

THE DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE OCTOBER 2007 NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION
Department of France

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Department Commander
Joe D. Brown

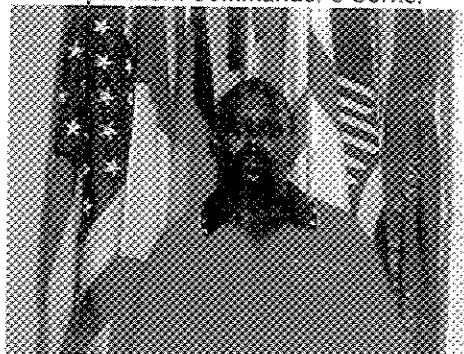
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Noia Maloney

National Executive Committeeman
William Marshall

Alternate NECman
Michael Umland

Department Vice-Commander At Large
Liam Kane

Department Commander's Corner



My fellow Legionaries,

As you know we lost Robert Cramer (Commander GR 79) to Post Everlasting on the 26th of September 2007, after his long battle with cancer. The Memorial Service was conducted here in Heilbronn, on the 29th of September; the service was conducted in both English, and German, and was supported by many of the Legion and 40&8 Family. Colors were in place and taps were played for our lost comrade, all present were able to light a candle in his name and give final respects. Rest In Peace Comrade Cramer.

On the 1st of September Legion and 40&8 conducted a joint grill party in Heilbronn. All there had a great time and brought the Legion and the 40&8 closer together. On the 3rd of September I attended GR 42's Early Bird and grill fest, my cap is off to those that organized this event it was well planned and executed. On the 5th of September I had the honor to visit the Fisher House at Landstuhl Medical Center along with Commander Young; they are providing a great service to our Wounded Warriors. I also had the opportunity to be present for GR 01's General Membership Meeting, which was very well handled and presented. GR 06 conducted a Sports Day on the 7th of September; another GREAT EVENT my cap is off to the members of GR 06. On the 15th and 16th of September I visited the annual POW-WOW held in Heilbronn. This event is conducted on American Indian history and traditions (a great event) on the 16th of September GR 79 conducted its annual 9-11 Memorial Service Ceremony, in addition all Veterans were honored by the members of the POW-WOW by having an Indian Warrior Dance done for them. On the 22nd of September GR 01 held it's Early Bird Dinner, the food was good, old friendships reunited, and new one's begun, a great event overall. Visited widows Frau Walker, and Frau Schindler (GR 79) both of them are doing very well and are in good spirits. Legionnaire Ed Carr is recouping at home and is improving daily. On the 8th of September attended GR 79 General Membership Meeting, and on the 30th attended their Executive Committee Meeting, both meetings went well.

Remember if you need to contact me I am just an E-mail away djcharlybrown@hotmail.com. In closing please keep those in harm's way and their families, not only in your thoughts but your prayers as well.

For GOD and Country

Joe D. Brown

Department Commander

The Department of France is not a USAREUR & 7th Army approved private organization.

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

15 -18th October Fall Conference (National Headquarters)

20 October Department DEC Hosted at GR 01 Kaiserslautern

From the Department Adjutant:

Nola Maloney
In process of re-locating to Kuwait
Department Adjutant

Department NECman's Comments
William Marshall
Department NECman

Vice Commander's Corner

Vice Commander at Large Liam Kane

September has come and gone and I have retired from the good paid job . So far I have kept myself busy since recovering from the party trail after retirement. In a couple of more days from now I will have had another operation on my eyes (3 since 9/11) and everything will be 100 % thank God . I have been in contact with most of the 12 Posts assigned to me I visited Netherlands Post 01 last week and hopefully they are now on the right road .a new Adj. has been appointed Bill Tripp and with Post Comm Waren Proctor they will make things gel! I returned home on fri.last and booked a flight to be at Bob Cramers Funeral the next day it was a rush but I got there on time to pay my respects to a great and very brave Legionnaire. On Sun I fly to Spain and hopefully a link up with our Spanish Post. It is with regret that I have to inform you of the death of a member from IR 02 Post Joseph P. Whelan. May both of them Rest in Peace. Thankfully Membership figures have taken an upward turn lets keep the work going word of mouth is still the best system as far as I am concerned as it also serves as a means of communication between people in ths age of the computer. Following the 2nd DEC I will be off again on Post trail with visits to Posts in Ireland France and Portugal . Dont forget that both my self and the 4 Vice Commanders are available to you JUST CONTACT JERRY, DARREL, FRANK or KEITH or LIAM or DEPT: COMM CHARLIE were here to serve. Hope to see you all in POST GR 01 later this month .

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
I have been in contact with my posts and I am happy to report that GR09 has went over the top in Membership congratulations to Commander Amen and all the members of GR09 also Legionnaire Grasser is out of the Hospital and is doing fine. I have been informed that GR42 is at 50% in membership for 2008 I have been invited to a Early Bird Dinner on the 3 November at GR09 which I plan to attend. Remember if you need to contact me you can reach me at dg.shannon@missouri.usa.com In closing please keep those who are defending our freedom and their families in your thoughts and in your payers.

