DEPARTMENT COMMANDER…Jimmie Dale

I’ve been asked why do I do what I do since I have a full-time job and I’m a Post Commander and now I’m Department Commander. The truth is I enjoy what I do because it is all about taken care of Veterans and their families.

I just return from Indianapolis Indiana last where I attended a conference at the American Legion National Headquarters. I’m very grateful I was given the opportunity to attend this conference because I was able to learned a lot of great information over the six days period from 12-17 Oct 2019 about the American Legion. I was also introduced to many different people with same strong drive and commitment for taken care of Veterans and their families.

The 2nd DEC on 26 Oct 2019 in Heilbronn, we had a good turn out and we were able to conducted great business but I wish more Post would attend these events and let their voice be heard. You missed out on some great comradeship and some great food. I’m looking forward to our next 3rd DEC on 21 March 2020 in Ansbach.

Some of the take away from my trip to National that I want to bring back to my Post and to Department:

* The Buddy Check Program- We need to establish a program for each Post the goal is to reach out and contact every member in your post just to check on them and see how they are doing and to see if they need any help or support with anything. This is not a membership renewal drive that will come later, on your first contact with them we just want to reach out and let the member know that we are here for them. This is also a great opportunity to let them know about what is going on at the post and inform them about any current or upcoming events that they might be interested in.

* Retention the National Commander has challenged all Departments to reach a 90% retention goal for the American Legion. I think the Buddy Check can also assist us with this goal after we make first contact.

* Consolidated Post Report (CPR) all Dept. Has been challenge to have a 100% Post reporting of their CPR to National. I heard from other Dept Commanders that they assume responsibility for what is known as paper post, those are the post that have very few members and they don’t submit any reports to the department or national.

* The National Commander set a 103% membership goal for this year. He also said he would to see the American Legion to grow by 100K new members this year.

Upcoming events for Department:
- Awareness Drives: The Dept. Membership Chairmen has scheduled several awareness drives that will start up in November with goal of reaching the National Commander goal of a 103% for all departments.
- Veterans Day Memorial Service in St. Avold on 10 Nov 2019 at 11:00 hrs.
- Oratorical contest is schedule for 22 Feb 2020 location in time TBD.

In closing I would like to thank all of the Post membership teams, Vise Commanders and the VCAL for their support in the Department making it 65% membership goal for this month. For God and Country, we serve our community Veterans, Dependents and Youth.

Jimmie Dale
Commander
Department of France
The artwork at National Headquarters behind the Commander was donated to The American Legion National Headquarters by the Department of France.
DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE... Joe D. Brown

Awareness Drive GR01
GR07 General Membership Meeting
GR79 Bowling

More questions answered as installations get ready for the potential 3 million extra shoppers... By: Karen Jowers

An extra 3 million people will be eligible to shop at commissaries and exchanges, and have certain MWR benefits. (Defense Commissary Agency)
Thanksgiving Day

Thursday 28 November 2019

Department of France Past Commanders Club

PCC President Dennis Owens
info@dennisowens.com

PCC Secretary Quincy Foster
qcfoster@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
News from the Department Service Officer:

Our Department Service Office is getting swamped with new Claims! We need your support. We will be offering a basic PSO training course on the 20th of March 2020. Anyone may attend this time. The course will give you an insight on how a PSO may help a Veteran. It will not allow you to "assist" the Veteran in filing a claim. You will learn the following:

- What forms are needed
- POC of our, current, 3 American Legion VA Reps
- What are presumptive condition
- What are secondary conditions
- Survivor Death Benefits
- Foreign Medical Program
- And so on…

At the end of the course, you will have to take a test. Upon successful completion of the test, you will awarded a certificate at the 3rd DEC the next day.

We need your support!
REMINDER…all newsletter articles should be turned in PRIOR to months end!

Davidg1959@t-online.de
AMERICAN LEGION
LIBERTY WALK

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2019

COMMEMORATE THE “BATTLE OF THE VIERSTRAAT RIDGE”
BY THE US 27TH & 30TH DIVISIONS AUG/SEP 1918.

