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Do you have an article or announcement for the newsletter?

If so, please send all submissions to

Margraten.Post.NL01@gmail.com

[Editor: Historian Ray](#)



Message from the Commander

Hello again, Comrades!

It's time to provide you with updates of what our post has accomplished since our last newsletter. I don't normally have a theme, but this month, I want to focus on commitment.

According to the dictionary, commitment is the state or quality of being dedicated to a cause or activity. Now, I do feel a little silly talking to a bunch of veterans that I respect about commitment; I know you know what it means because you've committed part of your lives to the military cause, a cause that could have resulted in you losing your life. Now, I'm asking for that similar commitment to the American Legion and to our post.



To begin, besides holding our Post Officer's Meeting on 10 November, members of our Post participated in three Veterans' Day Memorial services. The first was held at our namesake, Margraten American Cemetery. There, Historian Ray Perez and Post Adjutant Andy Clevenger honored our American Heroes that gave their all with a beautiful wreath, while other members were there to pay their respects. We were able to honor 8,301 American Heroes during this ceremony. These Heroes were committed to an important cause.

The following day, Adjutant Clevenger, and I were able to honor another 7,992 American Heroes at Henri Chappelle American Cemetery with another beautiful wreath. While Henri Chappelle is not our adopted cemetery, it was all the more important that the Legion remembered them, as the only other wreath came from the engineering unit and Honor Guard from Ramstein. I can assuredly tell you that laying that wreath at Henri Chappelle was one of the greatest moments of my life, and I was honored to represent our post and veterans everywhere by doing it. These Heroes were committed to an important cause.

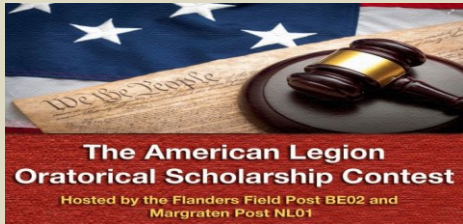
Last, First Vice Jim Brotherton attended a memorial ceremony in the Dutch village of Oud Beijerland, just south of Rotterdam. In this village there is a memorial that has been erected to remember the 87 aircrew members that crashed in the immediate area during WWII. The top of the memorial is a steel plate in the shape of the area where the aircraft crashed, called the Hoeksche Waard. It has the silhouette of a B-17 and three Spitfires, positioned to represent their return flight formation back to England after completing their mission over Germany. But theirs was a mission never completed. All told, there are 87 names listed on the panels at the base of the monument. Ten are of the Royal Netherlands Air Force flying out of England. There are 77 other allied aircrew members also listed representing the Royal Air Force (England), the Royal Canadian Air Force, the Royal Australian Air Force, the Polish Air Force and the Royal New Zealand Air Force. There are also 15 names listed for the United States Army Air Corps. Of these 15 aircrew members, one was returned to the States, 7 are still listed as Missing in Action (MIA), and 7 are laid to rest in the American Cemetery, the Netherlands (Margraten). These Heroes were committed to an important cause.

Dates to Remember

08 Dec - Membership Meeting



09 Dec - Oratorical Contest



15-17 Dec - Bastogne Weekend



30 Dec - Peace Lights Margraten



12 Jan - Membership Meeting



03 Mar - Post Officer Elections



So all in all, Margraten Post NL01 was committed to render respect and appreciation for over 16,000 American war dead in those two days, something worth all the time, effort, and resources put forth to do it. This remembrance is something that must never falter...NEVER! We, current veterans and active duty Legionnaires, must continue to carry the torch. We are truly standing on the shoulders of giants, and they deserve all the honor and respect that is due of someone that makes the ultimate sacrifice. I'm asking you all once again to commit your time and effort to move our post forward. Recently, we've garnered an enormous boost in our social media traffic thanks to Historian Ray capturing all of our efforts and making them available on our Facebook page. We've also been on AFN for our efforts to honor our Fallen Heroes. It's imperative that we now turn this into increased membership and support, but we really need every one of you, our current members, to stay committed to our Post, to what we stand for, and to continue to do the great work that we're already getting a reputation for.

Looking forward, we have our next general membership meeting scheduled for 8 December. This time we're moving venues to Heerlen in The Netherlands. The street address is Beersdalweg 56, 6412 PE. We really hope to see a lot of you there. We certainly appreciate your continued membership and any financial support, but we really need participation to make more and more events and to gain awareness for our issues. Please try to make as many meetings and events as you can.

Next, our post will be helping Flanders Field Post BE02 with the Bastogne Remembrance Weekend events. Several officers and members will be staying the weekend there helping raise funds while also assisting with the activities. This promises to be a stellar weekend, and I'm looking forward to a lot of fun and camaraderie with everyone. If you want to go or have any questions, details are located in this newsletter, or please feel free to contact any of the officers, and we'll fill you in.

Last, we have an American Legion bowling team that bowls every Wednesday at the Schinnen bowling alley. Bowling starts at 1800, so come on out and cheer us on (or make fun of us). Either is okay by me. Plus, we can always use another sub or two, so if you want to bowl, let us know.

