



NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER – Alan A. Davis
“2016 Missouri Membership Caravan”



***Please be advised that this itinerary is subject to change. If you are planning to attend one of the events please check the Department Website or call ahead. ***

Thursday , March 10, 2016

10th District

5:00 PM Dinner - Post 400 -Fenton Memorial #2 Gravois Road, Fenton, MO 63026
POC: Commander: Sid Staton 636-600-1774

Friday, March 11, 2016

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Mini Revitalization - Post 111 - St. Louis County Memorial Post, 7300 Lansdown Ave, Shrewsbury, MO 63119
POC: Commander: Robert D. Kaltmayer, Sr. 314-406-3011

5:00 PM –Dinner - Post 111- St. Louis County Memorial Post, 7300 Lansdown Ave, Shrewsbury, MO 63119
POC: Commander: Robert D. Kaltmayer, Sr. 314-406-3011

Saturday, March 12, 2016

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Mini Revitalization - Post 422 Barlog-Kuszaj-Zero Memorial, 2601 S. 11th Street, St. Louis MO 63118
POC: Dan Heckstetter 314-846-2328

6:00PM – Dinner – Post 253 – Peebles-Vaughn-Wideman, 849 American Legion Drive, Festus, MO 63028 (Reception 5:00-6:00 p.m.)
POC: Tom Douglas, 314-401-2858

Sunday, March 13, 2016

9:00-11:00 AM- Breakfast – Post 323 –Wentzville, 504 Luetkenhaus Blvd, Wentzville, MO 63385
POC: Commander Rod Callaway, 636-485-4987

2:00 PM- 13th District Meeting – Post 150- Buchholtz-Kiefer, 2 Park Drive, St. Genevieve, MO 63670

POC: District/Post Commander Gayle Langan, 573-535-0813

Dinner immediately following District meeting

Continues on the reverse side

Monday, March 14, 2016

7:30-9:00 AM Breakfast at First Watch - 724 N New Ballas Rd. Creve Coeur, MO 63141

POC: Senior Vice Commander Elizabeth Gonzales 636-485-9772

9:45AM -12:30PM - Tour Jefferson Barracks Hospital and Cemetery

POC: Senior Vice Commander Elizabeth Gonzales 636-485-9772

1:15 PM Arrive at Airport for 3:18 Departure

FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL TRUMAN PILGRIMAGE



The annual Truman Pilgrimage of the American Legion and its Auxiliary Organization under the auspices of the Tirey J. Ford Post 21 will be held May 8th, in Independence, Missouri at the Harry S. Truman Library.

This will be the forty-third year the Missourians and Legionnaires from surrounding states have gathered at the Truman Library to honor the memory of the first Legionnaire to become President of the United States.

The event will start Saturday, May 7th with an open house at Tirey J. Ford Post home, 16701 E. 40 Highway, Independence, Missouri at 5:00 PM. Refreshments and entertainment will be provided by the auxiliary and post.

On Sunday morning, May 8th, those participating are asked to enter by the main entrance of the Truman Library at 9:00 AM. A procession will form and proceed to the courtyard where the President is buried. At that time, a brief memorial service will be conducted and the wreaths will be placed at the gravesite.

A luncheon sponsored by Post 21 will be served at 11:30 AM, May 8th at the Tirey J. Ford Post home located at 16701 E. 40 Highway. Advance tickets for the luncheon are required. Checks for the tickets should arrive no later than April 22nd. Tickets are \$20.00 each and will be held for your arrival. Checks should be made payable to: **American Legion Post 21, Truman Day Luncheon**. Please mail your checks to: *American Legion Post 21, 16701 E. 40 Highway, Independence, MO 64055-5328.*

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS EARLY

A briefing will be held at 6:00 PM, May 7th at Post 21 in the Auxiliary room for those persons placing the wreaths.

Hotel reservations can be made directly with the hotel. Please state you are with **TRUMAN DAYS**.

Comfort Suites, 19751 E. Valley View Parkway, Independence, MO (Exit 17)
816-373-9880 (Room rate - \$89.00)

SPECIAL ROOM RATE GUARANTEE UNTIL APRIL 28TH

Everyone is invited to this historic event.

Dorothy Ballew

Dorothy Ballew
Chairman

TRUMAN PILGRIMAGE WREATH ORDER – DEADLINE IS APRIL 15TH

TRUMAN PILGRIMAGE LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS – DEADLINE IS APRIL 22ND

May 8th, 2016

Wreath Order

In order for the Wreath Committee to have program information to the printer on time, we must have your check and information by April 15th. Wreaths are \$20.00 each.

Please **print** the following information.

Name of organization _____

Name of person laying the wreath _____

Title _____

Luncheon Reservations - \$20 per person

Name _____ **Number of Reservations** _____

Please make your check payable to: ***American Legion Post 21, Truman Pilgrimage.***

Mail your checks to:

American Legion Post 21
16701 E. 40 Highway
Independence, MO 64055-5328

Thank you for your cooperation.

