



## Communiqué



# La Société des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux

## Grande Voiture du Missouri

January 2021 - Grand Chef de Gare Franklin V. Angelo L'Editeur Robert C. Emery



Greetings Voyageurs,

I hope this article finds everyone doing well. I also hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Years. I got the opportunity to do some traveling and attend two Promenades and Christmas parties. I would like to say Thank You to Voiture 1292 and Voiture 1321 for the invites. I had a great time attending and getting to enjoy the fellowship of fellow Voyageur Militaire and their families. I unfortunately do not have anything on the schedule for the month of January. On the Grande du Missouri webpage it has the registration form for the Grande Spring Cheminot and Wreck for the weekend of March 26TH – 28TH. Also, on the webpage it has the date for Voiture 1541's Night at the Races on it. If you are not on my email distribution list and would like to be please let me know and I will add you (fangelo618@aol.com). Please let me know if your Voiture is hosting an event and would like me to attend, I am trying to plan a visit to every Voiture.

Missouri unfortunately did not meet the goal set by Nationale of 100% membership by December 31ST 2020. We finished the year with 560 paid members out of the 708 quota for a 79.10%. We are only short 148 members to attain the goal of 100% membership. Unfortunately, we have at least 148 members that are not in good standings. So please look at current membership card and if it does not say 2021, please get your renewals in. December was an ok month for membership we added thirty-seven members. I know we have a lot of members that like to renew in the current year for the membership card. We want all our Voyageur to be in good standings so let's get our renewals in to Nationale, so we can achieve our goal of 100% membership. We want to sit up front at the 102ND Promenade Nationale, which we are hosting. We were close last year on achieving 100% membership last year, I am positive we will achieve it this year.

The 102ND Promenade Nationale is still scheduled for the week of September 14TH – 18TH 2021 in Springfield, MO. We are still selling advertisements for the Program Book. If

you know of a business or an individual that would like to buy one, please let us know and we will get you the information. The more we sell the more profit we make for our Grande. We still need more help to make the event a successful one, so please let us know where you would like to volunteer your skills. Grand Chef de Gare Passe Richard Heigert is the Chairperson for the Promenade Nationale so please let him know where you would like to volunteer your skills.

I hope the year 2021 is a much better year, than this past year was. Hopefully, the vaccinations that are being administered will allow us to get back to our normal lives and routines. I would like to Thank Voiture 1541 for sending me their Locale Communiqué and the dates for their upcoming Promenades. If any Voiture would like to mail or email me their Locale Communiqué it will be greatly appreciated. I know we will have a great year this year! If I can do anything, please let me know and I will do my best to make it happen. Please stay safe and I hope to see everyone soon.



Frank Angelo

Grand Chef de Gare

Grande du Missouri

fangelo618@aol.com

1-(217)-416-5695

### Sous Grand Correspondants Notes

I am looking for articles from the following Grand Directeurs:

GRAND DIRECTEUR BOX CAR: Ernie Parker

GRAND DIRECTEUR CARVILLE STAR: Mike Scruby

GRAND DIRECTEUR POW/MIA: A.J. Noonan

**REMINDER:**

with only 28 days remaining, Page 7 section 12. And page 8 section 13. Of the National Constitution states. Any Voyageur not renewed by that date is delinquent. THAT disqualifies them from attending ANY, and ALL events of La Societe. Nothing could be any clearer than that. And as I stated in last week's letter. Stress strongly that on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Look at your membership card. Since it will now be 2021, if your card has any other year than that YOU ARE DELINQUENT.

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**Time and Place Committee**

Due to the Covid restrictions in Kansas City, we are unable to conduct our next three functions there. Our contract with the Four Points by Sheraton KCI has been deleted, and AJ has negotiated a contract with the Oasis in Springfield. Our spring Wreck, Grand Promenade,

And Homecoming will be conducted in Springfield. The dates for those grande functions are as followed :

Spring Wreck: 26-28 Mar 2021

Summer Cheminot: 23-25 Jul 2021

Homecoming: 8-9 Oct 2021

Hoping to see everyone there as the hotel has went out of their way to ensure that they can accommodate us under the

Kevin T Johnson

Chairman

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**NPRC Military Records Update:**

Covid-19 Reduced Operations The National Personnel Records Center's Military Personnel Records facility is operating at less than 10% of normal capacity because of worsening COVID-19 conditions in the St. Louis area –a status that limits records requests to emergency needs only.

