



# THE AMERICAN LEGION

## POST 27 / SQUADRON 27

### NEWSLETTER

#### FARMINGTON, UTAH

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

August 2014

STILL SERVING AMERICA

www.post27.org

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

This past month has been a pageant of parades for Post 27. We began with the Farmington Festival Days Parade, which was basically a simple bunting-festooned trailer filled with veterans. Modest offering, yes, but the message was strong enough that our entry was awarded the Grand Marshal's Choice trophy, one of only four awards given for the parade. Then, we had also received an invitation to ride on a float in Bountiful's Handcart Days Parade, the third largest parade in the state. Our float was sponsored by our good friends at Russon Brothers Mortuaries, who have provided so many opportunities for us to render military funeral honors to our deceased comrades. We were joined by our comrades from Bountiful Post 79, commanded by Randall Cates. The 48-foot float was decorated with ample amounts of red, white and blue and the emblems of the five services as well as the National Guard and POW/MIA Recognition. It was topped by a beautiful model of the Fallen Warrior, with a helmet atop a rifle spiked between two combat boots and a pair of dog tags hung from the top. We are grateful to Wanda McFall and Ken and Michelle Zith for providing much of the decorations.



Kent Hansen

Now, we turn our attention to our second annual Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Davis County Fair on the evening of August 14. Last year's unqualified success leads us to believe that this sacred rite will be an on-going annual event that will keep the honor of our national colors ever in the minds of our citizens. If you can possibly make it, drop by the outdoor arena at the Fairgrounds around 8:30 pm and enjoy this wonderful event with us.



Left: The Grand Marshal's Choice trophy awarded to Post 27 for our parade entry.



Right: Post 27 Legionnaires John Sheets, Frank Lennartz, Jay Hess, Ken Hadley, David Layton, Chuck Stephenson, Dale Crockett, Frank Ferrante, Paula Stephenson and Kent Hansen pose as they decorate our Handcart Days float.



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](http://www.post27.org).



Visit us on Facebook

## 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE COMMANDER



**Frank Ferrante**

Please share the following with a veteran that is not a member of the American Legion.

Do you remember when you first went in to the Military you were a little scared, unsure what was going to happen to you and apprehensive of your future. In many situations you didn't know whether you would ever get home again; see your family, your loved ones. And the only thing that you could count on in that instant was your military comrades. And you knew he or she was counting on you too.

Do you remember the tediousness of garrison life? Do you remember the interminable hurry up and wait? Do you remember the inane make-work projects you were ordered to do? But your comrade was always there alongside you, making the wisecrack, helping you make it through each day, maybe

even covering for you on occasion.

### **Your comrade still needs you!!!**

Maybe your comrade is in one of the VA hospitals; his war wounds and/or time have taken its toll on his body. Maybe he or she is a young veteran, just discharged from service in the Gulf War, Bosnia or Afghanistan and is having difficulty finding a civilian job. Maybe your comrade, who served in World War II to the present conflicts, is just an ordinary guy or gal like yourself, wanting to share stories and comradeship with someone who was in a similar situation.

### **Your comrade still needs you!!!**

The American Legion is the place for you to help your buddy and for your buddy to help you. Founded in 1919, it is the largest veteran's organization in the United States with more than three million members.

### **Your comrade still needs you!!!**

Farmington Post 27 was chartered in 1919, ninety five year ago!! We are veterans just like you. We care about America, our fellow veterans, our families and our children. As a member of Farmington Post 27 we continue to serve our God, our Country and our Community. Our Legionnaires, or comrades, participate in many community activities such as parades, memorials, dedications, flag ceremonies, etc. We have a funeral honor guard detail ready, willing and able at the family's request. Our funeral detail is available to all veterans. We sponsor local students to participate in Boys or Girls State; sponsor scholarships to better educate our children.

### **Come join us!! AMERICA NEEDS YOU – JOIN NOW!**

**Flag Etiquette Aug 2014** - When flown with the national banner of other countries, each flag must be displayed from a separate pole of the same height. Each flag should be of the same size. They should be raised and lowered simultaneously. The flag of one nation may not be displayed above that of another.



