Day Three of Legacy Run

On the way to The American Legion 94th National Convention, Indianapolis, Indiana

Photo by Amy C. Elliott
Commanders Corner

Time does not stand still and we are moving quickly towards our 2nd DEC on October 20th which is being hosted by Kaiserslautern GR01 as voted upon at the 1st DEC by 2/3 majority of the delegates present and voting. As the new Department of France Commander, I promise that we will adhere to valid The American Legion National and Department Constitution/Bylaws for all meetings and resolutions. Robert's Rules of Order only guide in those few instances where our Department or National Constitution/Bylaws are silent.

I have been in CONUS for the past couple of weeks representing the Department of France during the 2012 Legacy Scholarship Run and the 94th National Convention held in Indianapolis, Indiana. My thank you and deep appreciation go to delegates to the Convention including Delegation Chairman Doug Haggan, Delegation Secretary Bob Fueling, outgoing NECMan Liam Kane, incoming NECMan/outgoing alt NECMan John Miller, incoming alt. NECMan H. Ownby, DJA George Seeburger, PDC Bill Marshall, Children & Youth Chairman Gino Cantu and yours truly as Department Commander. Delegate travel, attendance and participation is fully at the cost to the attendee and Department only pays the $25 cost imposed by National per authorized delegate. Delegation Chairman and Delegation Secretary receive an allowance to cover costs involved with being at the convention two days in advance to handle the necessary administrative work and it is a lot of work that is involved.

The 2012 Legacy Scholarship Fund Run from Niagara Falls/NY to Indianapolis was a great success and National Commander Wong, his wife Barbara and aide Doug Miller actually rode Trikes with us on a portion of the Run. They accompanied us for the full Run and were all overjoyed that the Legacy Scholarship Fund received over $668,000 this year and still counting. My personal thank you to the following 2012 Legacy Scholarship Fund donors who contributed $100 or more:


I'm sure there are other donations underway and they will be counted when I return.

Our congratulations and wishes for success to 2012-2013 National Commander is James “Jim” Koutz, Auxiliary National President is Peggy Thomas and S.A.L. National Commander is Chris Huntzinger. We had a chance to meet with National Commander Koutz concerning his planned trip to the Department of France in May 2013 and we promised that it would be a mutually satisfying trip for all involved. If you have suggestions or are asked for assistance by VIP Chairman John Miller, please help him in a timely manner.

Care of our Veterans and their families (any person who has served one day of active duty during one of the War Eras qualifies as a Veteran, so our active duty personnel are naturally included under the term "Veteran"), Post membership and The American Legion programs should be effectively handled by every Post and Department of France member.

Veterans-
This is on-going and can be a one-on-one situation. Let's care for our Veterans and their families, especially where people are deployed or one of our heroes is injured or has paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Membership-
This is an easy fix since we only need to retain 100% of our present membership. We all know at least one person who is qualified to be a Legion member, so all members need to bring in one person. All you have to do is ask! Sign that person up and we will have attained an “impossible” goal, by just accomplishing that small step. Remember F.I.R.M. (Find them, Initiate them, Retain them, Mentor them).

The American Legion Programs-
Haven’t completed the Legion Extension Institute Online course yet? Not quite sure what programs we have at present? We should be fully working on Oratoricals, Boys State and School Education programs. Remember that the Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Riders are also programs of the American Legion. If you have room in your Post for one or both programs, think of the impetus they can give you towards being more effective in Post programs and help to our Veterans.

Some Posts are really good because they have an active Auxiliary to support them. Your wife, mother, daughter or granddaughter could be of crucial help to your Post and it would be great to expand our American Legion family here in Europe.

My prayers continue for the safety and health of our servicewomen, servicemen and their families, no matter where they serve. My heartfelt thank you goes to every Veteran who has served our great Nation. My deep appreciation and thank you also goes to the Department of France Legion Family. May God continue to give us strength to continue to serve our Veterans and America.

For God and Country!

Rev. Ronald Moore, GR05
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From the Editor

Please send all input for the Department Newsletter to my e-mail address by the 26th of the month. Please use Word document format. Constructive suggestions to improve the Newsletter are also welcome.

Thank You.

