



The American Legion Post 27/Squadron 27 Newsletter Farmington, Utah

Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116, 28 East State Street, Farmington

December 2015

Still Serving America

www.post27.org

Commander's Corner

The Holiday Season is a Time to Remember the Lonely

This month we have the opportunity to gather together with family and friends to enjoy the holidays. Good will is the order of the day and I expect every one of us looks forward to it. Yet in the midst of our



joyful revelries, we should take time to remember those who will be alone and far from home. Some, now wearing the uniform of our country may be posted in Afghanistan or Iraq, or in any of thousands of other duty stations around the globe. Others, now serving, may be billeted in one of the United States but still far from home. Still others, having once proudly served, may be housed in a Veterans Home. Even if the Veterans Home is in the same town as home, it can often seem like a distant duty station.



Kent Hansen

nothing was more important to me as mail from home. And as good as the military postal system has become, the time is growing short to get your presents in the mail in time to reach a GI or other loved one before his or her big day.

We Legionnaires know what it is like to be out there serving. We have felt the pain of loneliness and the ache of homesickness. Here is our opportunity to reach out to someone who feels alone and let him or her

If my own experience of spending the holidays overseas is any indicator,

know that they are not forgotten.

This has been another great year for Post 27. We've bonded more closely and welcomed some wonderful new members. We've continued to do significant things to support and honor veterans, educate and inspire youth and promote true Americanism. The coming year is filled with many opportunities and I am excited to see the Post grow and prosper. All of us would welcome your participation. Come and join the adventure!

Calendar of Events

- December 7 – Wreaths Across America, 9:00 am, Capitol Rotunda.
- December 7 – Pearl Harbor Day. Fly the flag at half staff.
- December 13 – U.S. National Guard Birthday.
- December 25 – Christmas Day
- January 1 – New Year's Day
- January 13 – Post 27 Oratorical Contest. 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
- January 14 – Post 27 meeting. 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
- January 28 – District 2 Oratorical Contest. 6:30 pm, NUAMES High School.



Post 27 Programs & Activities

- Flag Education
- High School Constitution Oratorical Contest
- American Legion Utah Boys State & Girls State
- Military Funeral Honors
- Eagle Scout Flag Ceremonies
- Flag Retirement Ceremonies
- U.S. Flag sales
- Honor Guard & Rifle Team for community events in Kaysville, Fruit Heights, Farmington, Centerville
- Jake Garn Sea Cadet Squadron sponsor
- DATC Veterans Center support
- VA Outreach support at Post location
- Medal of Honor Character Development Program in Davis County schools
- POW/MIA updates
- Meet The Candidate sponsor in Farmington
- Farmington/Kaysville Cemetery Flag project
- Memorial Day weekend
- Parade participation
- American Legion National Emergency Fund support

1st Vice Commander



Frank Ferrante

I would like to share the following poem with you:

"Merry Christmas, My Friend"

'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived alone,
In a one-bedroom house made of plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney, with presents to give

And to see just who in this home did live.

As I looked about, a strange sight I did see,

No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stocking by the fire, just boots filled with sand.

On the wall hung pictures of a far distant land.

With medals and badges, awards of all kind,

A sobering thought soon came to my mind.

For this house was different, unlike any I'd seen.

This was the home of a U.S. Marine.

I'd heard stories about them, I had to see more,

so I walked down the hall and pushed open the door.

And there he lay sleeping, silent, alone,

Curled up on the floor in his one-bedroom home.

He seemed so gentle, his face so serene,

Not how I pictured a U.S. Marine.

Was this the hero, of whom I'd just read?

Curled up in his poncho, a floor for his bed?

His head was clean-shaven, his weathered face tan.

I soon understood, this was more than a man.

For I realized the families that I saw that night,

owed their lives to these men, who were willing to fight.

Soon around the Nation, the children would play,

And grown-ups would celebrate on a bright Christmas day.

They all enjoyed freedom, each month and all year,

because of Marines like this one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,

on a cold Christmas Eve, in a land far from home.

Just the very thought brought a tear to my eye.

I dropped to my knees and I started to cry.

