



THE AMERICAN LEGION

POST 27 / SQUADRON 27

NEWSLETTER

FARMINGTON, UTAH

DAVIS COUNTY MEMORIAL COURTHOUSE, ROOM 116, 28 EAST STATE STREET, FARMINGTON

April 2014

STILL SERVING AMERICA

www.post27.org

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Post Open House is an unqualified success

I was pleased and proud of the way our Post 27 Legionnaires comported themselves as exemplary ambassadors of the Post and The American Legion. I received many wonderful comments about the event from members of the Davis County Commission, the Mayor of Farmington and a host of other attendees. When National Western Vice Commander Doug Wooddell addressed the National Commander's meeting, he was very enthusiastic about what he saw that Post 27 was able to do in getting a critical location in the community and how nice it was, with the support from the county and city. I think, though, that my favorite part of the whole thing was the opportunity to see some of our members who have not been able to make it to our regular meetings. I hope we can see more of you in the future.



Kent Hansen

Post 27 sponsors the Jake Garn Squadron of Sea Cadets

Of course, you all know that I have a warm place in my heart for all things Navy so I could not have been happier when the members of Post 27 voted to sponsor the **Jake Garn Squadron of Sea Cadets**. Everyone is invited to the formation ceremony on April 19 at 1:00 pm at the Hill Aerospace Museum in Roy. Speakers will include Senator and Astronaut Jake Garn and Rear Admiral Jeremy "Bear" Taylor, who was my former skipper on the aircraft carrier USS Coral Sea (CV-43). The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps (USNSCC) is a federally chartered non-profit civilian youth organization for young people, ages 11 through 17. Today's U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps continues to further the image of our maritime services by adhering to a standardized training program designed to:



- Develop an interest and ability in seamanship and seagoing skills
- Instill virtues of good citizenship and strong moral principles in each cadet
- Demonstrate the value of an alcohol-free, drug-free and gang-free lifestyle
- Expose cadets to the prestige of public service and a variety of career paths through hands-on training with our nation's armed services.

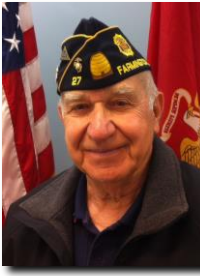
The Jake Garn Squadron of Sea Cadets will make a welcome addition to the programs of The American Legion in general and Post 27 in particular.

Wall of Heroes

The Wall of Heroes is really starting to take shape. But there are many more photos from many more Legionnaires that we have not yet received. So I'm repeating the call to **all Legionnaires**, (past and present, whether you attend meetings or not) to find a nice photo of yourself when you were young(er) and in uniform. Then get it to me as soon as possible. You can send an old photo (which will be returned) or you can send it electronically. They can be color or black & white, but please include your name, branch(es) of service and the years you served (i.e., 1957-1978). The wall has plenty of room to grow. Come and be a part of it. Here's the address: **Kent Hansen, 1172 North 700 West, Centerville, UT 84014** or kenthansen7@gmail.com.



1ST VICE COMMANDER



Frank Ferrante

It is with honor and pleasure that I now assumed this position as First Vice Commander of our American Legion Post 27, Farmington, Utah. I have been a member of this Post for over two years, and I am proud to have participated and be associated with such a dedicated group of Legionnaires. This Post has constantly demonstrated in various programs that it embraces and supports the four pillars of the American Legion: Veterans Affairs, National Security, Americanism and Children and Youth. These programs and the Legionnaires who take the time to perform them are what allow the American Legion to make a difference locally and on the state and national level.



American Flag Etiquette April 2014 – When the flag is displayed over a street, it should be hung vertically, with the union to the north or east. If the flag is suspended over a sidewalk, the flag’s union should be farthest from the building.

2ND VICE COMMANDER

Boys State interviews are well underway now. We met with 28 boys from NUAMES and may have one more before we’re done. Our interviews with Davis and Viewmont High Schools are scheduled for April 8 and 9. So once again, Post 27 will have a very strong showing at Boys State. If you have any doubts about our younger generation, you should spend some time with these fine young men who will represent their schools. They are most impressive and I am certain they will acquit themselves with honor. I know I look forward to spending some quality time with them while they are at Weber State University. If you can spare some time, come on up and see for yourselves what those of us who are on Staff already know: America’s future is in good hands.



