This month was another busy month for me and VCAL Brown. We conducted an Awareness Drive in Wiesbaden Post GR07 on 31 Aug 19 and we conducted another one the next day at Ramstien for GR01 and GR02 on 1 Sep 19.

We attended a ribbon cutting ceremony at NL01 in the Netherlands on 14 Sep 19 for their new Post Home grand opening. This was a great event they had 9 WWII veteran that came and participated in the ceremony. The next day we conducted another Awareness Drive at Spangdahlem for Post GR20 on 15 Sep 19.

Many thanks go out to Vise Commander Santos for traveling and attending all the events I listed above. I also want to thank all the post membership teams for their help and support the Dept achieve the 55% membership goal for this month. If your post has not reached the 55% goal this month, I challenge you to reach the next goal of 65% before the end of next month.

We visited the Fisher House on 23 Sep 19 to see the 20 TVs that had been donated to them by the American Legion. Michael Young from GR01 was a key POC and coordinated the delivery of the TVs. The Fisher House staff was very appreciative of all the support and great things the American Legion has done for them.

Last night 27 Sep 19 VCAL Brown and myself attended an early bird dinner with Post GR01. This was another great event that was hosted by GR01. While at the event we got a chance to recognize one of their members for his achievement of having 44 years of continues membership.

Don’t forget to make plans to attend our next DEC on 26 Oct 19. VCAL Brown has sent out some information for individuals that might want to spend the night in the area.

I am looking forward to my first visit to National next month for the fall call in. I am very proud of the fact I will be representing the Department of France.

Jimmie Dale
Commander
Department of France
The attached photos represent the Dept. Pre-Convention assemblies for group photos, passing out of badges and Credentials, parade lineup, photo of James Settle sworn in as the New president of FODPAL along with other officers, National Commander’s float, military awards float, Dept. of France members who donated blood during the Convention, Youth champions in various categories, dinner with some of the delegates and spouses and the Mall memorial marker on the parade route, including Past National Commanders...

Photos provided by Lionel Morais, Paris Post FR01 / Doug Haggan, Past National Vice Commander
James W. "Bill" Oxford was elected national commander of The American Legion on Aug. 29, 2019, in Indianapolis, during the organization's 101st national convention. He has been a member of the nation's largest veterans organization since 1986.

A native of Lenoir, N.C., Oxford is a paid-up-for-life member and past commander of Post 29 in Lenoir. He served as department (state) commander of the North Carolina American Legion from 2010 to 2011. A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Oxford was an aviation electronic technician for the A-6 Intruder and served in Vietnam during his initial enlistment. After being discharged as a sergeant in 1970, Oxford joined the North Carolina National Guard. He subsequently attended officer's candidate school and transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve, where he ultimately retired as a colonel after more than 34 years of military service.

Oxford has served at every level of The American Legion. A former mayor and city council of Cajah's Mountain, N.C., he has worked since he was a high school student, with most of his career choices being in the maintenance and engineering field. He earned a bachelor's degree in environmental studies and multiple safety and environmental certificates.

Oxford has volunteered as a coach, umpire, referee and administrator in several youth athletic programs, including service as the public address announcer for the Post 29 American Legion Baseball team.

An active volunteer with several organizations, Oxford is a member of Masonic Lodge-York Scottish Rite and the North Carolina Army Retirees Council. His theme as national commander of The American Legion is "A Foundation for the Future," as the organization enters its second century of service.

Oxford and his wife, Frances, have been married since 1967. They have a son, Charles (married to Deah Reid), and a daughter, Jackie (married to Mike Carr). They also have four grandsons, Isiah, Micah, Jaggar and Dawson.

- Download Hi-Res Photo
- View past National Commanders
Clint D. Bolt was elected National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion in Indianapolis, Indiana during the 48th national convention of the Sons of The American Legion.

Clint is a proud member of The Sons of The American Legion, John D. Sudduth Squadron 72 in Warrenton Virginia. Where he has been a member since 1998. Clint and Becky were married in 1987. They have one son named Jason. Jason is married to his wife Rachel; they have one daughter Ella Marie, who is 1 ½ yrs. old. Clint has two stepsons Greg and Josh. Greg has a 12yr old son name Caleb James. Josh is married and his wife’s name is Racheal.

Clint is a restoration carpenter. His most notable work is on North Wales; a 1750’s Country Estate in Warrenton, Va. once owned by Walter P Chrysler Jr. This home is listed on the National Registry of Historical Places and is one of the largest homes in the state of Virginia.

Other prominent work is on the c.1858 private residence of The Gray Ghost, Colonial John Mosby. This home served as a museum for the town of Warrenton for several years. All though now a private residence, this home is part of the Civil War history of the town and the State of Virginia.

