



Voiture 1379 Communiqué for June 2019

It's that time of the year to elect officers and appoint program directors. So if you are interested in any position please let me know.

The tradition of leaving coins on the headstones of fallen service members in the United States traces back to the time of the Vietnam War. The reason that coins were placed on headstones instead of paying respect directly to the surviving family members at the time was to avoid the awkwardness of discussing the politically charged nature of the conflict in Vietnam. Each denomination means:

Cent: The most simple means of expressing respect to the fallen, a "penny" lets the service member's family know that someone visited their grave in the spirit of honoring their sacrifice.

Nickel: A nickel placed on the headstone of a fallen service member indicates that you trained at boot camp or endured basic training with the individual.

Dime: Leaving a dime on the service member's headstone means that you served with the fallen individual to some degree.

Quarter: One of the most significant coins to be left on a service member's headstone, a quarter means that you were present when the person was killed in action.

Challenge coin: If a challenge coin is found on the headstone of a fallen service member, it is seen as the highest form of respect paid by a comrade-in-arms.

Despite the claim of this tradition's dating back to the days of the Roman Empire, there's no reason to suppose that it does. A coin might be placed in the mouth of a fallen Roman soldier (to get him across the River Styx), but the deceased's comrades would more likely have been expending any further coinage on a funeral banquet in his honor rather than interring it with his remains. Given the lack of documentation attesting to the origins and consistency of this 'tradition,' it is perhaps best regarded not as an actual common practice but instead as someone's idealized legend of what should be. Yet military folk do sometimes leave very special remembrances at the graves of deceased servicemen: challenge coins. These tokens identify their bearers as members of particular units and are prized and cherished by those to whom they have been given; thus any challenge coins found at gravesites were almost certainly left there by comrades-in-arms of the deceased

This month's Promenade will be on June 26th at Post 61 Kansas City, MO with dinner at 18:00 HRS and 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 in the next communiqué.

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

Robert C. Emery, Correspondant Locale, Voiture 1379

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www.grandedumissouri.com
www.voiture1379.com