



## *Voiture 1379 Communiqué for March 2021*

**Membership:** Voiture 1379 paid up membership is currently at thirty six (36) with our membership goal updated to forty one (41). We have one (1) PG to WRECK when he shows up to a Promenade.

March 15 is the Birthday of the Forty and Eight. In March of 1920, Joseph W. Breen, a member of the newly formed American Legion and an officer of Breen-McCracken Legion Post 297, met in Philadelphia with fifteen other prominent Legionnaires where they originated the idea of The Forty & Eight. They envisioned a new and different level of elite membership and camaraderie for leaders of the American Legion. The box car of the French Railways, so familiar to American ground troops of the First World War, was chosen as the symbolic heart of the new organization. The French/Railroad theme was applied to officer titles and organizational functions.

La Societe has endeavored to seek out and satisfy the needs of our nations Veterans, Local Communities and the nation's children.

For example in 1932 The Forty & Eight declared War on Childhood Diphtheria. Vaccination toxin was distributed via Voiture Nationale to children whose parents could not afford it. Physicians donated their services, and educational campaigns were carried out to combat the disease.

From 1932 through 1936, the Forty & Eight sought to influence Congress regarding veteran's benefits. These were the "Bonus March" Depression years when WWI veterans and the federal government were at times in open conflict. The Forty & Eight sponsored national radio programs, featuring well know political figures, to bring equitable treatment of war veterans to the national forefront. Realizing that power came with numbers, the Forty & Eight brought in 111,159 new American Legion members. The efforts of the Forty & Eight ultimately helped convince Congress to pass, over a presidential veto, the compensation act for America's war veterans.

Voiture Militaries Raymond Leonard Diven, 94, Cameron, passed away on April 14, 2019. Ray was born on September 29, 1924 in Kansas City, Missouri to Clark and Iona Fern (Miller) Diven.

Ray was a 1942 graduate of Cameron High School. Ray was a Veteran of the United States Army, serving in World War II.

He was an active member of the First Christian Church, Cameron, American Legion Post #33, Cameron, VFW #7158, 40 & 8 Voiture #1379 (forty nine year member)

April 17, 2019 Burial: Cameron Memory Gardens,

This month's Promenade will be on March 24<sup>th</sup> at Post 61 Kansas City, MO at 18:30 HRS.

**Reminder to all: Please update your contact information so you will not get lost in the shuffle.**

**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**