

Second Century POST

AMERICAN LEGION

August 2023

The Official Newsletter of The American Legion John W. Sheets Post 27 ★ Unit 27 ★ Squadron 27 ★ Farmington, Utah

THE AMERICAN LEGION
JOHN W. SHEETS POST 27
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COMMANDER'S CALL

Greetings! Welcome to the August 2023 edition of the Post 27 newsletter. Once again, our American Legion Family took part in numerous activities these past few months, braving the heat! Please come join us at our upcoming events – the fall picnic in September will be a great opportunity to meet in person!



Jon Rue

Once again, in late June, a few of us attended the Department (State) Convention, this year in Provo, Utah. At the convention, new leadership for the department was elected. I look forward to working with them and improving what the Legion does for veterans.



Having said that, we need more of our members to volunteer and increase their participation and support, and most importantly offer ideas and suggestions. I'm always available to hear suggestions on how to make our Post and Department better. For planning purposes, the June 2024 Department Convention will be in Vernal, and the June 2025 one will be in the St George area.

I look forward to seeing you at our Post Meeting on August 10.

1st Vice Commander



Bob Anderson

Once again, your American Legion Post 27 lead the way in a public display of patriotism and community spirit. We were the first to show our love of this country by being the lead the Farmington City Festival Days parade on July 15. With Post Commander, Jon Rue in front of all, I was honored to carry the American Legion flag with Dave Parker (calling cadence) as the left rifleman, Dale Crockett carrying the Utah flag, John Decker carrying the US flag, and Bryan Rue as the right rifleman. Right behind us was our Post float/trailer filled with taffy-tossing Legionnaires waving to all the enthusiastic children and adult well-wishers along the route. It was a bust-your-buttons with pride experience. At noon, we performed at the Forbush Park by posting of the colors, raising the park's flag, and leading the pledge of allegiance. From 0730 to 1215, there was a lot of effort done by many from the Auxiliary, SAL, and Legion to show how The American Legion supported the Farmington event. Many thanks to all who helped.



Coming up in two months:

Calling all Post members! Please plan to come and be a part of the Patriot Day / September 11 ceremony commemorating the 22nd anniversary of the vicious terrorist attacks on our nation. We will have a ceremony outside the Farmington City Fire Department 0630-0800. Everyone who can, please come out and remember that fateful day; the many people who suffered and the many heroes that stepped forward to help them.

Come out and have a picnic with Post 27! We are meeting at Heritage Park in Farmington at 5:00 pm on September 15. Look in this newsletter or our website for particulars. We would love to see you there.

Buddy Checks are an ongoing program for the Post 27 cadre to support for all the Post members. We try to contact all active members so they will know we are available to support them in any way we can; from helping them get to physical, medical, and emotional sources of help, to giving time to listen to their issues and reminding them they are not alone. Veterans help our fellow veterans.

If you have not been contacted recently by Post Buddy Checker, let me know so I can make it happen. Bob Anderson, CP 801-347-8735 or RBA1524@aol.com.

Post 27 Family EVENTS CALENDAR

 AMERICAN
LEGION

August 4 – Coast Guard Day. Fly the flag.

August 10 – Post 27 General Meeting,
7:00 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse

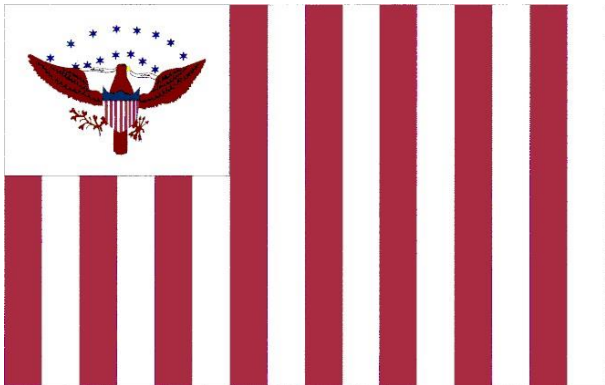
September 4 – Labor Day. Fly the flag.

September 11 – Patriot Day. Fly the flag.

**September 15 – National POW/MIA Recognition
Day. Fly the flag.**

September 15 – Post 27 Family Picnic. 5:00 pm,
Heritage Park, Farmington

2nd Vice Commander



On August 1, 1799 the Secretary of the Treasury described the ensign and pennant that was to be authorized to be flown by Revenue Cutters. It would consist of 16 perpendicular stripes (one for each state in the Union at that time) alternating with red and white stripes. The revenue Cutter Service was established in 1790 to raise much needed revenue and combat piracy and smuggling. Initially under the US Department of Treasury, it was then merged by an act of Congress in 1915 to form the United States Coast Guard.



