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Photo of WWII veteran Buck Sloan and Lt. Col. David Ashcraft upon arrival in France for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.

Paris Post 1

NEWS & EVENTS

SPECIAL NEWS: D-DAY (PART 1)

An historic 80th Anniversary for D-Day in Normandy France resulted in an extraordinary amount of news, photos and videos! Coverage of Paris Post 1's participation will be sent in multiple newsletters over the summer.

1. **Welcome Home Heroes!:** Paris Post 1 welcomes World War II veterans who were visiting France with their families for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.
2. **Before going to Normandy, American Airlines visits Paris with WWII Vets Group and Cadets:** Special ceremony at Suresnes American Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Arc de Triomphe.
3. **Paris Post 1 Starts Filming a Documentary:** A new documentary on the history and mission of Paris Post 1 got underway at the end of May!

Special thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and offered resources for this years D-Day commemorations, we are very grateful for your contribution!

IMPORTANT DATES

1. **July 4th:** American Independence Day at Place des Etats-Unis, Place Rochambeau and Pershing Hall

2. July 4th: American Independence Day with Vichy Chapter France - Etats-Unis Association honoring past Paris Post 1 Commander George Aubrey

3. July 14th: Independence Day France (Bastille Day)

4. July 18th: 80th Anniversary at the Stèle 18 July 1944 de Bêtete in honor of Paris Post 1 Commander George Aubrey (resistance fighter codename La Fayette) and French resistance fighter Guy Esmoingt (see below announce in French)

5. July-August: Summer Break at Paris Post 1 (no monthly meetings)

6. August: Liberation Ceremonies throughout France!

7. September: End of Summer Break

8. September 11th: 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

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Cérémonie du 80^{ème} anniversaire à la Stèle 18 juillet 1944 de Bêtete

A l'occasion du 80^{ème} anniversaire
de la mort de AUBREY Georges [Pseudonyme La Fayette] et de ESMOINGT Guy, Marie
tués par les allemands le 18 juillet 1944.

La section des Anciens Combattants ACPG et la Municipalité de Bêtete
ont l'honneur de vous convier, dans le cadre du devoir de mémoire,
à la cérémonie qui aura lieu

le jeudi 18 juillet à la Stèle des Américains à Bêtete
Rassemblement à 9 h 30 au stade communal.

La cérémonie sera suivie d'un vin d'honneur

Merci de confirmer votre présence au : 05 55 80 65 69 Claude SABA-CHATELAIN
Ou par mail : anniemarceau23@free.fr





Special Announcement: "On 4 July we will honor the the life of Commandant George Aubrey."

Merci beaucoup to the Vichy Chapter of the Association France Etats-Unis for their upcoming ceremony in honor of George Aubrey!

Please join the Vichy Chapter of the Association France Etats-Unis in Creuzier-le-Vieux on the 4th of July for an Independence Day ceremony, and also a special event and ceremony in honor of George Aubrey.

George Aubrey was born in Northampton, Massachusetts in 1893. He entered the United States Army as a captain and served as company commander during WWI, eventually being promoted to the rank of major. He sustained multiple injuries in September 1918 at the Battle of Saint-Mihiel, and was discharged soon after.

Following his military service, he married Frenchwoman Alberte Viette in 1919 before moving to the United States to study engineering. Two years later in 1921, he returned to France. He had two sons, Norbert and Guy. Aubrey was an active member of Paris Post 1 of the newly founded American Legion.

When France fell in 1940, Aubrey was one of only 500 Americans left in Paris, and he was forced to flee less than a year later. From

his new location south of Paris near Saint Amand-Montrond, he continued his efforts by remaining in contact with the Allied forces, organizing a group of maquis fighters (his code name was LAFAYETTE), and assisting the Free French in North Africa until his death in July 1944.

Aubrey was killed in the commune of Bétête when driving home from a meeting with other French Resistance leaders. After coming across a German unit, Aubrey and passengers in his car opened fire but were easily overtaken by the Germans. Aubrey was shot multiple times by machine gun fire, however, he managed to hide secret documents detailing Resistance plans before he was killed.

George Aubrey was buried in a nearby family vault but was moved to a cemetery in Creuzier-le-Vieux on May 5, 1948 for permanent, proper burial. Aubrey was posthumously awarded the French Croix de la Légion d'Honneur.

