



# Celebrating the Centennial

by *Diane Klair*

*who loves our City and honors its history*

The national organization of The American Legion celebrated its centennial this past March on the weekend of the 15th through the 17th when the first convention was held in Paris, France after the end of the Great War. The commemoration was a time of ceremony, reflection, and remembrance – of looking back at the legacy of The American Legion and looking forward to the next decades and the continuing mission of supporting members of the Armed Forces and their families.

Federally chartered by an Act of Congress on September 16, 1919, The American Legion is the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow servicemembers and veterans.\*

## Post 47 – Havre de Grace - Celebrates 100

***But did you know that the Joseph L. Davis Post No. 47 American Legion in Havre de Grace celebrates its 100th anniversary this year as well?***

The first meeting of soldiers who had served in WWI was held on August 11, 1919 at City Hall with Millard E. Tydings presiding. Tydings was a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army who had served as a Division Machine-gun Officer in World War I and was the first Commander immediately after the war. He was followed by William E. Green in 1920-1921, Joseph P. Collins in 1922-1923, and subsequent Commanders since being chartered under the Department of Maryland in 1922.

Named in honor of the first casualty of Havre de Grace from World War I, the Joseph L. Davis Post No. 47 commemorated The American Legion's centennial along with others across the country just before the start of spring.

Joseph L. Davis Post No. 47 has a distinguished history of service to the country and to the community. Through the decades, members have given of themselves in service by being instrumental in the founding of the Havre de Grace Ambulance Corps.

The first Ambulance service in Havre de Grace was started by Harford Memorial Hospital in 1929. The Hospital operated the service for twenty-five years until the 1940's, when was offered to any organization who would accept the responsibility



LETTER FROM JOSEPH L. DAVIS TO HIS MOM WHILE HE WAS ENGAGED IN  
WORLD WAR I & LESS THAN THREE MONTHS PRIOR TO HIS DEATH  
July 29, 1918

Dearest Ma,

Well at last I have found a few minutes to write home. Sure hope this finds you all well and happy and that you are not worrying any about me. We certainly have done some travelling since I wrote to you last. This is my 2nd letter. We have had a few rough times but it is not so bad. We are just beginning to enjoy it. You know after an outfit does 10 months training they are anxious to show how good they really are and naturally we all think we are good. The more I see of France the less I think of it. The people are so slow and so awfully dirty. It is no wonder that the war has lasted so long. The American soldiers sure are putting some Yankee "pep" into them. They can't understand how the American fellows spend money. They simply go wild on pay day. The things I am seeing and going through have been a wonderful experience for me and if I am "lucky" enough to come through clean, I am sure I will be just a trifle more settled and wiser in my ideas of what life and hardship really are.

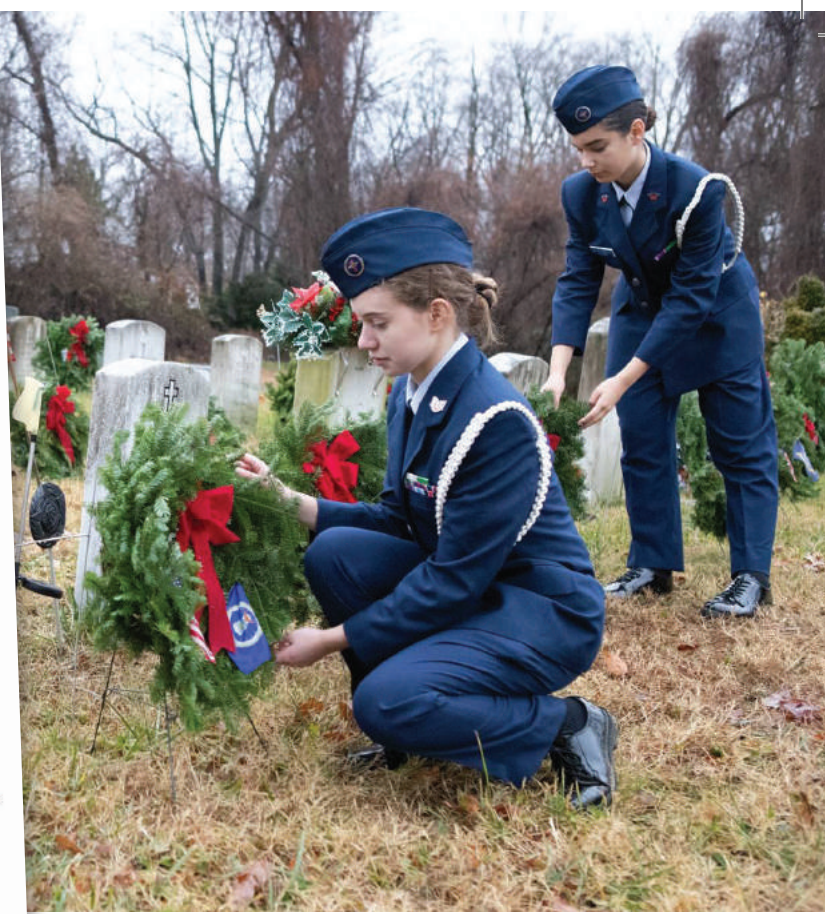
Innie Green's outfit is about 7 miles farther up than ours and cannot get up to see them - have not seen any of them since leaving the States. The most interesting thing I saw was my first airplane fight. It was sure exciting. You could see the shells burst all around the machine and yet he kept on coming. He flew right over us at about three thousand feet - looked just like a big bird. One of the shells from the (two words I can't make out) gun fell about fifty yards from us. Made an awful hissing sound on the way down. You should have seen us duck.

