

The Illinois 40 et 8 News

Official Publication of the Honor Society of Illinois Veterans



Volume 25, No. 1

Winter 2020

GRAND CHEF DE GARE MIKE VANCE



Greetings, as this is being written Christmas is in the rearview mirror and the New Year is just a day or two away. The last membership report that I saw had SOME good news in that there were only 2 Voitures in the Grande with 0%. As usual there is always room, for improvement, but we still have

the second half of this membership year to get there. The Grande De Illinois is currently at 68.19% with 806 paid and 376 to go in order to make the 100% goal. My reputation is what it is, and beyond being repaired LOL, but we do have a Sous Chef Chemin de Fer in the Grande this year, our own Ted Canellos, hoping for great things. Let's finish the second half of the year strong and have a good showing for Ted and the 100th anniversary of the 40 & 8.

The next priority, is organizing for the future with Petite Cheminot meetings. The Petite Cheminot meeting must be conducted at least 30 days prior to the Spring Cheminot. Speaking of the Spring Grande Cheminot plans are currently being finalized for April 24 & 25th

in Effingham. The Grande Promenade is tentatively scheduled for the 26-28th of June at the Magnuson Hotel in Raymond. Final details will be hammered out soon.

I plan on making the rounds and attending a few local Promenades as my schedule and weather and road conditions may dictate, one function that I plan on attending is the Lincoln Birthday Pilgrimage in Springfield in February.

With the 100th anniversary of the 40 & 8 rapidly approaching, each Locale should be looking to do something special to mark the event. I hope that Each Locale will try to do something special to commemorate the 100th birthday of La Société.

Mike Vance
Grand Chef de Gare

GRAND CORRESPONDANT, GRAND DIRECTEUR SPECIAL AWARDS

WALLY HAMMOND



Good Morning all;

A New Year is here and I hope all of you are healthy, wealthy and wise! Healthy is the most important forget about the other two!

Illinois has been very active in the Special Awards Program in the past and I hope we can keep our outstanding participation going into 2020 and beyond!

The four Special Awards are; Law Officer of

the Year (LOY), Hero of the Year (HOY), City, Town of the Year and Voyageur of the Year (VOY).

To nominate a candidate, watch or listen to the media in your area and if someone has done an outstanding deed, check into it and start the nomination process! It's all outlined on the Nationale website. There are two required forms that MUST be filled out. Then you gather documentation to substantiate their actions. The more articles you can get the better! The nominations are first sent to the Grand Directeur (me) then a selection is made for each Award and submitted to National for consideration of a National Award. Recognition of a job well done is important for all of us!

If you have questions or need assistance, contact me at 309-338-8332 or e-mail mrbear812@sbcglobal.net. It's never too early to start! See you in Effingham!



GRAND COMMISSAIRE INTENDANT VICTOR J MARTINKA



Now that the busy Holiday Season is behind us let's get back to work. Unfortunately, most of our Voitures are NOT 100% in Membership. We ALL KNOW that Membership is the Life Blood of any organization. While we must Remember and Honor the Fact that Membership is by Invitation Only, We ALL can seek out and find eligible Veterans who should belong to the 40&8. We are members because someone ASKED us to Join. NOW it is Our Turn to ASK someone to JOIN

GREAT JOB Bob...The next time you talk to, e-mail or see Bob Cearlock...PLEASE

Thank him for ALL the Hard Work and Efforts he has been doing getting out website up and running again. We must remember that this is 2020 not 1920. Times and things have changed. For some of us the computer can be challenging however it is here to stay. We must learn to Accept and Adapt. To attract New and Young Veterans we need to let them know we are a Viable Modern thinking Veterans Organization.

As of this writing, Donations for our 2020 Calendar Program look good. As always remember we are NOT selling Calendars for \$10. We are asking for a \$10 Donation to be used for 40 & 8 Programs. Upon getting a donation offer them a calendar as our way of saying Thank You. It also then enters them into our monthly Appreciation Drawing. This is Not a raffle where once a number is selected it is all over. Each number after being drawn goes back into the hopper. Every calendar number is available for every prize.

Now that website is up and running again, I will be posting list of monthly winners for all to see.

The Spring Cheminot is set for the weekend of April 24-25 in Effingham. The Grande Promenade is set for the weekend of June 26-28 in Raymond. Our THANKS to those responsibility for making this possible. Now is the time to start working on setting up our Fall Cheminot. To spread the travel distance by all it would be Great to see a Voiture from up North set up the Fall Cheminot.

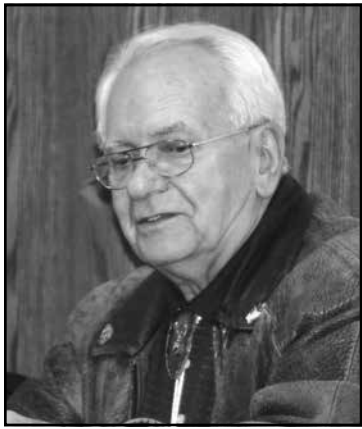
Last but not least...the Nominations and Elections for 2020-2021 Officers will be here before you know it. Today we should be seeking candidates to fill these positions. If you are not sure what the duties of an officer are, contact someone you know who has served in that capacity. I am sure you will find out that being an Officer does take some work on your part... BUT... The rewards and satisfaction are worth it in the end.

Victor J Martinka
Commissaire Intendant
Grand du Illinois

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OPINION EDITORIAL BY ROBERT "OB1" CEARLOCK



CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM

We will be raffling off another beautiful eagle the year for the Child Welfare Program. We will have details at the Fall Grand Cheminot. We have the new pins for 2020 and we will distribute them soon. Someone will have them at the Spring Cheminot. Bev & I will not be at the Spring Cheminot as we have an Anniversary trip to Florida with the family at that time.

GRAND PUBLIC RELATIONS

If you have ANY news releases, articles or special projects get the information to me.

GRAND AVOCAT

Be aware that if your Officers do not have current 2020 membership they cannot be certified and cannot represent your Voiture at any Forty & Eight Promenade, meeting or event!
EDITEUR

My job as Editeur of the Illinois 40et8 news is a unique challenge and one that takes more time and effort than any of my responsibilities. That is not a complaint! I enjoy the challenges, but it requires that you feed the tiger if it is to have any value. Every three months I must beg for input and that is the most time-consuming requirement of the job. Please help me out!

At Last! The new illfor-

tyandeight.com website is up and running! This has been a long drawn out process and I apologize that it has taken so long. The simple truth is that it takes a long time to teach an old dog new tricks. Believe me, the learning is far from over but with the help of our very talented contracted web developer I will get there! Check it out and let me know what you think.

The Illinois 40et8 Newspaper is a great tool and financial aid for the Grand. Unfortunately, it does not meet the need of the Grand to get the word out in a timely manner. The process involves soliciting [sometimes more like pulling teeth] articles and announcements from you, the Voyageurs of Grand d' Illinois. It does, however, provide a vehicle to show us all the work being done and the accomplishments that you have all achieved.

SOUS GRAND CORRESPONDANT

I receive undeliverable notifications on over half of the Distribution list. I have no way of knowing what the problem is in each case, but I am aware that many have changed providers and not informed us. If you have an email address, I ask that you send Wally Hammond an email at mrbear812@sbcglobal.net with a simple message such as "this is a current address" as soon as you possibly can. If you do not have email, ask your Voiture Officers to designate someone in your Locale that has email to act as your communication link to the Grand and submit his address. PLEASE HELP US GET THE WORD OUT!

MOST IMPORTANT:

OUR GRAND CORRESPONDANT IS WALLY HAMMOND, NOT ME, AND HE IS TRYING TO DEVELOP THE BEST DISTRIBUTION LIST POSSIBLE. SEND HIM AN EMAIL AND GET ON HIS LIST.



FROM THE EDITEUR;

"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of other wars were Treated and Appreciated by their Nation"

-George Washington-

In the past few years since Nine-Eleven I have watched and listened as my Nation attempted to honor and welcome home the veterans of the Vietnam War and I wonder, why now? Do they think that they can really heal the psychological wounds that were dealt to us? Do they think that we were so badly traumatized by the Nation we served that we need a special ceremony to ease their conscious? I cannot speak for all my comrades but for me, it only opens old wounds and makes me uncomfortable. If there is anything that we can be proud of as Veterans of that era it is that we answered the call of our country. We served with honor without any hope of being honored. We answered the call of our country's elected leaders when others of our generation turned their backs and proudly proclaimed "Hell no, we won't go". We came home to be greeted by protest, anger and disrespect. We were greeted, not by cheering crowds of flag waving citizens but by angry mobs throwing bricks and socks filled with feces. We were not driven away in parades of open convertibles but spirited away in buses with wire mesh on the windows so the rocks couldn't reach us. But we survived and we even flourished because of what we all

felt we had fought for; DEMOCRACY. We entered the work force, business, politics and all the other aspects of a free society. We exercised our rights as citizens and we even elected some of those who disrespected and slandered us as officials. For you see, what we fought for, regardless of what the history books say, was the American way of life. We earned the freedom to express our opinion, to pursue our dreams; to do so in an orderly democratic society led by those whom we have elected. If we don't agree with those we elect we are compelled by our duty as citizens to withdraw our support and elect new leaders; not to bring anarchy and mob rule to our nation. Free speech is a sacred right that bears responsibility. It must be exercised in a spirit of debate with a deep respect for the opinions of others as well as the facts. It is freedom that suffers when we stop acting as a democratic society and follow the ravings of anarchists. This is the lesson that America must take from the Vietnam War and if this is our legacy then I need no parade, no ceremony and certainly, no politician's apology. I need only to know that future generations of Americans can benefit from our legacy.

