

Voiture Nationale 40&8

VOYAGEUR BRIEFS

Mike McGary - Chef de Chemin de Fer



Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to one and all. This year hasn't been the best of years for many of us. Some have lost loved ones, friends, and neighbors, to the events of this year. I was told the story that we all grew up with Bob Hope, Johnny Cash, and Steve Jobs. This year has taken our hope, our cash and our jobs, let's pray that nothing happens to Kevin Bacon. The story shows that even though we've had a very rough year, there is always something to be thankful for. What have you got to be thankful for? No matter what it is, be proud of that fact and make sure you pay it forward. That's not only your duty, but your obligation.

One way to do this is to pay your Forty and Eight dues before the end of the year. Many of you are asking how is that paying it forward. The fact is that your dues can help a nurse through the Boland Trust Fund, or help a child in distress through the Ardery Trust Fund, both of which are funded through your dues. Paying it forward also begins by taking care of business at your Locale Promenade, by getting together and let kids know about our flag through flags for 1st graders, or how to help fellow veterans through our VAVS program. These obligations can not be accomplished unless we make the commitment to pay it forward, and that commitment is paying your dues.



I would like to congratulate the District of Columbia as the 4th Grande to join the ranks of those to meet or exceed their membership goal for this year. Four out of 55 reporting Grands (including V-2000) with only two weeks to go before the delinquencies start does not look very well. What bothers me even more is the fact that we are currently 923 members behind last year at this time. As we remember last year was devastating to this organization. We can't allow us to repeat that kind of performance. Please make the effort to get your dues paid by December 31st and if they already are, then look in on a fellow member and maybe you'll have the opportunity to pay it forward

for him or her.

At this time, I would like to thank Bill Beaumont for his many years of service to this organization. Bill has announced his retirement to commence at the end of the year. As most of us do, Bill is going to continue to serve us as a contract worker. His duties are basically to maintain our IT department, while his office duties will be assumed by Terri Taylor. She has agreed to become a full-time employee again and assume the duties of office manager. Under the guidance of Terry Sims and Bill your office team has become a lean mean money saving machine. I would like to wish Bill a lot of enjoyment during his retirement and hopefully he can live the dream, whatever his may be.

My travels start with the Joint Carolina's in mid-January. Nothing like over a nine month gap in that process. I was saddened to hear that the Cajun Wreck has been cancelled, but I do have a few weekends scheduled. It will be a great feeling of getting back to normal again. Even though I'm sure there will be protocols in place, such as masks, hand washing, and sanitizing, Mike's ready to meet and greet our membership and LaFemmes. With the vaccine now in the process of being dispersed, I'm sure it won't be but a few more months before this year's memory will be nothing more than that, a memory. Come on 2021.

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Terry Sims -Correspondant National

The Staff and I wish everyone and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The 1st yearly dues notice will be sent in January as usual. We will not be asking for help stuffing envelopes this year due to the Covid 19 virus. The Voiture Nationale staff will do the honors.

I came across a poem by James Thomas Metheny, Jr and thought it to be very appropriate to mention about Our Flag:

OLD GLORY

*God bless America- We really need it bad
Reading through the daily news can make me mighty sad
'Cause lately word of trouble's all around
Don't let'em drag Old Glory down*

*I was watching television and I saw the flag in flames
And a tear came to my eye. It made me so ashamed
There's very little protest to be found
Don't let'em drag Old Glory down*

*Don't let'em drag Old glory down
The things they legalize put a gleam in the devil's eye
Don't let'em drag Old Glory down
We need the people asking why*

*Could you bless again the Veterans; they fought to keep us free
Bless again the working men with families to feed
And kids in schools where praying is not allowed
Don't let'em drag Old Glory down*

Emblem Sales Highlight of the Month



This months highlight features our lapel pin celebrating the 40 & 8's 100th anniversary. The Centennial 100 Years of Giving Pin. 1-1/2" x 1-1/2". The part number for this item is 02100TH—\$5.00. You can purchase this item at our emblem sales store online at:

<http://store.fortyandeight.org/>

or contact 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



An Open Letter From An American Veteran Father To His Son

“If you are not grateful to a country that gave your Father the opportunity to work for his family, to give you all the things that you have had, and you do not feel pride enough to fight to continue in this manner, then I will assume the blame for your failure to recognize the true value of our birth right. And I would remind you that your Mother will love you, no matter what you do, because she is a woman. And I love you too, son, but I also love our country and the principles for which we stand. And if you decide to riot, support anarchy and burn peoples property, then burn your birth certificate at the same time, because from that moment on, I no longer have a son.”