Believe me, Sherman was right about war.

Be sure and tell Dors I got her letter and also the one you sent me. I have not gotten any since. So, please try and write to me more often and tell Dora to write too. Give Maude and Annie, if you see them, my address.

Please do not worry about me as I am one of the many thousand who are fighting over here and I feel confident enough myself. Love to you and Dad and the rest.

I am Your Loving Son,  
Joe Davis



Letter from Joseph L. Davis courtesy of the American Legion Post 47

for it. After being turned down by many organizations including the Susquehanna Hose Company and the VFW, the Joseph L. Davis American Legion post agreed to take over the service.

The American Legion formed a committee to operate the ambulance and constructed a small building next to the Legion home. The American Legion Ambulance Corps provided exemplary service from that small building in Legion Square for over 40 years.

from HdG Ambulance Corps.

[hdgac.org/our-history](http://hdgac.org/our-history)

The organization continues supporting the Perry Point Veterans Administration with visitation programs, and providing patriotic ceremonies throughout the year for Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and flag retirement as well as being a social organization for its membership.

This year, the organization participated for the first time with Wreaths Across America where wreaths are placed for veterans in local cemeteries, an event which is performed on the same date in thousands of cemeteries across the country.

These shared community rituals are important: connecting us as people in our collective history. It is about respect and reverence for our nation and for those that came before, and in service and mutual aid to those who have served.

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glass, but he was given his in a paper cup. He didn't drink it. He put the cup down and left the drugstore and the team never to return to either again.

There is so much to share and not enough space. I encourage you to visit the museum and learn about them. In spite of the hardship, there is much wisdom to be gained.



<http://HdGColoredSchool.net> • FB @hdgcoloredschool  
<https://youtu.be/1MAvusEABjc>

*PLEASE take the time to watch this video!*



Stage setting for Centennial Celebration, March 16, 2019 at American Legion Joseph L. Davis Post 47

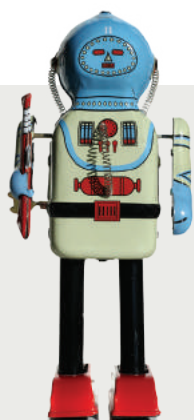


We can be proud of the centennial milestone of Joseph L. Davis Post No. 47. You are encouraged to join us later this summer as we celebrate the centennial of The American Legion as a national organization.

\* From the website: [www.Legion.org](http://www.Legion.org)

Visit [www.AmericanLegionPost47.org](http://www.AmericanLegionPost47.org)

Visit [www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org)

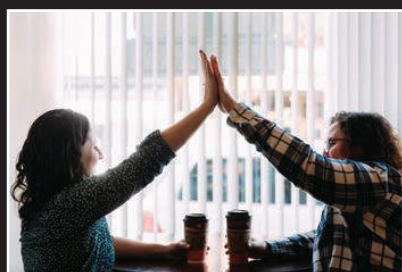


## TIDBITS - Antiquing\*

Did you know that Havre de Grace has over 62,000 square feet of antiques with 89+ dealers?

So yes - we have antiques and collectibles. We hope you'll 'antique with us,' then enjoy the other shops, eateries, and events. **WELCOME!**

*\*Shopping in stores where antiques are sold*



*Providing Support Services that Free You Up to Do What You Do Best... Run Your Business.*

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