond shared by nearly all
who have served.

The pride is on display on every obituary page in the country, where military service – regardless of how many decades have passed
and subsequent achievements reached – is mentioned with the death notice of nearly every deceased veteran.

Can any CEO or distinguished Ivy League graduate truly claim to have more responsibility than the 20-year-old squad leader walking a
patrol in Afghanistan or Iraq? While the successful real estate mogul may have sold hundreds of homes and raised a wonderful family,
what single accomplishment tops the decisive actions he took during the siege of Khe Sanh, which saved the lives of several of his fel-
low Marines?

As leader of the nation’s largest veterans organization, it is my job to remember the brave men and women who have worn the uni-
form of the United States military. The Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion calls on us to “preserve the memories
and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars.” But those who have not served, in fact, all Americans, should honor the patriots
who have.

The American Legion, www.legion.org, supports our heroes through programs such as Heroes to Hometowns, Operation Comfort
Warriors and ready-to-assist service officers. We support the families of veterans through a Family Support Network, the American
Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund and Temporary Financial Assistance, just to name a few of our programs.

We call on all Americans to thank veterans and let them know that their sacrifices are appreciated. Veterans Day is not about sales at
the local retail mall. It’s about honoring our heroes.

While veterans are often ordinary people who accomplish extraordinary things, it is often an extraordinary family that supports the
ordinary veteran. And it is the veterans that have given us this extraordinary country.