



AMERICAN LEGION POST 27

Farmington, Utah

July, 2012 Newsletter

Website: www.post27.org



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE: Post 27 has a lot to be proud of. At the state convention in Fillmore last month, John Sheets was elected the new Area 1 Commander, the entire northern Utah, made up of three Districts. Yes, he is still our Post Finance Officer. Chuck Stephenson was sworn in as District 2 Commander, which covers 10 posts in Davis, Weber, and Morgan counties. And yes, he is still our Post Adjutant. I was asked to stay on as the Department Historian, and yes, I am still your Post Commander. The talent, commitment, and enthusiasm of Legionnaires in Utah is amazing. It is also a joy working together with these folks from all over the state, as well as with our Post members. No one told me retirement would be this busy and fun. Congratulations to John and Chuck in their new roles. We are all there to support you with a successful year.

POST BUSINESS / INFORMATION



1st Vice Commander Ron Craig:

The Rifle Team is soliciting new members. Free education and training. Give back to your comrades who have passed on. There is nothing more that can bolster pride in the American Legion than serving on the Rifle Team. Contact me.

Let me know if you have ideas for a social gathering while the weather is still good. It is also an opportunity of get our spouses and significant others involved.

Membership is our life blood. Talk to your friends and family members who are veterans. We need them and they need us. Contact any Post officer for information and applications. My number is (801-628-3480 or email at roncraig@acnrep.com)



2nd Vice Commander William Huber:

The American Legion Utah Boys State was extremely successful this year. Of the 237 student citizens, 171 of them were awarded \$929, 626.72 in scholarships, with the potential of that dollar figure growing as more students provide updated SAT scores and information. During the past three years alone, Weber State University has awarded \$2,177,727.68 in scholarships. That is an amazing youth program of the American Legion!



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

- Farmington Festival Days Parade, July 14. Float riders and marchers needed. 9:00 A.M. lineup at **500** North & Main, Farmington (**CHANGE ON THE START LOCATION**).

Davis County Fair, August 15-18. Need to be determined.

Military Funeral Honors: Contact Ron Craig at 801-628-3480 to become part of this team. There may be a formal training event coming up in August through the National Guard.

Learn more about The American Legion. The American Legion Extension Institute has an on-line class, cost is \$4.95 for members, it is amazing what you learn. Within a week of completing this course, you receive your diploma and a pin for your Legion cap. Go to www.legion.org and sign up. It only took me 4 evenings to complete.

If any member has a permanent change of address, phone number update, or email change, could you please let me know so we can change our Legion records. I may be reached at (801) 444-7189 or email at stphnsnc@aol.com.

New membership cards for 2013 are in. The "big push" for renewals started July 1, with benchmarks until December 31. Please remember you can renew your memberships online at www.legion.org, click RENEW at the top of the page. Within 24 hours of online renewals, I can see your names and mail out your 2013 cards. You can also send a check to John Sheets, our Finance Officer, then cards will be sent. Paid-Up-For-Life members have already received their cards. Let's all renew as soon as possible. Our Post is doing great things in the communities and your membership makes us here at home strong, and in Washington, DC more effective for our military and veterans' issues.



Finance Officer-Post 27/Commander, Area 1 John Sheets As we close out the membership year of 2011-2012 (30 June 2012), Post 27 did an outstanding job by increasing membership from the previous years and ended with 74 members at 109 % of our objective. As we set the bar higher each year by increasing membership, we need to be reminded to get a fast start on the objective of 81 paid members. At \$5.50 per member retained at Post level from dues, we get approximately \$445.00. This is good, but we will need to think of other possibilities for income. Our Flag sales have been a great help to income over the last two years, but we are just about sold out. We currently have 22 3'x5' printed nylon flags at \$5.00 each. June bank balance is \$517.03. Contact me for your flag needs or membership dues at (801)549-8596.



Sergeant-At-Arms Frank Lennartz:

Our funeral honors team is looking great. Many thanks to all those who stepped up and are making our Post and the American Legion proud.

NOTE from the Commander: Frank is back to "work" with American Legion activities. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers. We'll keep an eye on him.



POW-MIA Chairman Jay Hess: During the past two months, the following MIA's have been identified and accounted for from the following wars:

World War II (Germany & Island of Espiritu Santo, New Hebrudes (Vanuatu): 10

Korean War (North Korea): 2

Vietnam War (Quang Tri Province, Vietnam): 1

Of the 16 million Americans who served in World War II, more than 400,000 died. At the end of the war, the U.S. government was unable to recover and identify approximately 79,000 Americans. Today, more than 73,000 remain unaccounted for from that conflict.

