



AMERICAN LEGION POST 27

Farmington, Utah

May, 2012 Newsletter

Website: www.post27.org



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE: May is a special time of year. There is a dramatic improvement in the weather (mostly), nature's colors arrive everywhere we look, hope is seen everywhere. It is also a busy time for Veteran's Service Organizations like our American Legion. We are planning for all the events that will take place during the summer months, which includes our **1st Annual Farmington City Memorial Day Program**. It is our privilege to be leading this program, in concert with the City of Farmington. Please put it on your calendars for Monday, May 28 at 12:00 P.M. (noon). Bring your families and friends. It will last approximately ½ hour, and hopefully it will show the community how the American Legion Post 27 cares about their community. The theme is "Honoring Our Fallen Warriors".

At this month's meeting, we will be performing the Post Everlasting Ceremony in memory of our Past Commander Jim Hefner, who passed away in December, 2011. His wife, Deb, and daughter, Ashleigh, will be joining us. All members are welcome.

It is with a heavy heart to announce the passing of Donald J. Williams, a Post 27 member and Korean War Veteran from Farmington. His funeral will be on Saturday, May 12. Arrangements are still pending. Post 27 will be performing the Military Funeral Honors for him.

POST BUSINESS / INFORMATION

NEW MEMBER: We want to give a hearty welcome to our newest member in the American Legion and Post 27, Kate Billings, U.S. Army/Lebanon & Grenada Era veteran, from Kaysville. Welcome, Kate! Kate is our fourth female Legionnaire currently in Post 27.



2nd Vice Commander William Huber:

The American Legion Utah Boys State is scheduled for June 4-8, 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 **36** students who will attend Boys State. Great job! If you are interested in being a counselor or just visiting Boys State at Weber State University, please let me know at (801)597-9807 or Chuck Stephenson at (801) 444-7189.

Our Department of Utah Oratorical Contest winner, Taylor Greenwell, Davis High School, will be recognized by Post 27 in a ceremony at Davis High School on Monday, May 14, 7:00 P.M. Please come and support this event for the American Legion and the youth of our communities.



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

- Farmington Cemetery American flag placement on graves: 8:00 A.M., Friday May 25
- Kaysville Cemetery American flag placement on graves: 5:00 P.M., Friday 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
- Farmington City Memorial Day Program, May 28, 12:00 P.M. (noon), Farmington Cemetery
- Utah Boys State, Weber State University, June 3-8. Counselors are still needed.
- Kaysville 4th of July Celebration Flag Raising / Breakfast, July 4, 6:30 A.M.
- Farmington Festival Days Parade, July 14. We want to do a small float. Volunteers needed.

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.



Finance Officer-Post 27/Commander, District 2 John Sheets Comrades, We need to sell some of the flags with have. Our bank account is down to \$357.80. We have about 25 printed flags which are \$5.00 each and 25 embroidered flags for \$10.00 each. Talk to your friends and neighbors, or businesses that need to replace a flag. Contact me at (801)549-8596.

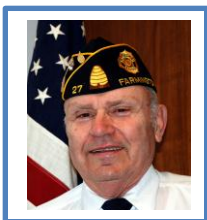
District 2: May is a very busy month for the Legion and in particular this year prior to Memorial Day on the 28th, District 2 of the American Legion Department of Utah will be participating at Hill Air Force Base Air Show by manning a booth to advertise and promote the Legion's role in helping active duty personnel and their families while they are in the Service and after they get

out. We need a “few good men and women” to volunteer for a short three hour shift on either Saturday, May 26 or Sunday, May 27. The Air Show is free and shuttle transportation to and from the Hill Air Museum will be available. Come and help demonstrate to our young comrades that the Legion is there to assist them.



