

# THE DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE NOVEMBER 2007 NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
Department of France

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*Joe D. Brown*

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Department Vice-Commander At Large  
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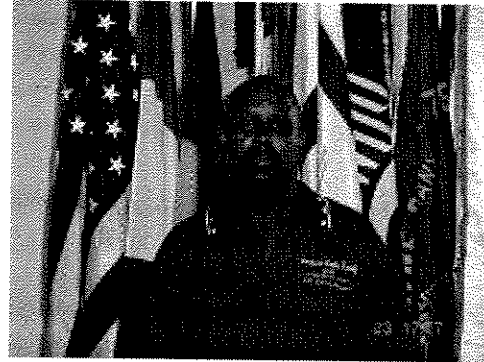
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Any Department Officer, Committee Chair, Program Director or Post can input material to this newsletter. Input is due the Last week of the month for next month's newsletter.

## **Department Calendar**

11 November Veterans Day St. Avold  
17th of November internal affairs Committee Meeting  
22<sup>nd</sup> November Thanksgiving Day  
22<sup>nd</sup> November GR 30 Thanksgiving Day Celebrations  
24<sup>th</sup> of November JWP 79 Thanksgiving Day Celebration

## **Department Commander's Corner**



### **My fellow Legionaries**

As your Department Commander I will ask you what the National Commander asked me "do you know what the value is of being a Legionnaire is" its being able to support your family, your community, your Nation, Our past Veterans, our Veterans, our future Veterans, Our Child Welfare, Americanism just to mention a few. I was at the Fall Commanders Call at National Headquarters from 13-17 October 2007; it was a well put together, well thought out process of valued information for Department Commanders, and Department Adjutants. I was able to meet with and talk to all other Department Commanders, (54), and trust me we are not the only ones experiencing problems. I learned we all experience problems at the Department and Post level, but we have the resources to overcome these problems, we together have the knowledge to overcome problems within this Department. I was rather relieved to know that our problems are relatively small to other Departments within National. I would like to thank Comrade, and former Department Commander Doug Hagen, and NECMan Marshall, for showing me the right road to take, I was able to meet with the National and his Staff Members during the time I received much needed information from all. I would advise all new Department Commanders to depend on your NECMan Comrade Marshall, and PDC Doug Hagen to guide you through this event. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2007 we held The Department 2<sup>nd</sup> DEC in K-Town which A big thanks to Commander Young and his staff for their support on this short notice for a change from St Avold to K-Town due to space requirements( a great Job done). I would like thank all Department Officer and all post Delegates, and Post Members for their support of this DEC, we has a Department accomplished a lot at this DEC, for more info see Adjutants comments. I would like to thank all involved, and a special thanks to (Diane Schmidt-Hanchak) in organizing the wedding shower done for Manuela and me. Don't forget the 65% cutoff to National get those transmittals into Chairman Umland ASAP. GR06 had a Halloween candy give away, Adjutant Miller indicates it was a success. GR03 had Halloween Candy give away, Adjutant Gatchell. GR07 also had a Halloween Candy give away Adjutant Cantu also commented it was a success. Gr01 also had a Candy give away for Halloween which to reports was also a success.

I wish all of you a very Happy and safe Thanksgiving Day Celebration and a very happy Holiday Season. If you are having any problems please do not hesitate to contact your Post Officers, Department VC, or myself.

