

Voiture Nationale 40&8

# VOYAGEUR BRIEFS

## Ken Lafleur – Chef de Chemin de Fer



Patricia and I had a fulfilling Veterans Day weekend in Birmingham, Alabama this month. John Schnatz and Kenny Reisenweber were among the principal organizers of the 40 & 8's participation in the Memorial activities. A Memorial service at the truly impressive Episcopal Church of the Advent was followed by a huge downtown parade along a heavily attended course of two and a half miles. The rolling stock of Voiture 217 led our portion of the parade with bells and whistles and sirens all of which were quite well received. But there on the train sat Larry Butts, broken-hearted and unable to fire the cannon for security reasons, until we returned to our hotel.

The Friday-night banquet was well attended with what seemed to be about 500 men, women, and children enjoying the meal, award ceremonies, and speeches. Joyce Robberstad, our Présidente Nationale, and I sat at the most prestigious table not having to sing for



our supper that night. Mike and Patricia sat in the audience respectively attentive.

Two of the highlights were a movie about World War II Navajo Code Talkers and the presence of two beautiful Navajo women emissaries. They were dressed in full Navajo fashion with clothing made of World War II Armed Forces type camouflage material and they wore truly impressive Navajo jewelry.

As we probably all know Code talkers are people who used obscure languages for secret communication during wartime. We first used code talkers during World War I. Colonel A. Bloor first employed them on October 26, 1918. The Germans were adept at intercepting our communi-

tions and knew our codes. The Choctaw relayed orders to two companies of the 2nd battalion 142nd Infantry to move from Chufilly to Chardeny to the surprise and dismay of our adversaries. Colonel Bloor concluded, "The results were very gratifying". Those Choctaws were from Oklahoma and had been displaced along their own trail of tears from Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

The Navajo were enthusiastic volunteers during World War II and eager to fight for what they accurately regarded as their land. Older members of the tribe showed up at recruiting stations with their bows and arrows and ready to fight. We have few bows and arrows but have our patriotism, our Programs, and our votes to make our Country better and stronger. Encourage other veterans to join us and along with our La Femmes show the courage, bravery, and enthusiasm of our Code Talkers.

The next anticipated trip for Patricia and me is from the hometown of Jim Bowie, Opelousas LA, to San Antonio TX, the town of his demise. We plan to attend a 40 & 8 Nurses Training Pancake Breakfast on December 3rd. Chef de Gare Sean Habina of Voiture 542 will host that 62nd Pearl Harbor Day Pancake Breakfast.

*Happy Thanksgiving!!!*

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## What is a Veteran –by Chef de Chemin de Fer 2015 Mike Wood

He is a cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel.

He is the bar room loud-mouth, dumber than a hammer, whose out grown frat-boy behavior is outweighed a hundred times in the cosmic scales by the exquisite bravery near the 38th parallel.

He or she is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang.

He is the POW who went away one person and came back another, or didn't come back at all.

He is the boot camp drill instructor who has never seen

combat, but has saved countless lives by turning slouchy, no account rednecks and gang members into Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen by teaching them to watch each other's back.

He is a parade riding, hat wearing, flag waving person who pins on their ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand.

He is the career Quartermaster who watches the medals and ribbons pass him by.

He is the three anonymous heroes in the Tomb of the Unknowns, whose presence at Arlington National Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battlefield or in the ocean's

sunless depths.

He is that old guy bagging groceries at the supermarket, hands palsied and aggravatingly slow, who helped liberate a Nazi death camp, and who wishes all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.

He is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being. A person who offered some of his life's most vital years in service to his Country, and who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

He is a Soldier and a Savior and a Sword against the darkness, and he is nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest Nation ever

known.

They come in all shapes, ages, genders, colors, religions, education and political beliefs, but they all share one common bond. They displayed that outstanding unselfish call to duty and answered when their Country called.

So remember, each time you see someone who has served our Country, just stop and say "Thank You." That's all most of them need, and in most cases it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded.

