MARGRATEN POST NL01 NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2019

Words from Commander Ray

Inspiring...a simple word to describe last month. I seem to feel that way about everything we do. From the high spirited comradery from last week's Post Dinner, I reckon you all feel the same way. The Post Dinner was a terrific success thanks to the many who attended! I also wish to thank the many members who wrote me, saying that they regretted not being able to attend due to duty, work, and other obligations. That means a lot and shows how much you value our legion family. The Post Dinner will be an annual event, along with a big Post BBQ event in the Spring/Summer time. Special Thanks to 2nd Vice Harvey Briggs III and Service Officer Ron Macauley for putting it together!!

We also attended the 20th Anniversary of the four crewmembers who lost their life when their KC-135E call sign ESSO 77 crashed at Geilenkirchen Air Base 13 January 1999. I would like to thank Historian Dennis Owens, Sgt-at-Arms Mark Chernek, and Legionnaires Andy Clevenger and James Scott for standing shoulder to shoulder with me.

We did have a rough start to the New Year with one of our best and brightest losing her father on New Year's Eve. The Post quickly rallied around Kiara and we were able to help where we could. The donations from our legionnaires made a huge impact in support of the Valencia family and the flowers were beautiful.

So, what's coming up next? A Lot! The schedule for the year is looking very action packed! We have the American Legion Centennial in Paris 15-17 March. Right now I show five Post members with two family members going. If anyone is planning or interested in going to the Celebration, please contact me via FB or Email.

We also will be attending no less than 10 75th Anniversary Commemorative events this year!

I'll Say it again: This is the best time to be a member of the American Legion!

Dates to Remember

15 Feb - Gen Membership Meeting

23 Feb - Dept Oratorical Contest

15 - 17 Mar - Centennial, Paris

24 Mar - 3rd DEC

30 Mar - Monthly Membership Meeting + Post Officer Elections

If you have an article you wish to submit, please send it to the Post Commander @ Raymond.perezjr@yahoo.com
As always special thanks to Dennis Owens and other Legionnaires who provided pictures for this newsletter!

Post NL01 Legionnaire Spotlight

From the Viet Nam era to active duty folks, our post is blessed with many incredible people representing all the services. Putting a few of our Legionnaires under the spotlight is a regular feature in our newsletter. I think it's important to learn more about our comrades and benefit from their stories. ~ Commander Ray

JOSHUA STEINLICHT

I always knew that I wanted to be a Soldier. I have fond memories of watching parades in my hometown, the American Legion Color Guard leading the parade, proudly marching with the Nation's Colors, raising the American Flag at every home football game and rendering military honors at graveside services. After graduating high school and a technical trade's school, I worked as an automotive technician for a few years. Eventually I grew bored of the hum-drum life in small town Gibson City, Illinois and enlisted in the Army in 1995 as a Bradley Fighting Vehicle Mechanic. I attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Having joined on the heels of military actions in Haiti and Somalia, I assumed that I had missed all of the "fun". I was part of the peacetime era Army where it felt like my daily focus was polishing boots and ironing uniforms.

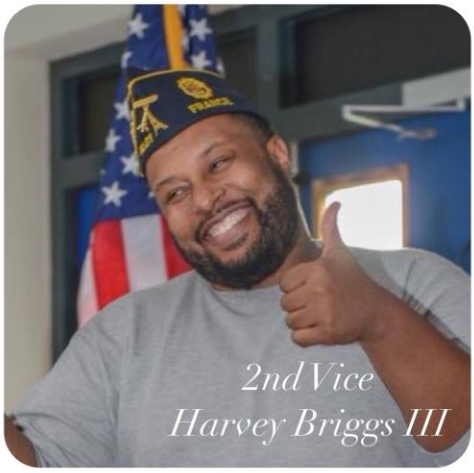
When I enlisted, I told myself that I would serve the first three years to see how it went and decide whether I would continue to serve. Needless to say, I reenlisted and would continue to do so three more times. The last of which was for the needs of the Army for an indefinite period of time that ended up being over 11 years! In my career, I was deployed a total of seven times to Kosovo, Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan and Africa.

