

For immediate release



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Tribute to American WWII Veteran, Raymond Surette



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**For his contribution to the Liberation of France,
American WWII Veteran Raymond Surette
will receive the Legion of Honor
at the
Miami-Dade Military Museum and Memorial**

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In the name of the French Republic, Consul general, Raphaël Trapp, will recognize **U.S. Veteran, Raymond Surette, SGT, Army Air Corps**, who participated in the Liberation of France during World War II. He will receive the **insignia of “Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur”** (“Knight in the Legion of Honor”)

on

**Monday, May 8th, 2023
at 10:30 am**

Venue: Miami-Dade Military Museum and Memorial (Zoo Miami)

12460 SW 152 Street, Miami, FL 33177

About the recipient, US Veteran Raymond Surette:

Mr. Raymond Surette was born on May 12th, 1920 in Rumford, Maine. Drafted into the US Army in February 1943, he was assigned to the 826th Bombardment Squadron in the Army Air Corps. After a first instruction at the Miami Beach Training center, Mr. Surette completed an advanced training in Colorado and Michigan on gunsights, loading bombs, and turret gunnery. As a marksman and a tower turret and gunsight mechanic, Mr. Surette participated in the main battles taking place in Europe. From April 1944 onward, he fought in France aboard B-24 Heavy Bombers. He took part of the Liberation of Northern France and Southern France. Mr. Surette also served in the North Apennines and in the Battle of Rhineland. Today, Mr. Surette, who is 102 years old lives in Homestead, Florida.

Media contacts: Consulate general of France: Nathalie Cluzet-Bertot 305.403.4157 -
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About the 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 Honor) is the highest distinction that can be conferred in France on a French citizen as well as on a foreigner. It is attributed by decree of the President of the French Republic.

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.*

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 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 as well as Barbra Streisand (singer and actress), Martin Scorsese, Clint Eastwood, and Steven Spielberg (film directors),

Organization of the order *The Order is managed by a Chancery and a Council of the Order in Paris: Chancellerie de la Légion d’Honneur1, rue de Solférino, Paris 75007, France*

*Contact in the United-States: The American Society of the French Legion of Honor: 385 Main Street, Goshen, NY 10924
Phone: 212.439.0205*

