Another month has fallen by the way side. I went to the GR09 Gmm on Saturday and had a super time. The meeting was outstanding and well conducted. It was also nice to see the members and attend a meeting at my old post. October will be a very busy month. 10 Oct 2015 is the date for the SAL DEC and 17 Oct is the 2 DEC and I will be in attendance at both. The Department Adjutant will be away in the States for the Call In which has been extended 2 days. Four days instead of two. I want to thank The Alternate NEC Man Ron Moore for going to the states on behalf of the Department for the Americanism Conference conducted at National. Thank you very much Alt Nec Man Moore. I have to go back to the Convention once again. I was great seeing a lady that I had not seen since 2007 and that is Nola Maloney. Great seeing you again Nola. Also seeing Bill and Helga Marshall after so long was also great.

Membership, membership, membership. Membership is the main topic for National. Member is down resulting in a 16.01% decline in revenue for the American Legion. This means there is less money to fund the programs of the Legion. These programs will not fall by the side of the road so this increase of $5.00 is very necessary to our cause. $5.00 a year will not kill us at all. So let’s get our members renewed and try to recruit new members so we can grow and continue with the programs that we are so famous for. From now on we be conducting Legion Awareness to recruit new members.

Keith Abernathy / Commander / keithabernathy1942@yahoo.de
Commander Barnett leads first Walk for Veterans

By John Raughter

Dozens of veterans, American Legion family members and friends walked a 2.5-mile roundtrip from Post 2 in Manchester, N.H., to the city’s Veterans Memorial Park on Saturday morning to kick off the first American Legion Walk for Veterans.

“We are the guinea pigs and want to make sure it goes well,” said John Graham, commander of the Department of New Hampshire.

The Walk for Veterans in New Hampshire was the first of many that will occur in departments across the country during American Legion National Commander Dale Barnett’s term as commander. Many of the proceeds donated during the walks will benefit the National Emergency Fund, Barnett’s fundraiser, which assists Legion family members and posts who have been impacted by natural disasters.

According to Barnett, the walk was a mission accomplished. “I am delighted with how it went,” he said. “It was great to get out in the community. We walk for veterans every day in The American Legion. We are an organization that touches so many people. The purpose of this walk is to make our communities aware of what we do. I think we’ve done that today.”

Clad in distinctive orange T-shirts, the walkers got the attention of motorists who honked in support and encouraged the group which included two World War II veterans and a 12-year-old Sons of The American Legion member.

“We have to let people know how we feel about veterans,” said 90-year-old retired Air Force Master Sgt. Lionel LeBlanc, who fought in the South Pacific. A member of Post 2, LeBlanc had no difficulty making the walk in memory of those he served with and to call attention to the current generation of veterans. “They’ve been shortchanged. We allow refugees to slip into this country and receive benefits, while veterans sleep under bridges.”

While at Veterans Memorial Park, Barnett was approached by Michael Murphy, an Iraq War veteran who was visiting a tree planted in memory of Marine Lance Cpl. Adam R. Brooks. “Adam died in 2004. We were best friends,” Murphy told Barnett. “I live every day to keep his memory alive. It’s not about what I did in the desert. It’s about what I do here.”

During the walk Barnett also met Anne Walsh, niece of the longest held prisoner of war from the Korean war. “I just wanted to thank the commander for what he is doing to raise attention about veterans,” Walsh said. Her uncle, John Downey, was shot down over China in 1952. He was held prisoner until President Richard Nixon obtained his release in 1973.

While more than a dozen departments have pledged to hold awareness Walks for Veterans, Barnett emphasized in a letter sent earlier this year to Legion departments that the walks do not have to occur during one of his visits. “If you cannot conduct a physical walk during my visit to your department, use the walk as a metaphor for another activity or event to support veterans,” he said. “Remember, we walk for veterans every day when we advocate for a responsive health care system. We walk when we welcome home a returning hero or when we make an Operation Comfort Warriors presentation. We walk for comrades when we hold a benefits fair or assist homeless veterans obtain food and shelter.”
Please send all input for the Department Newsletter to my email address at the latest three days prior to the end of the month. If possible, please use Word document format. PDF files are sometime unclear when copied. Constructive suggestions to improve the Newsletter are also welcome.

If you want to stay informed on what is happening with YOUR Department you can also visit the following sites, www.AmerLegionDeptFrance.org / www.Facebook.com/ALDeptFrance / www.legion.org/fodpal

Thank You.

