



## *Voiture 1379 Communiqué for June 2017*

The Voiture is still in need of fundraiser ideas so we may support our programs, which we have fallen behind in over the last few years. So please bring your ideas to the next Promenade.

Membership is still lacking, we are at forty five (45) of our 2017 membership goal of fifty five (55). Please be on the lookout for potential members and invite them to a Voiture 1379 function and let them see what we are all about.

Gold Star ID - Immediate family members of fallen troops now can receive long-term access cards for Air Force bases thanks to a program launched this month. The Gold Star Base Access ID program started at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, on 1 MAY and was implemented service wide 15 MAY, officials said. "The chief of staff of the Air Force expressed consideration for more outreach to Gold Star families so they know they will always be part of the Air Force family," said Brooke Brzozowske, an Air Force spokesperson. "These families have had access to and have received long-term care and support through the Air Force Families Forever program located with Airman and Family Readiness Centers," she added. "The base access cards will make it easier to access support services, attend ceremonies and events." In the past, Gold Star family member had to be escorted on Air Force bases by a current ID card holder, despite the presence of survivor services programs on base specifically for their use. The new card will allow families to come on base without an escort. The Army and Navy have similar programs, officials with those services said. The

Navy's program, in place since 2014, has issued 559 cards, officials said. Army officials said their program, launched in 2015, issues cards through the DA Form 1602 or "civilian ID card" system. Officials with the Marine Corps did not respond by deadline for requests for information. Air Force officials said surviving family members will be notified about the new program through mail sent from their closest base. Family members eligible for the card are the same as those eligible to receive the official Gold 51 Star lapel button, including parents, siblings and adult children of those killed in combat. Widows and minor dependents already have base access through the dependent ID card system. The ID cards allow only base access and are not good for entrance into Morale, Welfare, Recreation (MWR) activities, medical facilities, exchange or commissary services, officials said. Card applicants are run through a background check before they are issued the ID.

This month's Promenade will be on June 28<sup>th</sup> at Post 33 Cameron, 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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