4 July agenda - Order de Jour

09h ~ Cérémonie au cimetière de Creuzier le Vieux (dépôt de fleurs/couronne et parole par VIP)

10h ~ Salle de la Mairie à côté de la mairie à Creuzier le Vieux (présentation sur la vie de George Aubrey par Patrick Alevèque)

11h ~ Salle de la Mairie (rafraîchissements et vin d'honneur offert par le maire)

Please click on the link below for additional information and directions for joining this special ceremony!

[More Information: George Aubrey Ceremony in Creuzier-le-Vieux with the Vichy Chapter of France Etats-Unis Association](#)



Mission Accomplished: Welcome Home Heroes!

Special thanks to Lieutenant Colonel David Ashcraft, member of both Paris Post 1 and VFW Post 605, for meeting so many of our WWII heroes coming back to France for D-Day!

It has been truly an amazing experience: the weeks and months of events and ceremonies building up to and including the 80th Anniversary of D-Day with our WWII veterans visiting France!

From the springtime events like "Women of World War II" at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence in Paris to Memorial Day at almost 20 locations throughout France, Paris Post 1 and our community in France have been in much anticipation of the week of events and the grand ceremony on June 6th in Normandy where over 200 American WWII veterans attended with President Biden and French President Macron.

You can tell from the photo above that Lieutenant Colonel David Ashcraft knows how to ensure our heroes are receiving an honorable salute, a big thank you and warm welcome when arriving in France. David spent time at the airports near Paris every day from May 30th to June 4th!

In the photo above, WWII heroes who served in the Pacific theatre: Mr. Patrick Ziliacus, Mr. Bill Dillon, Mr. Charles Cram, Mr. Bill Stewart, Mr. Wallace Johnson, Mr. Harry Hammer and Mr. Billy C. Hall.

For Paris Post 1, all hands were on deck for these historic ceremonies and events. Many from our community traveled throughout the Paris region and out to Normandy helping ensure

a warm welcome and support for our WWII veterans who were all in their late 90's and up to 107 years old!



With our group of veterans, auxiliary and sons moving in every direction, Paris Post 1 is very proud to have been able to support many of our WWII veterans and their families plus the extraordinary organizations who stepped up to make this all happen.

Our members were very active personally welcoming almost 100 WWII veterans to France!

A very special thank you to Lieutenant Colonel David Ashcraft and Christine Dal Bello, who is assigned to the US mission to NATO in Brussels, for all of their activities in visiting veterans and families arriving in France. Seen above, David and Christine welcoming American heroes from WWII Mr. Young and Mr. Forever.

Christine and David's efforts led to the personal welcome for many of our veterans and their families. Thanks to their dedication to ensuring our heroes received a warm welcome, the start to the week for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day was exactly what everyone wanted: **to ensure our heroes know we have never forgotten their sacrifice during WWII!**



Lieutenant Colonel David Ashcraft welcoming American hero from WWII veteran Mr. Joe Gorra.



Lieutenant Colonel David Ashcraft welcoming American hero from WWII veteran Ceo Bauer.



Lieutenant Colonel David Ashcraft welcoming American hero from WWII veteran Mr. KB Smith and his wife.



Lieutenant Colonel David Ashcraft welcoming American hero from WWII veteran Mr. Dennis Boldt.



Lieutenant Colonel David Ashcraft and Christine Dal Bello welcoming American hero from WWII veteran Mr. Eugene Kleindl.



Lieutenant Colonel David Ashcraft and Christine Dal Bello welcoming American hero from WWII veteran Mr. Hector Hila.



Lieutenant Colonel David Ashcraft welcoming American heroes from WWII Kreuzberg and Beamish.



FRENEUSE (78840)



29 et 30 juin 2024



Stade (rugby) rue des Vignes à Monsieur



Camp militaire 2ème guerre mondiale

Organisateurs : Véhicules Militaires et Reconstitution du Mantois ,
la Municipalité et le Comité des fêtes.

80^{ème} anniversaire du débarquement et libération du Mantois

Entrée gratuite

Exposition de véhicules militaires d'époque
Baptêmes en jeep - Démonstrations et reconstitutions
Nombreuses autres animations. Aubades musicales.
Buvette et restauration sur place



le 29 juin 2024

Ouverture au public à 10h00
Levée des couleurs 10h00
Convoi de véhicules 15h00
Descente des couleurs 18h00
Bal rétro à 20h30.

le 30 juin 2024

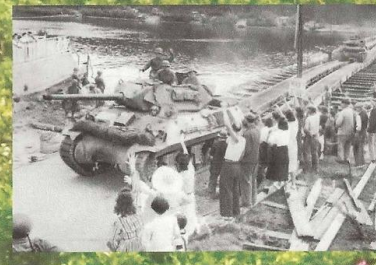
Ouverture au public de 10h00 à 17h00
Levée des couleurs 10h00
11h00 Cérémonie au monument aux morts
Descente des couleurs 17h00.



