

Voiture Nationale 40&8

VOYAGEUR BRIEFS

Mike McGary - Chef de Chemin de Fer



I hope everyone had a wonderful Valentine's Day with your loved ones. For myself, Peggy and I had a nice dinner out and shared a bottle of wine. Something we haven't done for quite some time due to the pandemic. But, with the vaccines being dispensed I think most of the social reservations are starting to ease up. I believe this is also the reason I have four travel confirmations for the months of April and May, something I am really looking forward too. I know that being safe and responsible during these visits will be part of the travels, so mask up and join the fun. Hope to see as many as possible down the road.

The last membership report I read has us over a thousand members behind last year's pace. Everyone knows what a disaster last year's membership numbers turned out to be. I do know one thing for sure, you can't get COVID buy using the phone or your email. Please put an hour aside and contact your friends and maybe one that is not so much your friend and ask for their dues. It's a simple process and La Société survival depends on your actions. I'd like to think since I'm spending my winter in Alabama, that this is the reason they have joined the ranks of those Grandes making their goal on membership. They join Latin America, The District of Colum-



bia, France, Wyoming, and Rhode Island as those Grandes at or over their goal. Well Done!

As many of you know Peggy and I are wintering down in Alabama by Gulf shores. Although it's rather cool for this time year (only in the mid 50's) it's still half a thermometer warmer than back in Indiana. A large portion of this country is currently experiencing an arctic blast of ice, snow, and frigid temperatures. While you're using those phones to gather our membership dues please check in on the elderly, handicapped, and fellow veterans. They'd proba-

bly enjoy hearing the voice of a friend and/or a family member. We are not alone in this world, please make sure you and your family is taken care of in these times and then look in on someone who may be in need.

On behalf of La Société I would like to express my deepest sympathy to our Nationale Correspondant, Terry Sim's, executive assistant, Holly. For those of you that do not know Holly's father recently passed away. I'm very sorry for your loss.

Things are running pretty smooth at the National Headquarters, with Terri Taylor taking over the reins of office manager. The staff is doing a great job. It is one of the bright spots of my year as your Chef.

In closing I would like to thank my Officers, Directeurs, and Sous Directeurs, of all our programs who are doing a tremendous job under some very adverse conditions to carry on the traditions of our organizations. I know these conditions exist at the Grande and Locale levels also, but everyone can only be as good as the whole. Let's pull and work together for the betterment of all, so this organization can prosper,

Stay safe, stay warm and God Bless!

Inside this issue:

Chef Mike McGary	1
Emblem Sales Monthly Item	2
Voiture News	3
2020 Worst Year Ever	4
40&8 News	5
Vice Presidential History	6



Terry Sims -Correspondant National

Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer Frank Campo will be holding a seminar on Wednesday afternoon at Promenade Nationale in Springfield. He will be discussing the creation and use of social media platforms, primarily Facebook and Instagram. He will discuss how to create an account for your

Voiture, add events on Facebook, add photos to both social media platforms and avoiding any political or other controversial topics that go against our rules. The Wednesday, September 15 time will be addressed later. All Voyageurs and Dames are invited to attend this resourceful event.

Ron Pfalzgraf, President National Historiens Association has informed me the Committee will be grading 2020 and 2021 history books in Springfield. Please bring your 2020 history books for grading. Awards will be awarded for both years.

Emblem Sales Highlight of the Month



This months highlight features an item that can be used to organize and advertise all of your 40&8 activities. One recommended use is as a membership tool to give to a prospective Voyageur. Just fill this attractive pocket folder with your most important membership information. The price for this item is **\$10.00 for 10 folders**. This item is only sold in multiples of 10 and can be ordered at our emblem sales store online at -

<http://store.fortyandeight.org/>
or contact Terry Taylor,
E-mail:
ttaylor@fortyandeight.org

Ph. (317) 634-1804
Fax. (317) 632-9365

Voiture Nationale
Emblem Sales
250 E 38th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46205



THE WALK

We will be doing pre-orders this year for Promenade Nationale cost is \$25.00 includes shipping. We will ship orders out in plenty of time before Promenade so be sure to Pre-Order yours today! Orders will be taken until August 13th.

To the right is a picture of what The Walk shirt will look like but it will be on a red shirt. Send orders to:

**Voiture Nationale
250 E 38TH Street
Indianapolis, IN 46205**



Voiture 220 Nurses Training



Gina Fiorentino, a nursing student at Triton College, in River Grove, Illinois, was the recipient of a Forty and Eight nursing scholarship, presented to her by Peter Hirt (right), Grand Chef de Train Voiture 220, Cook County, and Greg Jacobs (left), a member of Voiture 220.

