

## American Legion - Riley Leroy Pitts Post GR07

### Newsletter

(May-June 2017)

#### Who was Captain Riley Leroy Pitts?



Post GR07 is honored to be named after Captain Pitts. He served as an Information Officer in Vietnam. He was later transferred to a combat unit, C Company "Wolfhounds" 2d BN, 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment and served as C Company Commander. On 31 Oct 67, a month prior to his scheduled return home, his unit was ordered to reinforce a company in Ap Dong, Vietnam. Against strong Viet Cong forces, Pitts led an assault and overran the enemy's position. He threw a grenade taken from a captured Viet Cong soldier's gear towards an enemy bunker, but it hit the jungle foliage and bounced back. He threw himself on the grenade in an effort to protect his unit. Though the grenade did not detonate, he continued to lead his unit towards enemy lines until he was eventually killed in a gun battle.

Post GR07 was involved in helping the 5<sup>th</sup> Signal Command with the naming and induction of "CPT Riley Leroy Pitts" street at the former Funari Barracks in Mannheim, Germany and in 2012 the post was involved in the official dedication of the 5<sup>th</sup> Signal Command's Headquarters building in Wiesbaden as "Pitts Hall".

#### Legion National Commander Visits Wiesbaden and Post GR07



Photo: Post GR07 Commander John Odom Sr., American Legion National Commander Charles Schmidt, Post GR07 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Francis Vaughn, American Legion National SAL Commander Jeff Frain, American Legion National Auxiliary President Mary Davis, Post GR07 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Jimmie Dale, and Post GR07 Adjutant Jerry Deaver attend dinner on 30 May 17 in Wiesbaden.

American Legion National Commander, Charles Schmidt, SAL National Commander, Jeff Frain, and National Auxiliary President, Mary Davis, visited Post GR07 and the US Army Garrison Wiesbaden on 29-30 May 2017. National American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Officers Verna Jones and Lou Celli also conducted a Town Hall Meeting for Veterans and Active Duty Service Members, and provided information regarding the Veterans Disability claims process, explained some of challenges related to veterans living abroad, and discussed current legislation impacting veterans programs and benefits.



Photo: Department of France Vice Commander at Large (VCAL) Joe Schram, Post GR07 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Jimmie Dale, Post GR07 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Francis Vaughn, Past Department Commander and Legion Rider Ron Moore, and China Post 01 Member John Fleming attend the VA&R Town Hall in Wiesbaden, Germany. US Army Garrison Wiesbaden Military Policemen provided security for the event.

### Post GR07 Visits Lorraine American Cemetery for Memorial Day 2017 Events



Photo: Post GR07 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Jimmie Dale and Post GR07 Membership Chairman Casby Logan lay wreaths at Lorraine American Cemetery for a Memorial Day Commemoration on 28 May 17.

Post GR07 laid a wreath at the Lorraine American Cemetery in St. Avold, France during a Memorial Day Ceremony 28 May 17. Post GR07 joined American Legion Department of France, US Military Officials, US State Department Officials, French Government Officials, and members from other Legion Posts to honor the 10,489 WWII Veterans who are interred in the cemetery, and to remember the 444 personnel Missing in Action (MIA). Lorraine Cemetery is one of the largest and most beautiful memorials outside of the United States and it is only a short drive from the Kaiserslautern-Ramstein, Germany area. You can find out more information about Lorraine Cemetery by visiting the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) website at: <https://www.abmc.gov/>

## Post GR07 Presents JROTC Awards



Photo: Post GR07 Commander John Odom Sr. presents an American Legion JROTC Award at the Wiesbaden High School.

Post GR07 presented Wiesbaden High School JROTC Awards on 5 May 17. Post GR07 continues to support the local DoDDS-Europe schools and remains committed to supporting Child and Youth Programs, which is one of the 4 pillars of the American Legion.

## Post GR07 Graves Visitation Day



Photo: Left – Comrade Lee Vaughn, Post GR07 Graves Registration Officer and (SGM (ret) Hollis post US Flags on graves of US Veterans interred in Mannheim-Kafertal Cemetery. Right- Comrade Vaughn prepares a US Flag for posting on a grave.