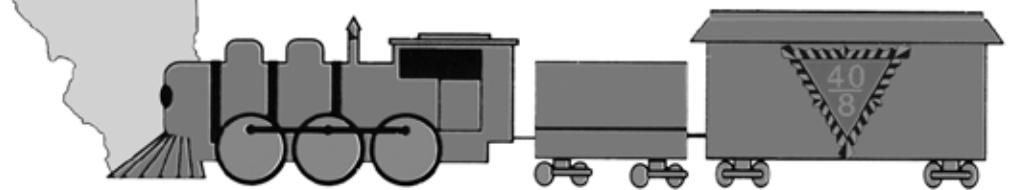
Robert "OB1" Cearlock
USN 1962-1975

Grande Voiture du Illinois

OFFICERS 2019 - 2020

GRAND CHEF DE GAREMICHAEL VANCE
GRAND CHEF DE TRAIN PAUL PARDO
CHEMINOT NATIONALE DWIGHT MOSS
GRAND COMMISSAIRE INTENDANT VICTOR MARTINKA
GRAND AVOCAT ROBERT CEARLOCK
GRAND CORRESPONDANT WALLY HAMMOND
GRAND AUMONIERCELESTE LATHAM

The Illinois 40 et 8 News



The Illinois 40 et 8 News is the official publication of the Grande Voiture du Illinois and is published four times a year. Any changes or additions to the mailing list must be made to Voiture Nationale, La Societes des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux, Voiture Nationale 250 E 38th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46205.

Michael Vance - Grand Chef de Gare

Wally Hammond - Grand Correspondant

Articles and Announcements To be Sent To;
Robert Cearlock - Le Editeur
PO Box 1782 • Mt. Vernon, IL

Spring Issue

ARTICLE CUTOFF DATE - February 1st

Summer Issue

ARTICLE CUTOFF DATE - May 1st

Fall Issue

ARTICLE CUTOFF DATE - August 1st

Winter Issue

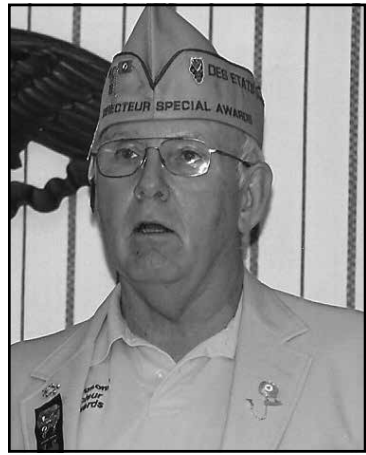
ARTICLE CUTOFF DATE - November 1st

V-1100 "GIFTS FOR YANKS WHO GAVE"

Schuyler Post #4 & Voiture 1100 members presented "Gifts for Yanks Who Gave" Christmas presents to veterans at Rushville Nursing & Rehabilitation Home on December 17, 2019. Pictured: Back row, L to R: Terry Bigham, Mike Davis, Steve Bottorff, Don Young & Bill Chancy. Front row: Michael Thomas, Herschel Anderson, Red Ambrosius, Edith Roby, Gary Dupoy and Richard Bowers.



AMERICANISM



ments of the Program is the Flags for 1st Graders. It is our responsibility to pass on to the younger generations, the importance of respect to the Flag.

If you have never presented a program to the 1st graders in your area, you have missed out! It is simple to do. The first thing is to contact your schools and ask permission to present the program. Then get the script from the Nationale website under the Americanism program heading. Read it over a couple of times to familiarize yourself with it, buy some 4x6 flags and your good to go! I recommend the ones with the round ball on top for safety reasons. The pointed tops could cause an injury, these are young kids! That's all there is to it.

You will be amazed how much fun it is to hear what these kids have to say! You might learn something yourself! It teaches kids the importance of honoring our Flag on a daily basis as well as how to retire the Flag when it becomes faded and tattered from use. The sooner they learn, the better for America!

If you need any help getting the script or where to get the Flags, call me at 309-338-8332 or e-mail me at mr-bear812@sbcglobal.net . I'm here to help.

Wally Hammond
Grand Correspondant
Grand d' Illinois

A new decade has started, and we are all recovering from the hustle and celebrations of the Holidays. I am sure you all enjoyed the time with family and friends. The traditions are carried on year after year, kind of a natural happening, we don't think about, just do it! Happy new Year to all!

Americanism is another natural happening we do every day of the year! As Veterans, it is especially natural. Whenever we see a Flag it reminds us of what a great country we live in! Our service, no matter where, when or length, helped America be the greatest Nation in the World to live in!

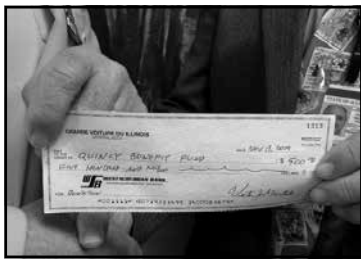
The Americanism Program has a very important message to send to all of us. It recognizes the importance of patriotism and service to our Nation. One of the best seg-



GRAND DONATION TO QUINCY VETERANS HOME

December 13, 2019 a check for \$500 was donated to the Quincy Veterans Home from Grand du Illinois for the activity fund.

Pictured: Wally Hammond V 812 Troy Culbertson, Administrator, Gerald Mast V255, & Terry Bigham V1100.



VOITURE 812 AT BUSHNELL "TAX-FREE SUNDAY"



V-812 was invited to participate in a Tax-Free Sunday in Bushnell IL. on December 8th, 2019. The businesses are open, and all purchases are tax free! We give rides on the Locomotive and pick Moms, Dad's and kids at the old depot and give them a ride around town. We had about 250 rider's this year! Last year (2018) we were there and M&B furniture, the sponsor of the event, had homemade Christmas cookies. I ate about 5 cookies and it cost me \$500 each! Sharon shopped while we were giving rides! Needless to say, I didn't eat ANY cookies this year! We look forward to all the invites we get to show off our LOCI and give kids a fun time!

V812 CHRISTMAS PARTY



V812 Christmas Party held at Joe's Place in Norris, Il last night. Santa arrived, aka Grand Correspondent Wally Hammond #1 HA

HENRY COUNTY VOITURE #433 PURCHASED CLOTHES FOR TWO FAMILIES THAT HAD A FIRE



From left to right Dame Frances Stowe, Voyageur Dewey Stowe, Voyageur Gary Gerber, his wife Laura, the Jones family, Dame Louise Canellos, Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer Ted Canellos, Chef de Train Paul Pardo.

The Voiture #443 group that purchased clothes for the Danzy and Wigin children. Right to left Voyageur Dewey Stowe, Laura Gerber, Voyager and Welfare Directeur Gary Gerber, Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer Ted Canellos, Dame Louise Canellos, Dame Frances Stowe and Chef de Train Paul Pardo with Grandma that help picking out clothes for her grandchildren, so they had something to wear. Mom was about to deliver a new baby.



V812 LOCOMOTIVE AT WESTVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



November 8th, 2019V-812 was asked to bring our Locomotive to Westview elementary school to give the kindergarten classes a ride. There were about 120 students and we should have taken the boxcar but some set on the floor and we got them all a ride.

When we got them loaded up, we took a tour of Lakeland park and stopped at the Veteran's Memorial so they could switch seats. That way everyone got to ride in the first class section!

We are always ready to serve the community when

asked to help with an event. We have helped with events from weddings to funerals! It is good PR!

Pictured with the kid's is Jim "woolyburger" Watts, Commissar Intendant V-812 and Wally Hammond HA#1 and v-812 Correspondant.

BILL OF NON-RIGHTS

ARTICLE I: You do not have the right to a new car, big screen TV, or any other form of wealth. More power to you if you can legally acquire them, but no one is guaranteeing anything.

ARTICLE II: You do not have the right to never be offended. This country is based on freedom, and that means freedom for everyone -- not just you! You may leave the room, turn the channel, express a different opinion, etc.; but the world is full of idiots, and probably always will be.

ARTICLE III: You do not have the right to be free from harm. If you stick a screwdriver in your eye, learn to be more careful; do not expect the tool manufacturer to make you and all your relatives independently wealthy.

ARTICLE IV: You do not have the right to free food and housing. Americans are the most charitable people to be found, and will gladly help anyone in need, but we are quickly growing weary of subsidizing generation after generation of professional couch potatoes who achieve nothing more than the creation of another generation of professional couch potatoes. (This one is my pet peeve...get an education and go to work....don't expect everyone else to take care of you!)

ARTICLE V: You do not have the right to free health care. That would be nice, but from the looks of public housing, we're just not interested in public health care.

ARTICLE VI: You do not have the right to physically harm other people. If you kidnap, rape, intentionally maim, or kill someone, don't be surprised if the rest of us want to see you fry in the electric chair.

ARTICLE VII: You do not have the right to the possessions of others. If you rob, cheat, or coerce away the goods or services of other citizens, don't be surprised if the rest of us get together and lock you away in a place where you still won't have the right to a big screen color TV or a life of leisure.

ARTICLE VIII: You do not have the right to a job. All of us sure want you to have a job, and will gladly help you along in hard times, but we expect you to take advantage of the opportunities of education and vocational training laid before you to make yourself useful. (AMEN!)

ARTICLE IX: You do not have the right to happiness. Being an American means that you have the right to PURSUE happiness, which by the way, is a lot easier if you are unencumbered by an over abundance of idiotic laws created by those of you who were confused by the Bill of Rights.

ARTICLE X: This is an English-speaking country. We don't care where you are from, English is our language. Learn it or go back to wherever you came from! (Lastly...)

ARTICLE XI: You do not have the right to change our country's history or heritage. This country was founded on the belief in one true God. And yet, you are given the freedom to believe in any religion, any faith, or no faith at all; with no fear of persecution. The phrase IN GOD WE TRUST is part of our heritage and history, and if you are uncomfortable with it, TOUGH!!!!

ADVICE FROM AN OLD FARMER



Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight and bull-strong.

Keep skunks and bankers at a distance.

Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.

A bumble bee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor.

Words that soak into your ears are whispered... not yelled.

Meanness don't jes' happen overnight.

Forgive your enemies; it messes up their heads.

Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.

It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.

You cannot unsay a cruel word.

Every path has a few puddles.

When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.

The best sermons are lived, not preached.

Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.

Don't judge folks by their relatives.

Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.

Live a good, honorable life... Then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time.

Don't interfere with somethin' that ain't bothering you none.

Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a Rain dance.

If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.

Sometimes you get, and sometimes you get got.

The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with, watches you from the mirror every mornin'.

Always drink upstream from the herd.

Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.

Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in.

If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around..

Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.

Don't pick a fight with an old man. If he is too old to fight, he'll just kill you.

Most times, it just gets down to common sense.

2020 BIRTHDAY RITUAL

CHEF DE GARE: "Welcome fellow Voyageurs Militaire, honored guests and all who hold service to God and Country as sacred. This year marks the 100th Birthday of "La Société de Quarante Homes et Huit Chevaux" commonly known as the Forty and Eight, or La Société.

In March of 1920, Joseph W. Breen, a member of the newly formed American Legion and an officer of Breen-McCracken Legion Post 297, met in Philadelphia with fifteen other prominent Legionnaires where they originated the idea of The Forty & Eight. They envisioned a new and different level of elite membership and camaraderie for leaders of the American Legion. The box car of the French Railways, so familiar to American ground troops of the First World War, was chosen as the symbolic heart of the new organization. The French/Railroad theme was applied to officer titles and organizational functions.

During the last 100 years La Société has endeavored to seek out and satisfy the needs of our nations Veterans, Local Communities and the nation's children.

For example in 1932 The Forty & Eight declared War on Childhood Diphtheria. Vaccination toxin was distributed via Voiture Nationale to children whose parents could not afford it. Physicians donated their services, and educational campaigns were carried out to combat the disease.

From 1932 through 1936, the Forty & Eight sought to influence Congress regarding veteran's benefits. These were the "Bonus March" Depression years when WWI veterans and the federal government were at times in open conflict. The Forty & Eight sponsored national radio programs, featuring well know political figures, to bring equitable treatment of war veterans to the national forefront. Realizing that power came with numbers, the Forty & Eight brought in 111,159 new American Legion members. The efforts of the Forty & Eight ultimately helped convince Congress to pass, over a presidential veto, the compensation act for America's war veterans.

These endeavors only scratch the surface of the many accomplishments of the 40&8. In your program leaflet you will find a more complete history. As you read it you will understand the pride each Voyageur Militaire takes in having been invited into the ranks of La Société de Quarante Homes et Huit Chevaux.

Therefore, let us celebrate these accomplishments and the birthday of La Société de Quarante Homes et Huit Chevaux in the true spirit of "The fun and honor Society of American Veterans".

Aumonier please bless this assembly with an opening prayer."

AUMONIER: Let us pray. Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, bless this assembly and its purpose in celebration of La Societies' birthday. Provide your peace upon those who founded our Société and have passed on to serve you in Heaven. Help us to carry on the their great works and honor our oath to You, our fellow Voyageurs Militaire, Comrades and citizens of our beloved United States of America. Amen.

CHEF DE GARE: "Monsieur Conducteur, you will cause the Flag of our Country to be posted in the place of honor at the right of the podium."

CONDUCTEUR: "Voyageurs, Gard a Vous! Color Guard, advance the Colors."
(After colors are posted and the Guard is at Present Arms)

"Monsieur [title], the flag of our country is in its place of honor and the Voyageurs are at the salute."

CHEF DE GARE: "You will join me in pledging allegiance to the Flag."

[Recite pledge]

"Attention"

"The Color Guard is dismissed"

[Optional] "It is my honor to introduce our guest speaker." [Brief bio and introduction]

GUEST SPEAKER: [optional]

CHEF DE GARE: "Thank you _____"

Now, as it is our intention to celebrate the Birthday of our beloved Societe, let us proceed! Chef de Cuisine bring forth the Birthday Cake.

CHEF DE CUISINE: [Chef de Cuisine brings forth the cake to a point in front of the podium] The Chef de Cuisine salutes the Chef de Gare with the traditional 40et8 Salute and while holding the salute;]

"Monsieur Chef de Care, the celebratory confection has been placed in its position of honor!"

CHEF DE GARE: "Monsieur Conductor, escort the oldest Voyageur and the youngest Voyageur to the Chef de Cuisine's side."

CONDUCTEUR: [Salute and while holding the salute;] "Monsieur Chef de Gare, our oldest Voyageur and youngest Voyageur are in place."

CHEF DE GARE: "Monsieur Conducteur you may retire to your station."
"Monsieur Chef de Cuisine, proceed with the cutting of the Birthday cake."

CHEF DE CUISINE: "Oui Monsieur Chef de Gare." [As the first slice is made to the cake] "In Honor of our first Chef de Chemin de Fer, Joseph W. Breen and the 15 other Veterans of World War I who founded the 40&8 as an honor society for certain Legion members. The first slice is presented to the oldest Voyageur as a symbol of our founder Joseph Breen and honoring those that built La Societe into what it is today.

[As the second slice is made to the cake] This second slice is presented to the youngest Voyageur symbolizing the present and future members that will build upon that heritage."

[The Chef de Cuisine then prepares two more slices of cake for the Chef de Gare and Guest of honor and presents each of the four their slice]

CHEF DE GARE: "Eat in honor of La Société"
[Each take a bite of cake]

"Monsieur Chef de Cuisine, please retire the cake to the desert table."

"Ladies and Gentlemen, you are invited to visit the desert table as you desire. But now, Monsieur Aumonier, will you please lead us in a prayer before we adjourn to dinner, dance, and comradeship."

AUMONIER: [Appropriate prayer]

CHEF DE GARE: "Monsieur Conductor, you will call the hall to attention and cause a hand salute to be presented to the flag of our country."

CONDUCTEUR: "Oui Monsieur Chef de Gare!"

"GARD A VOUS!" "PRESENT ARMS!" "TWO!"

CHEF DE GARE: "Thank you all for your participation and now.... Laissez les bons temps rouler!" [let the good times roll!]

THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S IDEAS ON IMMIGRANTS AND BEING AN AMERICAN IN 1907.

"In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. But this is predicated upon the person's becoming in every facet an American, and nothing but an American... There can be no divided allegiance here.

Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn't an American at all.

We have room for but one flag, the American flag... We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language... and we have room for but one sole loyalty and that is a loyalty to the American people."

- Theodore Roosevelt 1907

And then comes the Voyageur Catechism

"I faithfully promise to obey the rules and regulations of La Société, to remember my obligations, and carry out the legal orders of the Chef de Gare.

I believe for the good of my Country, that I should and will always hold the Organization of La Société in the highest esteem and will conduct myself in such a manner as to reflect honor upon it.

It is my sincere desire, that the United States of America,

*be one country,
with one language,
and one flag,
and, if necessary,
- I will fight for that principle."*

HOW THE U.S. NAVY REMAINS THE MASTERS OF MODULAR NUCLEAR REACTORS

You might be aware of the 98 or so commercial nuclear power reactors that produce about 20% of our electricity. But there are another hundred nuclear reactors that power 86 submarines and aircraft carriers, producing electricity, heat and propulsion.



Nuclear Ships America's Nuclear Navy presently has 86 nuclear powered submarines and aircraft carriers. All of them, and their predecessors over the last 60 years, have performed flawlessly, protecting America as well as their crews. UNITED STATES NAVY

We think of small modular nuclear reactors as something new that will take nuclear power to a new level, and even marvel at the rollout of new iterations, like Russia's new floating nuclear power plant. But in truth, the U.S. Navy has been operating and perfecting SMRs for 75 years. Work on nuclear marine propulsion started in the 1940s. In 1955, the first nuclear-powered submarine, the USS Nautilus, put to sea. This changed submarines from slow underwater cigar tubes to warships capable of sustaining 20-25 knots submerged for weeks or months on end. By 1962, the U.S. Navy had 26 operational nuclear-powered submarines with 30 more under construction.

More and different classes of nuclear submarines followed, along with nuclear aircraft carriers and other ships. The first nuclear-powered carriers, the USS Enter-

prise completed in 1960, was powered by eight Westinghouse reactors. The USS Long Beach followed in 1961 as the first nuclear-powered cruiser with two reactors.

The Enterprise continued in service to the end of 2012, even serving in the most recent Iraq War, a truly amazing record.

The nuclear navy technology was shared with Britain. But the French, Russian and Chinese nuclear navies developed on their own. Russia actually developed fast-reactors for some of their submarines, their Alpha attack subs, which made them the fastest in the sea, although they were a bit noisier.

According to Lloyd's, about 700 nuclear reactors have been used at sea since the 1950s, and there are about 200 reactors at sea today. Most are submarines and all use highly enriched uranium as fuel, allowing them to stay

underwater for longer periods, years if necessary.

Of the submarines, the United States has 70, Russia 40, China 19, Britain 10, France 9 and India has 3, including those being commissioned. China has the fastest-growing nuclear navy which should more than double in the next ten years. Japan and Germany each built a nuclear-powered ship but decommissioned them years ago.

America's Nuclear Navy is one of the oldest and largest nuclear organizations in the world and has the world's best safety record of any industry of any kind. In terms of work hazards apart from combat, it is safer to work on a U.S. nuclear submarine or aircraft carrier than it is to sit at a desk trading stocks.

Thousands upon thousands of people, 22,000 people at any one time, have lived, worked, eaten and slept within a stone's throw of these

nuclear reactors for 60 years with no adverse effects from radiation at all.

Annual radiation doses to Navy personnel have averaged only 0.005 rem/year (5 mrem/year; 0.05 mSv/year), a thousand times less than the federal 5 rem/year allowed for radworkers. Normal background radiation in the United States varies from 100 mrem/year to over 1,000 mrem/year.

