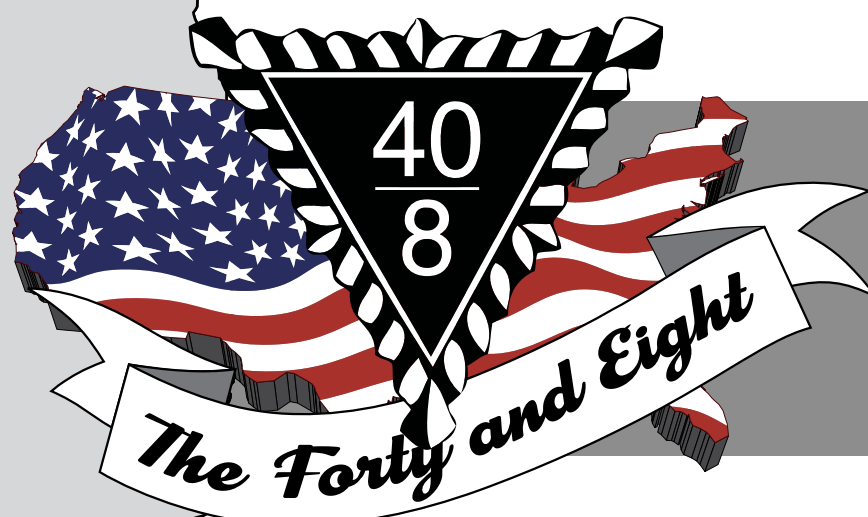


# The Illinois 40 et 8 News

Official Publication of the Honor Society of Illinois Veterans



Volume 28, No. 2

Summer 2022

## LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL DAY

CELEBRATED IN MORRIS (GRUNDY COUNTY) ON MAY 19TH



Officers lay wreaths before memorial statue honoring those killed in line of duty.



Grundy County Sheriff's Deputy Tyler Post addresses the audience.



Recently retired Morris Police Sgt (and V1195 Chef de Train) Steve Huettemann prepares to play Taps

NonProfit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Indianapolis, IN  
Permit No. 279



## BLUE CHEVALIER LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION AWARD



On May 10, 2022, El Paso Police Tactical Police Officer Alan Blanco received the Forty and Eight Blue Chevalier Law Enforcement Appreciation Award. V-605 has 11 Blue Chevalier charter members, so it was fitting that V-605 sponsor officer Blanco who is

also being considered for American Legion and Forty and Eight Law Officer of the Year. Officer Blanco was recognized for his community involvement as well as participation in several difficult and dangerous rescues in the Franklin Mountains. He is the recipient of



numerous commendations and awards. Officer Blanco's family was in attendance as well as his command staff. Several Voyageurs Militaire were in attendance for the presentation as well as the Grand Chef de Gare du Texas Roger Folmar. The award

was presented by Renslar "Renny" Keagle, Sous National Directeur, Public Relations Committee for La Societe. La Societe Public Relations sponsors the award nationally. Officer Blanco was also presented a Blue Chevalier pin.



# GRAND AVOCAT BOB CEARLOCK



requirement.

I also asked that you consider placing your name in the hat for the following positions:

Grand Avocat or Sous Grand Avocat

Editeur or Asst. Editeur  
Directeur Child Welfare or Sous

Sous Grand Correspondant  
Web Master or Assistant [includes data collection and report development in Excel or Access formats]

I have other positions also but they correlate with National Public Relations, so I am stuck with them for a while.

### CRICKETS?!

As you can see by my photo, I have now entered the Grey Beard era of my life and from the looks of the photo, been rode hard and put away wet!

It is time for some of you to step up and learn the positions held by our Senior Officers and Directeurs.

Yours in service.

Voyageurs Militaire,  
At the Spring Cheminot I asked that all Voitures review their Constitution and Bylaws for outdated requirements and or conflicts with National Constitution.

