



## *Voiture 1379 Communiqué for April 2014*

Birth of the VA - In 1930, President Herbert Hoover created the Veterans Administration by consolidating three existent organizations - the U.S. Veterans Bureau, the National Homes for Disabled Soldiers, and the Bureau of Pensions-into an organization of 54 hospitals, 31,600 employees and 4.7 million Veterans, many of whom had served in World War I, others who had fought in the Spanish-American War, and some even in the Civil War. Nearly 60 years later, President Ronald Reagan signed the Department of Veterans Affairs Act of 1988, elevating the former administration to a cabinet-level department. President Reagan explained, then, that the "bill gives those who have borne America's battles, who have defended the borders of freedom, who have protected our Nation's security in war and in peace-it gives them what they have deserved for so long: a seat at the table in our national affairs." On March 15, VA celebrated the 25th anniversary of President Reagan's executive action. This year's celebration coincided with their ongoing commemoration of the American Civil War-the most divisive and devastating conflict in our nation's history. President Abraham Lincoln's charge to all Americans in 1865 has defined America's covenant with its Veterans - "to care for [those] who shall have borne the battle, and for [their families and survivors]."

Today, VA operates 151 medical centers, 135 community living centers, 103 residential rehabilitation treatment programs, 820 community-based outpatient clinics, 300 Vet Centers, 70 mobile Vet Centers, 56 benefits Regional Offices, and 131 national cemeteries. They keep faith with Lincoln's covenant by serving those whose lifetimes connect us through the centuries—from the last surviving child of a Civil War Veteran, to those of the Spanish-American War, to the families of World War I, to the "lions" of our greatest generation, to the youngest Veterans of our latest generation.

It is once again time to start filling out all of the reports on all Voiture activities so start making lists of everything you do for the 40et8 and the American Legion. We can find somewhere to list that information in one of the many reports. These reports include things like mileage, time, and monies spent doing these activities so start making your lists. We cannot include promenades' but we can count the meals before as social events so everyone has some type of activity to report. So please start keeping a list of all Veteran/40et8 activities along with monies spent and miles driven. This will go a long way towards filling these reports out in the future.

This months Promenade will be on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at Post 61 Claycomo, MO with dinner and Promenade at Post 61 starting at 18:00 HRS.

**Thank you for your service to Our Great Nation, and your service to the 40et8 through Voiture 1379. If we all work together we can and do make a difference.**

**Robert C. Emery, Correspondant Locale, Voiture 1379**