The Nuclear Navy has logged over 5,400 reactor years of accident-free operations and travelled over 130 million miles on nuclear energy, enough to circle the earth 3,500 times.

From the time of the USS Nautilus in 1954, to the present, no civilian or military personnel on these ships has ever exceeded any Federal radiation limit. And none of those more than a hundred thousand people has ever been harmed by radiation from reactors or facilities with which they were so intimately in contact.

Numerous reports from the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program Office provide detailed information of personnel exposures from living and working in nuclear submarines and on nuclear ships, as well as working in the on-shore facilities that produced fuel and materials for the Nuclear Navy such as nuclear propulsion plants and nuclear component engineering plants.

Their findings supported past studies that indicated no civilian or military personnel on these ships, which number over 22,000 thousand people at any one time today, has ever exceeded any Federal radiation limit. And none of those hundreds of

thousands of people has ever been harmed by the radiation from reactors or facilities with which they were so intimately in contact for so long.

The report also reviewed the history of radiation health effects in the general public which indicated no observable health effects from low levels of radiation:

"It is fair to say that we have more scientific evidence on the hazards of ionizing radiation than on most, if not all, environmental agents that affect the general public."

"Cancer-causing effects of radiation...have been observed only at high doses and high dose rates. Studies of populations chronically exposed to low-level radiation have not shown consistent or conclusive evidence upon which to determine the risk of cancer. Attempts to observe increased cancer in a human population exposed to low doses of radiation have been difficult."


Actually, they've been impossible. We never have found any and we've been looking really, really hard for almost a hundred years.

While ordinary accidents occasionally occur as with any military operation, none have been related to nuclear or radiation, and no radiation health effects or reportable radiological accidents have ever happened in U.S. Navy history.

This is different than Russia. The Soviet Union/Russia has had 22 accidents involving naval nuclear-powered vessels from 1960 to 2003. The United States has had just 2, both occurring in the 1960s, for reasons unrelated to their nuclear reactors.

It is highly likely that, going forward, our Nuclear Navy will make sure things sail along as safely as ever.




STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS
P.O. BOX 19432, 833 S. SPRING STREET, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9432
TELEPHONE: 217/782-6641 * FAX: 217/524-0344 * TDD: 217/524-4645

JB PRITZKER GOVERNOR ANGELA MEHLBRECH ADMINISTRATOR LINDA CHAPA LAVIA DIRECTOR

January 3, 2020

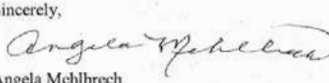
Grande Voiture du Illinois
C/Op Vic Martinka
13485 S. Silverleaf
Plainfield, IL 60544

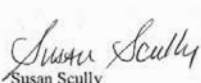
Dear Vic,


On behalf of the Illinois Veterans' Home we want to express our sincere appreciation to you for the donation of check #1286 in the amount of \$500.00. We are grateful to you for the generous expression of support extended to our Home.

Our goal remains to provide a high quality of care and comfort to those we serve and with your help we can continue to make this a reality. Our veterans have given so much in defense of our country that we owe it to them to offer them the best possible care. Your generous donation will aid us in continuing in that tradition. We appreciate the thoughtfulness and generosity of friends such as you who choose to do so many wonderful things to enhance the lives of our men and women.

Thank you for remembering our veterans and for your loyal support of the Illinois Veterans' Home at LaSalle.

Sincerely,

Angela Mehlbrech
Administrator


Susan Scully
Director of Volunteer Services


STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS
MANTENO VETERANS HOME
ONE VETERANS DRIVE, MANTENO, ILLINOIS 60950
TELEPHONE: 815-468-6581 * FAX: 815-468-7001

JB PRITZKER GOVERNOR TANYA SMITH ADMINISTRATOR LINDA CHAPA LAVIA DIRECTOR

December 31st, 2019


Grande Coiture Du Illinois
13485 S. Silverleaf
Plainfield, IL 60544

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Manteno Veterans Home please accept our gratitude for your donation check # 1287 in the amount of \$500.00. Your support is truly a blessing to our Veterans here at the home.

This generous gift will be placed in our Member Benefit Fund. This fund is used to assist with personal items, canteen cards, bingo prizes, recreation activities, and activity outings all to improve the quality of life for our Veterans.

We thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity -- this makes a huge difference in their lives.

Sincerely,

David W. Pedersen
Volunteer Services Coordinator
Manteno Veterans Home

VETERANS CONDUCT FLAG PROGRAM AT SOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Richard Williams and Carrol Ellington fold the U.S. flag as Steve Arney explains what each fold represents.

In preparation for Veterans Day, local veterans hosted a special flag program for the students of South Elementary School on Nov. 8th.

The flag program is a community project of the 40 & 8, Voiture 594 of the 40 & 81 American Legion Post #90, VFW Post #5975 and others. Patriotic music was played by George Orin and Bob Montgomery on the bugle, and the students and teachers were invited to sing along. The veterans demonstrated the significance of each fold of the flag, when it is folded for presentation to the family of a de-ceased soldier. Richard Williams, Car-roll Ellington and Harold Smith asked the students questions about the flag. The veterans mentioned many interesting facts, such as the fact that Betsy Ross sewed the first U.S. flag with 13 stars and 13 stripes -one star and stripe for each state. A star and stripe were added for the 14th and 15th states, but American leaders then decided to add a new star for each state but keep the number of stripes at 13. The veterans also provided many small U.S. flags. Participating in the South School program were George Orin (Army), Bob Montgomery, Dale Reeley (Navy), Steve Arney (Army), Carroll Ellington (Air Force),



Students answer questions about the flag.



George Orin and Bob Montgomery created a patriotic atmosphere at the flag assembly.

Richard Williams (Marines), Verlin Funkhouser (Navy) and Harold Smith (Army). After the flag program, Mrs. Connie Morgan, South School Principal, presented Citizenship awards to a student from each class, which was selected by their teacher. Their teacher also told the student assembly why the student was deserving of the award.



Kylie Kennedy is pictured with her grandfather Richard Williams as she leads in the Pledge to the Flag.

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 504

To amend title 36, United States Code, to require that the POW/MIA flag be displayed on all days that the flag of the United States is displayed on certain Federal property.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 12, 2017

Mr. LANCE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 36, United States Code, to require that the POW/MIA flag be displayed on all days that the flag of the United States is displayed on certain Federal property.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 **SECTION 1. DAYS ON WHICH THE POW/MIA FLAG IS DIS-**
4 **PLAYED ON CERTAIN FEDERAL PROPERTY.**

5 Section 902 of title 36, United States Code, is
6 amended—

7 (1) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the
8 following new subsection:

1 “(e) DAYS FOR FLAG DISPLAY.—For the purposes
2 of this section, POW/MIA flag display days are all days
3 on which the flag of the United States is displayed.”;

4 (2) in subsection (d)(1) by striking “Capitol”
5 and inserting “U.S. Capitol”;

6 (3) in subsection (d)(2) by striking “White
7 House” and inserting “U.S. White House”; and

8 (4) in subsection (e) by striking “Capitol” each
9 place it appears and inserting “U.S. Capitol”.

SIX LITTLE STORIES WITH LOTS OF MEANINGS

(1). Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is faith.

(2). When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is trust.

(3). Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but we still set the alarms to wake up. That is hope.

(4). We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is confidence.

(5). We see the world suffering, but still we get married and have children. That is love.

(6). On an old man's shirt was written a sentence 'I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.' That is attitude.

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories. Remember - Good friends are the rare jewels of life; difficult to find - impossible to replace!!

GRAND D' ILLINOIS WEBSITE IS BACK! CHECK IT OUT AT ILLFORTYANDEIGHT.COM

The screenshot shows the website for the Honor Society of Illinois Veterans. At the top, it says "HONOR SOCIETY OF ILLINOIS VETERANS" and "LA SOCIÉTÉ DES QUARANTE HOMMES ET HUIT CHEVAUX". Below this, there is a paragraph about the society's mission. A sidebar menu on the left includes: Site map, BIRTHDAY RITUAL, Grand Officers, Locale Officers, Grand Membership Reports, Illinois 40/8 News, Events, News from the Locales, La Femmes, Link to Nationale website, Forms & Reports, Programs, and Calendar Winners. A central image shows a bald eagle with the text "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of other wars were treated and Appreciated by their Nation." attributed to George Washington. A circular logo at the bottom center says "CELEBRATING 40/8 100 YEARS 1920-2020". A callout box points to the navigation tabs with the text "Click in the tabs for information and activities of the Grand and Locales."

BY-LAWS OF THE GRAND VOITURE D' ILLINOIS

La Société des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux

ARTICLE II – DUTIES OF OFFICERS



GRAND CHEF DE GARE
MIKE VANCE

SECTION 1: - GRAND CHEF DE GARE

The Grand Chef de Gare shall preside at all meetings of the Grande Voiture. He shall perform the usual duties of a presiding officer and have general control of all business arising between meetings, subject to the approval of the Grande Cheminot. He shall appoint such committees as are necessary and perform such other duties as are, from time to time, approved or ordered by the Grande Voiture. He shall vote only when necessary to break a tie vote. He shall have the power to require the presence of any Grand Officer or Voyageur where the presence of either is deemed necessary, or advisable at any meeting of the Grand Cheminot.



GRAND CHEF DE TRAIN
PAUL PARDO

SECTION 2: - GRAND CHEF DE TRAIN

The Grand Chef de Train shall assist the Grand Chef de Gare and shall assume and **discharge duties of the office of the Grand Chef de Gare in the absence or inability of, or when called upon by the Grand Chef de Gare.** He shall also perform other such duties as the Grand Chef de Gare may from time to time, assign to him.