To date I have only received one submittal. I am asking that if you review the document and feel there is no revision required please notify me by email or snail mail that you have completed this tri-annual



# GRAND COMMISSAIRE INTENDANT VICTOR J MARTINKA



over two years. That used to be our Big FUND Raiser. The Cheminot Body will need to Seriously come up with some ideas of how to fund our expenses in the future. We can NO LONGER keep kicking the can down the road. Our Cheminot Body consists of some Very Talented Individuals. We ALL are Involved in other Veterans Organizations. What are they doing to raise money to keep their organization going? Would something similar work for Grand du Illinois? We need to attend the Spring Cheminot with a Very POSITIVE Attitude. We need some Good FUND-Raising ideas. Then we need to be very POSITIVE and Support whatever programs we come up with. We cannot afford to attend with a NEGATIVE Attitude. We cannot be Negative and go home complaining: "There Is Nothing We Can Do."

First off hope everybody is staying Healthy.

Those who attended the Spring Cheminot, PLEASE start thinking about FUND Raisers for Grande du Illinois. Like anything else in life, it takes MONEY to Function. With the COVID Virus that thinks it's the Ever-Ready Bunny. (Just keeps going and going) we have NOT run our Calendar Program in



# PUBLIC RELATIONS



The Charter year of the Blue Chevaliers is just over 5 months old now and has 227 Charter Members including 24 Life Members. Grand d' Illinois has 48 members of which 8 are Life Members. Thank all of you for your support!

If you are not a member please consider joining us "In Support of Law Enforcement". Contact me for membership information.

Please note that my phone number has changed, it is now 618-214-7174.

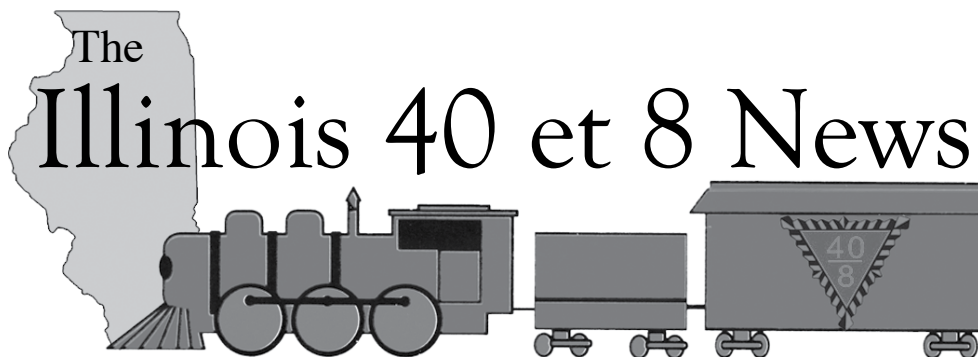
Yours in service to La Société,  
Bob "OB 1" Cearlock  
National Directeur, Public Relations  
P.A.L.s President  
P.M. Blue Chevaliers Project  
La Societe 40 et 8

Voyagers All,  
Please don't forget to renew your membership to P.A.L.S. and get your copies of "The Bulletin" and Press Credentials. Every Correspondant and Publiste should be members!

# Grande Voiture du Illinois

## OFFICERS 2021 - 2022

- GRAND CHEF DE GARE ..... PAUL PARDO
- GRAND CHEF DE TRAIN ..... PETER HIRT
- CHEMINOT NATIONALE ..... MICHAEL VANCE
- GRAND COMMISSAIRE INTENDANT .... VICTOR MARTINKA
- GRAND AVOCAT ..... ROBERT CEARLOCK
- GRAND CORRESPONDANT ..... WALLY HAMMOND
- GRAND AUMONIER ..... CELESTE LATHAM



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.

**Paul Pardo - Grand Chef de Gare**

**Wally Hammond - Grand Correspondant**

Articles and Announcements To be Sent To;  
Robert Cearlock - Le Editeur  
7 Lawnwood Dr. • Jackson, TN 38305

Winter Issue  
ARTICLE CUTOFF DATE - November 1st

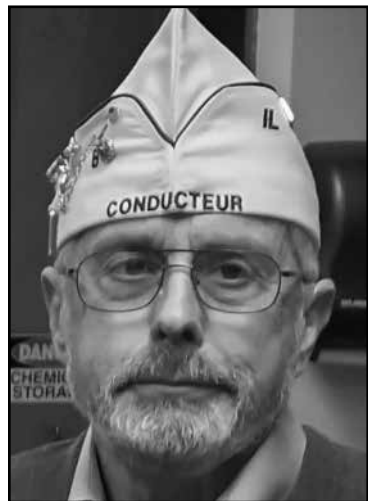
Spring Issue  
ARTICLE CUTOFF DATE - February 1st

