

Voiture Nationale 40&8

# VOYAGEUR BRIEFS

## Mike McGary - Chef de Chemin de Fer



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!! Today the 15<sup>th</sup> of March marks the 101<sup>st</sup> birthday of the Forty et Eight. We've had an exciting first century but it is up to each and everyone of us to make the future of our organization one that is noticed by all instead of just us.

I was always mentored in the belief that a voyageur does not do what he does for recognition, or a pat on the back, or even a simple thank you, but for the feeling inside that says well done faithful soldier. Although this has provided all of us fond memories and a great deal of self-satisfaction, it has done very little in the way of this organization being recognized by our community, or state. In a conversation, you mention the American Legion, VFW, or even the most recent veteran's organization the Amvet's, everyone knows what organization you're referring to. This also holds true for community and fraternal organizations such as Eagles, Elks, Moose, Rotary, etc., but mention the 40 & 8 and you get nothing; or maybe, perhaps, you mean that club with the locomotive and or caboose in front of their club. WE need to get the word out to these potential members of who we are and what we do. Then recruit them.

This week's membership report brought a wonderful surprise, Grande du Utah has joined the 100% mark in membership. I have worked membership for many years and this is the first time I



remember that they have reached 100% this early. Every nice job, how about the rest of you? We are still 900 behind last year's numbers. This is better than last month but still a long way to go. Let's give the organization a birthday present and get the membership turned in. Give a helping hand to your Locale Correspondant and Chef de Train, make a phone call, ask your friends for their dues. We can do this.

You can tell that the vaccinations are changing everyone's attitude. I still believe we are being cautious for a good reason, but people are venturing out and starting to mingle again. I also noticed that my travel schedule is filling out. It's been a long time coming but I'm looking forward to the next

five months. Check the official travel list on our website for all the latest details. Of course, if an event is close to you please plan to attend and join the fun. This organization has suffered greatly over the past year due to our lack of contact. Our membership and programs programs rely on this contact.

Speaking of our programs, by the email letters I've been receiving, the information is getting out. Is it being passed on down the line? The membership may be our life blood, but our programs are our reason for living. They are having a tough time due to our lockdowns. I was reading the Wisconsin Badger newsletter this month a read a great article about supporting the programs. It was written by Dame Barb Dotazeur for her POW-MIA program. She suggested that since we've been cooped up for sometime perhaps we could take the money we saved by not going out to dinner and donate it to your favorite program. ONE dinner! Not a bad idea at all and one that I'm sure all of us can do. I don't know how big of an eater each of us are, but a twenty, forty, or even a fifty-dollar (now that's a healthy appetite or a very fancy place) donation could put these programs back in the black-----one dinner.

In closing I want to wish everyone a Happy Easter. May the newness of the spring air refresh us. May God shine his Grace on you and yours and protect us all. God bless America and our troops.

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## Terry Sims -Correspondant National

When the Heritage Corporation filed for bankruptcy last year it put a strain on the Grande Voitures hosting Promenade Nationale. They have to solicit their own advertising for the Program book. Springfield

has an ad form on the National website [www.fortyandeight.org/](http://www.fortyandeight.org/) where you can place an ad. It sure would help Grand du Missouri if Locale Voitures, Grande Voitures, Voyageurs, businesses, etc would place

an ad or even make a donation.

The registration for the Past Chef de Gare Club breakfast and the General's Brunch is now on the National website.

## Emblem Sales Highlight of the Month



This months highlight is the Extra large heavy plastic pouch Chapeau Cover. Zipper closure, Di-

mensions: 7" x 14". Part number 16COVX. Price: \$5.00 This item can be ordered at our emblem

sales store online at - <http://store.fortyandeight.org/> or contact Terry Taylor, E-mail: [ttaylor@fortyandeight.org](mailto:ttaylor@fortyandeight.org)

Ph. (317) 634-1804 Fax. (317) 632-9365

Voiture Nationale Emblem Sales 250 E 38th Street Indianapolis, IN 46205



## STAY ALERT! PROTECT YOURSELF FROM COVID-19 VACCINE SCAMS.

### RED FLAGS TO WATCH FOR TO AVOID SCAMS

- ▀ You are asked to pay out of pocket to receive the test or vaccine.
- ▀ You are asked to pay for your name to be placed on a waiting list or to jump ahead in line to receive the test or vaccine.
- ▀ You receive unsolicited advertisements for tests or vaccines online or through social media, email, or telephone calls, or from unknown sources.
- ▀ You are contacted in person or by phone or email to tell you the government or government officials require you to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.
- ▀ You receive offers to buy vaccines from unauthorized vendors.
- ▀ You see Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that appears fake in the VA supply chain.

