



The American Legion



Post 27

Squadron 27

Unit 27

Newsletter

Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116, 28 East State Street, Farmington, Utah

August 2017 *Still Serving America* www.post27.org



Kent Hansen

Commander's Corner

EVOLVING EXCELLENCE

Post 27 is widely known for being "The Post With The Most." We have answered the call from Logan to Provo and when another Post, organization or city or county government needs a military unit, we have always responded with efficiency and professionalism. Adapt and overcome; it's what we do.

That said, I sometimes fear that we may, at some point, lapse into a state of self-congratulation. We have a right to be proud of the service we have rendered and the service we continue to provide. But we needn't feed on it.

Excellence is not a destination but rather an evolution. If we are no better tomorrow than we are today, then all we have achieved is stagnation. When we first entered military service, we didn't even know how to march, salute or wear a uniform. Through our tours of duty, we learned, grew, achieved and improved. The fruit salad on our chests denotes accomplishments and, sometimes, even heroism. But, who among us can live on by-gone bravery and merit in memory.

The wise Greek philosopher Aristotle speaks just as correctly today as he did centuries ago: *"Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we rather have those because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit."*



The needs of our nation are no less urgent now than they were when we served. We cannot allow our citizenship become a mere spectator sport but rather one in which we take the field because we still believe in the principles of freedom and democracy that guided us while we were in uniform – and because we still can.

Post 27 provides ample opportunities to continue along a path toward excellence by continued service to the community, state and nation. And as we serve, we become better men and women – and also better Americans. We, who participate, enjoy an amazing camaraderie and kinship that eclipses all other differences. Our ongoing service ennobles us and rewards us far beyond that which we give. See for yourself. Come on out of the bleachers and into the dugout. You'll love being part of the team.

Post 27 Programs & Activities

- Flag Education
- High School Constitution Oratorical Contest
- American Legion Utah Boys State & American Legion Auxiliary Girls State
- Military Funeral Honors
- Eagle Scout Court of Honor Flag Ceremonies
- Flag Retirement Ceremonies
- U.S. Flag sales
- Honor Guard & Rifle Team for community events in Kaysville, Fruit Heights, Farmington, Centerville
- Jake Garn Sea Cadet Squadron sponsor
- DATC Veterans Center support
- VA Outreach support at Post
- Medal of Honor Character Development Program in Davis County schools
- POW/MIA updates
- Meet The Candidate sponsor
- Farmington/Kaysville Cemetery Flag project
- Memorial Day weekend
- Parade participation
- American Legion Junior Shooting Sports
- American Legion National Emergency Fund support

Veterans Still Serving!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Aug. 3 – SAL meeting. 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.

Aug. 10 -- Post 27 meeting, 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.

Aug. 10 – Unit 27 Auxiliary meeting. 6:00 pm, Room 114, Davis County Memorial Courthouse.

Aug. 17 – 5th Annual Flag Retirement & Military Tribute, 6:00 pm for volunteers, 7:00 pm ceremony starts, Davis County Fairgrounds.

Sept. 7 -- SAL meeting. 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.

Sept. 15 – Annual Post/Squadron/Unit 27 Picnic. 6:00 pm, Nicholls Park, 1105 E. Nicholls Rd, W. Pavilion, Fruit Heights.

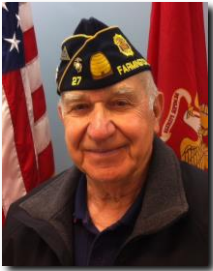
Sept. 15 – POW/MIA Recognition Day.

Oct. 5 -- SAL meeting. 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.

Oct. 12 -- Post 27 meeting, 6:30 pm, Davis County Admin Bldg., Auditorium. **Boys and Girls Staters will report**

Oct. 12 -- Unit 27 Auxiliary meeting. 6:00 pm, Room 116, Davis County Memorial Courthouse.

1st Vice Commander



The American Legion is only as strong as its membership base. The more devoted members it has, the better the organization can advocate for veterans and serve the military community which has given much to our country. Every Legionnaire is a recruiter for new members. Invite your relatives, neighbors and friends who are veterans to join us. Explain to them some of benefits listed:

Discounts - Your membership gives you and your family practical, money-saving discounts that can easily save you many times the cost of your annual membership dues.

Frank Ferrante

Monthly Magazine - Our nation's leaders speak directly to citizens on the pages of The American Legion Magazine. The Legion's organizational goals are promoted using the words of talented writers, professional journalists, and world leaders.