Clint’s other interest in old things extends to Classic cars. He is a member of the Vintage Chevrolet Car Club of America. His current project is a 1935 Master Sedan. His goal is to have the car completed by the Memorial Day parade next year. There is nothing he likes more than going to car shows and seeing all those beauties.

Clint has served his Squadron and Detachment at all levels. Clint is most proud of The Detachment Scholarship program he started in 2003 a program that continues to this day.

Clint served as National Vice Commander for the year 2010. Served as Children and Youth Commission Chairman, VA&R Commission Chairman. He was the National Representative for The Sons of The American Legion on the VA Volunteer Service National Advisory Committee. This is the only outside organization that The Sons belong to with full voting privileges to assist The American legion.

Clint is eligible for membership through his Grandfather Kennard “KC.” Bolt. He served honorably in the United States Navy during WWII and was stationed at Norfolk, Virginia.

Clint is very proud of his Grandfathers service in the war but is also just as proud of his Grandmother, Marie Bolt’s service. She, like so many women at that time had to raise the family and work towards the War effort. She not only had her husband in the war but also had three brothers and many other family members serving. Remarkably, she managed to keep the home going raising little children, the oldest was my dad, William Bolt, but she was a lathe operator at the torpedo factory in Alexandria, Virginia.
Nicole Clapp of Gladbrook, Iowa, was elected national president of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) during the organization’s 99th National Convention held Aug. 23-29 in Indianapolis. Clapp will serve the patriotic service organization as national president for a one-year term.

Clapp joined the ALA as a Junior member at age 4. She has held numerous leadership positions in the organization at the unit, district, department, and national levels. At the national level, she served as 1987-1988 ALA honorary national Junior president and chaired many committees and served special appointments, including national Finance Committee chair, national Children & Youth Committee chair, national Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee chair, Future Focus Committee member, and ALA Centennial Strategic Plan Committee member. She also served as the national vice president in the 2018-2019 administrative year.

“I feel very humbled and honored to represent us in our 100th anniversary year, and to be the first honorary national Junior president to have life come full circle by becoming the national president,” Clapp said.

Clapp’s journey in the ALA started because she wanted to hand out poppies in exchange for donations. The little red flower is what attracted Clapp to the ALA, but its mission is why she stayed. “As a Junior member, I enjoyed how I felt each time I went to visit veterans and saw the smiles on their faces. I still have that same feeling while serving our mission,” Clapp said. “For the veterans, the visits offer a sense of appreciation in a basic gesture. To see a young person paying attention to them gives them a sense of hope. They see the future. They see that all of their efforts and sacrifices were not for naught. And they see that the individuals, be it Junior ALA members or others, have an understanding of their sacrifices.”

Clapp graduated with honors and distinction from The University of Iowa, where she obtained her bachelor’s degree in nursing followed by a master’s degree in nursing administration. She then relocated to Wisconsin for a 22-year career at Grant Regional Health Center. She is board-certified in healthcare management and an American College of Healthcare Executives Fellow. Clapp was named the Wisconsin chapter’s Young Healthcare Executive of the Year in 2004. She was also recognized as a one of Becker’s Hospital Review’s 50 Rural Hospital CEOs to Know in the United States.

A 44-year Paid Up For Life member of American Legion Auxiliary Gladbrook, Iowa Unit 127, Clapp is eligible for membership through the service of her grandfather, Roger Schroeder, who served in the Navy during World War II.

About the ALA: Founded in 1919, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) helps to advance the mission of The American Legion. With more than 600,000 members, it is one of the nation’s most prominent supporters of veterans, military, and their families. ALA members volunteer millions of hours annually, with a value averaging $1 billion each year. From helping to draft the GI Bill in 1944 to advocating for veterans on Capitol Hill, The American Legion Family has been instrumental in advancing legislation that improves the quality of life for our nation’s veterans. To learn more and get involved, visit www.ALAforVeterans.org
DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE 2019 – 2020 / POST MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

EARLY BIRD KICKOFF – 50%
Department Cutoff – August 30, 2019
National Cutoff - September 11, 2019

FALL MEETINGS – 55%
Department Cutoff – September 30, 2019
National Cutoff - October 09, 2019

VETERANS DAY – 65%
Department Cutoff – November 04, 2019
National Cutoff - November 14, 2019

PEARL HARBOR DAY – 75%
Department Cutoff – December 02, 2019
National Cutoff - December 11, 2019

MID-WINTER – 80%
Department Cutoff – January 06, 2020
National Cutoff - January 15, 2020

PRESIDENTS DAY – 85%
Department Cutoff – January 31, 2020
National Cutoff - February 12, 2020