### SEE SOMETHING. SAY SOMETHING.

If you believe you have been the victim of a COVID-19 scam, report it.

**General instances of fraud, waste and abuse:**  
CBI Helpline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, (866) 842-4357 (VHA-HELP) or email: [vhacbihelpline@va.gov](mailto:vhacbihelpline@va.gov)

**Criminal activity:** VA Office of Inspector General: VA OIG Hotline <https://www.va.gov/oig/hotline/> or (800) 488-8244



### AVOID BEING SCAMMED

#### Protect yourself.

Do not give out your personal information or respond to emails or text messages about COVID-19 from unknown individuals.

#### Stay Informed.

Check your local VAMC web page or VA's COVID-19 page for vaccine testing and distribution information.

#### Check your medical bills regularly.

Keep a record of all medical bills and report any errors or suspicious claims immediately to VA or your Third-Party Administrator (TPA)



Office of Inspector General



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration



## “Happy St. Patrick's Day to You!” -John C. Murphy - Aumonier National

### “Lá fhéile Pádraig sona dhuit!”

It is just two days away before everyone turns Green and is Irish for the Day it seems. My question is, but do you know why?

St. Patrick's Day occurs annually on March 17 and honors a 5th century Christian missionary to the pagans of Ireland. It is celebrated in Roman Catholicism and other Christian denominations that honor saints but is especially popular as a secular festival celebrating all things Irish.

Saint Patrick was an English (or perhaps Scottish) missionary to Ireland. Scholars agree that he is a historical figure and that he converted many of the pagans on the island to Christianity.

While St. Patrick's Day is now associated with wearing green, parades (when they are not canceled) and beer, the holiday is grounded in history that dates back more than 1,500 years. The earliest known celebration was held on March 17, 1631, marking the anniversary of the death of St. Patrick in the 5th century.

The feast day of Saint Patrick has been observed in Ireland on March 17 for hundreds of years. The date falls during the fasting season of Lent, but on Saint Patrick's Day the prohibitions against eating meat were lifted, and the Irish would celebrate their patron saint with dancing, drinking, and feasting on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.

According to Christian legend, St. Patrick used the three-leafed clover to illustrate the doctrine of the Trinity to his pagan audience in Ireland. However, this story did not appear until more than 1000 years after St. Patrick's death. In ancient Ireland, the Celtic people revered the shamrock as a sacred plant because it symbolized the rebirth of spring. By the 17th century, when the English began to seize Irish land and suppress Irish language and religion, the shamrock became a symbol of Irish nationalism. The shamrock gained its widespread identity among the people of Ireland around the 5th century during the introduction and establishment of Christianity in Ireland by St. Patrick. According to Irish tales, Saint Patrick demonstrated the foundation of Christian faith and trinity using the three leaves of the shamrock. He portrayed them to

represent Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

According to legend the Christian missionary chased all the snakes into the sea with a powerful sermon after they attacked him during a 40-day fast he was taking part in on top of a hill. However, it looks like St Patrick may have been credited with something he did not actually do.

The diminutive creatures we know as leprechauns were known in ancient Irish as *lobaircin*, meaning "small-bodied fellow." Belief in leprechauns probably stems from Celtic belief in fairies, tiny creatures who could use their magical powers for good or evil. In Celtic folklore, the *lobaircin* were cranky fairies who mended the shoes of the other fairies. They were also mischievous and delighted in trickery, which they used to guard their fabled treasure.

Corned beef and cabbage are the traditional meal enjoyed by many on St. Patrick's Day, but only half of it is truly Irish. Cabbage has long been a staple of the Irish diet, but it was traditionally served with Irish bacon, not corned beef. St. Patrick's Day is celebrated worldwide by the Irish, those of Irish descent, and everyone else who enjoys being "Irish for a day."