GRAND COMMISSAIRE
INTENDANT
VIC MARTINKA

SECTION 3: - GRAND COMMISSAIRE INTENDANT

The Grand Commissaire Intendant shall receive, hold and expend under the direction of the Grands Cheminot, all monies of the Grande Voiture, keep an accurate account of receipts and expenditures, with voucher for the latter, and submit a financial record to the Grande Cheminot at each regular meeting and whenever required by the Grand Chef de Gare. He shall, before entering upon the duties of his office, execute a bond in the amount of at least twice the receipts of the previous year, but in no case less than one thousand (1,000) dollars with a surety company, surety to be approved by the Grand Avocat and the bond delivered to the Grand Chef de Gare. **The Grand Commissaire Intendant shall assume and discharge the duties of the office of the Grand Chef de Gare in the absence or inability to act of the Grand Chef de Gare, provided the Grand Chef de Train is also absent or unable to act.**



CHEMINOT NATIONALE
DWIGHT MOSS

SECTION 11: - CHEMINOT NATIONALE

The Cheminot National shall act as the representative of the Grande Voiture d' Illinois at all meetings of Voiture Nationale with the exception of the Promenade Nationale. He shall report his activities to the Grand Cheminot in writing following each meeting of the Cheminot Nationaux. He shall carry instructions as contained in the National Constitution, and as given to him by the Grande Voiture and Grands Cheminot. **The Cheminot Nationale shall assume and discharge the duties of the office of the Grand Chef de Gare in the absence or inability to act of the Grand Chef de Gare, provided the Grand Chef de Train and the Grand Commissaire Intendant are also absent or unable to act.**



GRAND CORRESPONDANT
WALLY HAMMOND

SECTION 4: - GRAND CORRESPONDANT

The Grand Correspondant shall act as Secretary of the Grande Voiture. He shall keep all records, books, membership rolls, etc., with the exception of those of the Grand Commissaire Intendant. He shall keep a true record of all meetings of the Grande Voiture and of the Grande Cheminot, and a true record of all correspondence relative to Grande Voiture. He shall keep the files of the organization. He shall also execute and deliver an approved surety bond in the sum of one thousand (1,000) dollars to the Grand Chef de Gare. He shall account to Voiture Nationale within ten (10) days for all monies received by him for Voiture Nationale. He shall deliver to the Grand Commissaire Intendant within ten (10) days; receipt of all monies received by him for the Grande Voiture and performs such other duties as the Grand Chef de Gare may from time to time assign him. A Sous Grand Correspondant shall be his assistant, as appointed and approved by the Grand Cheminot.



GRAND AVOOCAT
ROBERT "OB1" CEARLOCK

SECTION 8: - GRAND AVOCAT

The Grand Avocat shall be the legal advisor of the Grande Voiture d' Illinois and shall interpret the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grande Voiture d' Illinois. He shall perform the duties of the Judge Advocate and such other duties as may be assigned to him from time to time by the Grand Chef de Gare.



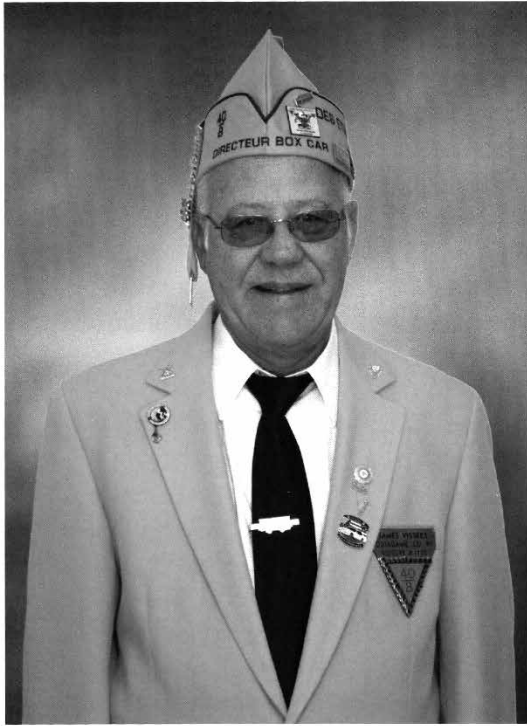
GRAND AMONIER
CELESTE LATHAM

SECTION 7: - GRAND AUMONIER

The Grand Aumonier shall perform such spiritual duties as may be deemed desirable from time to time.

SECTION 13: - GRANDS CHEMINOT

The Grands Cheminot shall be the executive committee and advisors of the Grand Chef de Gare. They shall attend all meetings of the Grande Voiture, and of the Grande Cheminot. They shall be responsible for the welfare of the various Voitures Locale in their respective Districts and shall act as organizers in their respective Districts. They shall familiarize themselves with the Voitures Locale under their jurisdiction and furnish such information in reference thereto as the Grande Voiture may desire or require.



Jim Vissers
Candidate For
CHEF DE CHEMIN DE FER
2020-2021

In 1967, following high school graduation, Jim enlisted in the U. S. Navy. After boot camp at Great Lakes Naval Training Center, he attended service school in San Diego, then transferring to the USS Wasp.

In February of 1970, Jim was united in marriage to his wife "Cher" and they eventually were blessed with three children; Laurie, Adam, and Eric. While stationed aboard the USS Wasp, he was a Steward for two years, then cross-rated to Storekeeper.

Jim was part of the decommissioning crew in 1972. His next duty assignment was the Naval

Submarine Base in Groton, CT where he did accounting for 22 different submarines, along with the Engineering and Repair Department.

The final year of his tour was spent as outbound clerk for household goods.

During his seven years of service, Jim was awarded the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy Unit Commendation, National Defense Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and the Navy Achievement Medal.

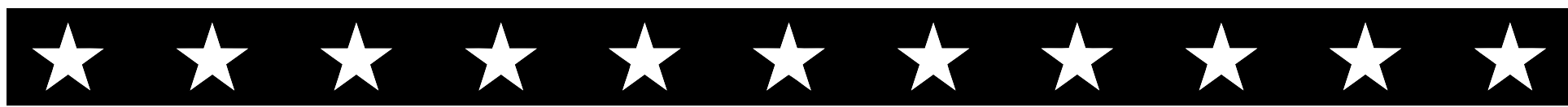
After being honorably discharged in 1974, Jim worked 37 years in the paper industry, six years as a union employee and thirty-one in management. He was a member of the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper industry, chairing the Packaging Committee for three years.

Retired since 2011, Jim is currently working part-time as a courtesy shuttle and parts driver for a local car dealership.

A member of American Legion Post 258 in Little Chute, Wisconsin for forty-six years, Jim has served as Assistant Finance Officer and two terms as First Vice Commander.

In 1998, Jim was invited to join the 40 & 8, serving Voiture 1,1,40 as Aumonier, Chef de Gare, and currently as Correspondant and Commissaire Intendant. On the Grand level, he has served as Aide de Camp, Directeur of Box Car, Garde de La Porte, Conducteur, Chef de Train, Chef de Gare, and currently as Ninth District Cheminot and Commissaire Intendant.

Jim has served on the National level as Alternate Cheminot, Cheminot, Sous Box Car Directeur, Aide de Camp, Box Car Directeur; Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer, and currently as Sous Nurses Training Directeur. He was named the National Voyageur of the Year in 2015.



Voiture 1067 &
Grande du South Carolina
Proudly Endorse and
Support

William "Bill" Simpson



Candidate for
the high office of
Chef de Chemin de Fer

August 1st, 1947, William L. Simpson was born in Columbia, SC where he grew up and attended school. Upon graduating high school, he joined the United States Air Force in April 1966.

William is married to the former Dell Cranshaw. They celebrated their 45th anniversary May 11, 2019. They have two children, four grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

Traveling the world from Thailand, Germany, Alaska and numerous stateside bases, he finally retired at Charleston AFB in May 1988 at the rank of Master Sergeant (E-7). He started his second career in Intermodal Transportation/Warehousing as supervisor, shipping goods overseas and stateside. He retired again in 2010 after 22 years.

William was wrecked into La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux in May 2007 at the "GATOR WRECK" and has been very active within the Voiture Locale 1067 Goose Creek, SC. He has diligently performed duties as Garde de La Porte, Lampiste, Commis Voyageur, Conducteur, Chef de Train, Chef de Gare (4 consecutive years) and Correspondant for several years. He has held several Directorships of the numerous programs of La Société, and is presently on the Ritual Team as Wrecking




Chef. He was awarded Voyageur of the Year 2019.

Voyageur Simpson has served Grand du South Carolina as Grand Correspondant, Grand Chef de Train, Grand Chef de Gare, and Grand Directeur of Youth Sports. He was awarded Grand Voyageur of the Year in 2013.

William has served Voiture Nationale as Sous Directeur Membership (3 years), Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer 2016, and currently as Youth Sports Secrétaire/Treasurer.


William has been active in his American Legion Post 166 Goose Creek, SC since joining in 2005, serving as 1st and 2'd

Vice Commanders and Post Commander. He is also a member of the Masonic Order Pacific Lodge #325 Columbia SC and a Shriner of Jamel Temple also in Columbia, S.C.

Volume 7, Issue 1    January 15, 2020

Voiture Nationale 40&8

VOYAGEUR BRIEFS

Mike McGary –Chef de Chemin de Fer 

Greetings to all. I hope everyone had a joyous Christmas and a happy New Year's Eve celebration. May this year bring each and every one of you health, wealth, and two new members to bring into La Soci t . We're a little behind last year's markers in everything from membership to program monies. Now that the holidays are over, I'm sure we'll all be back to business and right the ship.

One way to start off the year is next week; a group of Indiana voyageurs will meet in Indianapolis to stuff envelopes with membership renewal forms. This is an excellent time to contact those delinquent members and urge them to fill it out and mail it in. A little effort on your part at this time makes it easier on those that have to do all of the paper and leg work. I hope everyone noticed that I didn't address those last couple of sentences to the Correspondant. If you were the sponsor of a delinquent member, a drinking buddy, or just a good friend, it's YOUR job to see that fellow veteran member is renewed. Membership is everyone's job.