Fast forward 22 years 7 months and 19 days (but who is counting) somehow, I became the old guy. I couldn't imagine the places that I would visit or the amazing people that I would meet. I had the opportunity to serve as a leader of the greatest Soldiers in the world. I thought that I was finally ready to retire from service and was able to quickly land my first post Army job as an automotive technician. It only took me six months to figure out that I missed being around people who think and talk like me. I sought employment and was hired as a Department of the Army GS employee. I am able to continue service as a maintenance Quality Assurance Specialist at the APS-2 Site in Eygelshoven, Netherlands.

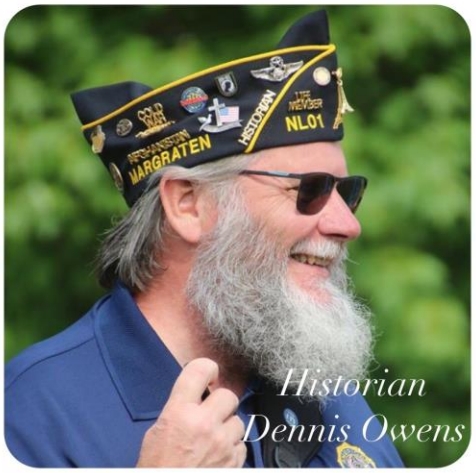
I have been married to my wife and best friend Kandice for nearly 10 years, we have four children between us with only the youngest, a six-year-old son, living here in the Netherlands with us. I am proud to be able to finally spend time traveling with my Family and am able to volunteer as my son's Cub Scout Den Leader.

I enjoy being a member of the American Legion and being able to share stories and learn from the other Veterans. I think that it is important to encourage the younger generation of service members to join the American Legion and take every opportunity to inform them of the importance of being a member and how our national leaders speak in a unified voice for us and fight for our rights and benefits.

American Battle Monuments Commission
@abmcpage



AMERICAN LEGION
MARGRATEN POST NL01



American Legion
"Margraten" Post
NL01
@PostNL01

Remembering the crew of ESSO 77

On Jan. 14, a ceremony took place to remember the fallen KC-135E crew of ESSO77. The ceremony was attended by current and former members of the 141st Air refueling Wing at Fairchild Air Force Base - to include five complete air crews, members of the NATO Airborne Early Warning & Control Force E-3A Component, American Legion Post NL01, local dignitaries and other supporters from the civilian community.

We had the honor of paying tribute to Maj. David Fite, Maj. Matthew Laiho, Capt. Kenneth Thiele and Tech. Sgt. Richard Visintainer, who perished when their KC-135E Stratotanker crashed near Geilenkirchen Air Base on Jan. 13, 1999.

“This tribute exemplifies the steadfast devotion that we share together as servicemembers,” said Col. Greg Nolting, commander of the 141st Operations Group. “This devotion is an attribute of military service that we cherish. In remembrance, may we honor our fallen friends and their loved ones.”

The crash was the single worst incident resulting in the loss of life for the unit since its formation in 1924, and it was the only fatal accident to occur with a KC-135 since the 141st began aerial refueling in 1976.

“The aircraft accident and loss of our friends was life impacting,” said Nolting. “You never truly recover from a loss of this magnitude as they were our squadron mates, mentors and friends who we shared memories with flying around the globe. The most difficult part to cope with is the thought of the pain their families went through. I think of them often.”

Post NL01 Commander Raymond Perez Jr. laying the the floral tribute.

ESSO 77 Commemoration Stone at Geilenkirchen Air Base, Germany

LORE OF THE LEGION

STORY: JEFF STOFFER
ART: GARY MARTIN
COLOR: MARCUS ESKOW

JAN. 23, 1943: THE *DORCHESTER*, A CONVERTED CIVILIAN LINER, STEAMS THROUGH 54-DEGREE NORTH ATLANTIC WATER TOWARD ARMY COMMAND BASE, GREENLAND, WITH 902 ABOARD.

