



Post NL01 Opens New Home!

By Post Commander Dennis Owens

On September 14th we celebrated the Grand Opening of our Post home in Kerkrade! We were joined by 9 WWII Veterans who were touring the area they helped to liberate 75 years ago. They are traveling through the land they helped to liberate. You can see their travels with the "Best Defense Foundation" on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/bestdefensefoundation/>). Also joining us were several Department of France Officers, including: Commander Jimmie Dale, Vice Commander at Large Charly Brown, Our Vice Commander Guy Walton, NECMAN James Settle, his wife and Department Auxiliary Membership Chairman Isolde Settle, Vice Commander Santos Alvarado, Post 79 Commander Ross Shephard III, and Quincy Foster.

Many thanks go out to all in our Post that put so much effort in making this day a wonderful experience. Our Chaplain Scott Eidson's dedication message about the importance of a HOME was spot on brilliant! Our Sgt at Arms Mark Chernek performed his song "Freedom" for all of our special guests. Joshua Steinlicht and Richard Ojeda rocked on the BBQ Grill! Chuck Hamilton kept track of the signature pens and made sure everyone signed in the proper place! Andy Clevenger was instrumental as road guard for the Veterans Bus! Roy Smith arranged the local press to be there for us and helped to hang signs. And we cannot forget all of the wonderful food that was brought in. Amanda Zenner organized the Perfect Pot-Luck and Ronald Macauley spent several trips to purchase our food and ice. Piet Heuts and the wonderful folks at the GOC welcomed our Post into the building. Veterans helping veterans and first responders is what they do best! These events don't just happen, many folks go way out of their way to ensure success. The words "Thank You" just do not feel strong enough!

Post Commander

Dennis Owens

1st Vice Commander

Jim Brotherton

2nd Vice Commander

Joshua Steinlicht

Finance Officer

John Chandler

Adjutant

Rick Ojeda

Sergeant-At-Arms

Mark Chernek

Service Officer

Ron Macauley

Historian

William Tam

Judge Advocate

Jeff Danico

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American Legion Margraten Post NL01, Berenbosweg 1 6464 XZ Kerkrade, The Netherlands

Post NL01 Grand Opening and Family BBQ





A special thank you to Mr. Henk Kuijpers for granting us permission to use his photos from this event!

The Importance of a Home

By Post Chaplain Scott Eidson

It's not every day that we get to open the doors to a new home. A sincere thanks to Commander Owens, and all that were involved in making that special day one that cannot be forgotten. I'd like to talk briefly about the idea of a home. You see, a home can mean a great many things to many people. For our post, it is a treasure that I think we can describe using just four thoughts. A home is a Refuge, it is a place to Belong, a place of Healing, and finally, it is a Foundation for Service.

A HOME IS A REFUGE

By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches. Proverbs 24: 3-4

Naturally, when we think of a home, the structure is what we typically visualize. The roof is a shelter from the storm. The walls, shield us from the world. A home is a safe place for us to breath...to work through the challenges and difficulties that we bear. But... The doors of a home open that we may enter in. The rooms can be filled with laughter and joy. It can be inviting! The safety that a home provides allows for us to express, to feel, to rest, and to recharge. It is a refuge for our souls, and this brings us to our second point. A home is a place to belong...

A HOME IS A PLACE TO BELONG

You see, a deep sense of love and belonging is an irreducible need of all people. We are biologically, cognitively, physically, and spiritually wired to love, to be loved, and to belong. When those needs are not met, we don't function as we were meant to. We break, fall apart, numb, and ache. Sometimes we hurt others, or get sick. One of the distinguishing characteristics of a Legionnaire is that we all know what it is to belong. Our service to our nation taught us that, and it is this experience that draws most of us together. But a sense of belonging doesn't just come from our experiences. It also comes from our shared beliefs as well. Our beliefs about our country, our faiths, and our undying convictions to serve bind us together. Our prayer as a post is that those that enter in to our home will feel that they belong. That they can express their thoughts freely, be who they are, and contribute to something greater than themselves.