Dorothy Ballew

Dorothy Ballew
Chairman

2016 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

HOUSING REQUEST

July 6-10, 2016

HOUSING/HOSPITALITY/CAUCUS ROOM & VENDOR TABLE REQUEST

**Embassy Suites –Kansas City-International Airport
7640 NW Tiffany Springs Pkwy
Kansas City, MO 64153
800-362-2779 or Direct: 816-891-7788**

Make reservations directly with the hotel, using a credit card for confirmation. Be sure to mention you are with The American Legion.

****CUTOFF DATE FOR ALL HOUSING RESERVATIONS IS JUNE 15, 2016****

Cost per night is \$81.00 (plus Sales and Lodging tax)

Check in time 3:00 p.m. No exceptions

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HOSPITALITY ROOM REQUEST

*** All Hospitality Rooms will be reserved through the Department Adjutant*
The charge for each room will be 81.00 per day; plus a onetime bed removal charge of \$80.00. All
hospitality rooms are King Suites and will be located on the Second Floor.**

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DISTRICT CAUCUS ROOMS

Will be assigned by Department Adjutant at Convention

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Table Request for Vendors/Post and Auxiliary

All table requests will be reserved through Department Headquarters.

Please call Sabrina Plumb to make your request 573-761-4143

Deadline for table request: *June 15, 2016*

Sons of The American Legion will be housed at Homewood Suites located at 7312 N. W. Polo Drive, Kansas City, MO 64153 reservations can be made by calling 816-880-9880 or 800-225-4663

DEPARTMENT COMMISSION / COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

If you need a room for meetings during the Convention in July, you need to contact the Department Adjutant NO LATER THAN May 2, 2016. Nothing is automatic. Thank you.



THE AMERICAN LEGION

Department of Missouri

GOLF

TOURNAMENT

Past Post Commander's Club
Hole Sponsor



7 July 2016
Tiffany Springs Golf Course
5900 NW Tiffany Springs Pkwy
Kansas City, MO 64154



Yes, I would like to sponsor a hole in the Department of Missouri Past Post Commanders Club Golf Tournament on 7 July 2016 at a cost of \$50.00.

- Individual, Business or Organization

Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____

Fundraiser Proceeds Go To

National Emergency Fund

Make Sponsor Check payable to The American Legion Dept. of Missouri and

Mail To: Calvin Bumgarner
5212 Cody
Shawnee, KS 66203

*For Additional Information Call
Calvin at 913-522-1103*



THE AMERICAN LEGION

Department of Missouri

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Sponsored By

Past Post Commander's Club



7 July 2016

Tiffany Springs Golf Course
5900 NW Tiffany Springs Pkwy
Kansas City, MO 64154

Two (2) Person Scramble

Shotgun Start 8:00 AM

Entries must be received by 30 June 2016

- Entry Fee Includes
 - ✓ Lunch
 - ✓ 18 Holes of Golf
 - ✓ Golf Cart
 - ✓ Prize \$
 - By Flights
 - Longest Drive
 - Closest To Pin
 - ✓ Attendance Prizes



- Two Person Teams
- Entry Fee \$75 per person
- Mulligans
- 50/50 Drawing

Fundraiser Proceeds Go To

National Emergency Fund



- Team Captain: _____
- Phone : _____
- Team Member: _____

Make Entry Fee Check payable to The American Legion Dept. of Missouri and

Mail To: Calvin Bumgarner
5212 Cody
Shawnee, KS 66203

*For Additional Information Call
Calvin at 913-522-1103*

2016 National Convention Fact Sheet

- Hotel:** Marriot River Center
- Registration Room:** Thursday, August 25 - 3:00 p.m. -5:30p.m.
Friday, August 26- 9:00 a.m. to Noon and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, August. 27 - 9:00 a.m. to Noon
Location: Madison I
- Missouri Caucus:** Sunday, 1:00 pm, August 28th
Location: Madison I & II
- Missouri Party:** Monday August 29th at 6:00 PM Combined Party with The Department of Iowa
: Dinner Cruise on the Belle of Cincinnati Riverboat tickets \$48.00 per person
- Airport shuttle:** Shuttle Service- NO
- Parking:** Valet \$28.00 / Day; Self Parking is available for \$10.00 a day with no in and out privileges
- Room amenities:** Rooms Available: 20-Kings or 24 Doubles
- Smoking- NON - SMOKING HOTEL
- Swimming pool & Fitness Center – Yes
- Coffee pot -Yes - In Room
- Iron and board - Yes - In Room
- Hair dryer - Yes - in Room
- TV - Yes
- Safe – No - Located @ Registration Desk
- Laundry Service - Overnight Dry cleaning
- Internet services –Complimentary to Marriot reward members
- Parade:** Yes - Sunday August 28
- Café/Shops:** Many Shops and Cafe's (within walking distance of Hotel)
- Grocery Store & Package Store:** Yes - (within walking distance of Hotel)