John D. Fleming
Editor
E-Mail: pastcmdr.fleming@gmail.com
Vice Commander

Greetings Commanders & Comrades,

I’m overwhelmed with the dedication and devotion of the Post Commanders and fellow Legionnaires. I attended the Leroy Riley Pitts Post GR07, Mannheim, Post meeting, 7 August, with six Legionnaires present. The Post sponsors the BBQ Welcome Home Ceremony for the 515th Transportation Company due to arrive at Coleman Barracks, Mannheim, in the September timeframe. Post GR07 sponsored the Vicenza JROTC Award Program with great success.

I attended the Thomas W. Barnett (TWB) Post GR14, Buedingen, Post meeting, 8 August, with sixteen Legionnaires present for their meeting. The Post is actively involved with the JROTC Bamberg and a certificate of letter of appreciation was presented to the Post from the JROTC students. Post Adjutant Carl Hackworth received the Post Legion medal for his Outstanding Service to the Post.

Post IR02, Killarney, performed commemoration 18 August, for Private Edmond M. Brunick at the Shanrahan Cemetery, Bansha County Tipperary, Ireland.

Post IR03, Claremorris, performed grave rededication of Corporal Phillip Duffy at Kilmore Cemetery near Kilmore Co. Mayo, 11 August. The next grave rededication is 1 September, at Mellick Tower Co. Mayo, at 3 p.m. to honor Corporal Martin Foy. The Irish Posts website is: www.americanlegion-ireland.com. I plan to visit John Barry Post IR03 for their Annual Meeting at the Dalton Inn, Claremorris, 7 October, 3 p.m.

The Annual Meeting for Rhein Main Post GR05, is 26 September, 6 p.m., at the old Post Home, Langstrasse 28/30, 64546 Moerfelden/Walldorf.

Congratulations to The American Legion Posts over 50% membership (Early Bird/NEF Kickoff, September 12, 2012): Rhein Main Post GR05, 103.15%; TWB Post GR14, 73.21%; and other Posts as well.

The VFW, Department of Europe, is hosting the Eastern States Conference in Garmisch, Germany, at the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort, 1 – 9 October 2012. The Department C of A Meeting is schedule for 6 October. After the Department Council of Administration meeting, the Eastern States Conference plan to have their meeting. After the meetings, the Department of Europe is hosting a banquet. For details of the Department C of A meeting and Eastern States Conference, contact the Department Adjutant, Pete Mascetti at his email: pokerp@yahoo.com. To make reservations, go to the Edelweiss website: www.edelweisslodgeandresort.com and click VFW Conference Package. If you have problems, contact the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort.

Commanders and Fellow Legionnaires, many thanks for what you do for your Posts and the communities you serve.

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National Executive Committee Man

This being my first newsletter input as your NECMan for the next two years, I want to thank all the Legionnaires for placing their faith in me to look after the best interest of the Legionnaires of the Department of France. I arrived on the evening of 22 Aug 2012 and the next morning met with the Department Convention Chairman Doug Haggan and we started making the rounds and meeting the HQ staff. The 2012 Legacy run home rolled in to Indy today and at the same time the Legion Riders Expo kicked off. This is three full days of motorcycle education, recreation and fellowship. This Expo includes basic and advance training for both riders and observers. The training will include advance riding experience and military sport bike training.

There will also be training on community service and managing an American Legion Riders (ALR) program. Other events include a demo from the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Motorcycle Drill Team, various rider skills competitions followed by a "Night Ride on Indianapolis" following the Legacy Scholarship candlelight memorial ceremony on 25 Aug 2012.

My first NEC meeting will be in Mid Oct 2012 and I’m looking forward to representing our Department.

For God and Country

John H. Miller, PDC
National Executive Committee Man
miller-roth@t-online.de
Fellow veterans'

My Dear Comrades;

Another month has come and gone and here I am trying to come up with something inspirational to say but I cannot come up with anything so I will just have to play it by ear.

This month, I had the great honor of attending a "Purple Heart" ceremony. It was my first time of viewing something of this magnitude and it touched me deeply. In this case, the medal was given to his widow since he had died in the line of duty. It was heart wrenching because I realize that we still have men and women in the Combat Zones who are still risking their lives every day. Anyone who was there had to be moved by the General's address and by the way his young widow conducted herself. I know that with war, there will be casualties, but it really hits home when it is from one of your bases. Please keep these young men and women in our prayers.

This month, I also want to impress upon us that we, as the old soldiers, must be an example for those now serving in the military. We, who are the Legion, must be there for the men and women who are the protectors of this great nation. We must help them as much as we can by helping out at the bases, at the community centers, and any other functions which involves their families. Let them know that we understand what they are going through and that we will be there to support them and their families in their endeavors.