A HOME IS A PLACE OF HEALING

It's a common misconception that we go to the doctor or the hospital to heal, but this is not the case. We go to the doctor to be diagnosed. We go HOME to heal. Years ago, doctors even thought this until the patient mortality rate was examined. As it turned out, patients who stayed in the hospital to heal had a higher mortality rate than those who went home to heal.

Continued on the Next Page

The Importance of a Home (Continued)

Our home has a special significance when it comes to healing as many of those who've served still bear the burdens of war. Visit any American Legion post and you'll see the physical relics of war written on the changed forms of our brothers and sisters. Additionally, there's the unseen wounds that even more of our comrades bear. We know these psychological wounds as PTSD today, and in previous generations we called it "shell shocked". On reflecting on these kinds of wounds, one person wrote, "It becomes difficult to deal with everyday life because you have hid your soul in a dark corner so it doesn't have to face the dangerous world of the Trauma. Without your soul, you are only half a person, a machine who is constantly running from reality." Our charge therefore, is to care for our brethren. To listen with an understanding ear. To advocate for them, support them, and be the family that undergirds true healing. So that they may go and help others heal as well. I believe our home is uniquely equipped to do this.

A HOME IS A FOUNDATION FOR SERVICE

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. Galatians 5:13

The whole point of a home is to equip those in it to go out, and to serve...To build life! I don't know of anyone who tailors the home to keep their children there forever! Most of my generation can't wait for their kids to leave! Though we may laugh about it, it's still true. A loving home sets the foundation for the greatest good to be accomplished. Service is the most important part of being a legionnaire. Each and every one of us are Legionnaires not for what we can get from the Legion, but for what we can give to others through the Legion. The insatiable desire to serve isn't something that is born out of obligation or duty, but is instead a result of the joy and peace within us.

With all of this in mind I offer this prayer of dedication; that we may all be reminded of the importance of a home, and our post's special call within it.

Heavenly Father,

We ask your blessing and presence over this house. That it will be a shelter for those in need, and her doors open that all may come in. We pray that those who are weary, and burdened will find healing and sanctuary here. That laughter and love fill the walls of this place, and that brothers and sisters in arms find peace here. With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in what is right as you O God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nations wounds; to care for them who have borne the battle, and for their widows and orphans - to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.

Amen

Your Legion Family-Out and About



Post NL01 and GOC Members held a clean-up day on 8 September in preparation for the Home's grand opening the following weekend. Despite some on and off rain, the team managed to accomplish some extensive yard work.



Your Legion Family-Out and About

Post NL01 supported the Tri-Border Nerdcon on 7 September by providing concessions for the event. We had a great show of support, with 10 members and Angelika Owens attending and socializing throughout the day!



Your Legion Family-Out and About



Post NLO1 had the distinct honor of being invited to participate in Kerkrade's Veterans Day ceremonies. Commander Dennis Owens delivered remarks at an official ceremony, Sergeant-At-Arms Mark Chernek performed with Music 4 Vets, Legionnaires Roy Smith and Andy Clevenger laid a memorial wreath, and 2nd Vice Commander Joshua Steinlicht and Legionnaire John Pope joined the aforementioned as part of an honor guard marching in a parade.



On 5 October, the Post joined active duty members from Geilenkirchen Air Base and residents of Berismenil, Belgium to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the crash of the B-17 "The Joker."

Why Should You Renew Your Membership!?

The American Legion is the veterans voice to our government. When I say 'veteran', it is the active duty military member who puts on that uniform every day. It is the person who served their country, whether for two years or 20+ years. It is the person who missed countless birthdays, anniversaries, that child's first sport or school play. Couldn't be there when that family member passed away.

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 Jim Brotherton.

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>

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!



News from the Department Service Officer:

Our Department Service Office is getting swamped with new Claims! We need your support. We will be offering a basic PSO training course on the 20th of March 2020. Anyone may attend this time. The course will give you an insight on how a PSO may help a Veteran. It will not allow you to “assist” the Veteran in filing a claim. You will learn the following:

- What forms are needed
- POC of our, current, 3 American Legion VA Reps
- What are presumptive condition
- What are secondary conditions
- Survivor Death Benefits
- Foreign Medical Program
- And so on...

At the end of the course, you will have to take a test. Upon successful completion of the test, you will awarded a certificate at the 3rd DEC the next day.

