



June 2018
Volume 4, Issue 2

The American Legion Flanders Field Post BEO2

At the last Post meeting, we were not able to proceed with the elections or any other business do to the lack of a quorum (we had 5 members). With 129 members, we need a minimum of 7 to conduct regular business. An e-mail has been sent to all members.

Until Wednesday, 20 June at 20:00, we will be asking for nominations for the positions below:

Commander
1st Vice Commander
2nd Vice Commander
Chaplain
Historian
Judge Advocate
Finance Officer
Sgt-at-Arms

Elections will then proceed from Wednesday, 20 June (21:00) to Sunday 24 June (21:00). Please watch you e-mails

Membership Dues Changes

Starts 01 July for membership year 2019

Post BEO2 Legion Dues: **\$40**

- 1) Early Bird dues: \$35 (this would be only for renewals from 01 July to 31 August)
- 2) New Member Family Discounts:
 - New Legion member + New Legion member: \$5 discount
 - New Legion + New Auxiliary member: \$5 discount
 - ◆ If the Auxiliary member does both the Legion & Auxiliary, National provides a \$9 discount
 - New Legion member + New Legion/Auxiliary + one new SAL/Auxiliary: \$10 discount
 - ◆ Each additional SAL/Auxiliary is another \$5 discount
- 3) New Member 2 year membership: \$70 (\$10 discount)

American Legion Auxiliary

Who We Are

Patriotism and veterans advocacy are so important to the American Legion Auxiliary that for nearly a century, we've been serving, educating, and giving to America's finest—our servicemen and women.

We answer the call of *Service Not Self*. We are the nearly 3/4 million wives, mothers, daughters, sisters, grandmothers, granddaughters, and direct descendants of veterans who served our great country during times of war. Some of us are Veterans ourselves.

Service Through Membership: Juniors Under Age 18

ALA Junior members volunteer with other girls in their age group in many engaging activities:

- Learning about patriotism and how to show respect for the American flag
- Helping military families in practical ways such as mowing yards and helping military kids become acclimated at a new school
- Distributing poppies and raising awareness, especially on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, so our veterans know we care about them
- Practicing leadership by organizing service projects
- Earning service patches while learning about ALA programs
- Demonstrating responsibility for future scholarship, college, or military service applications

If you are a female ALA member, 17 years of age or younger and love our country, imagine attending a regional or national meeting focused on Junior Activities with a hundred girls who could become your lifelong friends!

Sons of the American Legion

The Post BE02 squadron reached a membership of 33 for the 2018 year. The goal for the 2019 membership year will be **50**. That is an additional 17 new members that need to be recruited. Let's get our young men involved.

S.A.L. Membership Eligibility Requirements

All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in Service during World I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf War and the War on Terrorism, during the delimiting periods set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for Membership in the Sons of The American Legion.



Legion Riders

The current President of the Post BEO2 Legion Riders is stepping down. If we want this Legion Riders chapter to continue, we will need a volunteer to take over.

Eligibility requirements for membership in Legion Riders

- Members must hold membership in and be in good standing with The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion.
- Members must be legally registered motorcycle owners or be the legally registered owner's spouse within the state of registration.
- All operators must be properly licensed and insured per Belgian laws.



Veterans Service Organization: Post Service Officer News

postbeo2.serviceofficer@gmail.com

Basic benefits for Gulf War veterans and families

Gulf War Environmental Hazards

The Department of Defense (DoD) identified a number of environmental hazards at military installations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere that could present health risks. These hazards include, but are not limited to:

- large burn pits throughout Iraq, Afghanistan, and Djibouti on the Horn of Africa
- particulate matter in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Djibouti on the Horn of Africa
- a large sulfur fire at Mishraq State Sulphur Mine near Mosul, Iraq
- hexavalent chromium exposure at the Qarmat Ali Water Treatment Plant at Basrah, Iraq

The Veteran's lay statement of exposure to an environmental hazard or statements provided by others can be used to verify exposure to the claimed environmental hazard if the statements provided by the Veteran and/or others are consistent with the facts, places, and circumstances of the Veteran's service.