LEGION BIRTHDAY – 90%
Department Cutoff - March 02, 2020
National Cutoff – March 11, 2020

CHILDREN & YOUTH – 95%
Department Cutoff – March 30, 2020
National Cutoff - April 08, 2020

ARMED FORCES DAY – 100%
Department Cutoff – May 04, 2020
National Cutoff – May 13, 2020

Department of France Past Commanders Club

PCC President Dennis Owens
info@dennisowens.com

PCC Secretary
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
Official Call to the 2nd Legion Department Executive Committee Meeting

Saturday, 26 October 2019

GR79 Post Home
Gastsatte Zum Reegen
74078 Heilbronn

11:00 - 12:00 Internal Affairs Meeting
12:00 - 13:00 Registration
12:30 - 13:00 Past Commanders Club Meeting
13:00 2ND Executive Committee Meeting

JOHN WANYE POST GR79

Commanders - Adjutants - Comrades,

There will be hotel rooms available to book if anyone plans on arriving early or departing on Sunday after the DEC. The rooms can be booked directly or you can send me your information along with when you plan to arrive and depart.

Hotel Gasthof zum Rössle Saarbrückener Str. 2, 74078 Heilbronn
Telephone: 07131-91550
ONE NIGHT SINGLE ROOM WITH BREAKFAST 84.00 EURO
ONE NIGHT DOUBLE ROOM WITH BREAKFAST 186.00 EURO

Or
B&B Hotel Heilbronn, Mozartstr 24, 74072 Heilbronn
Telephone: 07131-74960 / E-Mail: heilbronn@hotelbb.com
ONE NIGHT SINGLE ROOM WITH BREAKFAST 69.50 EURO
ONE NIGHT DOUBLE ROOM WITH BREAKFAST 88.00 EURO

The meal at the DEC will be a buffet at 17.00 euro per person, if you plan to eat, I would need a confirmation by the 18th of October as to how many people will be eating so that I can let the Gasthaus know prior to preparing the food.

Salat buffet  Main course of buffet  Dessert buffet
Roast Pork  Mushrooms in a cream sauce  Vanilla ice cream with berry sauce
Bean vegetables with bacon  Beef goulash  gravy
Spätzle, French fries

John Wayne GR79 POC - Charlie Brown / vcalbrown50@gmail.com
DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE Joe D. Brown

Landstuhl Fisher House and USO

Awareness Drive GR01

NI01 Open House
We celebrated our grand opening of our post building in Kerkrade! We were so blessed to have 9 WWII Veterans join us. They are traveling through the land they helped to liberate. You can follow their travels with the "Best Defense Foundation" on Facebook! [https://www.facebook.com/bestdefensefoundation/](https://www.facebook.com/bestdefensefoundation/)

Also joining us were several Department of France Officers, Commander Jimmie Dale, Vice Commander at Large Charly Brown, our Vice Commander Guy Walton, NECMAN James Settle, has wife (Auxiliary Membership Chairman) Isolde Settle, Vice Commander Santos Alvarado, Commander Post 79 Ross Shephard III, and Quincy Foster.

Thank you for traveling so far to be with us for this special day.

Many thanks go out to all in our post that put so much effort in making this day a wonderful experience. Our Chaplain Scott Eidson's dedication was spot on brilliant! Our Sgt at Arms Mark Chernek sang his song "Freedom" in front of the 9 WWII Veterans, the Greatest Generation there ever was. Joshua Steinlicht and Richard Ojeda Rocked on the BBQ Grill! Chuck Hamilton kept track of the signature pens and made sure everyone signed in the proper place! Andy Clevenger was instrumental as road guard for the Veterans Bus! Roy Smith arranged the local press to be there for us and went out to hang the signs. And we cannot forget all of the wonderful food that was brought in. Amanda Zenner organized the Perfect Pot Luck and baked those delicious cookies. Ronald Macauley spent several trips to purchase our food and ice! These events don't just happen, many folks go way out of their way to ensure success. The words Thank You just do not feel strong enough!

Piet Heuts and the wonderful folks at the GOC welcomed our post into the building. Veterans helping veterans and first responders is what they do best!
REMINDER...all newsletter articles should be turned in PRIOR to months end!
American Legion Auxiliary hosts the first annual Mother & Son Day

We would like to invite you to a day of activities and competition! All ages are welcome!