I think this is appropriate considering the attitude displayed by young people and the climate in America today and to remind the present generation of the responsibility to instill the next generation the values and way of life in America. - **Mike Wood**

Voiture 899



Voiture 899 past locale Chef de Gare Scottie-ann Murphy presents check to Vicki at the Wild Turkey Tavern in Avon Park for their annual Children's Christmas Toy Drive.

Voiture 1541



Voiture #1541 du Missouri Voyageur and proud Grandpa CJ New presenting sponsored nurse Abigail M. Renner her 40 & 8 Nursing Pin. Abigail attended the University of Kentucky School of Nursing obtaining her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing. She received a Special Award for the Undergraduate Nursing Education Interns Project.

Voiture 145 Activities



Voiture 145 donated \$500 dollars to St. Mark Catholic School for its needy children's fund.

Pictured L - R: Chef de Gare Jay Collars, students Bella English, Nolan Merkel, Dim Nuam, Chef de Train Ralph Schuster, School Principal Rusty Albertson.



Greenwood Police Department - L to R: Assistant Chief of Police Matt Fillenwarth, Chef de Gare Jay A. Collars, Officers Nathan Tompkins, and Officer Jacob Hagist.



Servant's Heart of Indy - L to R: Chef de Gare Jay A. Collars, Volunteer Danny Young, Voyageur Dave Hogan, Voyageur Dean Logan, Voyageur Joe Allen, Voyageur Joe Vidales, Chef de Train Ralph Schuster and Manager William Boone.

Taking Care of Veteran Family Members

On September 20, 2020, a special event was held at Culpeper American Legion Post 330. The purpose of the event was to bring together several Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) in the local area to recognize the contributions made by Veteran and VSO Family Members and present a special gift to one special member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

A member of La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux became aware that one of the family members had a special need due to recent changes in their health. The individual did not have the ability to meet those needs with their own finances, so an effort was undertaken with The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary to help. They quickly organized donations from a few anonymous donors, purchased the items needed, and planned a special event to present the gifts.

The recipient was Paula Jean Mullins of Bealeton, Virginia. Paula is one of those individuals that goes above and beyond to support the Veteran community often putting the needs of others above her own. Paula is a life member of AMVETS Auxiliary where she served almost 3 years as the Unit President. Paula is also a member of the American Legion Auxiliary where she has served as a Unit President and District Chaplain. Paula was a wife of a Veteran, and service seems to run in her family as her Grandfather, Father, Step Sister and Son are all Army Veterans. She is also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and serves as the Chaplain for the Remington Homemakers Club.

Even after suffering medical setbacks, Paula continued to serve, often putting the needs of Veterans ahead of her own needs. She was often found organizing participation in local parades, assisting with the organizing of special events, and even lead the charge to make masks for Veterans and health care workers. She produced hundreds of masks that were donated at no charge to the recipients.

The special event was conducted by three distinguished local Veterans. La Société Grande du Virginia Aumônier Ziggy Levison (State Chaplain) of Warrenton officiated the presentation event. Presenting Pictured in center is Paula Mullins, recipient of the mobility scooter. Behind her are representatives of the organizations making this award and event possible. From L to R: Grande Aumônier Ziggy Levison, Grande Chef de Gare Robert Yowell, Northern Region Vice Commander John Ward, and 16th District Vice Commander Mark Stein. the gifts were La Société Grande du Virginia Chef de Gare Robert Yowell (State Commander) of Bealeton and American Legion Department of Virginia Vice Commander John Ward of Aldie. Paula was presented with a \$2000 mobility scooter and a special rack for the back of her vehicle to transport the scooter. In all total the organizations spent over \$2500.00 to procure the gifts and provide a meal for the presentation event.



