

La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux



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Greetings my fellow Voyagers,

As we enter the month of November, let us remember all our Comrades in Grand du Indiana that may be in need of our support. That support may come in many forms, and from various programs within La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux. Providing assistance through our programs to a veteran or their family member is extremely important, and just one of the many things we stand for. Programs such as:

Child Welfare: This was our first program established in 1923 and our efforts have touched over 1.3 million children annually.

Youth Sports: Voyageurs provide funds, through grants, to needy amateur athletes between the ages of 7-20. The motto of the Youth Sports program is “No athlete shall stay home for a lack of funds”.

Carville Star: This magazine, published by patients in Baton Rouge, Louisiana communicates research dealing with Hansen’s disease, also known as Leprosy.

Americanism: Voyageurs sponsor various Americanism projects including Flags for First Graders, respect for the flag, and annual Law Officer of the Year and Hero of the Year Awards.

VAVS (Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service): Voyageurs called Deputy Representatives visit the Veteran Administration Hospitals on a regular basis where they give comfort and assistance to, or just visit hospitalized veterans.

POW/MIA: Voyageurs raise funds to maintain a scholarship trust fund for the direct descendants of verifiable POW/MIA servicemen and women.

National Box Car Association: NBCA raises funds by selling Crew and Associate Membership Cards. These funds are used at Promenade Nationale to treat special children and their escorts to lunch, train rides and entertainment by our HOBBO Clowns and bands, an additional donation is made to the VAVS office at the local VA hospital or Clinic.

Is it ironic that in the month of November there is a Holiday called Thanksgiving?

Some people will think of the abundance of food, turkey, dressing etc. But, I think of November as being the entire month in which our Nation recognizes the **Military Family**. As service members from all eras have defended liberties and freedoms across the globe, our family members have shared in our sacrifice and continue to provide endless support, and for this reason alone I celebrate my Thanksgiving with my family and my Comrades.

The month of November also offers other special dates to our military family, such as:

Marine Corp Birthday - November 10th - The birthday itself was formally recognized in 1921 at the behest of Major General John Lejeune, who ordered November 10, 1775 to be officially recognized service-wide as the Marine Corps' birthday. Happy Birthday Marines!!!

Veterans Day - November 11th- Veterans Day was originally called "Armistice Day" when President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed this day in November 1919. Armistice is when warring parties agree to stop fighting and "Armistice Day" recognizes the end of World War I when hostilities ceased on November 11th at 11 A.M, 1918 (11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month). On May 13th, 1938 Armistice Day was declared a legal holiday each year. A day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace. Originally Armistice Day only honored veterans of World War. On November 11th, 1947 Raymond Weeks, a World War II veteran, organized a "National Veterans Day" parade in Birmingham, Alabama to recognize veterans of all wars. This celebration led to Congress changing Armistice Day to Veterans Day in 1954 to recognize Veterans of all U.S. wars.

Thanksgiving Day - 4th Thursday of the month (23rd day of November in 2017).

This great organization we call The 40 & 8 has allowed our VAVS program to give "Thanks" and pay tribute to so many of our fellow Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen, and Coast Guardsmen, while volunteering to aid and assist as needed. Let us remember and never forget all our Comrades and their families.

Yours in Service,

Gene Anderson
2nd Chef de Train
Grande du Indiana

National Sous Directeur-VAVS