Hotel is 1 ½ miles from Convention Center

Registration and Housing Forms can be found on Department Website

2016 NATIONAL CONVENTION
Marriott River Center
10 West River Center Blvd
Covington, KY 41011

Housing Form

(Do not contact Hotel for reservation information)

**CUT-OFF DATE RECEIVED AT HEADQUARTERS JULY 15, 2016
(OR WHEN BLOCK FILLED)**

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Daytime telephone _____ Email _____

Housing with _____
Spouse or other (Names)

Rooms are 1 or 2 persons. Additional occupancy add \$10.00
Roll-a-way Rate – Complimentary (Roll-a-way cannot be put in a double room)

I prefer a room with (1 Bed - King) (2 Beds - Doubles) **\$148.30** Tax included
(Identify type handicap – hearing – wheelchair - blindness)
(All Rooms Non Smoking)

Circle your preference of Rooms type, however, there are no guarantees.

ARRIVAL DATE _____ ARRIVAL TIME _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

Housing (1st night's deposit only please)

Enclosed is my check payable to The American
Legion Dept. of MO in the amount of \$148.30 tax included
(Do not include registration or events, housing only please)

Send to: The American Legion, P.O. Box 179, Jefferson City, MO 65102

FOR REGISTRATION AND OTHER EVENTS USE OTHER FORM.

SAVE OUR BOXCAR
Voiture 333 Forty and Eight
27659 Schenk Road
Green Ridge, MO 65332
660-619-3557
SaveOurBoxcar@gmail.com

Sedalia, MO's Voiture 333 of the 40&8, a veterans' organization with 18 Voitures (Posts) and almost 1000 members in Missouri is conducting a fund-raising campaign to restore the French 40&8 Boxcar on the Missouri State Fairgrounds. We are asking your assistance in this effort through a donation of items for us to auction during the Save Our Boxcar dinner and (silent and live) auction fundraiser in the Agriculture Building on the Missouri State Fairgrounds on May 21, 2016 (Armed Forces Day). We are anticipating selling over 200 tickets for this event. Our fund-raising goal is \$20,000.00. Your donations may be given to the member presenting this letter or send an email or note to the letterhead address letting us know how to pick up the donation. Cash contributions may be sent to the above address and a receipt for tax purposes will be sent to you acknowledging your gift. Tickets for attending the event are now available from 40&8 members or at the above telephone number. The cost is \$25.00 each.

We are responsible for maintaining an important piece of American and Missouri history of which most Missourians are not aware. On the Missouri State Fairgrounds sits a small narrow-gauge boxcar which was a gift to the state of Missouri and its citizens from the people of France after World War II. Drew Pearson, a prominent columnist, journalist, and nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize, saw the Communists were receiving praise and gratitude in Europe for their small donations of food to the starving masses in Europe. He thought America could do better and in his broadcasts and columns on October 11, 1947, Pearson asked Americans to donate food from their homes, kitchens, gardens, and fields. Five weeks after Pearson's announcement, on November 7, 1947, the Friendship Train began its unprecedented odyssey across our country, beginning in Los Angeles, where there was a terrific send-off, and ending in New York City with another extraordinary celebration. Although the train traveled through only eleven states, every state contributed by sending its boxcars or trains to meet the Friendship Train at a junction or by sending trucks to the train. Many communities not on the original route insisted on giving, thereby causing delays all along the journey. In fact, the enormity of the donations plus the mountainous terrain in the West caused the train to divide, and at its end, there were three trains totaling 270 boxcars. The estimated worth was forty million dollars. In all aspects of the train's travel, no money was ever spent: the food, the transportation by rail and truck, the loading of the boxcars and trucks, the loading of the ship by the stevedores and the use of the ships was free.

Touched by the outpouring of support from America, French Railway worker and war veteran Andre Picard decided to gather a variety of French products to fill one boxcar that he could send as a thank you to the people of the United States. A local veteran's organization took an interest in Picard's project and the idea quickly spread. Soon the French national veteran's organization assumed the lead role and sponsored the collection of gifts. The Gratitude Train (aka Merci Train and Train de la Reconnaissance) was the way five million people in France chose to say Merci or Thank you to their "little known" friends in America. It was a train of 49 French railroad box cars filled with tens of thousands of gifts of gratitude from at least that many individual French citizens. The Merci Train arrived February 3rd, 1949 in New York harbor on the French freighter *Magellan*. Each of the 48 American states at that time received one of the gift laden box cars. The 49th box car was shared by Washington D.C. and the Territory of Hawaii. The boxcar on the fairgrounds was Missouri's gift from the French people.