For GOD and Country  
**Joe D. Brown**  
Department Commander

**From the Department Adjutant:**

**My Fellow Legionnaires,**

First off let me introduce myself to those who do not know me. My name is James Settle; I have been a member of The American Legion, The Department of France, and John Wayne Post (GR79) for eight years. During these past eight years I have held the following positions within the post. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, and Adjutant. It was an honor and a privilege for me to accept Commander Brown's appointment to the Department Adjutant position. As you all know the department held its 2<sup>nd</sup> DEC on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2007, the original was in St. Avold, however due to space requirements it had to be moved to K-Town. Thanks to GR01 Commander Comrade Young the meeting hall was reserved and fulfilled our needs for the DEC, and for the Auxiliary to conduct their DEC meeting. I was impressed with how smoothly the DEC was conducted, we accomplished many things to include the controversy over China Post 1, per capita, all post will now pay \$19.50 instead of the \$20.00 dollar per capita, retroactive for MY 2008, most of you should have received your rebate check from Department by the posting of this Newsletter. Appointment of the Convention Chairman, Comrade David Geraux from Post GR42 was accomplished; this is not his first Department Convention I am positive it will run very smoothly. The Department 3<sup>rd</sup> DEC will be held in Heilbronn on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2008 at a place TBA. Those of you that supply inputs to the Department Newsletter please send your input to [americanlegion@hotmail.com](mailto:americanlegion@hotmail.com). Once I can get all my E-mail boxes cleared out I will start using the [dept\\_adj@yahoo.com](mailto:dept_adj@yahoo.com), I will notify all concerned, before I do this. In closing I wish all of you a very happy and safe Thanksgiving Day, and a very Happy Holiday Season. Remember if you need to contact me I am just an E-mail away [piscses@t-online.de](mailto:piscses@t-online.de). Please keep those in harm's way and their families, not only in your thoughts but your prayers as well.

**James M. Settle**  
Department Adjutant

**Department NECman's Comments**

**Legion Post donates \$2 million to help build Los Angeles Fisher House**

Blessed with members who early on knew the value of investing in real estate, American Legion Post 283 in Pacific Palisades, Calif., currently owns buildings that house a CVS pharmacy and the U.S. Post office in its community. Thanks to rent collected from those properties and the generosity of its own members, Post 283 has become the single-largest contributor to the Los Angeles Fisher House project. Post 283- former President Ragan's home Post-has donated more than \$2 million to the project, which will put a Fisher House on the grounds of VA's West Los Angeles Healthcare Center.



Fischer Houses are located on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers and enable family members to be close to wounded U.S. service members during hospitalization. The average charge to stay in a Fisher House is less than \$ 10.00 dollars per family per day, and many locations offer rooms at no cost. No similar housing options are currently available at the West Los Angeles Health Center.

**William Marshall**  
Department NECman

**Vice Commander's Corner**  
**Vice Commander at Large Liam Kane**

**Liam Kane**  
Vice Commander at Large

**Vice Commander Darrel Shannon**  
**GR05, GR 09, GR 042**

Greetings my fellow Legionaries, Auxiliary, and S.A.L. Members  
This month I visited my post in Schweinfurt GR 42 me and my family was invited to their early Bird Dinner and awards ceremony we had a great time and we also had the honor of having the Department Commander in attendance. Remember if you need to contact me you can reach me at [dg.shannon@missouri.usa.com](mailto:dg.shannon@missouri.usa.com). In closing please keep those in harm's way and their families, not only in your thoughts but your prayers as well.

**Darrel Shannon**  
Department Vice Commander

**Vice Commander Keith Abernathy**  
**GR01, GR06, GR07 and GR13**

I was unable to attend the 2nd DEC but was informed that it was a good and productive meeting. If God is willing and the creek doesn't rise I will be in Heilbronn for the 3rd DEC. I will be at GR13 in Augsburg along with the Department Commander for the Post's 37th Anniversary. I'm sure they would welcome anyone desiring to attend.

**Keith Abernathy**  
Department Vice Commander

**Vice Commander Frank Hanchak**

GR14, GR20, GR45, IR63

I received an Email from a prominent member of our Department. I won't write his name, because it doesn't matter. What does matter is that Commander Joe Brown went to the National Convention this year and impressed those who met with him. The letter stated that Commander Brown was eager to learn and was quite impressionable. Although I wasn't there, I highly respect the letter writer and I know his account is factual. We must all thank Commander Brown for saying yes when we asked him to lead us. He is truly an asset to this Department and I believe he will continue to lead us in his own very professional manner! I am proud to be a member of this Department and I am equally proud to call Joe D. Brown my Commander, and my friend.

**ATTENTION: POTENTIAL LEGION RIDERS**

I am a member of American Legion Riders Post GR-07. The leadership and service provided by Director Jim "TuCan" Murray is great and I am proud to be a member of his group. However, I live in Schweinfurt and would like to know if other members would be interested in starting another AL Riders group in a location somewhere EAST of Frankfurt. If so, let me know. If enough people are interested in starting another group on this side of the country, perhaps we would number enough!