Visit the Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) web site at <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo> .

Military Funeral Honors: Post 27 has provided Military Funeral Honors for two veterans' funerals this month. We work with the National Guard. Post 27 provides an American flag and the service flag of the deceased at the graveside, the rifle volley, assist with the playing of TAPS, present a "shell casing display" to commemorate the Military Honors (see photo), and in the tradition of Arlington Cemetery, we present a condolence card from the Post.

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. Donations to the Post are sometimes received.



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION (SAL): Post 27's SAL Squadron now has 9 members.

Some are dual members (Legionnaire/SAL), some adult sons/grandsons, some adolescent sons/grandsons. SAL adults participate in all Legion activities; the younger ones on a limited basis. The SAL Program for our Post is still developing. Anyone interested in becoming a member of our SAL squadron, please contact Chuck Stephenson at (801) 444-7189 or email at stphnsnc@aol.com. If you have neighbors that never served in the military, but their fathers or grandfathers served during wartime, they may be eligible. Applications are always 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.*



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.



Post Historian Ken Hansen: The history behind “son of a gun”. The often used phrase “son of a gun” actually has a military origin. A long time ago, women were allowed to live on Navy ships to keep company for sailor husbands and friends who had to stay for several months at sea without being in battle. On occasion, a woman delivered a baby whose paternity could not be established with certainty. On the birth certificate, authorities just noted “Son of a gun,” referring to the artillery found on the ships. This has evolved into the common expression we use today.

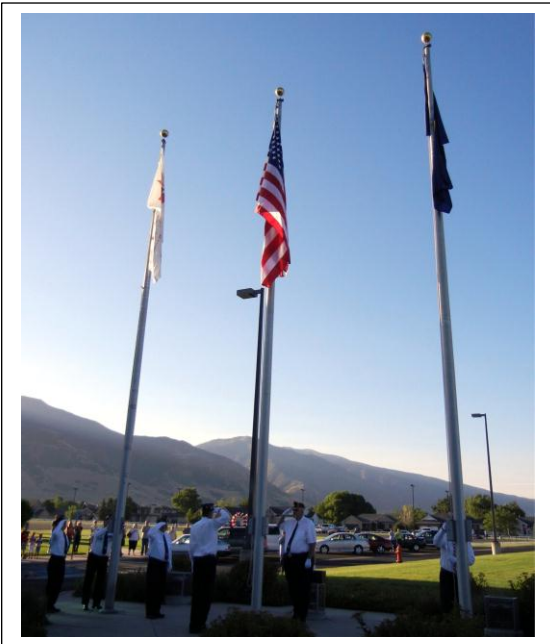
One of the earliest examples of “Son of a Gun” comes from British Admiral William Henry Smyth’s The Sailor’s Work Book, from 1865. “An epithet conveying contempt in a slight degree, and originally applied to boys born afloat, when women were permitted to accompany their husbands to sea; one admiral declared he literally was thus cradled, under the breast of a gun carriage.” (From Military.com)

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

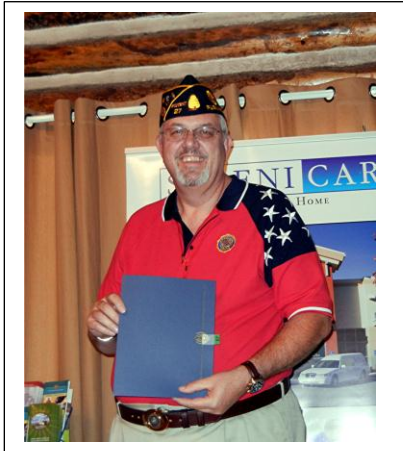
CALENDAR OF EVENTS/DATES OF INTEREST:

- Jul 12 - Post 27 monthly meeting, 6:30 P.M., Davis County Courthouse, Room 114, Farmington
- July 14 - Farmington Festival Days Parade, line-up 9:00 A.M. Marching Honor Guard, truck, and small float to ride on
- Aug 15-18 - Davis County Fair, Legacy Events Center

LEGION LAFFS



July 4th - Kaysville DATC
Post 27 members raising the flags as the sun comes up over the mountains



Chuck Stephenson holding award for Post 27’s SAL Squadron membership recruitment, presented at the 2012 Department of Utah Convention in Fillmore.

A special thank you to Kathy Layton for being our photographer on the 4th of July in Kaysville!!!!