



AMERICAN LEGION POST 27

NEWSLETTER

FARMINGTON, UTAH



August 2013

STILL SERVING AMERICA

www.post27.org

Commander's Corner



Kent Hansen

My fellow Legionnaires, I want you to know what an honor it is to serve with you! I am humbled and overwhelmed by the singular privilege to represent you. It's more than a little daunting to follow in the footsteps of one who has set the bar so high and who has personified the noble principles of The American Legion so completely.

We all owe **Paula Stephenson** a deep debt of gratitude for the exemplary service she has rendered to the Post specifically and to The American Legion generally. Paula, we all wish you the best in your new duties as Vice Commander of the Department of Utah.



Paula Stephenson

Proud Paraders. I could not have been prouder of our Post members who outshone the sun on the 4th of July at the Kaysville Independence Day Parade and braved the elements at the Farmington Festival Days and conducted themselves with dignity, precision and honor. It was a special honor to have our own **Jay Hess** serve as Grand Marshal of the Farmington parade. Jay was resplendent in a very manly bright pink shirt atop a pink 1961 Cadillac. And he made it look good! Several last minute schedule and location changes required us to respond with the flexibility I have come to expect from my fellow Legionnaires.

You make us all proud!

Important Meeting. Please make every effort to be with us at our next Post meeting (Aug. 8, 6:30 pm in the Davis County Memorial Courthouse) because we will be dealing with some very important topics, including: the Flag Retirement at the Davis County Fair on Aug. 15 and the election of a new Post 2nd Vice Commander and Historian. If you would like to serve in either of these offices, please let me know as soon as you can. Of course, as always, nominations from the floor will be happily accepted.

Come join us. Now, I'd like to reach out to those of you who receive this newsletter but who, for some reason, have not been attending our monthly meetings and activities. Of course, I realize that many of you have good reasons for not joining us and we all appreciate your membership and support. Perhaps health issues or pressing schedules are keeping you otherwise occupied. Still, if there is any way for you to work our monthly meeting into your schedule so you can receive the benefits of our significant activities and we can receive the benefits of your fellowship and experience, we would be very happy to see you. When you come to the meetings to join with your fellow Legionnaires, you walk among giants. And there's always room for a few more giants!



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.



Visit us on Facebook

1st Vice Commander

Fellow Legionnaires, we have had some great activities the month with many of our members participating and I for one was very proud of our members and their hard work in making the activities a success.

We now have a big opportunity to show one of the Legion's services to our community. We are doing a BIG FLAG RETIREMENT CERMONY at the Davis County Fair on Aug. 15th. We really need as many of our members as we can get to help with this program. Please come to our August meeting (Aug. 8 at 6:30 pm in the Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 114) and get all the details. It will be a rewarding event that you will want to be part of.

The Flag retirement ceremony is a family event so come and see how our Nation's colors are respectfully retired. Bring family, friends, and potential members. It will be a great evening.



Frank Lennartz

Adjutant



Membership. The 1st of July kicks off another "membership year." You have until the end of 2013 to renew and claim your "early bird" status (for 2014). For Membership Year 2013, Post 27 finished with an "All Time High" (ATH) of 79 members. Only 5 Posts in the Department of Utah achieved a new ATH for 2013. I am so proud to report that we have already had 44% of 2013's ATH members renew for 2014. You can 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.

Chuck Stephenson Department of Utah Vice Commander Paula Stephenson (Past Post 27 Commander) reports that the Department of Utah was only one of 14 states Nationwide that reached 100% of its Membership Goal for 2013. **Thank You** for your continued participation and support!

Sons of The American Legion. Membership in the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 27 is the same as that of The American Legion. You can begin to renew your 2014 SAL Membership on 1 July. Squadron 27's Annual Membership for SAL is \$7.50. Please send your 2014 renewal checks to Finance Officer John Sheets.

Department of Utah Belt Buckles. The NEW William E. "Bill" Christoffersen "BIG BEE" 50 Years Commemorative Belt Buckles are here and available for purchase. The buckles were designed to commemorate Bill Christoffersen's 50 plus years as National Executive Committeeman – the longest serving Committeeman for the American Legion. They are 3 ¾" by 2 ¾" oval in shape and depict the state of Utah with the American Legion Family logos on either side. They are a limited edition, numbered and can be purchased for \$60 each. If you are interested in purchasing one of these beauties, please let me know. We will also have them for sale at our regular meeting on August 8th. Hope to see you there.