Presumptive conditions

VA has listed presumptive conditions as a result of active duty service in the Southwest Asia theater of military operations. These are conditions either diagnosed or undiagnosed that began during active military service (during Southwest Asia theater of military operations) or before Dec. 31, 2016. VA presumes the following certain chronic symptoms existing for six months or more as related to Gulf War service. These presumptive diagnosed conditions are: Chronic Fatigue Syndrome; Fibromyalgia; Functional gastrointestinal disorders. Symptoms may include but not be limited to irritable bowel syndrome, dyspepsia, vomiting, constipation, bloating, abdominal pain syndrome and dysphagia.

Undiagnosed illnesses with symptoms considered as "medically unexplained, chronic (lasting six months or more) multi-symptom illnesses."

These symptoms may include fatigue, skin irritations, headache, muscle or joint, neurological issues, neuropsychological distress, upper and lower respiratory issues, sleep disturbances, gastrointestinal distress, abnormal weight loss, menstrual disorders or cardiovascular irregularities.

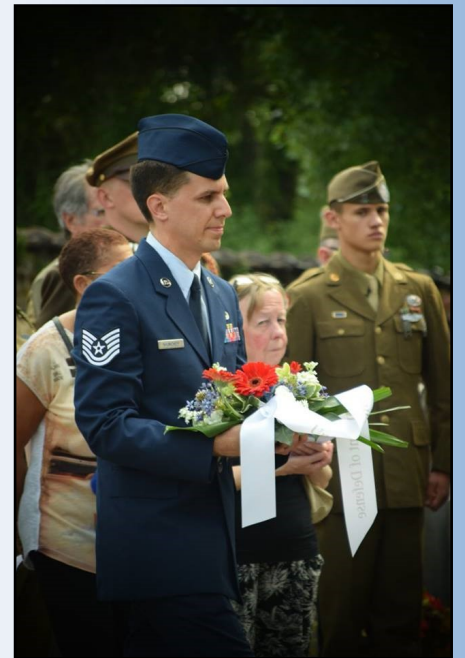
Memorial Day Weekend

The Post would like to thank all of the members who participated in the Memorial Day weekend events. Whether you were in an official capacity or as a members attending the ceremonies, your presence was greatly appreciated.

We would also like to thank all of the members, their families and friends who helped place US Flags at over 170 graves at 25 cemeteries on Monday, 21 May. The graves are of Americans who fought with the British Commonwealth during WWI & WWII and are buried here in Belgium.

Overall, the Post participated in 18 Memorial Day ceremonies over a 10 day period. From isolated graves, to American Cemeteries to the Menin Wall (Last Post), the American Legion was represented. Thank you all





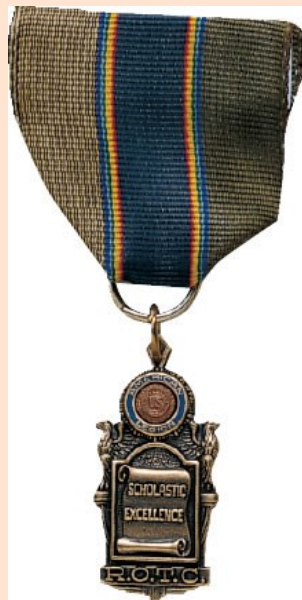
Leila Monty

Post BEO2 welcomes a gorgeous baby girl Leila to the world...born at O325 on 6 June at 7 lbs (3.2 kg) and 19.69 inches (50 cm).



ROTC Scholastic Excellence Medal

This year's American Legion's Scholastic Excellence Medal was awarded to Wesley Phelan, a junior at the SHAPE American High School at the annual AFJROTC awards ceremony held on 30 May.



Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program

The Post is looking for members who would be interested in developing this program

How to Start a Program

We will contact the Provost Marshall at SHAPE and USAG BENELUX to determine the feasibility of implementing a Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program here in Belgium. Once an agreement has been obtained from the command, we will work to develop a curriculum, application process and dates of the program (tentatively June 2019).