The facility's on-site staff will continue its work to accommodate veterans or family members who need records in relation to: ☐ Burial honors ☐ Life-threatening medical emergencies ☐ Homeless veterans seeking entry to shelters ☐ Any "comparable emergencies," per the center's website <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/militaryservice-records-0>.

The center entered this emergencies-only status 23 MAR, but began a gradual reopening on 24 JUN as COVID-19 cases slowed. This reopening process allowed a 20% operational capacity for most of October, but "on-site exposures to staff" led to a regression to emergency-only levels on 7 NOV. Individuals with emergencies can submit a Standard Form 180 via fax to (314) 801-0764. Even emergency requests face delays under this process. Families seeking records to confirm burial eligibility in a VA national cemetery can visit <https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/eligibility> for detailed information. Casketed interments will be prioritized over cremated interments. The majority of burial requests can be approved without access to National Personnel Records Center materials. MOAA Premium and Life members can download Your Guide to Military Burials. Visit <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2020-news-articles/dd-214-andbeyond-how-to-track-down-your-military-records> for more background on the records center, including contact information. [

# Confederate Monument Controversy

## Update 01:

National Park Service Sites Excluded from Removal The Alabama memorial at the Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania & the Emancipation Memorial in Boston Confederate symbols immortalized in bronze at National Park Service sites dodged a bullet this week. The final version of the fiscal 2021 spending package excluded language pushed by House Democrats that would remove the monuments from those sites. Republicans had described the provision as a “poison pill” and “veto bait,” given President Donald Trump’s opposition. But Democratic supporters say dropping the provision represents a temporary truce rather than a white flag on their part. The Senate cleared the spending bill 21 DEC.

House Interior-Environment Appropriations Subcommittee Chairwoman Betty McCollum (D-MN) lamented the absence of the monument provision. “I am disappointed that Senate Republicans and President Trump refused to include House-passed provisions to remove hateful Confederate symbols from our national parks as a step toward confronting our nation’s legacy of racial injustice,” McCollum said in a statement. “I look forward to working with the Biden administration to pursue these critical provisions in the next Congress.”

At the heart of the issue are National Park Service sites commemorating Civil War battlefields such as Gettysburg that include monuments honoring Confederate soldiers who fought and died there. Such monuments have come under renewed criticism as the country wrestles with questions of racial justice and dark aspects of its history. Speaker Nancy Pelosi called for Confederate statues at the Capitol to go. Earlier in the week, the statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee was removed from the Capitol’s crypt. vLanguage in an appropriations package passed by the House earlier this year that included Interior-Environment spending and other measures would require the National Park Service to “remove from display all physical Confederate commemorative works, such as statues, monuments, sculptures, memorials, and plaques” within 180 days. It also would bar the service from purchasing or displaying a Confederate flag “with the exception of specific circumstances where the flags provide historical context.”

Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS) has described the monument removal language as outside the jurisdiction of the House Appropriations Committee. The Vicksburg Post quoted Hyde-Smith criticizing the House for including an “obscure provision” in a larger package rather than attempting to amend the National Historic Preservation Act. “If enacted, this provision would effectively remove the names from the headstones of thousands of soldiers and civilians who died in one of the most decisive battles in Civil War history,” Hyde-Smith said, according to the newspaper. “This is not anything I can support.” Trump has threatened to veto the defense policy bill in part over objections to renaming U.S. military bases that honor Confederates.

Democrats said they decided the monuments language wasn’t worth risking a government shutdown, particularly with Trump’s imminent departure from the White House. They say Biden could take executive action or quietly support including the same proposal in next year’s spending bills. The Biden transition team did not respond to a request for comment about the issue. But Biden was asked generally about such monuments during a June news conference. At that time, he made a distinction between recognizing slave owning founding fathers such as George Washington and Thomas Jefferson and honoring those who committed treason by rebelling against the Union in an effort to preserve slavery. “I think all those Confederate monuments to Confederate soldiers and generals, etc., who strongly supported secession and the maintenance of slavery and going to war to do it, I think those statues belong in museums,” Biden said at the time. “They don’t belong in public places.”

A statue of Abraham Lincoln with a freed slave appearing to kneel at his feet — optics that drew objections amid a national reckoning with racial injustice — has been removed from its perch in downtown Boston. Workers removed the Emancipation Memorial, also known as the Emancipation Group and the Freedman’s Memorial, 29 DEC from a park just off Boston Common where it had stood since 1879. City officials had agreed in late June to take down the memorial after complaints and a bitter debate over the design. Mayor Marty Walsh acknowledged at the time that the statue made residents and visitors alike “uncomfortable.” The bronze statue is a copy of a monument that was erected in Washington, D.C., three 108 years earlier. The copy was installed in Boston because the city was home to the statue’s white creator, Thomas Ball.