Post Historian Kent Hansen: ORIGIN OF THE HAND SALUTE. No One knows the precise origin of today’s hand salute. From earliest times and in many distant armies throughout history, the right hand (or “weapon hand”) has been raised as a greeting of friendship. The idea may have been to show that you weren’t ready to use a rock or other weapon. Courtesy required that the inferior make the gesture first. Certainly, there is some connection between this old gesture and our present salute. One romantic legend has it that today’s military salute descended from the medieval knight’s gesture of raising his

visor to reveal his identity as a courtesy on the approach of a superior. Another even more fantastic version is that it symbolizes a knight’s shielding his eyes from the dazzling beauty of some high-born lady sitting in the bleachers of the tournament. The military salute has in fact had many different forms over the centuries. At one time it was rendered with both hands! In old prints one many see left-handed salutes. In some instances the salute was rendered by lowering the saber with one hand and touching the cap visor with the other. The following explanation of the origin of the hand salute is perhaps closest to the truth: It was a long established military custom for juniors to remove their headgear in the presence of superiors. In the British Army, as late as the American Revolution, a soldier saluted by removing his hat. But with the advent of more cumbersome headgear in the 18th and 19th centuries, the act of removing one’s hat was gradually converted into the simpler gesture of grasping the visor, and issuing a courteous salutation. From there it finally became conventionalized into something resembling our modern hand salute. Whatever the actual origin of today’s hand salute, it has always been used to indicate a sign of RESPECT – further recognition that in the profession of arms, military courtesy is both a right and a responsibility of every soldier. (Compiled by the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps Historian, Fort Lee, Virginia)



Sergeant-At-Arms Frank Lennartz:

May is our busy month and a great time to show the public a little of what the Legion is doing. We try to generate interest in our fellow veterans, especially the younger vets. They are the future of the Legion and we need to recruit them. If everyone that is able does a little, much can be accomplished.

NOTE from the Commander: Frank is on the temporary Sickcall list for a potential surgery. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Military Funeral Honors: Post 27 has already provided Military Funeral Honors for two veterans’ funerals this month, with two more scheduled for Saturday, May 12. 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. 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 JGolden Barton:

What a great blessing it is to live in America, the land of the brave and home of the free. Attend one of the Memorial Day Programs that salute our veterans who are no longer with us. God bless all veterans!

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.

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, May 10th, 6:30 P.M., Davis County Courthouse, Rm 114, Farmington

CALENDAR OF EVENTS/DATES OF INTEREST:

- May 10 - Post 27 monthly meeting, 6:30 P.M., Davis County Courthouse, Room 114, Farmington
- May 14 - Davis High School, American Legion Oratorical Contest recognition, 7:00 P.M., Davis High Auditorium
- May 25 - Farmington Cemetery flag placement on Veterans graves, 8:00 A.M.
- May 25 - Kaysville Cemetery flag placement on Veterans graves with help from Boy/Girl Scouts, 5:00 P.M.
- May 26-27 - Hill AFB Air Show "Warriors Over the Wasatch", 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.
- May 28 - Kaysville City Memorial Day Program, 10:00 A.M., Kaysville Cemetery
- May 28 - Farmington City "1st Annual" Memorial Day Program, 12:00 P.M. (noon), Farmington Cemetery
- May 31 - 8th Annual Veterans Memorial Golf Tournament, Hill AFB Golf Course
- Jun 1 - Graveside flag retrievals at Kaysville Cemetery, time to be determined.
- Jun 4-8 - Boys State at Weber State University, Union Building
- Jun 4-9 - Girls State at Southern Utah University
- Jun 15, 16, 17 - Department of Utah State Convention, Fillmore, UT
- July 4 - Kaysville 4th of July Celebration Flag Raising and Breakfast, 6:30 A.M., DATC flagpole
- July 14 - Farmington Festival Days Parade



The American Legion National Commander Fang A. Wong and Post 27 Finance Officer/District 2 Commander John Sheets



Newly elected District 2 Officers:
 1st Vice Commander Kenny Conners (Post 134/Clearfield)
 Commander Chuck Stephenson (aka Post 27 Adjutant)
 2nd Vice Commander Joe Gabardi (Post 89/Layton)

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 2nd Vice Commander, William Huber (U.S. Army).