



The American Legion Flanders Field Post BE02

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



I am hoping everyone is enjoying the summer months. After the Department convention last month, I vowed to get back into spending more time with the wife, do some cycling and get back SCUBA diving and have so far made 5 dives both in salt and fresh water. But at the same time, I made a promise that I would spend more time involved with Post level activities.

I will be sending to all members a 2017-2018 activity and event calendar. We will be hosting more activities in the next year than we have done before. I am hoping that we can get participation from many of our Post members.

For membership, my goals are easy – 50% by 01 August and 100% by 01 December. It only takes each of us to renew and to recruit 1 new member.

As for activities – lets work together to have a fantastic year. If you have the opportunity, join us for an event or activity. We can use the help.

The last thing I wanted to talk about is our general meetings. The Post officers have talked this situation over and have desired to have the meetings on Wednesday evenings. This gives almost everyone the opportunity to attend. Having it on Saturday mornings interfered with family activities. And we have alternated locations (Brussels & SHAPE) each month to allow both communities the opportunity to attend.

Enjoy the summer and hope to see you on Wednesday evening, 02 August for our next general meeting.



AMERICAN LEGION "FLANDERS FIELD" POST BE02

POST BE02 OFFICERS

Commander: Joseph Schram
flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com

1st Vice Commander: Paul Haney

2nd Vice Commander: Kevin Jordan

Judge Advocate: Vacant

Historian: Vacant

Finance Officer: Laura Buckner

Chaplain: Thomas Buckner

Post Service Officer: Kevin Jordan

Sergeant-at-Arms: Vacant

LEGION RIDERS

President: Paul Dunn

LEGION AUXILIARY

President: Morgan Buckner

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Commander: Paul Vande Walle

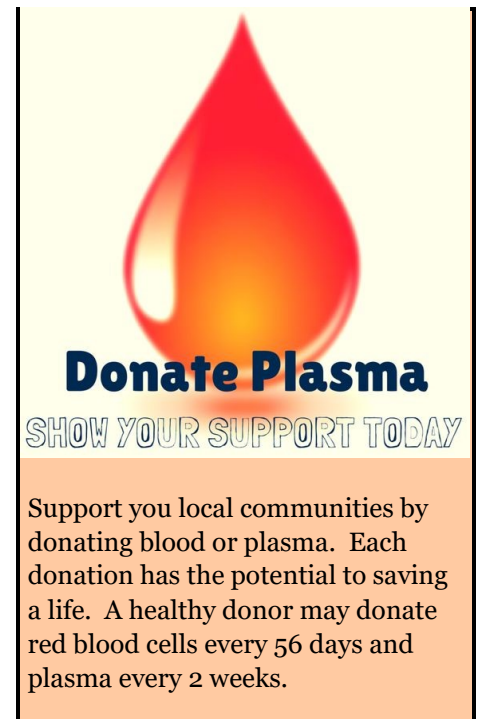
FLANDERS FIELD AMERICAN CEMETERY

Superintendent: Christopher Arseneault

Post BEO2 Officers

Commander:	Joseph Schram
1st Vice Commander:	Paul Haney
2nd Vice Commander:	Kevin Jordan
Judge Advocate:	Vacant
Historian:	Vacant
Finance Officer:	Laura Buckner
Chaplain:	Thomas Buckner
Post Service Officer:	Kevin Jordan
Sergeant-at-Arms:	Vacant

If anyone is interested in filling a vacant officer position please contact Commander Schram



Donate Plasma
SHOW YOUR SUPPORT TODAY

Support your local communities by donating blood or plasma. Each donation has the potential to saving a life. A healthy donor may donate red blood cells every 56 days and plasma every 2 weeks.

