



## Nine WWII Veterans recognized by France on June 5th, 2015 in Boynton Beach, Florida

This **Consulate** will award the insignias of “**Chevalier dans l’Ordre National de la Légion d’Honneur**” (Knight in the National Order of the Legion of Honor”\*) to **nine U.S. veterans** who fought alongside France during World War II.

### **Ceremony in Boynton Beach**

411 N Federal Hwy, Boynton Beach, FL 33435.  
At the **Veteran’s Bicentennial Park**  
Boynton Beach, FL

**Friday, June 5th, 2015 starting at 11:00 am**

***OPEN TO THE PUBLIC***

**Press is welcome at the ceremony.**

#### **Press contacts**

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## **\*LA LEGION D'HONNEUR - THE FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR**



### **The highest French distinction**

Created to reward eminent military and civil merits in the service of France, the “Légion d’Honneur” (Legion of Honour) is the highest distinction that can be conferred in France on a French citizen as well as on a foreigner.

**Origin** Founded in 1802 by Napoléon Bonaparte, First Consul (a position he occupied from 1799 to 1804), the Legion of Honour is one of his most important creations with the Napoleonic Code.

**Grades and Ranks** This distinction is divided into five degrees: three ranks (Knight, Officer, and Commander) and two dignities (Grand Officer, and Grand Cross)

**Description of the insignia** Since its inception, the medal consists of a five double-cornered star enamelled in white, joined with branches of laurel and oak. At the centre of the star, there is a medallion representing

- in the front side, the symbol of the Republic with the inscription “République Française”
- on the other side, a flag and a banner intertwining one another with the circular inscription “Honneur et Patrie – 29 Floréal an X”. The ribbon has always been in red moire silk.

### **Some famous historical personalities awarded**

Berthollet (chemist), Balzac, Stendhal, Victor Hugo, Chateaubriand, Theophile Gautier, Alfred De Musset, Alexandre Dumas (novelists and poets), Laplace (mathematician), Montgolfier (physician), Berlioz (musician), Cuvier, Lamarck (naturalists), David, Ingres, Delacroix (painters).

### **American personalities awarded**

Thomas A. Edison (Inventor and Engineer, commander in 1889), Alexander Graham Bell (officer in 1881), General Douglas MacArthur, the astronomer Simon Newcomb (officer in 1896), the sculptor Augustus Saint Gaudens (officer in 1901), the painter John Singer Sargent (knight in 1889, later promoted officer), Dwight D. Eisenhower (34th President of the United States), and former Secretary of State Colin Powell

**Organization of the order** The Order is managed by a Chancery and a Council of the Order; they are situated in Paris:

Chancellerie de la Légion d’Honneur  
1, rue de Solférino  
Paris 75007

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*In the United States of America:*

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IN NORMANDY, A "HUMAN CHAIN" OF GRATITUDE HONORS THE FALLEN AMERICAN HEROES WHO  
LIBERATED FRANCE DURING WW II

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