David N. Greaux / davidgreaux@t-online.de

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From the Editor
Doug Haggan...
Past National Vice Commander/ FODPAL Secretary/ Past Department of France Commander

Thank You…I want to start by saying how truly honored I was to have represented The American Legion, Department of France, the Northeast Region, and this great organization The American Legion. This was a very humbling experience for me, one that I will remember the rest of my life. I do not want to single out any one person or group of people to say Thank You to, for I know I will miss someone, and I don’t want to miss anyone. So I will just say to everyone from Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, and France, Thank You so very much to everyone in the Northeast Region for your help and support, a lot of old friendships were made stronger, and along the way I made some new friendships, for this I will always be grateful. I learned so much from you all in the Northeast Region, and I promise I will pass that knowledge on to anyone who needs it. If anyone needs any help in the future please don’t hesitate to contact me. Once again Thank You for allowing me to serve you the Legion Family of the Great Northeast Region.

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE / MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN  Joe D. Brown

VCAL BROWN AND VICE COMMANDER FOSTER AT GR 05 POST HOME

GR 79 LEGION RIDERS GRILL PARTY
Paying to have the bar open was a nice touch. This weekend I visited the American Legion Riders Flanders Field Chapter BE02 for their Harley Davidson West Flanders open house ride (a *Harley Davidson Owners Group H.O.G. event*) kick-off BBQ at Brussels Garrison’s 3 Star Lounge. Normally not open on Saturdays, US Army’s MWR provided a staff of personnel and opened the bar in support of the event. I was greeted by President Paul Dunn and thoroughly briefed on the day’s events to include the recruitment of 6 new members for the American Legion, two members for the Auxiliary, and one transfer for the American Legion Riders.

I have some alibi’s for last month’s input that I was not able provide while being away on vacation with my wife and in-laws:

1. Attended GR06’s August stated meeting
2. Attended GR79’s August stated meeting and afterwards went to a local fest with Department Commander Keith Abernathy, Department VCAL Joe Brown and Department Vice Commander John Shanahan. It was a good time, I really enjoyed the company.
3. Last but not least, I attended the Flanders Field Adopter Appreciation Day ceremony which was by far a very humbling experience. I’m honored to have been invited to attend. Afterwards I attended a BE02 hosted BBQ which had quite the turnout of Local Nationals and Flanders Field Adopters. I’d like to point out and highlight the support provided by FR01’s Post Commander, Carl Hale and American Legion Auxiliary member, Lee Sperandieu for the entire day’s events; Adopter Ceremony and BBQ.

Regards, Lyndon Hudson, VC

All DEPT officers and committee chairmen. For those individuals that have a budget from Department, You need to ensure that you have an American Bank account. This includes the Commander On down (VCAL, Adjutant, etc). Also, be sure to email The adjutant and the finance officer, with any address Changes for your post. You can expect a check from Dept for online renewals every quarter, (October, January, April and July).

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**M-F 0800-1500 - 0711-680-4500, 1800 till 2100 - 0711-674-8370/GARY.D.MILLER2.CTR@MAIL.MIL or billsfan_gary@hotmail.com**
DETACHMENT OF FRANCE
Squadrons: GR01, BE02, GR06, GR07, GR14, GR42, GR79, CH01

Lee Preston… Detachment of France Commander “2016”

CALL TO THE SECOND DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

1300 hours on Saturday – 10 October 2015 - Schweinfurt, Germany

DJK Gaststätte
Josef-Reuss-Strasse 7
97424 Schweinfurt, Germany.

The agenda of business to be considered at the meeting will be provided at the registration desk. Registration of DEC delegates will begin at 12:00 hours

Post Everlasting

Post GR13…Hello. It is my sad duty to report the death of Nelson Guillory, a good friend & a special member. He died in Houston, TX and was buried in Military Cemetery. He was a Vietnam Vet and proudly served with 101st Abn Div. He will be missed.
The first one is next to the church of Champigny where there is a plaque. The gentlemen are the 2 sons of the American Legion, Eric Guint & François Glazener, the other two are myself Ginette Crosley who represented the PP1 ALA & of my daughter Michèle Crosley who represented AL.

The second picture is at the cemetery of Champigny where 5 American servicemen are buried Ginette Crosley.
Membership Drive

On 01 August, the post conducted a membership drive and information table at the AAFES PX on Chiévres Airbase. In addition to recruiting 6 new members, we were able to disseminate information regarding our upcoming Oratorical Contest and Boys State / Girls State programs.

SHAPE Fest

Post BE02 setup an information table at the annual SHAPE fest on Saturday, 05 Sept. We would like to thank Comrade Wellington Jose for his help during the day.

Borlo Liberation Commemorative Ceremony

On the weekend of 12/13 September, Commander Schram had the opportunity to observe the re-enactment between German and American Forces during the liberation festival at Borlo, Belgium. A commemorative ceremony was held that Sunday with the laying of wreaths. Commander Schram had the opportunity to meet Helen Patton, granddaughter of General George Patton of WWII fame.

POW / MIA Recognition Day

Members of Post BE02 commemorated POW / MIA Recognition Day on 18 Sep at the AAFES PX on Chiévres Airbase with a display of the POW / MIA Missing Man Table.