Summer Issue  
ARTICLE CUTOFF DATE - May 1st

Fall Issue  
ARTICLE CUTOFF DATE - August 1st



**FROM THE GRAND CONDUCTEUR  
JERRY TERANDO (V-1195)  
AND CO-DIRECTEUR  
ROB DETTMANN (V-1195)**



GRANDE DU ILLINOIS is having an appreciation drawing: Countdown to Veterans Day (Nov. 11th). Only 500 tickets will be divided among the District Cheminots, based on membership.  
Donation: \$20.00 each.

Approx. 45% of members will have the opportunity to purchase tickets (in order to insure sales). If you, or your family, want tickets, I encourage you to get them while available! Contact me for more information at 815-210-1937

The drawings will begin on November 1st and continue through November 10th.

Each drawing will award one winner \$500. All winning tickets will be re-entered for the remaining drawings.

Winners will be notified by phone, and the check will be mailed to the address provided on the ticket.

Your support will help fund the goals and programs of the Grande du Illinois.

Victory has a hundred parents.....Defeat is a bastard.



**GRANDE CORRESPONDANTE  
ETHELLYNN NEVILLE**

Hello Dames:

Well, here we are about to close out another wonderful year 2021-2022. Have you filled out all of those reports to get to your Grande Committee Dame? Those hours, miles, and money is very important to Voiture Nationale. We do the work we need to report what we do. If you live away from where your meetings are please make sure you e-mail your Correspondante so she may gather all the important information. This is also the time for elections for the 2022-2023 year. We need more Dames to step up and take offices and don't be afraid to do so because we are there to help any Dame that wants to go up the ladder. We have had a wonderful year and looking forward toward another wonderful year. Have all the Dames

joined the Blue Chevaliers? It is another great program and I image you can find the information somewhere in this newspaper. Also since I am Avocate Nationale have you updated your constitution and bylaws? There have been many changes since 2019 and the new Constitution books are printed and ready for sale. If there is anything that you need help with please just ask or bring it up on the floor, as I said before we are there to help. Do you know of any qualified person that you can sign up for the new year? We love membership and more membership. Have you asked a voyageur in your Locale if they have anyone that the Dames can sign up? We want to thank the 2021-2022 officers for this wonderful year and wish the 2022-2023 officers a very successful year.



**GRUNDY COUNTY  
MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY**

May 2021. Voiture 1195 awarded three \$500.00 Nurse Training scholarships.



L to R: Aumonier Ken Buck; Cheminot Bob Rogers; Drapeau/Commis Voyageur Maria Acevedo; Chef de Gare Jerry Terando; Correspondent Larry Johnson; Garde de la Porte Steve Huettemann; Cheminot Rob Dettmann. Morgan Brown was present for the event. Unavailable we're Taylor Breman and Mackenzie Welsh.

**PRIVATE FLAG CEREMONY IN  
CENTRALIA IN MEMORY OF WWII  
VETERAN ON 100TH BIRTHDAY**



Voyageur Tom Ballagh presenting the folded Donald E. Rueter Flag to son Curtis Rueter



A private flag ceremony was held in Centralia, Illinois in memory of decorated WWII Veteran Donald Edward Rueter on his 100th birthday on February 22, 2022, at the Westside Laundry, the family business of his son, Curtis Rueter. Voyageur Tom Ballagh of Voiture 516 in Centralia assisted with the ceremony. The new flag was inscribed on the binding "Flown 2/22/2022 at 123 W. Broadway, Centralia, IL in loving memory of TSgt. Donald E. Rueter (2/22/1922) by the Rueter Family." The flag had been folded prior to the ceremony, was then unfurled and raised on the flagpole in front of the Westside Laundry.

Curtis Rueter gave a brief statement following the flag raising stating "Today would be Donald Rueter's 100th birthday and we dedicate

this flag to him and all veterans, past and present. God Bless them all and God Bless America."