Two little words that mean a lot to that person we know as a Veteran.

## You Shall not be Forgotten –by Louie J. Dalfino (submitted by Frank Wall V-713)

*-I was taken away, from my family and home  
-Dropped in a jungle, and left there alone  
-Here there is only war, in this place called NAM  
-They train you to be merciless, and kill for Uncle Sam  
-In the daytime I fight, in the nighttime I cry  
-I just want to go home, this is no place to die  
-Please tell my wife I love her, let her think that I'm*

*alright  
-Don't tell her of all the death here and how scared I am at night  
-Those who went back home, say it's worse than being here  
-They are cursed at and spit upon, forever leaving with tear  
-Why are we treated this way, we never wanted to go  
-I wish you were one of the chosen, then our pain you would know*

*-Oh the pain of hearing the screaming, the shooting, and the bombs  
-I can still see their faces, my dying "brother in arms"  
-The life I once knew is gone, I shall never again be whole  
-My innocence is lost forever, please God just take my soul  
-God replied: NO MY SON, ALTHOUGH YOU WERE CAST ASIDE, TREATED MALICIOUSLY AND ROTTEN HOLD YOUR HEAD*

*UP HIGH, THERE ARE STILL THOSE WHO HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN  
-So do your dirty worst, and just try to cast me aside  
-You may have taken away my innocence, but not my honor and pride  
-Now I realize I stood tall for something, words like sacrifice, duty and honor  
-I'm what makes this country great, and proud would be our Forefathers*

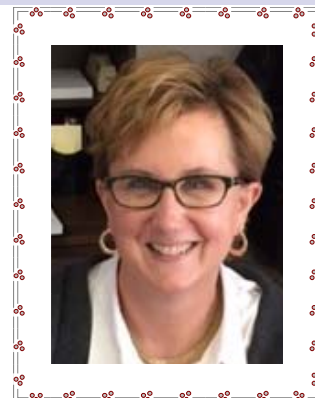
## Emblem Sales Highlight of the Month



This month's highlight features a money clip with a 2-1/2" long blade knife. • Includes a safety function to keep the blade securely in place. • Simply push the metal piece to the side to close the blade. • Compact design holds credit cards, paper currency and business cards. • Size: (folded) 2-1/2" x 1" x 3/8"; (open) 4-1/2" x 1" x 3/8".

The price is \$10.00 and the part number is 12SBMC. You can purchase this item at our emblem sales store online at: <http://store.fortyandeight.org/> or contact Landry Foley, E-mail: sales@fortyandeight.org Ph. (317) 634-1804 Fax. (317) 632-9365

Voiture Nationale Emblem Sales  
250 E 38th Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46205



### Voiture 90 Nurses Training



V90 was honored to be able to award eight Nurses Training Scholarship Awards at our Prom, September 19,2017.

Front row: Adden Ottley, Gustavo Vargus, Ngoc Tran (Sophia),  
Back row: Du Washington Chef de Gar, Sara Lee, Sukhwinder Singh, Erika Kostenko, Kenneth Moriarty, Jessica Derrick, Chef de Gar, V90 Denny McNulty, and Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer, Dan Tarbell. The eighth student, Anita Clute, wasn't able to attend because she also works two jobs.

Submitted by Fred Willsey, V90 Correspondant.

### Voiture 1510 Halloween



Halloween 2017 was held for the residents at the Dwight D. Eisenhower VA Domiciliary in Leavenworth, KS October 2017. The residents were treated to food and soft drinks plus karaoke. There were prizes awarded for best costume, scariest laugh, funniest costume, scariest costume, most patriotic costume, best nerd costume, best clown, and best superhero.

Pictured left is Voyageur Gonzalo Reyes, Recreational Therapist Kimberly Schrader-Matthies, Recreational Therapist Sharon L. Eddy, and Voyageur Abe Revira.

Pictured right is Voyageur Gonzalo Reyes, Auxiliary Nancy Hammond, and Auxiliary Lois Gully Hodge with residents of the Domiciliary.

