

# Post NL01 Newsletter

May 2022 Edition



## Commander's Comments



American Legion  
Margraten Post NL01  
Department of France  
Brunssum, The Netherlands




27 May 2022

Comrades,

On this most somber holiday weekend, it warms my heart that the great members of our American Legion Post are participating in so many different events throughout May. It is our duty to honor those brave men and women who paid the ultimate price in defense of democracy and the preservation of freedom around the globe. As Veterans, we must continue to honor the spirit of these heroes and share their legacies so that the Greatest Generation shall live on in our hearts and the hearts of generations to come.

It has been a busy time for me as I have been called away to provide equipment and logistical support to the modern warfighter during the annual Army Defender training mission. In my absence, many members have stepped up to act on my behalf and represent Post NL01. You have all demonstrated a solid commitment to the principles of The American Legion and have represented the Margraten Post with the utmost decorum and reverence.

As we continue to pay homage to the fallen at the American Cemetery in Margraten and cemeteries worldwide, I want you all to be mindful of the high price of freedom paid so many years ago so that we can enjoy those liberties guaranteed to us as American citizens. I encourage you to spend some well-deserved time with your Families and reflect on the sacrifices of those who came before us. Thank you, God Bless the fallen and God Bless America!

  
JOSHUA E. STEINLICHT  
Commander  
Margraten Post NL01  
The American Legion  
"For God and Country"

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## Post Commander

Joshua Steinlicht

## 1st Vice Commander

Mike Head

## 2nd Vice Commander

Adam Rudolph

## Finance Officer

Rich Mauer

## Adjutant

Rick Ojeda

## Sergeant-At-Arms

David Huffstutler

## Service Officer

John Pope

## Historian

Duke Francis

## Judge Advocate

Jeff Danico

## Chaplain

Tim Pape

## Upcoming Meetings

### PEC Meeting

12 June

### General Membership

25 June

## Birthdays in June

D.E. La Torre, Jesus

Dillon, Joseph

Harris, Rodney

Holland, Harry

Rector, Sharon

Slizoski, Charles

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## Message from the Chaplain

Timothy Pape

As Memorial Day is upon us, we are proud to honor the American Men and Woman of the United States Armed Forces and the incredible sacrifices that they have made for our great nation. Thank you to all the members who conducted activities in reflection and homage to the precious souls of our great nation who have paid an incredible sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy today.

***"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." - John 15:13***



## Message from the Sgt. At Arms

David Huffstutler

After more than two years of Covid we finally had a chance to represent the Post at the events scheduled for the month of May. It was an honor to lay the flags with Comrade Scott at Oud-Beijerland. Comrade Scott, Comrade Brotherton, Comrade Clevenger, Comrade Danico and myself experience the celebration with the local residents of the area along with Dutch Canadian Honor Guard and Scottish bag Pipes.

At this remembrance event a family from England was there to remember the sacrifices of their family members who lost his life on his first mission over occupied territory. We were all there to remember all 90 airmen who lost their lives during the war. To see how the people remember and appreciated the airmen they never knew was very special to witness.

Our presence was well appreciated by the locals and organizers. It's a country that suffered, rebuilt and continues to pass on these lesson and stories to the next generation. From what I saw this past month, the people of the Netherlands will never forget.

The best part of May was meeting the Veterans, Margraten Cemetery + organizers, and Ms. Mae known as Rosy the Riveter over the Memorial Day weekend. It truly was a special time for all of us that attended and participated. I was very grateful for the experience to meet some of the last veterans of WWII.

The Post Honor Guard presented the Colors at the ceremony in Mesch. A shout out to Comrade Adam, Comrade Dennis and Comrade John for performing their duties representing the Post. I would also like to thank Comrade Duke for taking the photos and Comrade Daniel for providing logistical support.

I now regret having missed the ceremonies for the Opijnen and Wereth11. I will make sure I schedule time for each event next year.