Darrel Shannon
Department Vice Commander

Vice Commander Keith Abernathy GR01, GR06, GR07 and GR13

Before I write my Newsletter Article. I want to send my heartfelt condolences to the wife and Legionnaires of Post GR79 Commander Robert Cramer. I first met Commander Cramer at the Convention in Heilbronn and again on Sunday 16 September at the POW - Wow in Heilbronn. We talked for a short time just before he and his wife left, and we said goodbye and see you soon. I'm glad I got to speak to him. He was a true Legionnaire and warm person. GR79 and the rest of the Department of France will truly miss him. May God bless and keep you Robert Cramer.

I was in Heilbronn for the Memorial Service for the 9/11 Victims on 16 September this year and was really taken by surprise at how well it was organized. I was truly moved by the whole show and the service commemorating 9/11. A tip of the cap to Gr79 for a very impressive ceremony. On Saturday evening 22 September there was an Early bird Dinner in Kaiserslautern at Post GR01. All went well, even though I was not in attendance and wish I could have been.

Keith Abernathy
Department Vice Commander

Vice Commander Frank Hanchák GR14, GR20, GR45, IR63

Greetings my fellow Legionaries, Auxiliary, and S.A.L. Members
Have you ever heard anyone say "If you're gonna die, die with yer boots on"?

I am writing this month to tell you that someone has done, just that! Post Commander Robert "Bob" Cramer is the epitome of what a real Post Commander should be. Just mere days prior to his answering the last roll call, he stood in front of several scores of people and addressed them as the Post Commander. I have rarely felt more proud than I did when Commander Cramer gave a speech to this many people. I don't think I have ever addressed as many were listening to Commander Cramer talk about how he felt at the Patriots' Day Celebration on September 16th in Heilbronn. It's not good-bye that we said to him this month; rather, it was our collective statement of "See you soon!" For we know that when we see Bob Cramer next time, he will not be the ailing man that we knew, But he will be wearing his Commanders' Cap at the last roll call.

Frank J. Hanchak
Vice Commander

Vice Commander Jerry Aman GR03, GR79, GR1982

Greetings my fellow Legionaries, Auxiliary, and S.A.L. Members

Jerry Aman
Department Vice Commander

Department Chaplain

Chaplain's Page October 2007

Special Days/Legion Events: 8th Columbus Day; 13th Navy Day; 16th National Bosses' Day; 31st- Halloween (Halloween Safety Program)

Christian Religious Days:4th St. Francis Day (Cath); 6th- St Thomas Day (Orth); 18th St Luke's Day; 27th- Reformation Day (Prot); 28th- Milvian Bridge Day; 31st- All Hollows Eve/Reformation Day

Jewish Holidays (Year 5768): 4th Shemini Atzeret; 5th Simchat Torah;

Islamic Holidays: 13th Sep through Oct 13th Ramadan, 9th- Laylat el Qadr; 13th Eid al Fitr

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

Post Everlasting reported to September 27th:

Joseph P Whelan, IR-02
Eudell Turpin, wife of PNC Cal Turpin
Robert Cramer, Commander GR-79 who leaves his wife Rosemarie

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
Samuel Garner, GR-09
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

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.

We do have a great organization and we are not alone. Our country and organizations were built on the principles of God, freedom and remembrance. Memories of the wars and comrades who fought in them, as well as their families when they had given the ultimate sacrifice or were too ill to care for themselves.

No, we are not alone, we have over 2, 7 million members worldwide so it is a powerful giant, sometimes slumbering, but ever watchful, always with one goal in mind, to help veterans.

I have seen mountains moved by this organization in the short time that I have been with it. Last year at the National Convention, I heard about an American Legion group named the American Legion Riders. 2005/2006 National Commander Bock had called upon the Riders to start the "Legacy Scholarship Fund". and they collected \$184,000 for that worthy cause. Past National Commander Bock's time as National Commander is over, but 2006/2007 National Commander Paul Morin carried the challenge a step further and wanted \$250,000. Last count for this year's Legacy Run total was \$409,000. I took part in the Legacy Run this year and the "Spirit" was awesome. 2007/2008 National Commander Martin "Marty" Conasser wants to keep it going.

Closer to home, we also must remember what Past Auxiliary National President JoAnn Cronin started after her visit to Landstuhl Hospital in May of this year. Her efforts and appeal to the American Legion has resulted in over \$275,000 being donated specifically for the wounded there.

You want to know something? We are doing God's Work in that we care for our neighbor. Want to know something else? You, as a member of this great organization, have an important role in that every active thing that you do for the community and veterans, grows. You touch one person positively and it grows exponentially.

May God bless you and give you the strength to make that positive move everyday. Let us also continue to pray for our servicemen and women wherever they are stationed.

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

**Rev. Ronald Moore
Department Chaplain**

Service Officer Robert Gray

Hello my fellow comrades, again, as always, I wish everyone the best of health and sprit. I would like if possible for all Post Service Officer's (PCO) to show up at the DEC. on the 20 Oct, 07. I want to give a one hour class, and up-date you one what's new in VA. After the DEC, I would like to travel to some of our post's to get a feel of how were doing business for the retiree's.