I want to share something with you that happened at my last Legion meeting. A young man stood up and asked to address the membership. He said that he wanted to tell us why he joined the Legion. He said that he was recently wounded and found himself at a hospital. He said that the first thing he saw was a couple of old men with funny hats. He said that they were there because they wanted to thank him for his sacrifices. They also were there to buy him clothes, since all he had were a pair of bombed out fatigues. That moment he knew that he must join the Legion so that he could help others. His comment was "I cannot be an old man but I can wear a funny hat." This is what is called, "passing forward."

Finally let us remember those who have passed away and those who are still suffering with illnesses. Please put them in our prayers.

**Passed Away:**
- Michael J. Kogutek, PNC
- Betty Aker, Wife of James “Jim” Aker, PNC
- James Settle/Joshua Settle’s Sister-in-Law/Aunt
- Brigitte Thierfelder, Mother of Karin Fleming (John's Mother-in-Law)
- Sid Jenkins, Commander, GR30

**Sickness:**
- George Hall
- John Miller
- Dick Miller's wife

If I missed anyone please add their names

Again, I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve you as your chaplain.

Sincerely yours;

David Boedeker
Chaplain
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In June 2010, the Department of France honored me by electing me as your NECMan for 2 years. I was humbled by the decision, but vowed to carry out my duties to the highest order. I sought out my brief and was a little taken aback from the information that I had to extract on my arrival to my first NEC Meeting in Indianapolis. Things got better as help, advice and friendship was at hand. I attended every session and meeting since. Economics was the Committee to which I was assigned and was made to feel at home by the Chairman after I walked into the first meeting. It was not a call in, but I was welcomed and took part in debate. My only difference was that I did not have a vote. I was asked back to the following 3 sessions that October and have been ever present since then. After one year I was appointed to sit on the Liaison Committee and was honored to do so. The amount of work was huge and over a huge range of subjects. The permanent staffs at both the National and Washington Office were first class and really totally interested in their work keeping everyone up to date on a weekly basis. When I received items of interest to members in the Department of France the information was passed to the members by our hard working Adjutant James Settle, to whom I am very grateful. At each DEC Meeting I left Information, copy of minutes, etc., on a table for people to take home and informed our members of issues through my monthly NECMan report. One of the very important issues was that of trying to get returning Members back to work and I kept requesting the Head Office Staff to include Europe on their schedule and finally succeeded in July 2012 with two Job Fairs in Germany. I spoke about these at our Department Convention and any other platform available to me. I felt that we could get some return from same. The organizers were happy with the venture. The prolonged effort to have Postal problems being of great inconvenience to our members in Portugal was aired by me when then huge reduction of postal workers came before the committee and I aired our case. Finally, the Resolution from Portugal Post PO01 has been approved and hopefully it will be kept going. I will watch with interest.

During my two year term I visited other Committees when time permitted and of course I stood in for both the Department Adjutant and Commander at the Fall Meetings last October, travelling over a day early to insure that we were represented. SAL meetings were interesting too. The visits of our National Commanders to our Department were extremely different time wise and in organizing. The latest long visit was organized by our then Department Commander Joe Brown and encountered a lot of problems, but had a great finale with a tour of Paris and a visit to the site of the Original Meeting place of the first ever meeting of the American Legion, thanks to Clarita Geoghegan of Paris Post FR01, before the party moved on to Normandy.

To all who helped in any way during my two years as your NECMan, I thank you and once again wish to state a fact, not a rumor, that I attended all meetings that I was assigned to and proof is there by checking the records at National. Before I left the National Convention, I personally wished John Miller the best of luck in his term and also to H Ownby in his capacity as Alternate NECMan, assuring them that if I could be of any help at any time that I would be only too glad to help.

I look forward to serving the American Legion Department of France in my new assignment as Advisor to the Department Commander.

To all the New Officers at Post and Department have a great year and again I will help at all times for the Good of the Legion.

Beannacht De oraibh go leir
God Bless you all, Liam

Liam Kane
Past NECMan
E-Mail: commliam@gmail.com
GR14 Post Meeting and Awards

Post Vice Commander Jeffrey Lamar presents Grateful Appreciation Medal to Post Adjutant Carl Hackworth
Grave Rededication of CPL Phillip Duffy at Kilmore Cemetery, near Kilkelly, Co. Mayo