The most common traditions on St. Patrick's Day include wearing green, enjoying Irish folk music and food, and by consuming large quantities of Irish beer (sometimes dyed green), such as Murphys, Smithwicks, Harp or Guinness or other Irish liquors such as Irish whiskey, Irish Coffee or Baileys Irish Cream.

In the United States, St. Patrick's Day would not be St. Patrick's Day unless the Chicago River is dyed green. This tradition began in 1962, when Chicago pollution-control workers used green dye to trace illegal sewage discharges in the river. The workers thought it might be a fun way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, so they released 100 pounds of green vegetable dye into the river – enough to keep it green for a week! The idea was a hit and continues to this day. However, only 40 pounds of dye are used today to minimize environmental damage.

“For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.” Ps. 84:11

In 433 A.D., history tells us that St.

Patrick was praying for God's divine protection in his work and ministry in Ireland while facing powerful enemies. He wrote this prayer called St. Patrick's Breastplate, which is still widely known and recited today.



God soon opened the door for him to share Christ with the Irish King Laoghaire and his subjects and allowed him to be a part of bringing them out of paganism's dark hold to the saving power of Jesus Christ. St. Patrick was a man who knew much about darkness, hardship, and enemy territory. He had spent years in slavery after being kidnapped by pirates at age 16. And it was in those years that he later tells how he learned about the Mighty power of God's Presence and prayer.

The life of St. Patrick is such an example to us still today, that even in the darkest of times, God's Sovereignty shines over His people. He cannot help but to come to our aid. He cannot help but to bless us and let His favor surround our lives. Because He is a good and loving God. And nothing escapes His notice. He watches overall, and we can trust that our lives and circumstances are held securely in His hands.

**May God give you...  
For every storm, a rainbow,  
For every tear, a smile,  
For every care, a promise,  
And a blessing in each trial.  
For every problem life sends,  
A faithful friend to share,  
For every sigh, a sweet song,  
And an answer for each prayer.**

**“Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig dhuit!”**

**“St. Patrick's Day blessings to you!”**

## Voiture News & Events



40 & 8 nursing scholarships awarded by V-245. The George B. Boland and the NC Grande Division scholarships were awarded to nursing students attending the Brunswick County Community College.

From left to right: Jim Giroud Committee Member, Chef de Gare V245 Rick Sessa. Boland scholarship recipient Lisa Merritt, NC Grande Division scholarship recipient Kamryn Latta , BCC Foundation Director Elizabeth Wassum, BCC Nursing Committee Chairman Don Eiseman, BCC President Dr. Gene Smith

"On 5 February 2021, **Voiture 567** held their 6th Annual Shamrock Wreck at Post 135 of the American Legion in Savannah, GA. As in the past it was held in conjunction with Voiture 1067, Goose Creek, South Carolina. The Voitures brought in nine new PGs; seven from GA and two from SC. The guest of Honor and the Obligating Chef was the Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer David Hill. Pictured are L-R Voyageur Mike Ball, PGs Passe Harry Williams, Joe Higgins, Elizabeth Royal and James Evans and Voyageur Jen Fortenberry. Not pictured are GA PGs Passe Nathaniel Howard, Alex Neumann, JP Rogers and SC PGs Passe Susan Pollard and Parker Burns."



**V-146**, Aberdeen held a Valentine's Day Wreck. Six new voyageurs were wrecked into the V-146 South Dakota . A festive valentines supper was held that evening.





U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration



Choose VA

Dear Veterans,

English writer and philosopher Aldous Huxley once said, “There are things known and there are things unknown, and in between are the doors of perception.” This statement is a perfect depiction of the hesitancy individuals may feel about receiving the [COVID-19 Vaccine](#).

This hesitancy is understandable. There is a lot of information (and misinformation) which makes it difficult in determining if getting vaccinated is the right choice for you. Let the following facts help you gain a better understanding of the currently FDA authorized COVID-19 Vaccines.