Dan Woodward

Flags are a powerful symbol and have great meaning to all of us. On my wall, I have a US Flag that was flown over Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan on Veterans Day. This flag was presented to me by one of my best friends, in fact the Best Man at my wedding. At the time, as a Coast Guard Reservist Chief Petty Officer, he was part of the USCG RAID Team (Redeployment Assistance Inspection Detachment). They helped units get their containers ready for shipment back to the United States after their Tour. I am proud to have that Flag on my wall!

As you know, Post 27 collects unserviceable flags to be retired in a proper ceremony. We are working with the Layton Fire Department to set up one of these ceremonies in the coming months. Guests and Post members will be invited. I encourage you to attend this moving and important ceremony. We have a date and time (Friday, September 29 at 6:00 pm) with more details to be published soon! For more information on this go to the American Legion website: <https://www.legion.org/flag/ceremony>

Adjutant

Membership is our Lifeblood!



Dale Crockett

American Legion Membership: Statistics are membership numbers through Aug 1 2023.

2024 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2023 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
122	22	30	13			65	53%

Sons of the American Legion Membership: Statistics are membership numbers through Aug 1 2023.

2024 GOAL		REGULAR		NEW	TRANSFERS	2023 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
32		17	6			23	72%

We have a good start for membership renewals for the 2024 membership year. We did not reach our goal in 2023, so let's start a new trend this coming year. Please try to complete your renewals in the next couple of months and definitely by the end of 2023. May we always know we are serving veterans and by renewing, we are helping with benefits for our veterans. May God bless you this coming year.

If I can do anything for you to make your membership renewal easier or more convenient in the future, 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. You can also VENMO me to renew @Dale-Crockett-7 if you have the app. It does not cost you anything and you can get it from the APP Store.

Chaplain

MEDAL OF HONOR

The **Medal of Honor (MOH)** is the United States Armed Forces' highest military decoration and is awarded to recognize American soldiers, sailors Marines and airmen, guardians and coast guardsmen who have distinguished themselves by acts of valor. The medal is normally awarded by the president of the United States, the commander-in-chief of the armed forces, and is presented "in the name of the United States Congress.



Steve Steed

The Medal of Honor was introduced for the Naval Service in 1861, soon followed by the Army's version in 1862. The Air Force used the Army's version until they received their own distinctive version in 1965. The Medal of Honor is the oldest continuously issued combat decoration of the United States Armed Forces. The president typically presents the Medal of Honor at a formal ceremony intended to represent the gratitude of the American people, with posthumous presentations made to the primary next of kin.



There are three versions of the Medal of Honor, one for each of the military departments of the Department of Defense (DoD): the Department of the Army, Department of the Navy (Naval Service including Marines), and Department of the Air Force (Air and Space Forces). Members of the Coast Guard, part of the Department of Homeland Security, are eligible to receive the Naval version. Each medal is constructed differently, and the components are made from gilding metals and red brass alloys with some gold plating, enamel, and bronze pieces.

According to the Medal of Honor Historical Society of the United States, there have been 3,530 Medals of Honor awarded to 3,511 individuals since the decoration's creation, with over 40% awarded for actions during the American Civil War. In 1990, Congress designated March 25 annually as "National Medal of

Honor Day".

The Medal of Honor topic brings to life the valiant individuals who went above and beyond and earned our nation's highest honor. Many became well known in their time, and their names are still familiar to us today—names like John Basilone, Walt Ehlers, Audie Murphy, and Desmond Doss. Utah Medal of Honor recipients include George E. Wahlen, William S. Bennion, Jose E. Valdez, Peter Tomich, Brian Miles Thacker, and Fredrick Jarvis. Far too many of our nation's heroes of the highest order are all but forgotten by anyone other than their families.

They are gone, but they shall not be forgotten.

POW/MIA News



Jay Hess

National POW/MIA Recognition Day

National POW/MIA Recognition Day was established in 1979 through a proclamation signed by President Jimmy Carter. Since then, each subsequent president has issued an annual proclamation commemorating the third Friday in September as National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

A national-level ceremony is held on every National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Traditionally held at the Pentagon, it features members from each branch of military service and participation from high-ranking officials.

In addition to the national-level ceremony, observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day are held across the country on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, schools and veterans' facilities. No matter where they are held, these National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies share the common purpose of honoring those who were held captive and returned, as well as those who remain missing.

Since 1999, the POW/MIA Accounting community has created a poster commemorating National POW/MIA Recognition Day. The annual edition of the poster continues to honor this tradition.



