



# AMERICAN LEGION POST 27

Farmington, Utah

## April, 2012 Newsletter

Website: [www.post27.org](http://www.post27.org)



**COMMANDER'S MESSAGE :** This past month, we had the privilege of spending some time with our National American Legion Commander, Fang A. Wong, during his visit to Utah. Yes, it was a privilege to listen to his experiences that he shared, and how we can make positive contact with our military personnel and veterans. What can we do to assist families of deployed personnel? What can we do to help our fellow veterans who need help with something or are unemployed? There are many resources that we can utilize. Don't be afraid of asking how or becoming involved. It takes courage. It took courage for all of us to serve in the military. So helping today's military members and veterans is a piece of cake. Everyone should be on the lookout for opportunities, and let us know how Post 27 can pool our resources and talents. The leadership phone numbers and emails are easy to find throughout our newsletters.

I also want to thank those members and Deb Hefner, who attended the Farmington City Council meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup>, when Post 27 presented the \$1,000 donation towards the Farmington Military Veterans' Memorial. Thanks to all who contributed to this worthy cause. Also at that Council meeting, our American Legion Oratorical Contest winner for Post/District/State, Taylor Greenwell/Davis High, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and gave a five minute sample of his "Constitution Speech".

### POST BUSINESS / INFORMATION



**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Ron Craig:** Membership is the foundation for the American Legion. For Posts without "homes", it is the source of income for our activities. When meeting a potential member, ask if he or she has ever served in the military. Find out what their interests are, and invite them to a meeting. It is that simple. Let's also start thinking about social activities for this summer. Ideas are always welcome. We will start the ball rolling in that area. My number is 801-628-3480 or email [roncraig@acnrep.com](mailto:roncraig@acnrep.com).



**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander William Huber:**

The American Legion Utah Boys State is scheduled for June 3-8, 2012. Last year Post 27 sent 18 young men from our three schools (Davis High, Viewmont High, and NUAMES). This year we received and interviewed 34 students who will be attending Boys State. Thanks to our interviewers John Sheets, Kent Hansen, Chuck Stephenson, and William Huber --Great job!

Our Department of Utah Oratorical Contest winner, Taylor Greenwell, Davis High School, will represent Utah in the National contest in Indianapolis on April 13-15, 2012. Watch the action live on [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) on those days. Top scholarship prize at the national level is \$18,000.



**Adjutant Chuck Stephenson:** Mark your calendars for helping us with the following events:

- Farmington Cemetery and Kaysville Cemetery American flag placement on graves: May 25
- Hill AFB Air Show, May 26-27, American Legion booth volunteers needed.
- Kaysville City Memorial Day Program, May 28, 10:00 A.M., Kaysville Cemetery
- Utah Boys State, Weber State University, June 3-8. Counselors are still needed.
- Dept. of Utah Convention, June 15-17, Fillmore, UT. Golf tournament on June 15. Delegates needed.
- Farmington Festival Days Parade, July 14. We want to do a small float. Volunteers needed.

There is a new, regular feature for our newsletter. Our Post Historian Kent Hansen, who also has a degree in history, wants to help us remember the service and sacrifices of our veterans. With that in mind, he will submit articles that remember a unique, obscure, humorous or valorous story from our military history. Thanks, Kent!

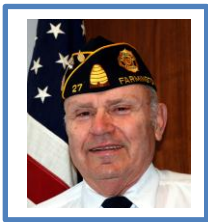


**Finance Officer-Post 27/Commander, District 2 John Sheets** At our March meeting, we decided our Post would purchase five Service flags (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard). Bob Jones, Dept. Judge Advocate and District 2 Chaplain, donated a POW-MIA flag. Thank you Chuck and Paula Stephenson, John Sheets, David Layton, Frank Ferrante, and Kent Hansen for buying the Service flags that will be used for funerals and other events. With the donations and paying for the flags, our bank balance stands at \$720.19.

**District 2:** The District 2 Spring Conference will be held on Saturday, April 14, 10:00 A.M. at Bountiful Post 79, 52 West 2<sup>nd</sup> South, Bountiful. All members are welcome. The conference and delegates from each Post will meet for the purpose of electing the District 2 Commander, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commanders. Each Post has the power of their membership allocated by the number of members. It is also a good opportunity of hear from our National Executive Chairman and Alternate Chairman Bill Christoffersen and Terry Schow, and Dept. Commander Wayne Jackson.



**Post Historian Kent Hansen:** The Lost Battalion. On October 2, 1918, units of the 77<sup>th</sup> "Liberty" Division from New York advanced into the dense terrain of the Argonne Forest in France. History was made during the next six days as this unit, the "Lost Battalion," refused to surrender even though they were completely surrounded, constantly attacked, low on ammunition and supplies, had no food, shelter and limited access to water. Of the more than 600 men first trapped in the "pocket", only around 200 walked out. They received three Congressional Medals of Honor (CMO), many Distinguished Service Crosses (DSC), and many other awards. Their leader, one of the CMO recipients, Major Charles W. Whittlesey, was a lawyer and pacifist. Yet, he was declared one of the three most important members of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) by General John "Black Jack" Pershing, Commander of the AEF. Two airmen received CMO's for their involvement in the event, the first attempted air resupply drop in military history. Others trying to relieve the battalion also received the DSC. A carrier pigeon, Cher Ami, received international acclaim for heroically delivering a message.