- No vaccine (actually, nothing in medicine) is 100% safe. All vaccines including those that protect against COVID-19 have gone through careful testing and have met rigorous standards set forth by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) before being released to the public.
- Individuals perceive the development and timeline for emergency use authorization (EUA) of the COVID-19 Vaccine as “rushed.” Medical experts have been studying messenger RNA (mRNA) for decades using similar viruses to COVID-19 like SARS and MERS. The mRNA technology was actually developed in the 1990s to be prepared for a significant outbreak of a virus. This is just the first time mRNA vaccine has been broadly tested and used in clinical practice. It makes sense. Why start from scratch or recreate the wheel when there is previous research that can help to protect us from COVID-19?
- COVID-19 Vaccines have been proven to be safe, effective, and are one of the

keys to fighting this pandemic. Getting vaccinated is an easy step you can take to help keep your family and those most vulnerable safe. Although we may never go back to our “pre-pandemic normal,” we can only manage the pandemic if enough people get vaccinated. As vaccines roll out, we must still participate in recommended precautions (wearing a mask, practicing good hand hygiene, avoiding crowds, etc.) to significantly reduce the spread of the virus.

- Severe allergic reaction to the COVID-19 Vaccine is extremely rare with reported incidence of less than 5 per million. After vaccination, individuals are required to be monitored for any reaction. Medical staff stand by and are ready to offer treatment if needed. Individuals may experience some side effects, which is a normal sign that your body is building protection. These side effects may include having flu like symptoms or may even affect a person’s ability to do daily activities. Before assuming the worst, discuss the vaccine with your doctor, who can access your risk and provide additional information on how to get vaccinated safely.

I decided to get vaccinated because I did not want to get COVID-19 nor spread it to others such as my family, coworkers and friends. I received my 1<sup>st</sup> vaccination between the holidays and felt that this was the “best gift ever”!

We are fortunate to have easy access to the vaccination. This is not always the case for non-health care workers. My parents, for example, are not able to get the COVID-19 vaccine yet. Fortunately, they are scheduled to receive it in March



even though they are of advanced age. Because of COVID-19, I have not seen my parents in over a year and am looking forward to reuniting with them as soon as both of them are fully vaccinated as well!

Before saying no to the COVID-19 vaccination or taking the “wait and see” approach, I encourage you to get informed and discuss your options with your healthcare provider.

If you are unsure about receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, here is an excellent collection of resources on covid-19 vaccine, including a frequently asked question section:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>

Be safe,  
Ilona Schmalfuss, MD  
Chief of Staff

## 40 & 8 Memorial Day in Arlington National Cemetery



The Forty and Eight Memorial Day Ceremony is an annual event hosted by the 40 & 8 Memorial Day Committee. Planning for the weekend starts in October for the next year’s Memorial Day Ceremony in Arlington National Cemetery. Saturday kicks off with comradery & fellowship in the hospitality room, and then Sunday morning we have a Memorial Service for all in attendance. Sunday afternoon the Chef de Chemin de Fer, Madam La Presidente, the Sous Chefs & Sous La Presidentes, along with the Nationale Drapeaus and anyone who wants to tag along, head to Arlington National Cemetery to lay flowers on the resting places of Joseph Breen, General John Pershing, and Sgt Younger. We do have a bigger bus for Sunday, so all those who want to go “should” be able to go to Arlington with the Chef de Chemin de Fer & La Presidente. Please mark on the Registration Form if you plan on going on Sunday, so we can have the appropriate bus on hand. To Register for the 40&8 Memorial Day in Arlington National Cemetery go to: <https://www.fortvandeight.org/events/>

## Free Electronic Filing Options for Military Members and their Families

Active duty military personnel have multiple options for free federal tax preparation. One is IRS Free File. This program offers online tax preparation, electronic filing and direct deposit of refunds, at no cost.

Members of military and their families who have income below \$72,000 may choose from any of the Free File tax software companies to help them prepare their tax returns online.

Free File Fillable Forms is available for those who have income above \$72,000. Taxpayers who choose Free File Fillable Forms as their Free File option should be comfortable completing their own tax forms without the help of tax preparation software.

Taxpayers can use Free File on any personal computer, tablet or smartphone. Here's how it works:

- The taxpayer goes to the Free File page on IRS.gov to see all Free File options. Some products are available in Spanish.
- Military personnel who meet the income requirement can select from any of the providers that have "Free for Active Military for Adjusted Gross Income of \$72,000 or less in their offer."
- The taxpayer selects a provider and follows the links to their web page to

complete and electronically file their tax return.