At this time, I'm between trips for January. Last weekend I attended the Florida Winter Cheminot and next

business the Forty and Eight way. Very nice! Then it was time to get ready for the banquet and my first experience with Mahi Mahi – not bad at all. After the banquet I got comfortable again a said my good-byes in the hospitality room over a few well tasting scotches.

I'd like to thank both Chef de Gare of V-1606, Jessie Hixson, and Chef de Gare of V -1219, Charles Klyap for hosting this event and I commend you both on a job well done. I'd also like to thank the Grand du Florida, Grand Chef Mike Klyap, and Grand Correspondant, John Kaiserian for this invitation and the great hospitality I was given for the whole weekend, including the snack basket in my room. Most of all I'd like to express my gratitude to Pass  Chef de Chemin de Fer Mac and his wife Patti, for the beautiful memento and adult beverages, but most of all for ensuring a wonderful memory to start the year. Thank you all.

In closing I'd like to thank your National Correspondant, Terry Sims, for his article in last month's Briefs. This was nothing more than an explanation of chapter 5 in our Blue Ritual and Manual of Ceremonies book. By the comments I have been given about it, many members were unaware of our Protocols. This mentoring is an example of what I am trying to stress this year, Mentor a member for the future.

weekend is the Joint Carolina's, just enough time to unpack, do the laundry, repack and hit the road again. On Thursday the 9th, I arrived in Kissimmee, Florida an hour later than I told everyone due to the fact I forgot about the time change. In the parking lot, saving me a space, was Pass  Chef de Chemin de Fer Mac McCarthy and one of my aides Don Carr. I get out and was handed an adult beverage, talk about hitting the spot after all that Disney traffic. After getting settled in, it was a short stay in the hospitality room and then off to dinner with a large group of hungry people. The next morning was free time that helped me get caught up and focused again. In the afternoon it was meetings with the programs. A lot of good work is being done in Florida with all of the programs, outstanding. Then it was time to participate in a joint Le Femme's and Voyageur memorial service for recently departed comrades and Dames. It was very well done and very well attended. Then it was time to get comfy and relax in the hospitality room until dinner. Saturday brought the Cheminot with fines and fun along with taking care of

Inside this issue:

Chef Mike McGary	1
Correspondant National	2
62nd Marine Guard	3
New Year's Resolution	4
E-File Tax Returns	5
Vice Presidential History	6

Volume 7, Issue 1

Terry Sims -Correspondant National

Bill Stroud, National Directeur Youth Sports, National Sous Avocat and L'Editeur of the Cajun Link had a very good article in the December issue of the Cajun Link concerning the birth of the 40/8. I'm going to mention some of the important points that will be very interesting to some of our Voyageurs when the Birthday of La Societe will be celebrated in March by many of our Voiture Locales.

In March of 1920, Joseph W. Breen, a member of the newly formed American Legion and an officer of Breen-McCracken American Legion Post 297, met in Philadelphia with fifteen other prominent Legionnaires where they originated the idea of the Forty and Eight. In 1921 during the Forty and Eight's Promenade Nationale in Kansas City, a national Constitution was adopted and a National Headquarters was established in Seattle, Washington. In 1922 during Promenade Nationale in New Orleans, a Children's Welfare project was established. The National Headquarters was moved to Indianapolis. During the 6th Promenade Nationale, in Omaha, Nebraska, \$25,000 was set aside to establish a Child Welfare Fund. (This was a precursor to today's Charles W. Arderly Trust).

There is a format for conducting the "Birthday Celebration" on page 72 of the Ritual & Manual of Ceremonies.

The "100th Anniversary" coin, pictured in this Brief, is very beautiful and gives justice to the 40/8. On the back is a raised portion of Joseph W. Breen and General "Blackjack" Pershing. They are well worth the \$10 cost. In my travels, I will have a supply of the coins in my possession.

Another item that is ready for sale are the Annual Frank Martin "Walk" shirts. They are \$20 each. They, also, can be purchased from Emblem Sales, which Terri Taylor has been doing a tremendous job organizing our items. Randy Page, National Directeur Walk, will also have a supply in his travels.

The Staff at Voiture Nationale has a total of 86 years of experience working for the Voyageurs of La Societe. Each and every one of them do an excellent job solving the problems that can develop during the year. We are very thankful for their dedicated and diligent work.

In summary, organize our Birthday Celebration at your Voiture, purchase the "100th Anniversary" and purchase a "Walk" shirt for our Charles W. Arderly Fund.

Emblem Sales Highlight of the Month

40&8 Commemorative Coin celebrating 100 years of La Societe. 1-3/4" diameter. Part number 18COIN \$10 each or 10 for \$80 part number 18COIN10.

This item can be ordered at our emblem sales store online at: <http://store.fortyandeight.org/>
Terri Taylor, E-mail: ttaylor@fortyandeight.org
Ph.(317) 634-1804 Fax.(317) 632-9365
Voiture Nationale
Emblem Sales, 250 E 38th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46205

Why should I support the National Box Car Association?


In this article, I will present to you Voyageurs a question I seem to ask myself every year. There are actual Merci Box Cars in almost every Grande Voiture of La Societe. These are the Box Cars were given to each state as gifts of appreciation by the French Government after the war. They were filled with gifts of everything imaginable. Now comes my question, why do we only have an average of 10 Grand's each year apply for the \$ 150.00 Merci Maintenance Fund provided by the National Box Car Association? All a Grand needs to do is sell \$ 150.00 of anything the National Box Car Association has to sell, be it pins at \$ 3.00 each, crew or associate cards at \$ 1.00 each, small whistles for \$ 5.00 or large at \$ 10.00 and of course the Challenge Coins at \$ 10.00 each or the National Box Car Association patches for \$ 1.00 each. How many of you Voyageurs wear the vest offered by Emblem Sales? Are you a rider in any other Veterans Organization? Wear it proudly on your leather jacket or vest. Now you might have another Veteran ask about that patch, you now have an opportunity for RECRUITMENT!!! You can tell everyone about this great organization. How easy of a recruiting tool is that? And the form requesting these monies is on the National website under programs. Click on Box Car and the request form is there. Now one item of importance is, I must receive this form by July 1st of each year, and it MUST be signed by both The Grand Chef and Grand Correspondant. Also, it must arrive by regular U.S. Mail, once I receive that form, I will verify your amount of sales and if you have sold the minimum requirement of \$ 150.00, the check will be sent AFTER promenade Nationale.

Those monies are there for Actual Merci Box Car Maintenance. Why aren't you using them???

Yours in Service to La Societe and National Box Car Association, Frank W. Kronen, Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer Area 1, Secretaire/Treasurer National Box Car Association

Volume 7, Issue 1

62nd Marine Guard Company en route to Brest, France July 1, 1919



101st Promenade Nationale

Early Bird Party Selections


The Early Bird Party Menu at Kalihari Resorts and Conventions is as follows.

Vegetable Cruiddes,
Cheese and Sausage Tray, BBQ Roasted Meatballs, Buffalo Boneless Chicken Wings, Chicken and Cheese Quesidillas, Hamberger Sliders, Pulled Pork Sliders and Chocolate Chip Cookies. Cost of the Early Bird Party is \$30.00.

The Banquet Selections are as Follows. Herb Stuffed Chicken, Roast Pork Loin, Parmesan Crusted Walleye. Cost of the Banquet is \$ 40.00 All cash bar beer prices will be \$ 3.00

Frank W. Kronen
Secretaire Ohio Promenade Corporation

Voiture 78 Charter



From L-R... Grand Chef de Gare David Cook, Chef de Gare Voiture 78 Frederick James, Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer Area 1 Frank W. Kronen Charter Presentation to New Voiture Local 78 in Hocking County, Ohio

Volume 7, Issue 1

"What sort of New Year's Resolution should a Christian make?"

The Lord be with you. Several weeks ago, we celebrated New Years. The end of one year and the beginning of another. And with the beginning of one, there comes the issues of resolutions.

The practice of making New Year's resolutions goes back over 3,000 years to the ancient Babylonians. There is just something about the start of a new year that gives us the feeling of a fresh start and a new beginning. In reality, there is no difference between December 31 and January 1. Nothing mystical occurs at midnight on December 31. The Bible does not speak for or against the concept of New Year's resolutions. However, if a Christian determines to make a New Year's resolution, what kind of resolution should he or she make?

Common New Year's resolutions are commitments to quit smoking, to stop drinking, to manage money more wisely, and to spend more time with family. By far, the most common New Year's resolution is to lose weight, in conjunction with exercising more and eating more healthily. These are all good goals to set. However, **1 Timothy 4:8 instructs us to keep exercise in perspective: "For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."** The vast majority of New Year's resolutions, even among Christians, are in relation to physical things. **This should not be.**

Many Christians make New Year's resolutions to pray more, to read the Bible every day, and to attend church more regularly. These are fantastic goals. However, these New Year's resolutions fail just as often as the non-spiritual resolutions, because there is no power in a New Year's resolution. Resolving to start or stop doing a certain activity has no value unless you have the proper motivation for stopping or starting that activity. For example, why do you want to read the Bible every day? Is it to honor God and grow spiritually, or is it because you have just heard that it is a good thing to do? Why do you want to lose weight? Is it to honor God with your body, or is it for vanity, to honor yourself? **Philippians 4:13** tells us, **"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."** **John 15:5** declares, **"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."** If God is the center of your New Year's resolution, it has chance for success, depending on your commitment to it. If it is God's will for something to be fulfilled, He will enable you to fulfill it. If a resolution is not God-honoring and/or is not in agreement with God's Word, we will not receive God's help in fulfilling the resolution.