FREE START AT THE VISITORS CENTER KEMMEL
START WALK: 09.00-12.00
SHORT WALK: 7 KM / 4 MILES
MEDIUM WALK: 11 KM / 7 MILES
LONG WALK: 18 KM / 12 MILES
EXPO VISITORS CENTER: 09.00-15.00
COLD WAR BUNKER FREE TOUR: 09.00-12.00
FOOD AND DRINKS AVAILABLE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
americanclegationlibertywalk@gmail.com

The organization is not responsible for any accidents, damage or theft
Responsible publisher: Joseph Schram, American Legion Flanders Field Post BE02
2020 OVERSEAS GRAVES DECORATION TRUST FUND
GUIDELINES

Trust Fund Members
Consists of the current National Commander of The American Legion, who shall be chairman, and the immediate Past National Commander of The American Legion and his predecessor, who shall be known as the Trustees, and who shall serve respectively for three, two and one years to be calculated from the last day of the national convention of The American Legion. The American Legion National Adjutant will serve as recording secretary, The American Legion National Treasurer will be Financial Advisor, and the Chairman of the Finance Commission who shall serve so long as he or she remains as chairman. Each retiring trustee is released from any and all liability by reason of his acts as trustee. The Trustees are charged with the custody, control and administration of the fund, the income of said fund are used to honor, preserve and decorate the graves of those U.S. Veterans who served in the World Wars, Conflicts, and Hostilities and who are buried overseas.

Purpose
Rather than barbecues, races or even parades, the real idea of Memorial Day is to remember those who served their country in uniform and are no longer with us. The American Legion has been in the forefront of such efforts since its existence – no matter how far-flung the fallen comrade.
The American Legion Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Fund was established in the 1920s, and provides all U.S. flags – from Emblem Sales, made in the USA – flown at cemeteries and burial sites in foreign countries where American troops are buried or otherwise memorialized. The first fundraising for the decoration of overseas graves took place in 1921-1922, and its current organizational plan has been in force since 1935.
The Trustees shall use the income of the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Fund to honor, preserve, and decorate the graves of those who served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America in World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, and of those who served during the period of the Vietnam Hostilities, who lie overseas. They may adopt and use such methods and means as they may deem advisable, including the active cooperation and aid of overseas Departments and Posts of The American Legion and any other agencies, and in pursuance thereof may prescribe details, methods, and practices deemed necessary, expedient, or convenient. The income shall be used exclusively to honor, preserve, and decorate the graves and for no other purpose, and under no circumstances shall the Trustees have the power or authority to expend, use or divert the Trust Fund or any part thereof for any other purpose.

In addition to the above guidelines this fund will financially aid Departments and Posts outside the continental United States of America to honor and decorate individual graves of those veterans who were laid to rest outside American Battle Monument Commission controlled facilities.

Funds Request Procedures
Fund requests will be sent to The American Legion National Adjutant. The following information is required for each request for funds.

1. The name of the Veteran.
2. The cemetery name and location (city and country) where the veteran is at rest.
3. A quote in writing (not to exceed $50.00) from a local florist, for flowers to decorate each veteran’s grave.
4. A mailing address for Emblem Sales use so they can mail each Department or Post “U.S.A. made American flag” for each grave to be decorated.
5. A mailing address for The American Legion National Treasure so he can mail each Department or Post the requested funds for each grave to be decorated.
6. After the Grave Side Ceremony in May of each year a picture with caption must be forwarded to the FODPAL Secretary.

OPENING DATE TO REQUEST OVERSEAS GRAVES DECORATION TRUST FUND MONEY IS 1 NOVEMBER OF EACH YEAR

REQUESTED FUNDS FROM THE OVERSEAS GRAVE DECORATION TRUST FUND ARE DISPENSED ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASES ANNUALLY UNTIL THE INCOME EACH YEAR IS DEPLETED

~ 8 ~
JOHN WAYNE POST GR 79

GREETINGS TO ALL - YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

To our Post Thanksgiving Dinner with families, friends, guests and Legionnaires. Planned foods include turkey, ham, different salads and much more. (Euro 15) for Adults or our Early Bird Price of (Euro 12) if purchased by November 9, 2019. The comradeships there is free for your enjoyment, Come on out!