Electronic filing, including Free File is the best way to avoid pandemic-related paper delays. E-filing combined with direct deposit is the fastest way to get a refund.

Using Free File can help taxpayers figuring things like their earned income tax credit, child and dependent care credit and recovery rebate credit. If someone is eligible for a recovery rebate credit – and either didn't receive Economic Impact Payments or received less than the full amounts – they must file a 2020 tax return to claim the credit even if they don't usually file.

Taxpayers using Free File will need their prior-year adjusted gross income. This is required for all electronic tax returns as part of the user's electronic signature. For taxpayers who have filed before, their 2019 tax return will show their adjusted gross income. If their 2019 return has not yet been processed, they may enter zero as their prior-year adjusted gross income. People who used the Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info Here tool last year to register for an Economic Impact Payment, should enter \$1 as their prior year AGI. People can visit IRS.gov for details on, claiming the recovery rebate credit if they aren't required to file a tax

return.

Miltax is another free tax resource available for the military community, offered through the Department of Defense. MilTax is a suite of tax services available for members of the military, as well as qualifying veterans and family members. There are no income limits. MilTax includes tax preparation and electronic filing software, personalized support from tax consultants and current information about filing taxes. It's designed to address the realities of military life – including deployments, combat and training pay, housing and rentals and multi-state filings. Eligible taxpayers can use MilTax to electronically file a federal tax return and up to three state returns for free.

Active duty military stationed in combat zones have more time to file their tax returns. However, those with spouses and families may choose to file as soon as they can to claim various tax benefits for which they may be eligible. If only one spouse is present to file a joint return, they must have proper authorization to file a joint tax return on behalf of their spouse. The IRS website has more tax information for members of the military.

This article is provided by the Internal Revenue Service at IRS.gov.

**Dan Dumas**  
Commissaire Intendant Nationale

## National Nurse Training Program

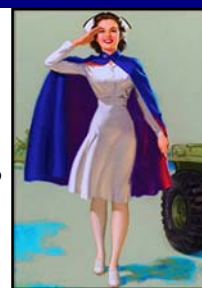


### January/February 2021 GRAND VOITURE the MONTH

The first two months of the new year 2021 have been very rewarding for our Nurse's Training Club. A number of Grands have responded with great support in our efforts to reach our goals for the 2021 membership year.

Our 2021 National Nurse Training Club Pin program continues to draw outstanding support to -date which speaks well of the pride and dedication of the Voyageurs Militaire of our "La Societe". Team effort is what makes it successful and that is what we have, "Team Effort".

The pride that goes with being a member of a contributing Grand goes a long way in indicating the attitude and dedication of the Voyageurs of that Grand. While many Grands are putting forth those extra efforts, there is always a Grand Voiture that stands out with their hard work at any given time.



For the month of January we wish to recognize one such Grand from the Northeast Region of Sous Directeur Kevin Owens which has shown a great effort in support of the National Nurse Training Program by demonstrating the commitment needed to effectively support this vital program of the 40/8.

**GRAND VOITURE of the Month for JANUARY "GRAND du MASSACHUSETTS"**, Posting earned sales to-date of 50 Pins for \$150 and a member per-capita of \$ 1.24

**"MERCI, Fellow Voyageurs Militaire"**

For the month of February we also wish to recognize a Grand from the Northwest Region of Sous Directeur Jim Vissers which also has shown great support for our Nurse Training Program.

**GRAND VOITURE of the Month for February, GRAND du WYOMING**, with sales of 50 Pins for \$150.

**"MERCI, Fellow Voyageurs Militaire" National Secretaire/Treasurer, H.T. "Terry" Sharp**



**Building Donation Challenge Total \$189,705.77**  
**February 2021**



| <u>NAME</u>               | <u>VOITURE</u> | <u>GR</u> | <u>AMT</u> |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----------|------------|
| Lorrene Greene            | 1604           | FL        | \$ 60.00   |
| Voiture 1604              | 1604           | FL        | \$ 50.00   |
| Wanda Hunter/Eugene Lusco | 1604           | FL        | \$ 25.00   |
| Clarence Richardson       | 1604           | FL        | \$ 25.00   |
| Voiture 599               | 599            | MI        | \$ 0.50    |