The flag was flown for the remainder of the day on February 22nd, taken down and allowed to dry from the rainy weather. It was refolded and placed in a flag case along with other documents relating to Mr. Rueter's service to our nation.

Mr. Rueter was honorably

discharged from the US Army as a Technical Sergeant on January 1, 1946, following service in Europe during the Battle of the Bulge and eastward for the liberation of Germany. He received Battle Stars for service in Northern France, Central Europe, and Germany. He was assigned to the 263rd Field Artillery Battalion, 26th Infantry "Yankee" Division of the Third Army commanded by General George S. Patton.



**GREATER PEORIA  
HONOR FLIGHT**

February 19, 2022 the combined efforts of VFW post 1984, American Legion Post 16 and Fulton County V-812, hosted a soup supper to raise funds for the Greater Peoria Honor flight. We offered 3 soups, Chili, Vegetable Beef and Potato soup, all you want for \$8.00. The Legion Auxiliary had desserts available for an extra \$1. The turn out was fantastic and the Legion and VFW each donated \$2,000. The donation was made at the March Legion meeting and a total of \$6,000 was presented to Gene and Ailene Wallace, representing the Honor Flight.

Pictured are Rebecca Marvel, Helen McCracken, Auxiliary members, Gerald Smith, previous Honor Flight, Ailene Wallace, Mike Schnetzler, Commander Post 16, Gene Wallace, Wayne Erickson, Commander VFW Post 1984 and Bill Seward. Bill was the Chef de Cuisine who put all the soups together!

This brings the total to \$10,000+ that the Canton Veterans Organizations have donated to the Greater Peoria Honor Flight! All the men pictured except Gene Wallace are members of Fulton County V-812! The middle of March 4

Veterans from the Canton area, were invited to go on the April 28th flight and all accepted!

If you haven't signed up for the Honor Flight yet, DO IT TODAY! It is an unforgettable day! When you here of an Honor Flight in your area, please plan to welcome them home at the airport, that is a wonderful end to a unforgettable day!

We encourage all Veterans to sign up for the Honor Flight. It was just announced, the Honor Flight has surpassed 250,000 Veterans taken to Washington D. C., at no cost to them, since they started.



This picture was taken after the April 28th Honor Flight. Pictured from left are Ray Geier, Kenny Atkinson, Bill Riley and Wally Hammond.





# V-812 PARTICIPATES IN CANTON 4TH GRADE SCIENCE AND NATURE DAY

V-812 was asked to participate in the annual 4th Grade Science and Adventure Day, May 18th and 19th. We have been doing this for 5 years and look forward to helping in the future. The students arrive at Lakeland Park, a complex of 5 Lakes maintained by the Canton Park District, by bus. They get a short introduction to the day's activities and then split into four groups. We transported two groups to the Butterfly, or as I told them "flutterby", station. There they

learned about the Monarch and other butterflies, how far they migrate and what kind of plants attract them to your yard. The other group went to the "duck blind" where they learned about the migration habits of various waterfowl. There were several Canadian Honkers and their new hatchlings in the area. The other two groups, which had to walk to their stations, learned about Aquatic life and Art and Science Journaling. It was a great day for everyone!



Some of our passengers



Veterans Memorial



Butterfly station, learning about migration



Flag etiquette program at the Veterans Memorial



The duck blind, waterfowl migration

# NURSES 2022



April 18, 2022 Voiture 812 members went to Graham Hospital School of nursing and presented the 2022 Nurses scholarships. V-812 has been presenting Nurse's scholarships for 45 years. A trust fund, set up by Steve and Mary Wagner, sponsor two Nurses, and V-812 sponsored 3. Presenting the checks are (L to R) Ardith Corsaw and

Jamie Goldring, Jim Watts and Miranda Pribble, Wally Hammond (HA# 1) and Karsyn Woerly, John Smith and Rachel Bybee and Josh Wilkinson and Elliyah Atchley. Voyageur Ardith Corsaw is a Nurse and retired Lt. Colonel, USANG and Josh Wilkinson is the Premier Nurse Grande d' Illinois and National Nurse of the Year 2021. Josh is the first Nurse to receive the National Award.



# QUILT OF VALOR PRESENTATION



told them there were several members, some from WW II still, but active member would be Gerald Smith. The club decided to give the quilt to Gerald and will be giving more in the future to other Veterans.