Chuck Stephenson presents NECman Bill Christoffersen with his Limited Edition (1 of 50) Belt Buckle at the Past Department Commander's Dinner at Post 71 in Salt Lake City.



Sergeant-at-Arms



Frank Ferrante.

It was a privilege and an honor to have participated in the Kaysville 4th of July parade. It was hot and we did have some difficulty staying in step together, but we could hear and feel the appreciation and the patriotic enthusiasm of the crowd. It was that spirit that kept us "old timers" going. I had several comments that the highlight of the parade was at the beginning with the display of all the flags. Beside our Honor Guard there was an Honor Guard from Northridge High School, and Legionnaires on our "float" with all the Service and POW flags.

American Flag Etiquette Aug 2013 – The flag should not be used for any advertising purpose. It should not be embroidered, printed or otherwise impressed on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins, boxes, or anything intended to be discarded after temporary use. Advertising signs should not be attached to the staff or halyard.



Chaplain

A recent report suggests that a Pentagon agency has refused to conduct DNA test to determine once and for all whose bones are in the graves of unknowns from military cemeteries worldwide. Even when investigators say that have narrowed it down to only one possible match. The Agency the Joint Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Command, known as JPAC - is now under fire. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs Martin E. Dempsey, said the reports were "discouraging and moving rapidly toward disgraceful." The agency has a \$100 million budget to support its motto: "Until They Are Home."



An internal report by the Government Accountability Office indicates that the effort - the sacred mission **JGolden Barton** to identify the 83,000 missing service men and women from all of America's wars since World War II - has been undermined by squabbling between agencies. It is disheartening to learn that 73,000 of the warriors who fought for freedom in World War II are still listed as missing in action, many lying in military graves worldwide, marked as unknown.

These are the kids I grew up with during the great depression. The very same kids that put away their bag of marbles, vacated the sandlot baseball diamonds, the basketball hoops tacked to the shed, set aside their school books, and rushed to the recruiting centers to serve their country in the early 1940's. Not for the love of a fight but for love of God and country and the joy of liberty and freedom.

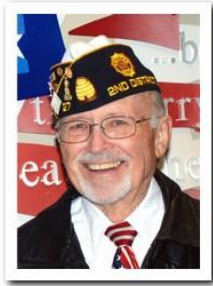
And today, a multi-million dollar government agency squabbles over bio-metrics, rejects reports because commas were in the wrong place, or because investigators used footnotes instead of endnotes in official requests. While my valiant friends who sacrificed all for God and country sleep in unmarked graves the JPAC officials are reluctant to exhume and identify, questioning the necessity because unknown soldiers already were buried with honor.

I am appalled, disgusted and angry. 8,500 graves of unknown soldiers overlooked and unidentified. A \$100 million budget and the JPAC laboratory director Thomas D. Holland, Ph.D. objects to the use of height and other biometric factors to narrow down the list of possible matches.

The occupant of that unknown soldier's grave sleeps on in eternal honor, yet no flowers adorn the grave, while JPAC officials at the DNA lab and offices at the Pentagon collect their monthly stipends under the banner "Until They Are All Home."

Wake up America!

Finance Officer



John Sheets

Post balance sheet beginning to grow as the New Fiscal Year starts. At the end of July our Bank Balance is **\$2298.63**, However that does not take into consideration dues to be sent to the Department.



POW/MIA News



Jay Hess

Department of Defense helps Utah families find closure

Family members of missing American servicemen gathered at the Radisson Hotel in Salt Lake City in hopes of getting closure on their loved ones.

Between the Vietnam, Korean and the cold war period, 49 service members from Utah remain unaccounted for.

A breakdown by state is not available for World War II, but more than 73,000 members nationwide are unaccounted for.

"Even though these wars were decades ago, these conflicts were decades ago, we are still dedicated to our mission of keeping the promise to help bring some of these family members home," said Army Sergeant 1st Class Sheila L. Sledge.

More than 70 family members of missing servicemen gathered at the Radisson Hotel in Salt Lake City recently. The Department of Defense Prisoners of War, Missing Personnel (DPMO) gives monthly updates in Washington, D.C. and throughout the country on the more than 83,000 missing United States servicemen.

The Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for DPMO, retired Maj. Gen. Montague Windfield, walked around to each table and greeted the families of those who were missing.

