

SPECIAL EDITION – September, 2009

Gard à Vous



Voiture 516 News

SPECIAL EDITION

OFFICERS:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chef de Gare..... | Arland Speidel |
| Chef de Train..... | Bob Cearlock |
| Commissaire Intendant..... | Herschel Thomas |
| Correspondant..... | Tom Ballagh |
| Conducteur..... | Bill Murray |
| Garde de la Porte..... | Roger Hill, Paul Ferguson |
| Cheminot..... | Dean Bushong, Bob Shelton |
| Lampiste..... | Dennis Ruez |
| Aumonier..... | Roy Aarons |
| Avocat..... | Jim Parkinson |

PROMENADE:

First Thursday of every month,
American Legion Post 446
Centralia, Illinois
Dinner at 6:30 P.M - Promenade at 7:15 P.M.

NEW VOYAGEURS:

When was the last time you recommended a new Voyageur?

Membership is by invitation of honorably discharged veterans and honorably serving members of the United States Armed Forces.

Remember we now have to check DD214's.

GRAND PROMENADE

The Grand Promenade was held on July 24, July 25 and July 26, in Lincoln, IL

GRANDE VOITURE DU ILLINOIS

2009 - 2010 OFFICERS

Grand Chef De Gare - Al Galinaitis
Grand Chef De Train – Fred Tabor
Cheminot Nationale – James Taylor
Grand Commissaire Intendant - Marvin Harris
Grand Correspondant - Dean Gollither
Grand Avocat - Dan Longeville
Grand Aumonier - Bud Swinyer

BRAVO ZULU



CHEF DE CHEMIN DE FER, TED LANG AND GRAND DU ILLINOIS VOYAGEUR OF THE YEAR, URAL COPPLE

On September 3rd, 2009, at the regular Promenade of Voiture Locale 516, after the Social hour where V516 enjoyed a meal prepared by Bev Cearlock of the La Femmes with their guests, Chef De Gare, Arland Speidel opened the Promenade and asked for the roll call of officers by Correspondant Tom Ballagh. Chef Arland then requested a notion to forego the Promenades regular business and proceed to the night's special ceremony. The Promenade was then turned over to Bob Cearlock, District 8 Cheminot who served as Master of Ceremony for the occasion. Cheminot Cearlock introduced the Nationale and Grand officers in attendance and each of them offered their individual congratulation to Voyageur Copple. Cheminot Cearlock then introduced Chef de Chemin de Fer, Ted Lang, who made the presentation to Voyageur Copple. Observing the ceremony with a great deal of deserved pride were eleven members of the Copple family representing three generations.



Back Row

Grand du Illinois Chef de Gare, Al Galinaitis, Grand Aide de Camp, Vic Panaras, National Aide de Camp, King Sutton, Grand Organizer South, Dan Howser, National Time & Place, Verlin Funkhouser, Grand du Illinois Voyageur of the Year, Ural Copple, Chef de Chemin de Fer, Ted Lang, Cheminot Nationale, Jim Taylor, Sous Cheminot, District 8, Alexis Davis.

Front Row

Grand Chef de Train, Fred Tabor and Voyageur Militaire, Mick Hoffman

LEGISLATION:

Vet Bills Update:

The Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009 (Advanced Appropriations) which authorizes funding for VA medical accounts two-years in advance passed the House and Senate.

Other bills that have passed the House include:

HR 466- *The Wounded Veterans' Job Security Act* prohibits discrimination and acts of reprisal against persons who receive treatment for illnesses, injuries, and disabilities incurred in or aggravated by service.

HR 1037 authorizes VA to conduct a five-year pilot project to expand on existing work-study activities and allows student veterans to participate in work-study positions in academic departments.

HR 1088 *The Mandatory Veteran Specialist Training Act of 2009* provides a one-year period for training (instead of the current three) for new DVOPs and LVOPs through the National Veterans Employment and Training Institute.

HR 1089 enforces employment rights of veterans and members of the armed services employed by the Federal Government Services Institute.

HR 1170 provides grants up to \$200,000 for development of technologies to improve adaptive housing for disabled veterans.

HR 1171 reauthorizes the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program through 2014, and also includes special grants to programs and facilities that provide for homeless female veterans and homeless veterans with children.