## Grand du Texas Continues Hurricane Harvey Relief

Many jumped into action to provide assistance to victims of Hurricane Harvey whose devastation covered a large area of the Texas Gulf Coast and inland for many miles. Thousands were in temporary shelters and many still remain in temporary housing while they rebuild.

In the spirit of La Societe, who has historically helps in areas forgotten by others – such as Carville Star, the Grand du Texas has selected the Aransas County Independent School District as the recipient of our Hurricane Harvey Relief. We cannot help everyone and Grand du Texas decided to focus on a small area where we can make a significant difference with our donations.

Suzanne Ransleben is Executive Director for the Aransas County ISD Education Foundation and reports “Rockport Fulton schools in Aransas County Texas were devastated by Hurricane Harvey. Rockport and Fulton were ground zero, and our five campuses have catastrophic damage. Buildings are missing, supplies gone.”

With millions needed to replace or repair critical structures destroyed or damaged by Hurricane Harvey the funds they are raising via the Rockport Schools Hurricane Fund “Fund Me” account stand at just over \$90,000. This is a place where anyone can donate and they have received donations from 500+ donors which includes other schools from within Texas.

We have been in direct contact with officials from Aransas County ISD and identified specific areas where our donations can make a significant impact on many of the 3316 students enrolled from Pre-Kindergarten through High School.

Grand du Texas aims to help replace technology needs of the 5 schools in the Aransas County Independent School District with a goal to raise \$20,000.

You may send donations payable directly to Grand du Texas: Roger Folmar, Grand Commissaire Intentent, 4364 Loma Taurina Dr, El Paso, TX 79924 or Voture Nationale, 250 E 38th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46205, Attn: Hurricane Harvey Relief.

A list of donors will be posted on the Grand du Texas website: [www.texasboxcar.org](http://www.texasboxcar.org) This includes Grand du Ohio who has generously donated \$500 for Hurricane Harvey Relief.

Grand du Texas will also be working through the Youth Sports Program to give much needed sporting equipment to each of the 5 schools.

—David J. Knutson, Publiciste, Grand du Texas



## Presidential Biographies

Bringing to the Presidency his prestige as commanding general of the victorious forces in Europe during World War II, Dwight D. Eisenhower obtained a truce in Korea and worked incessantly during his two terms to ease the tensions of the Cold War. He pursued the moderate policies of "Modern Republicanism," pointing out as he left office, "America is today the strongest, most influential, and most productive nation in the world."

Born in Texas in 1890, brought up in Abilene, Kansas, Eisenhower was the third of seven sons. He excelled in sports in high school, and received an appointment to West Point. Stationed in Texas as a second lieutenant, he met Mamie Geneva Doud, whom he married in 1916.

In his early Army career, he excelled in staff assignments, serving under Generals John J. Pershing, Douglas MacArthur, and Walter Krueger. After Pearl Harbor, General George C. Marshall called him to Washington for a war plans assignment. He commanded the Allied Forces landing in North Africa in November 1942; on D-Day, 1944, he was Supreme Commander of the troops invading France.

After the war, he became President of Columbia University, then took leave to assume supreme command over the new NATO forces being assembled in 1951. Republican emissaries to his headquarters near Paris persuaded him to run for President in 1952.

"I like Ike" was an irresistible



slogan; Eisenhower won a sweeping victory.

Negotiating from military strength, he tried to reduce the strains of the Cold War. In 1953, the signing of a truce brought an armed peace along the border of South Korea. The death of Stalin the same year caused shifts in relations with Russia.

New Russian leaders consented to a peace treaty neutralizing Austria. Meanwhile, both Russia and the United States had developed hydrogen bombs. With the threat of such destructive force hanging over the world, Eisenhower, with the leaders of the British, French, and Russian governments, met at Geneva in July 1955.

The President proposed that the United States and Russia exchange blueprints of each other's military establishments and "provide within our countries facilities for aerial photography to the other country." The Russians greeted the proposal with silence, but were so cordial throughout the meetings that tensions relaxed.