Véhicel Patton au PC de la 79ème division US au Terre St Denis.



Mantes le 19 août 1944, entrée des Américains, un Dodge du 314ème régiment US.



Evolution 39 2015/2024

[Click Video #1: Photos of WWII Veterans Arriving at CDG for 80th Anniversary of D-Day](#)

[Click Video #2: Photos of WWII Veterans Arriving at CDG for 80th Anniversary of D-Day](#)



American Airlines flies nearly 70 WWII veterans to France for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day

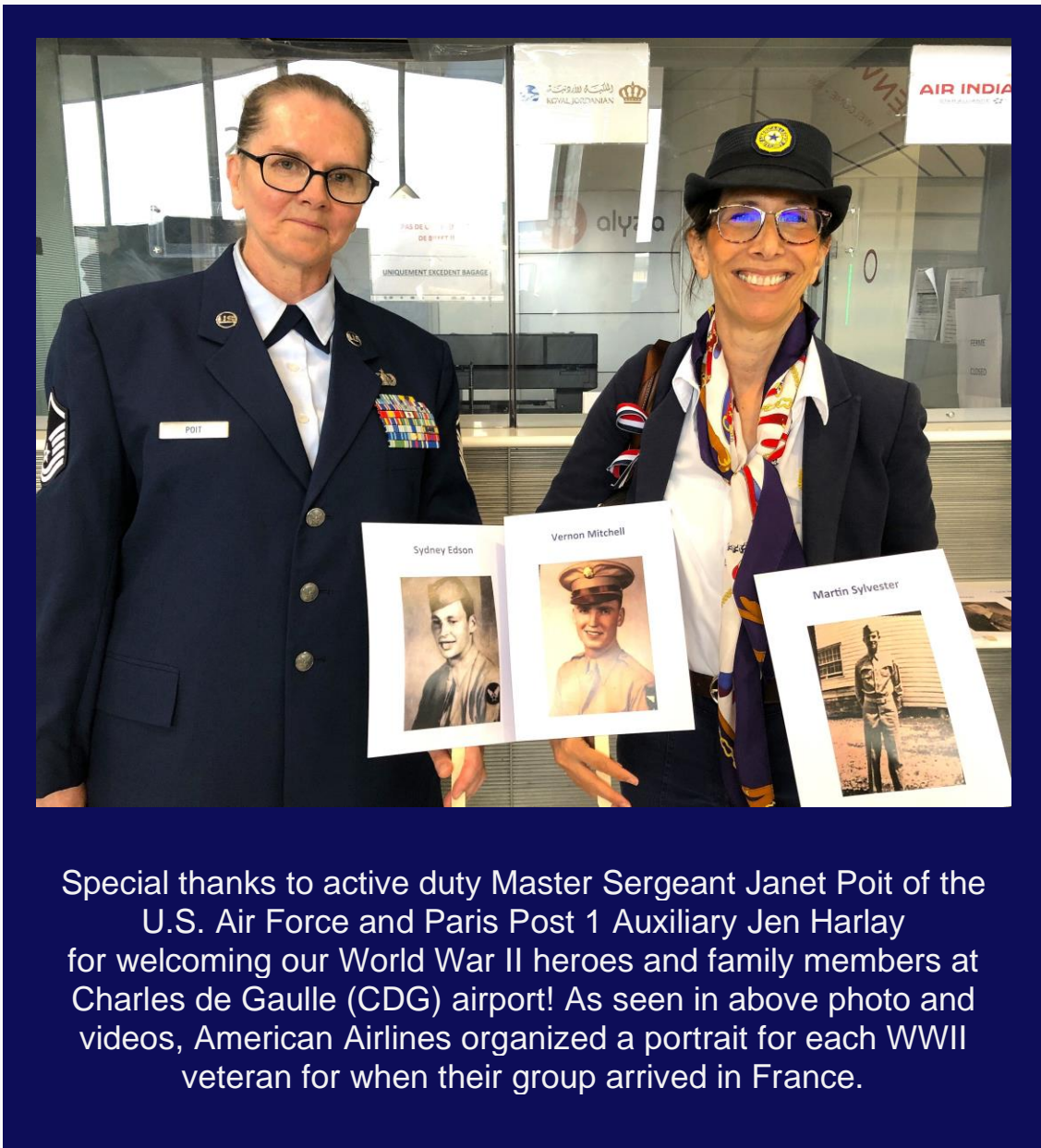
Paris Post 1 was very grateful to have the opportunity to spend time and collaborate with American Airlines and their WWII veteran group who traveled to Paris before making their journey to Normandy for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.

