



## *Voiture 1379 Communiqué for February 2017*

Membership is currently at forty four (44) out of fifty five (55). If your membership card does not say 2017, you are delinquent and your membership has expired. So please take a moment to pay your dues.

Renewal Reminder: Here are members who have not yet renewed for 2017 please take a moment and pay your dues and help support the programs of the Forty and Eight.

**Paul Bennett, Rebecca Boehmer, Lynn Coupel, Lisa Coupel, James Gallup, Jodi Hatcher, Neal Reno, Ron Sloniker**

VA Burial Benefit – Spouse Rule Change

FYI -Veterans and their spouses qualify for burial in Department of Veterans Affairs cemeteries nationwide. But thanks to bureaucratic rules, making arrangements for yourself ahead of time has been absolutely impossible. Literally. That's because in the past, the VA required that applications for VA burial eligibility be sent in "at the time of need" — in other words, after you're already dead. Now can you say exactly how much paperwork were you planning to fill out after you die? That's what Military.com's Spouse Buzz thought. Which meant the whole thing has to be sorted out by family members. Now a new rule change means that your veteran can take care of the eligibility part of the VA burial benefits ahead of time. And since most of us want to be buried near our husbands or wives, it means we can take care of it for ourselves, too. First note, this is for those who have left service only — not for active duty. Also, this system will not let you choose exactly which cemetery you are buried in. Instead, they let you state a preference. Actual location will depend on availability at "time of need" and still must be applied for by your family or through your funeral home. Here's what the VA burial benefits change does: The rule change allows veterans on their own behalf (or a designated agent) apply for burial benefits before they are actually needed, under a process known as predetermination. You can read all about veteran burial pre-determination by going to <http://www.military.com/dailynews/2016/12/09/va-to-let-vets-preselect-cemetery-burials-before-death.html>. But spouses aren't left behind on this one. Spouses qualify to be buried at a VA cemetery based off their veteran's eligibility. That means if your veteran can be buried there, so can you. VA officials said spouses can turn in an eligibility pre-determination form at the same time as their veteran — no need to wait for the veteran to be given the OK first. That means the spouse and their veteran can take care of all of your paperwork at the same time on the same day. Planning for the inevitable is a good idea. You can find the VA burial benefits form for predetermination at <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-10007.pdf>.

If you have had any changes in your contact information please let me know so I may keep current on your information. Thank you in advance.

This months Promenade will be on February 22<sup>nd</sup> 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>