## 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE COMMANDER

I would like to thank all those who helped or participated in the parades both in Farmington and Bountiful. In Farmington as we led the parade with the flag it was good to see the people lining the streets standing with their hands over their hearts to pay honor to the symbol of this great country. In the Bountiful parade, as we rode on the float, I saw little children standing waving to us or waving their little flags and some with their hands over their hearts as their mothers would tell them these are real heroes who fought for our country. There were many women calling out we love you and thanks for your service. Men, young and old, stood and saluted, and those who could not stand, sat up straight and saluted. As we passed by, I felt like I was the spectator and I realized that this was not for me at all, for I personally am not a hero nor did any heroic deed. But I am privileged to be there in proxy for the many who had fallen and for those who had passed on. What an honor it was for me to be with you in both parades.



**Kenneth Hadley**

Now there is an opportunity for all of us to properly retire our worn out flags this month at the Davis County Fair in Farmington. I hope you will take the time to help out and bring your family and friends.

## ADJUTANT



**Chuck Stephenson**

### **Membership.**

Thanks to all Post 27 members who have already renewed. For Membership Year 2014, Utah was #16 of 55 American Legion Departments. We have not yet received our 2015 Department Goal, but we are at approximately 48% of last year's goal of 82. What a great time to be a Legionnaire and a member of Post 27 – *The Post with American Legion Heart!* Last month I talked about the six members who had not renewed for 2014. When we rented the U-Haul trailer for the Bountiful Handcart Parade from the U-Haul dealer in Farmington on Main Street just a block away from our Post, it turns out he is a member of Post 27. Thanks, Craig Holmes, for renewing your membership. Craig is also a Blue Star Family, since he is active with the Air National Guard.

We also welcome our newest member to Post 27. Rob Harris joined in early July and we are excited to have him as our newest Comrade. Rob is a physician who lives in Farmington and works in Layton. I continue to say it each and every month, **Membership is Our Life Blood!!**

### MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

**As a Reminder.** I wish to issue this Membership Challenge. In honor of our own Paula Stephenson becoming Department of Utah Commander for 2014/2015, I challenge ALL Post members to renew at the earliest opportunity. Please support her and the Department of Utah in their Membership Goals for 2015. **WHAT A TRIBUTE IT WOULD BE TO BECOME THE 1<sup>ST</sup> POST IN THE STATE TO REACH 100%.**

**Sons of The American Legion.** REMINDER - Squadron 27's Annual Membership Dues for 2015 will increase from \$7.50 to \$10. We are doing well on S.A.L. membership as well. We have already had 6 of our 15 current members renew for 2015. Any male descendent of an eligible Legionnaire or Veteran is eligible to become a member of the Sons of the American Legion. At the National Level, The Detachment of Utah finished Number 1 in the Nation at 120%. Congrats to all who have worked to support our Squadron.

**Department of Utah Belt Buckles.** The William E. "Bill" Christoffersen "BIG BEE" 50 Years Commemorative Belt Buckles are available for purchase. **There are only 11 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.



## SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Wow, what a summer so far and more is still to come. Thanks to everyone who has participated in the Farmington Festival Days and the Bountiful Handcart Days. Post 27 received much recognition for the outstanding tribute that was represented to the Veterans and Post Members. We now have the opportunity to repeat the success we have had year with the Davis County Fair in conducting on August 14<sup>th</sup> the second Flag Retirement Ceremony.

Last year's program was attended by more than 100 fair guests that expressed their patriotism and "Thank You" for providing this community service and conducting the ceremony with such respect for our nation's flag. In order to have the success as we did last year, we again will need all of Post 27 to be in attendance and willing to participate as directed. You will receive additional information after this week's meeting with the Davis County Fair Committee.



**David Layton**

All events we provide to the community and Military Funeral Honors require some physical activity and readiness. So, let's all 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.

## CHAPLAIN



July was the parade month. Members of Farmington Post 27 did their best to represent all members past and present of the American Legion, the armed service branches of the United States military, and veterans of all of America's foreign wars. Many dressed in American Legion uniforms and a few in military service uniform. The Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force and Coast Guard flags waving next to the Stars and Stripes of red, white, and blue. With spirits high we waved at the crowds who gathered to enjoy the parades in Kaysville, Farmington, and Bountiful.