Law Officer of the Year

Captain Brian Taylor was selected as Grande du Missouri Law Officer of the Year and subsequently ended up being selected Nationale Law Officer of the Year. Brian received the Governors Medal of Valor for pulling an elderly man from a burning vehicle as well as the Jefferson County Exceptional Duty Award for pulling two children from a vehicle on fire.



What Is the Meaning of Christmas?

Christmas is one of the most important Christian and cultural holidays of the year, but what is the true meaning of Christmas? For Christians, the true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of the Savior, Jesus Christ.

When fall has given way to winter and snow covers the ground while lights twinkle from house to house, you know Christmas is coming. Decorated Christmas trees are everywhere you look. Presents crowd for space under the tree and families come together for a turkey feast. Christmas is one of the most important Christian and cultural holidays of the year, but what is the true meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts? Is it the annual economic boost?

The Christmas season, especially in the West, is a mix of pre-Christian, Christian, and secular traditions. What is interesting is the etymology of the word Christmas. It literally means Christian Mass. It is a shortened form of Christ's Mass.

Christmas is a time of spiritual reflection on the important foundations of the Christian faith. It is also a celebration. It is when Christians celebrate God's love for the world through the birth of the Christ child: Jesus. The Bible of his birth hundreds of years before, fulfilling prophecies.

The Christmas story is recorded in Luke 2:4-19. "So, Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.'

"When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.' So, they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."(Luke 2:4-19)

Jesus was born to pay the price for the things we have done wrong: sin. God sent his only son to be the atonement for all our sins so that we would not be separated from God. Without Jesus, we would all die for our sins. We inherited our sin nature from the first human beings God created Adam and Eve. While being fully God and yet fully man, Jesus came into the world as an infant to save us all.

Most Christmas traditions vary in significance and symbolic meaning. For example, we exchange gifts because God sent us the most precious gift: his only Son. Also, three wisemen visited Jesus and brought gifts as well. A poem titled A Visit from St. Nicholas penned in 1822 popularized the tradition of exchanging gifts too.

Although people worldwide celebrate Christ's birth on December 25th, it was likely that he was born on in a different month and date. The church in the 4th century chose December 25th as it coordinated with the Solstice on the Roman Calendar.

For Christians, the true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of the Savior, Jesus Christ. We know that through belief in the Christ we are daughters and sons of God. Heaven will one day be our home. Perhaps this will help you look at the Christmas season differently this year. A chance to truly take in the wonder and awe of the season.

Of course, this year will be very much different than those of the past, because of the Coronavirus. Gatherings will be small, there will be no meeting under the mistletoe and mask will replace Santa hats. But, we need to take certain safety consideration like wearing gloves, masks and make sure not touch object and follow social distancing so next year we can gather for a pint or two of Christmas Ale and look back on this and say we done it.

Let us pray; when this is over, may we never again take for granted a handshake with a stranger, full shelf at the store conversations, with neighbors, a crowded theatre, Friday night out, the taste of communion, a routine checkup, the school rush each morning, coffee with a friend, the stadium roaring, each deep breath, a boring Tuesday, and life itself.

When these ends, may we find that we have become more like the people we wanted to be we were called to be we hoped to be and may we stay that way—better for each other because of the worst. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit now and forever more Amen.



Happy and Safe Holiday Season

John C. Murphy - Aumonier National

National City of the Year

LEE COUNTY

75¢

OBSERVER

WEDNESDAY, November 18, 2020

BISHOPVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

12 Pages • 3 Supplements



Published every Wednesday

Bishopville recognized as national City of the Year by Forty and Eight Society



The city of Bishopville was recognized on the national level as the City of the Year for their efforts to promote veterans by the La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux, (The Forty and Eight), an organization of U.S. veterans founded in 1920. Brian Masterson, center, presents the national award to Bishopville Mayor Grady Brown and Ronnie Williams at a Nov. 6 celebration at the Lee County Veterans Museum.