He must have awoken, for I heard a rough voice,

"Santa, don't cry, this life is my choice

I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more.

My life is my God, my country, my Corps."

With that he rolled over, drifted off into sleep,

I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.

I watched him for hours, so silent and still.

I noticed he shivered from the cold night's chill.

So I took off my jacket, the one made of red,

and covered this Marine from his toes to his head.

Then I put on his T-shirt of scarlet and gold,

with an eagle, globe and anchor emblazoned so bold.

And although it barely fit me, I began to swell with pride,

and for one shining moment, I was Marine Corps deep inside.

I didn't want to leave him so quiet in the night,

this guardian of honor so willing to fight.

But half asleep he rolled over, and in a voice clean and pure,

said "Carry on, Santa, it's Christmas Day, all secure."

One look at my watch and I knew he was right,

"Merry Christmas my friend, Semper Fi and goodnight."

Note: *Written by James M. Schmidt in 1986 when he was a Lance Corporal stated at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C. In December 2002, Mr. Schmidt stated that in 1986 he wrote this poem to hang on the door of the gym in the enlisted quarters. When his commanding officer saw the poem, he immediately had copies sent throughout the Barracks, and promptly dismissed the entire Battalion early for Christmas leave. Although he only mentioned the Marines, the theme of his poem is applicable to all members of the Armed Forces. When I read it I thought of all the servicemen and women, whether it be in a combat area or a post in the States or a foreign country, that had to spend a lonely Christmas separated from their families and love ones to serve our country.*

To my fellow Legionnaires of Post 27, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Enjoy the special time of the year with your family and love ones.

2nd Vice Commander

January ... A New Year, a fresh start, a time to make resolutions to do better in the coming year, a time to forget old follies and rise above those of the past year, a time to bring out a new slate and write upon it the things that matter the most in your life and resolve to take more time pursuing them, a time to ring out the old and ring in the new...

It is also the month that we hold the **Oratorical Contest**. This year it will be held on January 13, a Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm in the Court House--the same room that our Post meeting is held in.

The contest is between high school students from Davis, NUAMES, Viewmont, and Mountain High.

The students are given 8 to 10 minutes to talk about the United States Constitution, what it means

to them and their responsibility to it, and also give an assigned 3 to 5 minute talk on one of four amendments to the

Constitution. The students are graded on the content of the talks and also how they present it. It is a great privilege to watch these students perform and advance from Post competition to District, to Department, and then to National. The



Kenneth Hadlev

first, second and third place winners in each level of competition receives money towards a college education. Only the first place winner will advance to the next level of competition.

This competition takes many hands to run it correctly and we need your help. Needed are people to monitor the rooms the students will be in before and after their turn to compete, an escort to bring the student into the room and present the student to the audience, time keepers and tabulators. It is important to have an audience because it is discouraging to students to prepare a talk, practice and practice their presentation, and then give it to a bunch of empty chairs. So come out and help out and go away with a renewed hope for the rising generation.

From our house to your house we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Adjutant/ Eagle Scout Courts of Honor

Membership is Our Lifblood



Dale Crockett

2016 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2015 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
106	m 7	47	22	5	0	81	76%

M

Membership. Statistics are membership numbers through 1 Dec 2015.

Thank you so much for your dues because membership is our lifblood. We have reached our next goal which is to be at 75% by December 2. Let's try and get 100% before the end of the year. Just recently in the American Legion Dispatch, there was a great article of wearing the legion cap to recruit.