Gerald is a Life member of American Legion Post 16 and Fulton County Voiture 812. He has served the Legion in all the offices of the Legion including Commander, TWICE, Trustee for 5 years and fish fry until we ceased having it. When Gerald retired from Cilco, he didn't get a part time job, instead he dedicated his time to helping the Legion prosper. He also has been Chef de Gare of the 40/8 V-812, driver and maintenance of the Locomotive and Grill master for our monthly breakfast! He is still serving at 84 yrs. Young!

April 12th, 2022, the Piecers of the Heartland, Quilt Guild, presented Gerald Smith a Quilt of Valor for his service in the U.S. Navy from 1957 to 1961. The President of the club contacted me and wanted to know who the oldest active member of the American Legion is. I

The Quilt Guild meets at Wesley Hall on the 2nd Tuesday of each month and if you would be interested in joining, stop by and talk with them.

# SCHUYLER POST #4 & V#1100



Terry Bigham, Schuyler Post #4 & V#1100 member assisting the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #6 with their annual Poppy Campaign.



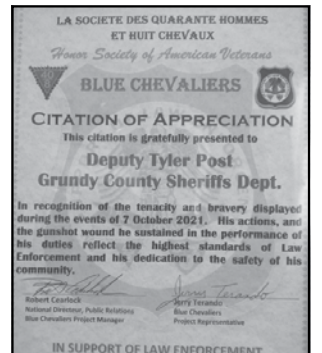
Schuyler American Legion Post #4 and Voiture #1100 took down the old flag at Washington Elementary School and replaced it with a flag donated to the school by neighbor, Louise Vancil. L to R: Steve Bottorff, LaVern Maxwell and Donnie Young with Ms. Vancil.

# THE BLUE CHEVALIERS HONOR GRUNDY COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY TYLER POST

By Maribeth M. Wilson February 07, 2022, at 12:00 pm CST



(left) Chef de Train Steve Huettemann, (center) Deputy Tyler Post, (right) Chef de Gare Jerry Terando



MORRIS — Deputy Tyler Post was honored by the Representatives of the Blue Chevaliers on Wednesday night.

Representatives of the Blue Chevaliers awarded Deputy Tyler Post with a citation of appreciation. The citation states that "in recognition of the tenacity and bravery displayed during the events of 7 October 2021. His actions and the gunshot wound he sustained in the performance of his duties reflect the highest standards of Law Enforcement and his dedication to the safety of his community"

**WE NEED MORE LIKE THIS!**



# NURSE'S TRAINING SCHOLARSHIPS

Every year the Effingham County 40 & 8, V-1439 presents Nurse's Training Scholarships to selected Effingham County High School Seniors. This year Dieterich High School Senior Madilyn Brummer and Effingham High School Senior Talia Coburn were presented a scholarship by Chef de Gare (Commander) Ralph Rounds. The scholarship is valued at \$3,000.

The scholarships were named "Longevity Service Scholarship" to honor members who have been with the Effingham County 40 & 8 for many years. Miss Brummer's scholarship was named for Thomas Springer of Effingham. Thomas served during the Vietnam Era in the U.S. Army. He served for nine years working in communications and achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant. Miss Coburn's scholarship was named for Richard Niebrugge of Effingham. Richard served

with the Illinois National Guard in Effingham during the Vietnam Era. He served for eight years working with mortars and achieved the rank of Sergeant. Both Mr. Springer and Mr. Niebrugge have been members of the 40 & 8 for over 40 years. Their service to the 40 & 8 is greatly appreciated.

This year the 40 & 8 was able to present a \$3,000 scholarship because of a generous donation from the Effingham County Marine Corps League.

Madilyn is planning on attending Lakeland Community College and is the daughter of Scott and Tracy Brummer. Talia is planning on attending Eastern Illinois University and is the daughter of Jessica and Michael Overton. Madilyn and Talia are the 113th and 114th scholarship recipients of the Nurse's Training Scholarship. The members of V-1439 offer their best wishes to Madilyn and Talia for a great success.