GERMAN U-BOAT 223 SPOTS THE *DORCHESTER* AT 12:55 A.M. ON FEB. 3 AND FIRES A TORPEDO THAT KNOCKS OUT POWER AND COMMUNICATIONS. SOLDIERS ARE TRAPPED BELOW DECK. PANIC SETS IN. MEN SCRAMBLE TO GET OFF THE SINKING VESSEL. THE CHAPLAINS TRY TO ORGANIZE AN ORDERLY EVACUATION.

THE CHAPLAINS PASS OUT LIFE JACKETS AND HELP OTHERS ONTO LIFEBOATS. WHEN ALL LIFE JACKETS ARE GONE, THEY REMOVE THEIRS AND HAND THEM OVER TO THE MEN.

AS THE *DORCHESTER* SINKS, THE CHAPLAINS LOCK ARMS ON THE RISING BOW, IN PRAYER FOR THE OTHERS. SURVIVORS IN THE WATER HEAR THEM SINGING HYMNS IN HEBREW, LATIN AND ENGLISH.

U.S. COAST GUARD CUTTERS *ESCANABA* AND *COMANCHE* RESCUE MOST OF THE 230 SURVIVORS. A MAJORITY OF THE 672 WHO PERISHED DIE FROM HYPOTHERMIA IN THE FRIGID WATER. ONE SURVIVOR RECALLED SEEING THE CHAPLAINS IN THEIR FINAL ACT AS "THE FINEST THING I HAVE SEEN, OR HOPE TO SEE, THIS SIDE OF HEAVEN."

AMERICAN LEGION POSTS AROUND THE WORLD TODAY RECOGNIZE THE FIRST SUNDAY OF FEBRUARY AS FOUR CHAPLAINS DAY. THE AMERICAN LEGION CHAPLAINS HANDBOOK OUTLINES CEREMONIES WITH CANDLE LIGHTINGS, PRAYERS, SPEECHES AND "LEGION OF HONOR" AWARDS FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO EXEMPLIFY THE SPIRIT OF THE FOUR CHAPLAINS.

NEXT: THE $5 MILLION FUNDRAISER

FIND MORE ILLUSTRATED VETERAN STORIES AT WWW.FULLMAGAZINEPUBLISHING.COM

AMERICAN LEGION POST NL01 MARGRATEN

NEWCOMERS GUIDE

Created by Post NL01 Executive Committee

Message from the Commander

Ordering Your Cap & Measuring for Size

Cap Etiquette

Legion Websites Margraten Facebook

American Legion Basic Training

Post Organization

Meaning of the AL Emblem

American Legion Membership Renewal

Acronyms and Abbreviations

20 Jan - Had a great time doing Bagger for a Day at USAG Schinnen Commissary! Huge thanks to Krista Davis, Harvey Briggs, Ron Macauley (& Clan), Dennis Owens, and Jim Brotherton on the Awareness Table! Successful fundraising + New member and renewal.

Margraten Post NL01 Dinner

The Post celebrated a fantastic year with Dinner and Drinks at the Van Der Valk Hotel in Heerlen.
We also welcomed a new member to our Margraten Family! Great turnout to a truly wonderful evening!

American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad holds an American Legion 100th anniversary commemorative coin Thursday during a ceremonial striking at the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia. Photo by Lucas Carter/The American Legion

American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad recently announced two new Team 100 incentives for American Legion posts and departments worldwide to collect financial rewards for returning members to their rosters, ramping up renewal rates and hitting their targets for 2019.

THE AMERICAN LEGION – WHO WE ARE

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic, mutual-help, and community service organization, which now numbers 2.4 million - men and women - in more than 14,000 American Legion Posts worldwide. These Posts are organized into 55 Departments – one each for the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, **France**, Mexico, and the Philippines.

The American Legion has its headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana, with offices in Washington, D.C. In addition to thousands of volunteers, serving in leadership and program implementation capacities from the communities to the Legion's standing national commissions and committees, the national organization has a professional staff of about 250 employees.