Recruiting will help our post grow and get stronger. As we are involved with the activities of the American Legion in our communities, there are many others who are not aware of us or what we do. Recently, Charles Aughenbaugh Jr., a member of Post 1000 in Belleville, NJ wore his American Legion cap while shopping at Home Depot and Shop Rite. He was surprised at the number of people who asked him what the emblems on his cap stood for, and the number of veterans who approached his saying they never got around to joining the American Legion but asked if they would still be eligible. He continues to wear his cap on several holidays, like the Fourth of July, Labor Day, and several local celebrations. These and other stories around the county, reminds us how important membership is and what it does for others. Just a reminder, the membership price will be increased by \$5 per year on January 2016, so I would love to get the rest of the membership cards out to you as soon as possible. From July 1, 2015 to the end of the year you can renew and have the early bird stamp on your 2016 membership card. It is also time to start talking to those around you that have served during a war period to join the American Legion. I believe with all your help, we can exceed the 107% that we had this last year. As always, you may renew by sending your \$30 annual membership dues to our Post: P.O. Box 427, Farmington, UT 84025-0427. An even easier option is to go to www.Legion.org/renew and renew online. All you need is your current American Legion Membership Number and a valid credit card. Your renewal is instant, and the Post can see your renewal on-line within 24-48 hours. If you do not know your membership number, please give me a call or e-mail me. ***If I can do anything for you to make your membership renewal easier or more convenient, or answer any questions you may have regarding membership, please let me know. I can be reached at H (801) 4561-9493 / C (801) 560-2186 or email dalescrockett@yahoo.com.***

Department of Utah Belt Buckle Pin. A pin version of the William E. "Bill" Christoffersen "BIG BEE" 50 Years Commemorative Belt Buckles is NEW and is currently available. These beautiful pins are 1½ inches across and are an excellent addition to your Legion hat or lapel. We continue to celebrate Bill Christoffersen's 50 years as the Department of Utah National Executive Committeeman and his long standing support of the American Legion Utah Boys State Program. If you are interested in obtaining one or more of these pins, please let me or Chuck Stephenson know. The cost for the pin is \$10. All profits from the sale of the pins will go to the American Legion Utah Boys State William E. Christoffersen Scholarship Fund. A scholarship will be awarded to each of the two young men elected as Boys Nation Senators each summer at Utah Boys State.



**SGT.
SAGE
SEZ**

'Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword, obviously never encountered automatic weapons.'

- General MacArthur

Sergeant-at-Arms

Wow, December, where has the year gone? 'Tis the season that we are all involved with family, church and community as we celebrate the blessings we have. Regardless of the season, Post 27 of The American Legion continues to serve the families and communities where we are asked to provide ceremonies and honors in remembrance of our fallen comrades.

The Executive Committee of Post 27 wants to thank all of you for the service you have rendered this year in community activities and for honoring our fallen with Military Funeral Honors. Without you, Post 27 cannot operate and provide this service.

We do invite all of us to meet the endless demands we are asked to perform. Let us remember when we are asked to participate in Post 27 duties, some were asked to give all. Let's be ready to assist the post as we can. Post 27, ready to serve for the good of The Legion, the country and funeral honors for the fallen.



Davis Layton

Financial Officer/Military Funeral Honors



John Sheets

Comrades: Please refer to Legion Dispatch Nov 2015 issue National Adjutants message: "The History of our Flag" and the suggestions for Post use. I took the liberty of ordering one copy \$9.95 in order that we might take a look to determine what we would like to do. The magazine is quite well done and has photos of Utah's own Bill Christofferson. It will be available to look at the Post Home.



Chaplain

"For God and Country" begins the Preamble of the American Legion's Constitution. A sacred time of year is upon us to ponder our relationship with the Almighty and reflect upon His goodness to all mankind. As Creator, He has endowed us with certain unalienable rights among them: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness as so well-articulated in our nation's Declaration of Independence. What we have in our nation is special. As veterans, you have fought to preserve it through your faithful service in and out of the military. Among the many special somethings in our nation is the hope for a brighter tomorrow. It is said that opportunities to serve others are innumerable yet the window of opportunity to do so is perishable. This season may we take those opportunities as they come our way to help bless the lives of others through acts of kindness, visiting the shut-ins, giving words of encouragement and providing a smile to help lift the hearts of the heavy laden. May the Prince of Peace's light fill our souls and be our light to lighten the paths of others.



William A. Huber

Training Officer



Paula
Stephenson

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY: It is time for the members of Post 27 to sharpen our skills with flag folding, proper handling and "tricks" with our rifles, how to be a backup with TAPS, etc. The Utah Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors team (trained by Arlington's elite soldiers) will be teaching and helping with these skills for any member of the American Legion or Sons of the American Legion, on:

Tuesday, February 16, 2016, 7:00-9:00 P.M
Farmington City Fire Station, 82 North 100
East, Farmington, Utah

Those who complete this training will be given a Military Funeral Honors Flag pin for



their hat and a training certificate. If you have already received this training, please attend to “fine-tune” your skills. We use these skills at Eagle Courts, funeral honors, flag education classes, etc. I am always amazed at what I learn each year, which proves you can teach an old dog new tricks. See you there.