I challenge all Post NL 01 Comrades to become part of the celebrations. One or all, you won't regret it. Don't lose these opportunities while stationed or living here. Soon there will be no more WWII vets to honor, so next year I hope to see more of the post experiencing the events that takes place in this very appreciative country we live in.

Sincerely,

David Huffstutler

Sgt. At Arms

Margarten Post NL01

# Memorial Day Weekend Ceremony 28-29 May 2022 at The American War Cemetery in Margraten The Netherlands



Report by

**DENNIS OWENS**

Memorial Day in Margraten 2022 was on again after COVID shut everything down for two years. American Legion Post NL01 was given some VIP Tickets to attend and we made good use of them. The weather held on for the Ceremony and the Missing Man Fly over of F16s. Attending from NL01 were Roy Smith, John Pope, Duke Francis, Dave Huffstutler with Marike, Dennis and Angelika Owens. Sitting close to the front, we witnessed several speakers who moved us with their words. From the US Embassy in The Netherlands, the Honorable Marja Verloop, Chargé d' Affaires a.i. of the United States of America. The Prime Minister of The Netherlands Mr. Rutte. The Netherlands King's Commissioner of the Province of Limburg E.G.M. Roemer, and Major General Andrysiak, the Deputy Commander, HQ US Army Europe-Africa.

But a surprise speaker to me was a Medal of Honor recipient US Army Retired Capt. Florent Groberg for his actions in Afghanistan. It is great to hear that he is now the Commissioner of the American Battle Monuments Commission, ABMC. He is also the co-author of the book "8 Seconds of Courage: A Soldier's Story from Immigrant to the Medal of Honor". I had to look him up and I was in awe watching then President Obama present him with the Medal of Honor and hearing the citation of his actions. Please do look it up, you won't be disappointed.

But yet another highlight of the ceremony were the eight US WWII Veterans and one of the "Rosie the Riveters" Mr. Mae Krier sitting right up in the front row. These folks ranging in age 96 to 101 years young traveled from the States to show their Gratitude to all of the Dutch families who have adopted the graves of our fallen there in the American War Cemetery Margraten.



Memorial Day Weekend Ceremony 28-29 May 2022  
at  
The American War Cemetery in Margraten The Netherlands





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Henri Chapelle Ceremony 28th May 2022  
at  
The American Cemetery and Memorial in Plombières Belgium



Henri Chapelle Ceremony 28th May 2022  
at  
The American Cemetery and Memorial in Plombières Belgium



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# Opijnen Ceremony 4th May 2022 at Opijnen The Netherlands



Report by

**JIM BROTHERTON**

## Opijnen Ceremony, 4 May 2022

Opijnen is probably one of the few and the largest final resting places where the deceased crew is laid to rest, side by side. This happened on 30 July 1943 when their B-17 crashed into an adjacent field after being shot down by German fighter planes.

The B-17 holds a crew of 10, the pilot and co-pilot were the only survivors and were immediately captured when they landed in their parachutes.

Shortly after the crash the 8 deceased crew members were collected by the townspeople and after discussion with their German captors were allowed to bury the deceased crew in their local cemetery, where they remain to this day. Looked after by the people of Opijnen.

Our Post has had the honor of participating in the remembrance ceremonies for the last couple of years. In attendance from our Post NL01 was Jim Brotherton, Jeff Danico, Andy Clevenger, Ken Tackett, Roger Long and Jesse Bustemante. To lay the wreath the honor was given to Roger Long and Jesse Bustemante. I want to give a heartfelt thank you to all participants and hope to see even more participants next year.



# Opijnen Ceremony 4th May 2022 at Opijnen The Netherlands



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Opijnen Ceremony 4th May 2022  
at  
Opijnen The Netherlands



# Oud Beijerland Ceremony 14th May 2022 at Oud Beijerland The Netherlands



Report by

**JIM BROTHERTON**

Oud Beijerland, 14 May 20022

Post NL01 has had the honor to participate in the remembrance ceremonies in the area of Hoeksche Waard, Oud Beijerland for the last several years.