NOTE: New mobile phone, and new Email address!  
0171 473 9782 [frank.hanchak@gmail.com](mailto:frank.hanchak@gmail.com)

**Frank J. Hanchak**  
Vice Commander

**Vice Commander Jerry Aman**

GR03, GR79, GR1982

On July 25, 2007, the US Congress passed Senate Bill 1877, introduced by U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Oklahoma), amending title 4, United States Code, prescribing that members of the Armed Forces and veterans and service members not in uniform may render the military salute during hoisting, lowering, or passing of the flag. An excerpt of the bill reads as follows: "those present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes." The passage of this bill affords recognition to those who have served in the Armed Forces when in a group of people who honor the flag. Please feel free to contact me at E-mail Address [Jerrya503@aol.com](mailto:Jerrya503@aol.com) or phone number 07307-4492 or 073075752

For God and Country

**Jerry Aman**  
Department Vice Commander

**Boys State John Odom Sr.**

**THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE PROGRAM**

The American Legion believes there is no better way to assure the survival of our republic than to train our young people in the ideals and objective of American government. By teaching youth to understand and appreciate the basic principles involved in the successful management of a democratic society. America can remain strong and ensure our freedom for future generations. American Legion Boys State is a unique summertime educational program that does not emphasize classroom lectures and textbook learning. Instead, it focuses on participation and personal experience in a model state, complete with governing bodies and elected public officials. It is designed to mirror the structure and operation of its respective state government. The Maryland Boys State that our Department of France send our Boy's each year, typically begins on Father's Day and runs through the following Friday.

**Eligibility Guidelines**

Only males who have successfully completed their junior year in high school and not have entered their senior year of high school are to be considered. Any boy who has previously attended a Boys State is not eligible. Applications may be obtained through your local American Legion Post Boys State representative or Americanism representative. The Department of France is your sponsoring Department and will provide all the Post, High Schools, Students and Parents the information as required or requested, please contact Department Boys' State Dir by calling 0174-6935296 or emailing: [jhlolibro@aol.com](mailto:jhlolibro@aol.com) for more information .

Boys' State Director Department of France  
CMR 418, Box 3111  
APO AE 09058  
49-(0)174-6935296 or  
49-(0)170-1785054 or  
49-(0)621-7245742-Home

**John Odom Sr.**  
Boys State

**Department Chaplain Ronald Moore**

**Chaplain's Page** **November 2007**  
**Special Days/Legion Events:** 6<sup>th</sup>- Election Day; 10<sup>th</sup>- Marine Corps Day; 11<sup>th</sup>- Veterans Day (Armistice Nov. 11, 1918); American Education Week; 22<sup>nd</sup>- Thanksgiving & Family Week  
**Christian Religious Days:** 1<sup>st</sup>- All Saints' Day; 2<sup>nd</sup>- All Souls' Day; 15<sup>th</sup>- Nativity Fast begins (Orth); 25<sup>th</sup>- Christ the King; 30<sup>th</sup>- St Andrew's Day  
**Jewish Holidays** (Year 5768): None to my knowledge  
**Islamic Holidays:** None to my knowledge.  
Please visit the church, temple, synagogue or mosque of your choice.

**Post Everlasting reported to October 27th:**

*Andre Goesaert, S.A.L. Belgium Squadron 2, survived by daughter Patricia and son Patric*

Prayers have been said for their family and friends. Please remember them in your prayers also.

**Prayers for the Sick & Ill:**

- George Hall, GR-03
- Shawn Asche, IR-
- Doug Clemence, GR-06
- Nola Maloney, GR-03 and Past Department Commander
- Tom Mayock, IR-63
- John H. Miller, GR-1982 and Past Department Commander
- Phil Gatchell, GR-03
- Edward Hayes, GR-03
- Wife of Post GR03 Comrade Robert Pierce
- Walt Lanti, Past Department Commander 93-94
- Kenneth Grasser, GR.09 (now out of the hospital)
- Brenda Dearborn, present Historian and past chaplain of Dept of Maine
- Harold M. Wild, GR13
- Ronald (Ron) Hansen, GR-06 and this year's nominee as Post Legionnaire of the Year
- Tom O'Keefe, IR-02
- Barry Ryan, IR-02
- Marlene Watson, Widow of GR-13 charter member William Watson
- Paul Johnson, Dept of Wyoming Chaplain

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

No other deaths or other illnesses were reported to me, but we continue to pray for those comrades, family members and friends of the Legion who have passed away or are ill.