Chef de Gare Rounds & Madilyn Brummer



Chef de Gare Rounds & Talia Coburn



## GIRL SCOUT FLAG PROGRAM



May 14th 2022, V-812 presented a Flag program for Girl Scout Troop #4154 at the Canton High School Veteran's Memorial. The Troop leader contacted us and wanted to know if we could present a program about the Flag for

their Troop. They wanted to know about Flag etiquette, respect, presentation and proper Flag retirement. Our Flag for first graders program script covers all that and more. That day was the coldest and windiest we had for a while, but the program went on as planned. We enjoyed doing it and each of the Scouts earned a badge for attending.

V-812 is always available to educate youth and even adults about Patriotism and Americanism.

# V-1439 FLAGS FOR FIRST GRADERS 2022

Effingham County: This March and April the 40 & 8 of Effingham County made their regular visits to Effingham County First Grade classrooms to do their "Flags for First Graders" program. The Effingham County 40 & 8 has presented U.S. Flags to students in the county for several years. Each year it just as enjoyable as the last. The veterans enjoy talking with the students and the students

enjoy their time with the veterans.

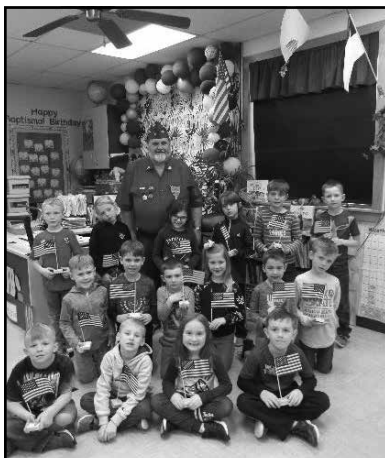
The members of the 40 & 8 who are veterans of various eras explained to the students about the Colors of the Flag, some Flag etiquette, Flag Day and even which star belongs to Illinois. The students enjoyed the program. After the program, each student receives their own U.S. Flag and base as a gift from the 40 & 8. This year the Voyageurs were able

to give nearly 500 flags and bases.

The 40 & 8 members are called Voyageur (traveler) or Voyageurs Militaire (military travelers). This is because of their journeys in the armed forces. Their post is called Voiture or Boxcar. The reason is from World War I when our forces traveled in boxcars in France. That is the reason for their name 40 & 8 too. The boxcars could transport 40 troops or eight horses.



Teutopolis G.S.: 40 & 8ers Aaron, Krista and Philip Mette with students Avery(L) and Cyrus(R) Mette



Altamont L.I.S. G.S.: 40 & 8er Ralph Rounds with students



Southside G.S.: Effingham D.A.V. & American Legion members assists 40 & 8'er Bill Copple



Altamont G.S.: 40 & 8er Ralph Rounds (back row R) & 1st grade teacher Sally Zimmerman (L). This is Mrs. Zimmerman's last year and last Flags for 1st Graders Program.



Beecher City G.S.: Effingham D.A.V. members Dave Althoff (L) & Tony Koester (R) assists 40 & 8'er Bill Copple (center)

# A LITTLE HUMOR

### Job Opening

A guy walks into the local Welfare office, marches straight up to the counter to collect his fortnightly check and says "Hi. Ya know, I just hate drawing Welfare. I'd much rather have a job."

The social worker behind the counter says, "Your timing is excellent. We just got a job opening from a very wealthy man who wants a chauffeur and bodyguard for his nymphomaniac daughter. You'll drive her around in his Mercedes or his Rolls. You'll be expected to escort the beautiful daughter on her overseas holiday trips, and you'll have to satisfy all of her needs. You'll have a two-bedroom apartment above the garage and the starting salary is \$200,000 a year"

The guy says, "You're joking me!"

The social worker says, "Yeah, but you started it."

### First Day on the Job

A young man reported for his first day of work at a supermarket. The manager greeted him with a warm handshake and a smile, gave him a broom and said, "Your first job will be to sweep out the warehouse." "But I'm a graduate," the young man replied indignantly. "Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't know that" said the manager. "Here, give me the broom, I will show you how."

### Scheming Lawyer

A stingy old lawyer who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness was determined to prove wrong the saying, "You can't take it with you."