So, what sort of New Year's resolution should a Christian make?

(1) pray to the Lord for wisdom (James 1:5) regarding what resolutions, if any, He would have you make; (2) pray for wisdom as to how to fulfill the goals God gives you; (3) rely on God's strength to help you; (4) find an accountability partner who will help you and encourage you; (5) don't become discouraged with occasional failures; instead, allow them to motivate you further; (6) don't become proud or vain, but give God the glory. Psalm 37: 5-6 says, "Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noon-day sun."

Voiture 605

Flags for First Graders

Fannin Elementary

pictures by Letty West,

Stars and Stripes

Renslar "Renny" Keagle




Recent Legislation Requires Tax-Exempt Organizations to E-File their Tax Returns

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) said the *Taxpayer First Act*, enacted July 1, 2019 **requires tax exempt organizations to electronically file information returns and related forms.** The new law affects tax exempt organizations in tax years beginning after July 1, 2019.

The *Act* extends the requirement to e-file, to all tax-exempt organizations required to file statements or returns in the Form 990 series.

The following IRS forms are included in the mandate:

- Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax.
- Form 990-PF, Return of Private Foundation or Section 4947(a)(1) Trust Treated as Private Foundation.
- Form 8872, Political Organization Report of Contributions and Expenditures.
- Form 1065, U.S. Return of Partnership Income (if filed by a Section 501(d) apostolic organization).

Those who previously filed paper forms will receive a letter from the IRS informing them of the change. Filing deadlines vary by form type. The IRS will postpone the required e-filing of Form 990-EZ for one year, while optional e-filing continues to be available. Although Forms 990-T and 4720 will come under the e-filing requirement next year, the IRS will continue to accept these forms on paper pending conversion to electronic format.

Form 990 and 990-PF e-filing

Under the legislation, most e-filings won't be due before Dec. 15, 2020, from charities and other exempt organizations that generally file Form 990 or 990-PF by the 15th day of the fifth month after the tax year-end. In other words, Forms 990 and 990-PF with tax years ending July 31, 2020, and later **MUST** be filed electronically. Form 990 and 990-PF filings for tax years ending on or before June 30, 2020, may still be on paper. In the case of a short tax year or certain other circumstances detailed in the 990 or 990-PF Instructions, the IRS will continue to accept paper filing as its systems are yet unable to receive these forms electronically. More information on software providers is available at IRS.gov.

Form 990-EZ transition relief

For small exempt organizations, the legislation specifically allowed a postponement ("transitional relief"). For tax years ending before July 31, 2021, the IRS will accept either paper or electronic filing of Form 990-EZ, Short Form Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax. For tax years ending July 31, 2021, and later, Forms 990-EZ must be filed electronically. Generally, Form 990-EZ is for organizations with annual gross receipts less than \$200,000 and total assets at tax year-end less than \$500,000.

Paper Forms 990-T and 4720

In 2020, the IRS will continue to accept paper forms that are pending conversion into electronic format. These include Form 990-T, Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return, and Form 4720, Return of Certain Excise Taxes Under Chapters 41 and 42 of the Internal Revenue Code. The IRS plans to have these returns ready for e-filing in 202 (reporting on tax year 2020).

The *Act* also requires IRS to provide notice to an organization that fails to file a Form 990-series return or postcard for two consecutive years. The notice must state that IRS has no record of receiving a return or postcard from the organization for two consecutive years and inform the organization that their tax-exempt status will be canceled if the organization fails to file a return or postcard by the due date for the next return or postcard. The notice must also contain information about how to meet the annual information return and postcard requirements.

More information on the *Taxpayer First Act* is available at IRS.gov.

State e-file requirement. Please check with your State taxing agency for their e-file requirements.

Dan Dumas
Commissaire Intendant Nationale

**Building Donation Challenge
Grand Total \$182,638.87**
December 2019



MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION
87th Annual Promenade
April 17-19, 2020
www.fortyandeight.org/events



Voiture Nationale has Gone Social!
Like, Follow and Re-tweet

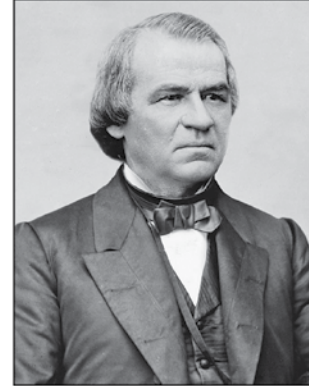
NAME	VOITURE	GR	AMT
Voiture 1172	1172	NC	\$ 85.00
Voiture 843	843	IN	\$ 18.00
Voiture 182	182	AR	\$ 3.00

Voiture Nationale 40&8
250 E 38th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46205

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Fax: 317-632-9365
E-mail: voiturenationale@msn.com

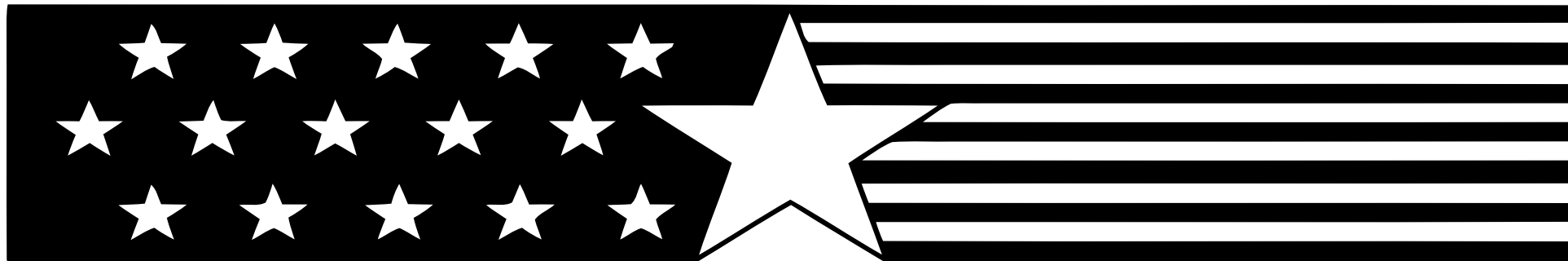
Vice Presidential History

Andrew Johnson (December 29, 1808 – July 31, 1875) was the 17th president of the United States, serving from 1865 to 1869. Johnson assumed the presidency as he was vice president of the United States at the time of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. He favored quick restoration of the seceded states to the Union without protection for the former slaves. This led to conflict with the Republican-dominated Congress, culminating in his impeachment by the House of Representatives, but he was subsequently acquitted in the Senate by one vote. Johnson's main accomplishment as president was the Alaska purchase.



Johnson was born in poverty in Raleigh, North Carolina, and never attended school. Apprenticed as a tailor, he worked in several frontier towns before settling in Greeneville, Tennessee. He served as alderman and mayor there before being elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives in 1835. After brief service in the Tennessee Senate, Johnson was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1843, where he served five two-year terms. He became governor of Tennessee for four years, and was elected by the legislature to the U.S. Senate in 1857. As Southern slave states, including Tennessee, seceded to form the Confederate States of America, Johnson remained firmly with the Union. He was the only sitting senator from a Confederate state who did not resign his seat upon learning of his state's secession. In 1862, Lincoln appointed him as military governor of Tennessee after most of it had been retaken. In 1864, Johnson, as a war Democrat and Southern Unionist, was a logical choice as running mate for Lincoln, who wished to send a message of national unity in his reelection campaign; their ticket easily won. When Johnson was sworn in as vice president in March 1865, he gave a rambling speech, after which he secluded himself to avoid public ridicule. Six weeks later, the assassination of Lincoln made him president.

Returning to Tennessee after his presidency, Johnson sought political vindication, and gained it in his own eyes when he was elected to the Senate again in 1875, making Johnson the only former president to serve in the Senate. He died five months into his term. Johnson's strong opposition to federally guaranteed rights for African Americans is widely criticized. He is regarded by many historians as one of the worst presidents in American history.



**John York, Grand Directeur
Nurses Training
40et8, Grand du Illinois
13456 S. Redberry Cr.
Plainfield, IL 60544**
"The Society of 40 Men and 8 Horses"



PREMIER NURSE OF THE YEAR AWARD



QUALIFICATIONS

The Candidate must be a Registered Nurse or a Retired Registered Nurse registered in the State of Illinois. The Candidate must have a minimum of five (5) years nursing experience After passing the RN examination. This service must be in the State of Illinois, however, any United States Military Service will be accrued as time served in the State of Illinois providing the Candidate has returned and is practicing in the State of Illinois.

The sponsoring Voiture Locale will furnish all the information including a recent photo to Grand Directeur thirty (30) days prior to the Spring Grand Cheminot Meeting.

The Grand Voiture Du Illinois will pay two (2) nights lodging at the Headquarters Motel during the Grand Promenade, two (2) Banquet/Luncheon tickets and furnish a suitable plaque to be presented during the session of the Grande Promenade.

The sponsoring Voiture Locale will pay for mileage at the rate of \$.15 a mile to and from the Grand Promenade for the Nurse of the Year.

A Committee of the Grand Directeur of Nurse's Training; Grand Chef de Gare, Grand Correspondant, and two (2) Sous Directeurs of Nurse's Training will meet during the Spring Grand Cheminot Meeting. The Grand Directeur of Nurse's Training will act as Chairman of this committee and will call this meeting at time and place of his discretion with the approval of the Grand Chef de Gare. During this meeting a Nurse of the Year will be selected, with the winning Candidate to be announced at the Spring Grand Cheminot session.