This is the location that Anton de Mann designed and organized the placement of a monument to honor the 88 aircrewman, from 8 different countries who lost their lives there when either flying to or returning from missions in the war with Germany. Some of these losses Mr de Mann witnessed himself as a young boy at the time.

The Hoeksche Waard is a small area, approximately 323 square kilometers just south of Rotterdam before crossing into the southwest delta area of Zeeland.

The 88 aircrewmen who lost their lives there were from the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Denmark, Poland and the United States. 10 airmen were Dutch and 10 were Americans assigned to the USAAF. The other 68 are divided up among the other 6 countries. Of the 10 Americans, 1 is still missing, 1 was returned to the US, the other 8 are interned at the American Cemetery in Margraten, the Netherlands.

In attendance from Post NL01 was Jim Brotherton, Jeff Danico, Andy Clevenger, Jim Scott and David Huffstutler.

David Huffstutler and Jim Scott did the honors of presenting a floral arrangement on behalf of Post NL01. I would like to add that we shared this opportunity with fellow veterans of the Dutch Veterans Organization, the Royal Canadian Legion and the Royal British Legion. We thank **all veterans** for their service and participation.



Oud Beijerland Ceremony 4th May 2022  
at  
Oud Beijerland The Netherlands



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# Oud Beijerland Ceremony 4th May 2022 at Oud Beijerland The Netherlands



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Wereth 11 Ceremony 21st May 2022  
in  
Amel Belgium



Report by

**DENNIS OWENS**

Wereth 11 memorial service, a very honored moment for me as the lady next to me, Sandra Green, is the niece of Robert Green, one of the 11 who we were honoring there. She flew in from Cleveland for the memorial and has already returned. Our Embassy in Belgium was honored to participate in the Memorial Day remembrance event at the U.S. Memorial Wereth, a monument that speaks to courage, empathy, and generosity that transcend differences in culture, nationality, ethnicity, and race.

Remembering the eleven Black GIs and the Belgian family whose lives intersected on a frigid night in December 1944 is a tradition that has connected people on both sides of the Atlantic for decades.

# Wereth 11 Ceremony 21st May 2022 in Amel Belgium





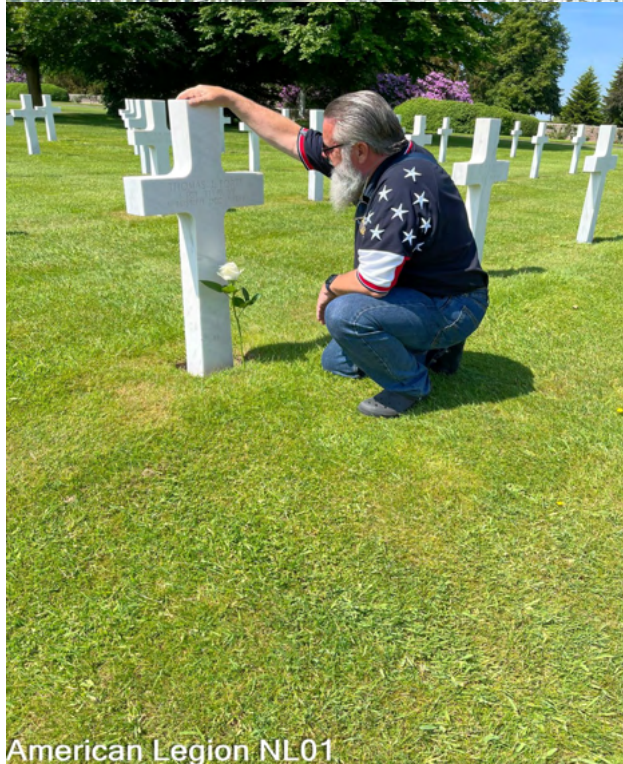
Wereth 11 Ceremony 21st May 2022  
in  
Amel Belgium