A Powerful Force in our Nation's

Capital -The American Legion is the nation's most influential, effective and dependable advocate of veteran affairs fighting for better active-duty pay, improved housing for active-duty families and helping to ensure that the VA's medical system can properly care for veterans.

VA Benefit Assistance -Your membership helps support Department Service Officers nationwide who assist veterans in preparing claims and obtaining their full military healthcare benefits through the VA.

You can register online at our Web Site www.post27.org.

American Flag Etiquette – 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.



NEEDED: Flag Retirement Ceremony volunteers (military personnel/ veterans/Scout leaders /police officers/first responders). Report to the North Outdoor Arena at 6:00 pm, Thursday, August 17, 2017, Legacy Events Center, Farmington. Tell parking lot personnel that you are supporting the Flag Retirement Ceremony with American Legion Post 27. POC: Ron Craig at 801-628-3480 or racraig15@gmail.com. Flags ready for disposal/ retirement may be brought that evening.



2nd Vice Commander

This has been a whale of a ride as 2nd Vice Commander. I have learned a lot about the members of the Post and what it is like to get a team of volunteers actively engaged. I have truly enjoyed this past year working on the Oratorical and the Boys State Scholarship programs. We truly have a great generation of young men and women who are preparing themselves to be our future leaders.

Several years ago, when I transferred my Legion membership from the Layton Post, I was greatly surprised at the quality of men and women who are members. On the day I transferred to the post, I had lunch with John Sheets. I was asking him a lot of questions about the Post and the environment I was about to be a member of. John made me aware that the Post was just beginning to get reactivated. We then had a discussion about how to get the present members active and how to get veterans to want to join. Having served in the Riverton Post for several years, I was aware of the importance of the Military Funeral Honors program. It was the life blood to that post. John indicated that the Post had rifles at one time, but transferred them to another post that needed them. I told John that if we could get the rifles, that I would work with the MFH team to train them. I agreed to transfer my membership to Post 27 and with John, take on that challenge.

It has been an exciting ride since then to get our team trained and committed to the role of the MFH's Team. It is a challenge to get dedicated members to volunteer to assist with this program. Presently, we have a volunteer list of about 17 members who are on our volunteer list. Some are consistently there to assist on a continual basis, and some volunteer as their work, family commitments and such allow. Several of our team members are beginning to feel a bit over-tasked with this "part time" commitment.

This is a commitment. We cannot control when our veterans decide to go meet their maker. It could be one a week, or two or three and sometimes four a week. The important thing is that we have volunteers that are committed as much as possible that when the call comes, it is important to have committed members that step forward and volunteer to fill the assignments. Our goal is to have five rifles, a commander, bugler, and presenter of the casings at every funeral; a total of eight (8). Ideally, seven rifles, commander, bugler, and presenter would be great; a total of ten (10). So, you can see, we need a greater commitment from our membership to step forward.



On the positive side, since our first participation in the MFH's program, we have come a long way in supporting our deceased veterans. Several of you can still remember when it was so cold out that only one round fired in three volleys with three rifles, or the wind was so strong that two of our members were blown into two headstones and ended up on the ground. Or the time our bugle batteries gave out on the second note of taps. Or we forgot our bugle altogether, and all the

family heard was me saying "oh crap". Presently, our MFH's Team is recognized as one of the best in the state. Coming with that distinction is a larger requirement to support more funerals. This takes more commitment by more volunteers. The bottom line is that we need more members to step forward and to get involved.

Recently, I have been elected to become the Squadron Commander of the Sons of the American Legion. At this point, I am excited to take this assignment. I know that it comes with a different kind of commitment. For the program to be successful, we need the adult members of the SAL to commit to activity and to help the young men in the SAL get active and excited about the program. We have a challenge with the active membership program, but we also have some great programs that are already in force to excite the membership. As we organize the leadership and execute our annual calendar time should help us to successful. I know that our Commander wants the SAL to be ready to assist the Post with the 2019 Centennial activities. It is my goal to get there.



Ron Craig

Adjutant

Membership is Our Lifeblood

Membership. Membership. Statistics are membership numbers through 1 Aug 2017.



