



## *Voiture 1379 Communiqué for October 2018*

### **2019 Dues are being collected now! Dues are still only \$20.00**

After the last communiqué I receive several renewals but we are still not at one hundred (100%) percent. We currently have twenty five (25) members paid up for the 2019 membership year.

**Here are the unpaid members for 2019** – Please take a moment and pay your dues today. Larry Allen, Robert Beatty, Paul Bennett, Tim Coulter, Larry Hammes, Janet Keating, John-Paul Kopp, Dan Mott, Ted Nelson, Jerry Phelps, Darrell Richards, Antoinette Shirley, and Dirk Stapleton.

**Vietnam Veterans Memorial Update Wall Education Center Plans Scrapped** In a stunning move, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund announced 21 SEP that its long-stalled plan to build an education center next to the iconic "Wall" is being scrapped for lack of funding and general interest. Following a meeting of the fund's board of directors, Chairman John Dibble said agreement had been reached to "terminate efforts to construct a physical building on the National Mall." In a statement, he said, that "funding simply has not materialized" for the project, which originally was to have dealt with the history, context and legacy of the Vietnam War, and later was expanded in concept to include the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Instead of an underground center next to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the fund said it will now focus education efforts on mobile exhibits, online resources and "partnerships with military museums to teach visitors about the Vietnam War and honor those names that appear on the Memorial." The decision by the board of directors followed a lengthy article by Task and Purpose on the internal struggles over the purpose of the Education Center, the failure to generate private donations, and the public's loss of interest in the project. The concept for the education center was announced in 2000 by Jan Scruggs, an Army veteran who served in Vietnam, the founder and president of the Memorial Fund and the prime mover in the project that resulted in the Wall listing the names of the more than 58,000 killed in Vietnam. The memorial was dedicated in 1982. The project eventually won approval from Congress and the Washington Fine Arts Commission for a parcel of land next to the memorial to be used for the education center. At a symbolic groundbreaking in 2012, Scruggs said the center would also serve as a temporary memorial for the fallen of Iraq and Afghanistan. The goal for an actual groundbreaking was set for 2020, but funding dried up. The center was projected to cost about \$84 million, but funding pledges reportedly stalled at about \$45 million, and that figure was in doubt. It will now have to make arrangements to return the five-acre parcel of land reserved for the education center to the National Park Service.

The Fall Grande Cheminot and Grand Chefs Homecoming will be held November 9<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> in Springfield MO at the Oasis Hotel and Convention Center. Please come out and see what is going on in the Grande du Missouri.

This month's Promenade will be in Kansas City at Post 61 on October 24<sup>th</sup> with meal at the Post at 18:00 HRS and Promenade starting at 19:00 HRS.

Thank you for your service to Our Great Nation, your service the 40et8 through Voiture 1379 and Grande du Missouri. 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>

<http://www.grandedumissouri.com>