Kenneth Hadley

ADJUTANT



Chuck Stephenson

What an amazing day. The Dedication Ceremony and Ribbon Cutting/Open House on the 21st of March for our “New” Post home was an event to be remembered for a very long time. Congrats to all who participated. It was especially gratifying to see all of our friends and comrades who took time to attend. During the Open House, we met our newest member – Richard L. Newton. Richard becomes our 81st Member for 2014 and becomes the member who puts us at 100% of Goal. We welcome Richard to the Post – however, keep recruiting. Membership is our lifeblood!

Membership. Statistics are membership numbers through 1 April 2014.

2014 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2014 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
81	5	47	23	6	5	81/5	100%

The next national Headquarters’ target date is April 9th 2014 – Children & Youth 95%. As you can see, we have already met that goal. We have only 6 of our 2013 members who have not renewed for 2014. We will be contacting them personally in the next couple of weeks and encourage them to renew for 2014. Don’t lose your “continuous year’s membership” in The American Legion and other associated benefits. You may renew online with a credit card at www.legion.org or send your \$30. Annual Membership Dues to our Finance Officer John Sheets. **If I can do anything for you to make your membership renewal easier or more convenient, please let me know. I can be reached at H (801) 444-7189 C (801) 698-7750 or email stphnsnc@aol.com.**

Paid Up For Life (PUFL). Thinking about becoming a PUFL American Legion Member? Now may be the time. National Headquarters has revised the fees and payment schedule for the PUFL option. Application and payment information is on line at www.Legion.org.

Sons of The American Legion. Squadron 27's Annual Membership is only \$7.50. Please send your 2014 renewal checks to Finance Officer John Sheets.

2014 GOAL	REGULAR	NEW	2014 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
15	12	2	14	93%

Department of Utah Belt Buckles. The William E. "Bill" Christoffersen "BIG BEE" 50 Years Commemorative Belt Buckles are available for purchase. **There are only 30 remaining.** The buckles are a limited edition/ numbered and can be purchased for only \$60. If you are interested in purchasing one of these beauties, please let me know.



District 2 Update. The District 2 Spring Convention will be held April 12th at Post 134 in Clearfield. Voting will take place at the Spring Convention to elect new officers for District 2 for 2014/2015. If you think you might be interested in running for office please let me know at the earliest opportunity. It is an excellent opportunity to enhance your leadership skills as well as meet and interact with other Legionnaires in the tri-county area.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

I am honored to be nominated and approved as Sergeant-At-Arm, Post 27, Farmington, Utah. As such, I follow two previous great Sergeants-at-Arms: Frank Ferrante and Frank Lennartz.



I will continue to look to both of them, our Adjutant and Post Commander for suggestions and duties to be accomplished for the betterment of the post. Our commander has given me my "Marching Orders" and I now look forward to serving the post. Know that I am available to assist you as we serve in The American Legion. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Sergeant-at-Arms at this time.



David Layton

CHAPLAIN



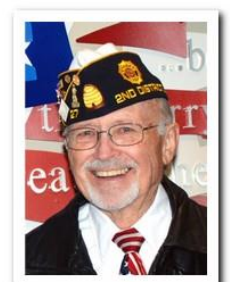
Golden Barton

March 29th is a day to remember. The day when so many of our Utah Vietnam veterans were finally recognized for their unselfish service in a war far from home. Many Farmington Post 27 members are Vietnam veterans. I listened with great interest to the story told by Steve Walkenhorst: "Almost a full year slogging through the sweltering jungles, never sure who was friend or enemy. Few showers, endless K- rations, no change of clothes, or contact with base. Always on guard of life and limb." An incredible calling to duty by a humble soldier and man of faith. A war like no other. Little support with many protestors back in the U.S.A. Our own Jay Hess confined for over five years in the Hanoi Hilton. Protestors burning our flag, it was not a happy era for many Americans dedicated to freedom and liberty. My heart, like the heart of too few in America, saddened with conflicting reports. Through it all, our stalwart warriors stood tall as they served God and country.

It is fitting that we join in expressing our deepest respect for our comrades whose selfless sacrifice brought our nation through this difficult time. May the red, white and blue continue to wave in honor of American Legion Post 27 veterans who served during the Vietnam era. We salute you all! We join to celebrate March 29 of each year to follow, in tribute to those who answered the call. You have our respect, admiration, for your dedication to duty. We invite you to join us on the second Thursday of each month, at 6:30 PM in our new meeting room in the old Davis County Memorial Court house. "Where old military tales never die but just fade away." We are interested in hearing your story, be it at the end of a weapon or in a support role! We have all served a common cause.