Voiture 145



Pictured are the Indy Honor Flight reps being met by V-145 Chef de Gare and Correspondant. L to R: Chef de Gare Jay A. Collars, Indy Honor Flight representatives Mr. Jerry Vest and Mr. Scott Soladine, Correspondant Mike Delaney.

Since many Viet Nam veterans are unaware of their eligibility to apply for these honor flight missions V-145 invited the Indy Honor Flight to address our Voyageurs at the January Promenade. The purpose of the presentation was to explain and clarify the mission of the honor flights; especially pertaining to the Viet Nam combat veterans and Viet Nam era veterans eligibility. As a result of the explanation by the Indy Honor Flight representatives, many of our Viet Nam veterans applied for the honor flights.

40 & 8 Memorial Day in Arlington National Cemetery

The Forty and Eight Memorial Day Ceremony is an annual event hosted by the 40 & 8 Memorial Day Committee. Planning for the weekend starts in October for the next year's Memorial Day Ceremony in Arlington National Cemetery. Saturday kicks off with comradery & fellowship in the hospitality room, and then Sunday morning we have a Memorial Service for all in attendance. Sunday afternoon the Chef de Chemin de Fer, Madam La Presidente, the Sous Chefs & Sous La Presidentes, along with the Nationale Drapeaus and anyone who wants to tag along, head to Arlington National Cemetery to lay flowers on the resting places of Joseph Breen, General John Pershing, and Sgt Younger. We do have a bigger bus for Sunday, so all those who want to go "should" be able to go to Arlington with the Chef de Chemin de Fer & La Presidente. Please mark on the Registration Form if you plan on going on Sunday, so we can have the appropriate bus on hand.



To Register for the 40&8 Memorial Day in Arlington National Cemetery go to:

<https://www.fortvandeight.org/events/>

2020 Worst Year Ever by Mike Wood

We all agree that 2020 was a demanding and challenging year in our history due to COVID-19, political inequities, street violence and economic crisis in cities, but was it the worst year ever. I believe that question is a generational question that applies to the current times. Allow me to offer a comparison of some other “worst years ever.”

2021 starts off with an attack on the National Capital and attempted seizure of the capital building causing much damage and several deaths. We just inaugurated a President in 2021 and needed armed military and fences to assure the safety of an event that has always been a celebration in the past. This particular inauguration was limited to the point where the citizens that elected the President were not allowed to attend the event because of security. This was horrible and something we have never seen before. Is this the “worst year ever” in the making.

In 1917 we were involved in the Great War (World War I), in 1918 the Spanish Flu epidemic swept worldwide and killed 675,000 Americans, in 1929 the country was plunged into a Great Depression that lasted a decade longer through the 1930’s. In 1941 America was attacked by Japan and entered another World War with Germany as well, we lost our President,

Franklin Roosevelt in 1945. In 1962 America came very close to war with Russia with the Cuban Blockade and in 1963 our President was assassinated by a sniper in broad daylight in Dallas, TX. In 1965 there were riots in Watts CA that killed and injured many and destroyed property and businesses. The 1960s were a very volatile decade with the Vietnam War protests, political leaders being killed, civil rights struggles becoming volatile and cultural revolution being fostered by misguided youth. In this decade 1968 was a particularly bad year that may qualify as the “worst year ever.”

In January of 1968 the North Vietnamese launched the Tet Offensive which was the opening battles of the deadliest year of the Vietnam War for American troops. In February, two Memphis, TN sanitation workers were killed by a malfunctioning garbage truck resulting in the civil rights lead sanitation workers strike. In April, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in Memphis supporting the strike resulting in violent riots in more than 100 American cities. Two months later in June, presidential candidate, Senator Robert F. Kennedy was shot dead in Los Angeles after celebrating winning the California primary. In August, Chicago hosted the Democrats Presidential Con-

vention and there were huge groups of rioters protesting the Vietnam War, they clashed with Chicago Police and Illinois National Guardsmen with many injuries that were focused on by National T.V. During this entire year we also had to deal with the Hong Kong Flu that killed 100,000 Americans and the almost daily casualty reports from Vietnam on the news. To top it all off I received my draft notice in September. So, was 1968 the “worst year ever.”