**Sergeant-At-Arms Frank Lennartz:**

Please join your fellow veterans in Post meetings, events, and activities. Help the American Legion through service in your city, county, and state.

**Military Funeral Honors:** Post 27 was not requested for any funerals this month. If you are aware of any veteran whose family would like Military Funeral Honors, please contact John Sheets at (801)628-9370 or Ron Craig at (801)628-3480. This is an honor for us to do - free.



**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION (SAL):** Anyone interested in becoming members of our SAL squadron, please contact Chuck Stephenson at (801) 444-7189 or email at [stphnsnc@aol.com](mailto:stphnsnc@aol.com). If you have neighbors that never served in the military, but their fathers served during wartime, they may be eligible. Applications are also available at each monthly meeting.

**BLUE STAR PROGRAM** *Do you have a family member currently on active duty stationed in CONUS or OCONUS, or active with the Guard or Reserve? Or know of a neighbor, friend, other? Let us know. We are looking for ways we can support our troops, starting with a list for the Blue Star program. We currently have a list of four families. Let our Adjutant, Chuck Stephenson, know.*



**Post Chaplain J. Golden Barton:**

In a recent TV broadcast, Fox News aired an exchange between a Presidential candidate and a small business executive from St. Louis. The gentleman from St. Louis described with tears running down his face, the lack of assistance his son was receiving from the Government after his discharge from the military following a serious war injury in Iraq that had rendered him with mental and emotional problems. The Presidential candidate expressed his deep appreciation for the service and sacrifice of both the warrior and his family. I am sure the members of

Farmington Post 27 share the same appreciation for the men and women who have served and continue to serve in harms way. Our prayers are with all of them and their families, all of whom are paying a heavy emotional price in protecting our freedoms and security.

Please let me or one of our Officers know if one of our members is in need of a visit, hospitalized, or needs assistance with something. Sometimes just a phone call will do in lifting spirits.

**DID YOU KNOW?**



**"A red cross on a white background is a symbol for medical care on the battlefield. Why?** The cross was envisioned in 1863 by a committee of international leaders who gathered in Switzerland. The group would later be called the International Committee of the Red Cross. One of its main objectives was to adopt a single, distinctive symbol backed by the law to indicate respect for army medical services, volunteers with first aid societies and

the victims of armed conflicts, according to the ICRC's website. The First Geneva Convention was signed in August 1864. A red cross was officially deemed a way 'to reflect the neutrality of the armed forces' medical services. A debate on whether medevac helicopters should carry their own guns was revived in recent months when delayed in picking up a casualty because it waited for an armed air escort." (The Army Times, March 5, 2012)

**EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR FLAG CEREMONIES:** Are you interested in participating with Post 27 in the Eagle Scout Court of Honor Flag Ceremonies? Contact our Program Coordinator, Dale Crockett at (801)451-9493, to participate in this great youth program. If you know of a scout wanting this ceremony for the Eagle Scout award, let Dale know.

**NEXT MONTHLY MEETING: Thursday, April 12th, 6:30 P.M., Davis County Courthouse, Rm 114, Farmington**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS/DATES OF INTEREST:**

- Apr 12 - Post 27 monthly meeting, Davis County Courthouse (East entrance), Rm 114, 6:30 P.M.
- May 25 - Farmington Cemetery flag placement on Veterans graves, 8:00 A.M.
- May 25 - Kaysville Cemetery flag placement on Veterans graves, 5:00 P.M.
- May 26-27 - Hill AFB Air Show
- May 28 - Kaysville City Memorial Day Program, 10:00 A.M., Kaysville Cemetery
- May 31 - 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Memorial Golf Tournament, Hill AFB Golf Course
- Jun 4-8 - Boys State at Weber State University
- Jun 4-9 - Girls State at Southern Utah University
- Jun 15, 16, 17 - Department of Utah State Convention, Fillmore, UT
- July 14 - Farmington Festival Days Parade



Commander Paula Stephenson with donation "check in hand" at Farmington City Council Meeting, March 20, 2012



Taylor Greenwell/Davis High, presenting a sample of his "Constitution Speech" to Farmington City Council and citizens in attendance.



**MILITARY HISTORIES OF OUR POST MEMBERS:**

We ask our members to present a brief account of their military time. It is always interesting to learn more about our friends and fellow Veterans. This is a regular "agenda" item. Featured this month will be our new 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, Ron Craig (U.S. Army/Retired).