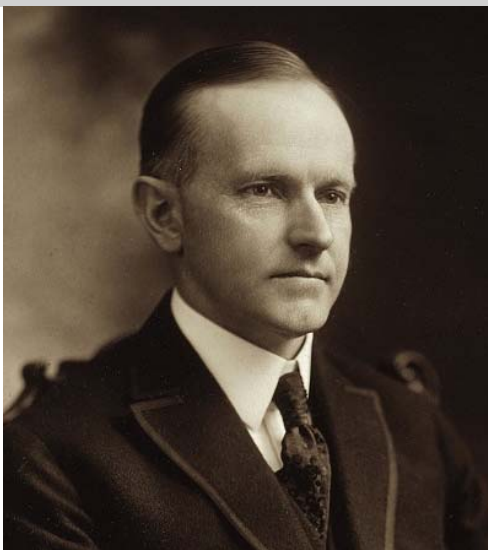
**Congratulations to all the Winners of the New Year's Sweepstakes**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1st Place \$2,500<br>TERRY MCDONALD<br>V-292 MO | 2nd Place \$1,000<br>Michael Davis<br>V-21 IN |
| 3rd Place \$100<br>WILLIAM LUCAS<br>V-364 IN    | 4th Place \$100<br>DONALD WEILER<br>V-1321 MO |
| 5th Place \$100<br>EDMUND THALL<br>V-549 PA     | 6th Place \$100<br>DAN EVERS<br>V-153 OR      |
| 7th Place \$100<br>JAMES CAVANAUGH<br>V-238 IL  | 8th Place \$100<br>RICHARD LEE<br>V-109 CA    |
| 9th Place \$100<br>JAMES SPARKS<br>V-1088 VA    | 10th Place \$100<br>JAMES STEWART<br>V-244 DE |
| 11th Place \$100<br>DAVID CHAMBERLIN<br>V-13 PA | 12th Place \$100<br>RONALD BATTY<br>V-378 IL  |

## Vice Presidential History

**Calvin Coolidge** (born John Calvin Coolidge Jr.; July 4, 1872 – January 5, 1933) was an American politician and lawyer who served as the 30th president of the United States from 1923 to 1929. A Republican lawyer from New England, born in Vermont, Coolidge worked his way up the ladder of Massachusetts state politics, eventually becoming governor of Massachusetts. His response to the Boston Police Strike of 1919 thrust him into the national spotlight and gave him a reputation as a man of decisive action. The next year, he was elected the 29th vice president of the United States, and he succeeded to the presidency upon the sudden death of Warren G. Harding in 1923. Elected in his own right in 1924, he gained a reputation as a small-government conservative and also as a man who said very little and had a rather dry sense of humor.

Coolidge restored public confidence in the White House after the scandals of his predecessor's administration, and left office with considerable popularity. As a Coolidge biographer wrote: "He embodied the spirit and hopes of the middle class, could interpret their longings and express their opinions. That he did represent the genius of the average is the most



convincing proof of his strength."

Scholars have ranked Coolidge in the lower half of those presidents that they have assessed. He is praised by advocates of smaller government and laissez-faire economics, while supporters of an active central government generally view him less favorably, although most praise his stalwart support of racial equality. On June 2, 1924, Coolidge signed the act granting citizenship to all Native Ameri-

cans born in the United States. By that time, two-thirds of the people were already citizens, having gained it through marriage, military service (veterans of World War I were granted citizenship in 1919), or the land allotments that had earlier taken place .

Coolidge was neither well versed in nor very interested in world affairs. His focus was directed mainly at American business, especially pertaining to trade, and "Maintaining the Status Quo." Although not an isolationist, he was reluctant to enter into foreign alliances. While Coolidge believed strongly in a non-interventionist foreign policy, he did believe that America was exceptional.

Coolidge died suddenly from coronary thrombosis at "The Beeches," at 12:45 p.m., January 5, 1933. Shortly before his death, Coolidge confided to an old friend: "I feel I no longer fit in with these times." Coolidge is buried in Plymouth Notch Cemetery, Plymouth Notch, Vermont. The nearby family home is maintained as one of the original buildings on the Calvin Coolidge Homestead District site. The State of Vermont dedicated a new visitors' center nearby to mark Coolidge's 100th birthday on July 4, 1972.