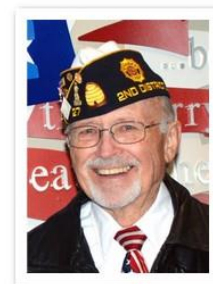
**JGolden Barton** We were privileged to experience an amazing energy of patriotism from the crowd. We witnessed a deep respect and emotion for both the flags and the veterans; often a burst of applause, "thank you" on the lips and in the eyes of those waving back. Babies, young children, teens, parents, waving American flags with hands on heart, with many standing at attention saluting flag and the cause we represent.

With the marching National Guard band playing and the crowd cheering I could not help but think - that at last the Vietnam veterans with us were finally receiving the reception they so rightfully deserve. It was a marvelous experience to share hand waves and salutations with neighbors, friends, strangers, and fellow travelers of all ages and walks of life. It was not for us - but for all who served, the missing in action, those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, and for the wounded worn and weary; it was for the men in the trenches and the skies above, the men and women on the typewriter and supply lines far behind; and for all those warriors who have gone before. It was a sincere expression of appreciation for all who have served the cause of liberty and freedom enjoyed in America today. Yes, small town America is alive and well when it comes to love for God, country, and flag!

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## FINANCE OFFICER

Post 27's Military Funeral Honor Guard has assisted in 48 funerals and in at least 3 cases completed the entire program in " Firing the volley, Playing of Taps, folding and presenting the flag to the decedent's nearest relative", also presenting our "Casing Remembrance" of the firing of the Volley, Taps and folding of the flag.



**John Sheets**

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## SEA CADET NEWS

Hello everyone. This has been a good month for the Jake Garn Squadron. It has been mostly an administrative month, but a good month, nonetheless. The unit currently had eight cadets and 12 volunteer adults enrolled. Two of our cadets attended advanced training at Camp Williams. Cadet VanZyverden attended Recruit Training (RT) and Cadet White attended Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Both cadets represented the Sea Cadet program and American Legion very well.

In addition to joining the American Legion, Post 27 at the Bountiful Parade, the unit conducted an all-adult, volunteer meeting on July 30th. From this meeting, the unit obtained 12 new adult volunteers. This additional help should help the unit quite a bit. As the unit grows, it will be harder to conduct the day-to-day operations of a drilling unit. Administration and uniform issue/repair are a couple of the most difficult jobs to manage. Training is also a big challenge, perhaps the most important challenge, as it is the core part of what Sea Cadets is all about. We want to make sure the cadets have a good time and experience a disciplined environment, but we also want to make sure they can learn topics that will serve them well throughout life. With more adult help, we can broaden that learning with the unique experience of each adult volunteer.



**Courtney Putnam**

While no solid plans have been developed yet, August should be a fun drilling month. Considering the new cadets that have only recently signed-up, August drill needs to be really fun and engaging. Drill is currently planned for August 23rd and 24th. Although I have still been unable to get commitment from Hill Air Force Base to let us drill there, I am optimistic that I

will receive the green light soon. I have been trying to arrange a Memorandum of Understanding since March of this year. As we all know, though, the wheels of military protocol roll very slowly.

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## POW/MIA News



The Department of Defense announced 17 service members have been recovered from a C-124 Globemaster aircraft that was lost on Nov. 22, 1952. U.S. Army Lt. Col. Lawrence S. Singleton, Pvt. James Green, Jr., and Pvt. Leonard A. Kittle; U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Earl J. Stearns; U.S. Navy Cmdr. Albert J. Seeboth; U.S. Air Force Col. Noel E. Hoblit, Col. Eugene Smith, Capt. Robert W. Turnbull, 1st Lt. Donald Sheda, 1st Lt. William L. Turner, Tech. Sgt. Engolf W. Hagen, Staff Sgt. James H. Ray, Airman 1st Class Marion E. Hooton, Airman 2nd Class Carroll R. Dyer, Airman 2nd Class Thomas S. Lyons, Airman 2nd Class Thomas C. Thigpen, and Airman 3rd Class Howard E. Martin have been recovered and will be returned to their families for burial with full military honors.

### Jay C. Hess

On Nov. 22, 1952, a C-124 Globemaster aircraft crashed while en route to Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, from McChord Air Force Base, Washington. There were 11 crewmen and 41 passengers on board. Adverse weather conditions precluded immediate recovery attempts. In late November and early December 1952, search parties were unable to locate and recover any of the service members.