Historian



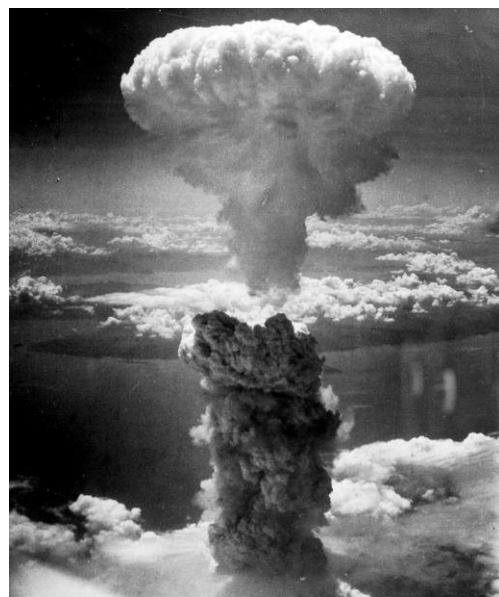
Kent Hansen

The Bombs That Ended World War II

*With the release of the biopic **Oppenheimer** and the 78th anniversary of the event, it is appropriate to look back when a tired world struggled against itself.*

At 8:50 am of August 6, 1945, the Japanese city of Hiroshima was devastated by the first atomic bomb to be used as a weapon of war. The bomb, nicknamed 'Little Boy', was dropped from the USAAF B29 bomber 'Enola Gay' and exploded some 1,800 feet above the city. Delivering the equivalent of around 12.5 kilotons of TNT, the bomb reduced five square miles of the city center to ashes and caused the deaths of an estimated 120,000 people within the first four days following the blast. Many were instantly vaporized by the explosion, others died afterwards from the effects of burns and radiation.

Three days later, just after 11:00 am on August 9, a second atomic bomb nicknamed 'Fat Man' exploded above the city of Nagasaki. Although it was even more powerful than 'Little Boy', the destruction caused by this bomb was less than at Hiroshima due to the nature of the terrain (the original target had been the city



of Kokura, but the B29 carrying the bomb had been diverted to Nagasaki because of heavy cloud cover). Nonetheless, more than two square miles of the city were pulverized and some 73,000 people killed.

The two atomic explosions had the effects desired by the Allies. On August 10, the Japanese government indicated its readiness to accept defeat, subject to certain conditions. On August 14, Japan finally accepted the demand for unconditional surrender. The following day was declared 'Victory over Japan' or VJ Day, although it was not until September 2 that the final Japanese surrender was signed, thereby bringing the Second World War to a formal close.

US President Harry S Truman and senior government officials had been aware since June 1945 that atomic weapons were likely to be available in the very near future. In light of Japan's apparently uncompromising stance on continuing the war, there was little hesitation in activating the American plans for the use of "special bombs" on Japan. For the key decision-makers at the time, dropping one or more atomic bombs on Japanese cities seemed very much the lesser evil. Even then, it took two demonstrations of the horrors of nuclear warfare to convince the Japanese hardliners that they should accept the previously unacceptable.

Looking back on these events sometime later, Lieutenant General Leslie R. Groves, former director of the 'Manhattan Project' that had developed the first A-bomb, commented: "The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki ended World War II. There can be no doubt of that. While they brought death and destruction on a horrifying scale, they averted even greater losses – American, English, and Japanese".

American Legion Auxiliary



Deb Hansen

July was such a great month! We all got to celebrate our country's birthday! Our Unit, Post and Sons were well represented in the Farmington Festival Days Parade on July 15! How fun it was to march behind our Color Guard and beside our awesome float! Thank you to our Unit members who participated with decorating the float and throwing yummy candy to the eager crowd! Our youngest Unit member, Savannah Peterson, rode in a very patriotically decorated stroller and her brother Jimmy who belongs to the Sons, marched the route and threw out candy! Chris was accompanied on the float by her two adorable granddaughters!



July also brought us our visit to the HAFB Airman's Attic with almost 600 items donated by our Unit and our neighbors! We had an excellent turnout of our Unit members and were delighted to tour the Airman's Attic!

August's meeting on August 10 will be assembling our 24 student backpacks! We will have the Davis County Memorial Courthouse open at 5:30 pm to be able to meet and unload the supplies and be ready to start stuffing at 5:45 pm. This will be in the large room on the 2nd floor where the Post meets. Please have any items you are donating delivered to Deb's (931 Land's End, Farmington or Paula's (1258 Eagle Way, Fruit Heights) by August 8, or bring them to the meeting on August 10! We will make 24 elementary students very happy! Stay cool and keep on serving! You are amazing!!!



Legion Laughs BY KENT HANSEN



Check us out on Facebook
at

“American Legion Post
27 Farmington Utah”



Find us on

Facebook

or the link from our Post
website at

www.post27.org



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UTAH DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN & MILITARY AFFAIRS:

www.veterans.utah.gov

- In the subjects scrolling at the beginning, select the **CONTACT US** button under the subject “VA Benefits & Claims Assistance”
- A veteran can make an appointment in person or virtually from this source

 **THE AMERICAN LEGION** 
JOHN W. SHEETS POST 27
FARMINGTON, UT 

Annual Picnic



September 15, 5:00 pm

Heritage Park

1591 North 1075 West, Farmington, UT

Please RSVP no later than September 10
to Frank Ferrante (801) 589-3292 or email bferrante@aol.com
and sign up to bring a side dish or dessert.

Meat provided by Post 27