Until next time, thank you for your service and your commitment dedicated to our Legion mission. I'm extremely honored that you chose me as your commander, and it's a true pleasure to represent the best post in the Department of France. Take care and God bless.

Commander Ray

Prayer: We pray to you, O Lord, that we, who rejoice in celebrating the nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, may never cease to be grateful to Thee for Thy divine gift. May our actions at all times be directed toward good works and helpful ministrations, which are pleasing to Thee. Bless us all, we earnestly pray; gladden our hearts anew with the joyful tidings of this Holy day. Let the day soon dawn when men shall permit Thy love to right every wrong, and when truth and justice and love shall overrule all the affairs of men, that here and everywhere there shall prevail the glorious message of the first Christmas morning "Peace on earth to men of good will" through Jesus name. *Amen*

~ Chaplain Maddog Maddox



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GK Veterans Day Reveille

By Adjutant Andy Clevenger

In recognition of Veteran's Day, the US Contingent assigned to NATO Airbase Geilenkirchen, Germany held a Reveille Ceremony on Friday, 10 November, 08:00hrs. Commanded by Col. Michael Mote, NATO AWACS Group Commander, a formation of four flights with nearly 200 personnel from 470ABS, AMXS, Operations, Mission Support Flight with NAEW&C Force HQ and Geilenkirchen Honor Guard conducted a Flag Raising Ceremony and Reveille.



A special invitation was extended to all Veteran's, Retiree's and American Legion Post NL01 members to "fall-in" for the formation and ceremony. Historian Ray Perez and Adjutant Andy Clevenger attended. We hope in the years to come to have enough members to form up our own flight.



During the early morning dawn and under overcast skies, participants were full of pride and reflected on the service and sacrifices of all Veteran's. After the ceremony, Col. Mote provided his perspective and a few encouraging words about the legacy of military service.

Msgt Tommy Van, Superintendent, NAEW&C Force HQ Requirements and ceremony coordinator commented, "The US Air Force contingent at Geilenkirchen was honored to include the veterans from the American Legion Post NL01 in our Veterans Day Reveille ceremony. We understand that the day is about all veterans, both past and present. Whether on active duty, separated or retired, we're all servicemen and -women continuing to support each other like we've always done!"

He went on to say, "Extending the invitation to local prior-service veterans was a high priority for us this year, based on feedback from previous years' events. Andy Clevenger and Ron Macauley jumped at the opportunity to offer the invitation through their avenues, and we're grateful. We had good weather, a great showing by the squadrons here at GK, and the morning was certainly more complete with our prior-service brothers in arms taking part. We look forward to seeing you again next year! "

From the Veteran's that have served before us, especially here in Europe during WWI and WWII, to those still serving today, we share a commitment and comradery that has been passed generation to generation and continues to make a difference all around the world.

A Day of Remembrance

By Historian Ray

Netherlands American Cemetery hosted its annual Veterans Day Ceremony today. Students and ROTC from AFNorth High School organize the ceremony! Post NL01 was honored to actively participate in our namesake ceremony. Post Historian and Adjutant posted a wreath of remembrance. Distinguished visitors included Dr. Dell McMullen, Col. Anne-Marie Fenton, Col Mike Mote, Commander, NATO AWACS, Col (R) Ray Robidoux, JROTC, and NL01 Officers Ray Perez & Andy Clevenger.



A Day of Remembrance (cont.)

Part of the day's ceremony included the reading of selected poems written by AFNorth students. These are the three poems chosen.

Rest Easy – By Evelyn Buchanan

Rest easy; You've done enough. You've brought more than justice for all the fallen soldier that watch above.

Rest easy, now; the war was won. You sacrificed your life and challenged the enemies and fought for more than one.

Rest easy; freedom has been brought. You held up your gun, pulled the trigger and an enemy took the shot.

Rest easy, please; everyone is proud. Your family mourns over your loss but stand with gratitude in the honoring crowd.

Rest easy; everything will be all right. Everyone salutes to your name in honor and knows that your bravery will shine.

Rest in peace, dear soldier. The flag of freedom rests upon your bed and the stitched patches of glory and remembrance lie on your shoulders.

Rest easy; You've done your best. You sacrificed your life for us and will forever be remembered by many.

Margraten Poem - By Katelyn Eidson

Fields stained red, with few words said. Loud cries and call, as soldiers fall, With heads raised high, sent to die, For their country they fight, for they feel it is right, Our young men fall, answering the call. Fighting on command, so we now stand, and thank our sons, and our beloved ones. For the sacrifice they made, and the price they paid, for the heroes who slumber deep, in our hearts we keep, and we remember, on the Tenth of November, The war they fought, and the victory brought, They stood in ranks, so we now stand in thanks. So if we may, we all now say, Thank you to all, who fought and fall.

Dear Soldier – By Caleb Williams

I may not know your name or the battle in which you died. But you did it for love not for the fame. You got passed all fears and left them behind. I do know where you rest. I promise not to let your legacy die. Thank you, you did your job at your best and this is where the body of a warrior lies. But, I know your spirit exists. That your courage is greatly admired and your sacrifice is honored by each soul that's inspired and I offer you from my heart. Thank you, to guardians of the unknown for offering yourself for all of us, that we may keep freedom our home.