Curriculum and Duration

Program content varies from state to state. Most programs will include physical fitness training coupled with classroom instruction and hands-on training. Topics of instruction may include criminal law, constitutional law, patrol procedures, criminal investigation procedures, traffic crash investigation, evidence gathering techniques, arrest techniques, taking fingerprints, testifying in court, public speaking, leadership skills, vehicle operating procedures, report writing, interviewing techniques, crisis intervention, use of control and firearms training.

Application Process

The Post will develop an application and a process to select, approve and place students into this program. Physical fitness certifications from a physician will be required of applicants. Release of liability forms will also be required

American Day, 26 August



AMERICAN DAY 1918
AMERICAN DAY 2018

AMERICAN STYLE COUNTY FAIR
26 AUGUST 2018 ★ KEMMEL, DRIES ★ 12:00 - 18:00

100 years ago American soldiers had their first combat experiences in Flanders, here in Kemmel. Shortly afterwards the liberation offensive started. We recall this with an event – anno 1918. The market square – Dries – is decorated with the 'Stars and Stripes'.

On the program: Barbecue American Style, SHAPE International Band, Linedance, American Can Can, Apple pie contest, WWI Planes and Poppy drop, Mechanical Bull, Softball game, Kids Corner, Folk games, Guided (bicycle) tours, Free access to the trenches of Bayerwald, the Command Bunker of the Cold War and the exhibition Final Offensive.

Matinee aperitif concert commemorating the American fallen WW I
Sunday 26 August - 10:30h ★ Sint-Pieterskerk ★ Loker-Heuvelland
Pianist Timur SERGEYENIA performs Sergei RACHMANINOV

Rachmaninov (1873-1943) was a Russian pianist and composer, one of the most important of the 20th century. In 1917 he fled from Bolshevism and after a few wanderings he found in Beverly Hills in America a new home, one where he could compose again.

Call: bake an apple pie for charity!
We are looking for amateur bakers who likes to bake cakes. Their assignment? Bake a nice typical American apple pie and join our competition. A VIP jury will taste some of each. The winner will be publicly congratulated. The rest will be sold for charity: Handicap International and Comfort Warriors. More info (including the recipe) and registrations before 15 July at the department of culture Heuvelland: T 057 45 04 72 / stefaan.decrock@heuvelland.be www.handicapinternational.be www.legion.org/troops/operationcomfort

More information: www.toerismeheuvelland.be ★ www.americanday2018.weebly.com
www.facebook.com/americanday2018

Municipality of Heuvelland, in collaboration with the Embassy of the United States of America, the American Legion and the SHAPE International Band.



VO: Etienne Doet, Schepen voor toerisme – Sint-Laureinsplein 1, B-8950 Heuvelland - Kemmel – Design: www.magnolan.be

We need your help

Flanders Field Post BEO2 family will be hosting a number of event on the American Day event. We need help as well as team leaders for the following areas. We will be posting a signup genius for members and friends to sign-up and help. At this time the event planning group is estimating between 500-3,000 people will come to this event. If you can be a team leader, contact us at the Post e-mail:

Flanders.fields.post.beo2@gmail.com

- **BBQ planning and work team**
- **Scouts Fundraiser**
- **Children's Games (Auxiliary team)**
- **Horseshoe Competition**
- **Baseball Game**
- **Apple Pie Contest**

Adopt-a-Grave Program



The Post is organizing an adoption certificate ceremony on Saturday, September 15 at 5 pm at the Menin Gate in Ypres. As part of the Post BEO2's Adopt-a-Grave program, the Adopt a U.S. Tommy project focuses on the adoption of American who fought for the British Commonwealth before the United States entered the world wars. There are over 500+ graves and names of the missing located in numerous Commonwealth War Graves.



Paid Up For Life (PUFL)

Current members may now enroll in the Paid Up For Life program online or can print a personalized application and mail in their payment. Pay in full or choose 12 monthly installments.