Post BEO2 Family: Ester Miller, American Legion Auxiliary

Ester Miller is the daughter of WWII veteran Henry Miller from New York and lives here in Belgium. Ester, an Auxiliary member, and her husband, Etienne, have been very influential in many of our events over the past year. They have volunteered their time to help with the Trunk or Treat in Chiévres, the Post Holiday Christmas Party at the 3-start recreational center and at the Orphanage Christmas Party at Chiévres. Their contribution to the American Legion family has been outstanding. We wish to thank Ester and her husband for being part of our Legion family.



Post BEO2 General Meetings

We have changed the dates and times for our general meetings. This will enable the membership to attend and allow them to spend their Saturdays without interference from Post meetings.

Dates

02 August—SHAPE, Bldg. 313, Main Gym

06 September—USAG Brussels, Post BEO2 Office

04 October—SHAPE, Bldg. 313, Main Gym

01 November—USAG Brussels, Post BEO2 Office

December — Date TBD — Tentative Holiday Party

03 January—USAG Brussels, Post BEO2 Office

07 February —SHAPE, Bldg. 313, Main Gym

07 March—USAG Brussels, Post BEO2 Office

04 April —SHAPE, Bldg. 313, Main Gym

02 May —USAG Brussels, Post BEO2 Office (elections)

06 June —SHAPE (budget vote), Bldg. 313, Main Gym

SCUBA Diving



If you are interested in SCUBA or are already certified, we are forming a Legion Divers unit here in Belgium. With the North Sea and the numerous fresh water lakes and quarries, the opportunity to dive to here are endless.

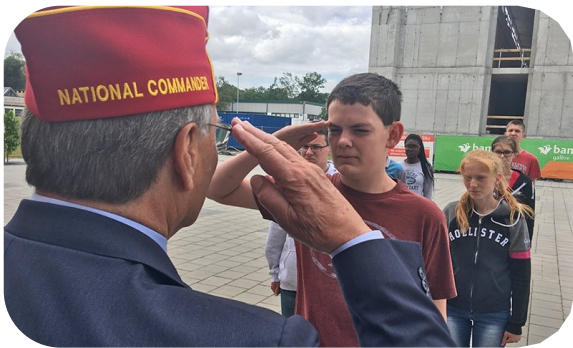
Sometime in late August or early September, we are planning to host an initial dive event at Nemo 33 in Brussels. This is a 33m deep indoor pool

that is easily assessable to everyone. If interested in the Nemo 33 dive or as a participant with the Legions Divers, contact Commander Schram.

National Commander Visit to Belgium , 06-08 June

The National Commander, Auxiliary President and the SAL Commander visited Belgium from 6-8 June. Unfortunately, we had the Commander and his group for only one full day but we made the most of that day. After a briefing from NATO representative, the group headed to SHAPE to have lunch with the membership at the SHAPE Club, IN the afternoon, the Commander had the opportunity to inspect the JROTC drill team (freshman and sophomores) and have a AFN Radio interview. We returned to Brussels for an evening touring the city center.

In addition, the Commanders had the opportunity to meet with several of our Sons of the American Legion members while visiting Normandy.



Oratorical Contest

We are forming the 2018 Post level Oratorical Contest committee and will start our preparations for the contest in late August. We need help in contacting the schools, potential contestants and judges. If you are interested in planning the event, contact Commander Schram.



The American Legion has a long history of honoring those who fell in battle. The American Legion has announced an initiative to honor Americans buried or named in memorials of the British Commonwealth throughout Belgium. The “Adopt a US Tommy” Initiative gives Belgians, Americans and citizens of the Commonwealth the opportunity to adopt a grave of a WWI and a WWII Soldier buried or memorialized outside of American cemeteries in Belgium.

In World War I, many Americans chose to join the armed forces of other Allied nations prior to the official entry into the war of the United States on 6 April 1917. These Americans joined the forces of Commonwealth nations including Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Kingdom. At that time joining the military of another country meant giving up your US citizenship. Thus American born soldiers in Commonwealth units were not listed as Americans.

Much research has gone into identifying these Americans.

Today, we launch the new program to keep the memory alive and to pay our respect to these fallen soldiers.