Jake Garn Sea Cadet Squadron News



This month offered some new elements to our drill that we have not done before. Initially, for November’s drill, the unit conducted Physical Readiness Training, in support of Winter Training, that will be attended by several cadets. These cadets will travel all over the United States to attend various Sea Cadet training opportunities. The first “new” element that was that was introduced to drill was cadet-led training. We had two senior cadets conduct training for the unit. One cadet conducted Morse code training and the other cadet conducted Drug Reduction training. Both training sessions were successes and were conducted in **Courtney Putnam** an expert manner. It is good to see these young adults take charge and give such interesting and valuable lessons. The second “new” element of for this drill was church services. I have decided that church services need to be an integral part of our unit’s operation. Therefore, I have worked to ensure that all cadets have the opportunity to attend church on Sunday, if they wish. Three, one-our blocks are offered covering Catholic, Latter Day Saint and Protestant services. Cadets can attend any service they wish. When they are not in church, they receive supervised self-study time to work on their correspondence work or Basic Military Requirements. It takes three hours of drill to support this commitment, but I believe it is important. Finally, several cadets were recognized for raising \$160 for the unit through our pizza fundraiser. The money will be used to improve our color guard materials. After drill weekend, the unit also conducted a Veteran’s Day, evening Flag Retirement Ceremony at the American Legion Post 129, in Huntsville. It was a special, yet very cold, time and my cadets were honored to be involved with such a special event. As the year draws to a close, we are looking forward to our annual end-of-year Pot-Luck Dinner/Awards Ceremony. The dinner will be held on December 5th and all Legionnaires are invited to attend.



Photos of the Jake Garn Sea Cadet Squadron learning American flag protocols.



Take advantage of Post 27’s Veterans Outreach Program

Every second and fourth Wednesday from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm, a representative of the Veterans Administration will be at the Post (*Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116*) to assist you with your questions.

Call for an appointment with Larry Dawson at 801-326-2370.

Be sure to bring a copy of your DD-214 or other discharge certificate.

Legion Laffs



Check us out on Facebook at "American Legion Post 27 Farmington Utah"



or the link from our Post website at www.post27.org.



The Wonderful Time of the Year

Although this is most certainly the Most Wonderful Time of Year, I would like to depart from that theme and look back just a few weeks to Veteran's Day 2015. That was a very special day for Paula and me. We began the day at a Veterans Day breakfast in North Salt Lake at the Eaglewood Golf Course. Post 27 member Congressman Chris Stewart was the keynote speaker. That event was followed by our Annual Veterans Day Ceremony at the Farmington City Cemetery. Mayor Jim Talbot was the guest speaker. Later that afternoon we attended a Veteran's Recognition Event at the State Capitol where Governor Gary Herbert thanked all Veterans for their service and sacrifice for our state and nation. The evening concluded with our visit to the Huntsman Center in SLC for the Annual Veterans Day Concert with the 23d Army Band and the Combined Choirs of the Granite School District.



Chuck Stephenson
Department
Vice Commander

All of the events that day were enjoyable and memorable, but the event that I enjoyed most was folding the giant flag following the ceremony at the Farmington Cemetery along with other Post members and members of the Farmington City Fire Department. Post 27 has developed and cultivated a relationship with the Farmington Fire Department that it should be proud of, and that other Posts throughout the state should emulate. This relationship, as well as the relationship we have developed with the Davis County Commission and others, is essential to being an integral part of our local community. These relationships are not forged overnight, but take many months and years of participation and involvement. ***I congratulate Post 27 on being a solid community partner and stepping up whenever asked to support God and Country!***

Membership is Our Lifeblood!

Right: Chief Smith and members of the Farmington Fire Department join Post 27 Legionnaires on Veterans Day.