Upon arrival at Charles de Gaulle (CDG) Airport, American Airlines had special ceremonies which took place at Suresnes American Cemetery on the west side of Paris, followed by a boat tour of the river Seine, and then the ravivage ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe honoring France's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (ravivage featured in upcoming newsletter).



[Click Video #1: Welcome Home to France! WWII Veterans Arrive to Charles de Gaulle \(CDG\) Airport for 80th D-Day](#)

[Click Video #2: Welcome Home to France! WWII Veterans Arrive to Charles de Gaulle \(CDG\) Airport for 80th D-Day](#)



Special thanks to active duty Master Sergeant Janet Poit of the U.S. Air Force and Paris Post 1 Auxiliary Jen Harlay for welcoming our World War II heroes and family members at Charles de Gaulle (CDG) airport! As seen in above photo and videos, American Airlines organized a portrait for each WWII veteran for when their group arrived in France.

[Click Video: Members of Paris Post 1, the military, community and American Airlines join to Welcome Heroes to France D-Day 2024](#)



An extraordinary live performance from the Marymount International School performing the American and French national anthems for the World War II veterans and families as they arrived in France.

Special thanks to our youth for their amazing performance!

[Click Video: Marymount International School Youth Choir Singing for WWII Veterans Upon Arrival in France](#)



Giving thanks and welcoming each of our WWII veterans when they arrive in France is important!

Many members of Paris Post 1 introduced themselves to these heroes, and we thanked these veterans for the sacrifice they made 80 years ago.



U.S. Ambassador to France Denise Bauer and French Ambassador Philippe Etienne welcomed American Airlines' large group of WWII heroes to France at Charles de Gaulle (CDG) airport. We are grateful for their efforts in ensuring a huge turnout for our "Heroes Welcome" for all of the WWII veterans arriving!

[Click Video: United States Ambassador to France Denise Bauer
Welcome Home WWII Veterans at CDG for the 80th D-Day](#)



In recognition of the service and sacrifice of our WWII heroes, American Airlines flew out nearly 70 WWII veterans for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. This was a big endeavor!

Special thanks to Randall Stillinger, Manager of Military and Veterans Initiatives at American Airlines, and his extraordinary team for their hard work and dedication to honoring our military for D-Day in Normandy this year.

[Click Video: Welcome Speeches by American Airlines Manager
Randy Stillinger and ABMC Commissioner Florent Groberg Arrival in
France](#)



The first stop on their agenda was paying tribute to American veterans from World War I and World War II at the Suresnes American Cemetery west of Paris. The cadets who traveled with the group came from America's military academies, they made a huge contribution in helping the WWII veterans and families.



During the ceremony, the cadets gave an inspiring performance while looking out from Mont-Valérien towards Paris.

[Click Video: Cadets Choir at Suresnes American Cemetery singing French National Anthem](#)



World War II veterans at Suresnes American Cemetery for their first ceremony in France on the top of Mont-Valérien.

[Click Video: World War II Veterans Laying Wreath at Suresnes American Cemetery on Mont-Valerien in France](#)



The historic D-Day week started at Suresnes American Cemetery with an unforgettable remembrance ceremony and performance by the cadets choir honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice during World War I and World War II.

We thank Superintendent Carly Mathieu for welcoming everyone to Suresnes American Cemetery, and we thank him for hosting an amazing ceremony!

[Click Video: Dedication of Taps by Suresnes American Cemetery Superintendent Carly Mathieu \(playing of Taps w/ Rifle Fire\)](#)



World War II U.S. Army veteran Art Mederos shaking hands with U.S. Army Gen. (Ret.) Michael X. Garrett American Battle Monuments Commission Chairman.



Connie Palacioz, 99, served as a “Rosie the Riveter” for four years and worked on B-17 planes during WWII, seen above with ABMC Associate Sandrine Deboté with Suresnes American Cemetery and the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial (LEM) Cemetery.