Everyone can adopt a grave as long as people respect the policy of the program. For more information: send an email to adopt.a.us.tommy@gmail.com



2018 Membership Cards

have arrived

Early Renewal helps support

the Post, SAL,

Auxillary, and Riders

Let's Be #1

Renew Today

2017 - 2018 NATIONAL: MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

EARLY BIRD/NEF KICKOFF	SEPTEMBER 13, 2017	50%
FALL MEETINGS	OCTOBER 12, 2017	55%
VETERANS DAY	NOVEMBER 15, 2017	65%
PEARL HARBOR DAY	DECEMBER 13, 2017	75%
MID-WINTER	JANUARY 18, 2018	80%
PRESIDENT'S DAY	FEBRUARY 14, 2018	85%
LEGION BIRTHDAY	MARCH 14, 2018	90%
CHILDREN & YOUTH	APRIL 11, 2018	95%

Payment Methods for Dues: \$35 (Include a message with Your Name)

(1) By Check (only US checks, no Foreign checks)

Send to:

American Legion Post BE02

attn: Post Dues

Unit 28100, Box 017

APO AE 09714

(2) Cash or Check at membership drives

(3) Foreign Bank Transfer

ING Account:

IBAN: BE98 3774 3999 7693 BIC: BBRUBEBB

(4) US Bank Transfer or cash deposit

Andrews Federal Credit Union – Routing #: 255074111

American Legion Post BE02 - Account #: 82019102

Boys State / Girls State

This year, we were able to send 2 young ladies and 2 young men to the Maryland's Girls State / Boys State programs. Overall, the Department of France sent 4 young ladies and 7 young men.



From one of the young ladies: 'Id like to begin by thanking you for giving me the opportunity to attend and participate in the 2017 Girl's State program. Never in my life have I had such an amazing experience and I can hardly think of another program that would leave more of an impression on me. I left Europe nervous because I feared that by living overseas I was at a disadvantage. I could not have been more incorrect. When I first arrived (ahead of the other girls) I was tired and confused but the staff managed to put me at ease. The women I met on the staff were kind, understanding, welcoming and, above all, helpful. They were as excited for me to be there as I was. The following day, when all the other ladies arrived, I was slightly more ready. I met everyone in my city with open arms and they responded with the same enthusiasm. The other girls I met were all so unique and it didn't take long for me to acknowledge them as my sisters. As the week progressed I found myself becoming more confident; I took complete advantage of the program, running for a position in every level, participating in the hearings as sheriff-at-arms as well as helping to MC the talent night. All other events that I had no leadership role in I supported by giving my full attention, be it the Lobbyists, the Army Colonel (who was my favorite speaker by far) or the other girls running for other positions. Though I didn't win everything I had planned on winning, I don't regret anything from my Girl's State experience and I am more than glad that I was given the chance to participate in Girl's State. By making the most of my week, I hope I have left as much of impression on Girl's State Maryland as it has left on me. I will take the lessons I learned and share them with others and I will take the experience I gained and use it to inspire others to seek the same opportunity I was given. I hope for you to have more overseas ladies attend because I believe it would be nothing but beneficial. I wouldn't have been able to have such an experience if you hadn't approached me. Again, I say thank you.

American Legion hosted USO Dance

Borlo, Saturday Evening, 09 September

We are again this year hosting a USO Dance at Borlo, Belgium on Saturday evening, 09 September. Last year's was a huge success and we are hoping this year's dance will be bigger and better. As a fundraiser, we will be asking for a donation of 1 euro at the entrance of the dance hall, the recipient will get 1 raffle ticket. If the attendee would like more raffle tickets, each ticket would be available for 1 euro. Depending on the number of items that we obtain, we could pick a raffle ticket every 15 or 30 minutes for a prize. All proceeds go to USO Europe.