Suddenly, in September 1955, Eisenhower suffered a heart attack in Denver, Colorado. After seven weeks he left the hospital, and in February 1956 doctors reported his recovery. In November he was elected for his second term.

In domestic policy the President pursued a middle course,

continuing most of the New Deal and Fair Deal programs, emphasizing a balanced budget. As desegregation of schools began, he sent troops into Little Rock, Arkansas, to assure compliance with the orders of a Federal court; he also ordered the complete desegregation of the Armed Forces. "There must be no second class citizens in this country," he wrote.

Eisenhower concentrated on maintaining world peace. He watched with pleasure the development of his "atoms for peace" program--the loan of American uranium to "have not" nations for peaceful purposes.

Before he left office in January 1961, for his farm in Gettysburg, he urged the necessity of maintaining an adequate military strength, but cautioned that vast, long-continued military expenditures could breed potential dangers to our way of life. He concluded with a prayer for peace "in the goodness of time." Both themes remained timely and urgent when he died, after a long illness, on March 28, 1969.



Building Donation Challenge Grand Total \$148,189.85



October 2017 Donations

NAME	VOITURE	GR	AMT
Voiture 813	813	IN	\$ 52.50
Voiture 1387	1387	KY	\$ 3.00
Voiture 182	182	AR	\$ 6.00
Voiture 419	419	AZ	\$ 20.00
Voiture 1277	1277	AR	\$ 6.00
Voiture 926	926	IL	\$ 7.00
Voiture 530	530	SD	\$ 24.25
Voiture 348	348	NY	\$ 28.50
Voiture 967	967	IN	\$ 75.48
Voiture 1539	1539	AK	\$ 20.00

Correspondant National Patrick Mobley holds the winning ticket for the 2017 Veterans Day raffle. Congratulations to all the winners!



PLACE	NAME	GRANDE/CABANE	TOTAL WINNING
1ST	Bill Landers Jr	V1229-GA	\$3,000.00
2ND	Ralph Warfield	V627-NC	\$500.00
3RD	Walt Gleason	V1116-MI	\$500.00
4TH	John Estep	V443-OH	\$100.00
5TH	Milton Elefson	V1439-IL	\$100.00
6TH	Harold Surprise	V1140-WI	\$100.00
7TH	Ernest Lane Jr	V1466-AZ	\$100.00 <b>(Donated to Nurses)</b>
8TH	Cynthia Young-Dukes	C1610-FL	\$100.00
9TH	Eugene Ferniz	V108-LA	\$100.00
10TH	Ralph Warfield	V627-NC	\$100.00





**Voiture Nationale has Gone Social!**  
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National Nurses Training Program



In 1955 the Voyageurs Militaire of the 40/8 recognized the increasing shortage of Registered Nurses. As veterans of the world’s past conflicts and fully understanding the importance of this vital profession, the honored members of “La Societe” committed themselves to finding a solution to this issue. The answer was our “National Nurse’s Training Program”.



Since the inception of this program the “George B. Boland Trust Fund” was established to provide financial assistance through scholarships for those students who enroll for Nurse’s Training. The National Nurse Training Club was established to provide a venue for involving the “Voyageurs Militaire” of our “La Societe” to work together in support, raising funds through Pin Sales Program and other fund raising efforts. The rest of our success speaks for itself. The support for Nurse’s Training continues to provide excellent response to this effort as Pin Sales from Grand Voitures continue to be highly successful making it possible for us to make significant donations each year to the “Boland Trust”.

“MERCİ BEAUCOUP”

In recognition of Pin Consignment sales for the 2018 Nurse Training Pin year:  
GRAND VOITURE of the Month for OCTOBER

“GRAND du CALIFORNIA”

Northwest Region Posted earned sales to-date of 300 Pins for \$900 and a member per-capita of \$ .85

“MERCİ, Fellow Voyageurs Militaire”, National Secetaire/Treasurer, *H.T. “Terry” Sharp*