We need your support!

AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE

Post Service Officer Training

MARCH 20, 2020 Katterbach, Germany

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE
IS PRESENTING THEIR
POST SERVICE OFFICER TRAINING COURSE.

THIS TRAINING COURSE IS TO PROVIDE
GUIDANCE FOR THE PSO TO BE ABLE TO BETTER
ASSIST THE VETERAN WITH THEIR
VA BENEFIT CLAIM.

INSTRUCTOR

Frank Phillips: Department Service Officer

REGISTRATION:
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!
Please send an e-mail to the Department Service Officer
Frank.Phillips2@va.gov

UPON COMPLETION OF THIS TRAINING, THE PARTICIPANTS
WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE A TEST.
ALL PARTICIPANTS THAT PASSED THE TEST, WILL RECEIVE A
„TRAINED“ CERTIFICATE PRESENTED TO THEM AT THE DEC,
THE FOLLOWING DAY.

LOCATION

Training Seminar
Welcome Center, BLDG 5515, Room 316, 91522 Katterbach
Dinner, March 20, 2020
Gasthaus Goldener Stern, Ansbacher Str. 3, 91560 Heilsbronn

PROGRAM

0730-0800
CHECK-IN /REGISTRATION

0800-0900
PSO DUTIES / RESPONSIBILITIES
VA POLICIES

0900-1200
SMART CLAIM
BASIC CLAIM - STEP BY STEP

1200-1245
LUNCH BREAK - LEGION HOME

1245-1345
FOREIGN MEDICAL PROGRAM

1345-1500
CLAIM PROCESSING /TIPS

1500-1600
TEST

1830-????
DINNER IN HEILSBRONN
with
DSO, ADSO
DPT COMMANDER

21 March - 0900
DEC - KATTERBACH

BE ON TIME!
We have limited time
to complete the
training.

Hotel rooms are available at:

www.goldner-stern-heilsbronn.de	www.hotel-windmuehle.de
SINGL: 47€ /DBL 70€ (7 miles to DEC)	DBL 70€ (9 Miles to DEC)
15 rooms blocked for us. mention „Frank“	no rooms blocked for us.



The American Legion



Department of France

BELGIUM – DENMARK – ENGLAND – FRANCE – GERMANY – GREECE –
HOLLAND – IRELAND – ITALY – SPAIN – PORTUGAL – CHINA 01



10 Sept. 2019

FOR: All Department Officers, Past Department Commanders, Post Commanders and Delegates, Committee Chairpersons and Program Directors.

SUBJECT: Official Call for the 2nd Department Executive Committee Meeting.

REFERENCE: Department of France Constitution and By-Laws dated June 2011

1. This letter constitutes notification to all addresses that the 2nd Department Executive Committee Meeting will convene at 13:00 on 26 Oct. 2019 at the GR79 Post Home in Heilbronn Germany.
2. The Department Executive Committee will meet at, GR79 Post home in Heilbronn Germany. The agenda of business to be considered at the meeting will be provided at the registration desk. Registration of DEC delegates will begin at 12:00 hours on 26 Oct. 2019.
3. Representation for the DEC is covered by the Department Constitution, Article IX, Section 2, “two (2) representatives from each Post of the Department which shall be members in good standing with in their own Post and have written delegation from their Post Commander.”
4. A quorum for the DEC is covered by the Department Constitution, Article II, Section 4, “fourteen (14) voting members of the Department Executive Committee representing nine (9) Posts, shall constitute a quorum and of this quorum, at least five (5) members present must be Department of France Officers with voting privileges.”
5. The schedule of events follows:

26 Oct. 2019	11:00 - 12:00	Internal Affairs Meeting
	12:00 – 13:00	Registration
	12:30 - 13:00	Past Commanders Club Meeting
	13:00 –	2nd Executive Committee Meeting

For GOD and COUNTRY,

Maxwell Rice

Maxwell Rice
Department Adjutant

Jimmie Dale

Jimmie Dale
Department Commander

Meeting Recap-September

Our first meeting at our new Post Home in Kerkrade was held on the 13th of September 2019 with a total of 18 members and 6 guests. The meeting began with a heartfelt message from our Post Chaplain Scott Eidson on the importance of a Home.