Oct 5th 2019 @ 16h-19h; SHAPE International Cafeteria

Tickets: €25 for couple + €5 for each additional son
- Included are game tickets. Additional ticket will be available for purchase

For tickets or for more info contact:
American Legion Auxiliary BE02
flandersfieldauxiliarybe02@gmail.com
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 conditions
- 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!
Kaiserslautern Post GR01

Early Bird Dinner

American Legion Liberty Walk

Saturday November 9, 2019

Commemorate the “Battle of the Vierstraat Ridge” by the US 27th & 30th Divisions Aug/Sept 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:
americanlegionlibertywalk@gmail.com

The organization is not responsible for any accidents, damage or theft.
Responsible publisher: Joseph Schramm, 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 GRAVES DECORATION TRUST FUND ARE DISPENSED ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASES ANNUALLY UNTIL THE INCOME EACH YEAR IS DEPLETED

~ 15 ~
Dear Legionnaires and Ladies

We, as the District, would like to donate an Ice machine to the USO, Medical Warrior Center. We would like to know if you would like to help us collect the money. They are very expensive, and we do not have the money for one. If you would like to donate, please send a check to Christa Purdy (1st Vice President). She is taking care on the Money and on the Ice machine. We accept both Euros and Dollars. Her address is Christa Purdy, Berliner Str. 74, 66849 Landstuhl

I would like to say “Thank you” to all who help us and we appreciate your contribution to our project. This is one of our Projects for the year. We do have more, but this is one is too important for us.

I would like to inform you that the District Secretary has resigned her Position. I now appoint Christy Purdy as my new District Secretary. I wish her Good Luck. Please send all correspondence to her at...E-Mail: christa.purdy@gmx.de
Tel. Nr.: 06371-62687

Thank you. Sonja Dennis President District of France

Legion updates Auxiliary eligibility criteria from ‘wives’ to ‘spouses’

By Henry Howard AUG 31, 2019

During The American Legion’s 101st National Convention, delegates approved changes to the Constitution and Bylaws to replace the word “wife” with “spouse,” related to the membership criteria for the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA).

The American Legion, which was chartered by Congress, created the ALA. For that reason, the ALA operates as a separate corporation and does not need congressional approval for an eligibility change. The American Legion’s bylaws have always set the eligibility requirements of the ALA.

“We are happy to welcome eligible male spouses of veterans and servicemembers to the American Legion Family,” ALA National President Nicole Clapp said. “This is consistent with our longstanding legacy of embracing military families and supporting them any way we can.”

The ALA expects to begin taking applications for new potential members Sept. 1.

The change to Article XIII now reads as such:

The American Legion recognizes an auxiliary organization, known as The American Legion Auxiliary.

Membership in The American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the:

(1) grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion; and
(2) grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who served in either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918, and any time after December 7, 1941, who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of their entry therein served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during either eligibility periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge;
(3) grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941 who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States during either eligibility periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and
(4) to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.
Columbus Day History

Columbus Day is the celebration of the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the Americas on October 12, 1492. Christopher Columbus was an Italian-born explorer who discovered the Americas for the Spanish King in 1492. King Ferdinand of Spain sponsored the expedition west in the hopes of sailing to India. In August of 1492, Columbus set off into the Atlantic with three ships, the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria. Two months later he would set foot on the Bahamas and establish settlements on Hispanola Island (now Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Upon his return to Spain, he spoke of gold in the New World and thus the Americas were opened up for European colonization.

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared October 12th every year as Columbus Day. In the US, Columbus Day is celebrated by all US states except for Hawaii, South Dakota and Alaska. Columbus Day now occurs on the second Monday in October each year.

Renew membership online
Schaaff Sworn In as Newest Post GR07 Member

Gulf War Era U.S. Army Veteran William Schaaff, center, is sworn in as a Legionnaire by Post Commander Jimmie Dale, right, as Sergeant-at-Arms Braun Schneider assists, Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019, in Wiesbaden, Germany. (Photo by Todd Johnson for The American Legion)

The American Legion
John Wayne Post GR79
SON OF THE LEGION
Cordially Invites You To

Annual Pumpkin Carving
(For Children 4-12 Years Old)

When: 27 October 2019
Location: Gartenfreunde Klingenberg
Im Bruch
74081 Heilbronn - Klingenberg

Time: 1400-1800

Menu:
Hot Dogs and Fries (For Children)
Chili (For Adults)
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.

Our next Grande Promenade is planned for Saturday, 19 October 2019…the “CALL” will be sent out!

Grande Chef de Gare 2020MY  Lee Preston

Halloween History

Halloween, also called All Hallow’s Eve, occurs on the eve of the Western Christian celebration of All Hallow’s or All Saints Day – a day set aside to honor all the Saints of Christendom. Halloween is also a popular celebration with ties to the Celtic festival of Samhain, a celebration of the end of the harvest. The name Halloween comes from the longer name ‘All Hallow’s Eve’. In the US, this is a popular holiday for young and old and involves dressing up in costumes, harvest parties, and ‘trick or treating’. It is celebrated every year on the 31st of October.