Dale Crockett

2018 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2018 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
	12	19	13	1	0	45	%

We have had a good start with our 2018 membership drive which began on July 1st. In just the first month, we are almost half done with 55 renewals still to go. Please consider renewing your membership now, so Post 27 can earn a 100% streamer to put on our Post flag, if we make it by Dec. 31. Then I won't have to keep writing this portion of the newsletter every month reminding member to renew. You can send it to our Post: P.O. Box 427, Farmington, UT 84025-0427. An even easier option is to go to www.Legion.org/renew and renew online. All you need is your current American Legion Membership Number and a valid credit card. Your renewal is instant, and the Post can see your renewal on-line within 24-48 hours. If you do not know your membership number, please give me a call or e-mail me. ***If I can do anything for you to make your membership renewal easier or more convenient, or answer any questions you may have regarding membership, please let me know. I can be reached at Home (801) 451-9493 / Cell (801) 560-2186 or email dalescrockett@yahoo.com.***

Also, please talk to your friends, neighbors and family members about membership into the American Legion. We would like to grow stronger in this area to help support the programs that we do. Remember that the National Guard and Reserve are eligible to be part of this great organization. As we are getting older, we need to bring in younger folks to bolster our ranks. I know that sometimes it appears that we are just a bunch of old folks, but young veterans are welcome and are encouraged to join us. It does not interfere with those who are working full time. They can just join and get the benefits from their membership or participate on limited basis. When I joined, I was not too involved until I retired and after, I eased into being a more active member doing Honor Guard events, Military Funeral Honors and Eagle Court Flag Ceremonies. You can be as involved as you want. It's great because you meet people and make great friends. It has been great serving and a blessing to my family.



Past Department Commander Training Officer

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

The American Legion will be 100 years old soon. What does that mean to you? As Legionnaires, we should be able to answer with confidence when asked "What is The American Legion?". What is a VSO (Veterans Service Organization)? Knowledge is power. This year we are planning a different element to our monthly meetings – fun and interesting subjects to broaden your knowledge about The American Legion organization, past and present. Two subjects have been completed so far:

"The History & Wearing of The Legion Cap"

"The Origin of Taps & how it fits into Military Funeral Honors"

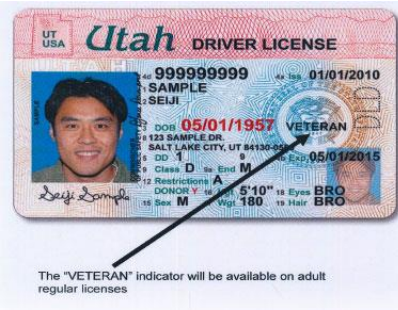
The time only takes 10-15 minutes out of each meeting. The subjects will be in each Post newsletter before the meeting, but you are always encouraged to join us at any time to keep up with the pace of events and activities. The subject for the August 10th meeting: ***"Flag Retirements-What's It All About"***

All members of The American Legion Family (Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion) are invited.



Paula Stephenson

UTAH DRIVER LICENSE



Veterans can now have “VETERAN” printed on their state issued driver licenses or state ID cards. In order to have this accomplished, go to any state Driver License or ID Office and indicate on the application for these cards that you served in the military. You must have served on active duty and have an Honorable or General Discharge. Veterans must provide a DD-214 or a Report of Separation to have their status verified. All renewal fees are still applicable. (Utah Code 53-3-804)

HONORARY HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS

Veterans from WWII, Korea, and Vietnam who left high school for military service during those conflicts may be eligible to receive Honorary High School Diplomas from the particular school that they left. Contact the local school district for information on how to receive the diploma. (Utah Code 53A-3-426). Let the Post Commander know so we can assist if needed, and honor your service and “graduation”.

Sons of the American Legion



Dave Parker
Squadron 27
Commander

According to the SAL handbook the month of August is when members participating in the Ten Ideals Program may wish to show their proficiency in portions of the ideals of health and training. Also the Installation of squadron officers often takes place during August. So I would like to announce that as of the August SAL meeting I passed the role of Squadron Commander to Ron Craig. I had hoped to be able to involve one of the young men who participated in Boys State in our SAL activities but most of them are either leaving on a mission for their church or going into military service. Ron Craig has previously worked with youth and I'm confident he will be able to do great things with our Squadron in the future. I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to my Vice Commander Tim Hansen and all who helped this past year in getting our SAL Squadron up and running. Farmington Squadron 27 managed to achieve a 144% membership sign-up and first to 100% for the 2017 membership year.

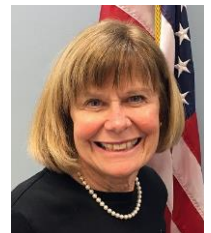
I will be continuing as a dual Member for the 2018 year, and will hope and encourage our current Squadron Membership to do the same.