The Commander announced that he would like to see this Post Home used 3 to four evenings per week for veterans to come together and share fellowship or gain information on their disability benefits. Actually, he would like to see it opened Tuesdays through Saturday evenings 17:00-22:00. Our 1st Vice Commander Jim Brotherton announced that we have already hit 50% membership goals for the 2019/2020 year. He also mentioned that he met Pastor Mathew S. Brown at Margraten, a WWII Veteran from the 60th Infantry Regiment of the 9th Infantry Division. Joshua Steinlicht, our 2nd Vice Commander mentioned that our next fund raiser will be bagging at the Commissary in March of 2020. He also mentioned that NerdCon from the previous week was a lot of hard work and good fun with a great opportunity for Legion members to socialize with each other.

Ron Macauley, our Post Service Officer, announced that if you have a medical appointment to see a Doctor from the VA for your benefits, please do not miss the appointment. Most appointments are in Amsterdam now. A VA Rep will be at the next RAD on the 18th of October. Breakfast starts at 08:30, RAD starts at 10:00 through 14:00 if you are not attending breakfast. It will be at the picnic area at the Schinnen Pavilion. We are trying to get a VA Rep up in this area every two months to help us out with our Disability claims. If you can not get your issues resolved with the VA Rep, please see our Post Service Officer Ron Macauley.

Our Post Sgt at Arms Mark Cherek is looking for a few good men and women to make up our Post Honor Guard. The 20th of September is Veterans Day in Brunssum and the 28th of September is Veterans Day in Kerkrade. We are looking for participants to march in the parade specifically here in Kerkrade. Music4Vets will be playing at both Dutch Veterans Day events. Mark also mentioned that this is our room in the post home, but the bar area we will be sharing with the Dutch Veterans, the GOC.

Adjutant Rick Ojeda asked again that all members' not currently active duty present to him or Commander Owens with a copy of their DD-214 for us to check eligibility. He then asked our Department Vice Commander Guy Walton to look into this request to see if it is still a valid request from the Department since the eligibility requirements changed a month ago to be an American Legion member. Commander Owens along with the Department Sgt at Arms Andy Clevenger and our Post Sgt at Arms Mark Cherek initiated into the Legion Andy Crigler. Commander Owens presented to both Andy Crigler and Daniel Perez their Legion Lapel Pins.

Our guest speaker for this meeting was Isabelle Engels. She gave us an excellent briefing on the shoot down and crash of the B-17 aircraft called the Joker in April of 1944. She spoke of the crew and their difficult survival. She also mentioned the 75th anniversary memorial scheduled for the Joker on the 5th of October this year.

During the Break, Chuck Hamilton served up his excellent homemade chili!

Commander Owens presented Kiara Valencia with the award for Legionnaire of the Year for 2018 for Post NL01. 1st Vice Commander Brotherton presented Kiara with the Cross Lapel Pin for her role in the Rider's Chapter as Chaplain. Commander Owens presented initiation certificates for Chuck Hamilton and Jim Scott along with an American Legion Lapel Pin. He further recognized Jim Scott for his 25th continuous year in the American Legion and presented Jim with a one-year membership gift. Commander Owens finished off the meeting with an explanation of the flow of events scheduled for our Home Grand Opening and family BBQ the next day.





Upcoming Events

7 October 2019

18th Anniversary of Start of Operation Enduring Freedom (2001)

13 October 2019

Navy's 244th Birthday

Post Executive Committee Meeting at 1500

14 October 2019

Waldernrath B-17 Memorial Ceremony

18 October 2019

Retiree Appreciation Day at USAG Schinnen

18 October 2019 at 1700 (Gavel at 1730)

Post General Membership Meeting

23 October 2019

36th Anniversary of Beirut Barracks Bombing

25 October 2019

36th Anniversary of Invasion of Granada

27 October 2019

Navy Day

5 November 2019

Election Day

For information on voting while living overseas, visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program at <https://www.fvap.gov/citizen-voter>

10 November 2019

100th Birthday of the American Legion Auxiliary

United States Marine Corp's 244th Birthday

11 November 2019

Veteran's Day