"We absolutely love our veterans," Windfield told the audience of family members. It is important to be able to identify these service members and to give the families answers, Montague said. As the family member of a service member once told him, "You don't appreciate a funeral until there is not one."

Windfield explained that several pieces account for the success of the Department, including the president and Congress, which passed the National Defense Authorization Act in 2010, which among other things allowed for the investigation of those missing from World War II.

He also mentioned the work of veterans organizations and family groups, private citizens, and DNA scientists, negotiators to develop and maintain good relationships with countries such as North Korea, Japan and China, analysts and investigators.



Historian

It Came From Hollywood

The United States Air Force is the youngest of the U.S. military service branches, having become independent from the U.S. Army in 1947. It was not until eight years later, in 1955, that the Air Force got its own academy—intended to be on a par with the Army’s West Point and the Navy’s Annapolis—



which graduated its first class in 1959. Secretary of the Air Force Harold Talbott wanted to give his cadets a look that was distinctive from both the West Point cadets and the midshipmen of Annapolis. He sought designs from all the standard military tailors, but nothing they proposed struck his fancy. That’s when he called the man who made a Moses out of Charlton Heston in *The Ten Commandments*. Talbott asked Cecil B. DeMille—the quintessential Hollywood director (producer, screenwriter, editor, and actor as well)—to design something special for the U.S. Air Force Academy. The parade uniform he came up with had a brilliant sky-blue

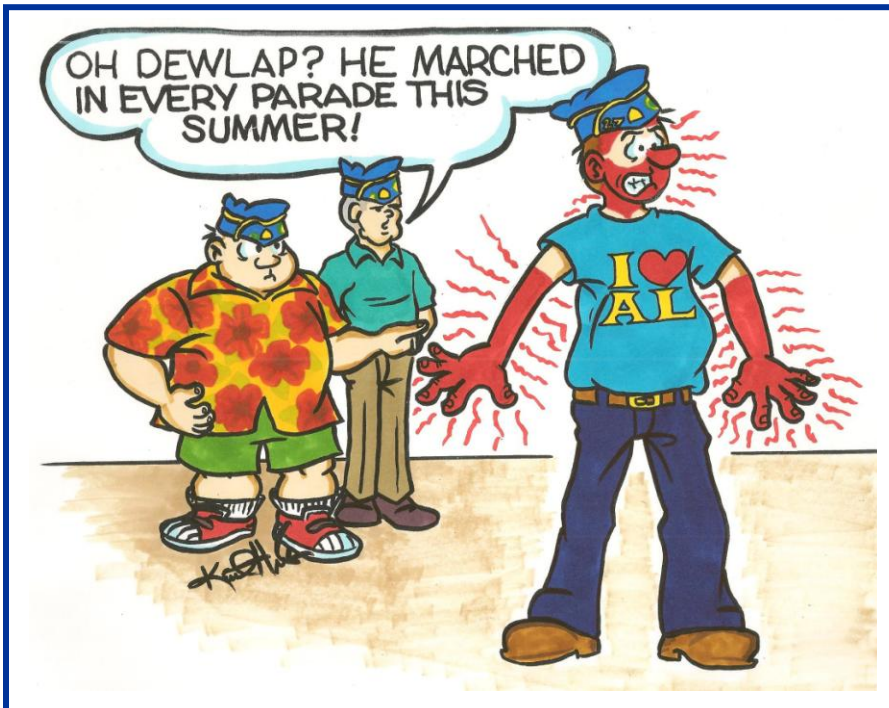


Kent Hansen

cutaway tailcoat with a high choke collar and a double row of silver buttons, rather like an old-fashioned bellhop’s uniform. Trousers were starched white, and a primrose-colored cavalry-type sash completed the ensemble. Talbott loved it. The generals loved it. Everybody loved it. And the U.S. Air Force Academy cadets still wear it today. *Lights. Action.*

Afterburners!

Legion Laffs



Calendar of Events

- **August 8 –Next Scheduled Post Meeting**
6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Rm. 114
- **August 15 – Flag Retirement Ceremony**, 8:30 pm, Davis County Fairgrounds Outdoor Arena
- **September 2 – Labor Day** *Fly the flag!*
- **September 11 – Patriot Day** *Fly the flag!*
- **September 11 – Kaysville Flag Ceremony**, 6:30 am.
- **September 20 – POW/MIA Recognition Day**
Fly the flag!