During Memorial Day and Veterans Day holidays Post GR07 visits the graves of US Veterans interred in local German cemeteries. The post ensures the graves are kept clean and post a new US Flag on each grave. The post also ensures the families of the deceased are provided support and visited. Post GR07 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Jimmie Dale, and Post Graves Registration Officer Francis (Lee) Vaughn are the points of contact for Graves Visitations. The post sincerely appreciates members or volunteers who can assist with graves visitations.

**Post GR07 Executive Officers**

<b>POSITION</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>EMAIL ADDRESS</b>	<b>PHONE</b>
Commander	John Odom Sr.	johnlilbro@gmail.com	0152-55461499/0174-6935296
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	Jimmie Dale	Jimmiedale.87@gmail.com	0174-2430104
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander	Curt Hesse	Crazycurt1967@gmail.com	0151-67523238
Finance Officer	Jerry Deaver	jdeavernts@hotmail.com	0159-01116273
Adjutant	Jerry Deaver	jdeavernts@hotmail.com	0159-01116273
Assistant Adjutant	Michael Murley	mgmurley@gmail.com	001-4355130185
Membership Chairman	Casby Logan	casjlog@gmail.com	0173-6549691
Chaplin	Ronald Morgan	Rcmorgan2016@gmail.com	0176-75902210
Americanism	John H. Odom Sr.	johnlilbro@gmail.com	0152-55461499
Child & Youth Programs	Ronald Morgan	Rcmorgan2016@gmail.com	0176-75902210
Boys & Girls State	Ronald Morgan	Rcmorgan2016@gmail.com	0176-75902210
Scouting	Ronald Morgan	Rcmorgan2016@gmail.com	0176-75902210
Sons of American Legion (SAL)	John H. Odom Sr.	johnlilbro@gmail.com	0152-55461499
Auxiliary Representative	John H. Odom Sr.	johnlilbro@gmail.com	0152-55461499
Veteran Affairs	Francis (Lee) Vaughn	Fvaughn89@yahoo.com	0160-98577025
Service Officer	Chris Cox	r.cox@gmx.net	06209-8365
Graves Registration	Francis (Lee) Vaughn	Fvaughn89@yahoo.com	0160-98577025
Legion Riders	Ronald Morgan	Rcmorgan2016@gmail.com	0176-75902210
Judge Advocate	Vacant	N/A	N/A
Historian/Public Relations	Jerry Deaver	jdeavernts@hotmail.com	0159-01116273
House & Entertainment	Curt Hesse	Crazycurt1967@gmail.com	0151-67523238
Sgt-At-Arms	Francis (Lee) Vaughn	Fvaughn89@yahoo.com	0160-98577025
Quartermaster	Michael Murley	mgmurley@gmail.com	001-4355130185
Executive Committee	Kirk Stern	No Email	0151-56287769
Executive Committee	Francis (Lee) Vaughn	Fvaughn89@yahoo.com	0160-98577025
Executive Committee	Vacant	N/A	N/A

*Jerry L. Deaver*  
Jerry L. Deaver, Adjutant

*John Odom Sr.*  
John Odom Sr., Commander

## More Post GR07 Updates

### **Legion Membership**

Post GR07 members who have not received a membership can contact the Post GR07 Membership Chairman for assistance. Membership also includes a copy of American Legion Magazine, therefore it is important that new members provide a correct mailing address when they join the Legion. Membership Chairman Email: [casjlog@gmail.com](mailto:casjlog@gmail.com) or Tele: 0173-6549691.

### **Upcoming Flag Retirement Ceremony**

Post GR07's Flag Retirement Ceremony is tentatively scheduled for 14 Jun 17. Assistance is needed to properly retire unserviceable US flags, and to make this a successful event. For more information contact Post Service Officer Lee Vaughn at Email: [fvaught89@yahoo.com](mailto:fvaught89@yahoo.com) or Tele: 0160-98577025.



### **Are You A Motorcycle Rider?**

If so, then Post GR07 would love to have you join our Legion Riders Chapter! For more information contact Post Legion Riders Chair Ronald Morgan at Email: [rcmorgan@gmail.com](mailto:rcmorgan@gmail.com) or Tele: 0176-75902210.