General Meeting and BBQ

Post BE02 conducted a general meeting on Saturday, 26 September and invited members and their families with a BBQ. During our Meet & Greet we recruited an additional 6 new members and 1 transfer to the American Legion Post BE02 and 2 new members to the Legion Auxiliary. An Outstanding Day!

Maurice Sperandieu

Maurice Sperandieu, WWII veteran and a member of the Flanders Field Post BE02 will be portrayed in the October addition of the Legion Magazine: [http://www.legion.org/magazine/229852/belgian-teen-soldier-american-veteran](http://www.legion.org/magazine/229852/belgian-teen-soldier-american-veteran)

Flanders Field Post BE02's youtube webpage

Visit Flanders Field Post BE02's youtube webpage to view a number of videos: [www.youtube.com/channel/UChayGVazQv_uT-7u7Dy7Z8g?view_as=public](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UChayGVazQv_uT-7u7Dy7Z8g?view_as=public)
On 28 Aug 2015 Augsburg held its fall "PLAERER" parade (Like Octoberfest). Augsburg American Legion Post GR13 took part in the parade with comrades from VFW. Active duty soldiers from Wiesbaden also marched with in uniform and sang Jodies. US Military vehicles owned by Juergen Center, Amerika in Augsburg Assoc. After the parade, we met in fest tent for chicken & beer.

Rick Cervenka
Columbus Day in United States

Columbus Day, which is on the second Monday of October, remembers Christopher Columbus' arrival to the Americas on October 12, 1492. This holiday is controversial because the European settlement in the Americas led to the demise of the history and culture of the indigenous peoples.

Christopher Columbus is often portrayed as the first European to sail to the Americas. He is sometimes portrayed as the discoverer of the New World. However, this is controversial on many counts. There is evidence that the first Europeans to sail across the Atlantic were Viking explorers from Scandinavia. In addition, the land was already populated by indigenous peoples, who had 'discovered' the Americas thousands of years before.

Columbus Day originated as a celebration of Italian-American heritage and was first held in San Francisco in 1869. The first state-wide celebration was held in Colorado in 1907. In 1937, Columbus Day became a holiday across the United States. Since 1971, it has been celebrated on the second Monday in October. The date on which Columbus arrived in the Americas is also celebrated as the Día de la Raza (Day of the Race) in Latin America and some Latino communities in the USA. However, it is a controversial holiday in some countries and has been re-named in others.

Columbus Day celebrations are controversial because the settlement of Europeans in the Americas led to the deaths of a very large proportion of the native people. It has been argued that this was a direct result of Columbus’ actions. It is clear that the arrival of the European settlers led to the demise of a large proportion of the history and culture of the indigenous peoples of the Americas. It has also been argued that Columbus should not be honored for discovering North America, as he only went as far as some islands in the Caribbean and never got as far as mainland America.

Department of France Past Commanders Club

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

Our next meeting will be during our Department Second DEC

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE... David Greaux, PCC Secretary “2016”
Veteran ID Card Act signed into law

By Brett Reistad, chairman National Legislative Commission - August 6, 2015

Posted in Digital Dispatch

On July 20, President Barack Obama signed into law P.L. 114-31, the Veterans ID Card Act of 2015 that creates a new identification card (ID) for a requesting veteran who is neither entitled to military retired pay nor enrolled in the VA health-care system. VA currently only provides VA-enrolled veterans with an ID card.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Vern Buchanan, R-Fla., requires the VA ID card to display the veterans name and photograph, and it serves as proof that the veteran has a DD-214 or other military service record. The card will not serve as proof of entitlement to any VA benefits.

With the new ID cards, veterans will not have to carry around their DD-214s, which decreases the potential for identity theft and fraud because they will not contain the same personal information that is contained on a DD-214.

The new VA ID card will be available to all honorably discharged veterans. A veteran requesting an ID card will have to provide a name, photograph and proof of his or her military service. VA will charge a fee for the card and there's not a set date when the cards will be available.

National Commander's Pin Incentive Program

During the 2015-2016 membership year, National Commander Dale Barnett will award his National Commander pin to any American Legion Family member who obtains three new members into The American Legion.

A new member is defined as any eligible person joining for the 2016 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2015 membership year.

Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Please forward names of SAL members or Auxiliary members to your detachment or unit for use in their respective incentive programs.

To maintain the integrity of the National Commander's pin incentive program, only one pin will be awarded per individual.

The certification form for this program may be submitted at any time after Aug. 30. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it. Commander Barnett's pin incentive program will end June 30, 2016, or when supplies are exhausted.
If you offer services to our Legionnaires and/or veterans and would like to let it be known...place it in the Department Newsletter. Contact the Newsletter Editor David Greaux with the information. The input will be reviewed and decided by Department if the article will/can be posted.