- No more renewal notices. No more paying annual dues.
- No more worrying, "Did I renew my membership or not?"
- Join the other 180,000 PUFL Legionnaires in saying, "I believe in The American Legion and what it's doing. I'm in this for the long haul."
- Avoid future dues increases. No matter what inflation does, you never have to pay another penny in dues.
- Lifetime subscription to The American Legion Magazine!

Each Paid Up For Life member receives a permanent plastic card, as well as an annual paper card to verify continuing membership in The American Legion. The annual card is mailed in July of each year.

To get your Paid Up For Life membership now:

Uniform Cap

The official uniform for the American Legion is the uniform cap.

To order your American Legion Official Cap, please follow the directions below.

http://emblem.legion.org/uniform_caps/legion.asp

Step 1: Please select your Department: **France**

Step 2: Please select your style: **State**

Please select your lining: **unlined**

Step 3: Please select your crown: **Regular** or **Fort Knox** (your choice)

Step 4: Please select your cap size: _____

Step 5: Left-side lettering: **FRANCE**

Step 6: Please enter your post number: **BE02**

Step 7: Check here if you want to add right-side lettering: **FLANDERS FIELD** (*this is optional and your choice*)

SUBMIT

Volunteer Management Information System

The Volunteer Management Information System (VMIS) assists the Army Volunteer Corps manage these dedicated volunteers and allows volunteers a way track their hours, awards, trainings and certificates.

Volunteers can:

- **Manage their Volunteer Service Record**
- **Locate and Army Volunteer Coordinator**
- **Apply for volunteer opportunities**
- **Record and track volunteer hours**

Upcoming Events & Activities

How you can help.

Independence Day Activities: Friday, 29 June

There will be 2 Independence day activities (Brussels & SHAPE) on the same day. Post BE02 can be at both but we need help from the membership to run the fundraisers. We have a POC Amanda Hawkins for the SHAPE event but we need a POC for the Brussels.

Welcome Expo, Chièvres: 11 August

MWR is hosting this event. At the Chièvres Community Center. We are planning a possible a fundraiser and an information table for this event. POC: Joseph Schram & Amanda Hawkins

Doggy Day Out: Saturday, 25 August

We are hosting a fundraiser at the event. We will need help with the BBQ, servers and cashiers. POC Amanda Hawkins

American Day, Sunday, 26 August

The event is a commemorative event for the U.S. 27th & 30th Divisions that fought in the Kemmel area in Aug/Sept 1918. The event will be like a American country fair with many activities, music, games & food. We will be selling the food and drinks. POC Joseph Schram

SHAPE Fest: Fri-Sun, 7-9 September

We are hosting a fundraiser at the event. We will need help with the BBQ, servers and cashiers. POC Amanda Hawkins

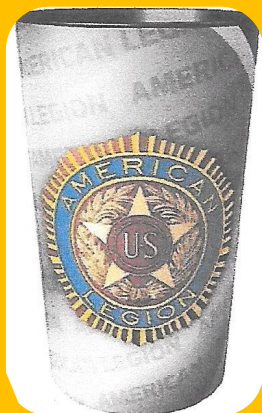
Adoption Certificate Ceremony: Sat, 15 Sept

The adoption certificate ceremony will be held in Ieper. We will need help with setting up and handing-out certificates. POC Kristin Eetezonne & Philip Colinet

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 helpful-



American Legion
Flanders Field Post
BE02 Spirit Cups
are available for
sale. Price \$5

BLOOD DONATION PROGRAM

**The American Legion is
the largest collective blood
-donor to the Red
Cross. The most important
part about donating
blood is to remember that
it saves lives. Waiting for
an emergency to donate
will not get the
blood to the
receiver in time.**



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

American Day webpage, 26 August

<https://americanday2018.weebly.com/>

The American Legion Centennial Celebration

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

Event Calendar: June 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Bastogne Memorial Day Ceremony	2
3	4	5	6	7 American Day Planning Meeting (Kemmel)	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day	15	16 General Meeting @ SHAPE Library (11:00)
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
				Department Convention		
24	25	26	27	28	29 Independence Day Celebration (SHAPE & Brussels)	30