Memorial at Oud Beijerland

By Jim Brotherton



This past Veterans Day you can easily say that the American Legion Margraten Post NL01 was active doing the 'Legions' work. Wreath presentations at the American Cemeteries in the Netherlands and Belgium but also remembrance events at WWII memorials. Was on hand for the wreath presentation at the American Cemetery the Netherlands. On the 11th November had the honor to attend a memorial service in the Dutch village of Oud Beijerland, just south of Rotterdam. In this village there is a memorial that has been erected to remember the 87 aircrew members that crashed in the immediate area during WWII. This has been accomplished by Anton de Man, who was a boy of 4 years old living in that village and remembers the conflict clearly to this day. He and a small group of dedicated individuals have built this memorial and is still a work in progress.

They give lectures at the local schools so that the memories live on and these events will not be forgotten. The top of the memorial is a steel plate in the shape of the area where the aircraft crashed, this is called the Hoeksche Waard. It has the silhouette of a B-17 and four



Spitfires, positioned to represent their return flight to England after flying their missions over Germany. A flight never completed. There are 87



names listed on the panels at the base of the monument. Ten (10) are of the Royal Netherlands Air Force flying out of England. There are 77 allied aircrew members also listed representing the Royal Air Force (England), the Royal Canadian Air Force, the Royal Australian Air Force, the Polish Air Force and the Royal New Zealand Air Force. There are also 15 names listed for the United States Army Air Corp. Of these 15 aircrew members, one was returned to the States, 7 are still listed as Missing in Action (MIA) and 7 are laid to rest in the American Cemetery, the Netherlands (Margraten). Again, it was an honor to attend this remembrance, proud to represent The American Legion and our Post NL01, Margraten. Look forward to working with this group of dedicated individuals who honor us and keep the memory alive.



American Battle
Monuments
Commission ✓
@abmcpage



On the Shoulders of Giants

By Historian Ray

Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial in Belgium – The less than ideal weather conditions did not dissuade the legionnaires of Post NL01 from participating in this year's ceremony at Henri-Chapelle. I personally found that the curtain of fog along with light mix of sleet and rain only added to the keen sense of reverence to the ceremony. Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery is the final resting place for 7,992 American military heroes that answered the call and made the ultimate sacrifice. Our post was given the great honor of directly participating in the ceremony by laying a wreath of remembrance. Also participating were 20 Airmen from the 86th Civil Engineer Group out of Ramstein Air Base, Germany making up the main formation. Col. Brian Hartless, 86th CEG commander was the guest speaker along with a poem read by Mathilde Schmetzs, who runs along with her husband Marcel the M&M Museum. An honor guard team from Spangdahlem Air Base also took part.



During his speech, Col. Heartless listed some of the names of the notable Airman buried at Henri-Chapelle, like William H. Nellis. He also highlighted the significance of the holiday, adding that it illustrates the commitment of the U.S. service members to serve their country and build partnerships with their allies.

What summed up the event best for me were the words of MSgt Michael Murieen who led the formation.

*“Even if you’re not a history buff and you see these crosses setup before you, that’s sacrifice, and to know that we are a part of something bigger than ourselves and a part of what they did as service members, you can’t help but feel proud and humbled at the same time, to be **On the Shoulders of Giants.**”*

~ MSgt Michael. Murieen

AFN Benelux was also on hand interviewing and filming the event. We even sent them the footage we took from the ceremony. You can see all the footage from both the post and AFN Benelux on our FB page [here](#). Our footage was shared over 140 times to pages like the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) page and reached over 20,000 users. Even received positive responses from American Legion National!



We as a post would like to especially thank Mr. Chris Arsenault, the Superintendent of Henri-Chapelle for letting us participate and we look forward to participating in many more events at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial in Belgium.

Remembering the Todd Brothers

By Historian Ray

Have you ever heard “Everything just seemed to fall into place at the very last minute”? Well this is kind of the case with our connection to the Todd brothers. It only took 72 years, 11 months, and 20 days to come about... First I think explanations and introductions are in order; On the 7th of November just four days before Veterans Day, our Post was given a great honor by the American Overseas Memorial Day Association (AOMDA) in Belgium, to serve as the Primary Sentinels of Memory for: PFC David B. Todd. PFC Todd was randomly selected, so I had no history about him. On the AOMDA page as well as the other usual source pages, information was extremely limited. Standard, Name, Rank, Unit, Place of Birth, town he entered the service from, and Date of Death, 21 Nov 1944 was what I had to work with. Seeing that he was born and entered the service from the same town, Lynnfield, Mass, I decided that was the best place to start my search. Being a Sentinel of Memory for two other servicemen, I know this could be a very timely pursuit. Infact, I have yet to make little headway on even finding a picture for my heroes. Not the case for PFC Todd! On my very first search attempt, I found Lynnfield American Legion Post 131 and Lynnfield Veterans’ Services Facebook pages. Lynnfield Veterans’ Services had published a post on the 6th of November about a Veteran’s Day Celebration that will begin with a brief ceremony and the unveiling of a commemorative gold star plaque mounted on their own **Todd Lane** street sign, in recognition of PFC David B. Todd & his brother, First Lieutenant Charles N. Todd. I reached out to both Post 131 and Vet Services via FB messenger and received a quick reply the very next day with pictures, bios, and hometown news releases! Definitely a Eureka moment.