FINANCE OFFICER

Comrades: I cannot tell you when I've been more proud of Post 27 than at the Open House held on Friday afternoon, March 21st. If you were not there you missed a historic event that I'm sure will go down as just that, "a historic event in the long life of Post 27 of The American Legion", of which I was privileged to be a part of. Pictures will be available in the "News Letter" and although they will help



John Sheets

to remember the event, they will in no way be a substitute for the feeling of goodwill which was present.

Now for my main responsibility, Finance: Current checking account balance as of March month end is in the black with a few items of Post supplies and decorations to be paid for but our finances are solid and gives the latitude of assisting veterans, families of veterans and their youth.

EAGLE COURTS OF HONOR



We proudly provide flags in hopes these young men who receive their Eagle Scout Award get a sense of the importance of the flag and why we hold it in the highest respect. The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life. The flag is a symbol of our great nation. It is a symbol that represents not only who we are but also what we stand for and what we believe. Our flag is often taken for granted and its powerful symbolism ignored. There is great symbolism in the flag that we seem to have forgotten. We sometimes need a reminder that we have a star spangled banner for a reason. The symbolism of the Flag was thus interpreted by Washington: “We take the stars from Heaven, the red from our mother country,

Dale Crockett separating it by white stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her, and the white stripes shall go down to posterity representing Liberty.” I have truly enjoyed serving with all of you and hope to keep serving for many years to come.

POW/MIA News

Profile in Courage: POW who blinked “Torture” dies

About a month after his deployment to Vietnam on the USS Independence, Navy Commander Jeremiah Denton’s A-6 was shot down south of Hanoi on July 18, 1965. He was captured, subjected to four years in solitary confinement, two years in a cell the size of a refrigerator, endured starvation, delirium and torture sessions that sometimes lasted days.



Jay C. Hess



His communist captors attempted to exploit him for propaganda. Ten months into his imprisonment Denton was tortured to submit to a filmed interview with a Japanese reporter. He walks into the room, bows and sits on a chair before the camera. Hunched over, he clasps his hands between his knees. As he speaks, he blinks with his eyes spelling in Morse code t-o-r-t-u-r-e. (T - . O - - - , R . - . , U . . - , E .)

The reporter asked Denton what he thought about the ‘so-called Vietnamese War.’ His captors assumed he was broken and expected him to denounce the U.S. war policy.

Courageously he said, “Well, I don’t know what is happening but whatever the position of my government is, I support it fully. And whatever the position of my government is, I believe in it – yes sir. I am a member of that government, and it is my job to support it, and I will as long as I live.” Severe punishment and solitary confinement followed.

Denton was among the highest-ranking officers taken prisoner in Vietnam and the spokesman for the first group of prisoners released in February 1973 at Clark AB in the Philippines. Stepping from the C-141 aircraft with tearful eyes he said, “We are honored to have had the opportunity to serve our country under difficult circumstances. We are profoundly grateful to our Commander in Chief and to our nation for this day. God Bless America.”

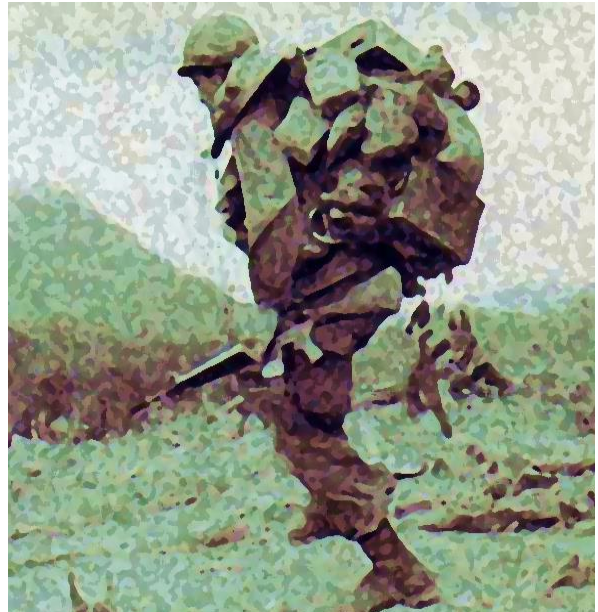
Rear Admiral Jeremiah Denton, father of seven, first Republican elected Senator in his native Alabama since Reconstruction died March 28, 2014 of complications from a heart ailment at a hospice in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He was 89.