American Legion Auxiliary



July was a great month for our Unit! The Farmington Festival Days parade was a huge success with our awesome Post and Unit leading the parade! Our Unit was represented on the float! It was such a treat to see the children who lined the parade route be so excited to get the small American flags we gave out! They all wanted a flag! We are thinking for next year, we will recruit some of our Boys State and Girls State attendees to march with us so we can get lots more flags to our Farmington kiddos!! We are blessed in Farmington to have such a hometown feel to our parade!



Deb Hefner
Unit 27
President

If you missed the July meeting, it was a lot of fun! We had some tasty soup, fruit, rolls and great conversation ... so if you know of ladies who are eligible to join our Unit, please bring them to our next meeting at 6 pm on August 10! We meet the same night as the Post...just a half hour earlier! And we are just down the hall from the Post at the Davis County Memorial Courthouse! There will be some food!! See you then!!



POW/MIA News



Jay C. Hess

Recently, members of Post 27 performed a flag ceremony honoring two veterans, one of whom was Post 27 member John Sheets. After the ceremony I was approached by John's neighbor, Carolyn Smith, who said to me, "My father was a POW." I asked, "What was your father's name." "Ray Church", she replied. Although I didn't know Ray, I had met him and was impressed by his remarkable and distinguished manner and stature. He was someone you would like to know

more about. John reports that he gave a very interesting presentation to the Post when he was Commander.

Ray Church of Delta joined the Marines before World War II and was one of eight guards at the Governor's Palace in Guam's capital, Agana. Japanese began bombing and strafing Guam on December



8, 1941. At 3:00 am on Dec. 10, Japanese attacked the island with a large force of thousands. After a short but brave resistance, Governor McMillin surrendered the island on December 10. Private First Class Church was taken prisoner with the rest of the garrison on Guam. During the next four weeks of starvation he lost 40 pounds. In the bottom of an at-first stifling hot and later frigid-cold ship, he was moved to Japan for slave labor. Only four out of 10 survived. After 45 months of starvation, disease and brutal imprisonment, the Japanese guards failed to show up and the war was over.

After recovering in San Diego, Ray married, spent 40 years in banking and community service in California then moved to Ogden in 1991 where he continued community and church service. He died Jan 16, 2013. Ray's Guam story can be found at

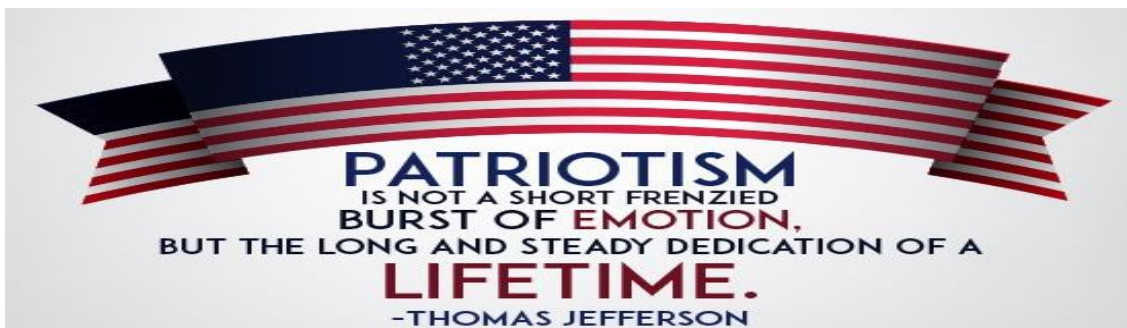
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBvQoTw7ebo> and John Sheets indicated he would be donating Church's book to Post 27 at some point.



Take advantage of our Veterans Outreach Program

Every first and third Wednesday from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm, a representative of the Veterans Administration will be at the Post (*Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116*) to assist you with your questions. Call for an appointment with the Veterans Service Office at 801-326-2370 or 801-326-2372.

Be sure to bring a DD-214 or Discharge Certificate with you.



Legion Laughs



Check us out on Facebook at "American Legion Post 27 Farmington Utah"



or the link from our Post website at www.post27.org.



Davis County

5th Annual Flag Retirement & Military Tribute



Conducted by
American Legion Post 27
Farmington

August 17

7:00pm at the Davis County Fairgrounds

COME JOIN THESE PROUD VETERANS STILL SERVING AMERICA!

This event is FREE to the public!



- U.S. Flag Code: Worn and torn American flags should be properly disposed of by fire.
- Those who have flags unfit to display may drop them off at their local Fire Department.
- In a solemn and spectacular ceremony, hundreds of flags no longer worthy to be flown will be retired.