So now let me introduce you to both the Todd Brothers. We had the honor of visited with both these heroes during the two days of ceremonies for Veterans Day. David rests in Henri-Chapelle and his older brother Charles rest at our namesake “Margraten”.

David Bradstreet Todd was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson B. Todd of Summer St. in Lynnfield, Massachusetts. He had two brothers. David was a gifted student. During his time at the Huntington School for Boys won a number of academic awards in subjects as diverse as French, Chemistry, and History. Each year, he earned a scholarship medal. He was a member of the tennis team and

the manager of the track team. During his junior year he was awarded the “Harvard Prize” book, given to the outstanding member of the class. During his senior year, he was the editor of the school publication. When he graduated from the school in June of 1942, he was the highest ranking student in his class. He was one of only four members of his senior class to be elected to the Cum Laude Society. David then went on to attend Dartmouth University. However, that only lasted for a year since he entered the service in October of 1943. He was Killed in Action in Germany on 21 November 1944 at the age of 19.

Charles Nelson Todd, was the middle son of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson B. Todd, who were given the tragic news of Charles death, barely three months after receiving the news about David. Charles was almost four years David’s senior and reading about Charles academic achievements you can see he was a great source of inspiration on David. As I’m sure the oldest brother, Dr. Barnard P. Todd was. Charles was KIA in Germany 8 March 1945 at the age of 23.



Private David B. Todd



First Lieutenant Charles N. Todd

Remembering the Todd Brothers cont.



On 10 Nov 2017 the town of Lynnfield unveiled a brand new Gold Star street sign commemorating the brothers sacrifice. Todd Lane was named after the brothers in the 1970's. Todd Lane resident Lou Trapasso was instrumental in the memorials installment, coordinating with Veterans' Service Officer Bruce Siegel.

"Today, we recognize and reflect (on) the tremendous sacrifice they made for our great country", said Siegel.

The Todd brothers' nephew, Charles Todd, was present at the ceremony and thanked Mr. Trapasso, Mr. Siegel, and local historian Helen Breen.

Top Left: Local Officials from left, Selectmen Chairman Chris Barrett, Veterans' Services Officer Bruce Siegel, Charles Todd, David Wolfe and Susan Todd Wolfe. **Bottom Right:** Lynnfield veteran Paul Donato Post 131 salutes the flag as Taps is played.

"I am deeply grateful to the town of Lynnfield for having gotten together so faithfully to honor Lynnfield's veteran," said Todd. "I am deeply appreciative of recalling the memory of these gallant men who helped the cause during World War II. I am overwhelmed that it's being beautifully represented on Veterans' Day. This will help our family take more seriously the sacrifices of Charles and David. We feel a tremendous sense of loss of never having met them or know them. They have certainly left a very wonderful legacy, and you have demonstrated that legacy. We are deeply, deeply grateful".

Mr. Siegel noted American Legion historian Ray Perez, got in touch with him just days before and informed the 300 plus residents present that our post would be visiting the brothers at Margraten and Henri-Chapelle.

"It's a great tribute on both sides of the Atlantic", said Siegel.



The Remember Museum –The M&M's



Nestled in the middle of the picturesque Belgium town of Thimister-Clermont, you will find a one of kind museum. The M&M as it is fondly known as, is named after its owner/operators, Marcel and Mathhilde Schmetzs'. It's actually hard to find the words that best describe the experience you get from these authentic time capsules. The museum itself is comprised mainly of items abandoned by the one hundred and ten American First Infantry Division soldiers who once enjoyed R & R at the Schmetzs' farm. The artifacts include personal items given by numerous WWII Veterans from various units. It is a museum with a human dimension, made great by its welcoming environment, its originality, it's simplicity. The museum strives to serve as the testimony of our gratefulness towards all the G.I.s who, at the risk of their lives, gave us our freedom back. If you are planning to be anywhere in the area, I highly recommend you give M&M a call.