It was created to celebrate the freeing of slaves in America and was based on Archer Alexander, a Black man who escaped slavery, helped the Union Army and was the last man recaptured under the Fugitive Slave Act. But while some saw the shirtless man rising to his feet while shaking off the broken shackles on his wrists, others perceived him as kneeling before Lincoln, his white emancipator. [Source: Stars & Stripes | Joseph Morton CQ-Roll Call / William J. Kole | December 23 & 29, 2020 ++]

# VA Contact Centers

## Single Access to All at 1-800-Myva411 (1-800-698-2411)

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced 16 DEC, the formal launch of 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411), a single access point to all VA contact centers. The number is available 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year to serve Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors. Responding to Veteran feedback on the challenges of knowing the right number for VA assistance, 1-800-MyVA411, serves all members of the Veteran community seeking information or help.

Veterans and their families can still reach the Veterans Crisis Line directly at 1-800-273-8255 and pressing 1, by Chat or by texting 838255. The White House VA Hotline is also still available at 1-855-948- 2311 for Veterans and their families to share compliments and concerns. “1-800-MyVA411 is always the right number to reach VA and is a great example of the department’s customer service strategy in action,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “1-800-MyVA411 provides easy access to specialized contact centers as well as an option to immediately talk to a live agent.” When dialing 1-800-MyVA411, callers have the option of pressing 0 to be immediately connected with a customer service agent to answer questions or provide a warm-handoff to the appropriate VA expert. During the pilot phase from Oct. 1, 2019–Sep. 31, 1-800-MyVA411 connected more than 1.3 million callers with VA contact centers and experts.

1-800-MyVA411 provides information on:

☐ COVID-19 updates. ☐ Health care eligibility and enrollment.

☐ VA benefits, such as disability, compensation and pension, education programs, caregiver support, insurance, home loans, and burial headstones and markers among others. 17

☐ The nearest VA medical centers, benefits offices or cemeteries to Veterans, VA Medical Center operational updates and connection to VA Medical Center operators.

☐ Directory assistance and technical support for [www.VA.gov](http://www.VA.gov).

☐ Debt and payment options.

For more information contact the Veterans Experience Office at [Vets-Experience@VA.gov](mailto:Vets-Experience@VA.gov). [Source: VA News Release | December 16, 2020 ++]

## Vet Benefits

### Legislation Update 05: Update 20: H.R.7105 |

#### Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act

On December 16, 2020, the United States House of Representatives passed the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act (H.R. 7105). This omnibus bill contains several provisions that have been long-standing legislative priorities for DAV. The legislation includes key provisions from the Deborah Sampson Act (S. 514/H.R. 3224), which will improve health care programs and services for women veterans and require VA to improve its policies to end harassment and sexual assault in VA facilities.

Other key provisions in the bill will: eliminate the 12-year delimiting date for disabled veterans (discharged after January 1, 2013) to receive counseling, training, and benefits under the VA’s Veteran Readiness and Employment—VR&E program; require the VA to provide disability benefits questionnaires (DBQs) online; and lower the age a surviving spouse may remarry and still receive dependency indemnity compensation (DIC) benefits. Altogether, this bill is drawn from over two dozen veteran-related bills that were introduced during the 116th Congress. The bill has been sent to the President and is expected to be signed into law.

**Spring Wreck & Chemlnot**

**March 26 to March 28, 2021**

**Oasis Hotel and Convention Center**

**2546 North Glenstone Ave.**

**Springfield, MO 65803**

**417-866-5253**

**888-532-4338**

Room Rate \$99.00 (+Tax) per night For

Deluxe King or Deluxe Double

**PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE**

Handicapped Rooms Available

Make your reservations directly with Oasis Hotel ASAP Mention 40&8  
Honor Society for special rate when making reservations