The point of this comparison is that Americans have always recovered from the “worst year ever” no matter what year it has been, we are the most resilient people on the planet and we will do whatever is necessary to recover. When your friends tell you that we will never recover from COVID-19, or 2020, just assure them we will and use these examples. America is not only “the land of the free and home of the brave,” it is also the home of the hardest working and most determined people needed to overcome any obstacle. We will survive COVID-19, just believe in each other and this great country. 2020 was a bad year. No argument here, but we get through the bad times and come back even stronger. I have no doubt we will do so again. Keep the faith and hang in there, we are Americans.

Tax Resources for Military Members, Veterans and their Families

The IRS has a variety of resources to help members of the military, veterans and their families navigate the unique and sometimes complex circumstances that come with filing taxes while in the military.

Here’s a list of some of the resources these taxpayers may find helpful.

- [Tax Information for Members of the Military](#) is the main page on IRS.gov where people can go to find links to helpful info, resources and services.
- It’s very important that members of the military know the rules for service. This can be done by email.
- A taxpayer’s military status affects whether they are eligible for certain benefits. Taxpayers can check their [eligibility for military tax benefits](#) by visiting IRS.gov. Qualifying employers include the Armed Forces, uniformed services and support organizations.
- There are rules specific to those who serve in combat zones. These taxpayers and their families can find out more on the [Tax Exclusion for Combat Service](#) page of IRS.gov. They should also review [special EITC rules](#). If these apply to their tax situation, it could lead to a larger refund.
- The [Armed Forces’ Tax Guide](#) is a comprehensive publication with info for military members. This includes:
 - Special rules for military personnel serving abroad including deadline extensions
 - Unreimbursed moving expenses
 - Reserve component travel expenses
- Members of the military and qualifying veterans can prepare and e-file their taxes for free through [MilTax](#). Taxpayers who do not qualify for [MilTax](#) have other options to prepare and e-file their federal taxes for free. Those who earned less than \$72,000 in 2020 can use [IRS Free File](#) software. Any taxpayer, regardless of income, who is comfortable completing their tax forms digitally can use [Free File Fillable Forms](#).
- Most military posts offer [free income tax assistance](#) through the military Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. Military service members can contact their installation’s legal office for details. Veterans may also qualify for free tax help at locations nationwide. They just have to meet income or age requirements.

This article is provided by the Internal Revenue Service at [IRS.gov](#). —Dan Dumas, Commissaire Intendant Nationale

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL STAFF RECEIVE HONOR FROM LOCAL VETERAN

Carthage, IL – Friday, February 05, 2021 – Local veteran and *The Forty and Eight* society member Terry Bigham, 78, of Macomb, Illinois, chose to present *Forty and Eight* pins to the nursing team at Memorial Hospital as a way of saying thank you for the excellent care that he has experienced.

As of July 2020, *The Forty and Eight* has expended over \$34,400,000 and has assisted 52,186 nurses in obtaining their nursing degrees. One of *The Forty and Eight's* main goals, in addition to providing financial support through their nursing scholarship, is to provide emotional support and encouragement for nurses, especially amidst the pandemic. The society also seeks to develop strong relationships with the community and inform local businesses and individuals of the sponsorship opportunities available to support the Nurses Training Scholarship.



Pictured from L to R: Sadena Jackson, Terry Bigham, Raigan Brown, and Taylor Dittmer

Terry states, “My lungs have been compromised for years, so COVID-19 could have been a major threat to my health. Therefore, I know and appreciate the risks these healthcare workers take every day to keep me safe and healthy. I truly believe that the team at Memorial Hospital, including Dr. Popela, saved my life with the great care they have given and continue to give me. I wanted to present *The Forty and Eight* pins to the staff here as my way of saying thank you and honoring their sacrifices.”

Terry and his wife, Lois, want to reiterate their thanks to the team at Memorial Hospital and feel forever grateful for the quality care that they receive. To learn more about *The Society of Forty Men and Eight Horses* and their commitment to supporting nurses, visit <https://www.fortyandeight.org/nurses-training/>.

MOTORCYCLE GROUP SEARCHES OUT FORTY AND EIGHT BOXCARS

Members of a private Face Book group, America’s Ultimate Long Distance Rider, with over 3,300 members, have taken on the challenge to have members visit the remaining Merci Boxcars in the United States. The group has many other challenges for members to travel and encourages members to visit places they have never seen before. All in fun and adding the Merci Boxcars to their challenge is a great way of getting the story about these great American treasures out. Many thanks to all who participate in the event and safe travels!