Centennial Coin Sales



The front of the coin is executed in a vibrant, deep blue, with gold lettering and the official logo of the Legion Centennial. The reverse shows the Legion family emblems against a bright gold background and the motto of the American Legion ringed in blue:

Coin prices: For American Legion members the price is €5/\$5 each, plus €2/\$2 shipping cost per coin, total €7/\$7 for each coin if shipped.

For non-members the price is €10/\$10 plus €2/\$2 shipping cost per coin, total €12/\$12 for each coin if shipped.

New Department Service Officer



Legionnaire Laura Buckner, American Legion Flanders Field Post BE02 was recently elected Service Officer for the American Legion Department of France. The Department Service Officer assists Post Service Officers in the formation of viable service programs, ensuring that information is disbursed and assistance is available to qualified veterans and dependents of deceased veterans. The Service Officer assists veterans with their VA benefits and especially with their VA claims.

Contact Department Service Officer Laura Buckner at:
Serviceofficerdofr@yahoo.com

Contact Post Service Officer Kevin Jordan at:
be02.service.officer@gmail.com

Post BE02 Spirit Cup Fundraiser

Any purchase helps out our American Legion Post raise funds for its Americanism and Child & Youth programs. We earn \$7 on every unit sold. One unit equals either 4 cups or 2 travel mugs. Free shipping and no tax to APO's. There are cups for each military service as well as the NHL, NFL, NCAA and MLB. Thank you for your support!



<https://www.spiritcupsdirect.com/participant/id/2136637/american0040>

Upcoming Events & Activities

How you can help.

Saturday, 05 August: Membership Drive

We will host an information table at the AAFES PX from 1000-1700. at the AAFES PX from 1000-1700.

Friday, 25 August: “Welcome to Brussels”

The NATO Top III is hosting a event to welcome new people to the area. We will host an information table and providing food for the potluck

Saturday, 02 September: Membership Drive

We will host an information table at the AAFES PX from 1000-1700.

Fri/Sat, 08-09 Sept: SHAPE Fest

We will host an information table at the SAHPE Fest on both Friday & Saturday. We need help to at the tables. Come uot and give us a couple of hours of your time

Saturday, 09 Sep: USO Dance

We are again this year hosting a USO Dance at Borlo, Belgium on Saturday evening, 09 September. We are looking for donation to raffle.

Friday, 15 Sep: POW / MIA Recognition Day

We will again have a exhibit at the AAFES PX for this event. We are hoping that we can get the garrisons to have a small ceremony during the flag raising in the morning.

Friday, 22 Sep: American Legion Night

We are proposing to the 3-Star recreational center to have us host a “Salsa & Salsa” night. Come out and make your best salsa and later learn how to dance the salsa

Preamble to the Constitution

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 goodwill 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.



American Legion

Veterans Service Organization

Accredited American Legion service officers are specially trained to provide expert assistance, free of charge, to veterans and their families. While the majority of a service officer's work involves application for VA disability benefits, these compassionate professionals also provide information, referrals and resources on education, employment and business, death benefits and other important topics.

LINKS

American Legion Post BEO2 Website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/americanlegionpostbeo2/home>

Flanders Field Post BEO2 Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/pages/American-Legion-Flanders-Fields-Post-BEO2/152286224925159

American Legion Riders - Flanders Field Chapter BEO2

www.facebook.com/legionridersflandersbeo2

Flickr account: (Pictures of Post BEO2 events)

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/130086797@No8/sets/>

Flanders Field Post BEO2 Youtube website (Videos of Post BEO2 events):

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChayGVazQv_uT-7u7Dy7Z8g

Adopt-a-Grave program's website:

<http://www.sitemn.gr/adoptagraveflandersfield/HOMECONTACT.php>

The American Legion Centennial Celebration

<http://centennial.legion.org/>

Event Calendar: July / August 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Jul 10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 VA Briefing – USAG Brussels	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Conference Call – Post Officers 21:00	Aug 1	2 General Meeting – SHAPE @ 1930	3	4	5 Membership Drive AAFES PX: 1000-1700
6	7	8	9	10	11	12