23 November 2019
BTC Frim Au Strasse 32
74072 NSU-Obereisheim
14:00 hours

POC...Charlie Brown / 0170-1888034 / vcalbrown50@gmail.com or Commander GR 9 Ross Shephard rshephard3rd@hotmail.com
Good Day Legionnaires and Auxiliary

I hope everybody is doing well.

I would like to say “Thank you” to Christa Purdy, Karin Fleming with John, Margot Ziegler, Jim Dennis, Doris Garcia, Caroline Cochran and guests that assisted us to make the Cakes, bring Gifts and Get-Well Cards to the USO for our Veterans. They were surprised when they walked in and saw the 12 cakes. They ask us what's going on here. We told them we brought Cakes and Goodies for you all, so you feel like home. We got a lot of hugs and Thanks from the Veterans. We were there on the October 5, 2019 from 1.30 p.m. till about 4.30p.m. They ask us when we will be back. I told them, maybe for Christmas or for Easter, because I have to talk first to the Units when they have time to go. Everybody said Thank you for the Cake and Gift and when they left, they had a smile face and we were very happy.

I would like to say “Thank you” to Karin Fleming for buying the 2 small Ice Machine instead the one big machine. Karin Fleming, Christa Purdy and Family Dennis donate the Ice machine, because we did not receive very many donations.

The American Legion Auxiliary GR30 had their 20year Anniversary with Food, Cakes and Desserts. We had POW/MIA ceremony, a Memorial Service and Certificates for our members. I made a speech on what happened in the last 20years. I would like to say “Thank you” to The Auxiliary members for joining and for being at the Meetings and worked for the functions we had. Thank you.

Years ago, we had a Flyer for members Birthday for 50, 55, 60, 65 and so on. Where they would get a Birthday Card from the District of France. We ask that Family members or Friends to let us know in Advance, of their Birthday. Please inform me, so I can send them a Card. Please include their Name and address of those having a Birthday. If anyone has objections to us maintaining this Information. Please let us know upon sending the request. Thank you.

Also, I have something new for all Post's and Unit's. There is a Group, they have a Birthday Party at the end of each month for our veterans (USO). This Group donate Coffee and Cake for those veterans. This would be nice, if we could do the same for our members, especially for those who are alone or have no Family to enjoy the day with. You might also want to give them a small Birthday present, like Flowers or package with sweets like candy, chocolate and pralines. Maybe, you like to do the same for members who are alone.

Sonja Dennis
President
Department of France
David Chavez Post 1982 in collaboration with AAES Manager, USAG Ansbach, VFW Post 9342 Ansbach and VFW Post 10708 Illeshiem commemorating POW/MIAs National Recognition. A dedication commemorating the 82 thousands POW/MIAs was made possible by Past Commander Ken Aungst took place at the Katterbach AAFES Food Court on 20 September 1100 Hours. USAG Chaplin opened ceremony with an opening prayer. Post Commander Eddie Guevara, VFW 9342 Commander Dwight Johnson and VFW 10708 Commander Norbert Isaak dedicated POW/MIAs memorial as a physical symbol of the thousands of POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States of America. Post Commander Eddie Guevara lectured POW/MIA Table Ceremony and also Empty Chair Ceremony. Past Commander Ken Aungst gave a speech on his Unit POW/MIAs experience. A plaque and a wreath were permanently mounted on the wall as a token in commemoration of this august event. The ceremony ended with the sounding of taps by Commander Norbert Isaak.

David Chavez Post 1982 participated in USAG Ansbach Commemoration Ceremony for 18th Anniversary of 9/11 Attacks. Post Commander Eddie Guevara, Past Commander Ken Aungst and legionnaires join with the Military Community in Katerbach. The Post Colors was proudly presented with VFWs during commemoration ceremony.

David Chavez Post 1982 sponsored and hosted USAG Fishing event 7 September 2019. Leading the event 2nd Vice Commander Frank Phillips and with collaboration with MWR, VFW Post 9342 and VFW Post 10708. The event was well represented by over 20 volunteers from both VFW and Post 1982. Over 64 children and kids participated. The annual Fishing Event was a success story as plans made for next year. Post Commander, Eddie Guevara assisted by Commander of respected VFW presented medals to children and kids. The service organization provided fishing medals, food and refreshments for this event.
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.

Grande Chef de Gare 2020MY

Lee Preston

Grand Promenade 19 October 2019