### **Full-time Veterans Benefit Advisor Located in Wiesbaden on Clay Kaserne**

US Army Garrison Wiesbaden has a full-time Veterans Benefits Advisor in building 1023E, Room 169 on Clay Kaserne. Veterans who have questions or issues related to VA Service-Connected Disability Claims can contact the Advisor at Tele: 0611 143 5481323 or Military: 565-0327. The Advisor can assist veterans with starting new claims via the VA website (E-Benefits), and help verify medical exams for veterans which are scheduled by the Veterans Evaluation Services (VES), a VA Contractor responsible for coordinating exams for veterans living abroad.

### **Volunteer Help Needed!**

Volunteers are needed at the Wiesbaden Army Community Mailroom on Clay Caserne. If you are interested please inform Post Commander John Odom Sr. at Email: [johnlilbro@gmail.com](mailto:johnlilbro@gmail.com) or Telephone: 0152-55461499. Your support will be greatly appreciated and your volunteer hours will be tracked and recognized by the Army Garrison Volunteer Program.

## **Next Post GR07 Meeting**

**Saturday, 24 June 2017 @ 1300**

**Wiesbaden, Clay Kaserne**

## **Community Activities Center (CAC) - Little Italy Restaurant, Bldg. 1011**

This will be an Executive Committee Meeting which will last approximately 2 hours. Members are encouraged to attend meetings to help plan and approve future post activities, and to help ensure the post remains an active veteran's support organization in the community. Post GR07 also has Executive Committee (EXCOM) and Officer vacancies that need to be filled. Members are encouraged to become EXCOM members or officers. For more info regarding meeting times please contact Commander John Odom at Email: [johnlilbro@gmail.com](mailto:johnlilbro@gmail.com) or Tele: 0152-55461499 or Adjutant Jerry Deaver at Email: [jdeavernts@hotmail.com](mailto:jdeavernts@hotmail.com) or Tele: 0159-01116273.



**DO YOU NEED TO ORDER SOME AMERICAN LEGION APPAREL (CAPS, HATS, SHIRTS, and PINS etc.)?**

It is recommend that Legion Members order a Garrison Cap with their respective Post#, Department Name, and Post Location stitched on the cap. Members interested in placing an order can contact Post 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander and Quartermaster Jimmie Dale at Email: [jimmiedale.87@gmail.com](mailto:jimmiedale.87@gmail.com), or visit the American Legion website: [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) ("SHOP ONLINE" section). *It is recommended to check with the Quartermaster to verify what information to have stitched on the cap.*

### **Wiesbaden Army Garrison MWR Events Jun-Jul 17**

#### **23 Jun 17 - Blues Music Night at Cappuccino Casino**

Cappuccino Casino, a MWR facility located in the Hainerberg old PX Complex area will sponsor Blues Night with Jimi Carrow and Band. Jimi is well known from the Heidelberg area and he and his band puts on a great show that includes singing oldies and some of today's chart topping hits. The Cappuccino Casino also offers pool tables, slot machines and a bar where you can typical find many military veterans enjoying a nice evening.

#### **29 Jun-4 July – German-American Friendship Fest**

US Army Garrison (USAG) Wiesbaden will sponsor its annual Fest, which will take place at the former Hainerberg PX Shopping Center Parking Lot. Parking on the fest grounds will not be available but designated parking spaces will be located nearby. Post GR07 will inquire with the garrison to see if it can assist or sponsor a fundraiser during the Fest. Adjutant Jerry Deaver is the POC and can be reached at Email: [jdeavernts@hotmail.com](mailto:jdeavernts@hotmail.com) or Telephone: 0159-01116273. For more information regarding US Army Garrison Wiesbaden upcoming events please visit: [www.wiesbaden.armymwr.com](http://www.wiesbaden.armymwr.com)

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**Congratulations**

**Comrade Francis (Lee) Vaughn**

**For Being Selected**

**Post GR07 Legionnaire of the Year**

**Your hard work and dedication is sincerely appreciated by  
American Legion Post GR07 and the Mannheim, Worms and  
Wiesbaden Communities!**