Membership eligibility in The American Legion is based on honorable service within the U.S. Armed Forces between April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918 (World War I); December 7, 1941, and December 31, 1946 (World War II); June 25, 1950, and January 31, 1955 (Korean war); December 22, 1961, and May 7, 1975 (Vietnam War); August 24, 1982, and July 31, 1984 (Lebanon/Grenada); December 20, 1989, and January 31, 1990 (Operation Just Cause – Panama); or August 2, 1990, until the date of the end of hostilities as determined by the government of the United States.

Trump recently signed two veterans bills into law. Here's how they'll affect you.

PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITIUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

For God and Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

The American Legion Extension Institute has been rewritten, updated, streamlined and enhanced with videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline and additional features. The program should take less than two hours to complete. It is divided into six sections, with a quiz at the end of each one, followed by a final exam.

The course is free for members. The training took me a little over 2 hours to complete, but there is no time limit on the course. You can return to where you left off anytime you wish for as many times as you want. Once complete you will get a printable Certificate of Completion and the opportunity to order the redesigned lapel/cap pin pictured above.

I found this training to be a great jumping off point for any new legionnaire. Anyone who participates in Awareness Drives should have this information in their toolbag!

As an Historian I of course found the History & Organization module to be the most interesting and fun but the section on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation was very eye-opening.

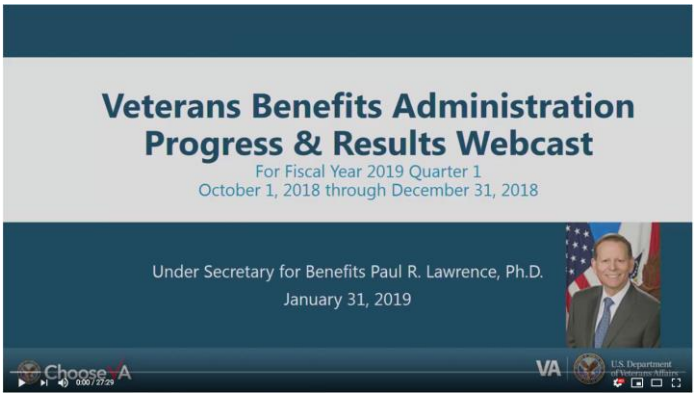
This Basic Training package is an outstanding gateway of knowledge into the nation's largest veteran's service organization and an opportunity not to be missed.

After taking the course it opens your eyes to what we really can accomplish and do, I never really knew how much the Legion was involved in.. Should have joined years ago! ~ Post NL01 Sgt-at-Arms Mark Chernek

Words from Service Officer Ron

We consider ourselves quite lucky to have Ron Macauley as our SO. As you read in our last newsletter, Ron's civilian job carries many of the responsibilities and tasks asked of a Legion Post Service Officer. Part of Ron's job entails keeping veterans' informed of their benefits and any change in policy that could affect those benefits. ~ Commander Ray

The Under Secretary for Benefits, Paul R. Lawrence, Ph.D., held a live webcast on January 31 about the general health of the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) for the first quarter in Fiscal Year 2019, including its performance and financial metrics, accomplishments, challenges, and collaborations. This was the second in a series of quarterly events in which we share VBA's progress, challenges, and way forward for the administration.



For Vietnam veterans -- Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and other services while at sea -- relief is now available. If your service was off shore or in coastal waters and you have any exposure related to Agent Orange, see a Service Officer as soon as possible.

Great link to answer many of your VA disability questions:

VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The Veteran's Administration (VA) will have a representative at the JFC Brunssum library on 7 March 2019 from 9 am - 4 pm to meet with anyone who would like a 1-on-1 appointment.

If you have any questions about your Veteran's benefits, now or in the future, this is the person to speak with.