Special thanks to Sandrine for her dedication to the WWII veterans and "Rosie the Riveters" who were visiting with their families. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of Superintendent Carly Mathieu and Sandrine Deboté, among many managers and employees of the ABMC in France, our American veterans and families were provided with an abundance of care and service while they visited ABMC locations in France for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.

More news on the 80th Anniversary of D-Day in our next newsletter!



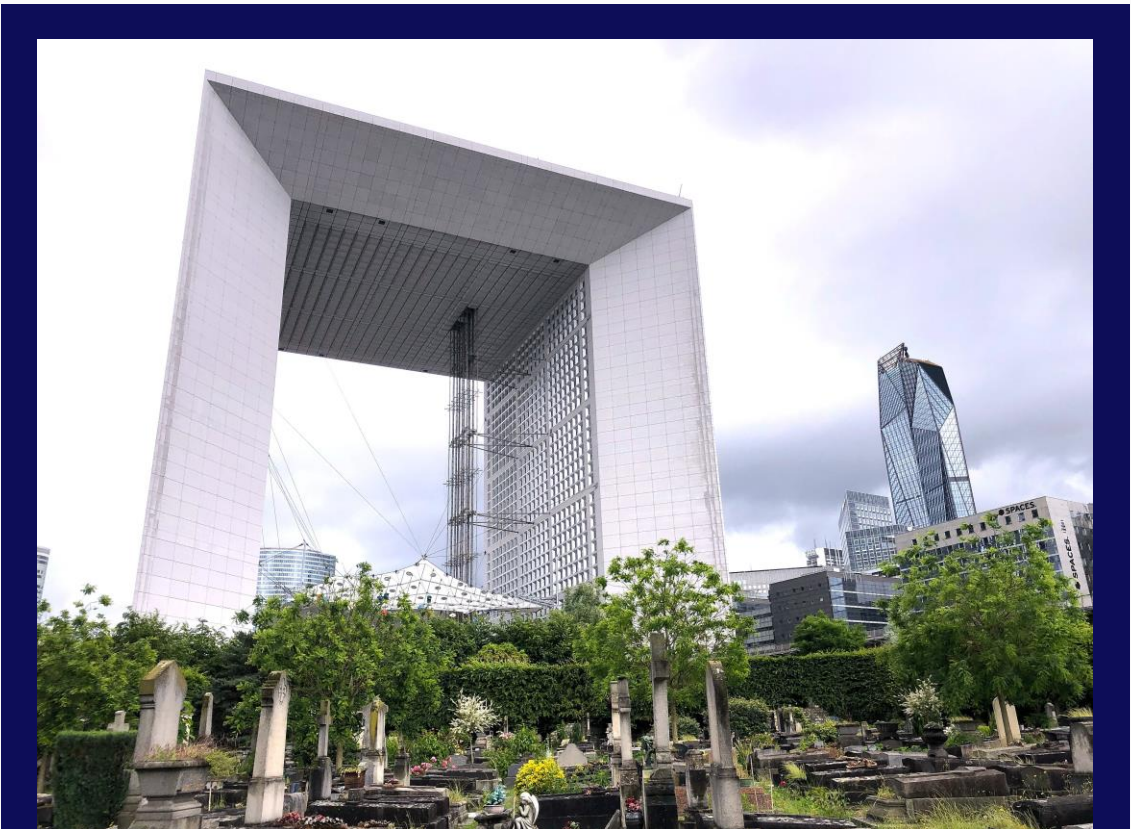
American Airlines is honoring World War II heroes, including Army Air Corps Veteran Frank Perry, by embarking on a profound journey with 70 veterans to Normandy, France, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings.



Watch U.S. Navy veteran Felix Maurizio, who was on a landing craft that deployed troops onto Omaha Beach on D-Day, return to the shores 80 years later.



American Airlines had the honor of flying nearly 70 World War II veterans to the shores of Normandy for the 80th anniversary of D-Day. The trip served as a heartfelt tribute, expressing the deepest respect for those who fought for our freedom. American is proud to provide the veterans with an opportunity to honor the fallen and to pay homage to their bravery.



