



Voiture Nationale 40&8

# VOYAGEUR BRIEFS

## Bill Simpson – Chef de Chemin de Fer



Here it is that time of year with the holidays fast approaching. Veterans Day has come and gone but I hope everyone took the time to pause and reflect on 11 November at the 11th hour. Many ceremonies were held throughout this wonderful country of ours. I hope that you had the opportunity to attend a ceremony in your area for this is the day that we should never forget those who gave the supreme sacrifice and those who are still serving that gives us the freedom we all enjoy. This is also the 100th Anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. If you have not been to Arlington Cemetery this is one place that should be on your bucket list to do.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner. Now is the perfect opportunity to do “THE BUDDY CHECK”. A phone call, e-mail or personal visit goes a long way in letting that individual know that you still care. Sometimes that is all it takes to get them back to your promenades and other activities. Just because they have stopped coming around doesn’t mean they have lost interest in La Societe. Let’s make the effort to make sure they are alright. There is no better gift this



time of year than to hear from a friend and fellow Voyageur.

Now is the time for us to really hit the membership road. I see from the emails that I received from Membership Directeur Terry Chatfield and his team that membership is doing ok. Ok is good but, as always, it could be better. It is not just the job of the Locale membership chairman to

get their members to renew. It is each and everyone in the locale to help with getting that 100% or better. Get involved. I want to thank all the Grands that have achieved 100% or better before the end of year deadline. Yes, the deadline is 31 December 2021. If you have a 2021 card in your wallet as of the 1st of January 2022 you are delinquent and are no longer entitled to attend any functions within the 40/8 until your 2022 dues are paid. Please do not let this happen to you.

Everything being stated above relates to the second part of my theme this year. PARTICIPATION. You have to get involved with Locale or Grande level. You do not have to be the directeur of a program or even hold an elected position. Ask to be a Sous and help with the programs of you Locale or Grande. Go out in your community and let them know what we do. It is up to you to make La Societe grow and prosper.

I want to wish all a Happy Thanksgiving. Please remember those who are away and cannot be with us. Keep them in your thought and prayers. Until next month, May God bless and keep you safe.

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## Little Chef’s 50/50 Raffle

*Here’s your chance to determine who you think the shorter Chef is between Chef de Chemin Der Fer Bill Simpson and Chef de Chemin Der Fer 2003 John Digilio.*

*Proceeds Benefit the Boxcar ASSOCIATION  
\$1.00 Donation  
Drawing to be held September 16, 2022*

*For tickets contact Terri Taylor at Nationale (317) 634-1804 or ttaylor@fortyandeight.org*



## Terry Sims -Correspondant National

### TOMBS OF THE UNKNOWNNS

*Some of you Voyageurs may remember Andy Dolak from V-1254 SC. He printed a booklet years ago about the Merci Box Cars and where they were located in each Grande. It was very interesting and detailed. He sent me the booklet and it has been misplaced over the years. I have found an article that I would like to share with you about The Tombs Of The Unknownns that he sent to Correspondant Nationale Bob Low. I will keep the original spelling and punctuation as in his letter the best I can.*

Within the walls of Arlington Cemetery can be found The Tomb Of The Unknown Soldier of every war in American history, except the American Revolution. The official tomb of the Unknown Of The Revolution War is located in the burial grounds of the Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria, Virginia.

World War I on November 11, 1918 an Armistice was declared, ending World War I. It was to be the War to end all Wars. The bodies of the Americans were interned in France where they lost their lives. They are buried in four American cemeteries created for them.

The Unknown was to be symbolic of all persons who had given their lives during that War.

Every American could pay homage to this fallen soldier believing him to be the son, husband, brother, or a friend who did not come home. To achieve this general feeling, it was imperative that there be no means to discover the soldier's actual identity. Even revelation of the name of the cemetery from which he has chosen for interment might compromise the secrecy surrounding the unknown soldier's selection. So one candidate was chosen from each of the four American cemeteries in France. On October 22, 1921 each of the four bodies were exhumed and transported under Honor Guard to the City Hall at Chalons-sur-Marne, France for final random selection. During the night the Honor Guard shifted the positions of the four identical caskets so that no one- not even the Graves Registration Detail- could differentiate between them. As the last guarantor of secrecy, all burial records of these four servicemen were destroyed on October 24. Army Sergeant Edward F. Younger of Chicago, who had been wounded in combat, highly decorated for Valor was given the honor of selecting The Unknown Soldier Of World War I by placing a spray of white roses on one casket. That spray of white roses accompanied the Unknown to Arlington and these flowers are buried with him. Sgt. Younger also is buried in Arlington Cemetery.