After much thought and consideration, the old ambulance-chaser finally figured out how to take at least some of his money with him when he died. He instructed his wife to go to the bank and withdraw enough money to fill two pillowcases. He then directed her to take the bags of money to the attic and leave them directly above his bed so that when he died he could grab them on his way to heaven.

Several weeks after the funeral, the deceased lawyer's wife, up in the attic cleaning, came upon the two forgotten pillowcases stuffed with cash.

"Oh, that darned old fool," she exclaimed. "I knew he should have had me put the money in the basement."

### New to Texting

An elderly couple had just learned how to send text messages on their mobile phones. The wife was a romantic type and the husband was more of a no-nonsense guy.

One afternoon the wife went out to meet a friend for coffee. She decided to send her husband a romantic text message and she wrote:

"If you are sleeping, send me your dreams. If you are laughing, send me your smile. If you are eating, send me a bite. If you are drinking, send me a sip. If you are crying, send me your tears. I love you."

The husband texted back to her: "I'm on the toilet. Please advise."



# COL. MACE CARPENTER PRESENTS PATRIOTIC SPEECH AT DISTRICT 8 PETITE CHEMINOT

The Marion County 40 & 8 Voiture 516 of Centralia, hosted the 2022 District 8 Petite Cheminot on February 10, 2022. The conference was led by District 8 Cheminot Philip Mette of Effingham. Grand Chef de Gare Paul Pardo was the special guest. Nominations were accepted for Grand and District offices within the Illinois Grand Voiture. Grand Chef de Gare Pardo discussed the activities of the 40 & 8 at the local, state and national levels and thanked the local organizations for their participation in the important service projects supporting the local veterans and nursing programs.

Col. Mace Carpenter, USAF, Ret., a member of the Voiture 516 attended the meeting remotely by Zoom from his home in Arlington, Virginia. He gave the keynote address for the conference he entitled "The Greatest Veteran's Speech" reflecting on President Abraham Lincoln's Address at Gettysburg on November 19, 1863.

## THE GREATEST VETERAN'S SPEECH

We celebrate the Americans who have served our nation in the military uniform. We honor those who are with us today. We remember and honor those who have passed. While there have been many great speeches made about veterans, there is one that stands above the rest. It is the greatest veteran's speech ever given. An Illinoisan gave it on 19 November of 1863. It was given by the President of the United States—Abraham Lincoln. It is known as the Gettysburg Address. In this speech, Lincoln focuses on the idealism, reverence, and the patriotic charges regarding veterans.

These are President Lincoln's words...

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.

### Idealism

Lincoln declared that our nation was established with the signing of the Declaration of Independence (four score and seven years ago)—not with the Constitution. The Declaration of Independence is a very righteous and idealistic document. Among many other thoughts, it proclaims, "All men are created equal." On the other hand, our Constitution is a concrete and practical document. While it guides us, protects us, and frames our government, is a compromise of many issues. It is not idealistic like the Declaration of Independence; for example, it never states all men are created equal. So, by tying the establishment of our nation to the Declaration of Independence, Lincoln emphasizes our idealism, our high aspirations for a democratic government, our moral high ground. He invokes patriotism, the preeminent role of the people in our government, and the equality of men. He sets the tone for all future service.

Lincoln's emphasis of the prominence the moral high ground in being an American continues today. The moral high ground continues today as a prime reason for Americans to go to war. The moral high ground guides us in battle. The moral high ground is intrinsic to being a veteran.

Lincoln also reminds us that as the world's oldest standing democracy, we were still testing whether such a government of the people could continue to stand. Democracy was not the global norm. It was an idealistic aberration that many suspected would fail.

### Lincoln continues...

We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

### Reverence for Service

Gettysburg with its 50,000 casualties was a terrible 3-day battle and a turning point of the Civil War. Although the war would continue 2 more years, the Confederacy would never again challenge the Union.

As you are too aware, the soldier is a manager of violence. It is the one profession where a person is expected to die if needed. Lincoln recognized the soldier's ultimate sacrifice—a sacrifice of life. Lincoln understood, empathized, and emphasized the veteran's sacrifices in keeping our nation alive. Veterans were the reason for the entire Gettysburg memorial event—to dedicate a veteran's cemetery. And while Lincoln denigrates his own speech, he charged that we must never forget what our fighting men did in this terrible combat.