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Gratitude & Peace Ceremony 28th May 2022  
at  
Freedom Monement in Mesch The Netherlands



Report by

**DENNIS OWENS**

Just the day before the Margraten Memorial Day Ceremony, we attended the Peace and Gratitude ceremony in Mesch, the Netherlands where these WWII Veterans and Mr. Mae Krier handed out to 100 Dutch families a certificate of Thanks and a small block of Vermont Marble, the same Marble that is used for the Headstones in Arlington as a sign of their gratitude for the care and love they give to the graves of our fallen brothers and sisters laying in peace in Margraten.

American Legion Post NL01 had the honors of providing a Color Guard for this event. The Color Guard was covered this time by Adam Rudolph, David Huffstutler (Rifles), John Pope and Dennis Owens (Flags), taking brilliant photos was our Historian Duke Francis and I must say man, we killed it! Not only that, but we all had such a good time with the WWII Veterans and Mr. Krier.

With all of that said, those who do volunteer for such duties and attend Memorials really do have a good time. For those who do not or have not, please let me invite you to join us, you won't regret it!



Gratitude & Peace Ceremony 28th May 2022  
at  
Freedom Monement in Mesch The Netherlands



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Gratitude & Peace Ceremony 28th May 2022  
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Freedom Monement in Mesch The Netherlands



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Gratitude & Peace Ceremony 28th May 2022  
at  
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Gratitude & Peace Ceremony 28th May 2022  
at  
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## Military Calendar-Holidays, Events, Observances For June 2022

<a href="#"><u>PTSD Awareness Month</u></a>	Month of June
<a href="#"><u>Homeownership Month</u></a>	Month of June
<a href="#"><u>D-Day</u></a>	June 6th
<a href="#"><u>Women Veterans Day</u></a>	June 12th
<a href="#"><u>Army Birthday</u></a>	June 14th
<a href="#"><u>U.S. Flag Day</u></a>	June 14th
<a href="#"><u>National Flag Week</u></a>	The week that includes June 14th
<a href="#"><u>Father's Day</u></a>	Third Sunday in June
<a href="#"><u>Juneteenth</u></a>	June 19th
<a href="#"><u>Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday</u></a>	June 23rd
<a href="#"><u>PTSD Awareness Day</u></a>	June 27th

For more information, just click on each link.

## Grow the American Legion Family

### Help Expand our American Legion Family!

We are still looking for founding members of our local chapters of the American Legion Auxiliary (open to all spouses and female descendants of Veterans), Sons of the American Legion, and Post Honor Guard! Contact any member of the Post Executive Committee if you are interested!



### Become an American Legion Ambassador...

...by completing American Legion Basic Training ! This online self-paced course is available for FREE to all members. Learn about the history of the American Legion and the organization's four pillars: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. The course takes approximately two hours to complete. You can stop at anytime and pick up where you left off at a later time. Upon completion, you will receive a certificate and be eligible to wear a graduate pin on your cap. If you have recently completed the course, be sure to let a Post Executive Committee member know so you can be recognized at the next general membership meeting.

Link to Training: <https://www.legion.org/alei/basic-training>

The American Legion is that voice that tells government there has to be improvements in the VA system. It is the voice that tells courts that the war memorial honoring our fallen still matters and should not be torn down. The American Legion is that voice that says our military veteran deserves better and fights everyday to get that word out.

We cannot be that voice without you. We cannot get that word out, without your help.

Helping that veteran and giving that voice to the American Legion is simple. You don't even have to leave the comfort of your home. Just go on-line to the American Legion site, click on 'Join Us'. We cannot do this without you. Help yourself, help the veteran, renew your membership today.

Your membership is good world wide, in more than 12,000 American Legion Posts. Renewing is as easy as visiting the American Legion website. If you have any questions about how to go about continuing as a valued American Legion member please contact 1st Vice Commander Mike Head.