Post NL01 Legionnaire Spotlight

From the Viet Nam era to active duty folks, our post is blessed with many incredible people representing all the services. Putting a few of our Legionnaires under the spotlight will be a regular feature in our newsletter. I think it's important to learn more about our comrades and benefit from their stories. ~ Historian Ray



DALE SNYDER

I was born and raised in the city of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, a small steel mill town (about 30,000 residents) in South Central Pennsylvania. On 24 Jun 1970, twelve days after my graduation from Lebanon High School and after the realization that the only two options available to me were the military or to follow my father and grandfather into the steel mill, I departed for Ft Dix, NJ for Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training. After spending the majority of my career (10 ½ years) on 3 tours in Europe I retired from the Army in 1991 as a Personnel Management Supervisor, SFC E-7. Shortly after my retirement from the Army I was searching for a new occupation where I could do some good. I successfully pursued training as a Paramedic and served about 10 years in this capacity in the Pittsburgh, PA area. After moving to the Ocean

City, MD I had a slight change in my career. I was hired as a Dialysis Technician. I must say that my time as a Paramedic and a Dialysis Tech were both the most rewarding and the most heartbreaking periods of my working life outside the military. These emotions ranged from the four healthy babies I delivered in the back of an ambulance (at different times) to the 2-year-old boy I pronounced dead on his 2nd birthday 2 weeks before Christmas. In 2002, I began employment with the Lebanon, PA VA Medical Center as an Accounts Receivable Tech in the Medical Care Cost Recovery Office. After about 10 Years with the VA I decided that work really was a four-letter word and permanently retired. In 2012 my wife, Lita, daughter Karlijn and I returned to Europe. Our daughter is currently in her senior year of College with the Zuyd Hoge School of Applied Science following the European Studies course of study. I enjoy working with my coin collection, following the Mighty Pittsburgh Steelers, and based on my doctor's orders I ride my bicycle a few days a week (I can't walk for exercise as I frequently fall. Strange that I can ride). Lita and I enjoy traveling and visiting with our Friends and family here in Europe.

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Post NL01 Legionnaire Spotlight

KIARA VALENCIA



Originally from Denver City Texas she grew up with her father (Vietnam Marine Corps Veteran), her mother and 10 brothers and sisters. She ended up graduating with honors from Denver City High School in 2010 and shortly after enlisted in the United States Air Force in hopes for one day working for NASA. She attended basic military training at JBSA Lackland AFB on 18 Jan 2011. She then went to Keesler MS to being Technical School training to become an Air Traffic Controller. However after 6 months of training she was retrained into Mental Health Services. She was then transferred to Fort Sam Houston where she completed her training on 2 Dec 2011 as a Mental Health Technician.

Her first duty station was the 325th MDOS on Tyndall AFB Panama City Florida where she spent 6 years of her enlistment as a multi clinic mental health/alcohol counselor technician. During her stay at Tyndall AFB she was able to deploy to Landstuhl Germany Jan 2014-May 2014 to work on the inpatient unit and patient transport. Upon return she had tried to retrain twice into AF EOD or Special Missions Aviation however was unsuccessful. She was also assigned twice to PCS to Korea in 2015 and 2016 however was unable to go due to certification error.

However despite a few setbacks she was able to advance in other areas of her life such as, going to school, making SSgt, reenlisting, and PCSing to her current station Geilenkirchen NATO ABS. SSgt Valencia now is in pursuit of Army Warrant Officer Training (Aviator specifically) and/or trying for another retrain and completing both her CCAF and Associates in Aeronautical Engineering in year 2018.

Hobbies include riding her motorcycle, wood working, and crafting.

**Together, we
make a
difference**

The American Legion provides life-changing assistance and guidance for veterans, military personnel, their families and communities.

JOIN US

Post NL01 Legionnaire Spotlight

RICK OJEDA



Rick joined the USAF in January 1977. After completion of basic training and technical school as an Avionics Communications Technician, his first assignment was K.I. Sawyer AFB Michigan, under the old Air Defense Command, working on F-106s and T-33s. After obtaining the rank of SSgt, he volunteered for flight duty and spent the next 21 Years as aircrew. He served on several platforms to include the EC-130E Airborne Command and Control Center (ABCCC), NATO E-3A Sentry, and E-8A/C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS).

During his 26 years of service Rick has served as Chief Standards and Evaluation Communications Section Operations Wing, E-3A Component; Lead Communications specialist for Joint STARS Operational Test and Evaluation Team; Superintendent, Operational Requirements, 93rd Air Control Wing; Chief US Enlisted Advisor, Operations Wing, NATO E-3A Component. Rick has served in several operations including Operation Desert Storm, Operation deny Flight (Bosnia/Herzegovina), Operation Joint Endeavor, Deliberate Guard, Joint Guardian, Noble Anvil (Allied Force), and Noble Eagle. Rick retired from the Air Force in February 2003 at the rank of Senior Master Sergeant and began a new career as a NATO International Civilian for S.H.A.P.E. J3, responsible for the deployment and employment of Tactical Data Link Systems throughout the NATO Area of Responsibility.

Rick currently resides in Schinveld, the Netherlands and was married to the love of his life, Marion Pisters, who passed away in May of this year. Rick cares for his 4 children; Brendan, 21, who is currently attending the University of Aachen working toward a degree in Electrical Engineering; Jesse, 16, who hopes to be a US Marine one day; Rico, 13; and his daughter Geneva, 12, who are students in the Dutch school system.



Basic Training

Learn about The American Legion in this self-paced online course



Basic Training Graduate

Congratulations Raymond!

You have passed the course 1 time.
Your last graduation date was 10/08/2017.

Print your certificate: [B&W](#) | [COLOR](#)
Order your cap/lapel pin [here](#).