The remaining Unknown Soldier's were reinterred in the Meuse-Argonne Cemetery in France, while the chosen unknown began his journey home, symbolic of those who could not make that journey. There are 1301 acres of land and 14,236 Americans buried here in the Meuse-Argonne Cemetery.

The cortege containing the Unknown Soldier and his Honor Guard traveled from Chalons through Paris on its way to Le Harve. There the Unknown was placed on the Olympia, which had been Admiral Dewey's flagship during the Spanish American War. On its way to Washington the Olympia received full salutes and honors from every vessel it encountered on the High Seas. Finally on November 9, 1921 it docked in Washington, DC where the Unknown was greeted by his former Commander, General Of The Armies, John J. Pershing. Pershing led the procession to the United States Capitol, where the Unknown was to Lie In State until Armistice Day, November 11. Nearly 100,000 mourners paid their respect on November 10, the single intervening day. Many more were turned away when the guards were told to close the doors at midnight.

The next day, November 11, 1921, President Warren G. Harding led the Nation in Solemn. Following his remarks, the President placed a Congressional Medal Of Honor and the Distinguished Service Cross on the casket. Also present were representatives of America's Allies in World War to pay tribute and to award the Unknown their highest honors- Victoria Cross Of The British Empire, The Croix De Guerre Of France, The Order Of Leopold Of Belgium, The Gold Metal Of Bravery Of Italy, as well as the highest Honors Of Romania, Poland, Cuba and Czechoslovakia. All of the military decorations are now housed at Arlington in the Trophy Room, adjacent to The Tomb Of The Unknownns.

At the bottom of the grave was placed a two inch layer of soil from the battle fields of France.

Just before the remains were buried forever, a final Honor was bestowed upon the fallen soldier by Native Americans. The seventy four year old Chief Of The Crow Nation, Plenty Coups, stepped forward. In his native tongue, he offered a stirring prayer for all fallen Soldier's. "I hope the Great Spirit will grant that these Noble Warriors have not given up their lives in vain and that there will be peace to all men hereafter". With that he placed upon the grave his Coup Stick and ancient Headdress which has been with his tribe for generations. This was the highest tribute of his proud People. The Headdress and Coup Stick from the Crow Nation are also kept in the Trophy Room at Arlington.

On the West face are inscribed the immortal words:

**HERE REST IN  
HONORED GLORY  
AN AMERICAN  
KNOWN BUT TO GOD**

*The Staff at Voiture Nationale wish all Voyageurs and their families a very happy and safe Thanksgiving.*

## Voiture 1634 Youth Sports



Andrew Nagy Premier Chef Voiture 1634 presents a \$200.00 check for her girl's soccer team

## Voiture 145



Chef de Fer 1998 Paul Sorrentino along with Indiana Grand Chef de Gare Don Caudell, Jr.; SE Chef de Train Ron Hanger; SW Chef de Train John Van Natta; Grand Directeur Youth Sports Jeff Carroll and Grand Directeur POW/MIA Dave Emily visited our Voiture Locale's monthly Promenade to present V-145 with the Grand du Indiana's "Americanism Award" and 105 % "Membership Award".



Donations being received by a Soldier of the Indiana National Guard.

V-145 donations at Camp Atterbury, Johnson County, Indiana for the Afghan refugees/children. V-145 donated soccer balls, diapers, etc. for the children of the refugees.

## Voiture 165 Flags For First Graders



## Voiture 90 Nurses Training Scholarships

Left to right. Jaisa Helvey; Krystal Kovacevich; Emily Gilmore; Brenda Hernandez; Yesenia Vargas ; Hanna Harris.  
Not present, Kaleen Norton.

Fred Willsey, Chef de Gar of ,V90 du Washington. These Students are all 2<sup>nd</sup> year students at the Wenatchee Valley college nurses traing facility. Jenny Capelo, is the Director of Nursing.  
—Fred Willsey

Voiture 90 sponsored 1, The Buzz & Barb Parkhill fund sponsored 1, 8/40 Salon 246 sponsored 1, American Legion Post 10, of Wenatchee, sponsored 2, American Legion Post 64, of Cashmere sponsored, 1, Anonymous sponsored 1.



## Youth Sports -Randall Shrader

Greetings Voyageurs,

Youth Sports is a great program for the Forty and Eight. This is a program, that through participation by our Locales, gives us public notice. Locales that step up and help those athletes who need funds is great for Public Relations.

