

HORRY

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SENTE POST-
INTELLIGENCER
NORTH AMERICA
AND CANADA

WE CAN
GRANT YOU
IMMUNITY IF
YOU COOPERATE!
NOW... *WHY*
WERE YOU AT
THE WHITE
HOUSE?!

I *TOLD* YOU!
I WAS ON A
PACKAGE TOUR
WITH THE
SIOUX CITY
QUILTERS
CLUB!!

SPECIAL
PROSECUTOR

THIS IS GETTING
US NOWHERE!
LET'S LEAK HER
SEXUAL HISTORY
TO THE
WASHINGTON
POST!

PARIS — France is preparing its last major World War I commemoration with an emphasis on the "living memory" of the few thousand surviving veterans who slogged through Europe's gas-filled trenches 80 years ago.

France plans to grant the Legion of Honor to about 2,000 surviving foreign veterans — all of them about 100 years old, Veteran Affairs Minister Jean-Pierre Masseret told a news conference Wednesday.

About 2,300 French vets of the Great War have received the award in the past two years.

"It's probably the last decade" with the veterans, Masseret said. "So we had to put emphasis on that living memory."

A cemetery ceremony bringing together the leaders of France and Germany will highlight a series of events beginning in April, leading up to the anniversary of the Nov. 11, 1918, armistice.

Officials also have planned separate bilateral events honoring the millions of foreigners who joined France's up to 9 million soldiers in the four-year war, in which more than 20 million people died.

Masseret said several smaller

posed to the large D-Day observance in 1994, which drew President Clinton and other world leaders, who dominated the celebration.

"To multiply the sites is to multiply the duty to remember," he said.

French officials, with a modest budget of about \$3.3 million, decided on "a year of reflection on history, on the memory."

For Britain — which contributed 5.7 million troops, making it France's biggest partner in the war — a ceremony is planned for July 1 to mark the battle of the Somme at a cemetery in Thiepval.

And a statue of Winston Churchill will be unveiled on the Champs-Elysees on Nov. 11.

The second-largest foreign force, the Americans, with nearly 1.4 million troops sent to France, will be honored Sept. 13 in Saint-Mihiel, near Verdun. The area was the site of a major American offensive led by Gen. John Joseph Pershing.

"We would like to see the president of the United States" and other leaders at the ceremonies, Masseret said. "But it's up to the countries to decide."

There was no immediate word from other governments.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

VIOLENCE PROTESTED: Women demonstrate against domestic violence outside a Madrid courthouse Wednesday. On average, one woman was killed each week by her partner or former partner in 1997, causing alarm among women in Spain. As many as 2,000 attended the demonstration. The sign on the left reads "Machismo is crime against all" and on the right, "Machismo is cowardly terror."

