



Voiture 1379 Communiqué for February 2016

Membership is currently at forty six (46) out of fifty five (55). If your membership card does not say 2016, you are delinquent and your membership has expired. So please take a moment to pay your dues.

Currently we have one (1) P.G. waiting to be WRECKED and one nomination for membership to have its second reading.

Please be on the look out for deserving veterans and ask them to join the Forty and Eight.

Voiture 1379 is still in need of fundraising ideas to help support our programs. If you have any ideas please let Chef de Gare Locale Calvin Bumgarner know.

Vet Burial Honors - Families should be aware of in advance

Planning funerals for military veterans and retirees can be overwhelming for their families, and the Defense Department's director of casualty and mortuary affairs wants family members to familiarize themselves in advance when possible to know what to expect with military funeral honors. Deborah S. Skillman said families should learn about military funeral honors eligibility ahead of time to know what choices are available. She also recommends that family members should ensure they have access to the veteran's discharge papers, also called DD Form 214, to prove eligibility. It's also critical for family members who want military funeral honors to tell their funeral director, who can make the request for them, she said. The honors are not automatic, and must be requested through the veteran's branch of service, she noted. "Families [also] need to know DoD is going to be there when the honors are requested," Skillman added. DoD policy is mandated by law to provide a minimum of a two-person uniformed detail to present the core elements of the funeral honors ceremony, and one service member must represent the veteran's branch of service, she said. The core elements comprise playing Taps, folding the American flag and presenting the flag to the family. Burials with military funeral honors can be conducted at national, veterans' or private cemeteries, she said. "While DoD is required to provide a [two-service-member] detail, policy encourages each service secretary to provide additional elements, such as the firing team and pall bearers, if resources permit. However, full honors are always provided for active duty deaths," Skillman said. "Military honors may consist of three rifle volleys by a firing team," she said, and added that veteran service organizations often participate in burials with military honors to serve as pall bearers and to provide a firing team. The Veterans Affairs Department also offers other benefits, such as headstones, Skillman said. "We want to honor every eligible service member," Skillman said, "and make sure [the services] are there to render honors."

This month's Promenade will be on February 24th at Post 61 – North Kansas City - with dinner at 18:00 HRS. The Promenade will begin at 19:00 HRS.

If there are any other functions you would like to "get the word out" please let me know and I will put them on the Voiture 1379, The Grande du Missouri web site as well as the communiqué. **Thank you for your service to Our Great Nation, 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

Check us out on the web <http://www.voiture1379.com>

Check out the Grande du Missouri web site <http://www.grandedumissouri.com>