Lincoln underscores the significance of the veterans and their actions in

the battle. Lincoln states the soldier's actions were of such nobility that the battlefield itself was made holy. It was made so holy that no one who was not a part of the battle could do anything of consequence to alter its sanctity. And do note, it is not just the dead who made the ground holy, it was all the men—living and dead—who fought there. I offer it was not just Gettysburg; it was not just our Civil War, but our veterans in all our wars, consecrated the grounds where many of our battles were fought. The ground was consecrated at St. Mihiel, it was consecrated in the sands of Iwo Jima; it was consecrated on the frozen retreat from Chosin Reservoir; it was consecrated in the jungles at Khe San; it was consecrated in the over deserts of Kuwait & Iraq; it was consecrated at the World Trade Center; it was consecrated in the battlespace of Afghanistan.

### Lincoln continues...

It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work, which they who fought here have thus far so nobly, advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion. That we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain. That this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

### Our Patriotic Charge

Lincoln praises the veterans and the veteran's noble efforts to keep our democratic nation together. He noted at that time, the war was not yet won. Lincoln then contended it is the responsibility of all Americans—soldiers and civilian—to continue the work of those who fought at Gettysburg.

As Lincoln charged Americans to continue to fight the threats to democracy and freedom, we must do the same today. As Lincoln knew, our democracy must be continually nurtured and matured. Our founding fathers built an incredible government, but one that must be supported, protected, and evolved. Many very learned men did not believe our government could endure. It has. Many touted our Civil War was an example of the frailty of democratic governance and that dissolution of the United States was inevitable. But Americans have persevered and instead of our democracy weakening, we have become stronger. In evidence, by our example, and due in large part to our veterans, the number of democratic nations has surged around the world during our lifetimes. So, in the spirit of Abraham Lincoln and his charge, make us a better nation—do something albeit large or small. As veterans we have continued and unfinished work.

### In Closing

This is greatest veteran's speech ever given. It is living, it is altruistic, and a memorial for those who have passed defending our country. But Lincoln also emphasized a charge. It is a charge for us, the living, to continue to make our nation strong. Lincoln made three very salient points—idealism, reverence for service, and our patriotic charge. As American fighting men and women, we do not take an oath to a leader, or a nation, or a religion. We take our oath to the Constitution of the United States and all the rights, obligations, and ideals it upholds. This is unique to America. No other nation I know takes an oath to a constitution. As Lincoln emphasized our nation's government was built by the people, for all the people, and would not fail. That is why we served. That is why we fought. That is why many veterans died. That is why we continue to serve.

I applaud you for your character, your high ideals, your dedication, your principles. I applaud you for your selflessness, your service to a greater cause than yourself. I applaud you for your willingness to sacrifice your health and even your life for America. God bless all of you who have donned the uniform and served. And in turn, God bless all of you who have supported our men and women in uniform. Each and every one of you is truly a hero of our nation.

**LA SOCIETE DES 40 HOMMES ET 8 CHEVAUX GRANDE D' ILLINOIS**

SUPPORTING VETERANS AND THE COMMUNITY, SINCE 1920.

COUNTDOWN TO VETERANS DAY (NOV 11<sup>TH</sup>)

A \$500.00 APPRECIATION AWARD WILL BEDRAWN DAILY

FROM NOV 1<sup>ST</sup> THROUGH NOV 10<sup>TH</sup>.

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.

WINNING TICKETS ARE REENTERED FOR REMAINING DRAWINGS.

**ONLY 500 TICKETS.** DONATION: \$20.00 (501(C)19)

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**\*Countdown to Veterans Day; Nov 11<sup>th</sup>**

An appreciation drawing will be held each day,  
from November 1<sup>st</sup> through November 10<sup>th</sup>.

\$500 will be awarded to the drawn ticket.

The ticket will be reentered for the remaining drawings.

All winners will be notified after the ticket is drawn,  
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Only 500 tickets will be available, for a donation of \$20.00 each. The District Cheminots  
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All winning tickets will be reentered for remaining drawings.

Due to the limited number of tickets available,  
**do not miss this opportunity to participate.**