The boxcar arrived in Jefferson City with approximately 5200 pounds of gifts for the people of Missouri. The contents were divided up by state officials. A very few of these items are on display in the Pettis County Historical Museum. No one knows what happened to the remainder of the items. The boxcar sat in on a siding in the Missouri Pacific rail yards in Jefferson City until members of the 40&8 were able to have it moved to the Fairgrounds where it sat next to the race track for some time until it was moved to its permanent location across from the Conservation Building.

Members of Voiture 333 have maintained the boxcar over the years. It is on the property rolls of the Department of Agriculture but the organization of the 40&8 sees the historical importance of the boxcar and its meaning to the organization. The boxcar was manufactured in the United States in 1875 by the Middletown Car Company of Middletown, PA and shipped to France as part of an French National Railway order of 5000 boxcars. They were used in both World War I and World War II to transport men and equipment. They could hold 40 men or 8 horses or mules, thus the name 40&8 boxcar. The organization of the 40&8 began in the United States in 1922.

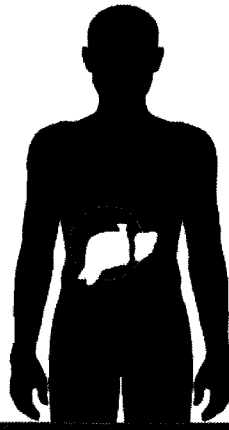
Over the years there have been many coats of paint added to the boxcar, so many that much of the definition of the metal has become hidden. Most of the boards are original to 1875 and are held together by the paint and little more. Some of the original plaques have been lost over the years. All this combined has led us to decide to attempt a total restoration of the boxcar. We are accepting donations of goods to be auctioned as well as cash donations.



Ernest Parker, Maj (Ret), USAF
Voiture 333, 40&8 Correspondant/Commissaire Intendant

HEPATITIS C:

Know the Facts



Hepatitis C (hep C) is a significant health concern facing U.S. military veterans today. It has been suggested by several studies that a higher prevalence of hepatitis C is seen in veterans versus nonveterans. Over 5 percent of veterans enrolled in the care of the Veterans Health Administration have hep C. When left untreated, hep C can lead to cirrhosis and liver cancer. Hep C is curable – which means the hep C virus is not detectable in the blood months after treatment ends - but the first step is to get tested. This is why The American Legion is launching the **Take Down Hep C** campaign.

You may have hep C and not know it.

- Hep C is a blood-borne virus spread when your blood comes into contact with infected blood of another individual.
- Hep C is inflammation of the liver caused by the hepatitis C virus.
- Up to 75 percent of people with chronic hep C in the United States do not know they have it.
- Most people living with the virus have no symptoms following infection.
- Symptoms of the disease can be flu-like and include fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, jaundice, abdominal pain, joint pain, dark urine and gray-colored stools.

U.S. veterans are at elevated risk of having hep C.

A veteran could have been exposed to hep C in one or more of the following ways:

- Combat medical work or sharing of personal items such as razors or toothbrushes.
- While receiving a blood transfusion, blood product or organ transplant (before 1992).
- Sharing dirty needles or receiving a tattoo or body piercing with contaminated equipment or by a non-professional.
- Exposure to contaminated blood on the battlefield or during sexual contact with a person with hep C.

Are you ready to Take Down Hep C?

- All veterans should know their risk factors, get tested for hep C antibodies and learn their results so they can talk with doctors about next steps including treatment options.
- Hep C antibody testing is available at all VA medical centers and you may qualify for a free test.

Hepatitis C, or "hep C,"
is an infection that causes
liver inflammation.



The main method of transmission
is contact with the blood of an
infected person.

Claims Process

Don't do it alone. The VA Claims process can be extremely complicated. Contact a professional American Legion Service Officer for assistance with filing a VA disability claim. This service is free of charge and not dependent on membership. To locate a service officer in your state, call 1-800-433-3318 or visit www.legion.org or in Missouri www.missourilegion.org Missouri DSO ph# (314) 552-9884

Take Down Hep C – The Campaign

- **Take Down Hep C** is a national movement to encourage people who are at risk to get tested for hep C antibodies.
- The American Legion is working together with Abbvie, Inc., a national corporate alliance of The American Legion, to **Take Down Hep C** because the disease is a significant health concern facing U.S. military veterans.
- The American Legion National Executive Committee has passed Resolutions 140 and 148 that urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to approve presumptive service connection for hep C and increase funding for medical research for hep C and other health-care issues veterans face.
- Visit **TakeDownHepC.com** to learn more about the risk factors, importance of hep C antibody testing, and discussing the results with your doctor for possible treatment options.

Do your part – get tested today! Together we can **Take Down Hep C**.

<http://www.legion.org/takedownhepc>