**Friday**

Registration 3 P.M. until 6 P.M. in Paradise Prefunction Hospitality Room

3 P.M. until 11:59 P.M. Maui Ballroom

102nd Promenade Nationale Committee Meeting 7 P.M. until 9 P.M. in Sahara Room

**Saturday**

9 A.M. until 12 P.M. Registration in Paradise Prefunction/ Promenade/Spring Wreck Coco & Fiji  
Ballrooms

LUNCH 12 P.M. until 1 P.M. in Maui Ballroom Spring Wreck

Continuation 1 P.M. in Coco & Fiji Ballrooms

Grand Chef de Gare Passé Social Hour: 5 P.M. to 6 P.M. in Maui Ballroom Social  
Hour 6 P.M. -Cash Bar/Banquet 7 P.M. in Grand Ballroom Hospitality Room will be  
open after the Banquet

**Sunday**

9 A.M. until 12 P.M. Grande Cheminot in Coco & Fiji Ballrooms

Deadline to register for the Banquet is March 15, 2021 Make your check  
payable to: Voiture 460 for registration

**SEND TO: AJ Noonan 20165**

**Highway 28**

**Dixon, Missouri 65459**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Voiture Locale's # \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet Buffet \$35.00/Person x Number of Guest \_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee \$10.00 (Voyageurs Only) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_



# La Societe des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux Grande Voiture du Missouri

## UPDATED OFFICIAL CALL

TO: ALL GRAND CHEMINOTS  
ALL GRAND OFFICERS  
ALL GRAND CHEFS de GARE PASSE  
ALL VOITURE'S CHEFS de GARE & CORRESPONDANTS  
ALL VOYAGEURS OF GRANDE VOITURE du MISSOURI

This is the OFFICIAL CALL for the Spring Grande Cheminot and Wreck to be held March 26th to March 28th, 2021 at the Oasis Hotel & Convention Center, 2546 North Glenstone Avenue, Springfield, MO 65803, phone (417) 866-5253, or (888) 532-4338.

The Active Wreck will be held on Saturday, March 27th, 2021, at 9:00AM in Springfield.

The Spring Grande Cheminot will be held on Sunday March 28th, 2021 at 9:00 AM at the Oasis Hotel & Convention Center.

There may be an Executive Board Meeting scheduled on Saturday. If there is one, the time and place will be posted in the Hospitality Room.

There will be a 102nd Promenade Nationale meeting on Friday March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:00 PM at the Oasis Hotel & Convention Center.

ALL GRAND OFFICERS AND GRAND CHEMINOTS ARE EXPECTED TO GIVE A REPORT OF THEIR ACTIVITIES AND SUBMIT A COPY IN WRITING TO THE GRAND CORRESPONDANT.

All Voyageurs are to be in proper attire. The following male Officers are expected to be in coat, tie, shirt, long pants, socks and shoes, whereas female Officers are expected to be in a dress or skirt and blouse or slacks and blouse and shoes: Grand Chef de Gare, Grand Chef de Train, Grand Commissaire Intendant, Grand Correspondant, Grand Garde de la Porte, Grand Lampiste, Grand Conducteur, Sous Grand Conducteurs, and Grand Aumonier.

Terry L. Lanning  
Grand Correspondant

Frank Angelo  
Grand Chef de Gare



102nd Promenade Nationale,  
La Societe des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux, Inc.



**102<sup>nd</sup> Promenade & 58<sup>th</sup> Rendezvous Nationale**  
**Springfield, Missouri**  
**September 14 – 18, 2021**

**The Grande du Missouri will be your Promenade Nationale Host and we welcome you to the Show Me State.**

**Ad Order Form for the Program Book which will be 8 ½ by 11 inches.**

**Full Page Ad \$200.00 \_\_\_\_\_**

**Half Page Ad \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_**

**Quarter Page Ad \$60.00 \_\_\_\_\_**

**Eighth Page Ad \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_**

**Business Card Ad \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_**

**Boosters \$2.00 each \_\_\_\_\_**

**Name(s) of Booster(s): \_\_\_\_\_**

**Inside Front Page or Inside or Outside Back Page Ad \$400.00 \_\_\_\_\_**

**Business, Organization, or Individual name purchasing Ad:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_**

**City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_**

**Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_**

**Email address \_\_\_\_\_**

**Please return this form with a check payable to: 102<sup>nd</sup> Promenade Nationale. Prefer that you email the ad copy in PDF format to Franklin Angelo at [fangelo618@aol.com](mailto:fangelo618@aol.com). The cutoff date for ads is July 1, 2021. If there are any questions you can call Franklin Angelo at 217-416-5695. Otherwise mail a copy (if you did not email a copy) of the ad and check to:**

**Franklin V. Angelo**

**P.O. Box 843**

**ST Robert, MO 65584**



## 7-Jan-21

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