I would like to see all the Grandes participate this year. Every Grand should be able to buy pins and push this program as all other programs of the Forty and Eight. The Grandes can also participate by encouraging the Change for Champs at your locales or at any other functions that will allow you to put out a donation jar. How many of you help or organize any Special Olympics within your State? Money raised by Change for Champs can surely be used to assist Special Olympics. Can you volunteer? Your time and efforts are really appreciated by the participants. I for one have been volunteering at the Virginia Special Olympics State Basketball Championships for several years with communications support. I really have a lot of fun, it sure is a blast seeing the effort put out playing basketball and seeing the smiles on these youths.

I have assigned my Sous Directors the Grandes they are responsible for. Please work with the Sous Directors to make this a great year for Youth Sports.

**Area A, Sous Director Gary P. Howe:** Michigan, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Germany, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont.

**Area B, Sous Director Gene Baker:** Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Latin America, Mexico, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia.

**Area C, Sous Director Joel D. Doyscher:** Indiana, Arkansas, France, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, , Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming.

**Area D, Sous Director Kenneth Kozubek:** Wisconsin, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.



## What is a Veteran -Mike Wood

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

*He is the bar room loudmouth, 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, or were awarded.*

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

**Building Donation Challenge Total \$194,590.04**  
**November 2021**



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<u>NAME</u>	<u>VOITURE</u>	<u>GR</u>	<u>AMT</u>
Voiture 104	104	CA	\$ 113.00
Tom Adams	1411	MS	\$ 100.00
John Digilio	713	NY	\$ 84.06
Voiture 396	396	MI	\$ 59.50
Voiture 1439	1439	IL	\$ 52.00
Voiture 526	526	WI	\$ 20.50
Voiture 559	559	NH	\$ 18.00
Voiture 1068	1068	NE	\$ 14.50
Randall Gregor	946	MI	\$ 7.52
Voiture 961	961	NH	\$ 7.00
Voiture 70	70	NH	\$ 5.50
Voiture 183	183	NH	\$ 4.00
Voiture 306	306	NV	\$ 3.00

## Vice Presidential History

**Richard Milhous Nixon** (January 9, 1913 – April 22, 1994) was the 37th president of the United States, serving from 1969 to 1974. A member of the Republican Party, Nixon previously served as the 36th vice president from 1953 to 1961, having risen to national prominence as a representative and senator from California. After five years in the White House that saw the conclusion to the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War, détente with the Soviet Union and China, the first manned moon landings, and the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency, he became the only president to resign from the office, following the Watergate scandal.

Nixon was born into a poor family of Quakers in a small town in Southern California. He graduated from Duke University School of Law in 1937 and returned to California to practice law. He and his wife Pat moved to Washington in 1942 to work for the federal government. He served on active duty in the Naval Reserves during World War II. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1946. His pursuit of the Hiss Case established his reputation as a leading anti-Communist which elevated him to national prominence. In 1950, he was elected to the Senate. He was the running mate of Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Republican Party's presidential nominee in the 1952 election, subsequently serv-



ing for eight years as the vice president. He unsuccessfully ran for president in 1960, narrowly losing to John F. Kennedy. Nixon then lost a race for governor of California to Pat Brown in 1962. In 1968, he ran for the presidency again and was elected, defeating Hubert Humphrey and George Wallace in a close election.

Nixon ended American involvement in Vietnam in 1973, ending the military draft that same year. Nixon's visit to China in 1972 eventually led to diplomatic relations between the two nations, and he gained the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with the Soviet Union the same year. His administration generally transferred power from federal

control to state control. He imposed wage and price controls for 90 days, enforced desegregation of Southern schools, established the Environmental Protection Agency, and began the War on Cancer. He also presided over the Apollo 11 Moon landing, which signaled the end of the Space Race. He was re-elected in one of the largest electoral landslides in American history in 1972 when he defeated George McGovern.

In his second term, Nixon ordered an airlift to resupply Israeli losses in the Yom Kippur War, a war which led to the oil crisis at home. By late 1973, Watergate escalated, costing Nixon much of his political support. On August 9, 1974, facing almost certain impeachment and removal from office, he became the first American president to resign. Afterwards, he was issued a pardon by his successor, Gerald Ford. In 20 years of retirement, Nixon wrote his memoirs and nine other books and undertook many foreign trips, rehabilitating his image into that of an elder statesman and leading expert on foreign affairs. He suffered a debilitating stroke on April 18, 1994, and died four days later at age 81. Surveys of historians and political scientists have ranked Nixon as a below-average president. However, evaluations of him have proven complex, with his successes as president contrasted against the circumstances of his departure from office.