Building Donation Challenge Total \$189,315.27

November 2020

<u>NAME</u>	<u>VOITURE</u>	<u>GR</u>	<u>AMT</u>
DEL SHAW	336	ID	\$ 100.00
VOITURE 1539	1539	AK	\$ 25.00
VOITURE 1303	1303	CA	\$ 14.50



HERE'S HOW TAXPAYERS CAN CHECK IF THEIR CHARITABLE DONATION IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE

The arrival of the holiday season is when many people think about how they can give back. Often taxpayers want to donate to a charity. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has a tool that can help people figure out if giving to their favorite cause will also give them the gift of a tax deduction.

Tax Exempt Organization Search on IRS.gov allows users to search for tax-exempt charities. Taxpayers can use this tool to determine if donations they make to an organization are tax-deductible charitable contributions.

Here are some key features and functions of the TEOS tool:

- It provides information about an organization's federal tax status and filings.
- Donors can use it to confirm that an organization is tax-exempt and eligible to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions.

- Users can find out if an organization had its tax-exempt status revoked.
- Organizations are searchable by legal name or a doing business as name on file with the IRS.
- The search results are sortable by name, Employee Identification Number, state and country.

Users can also download complete lists of organizations eligible to receive deductible contributions, auto-revoked organizations and e-Postcard filers using links on the Tax Exempt Organization Search page of IRS.gov.

New This Year: The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, enacted by Congress last spring, includes several temporary tax changes helping charities. This includes a special \$300 deduction designed especially for people who choose to take the standard deduction, rather than itemizing their deductions.

What does this mean for the average taxpayer? Nearly nine in 10 taxpayers now take the standard deduction and could potentially qualify for this new tax deduction. Most recent figures from 2018 show more than 134 million taxpayers claimed the standard deduction, representing more than 87% of all filers.

So, if someone makes a cash donation to a qualifying charity before the end of 2020, they can get a deduction of up to \$300. The deduction lowers both adjusted gross income and taxable income – translating into tax savings for those making donations to qualifying tax-exempt organizations.

This article is provided by the Internal Revenue Service at IRS.gov.

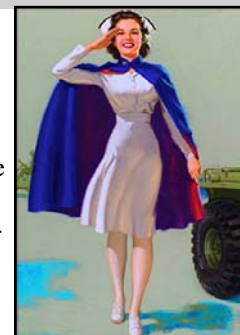
Dan Dumas, Commissaire Intendant Nationale

NATIONAL NURSE TRAINING PROGRAM



2020

GRAND VOITURE the MONTH October / November



The past two months have been very rewarding for our Nurse's Training Club. A number of Grands have responded with great support in our efforts to reach our goals for the 2021 membership year.

Our 2021 National Nurse Training Club Pin program has drawn outstanding support to date which speaks well of the pride and dedication of the Voyageurs Militaire of our "La Societe". Team effort is what makes it successful and that is what we have, "Team Effort".

The pride that goes with being a member of a contributing Grand goes a long way in indicating the attitude and dedication of the Voyageurs of that Grand. While many Grands are putting forth those extra efforts, there is always a Grand Voiture that stands out with their hard work at any given time.

For the month of October we wish to recognize one such Grand from the Central Region which has shown a great effort in support of the National Nurse Training Program by demonstrating the commitment needed to effectively support this vital program of the 40/8.

GRAND VOITURE of the Month for OCTOBER, "GRAND du LOUISIANA"

Central Region, Posting earned sales to-date of 175 Pins for \$525 and a member per-capita of \$.90

"MERCI, Fellow Voyageurs Militaire"

For the month of November we also wish to recognize a Grand from the Southwest Region which also has shown great support for our Nurse Training Program.

GRAND VOITURE of the Month for NOVEMBER, "GRAND du CALIFORNIA",

with sales of 300 Pins for \$900 from the SOUTHWEST REGION of Sous Directeur ROBERT GRAVES

These Voyageurs Militaire currently hold a \$ 1.11 Per Capita

"MERCI"