To schedule an appointment, please call DSN: 314-606-244-3848 or CIV
045-526-3848 -or- E-mail: ronald.macaulev.civ@mail

Veterans Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1
OR CHAT ONLINE AT http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/gochat/

LEGION.ORG

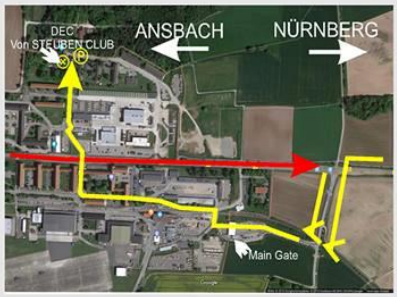
$1 million in American Legion assistance aided Coast Guard families

The American Legion stepped up and answered the call when the Coast Guard needed help, providing over $1 million in Temporary Financial Assistance to service members. Please consider making a donation to the American Legion's National Emergency Fund for the next time help is needed. ~ John Shanahan Cmdr Post IR01

Post 2nd Vice/Dept Chaplain Harvey Briggs III had the opportunity to attend American Legion 'Flanders Field' Post BE02 4 Chaplain's exhibit. It was awesome to meet, greet and explain the heroism of Lt. George L. Fox, Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Lt. John P. Washington, and Lt. Clark V. Poling. Thank you for the invite! Great Job!

DAVID CHAVEZ POST GR 1982
ANSBACH, GERMANY

LOCATION:
Von Steuben Club
Enter through Main Gate
Sachsen bei Ansbach
GPS: 49.311666 / 10.655397



No Base Access?
Contact Adjutant Estus Smith: estus@live.com
before 17 March 2019

REGISTRATION: 1100-1300

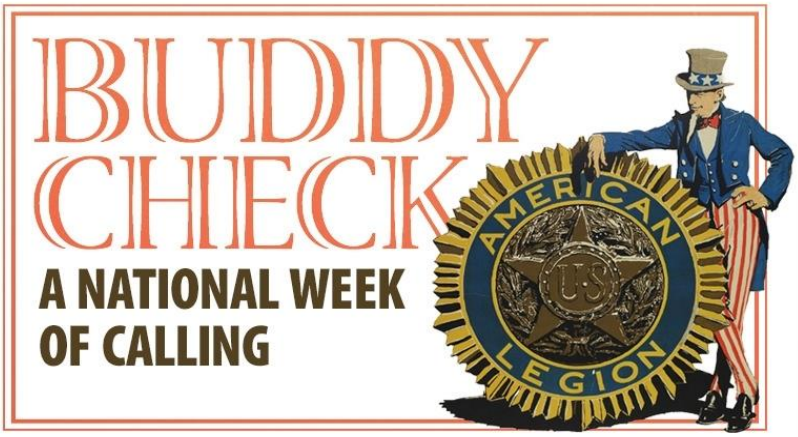
Accomodations available

Gasthof Goldner Stern
Ansbacher Str. 3
91560 Heilsbronn
09872 1262

Gasthof Hotel zu Windmühle
Rummelsberger Str. 1
91522 Ansbach
Tel: 0981 972000

Army Ansbach Lodging
Urlas Housing, Bldg. 8152
91522 Ansbach
09802 837014

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad calls on members to make "Buddy Checks"

Margraten Post NL01 Leads the Department with 143.86%

Faces of Margraten Initiative

Almost two-thirds of all soldiers now have a face! Ever since Sebastiain Vonk and the Faces of Margraten (FOM) Group allowed our Post to actively participate in and help with the setup and recollection efforts of FOM last May, we have been actively looking for the remaining faces of our fallen heroes. We will post on this page all the faces we have found as part of this effort. If you are interested in joining the effort, please contact us at Margraten.Post.NL01@gmail.com

1st Lieutenant Charles N. Todd

Sergeant Ray Beachler

TSgt. John Mancina

TFC FRANK KRIZNAR

2Lt. Howard E Lewis

2Lt Howard E. Lewis was from Nampa, Canyon County, Idaho
A Bombardier in the 351st Bomber Group. His B-17
SN: 42-3173 was Nicknamed: Spare Ball.

On 15 May 1943 the Spare Ball crew suffered a midair explosion while on an attack run on railroad yards at Emden, Germany. Five to Six parachutes were sighted just before the explosion. 2Lt Lewis was never recovered. His name is on the Wall of the Missing. We would like to thank the Idaho Division of Veteran Services in aiding us in the recovery of Howards photo.