Where you left off

[Resume](#)



History & Organization



Veterans Affairs & Rehab



National Security



Americanism



Children & Youth



Course Conclusion



Final Exam

The American Legion's official training program for officers, members, Legion College applicants and those who simply want to expand their knowledge of the nation's largest veterans service organization is now available online.

The American Legion Extension Institute has been rewritten, updated, streamlined and enhanced with videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline and additional features. The program should take less than two hours to complete. It is divided into six sections, with a quiz at the end of each one, followed by a final exam.

The course is free for members. The training took me a little over 2 hours to complete, but there is no time limit on the course. You can return to where you left off anytime you wish for as many times as you want. Once complete you will get a printable Certificate of Completion and the opportunity to order the redesigned lapel/cap pin pictured above.

I found this training to be a great jumping off point for any new legionnaire. Anyone who participates in Awareness Drives should have this information in their toolbox!

As an Historian I of course found the History & Organization module to be the most interesting and fun but the section on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation was very eye-opening.

This Basic Training package is an outstanding gateway of knowledge into the nation's largest veterans service organization and an opportunity not to be missed.

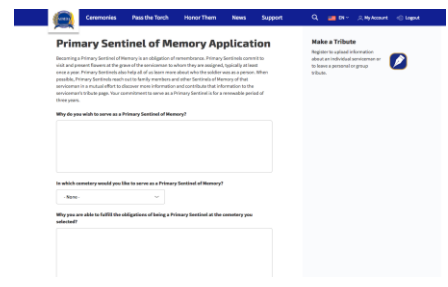
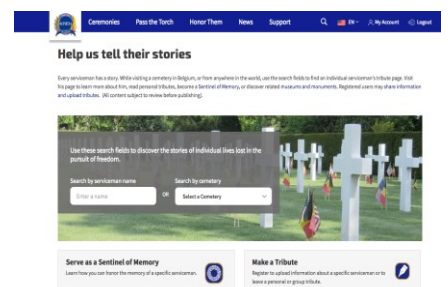
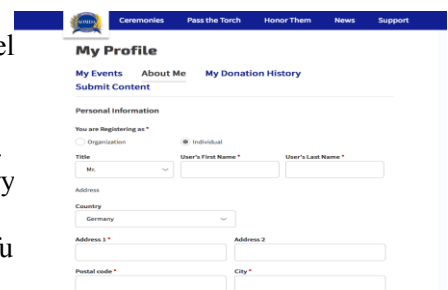
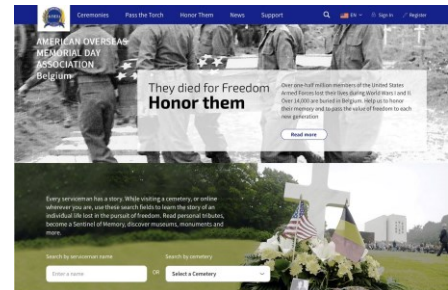


How to Become A Sentinel of Memory

By Historian Ray

Over the past year the American Overseas Memorial Day Association (AOMDA) Foundation has been focusing on the restructuring the adoption program of over 14,000 American soldiers who have their last resting place in Belgium. The program to honor our fallen is called the Sentinel of Memory program. Last issue I wrote about what the program consists of. This article will cover the steps on becoming a Primary Sentinel of Memory.

1. Go to www.aomda.org and choose the language of your preference.
2. Click on "Register" and follow the instruction on the form. Your request is usually approved within 24 hours. Mine was a little over 48 hrs.
3. If your registration was successful, go to the site and click "Login". Give your email address and password.
4. You are now automatically linked to the page for your personal account. Please take the time to fill in your profile information so that they can effectively reach you in the future.
5. Click on "Honor Them" and then click on "Serve as a Sentinel of Memory". Once that page comes up, click on the hyperlink "Primary" Sentinel of Memory
6. Fill out the Primary Sentinel of Memory Application. Make sure you give full detailed answers. Make sure you select the right cemetery. You will also be asked why you are able to fulfill the obligations of being a Primary Sentinel at the cemetery you selected. Saying you live locally and normally visit the selected cemetery a couple of times a year is an acceptable answer. If you're interested in a particular serviceman please provide his name. You will also have the option to select to be put on a waiting list or be assigned any available serviceman.
7. Once you have completed the form, click on "Send". Your application will be forwarded to the Administrator for the Remembrance Honors. After approximately 72 hours you will receive an answer. Mine took closer to 6 to 8 weeks but that was when the AOMDA was still getting going through the 14,000 graves. Should be much quicker now. Your name will then be on the page of the serviceman your Primary Sentinel for. (if you don't want your name to appear on his page, you can make that adjustment through the privacy settings of your account)
8. You will receive an email from the AOMDA with your serviceman's information and a Certificate of Appreciation for your commitment to serve as a Primary Sentinel of Memory. The pledges last for three years and you will be sent an email when the end of your pledge nears with the option to renew.