John York
John York
Directeur



La Societe Des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux


Grande Voiture d' Illinois

OFFICIAL APPLICATION


PREMIERE NURSE OF THE YEAR AWARD


1. CANDIDATES NAME: _____
- ADDRESS: _____
(Incl. phone No)
2. RECOMMENDED BY VOITURE NO. _____ COUNTY _____
3. NUMBER OF YEARS CANDIDATE HAS BEEN A REGISTERED NURSE _____
(A minimum of five years required)
4. SUBMIT A BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE CANDIDATE.
(Include education, family background, fraternal and social organizations and a recent photo.) 250 or less.
5. SUMMARIZE NURSING EXPERIENCE OF CANDIDATE.
(Double space, limit to 250 words or less.)
6. WHAT QUALIFIES THIS CANDIDATE FOR THE PREMIERE NURSE OF THE YEAR AW
(Double space, limit to 500 words or less.)
7. HAS THE CANDIDATE EVER RECEIVED ANY AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE OF NURSING? (If so, what honor/honors have they received?)
8. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:
 - a Attach letters of recommendation from the candidates superiors, Nursing Administrators, Dox Administrators or any others directly involved with this candidate in the course of their duties
 - b. Attach letters of recommendation from those not in the Health Care Profession. (Former patient friends of former patients, members of the clergy, or any others not directly involved with Health Care)
 - c. Attach any published articles, pictures etc. concerning the Candidate, if any are available.
9. IN THE EVENT THE CANDIDATE IS CHOSEN AS THE RECIPIENT OF THIS AWARD AVAILABLE TO ATTEND THE AWARD CEREMONIES?

Submitted by: _____ Title _____
Date: _____ Signature _____
Signature _____ Signature _____
Chef de Gare Voiture Local # Correspondant




NURSES TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM






APPLICATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP GRANT GRAND VOITURE D' ILLINOIS

Voiture # _____ County: _____




APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED BY _____ Date _____

To: _____



NURSES TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Applicants Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Are you a U.S. Citizen?
 Yes No

Marital Status:
 Single Married Divorced Separated Widow Widower

Phone: _____ Home: _____ Cell: _____

Applicants Dependents:

Name	Age	Relationship

Parents or Guardian Name (IF REQUIRED): _____

Parents or Guardian Address: _____


Parents or Guardian Phone:
 Home: _____ Cell: _____

List all Dependents of Parents or Guardian


Name	Age	Relationship

References from your community:

Name	Phone	Address



NURSES TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



Who recommended you to the 40 et 8?

Name	Phone	Address

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

High School and/or College	Address	Dates	Degree or Certificate

PLEASE ATTACH A TRANSCRIPT OF YOUR RECORD AT EACH SCHOOL LISTED ABOVE

Aptitude Test Results: SAT _____ or ACT _____
 Verbal: _____ Math: _____

What institution do you plan to attend or are attending?

Institution	Department	Director

Have your credentials been filed with the above institution?
 Yes: No:

Have you applied for or do you intend to apply for other scholarships, fellowships or grants?
 Yes: No:

If yes, please explain:

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Applicant's Annual Income: \$ _____

Parents or Guardians Annual Income (IF REQUIRED): \$ _____


Explain why you are in need of and are requesting assistance:

CONTINUE ON SPERATE SHEET IF NECESSARY


ADDITIONAL PERSONAL INFORMATION

On a separate sheet of paper, outline your plans for your future professional career and attach to this form. Include your reason or motivation for choosing a nursing career. You may also include any further information you feel is pertinent to evaluating this application.

APPLICANT'S STATEMENT



NURSES TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



In the event that I am granted assistance from the 40 et 8, I hereby certify that:

- I am in need of assistance in order to begin or continue my education in the field of nursing.
- I am or will be properly enrolled as defined by the appropriate Office of the Registrar.
- I will only use the proceeds of this scholarship for the payment of tuition and required fees, and any educationally related expenses as defined by the Financial Aid Office of the college. The scholarship check will be payable to both the recipient and the college. The recipient will need to endorse the check and present it to the Cashier of the college. The Cashier will apply the funds to recipient's account to pay for tuition, fees, books, housing or any other certified educationally related expenses incurred with the college.
- I hereby acknowledge and affirm that the information submitted herein is true and correct.

 Signature of applicant _____ Date _____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN STATEMENT (IF REQUIRED)

To the best of my knowledge, the information contained herein is complete and correct and I understand that _____
 is applying for financial assistance to help with educational expenses at _____

 Signature of parent or guardian _____ Date _____

REQUEST FOR GRADES/RELEASE FORM

I, _____ give _____ High School and _____ College permission to release my academic grades during my enrollment at the above specified College and/or High School to the Forty et Eight Voiture Locale Nurses Training Scholarship Committee [address on cover page].

I also give permission to release my name and/or picture to the news media.

 Signature _____ Date _____

I also give permission as Parent or Guardian (IF REQUIRED):

 Signature _____ Date _____

A LITTLE HUMOR

BUCK HUNTING

A group of friends went deer hunting and paired off in twos for the day. That night, one of the hunters, who happened to be blonde, returned alone, staggering under the weight of an eight-point buck.
 "Where's Henry? one of his camp mates asked."
 "Henry had a stroke of some kind. He's a couple of miles back up the trail."
 "You left Henry laying out there and carried the deer back!?"
 "A tough call," nodded the hunter, "but I figured no one is going to steal Henry!"

TRAFFIC VIOLATION

A guy was driving his new Corvette way too fast on the highway. Suddenly, he heard the siren and saw the police car with its lights on behind him. Hesitantly, he pulled over and waited for the officer, his sunglasses still on, and his cigarette still lit, arrogant smile on his face.
 "Sir, you are aware that you were driving 30 mph over the speed limit, aren't you?" the officer said as he handed the man his violation ticket.
 "Keep it," said the officer, "When you get four of them, you get a bicycle."

PEACE OPERATION

A young, freshly minted lieutenant was sent abroad as part of the peace keeping mission. During a briefing on land mines, the captain asked for questions. Our intrepid soldier raised his hand and asked, "If we do happen to step on a mine, Sir, what do we do?"
 "Normal procedure, lieutenant, is to jump 200 feet in the air and scatter oneself over a wide area."

ROBBERY IN D.C.



In Washington D.C., late one night, a mugger wearing a ski mask jumped into a path of a well-dressed man and stuck a gun in his ribs. "Give me your money!!!" he demanded. Indignant, the affluent man replied, "You can't do this - I am a United States congressman!"
 "In that case," replied the mugger, "give me MY money!!!"

ISSUE WITH FIDELITY

Sitting at the bar, sad Rob told the bartender that he was drinking to forget the heartbreak of his broken engagement.
 "So what happened, dude?" asked the bartender.
 "Well, what can I say," said Rob, "Would you marry someone who didn't know the meaning of the word faithful, and who was flip and even vicious when the subject of fidelity came up?"
 "No way in hell!" said the bartender.
 "Well," said Rob, "apparently, neither would my fiancé."

SARCASTIC AL SAYS:

I applied for a job today and they ask for three references. I wrote, "a dictionary, a Thesaurus, and a map."
 My doctor told me that jogging could add years to my life. He was right—I feel ten years older already.

BLUE WATER NAVY VETERANS' DISABILITY CLAIMS TO BE DECIDED BEGINNING JAN 1, 2020

BLUE WATER NAVY



Did you serve in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975? If so, then you're considered a Blue Water Navy (BWN) Veteran.

On Jan. 1, 2020, the Blue Water Navy Act of 2019 goes into effect. This Act was signed into law on Jun. 25, and extends the presumption of herbicide exposure, such as Agent Orange, to BWN Veterans who served as far as 12 nautical miles from the shore of Vietnam and have since developed one of 14 conditions related to exposure. Some of these conditions include Type 2 diabetes, Parkinson's disease, many forms of cancer and others. You may now be eligible for disability compensation and other benefits. In addition, if you're a Veteran who served in the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between Sept. 1, 1967, and Aug. 31, 1971, you may also qualify for compensation and benefits for yourself and your family members.

How do I know if I'm eligible?

The best way to find out if you're eligible is to work with an accredited claims representative or Veterans Affairs (VA) regional office to understand eligibility requirements before filing a claim. You don't need to prove contact with herbicides to be eligible.

How do I file a claim for compensation benefits?

You can file an initial claim (that has not been previously decided by VA), by submitting Form 21-526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits go to <https://www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/> to initiate your new claim.

You can also contact an accredited Veterans Service Organization (VSO) to assist you with your application. To access a list of VA-approved VSOs go to, <https://www.va.gov/vso/>. You may also contact your state's Veterans agency should you need additional assistance with the application process.

What if I've previously filed a claim that was denied?

VA will be using the new law to automatically review claims that are currently with the VA review process or under appeal. However, if you had an herbicide exposure claim with one or more presumptive

conditions denied in the past, you are urged to file a new claim.

When you begin the claims process, be sure to provide or identify any new and relevant information regarding your claim, such as the dates the vessel you were serving on traveled through the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam or updated medical information.

Submit a VA Form 20-0995, Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim.

How should survivors and dependents apply for initial Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Claim for a Veteran who died of presumptive condition?

Eligible survivors and dependents must meet certain conditions to receive DIC. To learn more about this process go to, <https://www.va.gov/disability/dependency-indemnity-compensation/>. If found to be eligible, there are several ways to file a claim, including:

- By mail, using VA Form 21P-534EZ.
- In person at a VA regional office.
- An accredited claims representative or VSO.

What benefits will I receive if my claim is approved?

If you are deemed eligible, you may receive a monthly disability compensation payment and free healthcare related to your disability. The amount of compensation you may receive is determined by your diagnosed condition and level of disability.

Another important component of the Blue Water Navy Act includes changes to the VA Home Loan program. VA now allows the no-down payment option on guaranteed home loans, regardless of mortgage amount for ALL Veterans. In addition, there is a reduction in the funding fee required for Reservists and National Guard borrowers and other changes.

More information and resources on the Blue Water Navy Act, eligibility, how to file a claim, and changes to the VA Home Loan Program can be found online at <https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/blue-water-navy.asp>