If you ride and are interested, please seek their group out on Facebook. Grand du Texas has put together a small souvenir package (Texas Merci Boxcar postcard, brochure and boxcar pin) to be given to group members who visit the Texas Merci Boxcar at the Texas Military Forces Museum and challenges other states to join in with a small token of appreciation of their own!



Photos Above Group rider Lee Kibbee visits the Texas Merci Boxcar in January!

Building Donation Challenge Total \$189,545.27
January 2021



<u>NAME</u>	<u>VOITURE</u>	<u>GR</u>	<u>AMT</u>
Voiture 1604	1604	FL	\$ 50.00
Voiture 1539	1539	AK	\$ 25.00
Voiture 1539	1539	AK	\$ 25.00
Ray Kerstetter	773	SD	\$ 17.00
Voiture 435	435	SC	\$ 16.00

Locale and Grande Historiens

Since Promenade Nationale 2020 to be held in Sandusky, Ohio, was cancelled due to the virus, we will be grading 2020 and 2021 history books in Springfield, MO in September. Please bring your 2020 history books with you to Springfield. Awards will be awarded for 2020 and 2021.

Thanking you in advance for your patience during these unforeseen times.

National Historien President,

Ronald Pfalzgraf





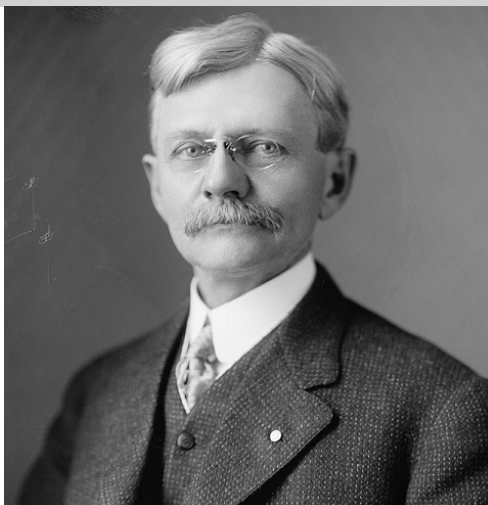
Voiture Nationale has Gone Social!
Like, Follow and Re-tweet

Voiture Nationale 40&8 Phone: 317-634-1804
 250 E 38th Street Fax: 317-632-9365
 Indianapolis, IN 46205 E-mail: voiturenationale@msn.com

Vice Presidential History

Thomas Riley Marshall (March 14, 1854 – June 1, 1925) was an American politician who served as the 28th vice president of the United States from 1913 to 1921 under President Woodrow Wilson. A prominent lawyer in Indiana, he became an active and well known member of the Democratic Party by stumping across the state for other candidates and organizing party rallies that later helped him win election as the 27th governor of Indiana.

Marshall's popularity as Indiana governor, and the state's status as a critical swing state, helped him secure the Democratic vice presidential nomination on a ticket with Wilson in 1912 and win the subsequent general election. An ideological rift developed between the two men during their first term, leading Wilson to limit Marshall's influence in the administration, and Marshall's brand of humor caused Wilson to move his office away from the White House. During Marshall's second term he delivered morale-boosting speeches across the nation during World War I and became the first U.S. vice president to hold cabinet meetings, which he did while Wilson was in Europe. As he was president of the United States Senate, a small number of anti-



war Senators kept it deadlocked by refusing to end debate. To enable critical wartime legislation to be passed, Marshall had the body adopt its first procedural rule allowing filibusters to be ended by a two-thirds majority vote—a variation of this rule remains in effect.

Marshall's vice presidency is most remembered for a leadership crisis following a stroke that incapacitated Wilson in October 1919. Because of their personal dislike for Marshall, Wilson's advisers and wife Edith sought to keep him uninformed about

the president's condition to prevent him from assuming presidential powers and duties. Many people, including cabinet officials and Congressional leaders, urged Marshall to become acting president, but he refused to forcibly assume Wilson's powers and duties to avoid setting a precedent. Without strong leadership in the executive branch, the administration's opponents defeated the ratification of the League of Nations treaty and effectively returned the United States to an isolationist foreign policy. Marshall is also the only known Vice President of the United States to have been exclusively targeted in an assassination attempt while in office.

While on a trip to Washington D.C., Marshall was struck by a heart attack while reading his Bible in bed on the night of June 1, 1925. His wife called for medical assistance, but he died before it arrived. He was 71. A service and viewing was held in Washington two days later and was attended by many dignitaries. Marshall's remains were returned to Indianapolis, where he lay in state for two days; thousands visited his bier. His funeral service was held June 9, and he was interred in Crown Hill Cemetery.