The American Legion Oratorical Scholarship Contest

Hosted by the Flanders Field Post BE02 and
Margraten Post NL01

Young orators can earn some of the most generous college scholarships
Develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution
An academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities

Eligibility:

High School Freshmen through Seniors (or home-school equivalent)

Location:

SHAPE American Middle School Multipurpose Room

Date & Time

Saturday, 09 December 2017 Start time: 1300



For more information, visit the Post BE02 Oratorical webpage
Or contact us at: flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com



Department of France Centennial Challenge Coin!

March 2019 is firmly circled on The American Legion Dept. of France calendar. That's when Legionnaires across Europe will celebrate the organization's 100th birthday in Paris, where a gathering of soldiers, sailors and Marines that month in 1919 gave birth to what would become the largest organization of U.S. veterans. To honor the centennial, and to help cover anticipated costs of celebrating the anniversary, the Department of France has struck a commemorative challenge coin. The coins have been purchased by members, collectors and post leaders to distribute among military personnel, supporters and others who help the department fulfill the Legion mission in communities overseas. The challenge coin features the Eiffel Tower – the image of which is embroidered on Department of France Legion caps – above the organization's national 100th anniversary logo. On the flip side appear the emblems of all four American Legion Family groups – the American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, Legion Riders and The American Legion. The challenge coins are \$10 each, plus shipping, add \$2 per coin for standard shipping and \$13 per coin for priority shipping. To date Post NL01 has sold over **100 coins!**



De Gezichten van Margraten

2-6 mei 2018

to make a unique tribute to the men and women buried there by trying to give as many names of the soldiers buried in or memorialized at the Margraten Cemetery as possible a face, by decorating their graves or names on the Walls of the Missing with a personal photo through the project "The Faces of Margraten" during a Memorial week once every two years. The next tribute is scheduled to take place **May 2-6, 2018.**

The Faces of Margraten

Rows, endless rows of white marble crosses and stars of David. This is what one sees when overlooking the American War Cemetery and Memorial Netherlands in Margraten, the Netherlands. 8,301 American soldiers have been buried in this cemetery; another 1,722 names are listed on the Walls of the Missing. We do know the names of all these men and women, but who were they? Where did they come from and what did their lives look like prior to World War II? The Stichting Verenigde Adoptanten Amerikaanse Oorlogsgraven (Foundation United Adopters American War Graves) hopes

Words from Service Officer Ron

We consider ourselves quite lucky to have Ron Macauley as our SO. As you read in our last newsletter, Ron's civilian job carries many of the responsibilities and tasks asked of a Legion Post Service Officer. Part of Ron's job entails keeping veterans' informed of their benefits and any change in policy that could affect those benefits. ~ Historian Ray

Improvements in Preventive Care Coverage with TRICARE Select

On Jan. 1, 2018, TRICARE Select will replace TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra. As a result, beneficiaries will notice improved coverage for preventive services with TRICARE Select. Preventive care helps you take command of your health and manage potential issues before you experience symptoms. This type of health care allows you to address health problems before they become life threatening. Examples of TRICARE-covered preventive services include cancer screenings and vaccines, in addition to well-woman and well-child exams.

If you currently use TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra, you don't pay anything for certain preventive services. But for all other preventive services, beneficiaries pay between 15-25 percent of the cost after their yearly deductible is met, depending on the plan and beneficiary category.

"With TRICARE Select, beneficiaries won't pay anything out-of-pocket for covered preventive services if they are provided by a network provider," said Valerie Palmer, a health care policy analyst for TRICARE. "However, if they use a non-network provider, fewer preventive services are paid by TRICARE. This is why it is important to see a network provider for your preventive care."

The additional, no-cost preventive services beneficiaries can receive under TRICARE Prime that TRICARE Select will cover beginning in 2018 include:
*One Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (HP&DP) exam: This is covered annually for beneficiaries age 6 and older. In 2018, this exam will no longer require the inclusion of a covered cancer screening or immunization if you see a network provider.

*Lung cancer screening (low-dose computed tomography): This is covered annually for persons ages 55-80 with a 30 pack-per-year history of smoking who are currently smoking or have quit within the past 15 years. Screening should be discontinued once the individual has not smoked for 15 years or develops a health problem significantly limiting life expectancy or ability or willingness to undergo curative lung surgery.

*Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA): This is a one-time screening using ultrasonography for men ages 65-75 who have ever smoked.

A new preventive service added this year for both TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Select is aimed at adults with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 30 kg/m² or higher and children or adolescents with a BMI value greater than the 95th percentile. Intensive, multi-component behavioral interventions to promote sustained weight loss (12 to 26 sessions per year) are covered when rendered by a TRICARE-authorized provider. An authorized provider is any individual, institution/organization, or supplier that is licensed by a state, accredited by national organization, or meets other standards of the medical community, and is certified to provide benefits under TRICARE. There are two types of TRICARE-authorized providers: Network and Non-Network. Types of behavioral management interventions include diet and physical activity guidance, strategies to promote and maintain lifestyle changes and more. This addition is a covered benefit regardless of whether the beneficiary uses a network or non-network provider, though costs are typically lower with a network provider.