HISTORIAN



Military Truisms

- "Aim towards the Enemy." [Instruction printed on US rocket launcher]
- When the pin is pulled, Mr. Grenade is no longer our friend. [From a US Field Manual]
- Cluster bombing from B-52s is very, very accurate. The bombs always hit the ground.
- Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons.
- Don't ever be the first, don't ever be the last, and don't ever volunteer to do anything.
- If your attack is going too well, you are walking into an ambush.
- If you find yourself in a fair fight, you didn't plan your mission properly.
- Don't draw fire; it irritates the people around you.
- No combat-ready unit has ever passed inspection.
- Any ship can be a minesweeper once.
- If the enemy is in range, so are you.
- Tracers work both ways.
- Friendly fire isn't.
- Five second fuses only last three seconds.
- Never share a foxhole with anyone braver than you are.
- The problem with taking the easy way out is that the enemy has already mined it.
- Incoming fire has the right of way.
- The quartermaster has only two sizes: too large and too small.
- If you can see the enemy, he can see you.
- And never tell your Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do.



LEGION LAFFS



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **April 10 -- Post 27 Meeting**, 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
- **April 12 – District 2 Convention**, 9:30 am, Post 134, 345 S. Depot St., Clearfield
- **April 14 – Veterans Speaker Series**, 7:00 pm. SLC Library. Speaker: U.S. Army Vietnam veteran Steve Featherstone.
- **April 19 -- Formation ceremony @ 1:00 P.M.**, Hill Aerospace Museum, Roy, UT for the Jake Garn Squadron, Navy Sea Cadet Corps.
- **May 3 – District 2 meeting**, 10:00 am, Post 27, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
- **May 8 -- Post 27 Meeting**, 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
- **May 12 -- Veterans Speaker Series**, 7:00 pm. SLC Library. Speaker: U.S. Army Vietnam veteran Maureen Brinkman.
- **May 17 – Armed Forces Day. Fly the flag!**
- **May 23 – Place flags at Kaysville Cemetery.** 5:00 pm
- **May 26 – Memorial Day.** 10:00 am, Kaysville Cemetery; 12:00 pm, Farmington Cemetery. *Fly the flag!*

FROM THE DEPARTMENT THE AMERICAN LEGION and NATIONAL LEGISLATION

If you ever doubted the influence of the American Legion at the national level, don't worry. Our membership and the first class way The Legion does its business in Washington, D.C is there. On March 26 at a joint session of the Veterans Affairs Committees, United States Congress, I sat in a room with 500+ Legionnaires ("Legion hats"), plus Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion to listen to our National Commander Daniel Dellinger testify on the American Legion's legislative priorities for the 113th Congress, 2nd Session. The committees were overwhelmed at the number of citizens that are there for our Veterans. You can read the executive version of those thirteen priorities on Post 27's website (www.post27.org), as well as the 15-page version.



Paula Stephenson
Vice Commander
Dept. of Utah

There is another piece of legislation at the National level that has my interest, is closer to home for many of us, and is co-sponsored by our own Congressman Jim Matheson. The latest title is "Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act", H.R. 679/S.629. For many in the Guard and Reserve who retire with 20+ years or retire with less than 20 years for medical/other reasons, if they never served 180 days of consecutive active duty other than for training, they are NOT considered "veterans", even though they carry a military retiree card just like the 20-year active duty veteran, receives TRICARE for Life, can shop at the commissary, PX/BX, etc. They have always been told they are not veterans under the official VA definition. In most cases, if they served during the war periods as stated on the Legion application, and at least one day during the period on Title 10 orders, they qualify to be in the American Legion. In my mind, they are fellow veterans. Not that this group would be eligible for specific VA benefits, but the right to be called a veteran is important. This is why I always ask if they have ever served in the military instead of asking if they are a veteran. Different groups give different answers.

Please let Congressman Matheson know if you support this change in terminology. Send him a letter, email, or call. We owe this to our brothers and sisters in arms, even if they did not go into a combat zone.



Some of the celebrants at the gala Post 27 Dedication and Open House, March 21 at the Davis County Memorial Courthouse, including National Western Vice Commander Doug Wooddell (red hat, center).



Check us out on Facebook at "American Legion Post 27 Farmington Utah" or there is a link from our Post website at www.post27.org.