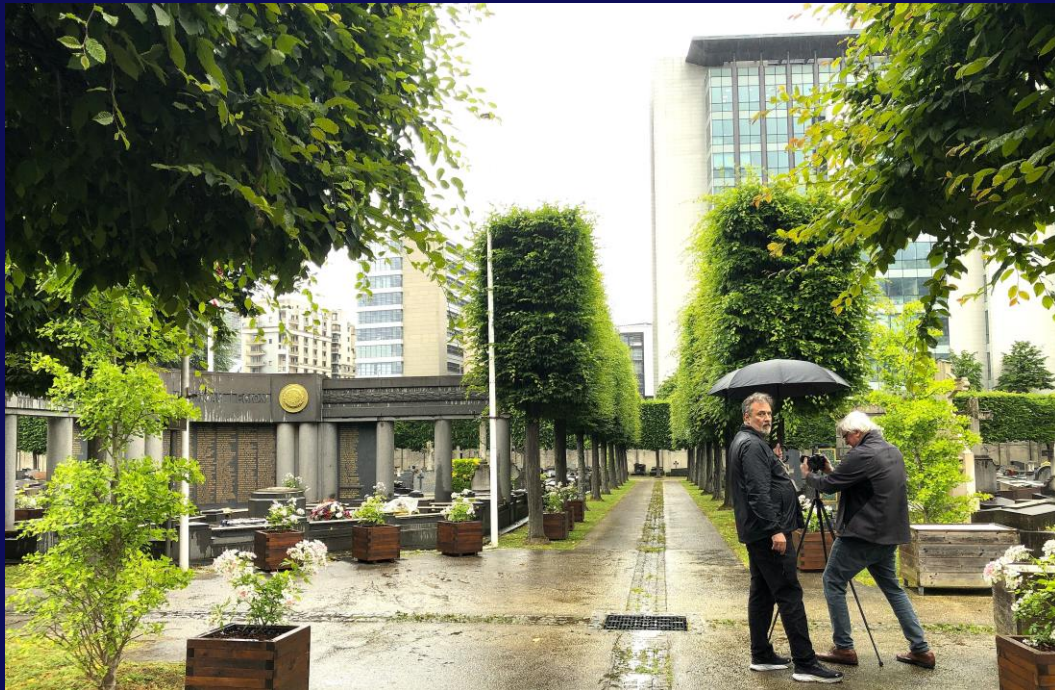
Paris Post 1's Starts Filming New Documentary

Our post's history has been accruing for many decades, to help preserve our history and share our legacy, Paris Post 1 is embarking on the production of a new documentary.

We are all very thankful for the extraordinary work and time that members of Paris Post 1 are dedicating to ensure this documentary is filmed and produced. Special thanks to Legionnaire Robert Loftur-Thun who flew from the USA to France to start filming for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.

One of the first locations to be filmed was Paris Post 1's Mausoleum, created after World War I for veterans of the great war, this American historic landmark is located near La Defense on the west side of Paris.

Near the Grande Arche of La Defense (seen in the photo above), Paris Post 1's Mausoleum is located in the Cimetière de Neuilly-sur-Seine where almost 300 American veterans are buried.



Many thanks to Paris Post 1's Judge Advocate Jason Mankiewicz

who provided essential support for production management, location scouting and also helping out Rob when it started to downpour rain when filming!

Inside the same cemetery as Paris Post 1's Mausoleum, there are also military memorials and gravesites for the French military, the French resistance and the British military.



For the arrival of World War II veterans at Charles de Gaulle (CDG) airport near Paris, Legionnaire Rob was able to capture history taking place when nearly 70 WWII heroes arrived in France for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day!



Preserving history known by our veterans and community regarding their military service, activities with Paris Post 1 and involvement with Pershing Hall is vital to our understanding of our past legacy and history. Plus, its perfect opportunity to engage our youth and produce content for our new documentary together.

Special thanks to Eagle Scout Thomas Ravel (and his family) for his contribution as a member of Paris Post 1's community, and for his help in filming Paris Post 1's documentary with other veterans and at locations in Paris!



Filming was important not only for Paris Post 1's documentary, but to also capture historic moments during the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.

Seen above, the ceremony at the Suresnes American Cemetery with local maires giving thanks to the WWII veterans for their service, and welcoming them to France.



Safeguarding the history of Paris Post 1's members is very important!

While at the Arc de Triomphe for the ravivage ceremony, Chaplain Gary Nadolski and his wife Gigi were sharing their history of living in France. Gary was stationed in France with the U.S. Army, and Gigi grew up in Normandy surviving the D-Day bombing by the Allies as a child.

[Paris Post 1 Website](#)



**PARIS POST 1
AMERICAN LEGION FRANCE**



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