Good Morning Comrades,

Want to know more about benefits from other federal agencies? See the below from the VA and click on these links:

https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/derivative_sc.asp

https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/derivative_ns_c.asp

https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/derivative_circumstance.asp

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/other-federal-benefits.asp>

Dear VA Beneficiary,

We wanted to take a moment to thank you for your service, and to share with you something we've been working on. Your service to our country makes you eligible for many VA and other federal benefits. To help you find them, we created a few charts to show you which benefits you may be able to claim based on your eligibility situation.

Have a service connected disability rating from 0-100%? Use the Service Connected Matrix to find VA benefits that you may be eligible to receive. Search options are also available for Veterans who are non-service-connected, and/or have a special circumstance.

As for other federal benefits for you and your dependents, we created the Benefits from Other Federal Agencies chart. This chart links to other benefit information in one convenient place! Whether you're looking to expedite a Social Security disability claim, contracting information from the Small Business Administration, or a Department of Energy training program, we believe there's something for everyone.

Service Officer Ron
Post NL01



**BASTOGNE
NUTS
WEEKEND
15-17 DEC**

The American Legion
Flanders Field Post BE02 and Margraten Post NL01

101st Airborne Museum

AMERICAN STYLE BBQ: SAT & SUN
SATURDAY: 10:00 TO 19:00
SUNDAY: 10:00 TO 16:00

AMERICAN BBQ MENU:
PULLED PORK SANDWICHES
GRILLED HAMBURGERS
HOTDOGS

AMERICAN LEGION CANTEEN
BEER & CAVA
SATURDAY: 19:00 TO 24:00

AIRBORNE **BASTOGNE, BE** **AIRBORNE**

Sponsored by:
American Legion Posts BE02 & NL01
101st Airborne Museum




Member ID
1234567890
Plan ID (80840)
1234 567 890
Member
JANE D SAMPLE

VA HEALTHCARE ENROLLEE
SERVICE CONNECTED
MEDAL OF HONOR
PURPLE HEART
FORMER POW



VA is introducing a new, secure identification card called the Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC). VHIC replaces the Veteran Identification Card (VIC), which was introduced in 2004.

VA is committed to providing the high quality, safe and effective health care Veterans have earned and deserve, and part of this effort includes ensuring the personal security of Veterans.

As part of a phased rollout, on February 21, 2014, VA began issuing the newly designed, more secure VHIC to newly enrolled and other Veterans who were not issued a VIC. Starting in April VA will begin a replacement effort to automatically mail the more secure VHIC to Veterans who have the old VIC. Registration starts 28 Nov.

Come out and Join the Margraten Legionnaires Bowling Team!

We're always looking for more people to take part in the fun. Every Wednesday from 6-9 pm at the Schinnen Bowling Center. Events are always posted on the Post NL01 Facebook page.

If interested please contact Team Captain Dave Ehnis at davidehnis01@yahoo.com





Vietnam War Medal of Honor recipient Wesley Fox dies at 86

Marine Corps Col. Wesley Fox, who received the Medal of Honor for successfully leading his company through an enemy attack during the Vietnam War and retired decades later at the mandatory age of 62, died the evening of Nov. 24 in Blacksburg, Va. He was 86.



Tablet 1 Name 5 on the Tablet of the Missing at Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten you will see the name of U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Michael Aiello. Staff Sgt. Aiello disappeared on Sept. 30, 1944. Aiello was originally listed as missing in action, but later presumed dead, although his remains were never recovered. But about eight years ago, Aiello's family learned he might have been buried at a Belgian cemetery. The remains were exhumed and, with the help of DNA from family members, positively identified as Aiello. Although Aiello was never married and had no children, family members gathered as he was brought to his final resting place at the Camp Butler National Cemetery in Springfield.



Carl W. Hale elected as Paris Post 1 Commander during the annual meeting in Pershing Hall, France. Commander Hale committed to serving the families of the Paris American Military service member community. The Paris Post 1 Executive Committee passed motions in support of the American Legion Programs: The Legion Oratorical scholarship, Boys State, Girls State, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Boy Scouts of America.

PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

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 good will 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.

THE AMERICAN LEGION – WHO WE ARE

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic, mutual-help, and community service organization, which now numbers 2.4 million - men and women - in more than 14,000 American Legion Posts worldwide. These Posts are organized into 55 Departments – one each for the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, **France**, Mexico, and the Philippines.

The American Legion has its headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana, with offices in Washington, D.C. In addition to thousands of volunteers, serving in leadership and program implementation capacities from the communities to the Legion's standing national commissions and committees, the national organization has a professional staff of about 250 employees.

Membership eligibility in The American Legion is based on honorable service within the U.S. Armed Forces between April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918 (World War I); December 7, 1941, and December 31, 1946 (World War II); June 25, 1950, and January 31, 1955 (Korean war); December 22, 1961, and May 7, 1975 (Vietnam War); August 24, 1982, and July 31, 1984 (Lebanon/Grenada); December 20, 1989, and January 31, 1990 (Operation Just Cause – Panama); or August 2, 1990, until the date of the end of hostilities as determined by the government of the United States.