



Society of the Honor Guard,
Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (SHGTUS)
Centennial (TUS100) News Update

October 30, 2021 – TUS100 Update

Did you know? On this date the USS Olympia was on its way across the North Atlantic carrying the body of the World War I Unknown Soldier?



Following the footsteps of the World War I Unknown Soldier

From October 20th through the 26th, a special pilgrimage was conducted following the footsteps of the World War One Unknown Soldier. Members of the Society along with American Gold Star Mothers, and the Daughters of the American Revolution, visited key cemeteries within France maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) that have direct ties with the World War One unknown soldier.

The pilgrimage group visited ABMC cemeteries in St. Mihiel, Aisne-Marne, Somme, and the Meuse-Argonne. Following special ceremonies that included local leaders and veterans, the group then visited Chalons-en-Champagne and Le Havre for official ceremonies to mark the 100th anniversary of the selection, and departure of the Unknown Soldier from France.

At each of these locations the special Centennial Flag was either raised over the cemetery or used in ceremonies, and many learned about more about the history behind the Unknown Soldier than what resides in Arlington National Cemetery in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Bonds between French and US veterans were strengthened, new friendships formed, and communities brought together to remember the service and sacrifice of so many, on behalf of others.

Without the support of the American Legion Paris Post #1, the US State Department, US Department of Defense, and the Mayors of Chalons-en-Champagne and Le Havre this special pilgrimage would not have been successful.

In the coming weeks more details will be shared on each of the events in France, along with photos and videos.



The pilgrimage group gathers at the Palace of Versailles where the armistice was signed ending World War I.



Society President McLvenna presents a wreath to honor those at a ceremony at the St. Mihiel American Cemetery.



The pilgrimage group gathers at the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery to honor those lost in World War I.



Wreaths are presented by members of the pilgrimage group at the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery.



SPC Sam King, current Tomb Guard, presents the Society bouquet of white French roses during ceremonies at Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery.



The special Centennial Flag carried to France is touched to the headstone of one of the three unknown candidates not selected at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery.



A replica casket draped with the Centennial Flag sits in the city hall in Chalons-en-Champagne the night of October 23, 2021.



The caskets carried out 100years later, honoring the selection of the Unknown Soldier in Chalons-en-Champagne.



The Society President lays a wreath at the Monument to the Dead in Chalons-en-Champagne.



A historic plaque is unveiled on the spot where the Unknown Soldier departed France on October 25, 1921 in the port city of Le Havre.



The Society President re-lights the flame at the Arc de Triomphe as the pilgrimage group pays their respects to the French Unknown Soldier.



The Commander of American Legion Paris Post #1 is presented with a special lithograph for his support of the pilgrimage across France.

Free SHGTUS Events for Centennial Week

The following events are free to the public to attend from November 8-10, we only ask that you sign up on the links provided. Many of these will also be on Facebook Live or other source:

November 8

1pm - ABMC Historian Ben Brands

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/189031748047>

3pm - Author Philip Bigler

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/189224544707>

5pm - Presentation of "Voices from the Tomb" video with Q&A

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/189698652777>

November 10

9am – Historic Aircraft

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/189241986877>

10:30am - Artist Michael Solovey

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/191405387667>

1:30pm - Bugler Historian Jari Villanueva
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/189728321517>

3pm – Author Jeff Gottesfeld
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/189743216067>

November 13

10am - The United States Army Band (TUSAB) Presentation
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/202080697807>

List of #TUS100 Events - An updated list of events around the US and overseas is *attached*, changes are highlighted in **yellow**.