On June 9, 2012, an Alaska National Guard (AKNG) UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter crew spotted aircraft wreckage and debris while conducting a training mission over the Colony Glacier, immediately west of Mount Gannett. Three days later another AKNG team landed at the site to photograph the area and they found artifacts at the site that related to the wreckage of the C-124 Globemaster. Later that month, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) and Joint Task Force team conducted a recovery operation at the site and recommended it continued to be monitored for possible future recovery operations. In 2013, additional artifacts were visible and JPAC conducted further recovery operations.

DoD scientists from the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) used forensic tools and circumstantial evidence in the identification of 17 service members. The remaining personnel have yet to be recovered and the crash site will continued to be monitored for future possible recovery.

For more information, please contact the service public affairs office. Army public affairs office can be reached at 703-614-1742. Navy public affairs office can be reached at 703-697-5342. Marine Corps public affairs can be reached at 703-614-4309. Air Force public affairs can be reached at 703-695-0640.

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## HISTORIAN

### The History of the Rifle Volley

At military funerals, one often sees three volleys of shots fired in honor of the deceased veteran. This is often mistaken by laymen as a 21-gun salute, although it is entirely different (in the military, a "gun" is a large-calibered weapon. The three volleys are fired from "rifles," not "guns." Therefore, the three volleys isn't any kind of "gun salute," at all).

Anyone who is entitled to a military funeral (generally anyone who dies on active duty, honorably discharged veterans, and military retirees) are to the three rifle volleys, subject to availability of honor guard teams. This is not a 21-gun salute, nor any other type of "gun salute." They are simply three rifle volleys fired. The firing team can consist of any number, but one usually sees a team of eight, with a noncommissioned officer in charge of the firing detail.

Whether the team consists of three or eight, or ten, each member fires three times (three volleys). The three volleys comes from an old battlefield custom. The two warring sides would cease hostilities to clear their dead from the battlefield, and the firing of three volleys meant that the dead had been properly cared for and the side was ready to resume the battle. The flag detail sometimes slips three shell-casings into the folded flag before presenting the flag to the family. Each casing represents one volley. We, of course, present the casings in a wooden display.



Kent Hansen



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- August 7 -- Post 27 Meeting, 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116. **Date change because of Flag Retirement Ceremony.**
- August 14 – Flag Retirement Ceremony. Approximately 8:30 pm, Outdoor Arena, Davis County Fairgrounds. Admission is free.
- September 1 – Labor Day. *Fly the flag.*
- September 11 – Patriot Day. *Fly the flag.*
- September 11 -- Post 27 Meeting, 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
- September 19 – POW/MIA Recognition Day. *Fly the flag.*



## FROM THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

The American Legion Department of Utah is the direct link with our National Headquarters. As you read in The Legion Magazine, there are many great, new and old ideas that are working for other Posts around the United States. Our delegates go to the National Convention and bring back updates in the form of resolutions that have passed, new programs that others are trying, bring activities back to the Department and Post level that we see and experience at National.

Education helps our Posts help our communities. If Dale Crockett, our Eagle Scout Court of Honor Coordinator, who came to us from the Brigham City Post 10 with the skill set of the 13-Fold Ceremony, we would not have this successful program in Post 27 enhancing our Community. If the Army National Guard did not train and update our skills annually with military funeral honors, we would not have one of the best looking, best performing Funeral Honor Team in the state. If we had not observed the first class Flag Retirement Ceremony that Post 68, Spanish Fork does every year, we would not have brought this great event to our community in Davis County—teaching a great number of our citizens about flag etiquette and patriotism.

So what does Post 27 want to do next? What skill set do you want to learn? If one person takes the lead, I have found that the members in our Post do not let that person execute the program alone. And we have fun doing it together. If you have the idea, we can find the trainers from National or another Department in the United States to teach us the skills. I am still looking for someone to get an old, retired metal mail box, decorate it appropriately in red/white/blue as a depository for flags that need to be retired, and place it outside on the porch of the Davis County Memorial Courthouse for our community to deposit the flags that need “retirement” (placement is subject to County Facilities Management approval). I have a photo of one that was done in another state by a Post. This is an example of a short term project, or can go as large as one in every fire station in Davis County. Another big project that I see on a regular basis is the land that has been set aside for a Veteran’s Memorial at the Kaysville City Cemetery.

Put your thinking caps on . . . ! Let our Post Executive Committee Officers know what you are thinking. We are “Warriors Still Serving.”



**Paula Stephenson**  
Commander  
Dept. of Utah