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

As a minister, I sometimes receive questions that are difficult to answer. I don't know what God has planned for us on this plane, but He has given us free choice to prepare ourselves for the next one if we follow His teachings and Commandments. The religion that we follow will be the basis for what happens to us when we are "good" or "bad".

As your chaplain however, I can only strongly recommend that you and your family actively participate in the religion of your faith. It gives your children a foundation they can build on and it gives you the peace of mind to accept God's will when necessary. Religion can help keep a family together just as it did for our forefathers. It is so sad to see children today who do not have a strong foundation in a religion. Some parents say they want their children to make up their minds for themselves, but honestly, would your kids go to school if you didn't pressure them to do so? Would you want or allow them to grow up uneducated? It is never too late to change lifestyles and we know that God is always happy to see us when we visit our place of worship.

Sure we can say our prayers at home, each person for themselves, but it is much more fulfilling to get together with like-minded people who share our beliefs and purpose in life. It is nice to see that we are not alone. We also meet together at the Legion Posts or other organizations of the Legion family, and with our comrades, friends, brothers and sisters, we reaffirm our dedication to helping veterans with people who share the same goals. Again, we can do so much more when we combine our efforts as when we sit alone at home.

The chaplaincy of The American Legion and its affiliated organizations was not formed to replace your religious leaders, but

to work together with them. The Chaplaincy is non-denominational and non-sectarian because our members are from various religious backgrounds. We perform the religious ceremonies of The American Legion and its membership and remind all that God is in first place in the Legion. We also tell you to visit your place of worship more often than you do now. When you see the heads of your place of worship, please greet them from the Chaplains of the American Legion Family.  
May God bless you and keep you safe and may He watch over our servicemen and women no matter where they are.

Pastor Ronald Moore,  
Dept of France Chaplain  
Home: 0049-(0)6196-569027  
Mobile: 0049-(0)172-7417812  
Email: revronmoore@yahoo.de

**Rev. Ronald Moore  
Department Chaplain**

**Convention Chairman David Greaux**

For those who did not get to attend the Second Department DEC, the 2008 Department of France 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention will be hosted by Omar Bradley Post GR42. It will be held on 18-22 June 2008 in Sankt Englmar, Germany at the APART HOTEL, Predigtstuhl. More information will be disbursed between now and the 3<sup>rd</sup> DEC to all the posts. A registration table will be set up at the 3<sup>rd</sup> DEC where you may register for Convention 2008.

**Complete Convention Package Consist Of:**

- 5 days - 4 nights
- Breakfast / Dinner Buffet...to include Banquet on Saturday Evening One convention coin per registered guest
- Children 0-14 receive per day one FREE entrance ticket to Family World (*hotel family center*)
- Complete Package - single room € 280.00 per person
- Complete Package - double room € 210.00 per person
- Children 12 years and older € 190.00 per child
- Children 3 to 11 years old € 50.00 per child

***Convention Chairman 2008***

**David Greaux**  
Brunnhöhe 21  
97505 Geldersheim  
Tel.: 09721-86102  
Handy: 0171-5109356  
E-Mail: [davidgreaux@aol.com](mailto:davidgreaux@aol.com)

**Service Officer Robert Gray**

**Hello my fellow comrades,**  
I want to wish everyone the very best of health and sprit. I want to start off by thanking all of you, for the understanding that I'm moving. The fact is my home office is down and will be back up within two weeks, however, I'll keep doing what I have to do to be as prompt as I can to get back to you. For some of you I haven't been. I want to say I'm sorry for that. You can still reach me at my E-mail address which is [RLG052@yahoo.com](mailto:RLG052@yahoo.com). So for the month of October it was very busy. We had the DEC at GR01, which turned out great. I had the opportunity to clear some issues that came up. I also want to take this time to thank you the past Department Service Officer, Frank Hanchak., for a job well done. I also, again want to say that some of the posts out there are having