HR 1172 directs VA to include on the Internet website of the Department of Veterans Affairs a list of organizations that provide scholarships to veterans and their survivors.

HR 1211 - *The Women Veterans Health Care Improvement Act* expands and improves health care services available to women veterans, including studies in barriers to care, mental health services for PTSD, MST and extended health care to newborns of female veterans immediately following birth.

HR 1293 increases the amount veterans receive for improvements and structural alterations for home health services.

HR 1377 expands veteran eligibility for VA reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished by non-VA facilities.

HR 3155 authorizes training, support and medical care to family and non-family caregivers of veterans. It would also create a stipend to cover housing and expenses incurred by primary caregivers to certain veterans.

HR 3219 combines provisions from eight other bills, to include establishing a Director of Physician Assistant position within VA; eliminating the deduction in accelerated death payments to terminally-ill veterans and service members under SGLI and VGLI; allows certain veterans to increase the amount of life insurance they carry under VGLI; prohibits catastrophically-disabled veterans from having to pay copayments or other fees for critical medical services; and permanently authorizes hospital care, medical services and nursing home care for Vietnam and Persian Gulf War veterans exposed to herbicides

For more on any of the bills type the bill # in the box at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

In case you were not aware on October 30, 2008 a New Law Authorized Veterans' Salutes during National Anthem

WASHINGTON -- Veterans and active-duty military not in uniform can now render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem, thanks to changes in federal law that took effect this month.

"The military salute is a unique gesture of respect that marks those who have served in our nation's armed forces," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "This provision allows the application of that honor in all events involving our nation's flag."

The new provision improves upon a little known change in federal law last year that authorized veterans to render the military-style hand salute during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, but it did not address salutes during the national anthem. Last year's provision also applied to members of the armed forces while not in uniform.

Traditionally, members of the nation's veteran's service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag while wearing their organization's official head-gear.

HISTORY

A **battle ensign** is the name given to a large [war flag](#) which is flown on a [warship's](#) mast just before going into battle.

The flag identified the allegiance of the ship in what could be a very confusing situation, with thick clouds of gunsmoke obscuring the ships in action, hence the large size of these ensigns typical for the [Royal Navy](#) from the 17th to 18th centuries of about 20 by 40 ft (6.1 by 12.2 m). It was commonly accepted that so long as a ship flew its ensign it was an active participant in battle. If a ship surrendered then it would take down its ensigns (which was known as [striking the colors](#)). This is also the origin of the phrase "To nail one's colours to the mast", showing a determination to fight on and never surrender. In practice, warships would fly more than one battle ensign, so that if the flag was destroyed or brought down during the fighting there would be no confusion.



 [USS McFaul](#) flying her battle ensign as she returns to [Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia](#) from deployment.

NOTABLE QUOTES

The Constitution only gives people the right to pursue happiness. You have to catch it yourself."
- Benjamin Franklin

FROM THE MANUAL

Things **all** Voyageur's Militaire should know:

La Societe des Quarante Hommes at Huit Chevaux is an independent, by invitation, honor organization of male and female U. S. veterans, more commonly known as the **Forty & Eight**.

The Forty & Eight is committed to charitable and patriotic aims. Our purpose is to uphold and defend the United States Constitution, to promote the well being of veterans and their widows and orphans, and to actively participate in selected charitable endeavors, which include programs that promote child welfare and nurse's training.

The titles and symbols of the Forty & Eight reflect its First World War origins. Americans were transported to the battle front on French trains within boxcars stenciled with a "40/8", denoting its capacity to hold either forty men or eight horses. This uncomfortable mode of transportation was familiar to all who fought in the trenches; a common small misery among American soldiers who thereafter found "40/8" a lighthearted symbol of the deeper service, sacrifice and unspoken horrors of war that bind all who have borne the battle.

The Forty & Eight was founded in 1920 by American veterans returning from France. Originally an arm of The American Legion, the Forty & Eight became an independent and separately incorporated veteran's organization in 1960. Membership is by invitation of honorably discharged veterans and honorably serving members of the United States Armed Forces.



Got news?

If you have news, pictures, announcements or important information to convey to our fellow Voyageurs call 618-214-0182 or email to

voiture516@aol.com

or drop a line to :

“The V-516 Garde a Vous”

Attn: Bob Cearlock

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