



**Newsletter Issue 31, April 2016**

**Lafayette Escadrille Centennial**



The breathtaking rededication ceremony for the Lafayette Escadrille Monument outside of Paris took place on 20 April 2016, the centennial of the creation of the unit. The flyover by the current Lafayette Escadrille of the French Air Force pictured at left opened the event, and a B-52 flyover out of North Dakota closed it. The invocation was by John Yellow Bird Steele, President of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, wearing the headdress which is the insignia of the unit. A white rose was laid on each of the burials in the crypt with a live video feed to the crowd outside. Veteran Tuskegee Airmen came to honor Eugene Bullard who the US Ambassador featured in her remarks. Other speakers included the US Secretary of the Air Force and the French Secretary of State of War Veterans.

But most importantly, the future of the monument is assured as represented by the wreath laid together by the American Battle Monuments Commission and the Lafayette Escadrille Foundation.

**Fundraising: Henry Howard Houston II**

Henry Howard Houston II was a son of the famous Philadelphia Houston family. A 1916 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, he served with the 53rd Field Artillery Brigade on the Mexican border in 1916, as a volunteer ambulance driver in the American Field Service in Verdun in 1917, then back in the US for training as an aerial forward observer, before being killed in action in France in 1918. He is buried in the Suresnes American Cemetery outside of Paris. His father built a beautiful and moving monument to him in the remote area of France where he was killed. Unfortunately it has



not been cared for over the years and is in danger of falling over onto the passing road. We have coordinated a 3-phased renovation plan and are trying to raise \$30,000 to save this important historical site.



**About American War Memorials Overseas**

**HACKED!**

We have working hard for the last few months to clean up after our database was hacked.



While we have had occasional small incursions where someone put a strange picture on our homepage in the past, this one was a major and persistent problem. We have spent a lot of time and money ferreting out and deleting bogus and obscene entries and improving our security to prevent recurrence.

**Please consider a donation to help us continue our important work**