



The American Legion

Post 27/Squadron 27

Newsletter

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

December 2016

Still Serving America

www.post27.org

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 location
- Medal of Honor Character Development Program in Davis County schools
- POW/MIA updates
- Meet The Candidate sponsor in Farmington
- Farmington/Kaysville Cemetery Flag project
- Memorial Day weekend
- Parade participation
- American Legion Junior Shooting Sports
- American Legion National Emergency Fund support

Veterans Still Serving!

Commander's Corner

WE CAN BE THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING



Some call it the most wonderful time of the year and I would be hard pressed to argue the point. There are so many opportunities to do something for someone else. But why must we only feel this way and act on those feelings at one time of the year?

As 2017 is just over the horizon, we members of The American Legion have much to do. In addition to providing military funeral honors, sponsoring local students to Utah Boys State, holding our annual High School Oratorical Contest, and a host of other services rendered for the good

of the community, we are putting some real muscle into our Sons of The American Legion Squadron and standing up our brand new American Legion Auxiliary unit. But here's the thing: we need you to help us. Drop in for one of our meetings on the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm. Recruit a veteran who may benefit from the camaraderie of fellow veterans. Join us for any of our service projects. You will find that the rewards far outweigh the effort. Let's make 2017 our Year of Giving!



Kent Hansen

As our year draws to a close, we enter the time of holidays, good will and giving of ourselves to others.

Calendar of Events

December 7 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.
Fly the Flag.

December 8 – Post 27 Christmas Party, 6:00 pm, Orlando's, 141 Main Street, Kaysville.

December 25 – Christmas Day.

January 5 – SAL Squadron 27 meeting, 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.

January 11 – Post 27 Oratorical Contest, 6:00 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.

January 12 – Post 27 meeting, 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.

January 16 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day. *Fly the Flag.*

January 27 – District 2 Oratorical Contest, 6:00 pm NUAMES High School on the Weber State Davis Campus. Building D-2, Rooms 103 and 104.

1st Vice Commander



Still Serving: It's Who We Are

In 1919, The American Legion was founded on four pillars: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. Each of these pillars encompasses a variety of programs that benefit our nation's veterans, its service members, their families, the youth of America and ordinary citizens. These programs make a difference in hundreds of thousands of lives each year. Our positions and programs are guided by resolutions passed by American Legion National Convention delegates, and committee and commission members who represent 2.2 million wartime veterans and their families. These programs, and the men and women who take the time to perform them, are what allow The American Legion to make a difference locally, and on the state and national levels.

Frank Ferrante

It's who we are and what we do. In the next few months I would like to briefly review each of the four pillars with you

PILLAR II National Security

- Strong National Defense
- Military Quality of Life
- Homeland Security
- Foreign Relations
- Full Accounting of POW/MIAs
- Operation Comfort Warrior

Since its founding in 1919, the American Legion remains steadfast in its support of a strong national defense, which is reflected in the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution: "To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America," and "to safeguard the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy."

The American Legion's national-security position is multifaceted. Key aspects include:

- A well-funded, well-equipped and well-trained military.
- Awareness and surveillance of rogue nations, terrorist groups and global threats to U.S. security around the world.
- Support for the Department of Homeland Security and urging its steadfast protection of U.S. borders, ports and other points of access.
- Comprehensive disaster preparedness.
- A decent quality of life for troops and their families – active-duty and reserve components alike – that includes reasonable compensation, benefits, health care, child care and family-support programs; and an efficient and compassionate healing and transition program for wounded and ill warriors.



To my fellow Legionnaires of Post 27, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Enjoy the special time of the year with your family and loved ones.

Reminder, 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. Invite a potential member to our meetings.

2nd Vice Commander

I am humbled to be voted in to be the Second Vice Commander. I held this position once before under Commander William Huber. When William stepped down, Jim Hefner was elected to be Post Commander. I was then moved to the First Vice Commander position. I served in this position until my soccer coaching commitments became too cumbersome for me to serve on the Executive Committee. Since that time, I have been serving as the Honor Guard Commander and for the past two years as the Committee Chairman for the Post Annual Flag Retirement Ceremony and Military Tribute.



Ron Craig

I am not sure how many of you subscribe to "The America Legion E-Mail Newsletter". It is a monthly e-mail letter with alerts that come out periodically from the National Commander on important issues. For instance, I received an alert yesterday that addresses the issue in support of a Constitutional Amendment regarding the desecration of the American Flag. This is what he says:

"As you may know, The American Legion has regularly encouraged Congress to pass a constitutional amendment that would give it the power to protect the Stars and Stripes from desecration. But we are not alone in this belief. The U.S. House has routinely passed such an amendment. Every state has endorsed such a resolution. And surveys show that 80 percent of



Americans agree that the flag should be protected. Now, President-elect Donald Trump has called for penalties against those who treat the American flag with disrespect. In a tweet, Trump wrote, "Nobody should be allowed to burn the American flag - if they do, there must be consequences - perhaps loss of citizenship or year in jail!"

While The American Legion does not have a position on what the penalty should be for those who violate our sacred flag, it does stand resolute in petitioning Congress for the necessary constitutional amendment. Our belief is not to silence those who

protest perceived injustices. Americans have the right to voice their views in respectful ways"

He wrote more, but you will have to go the National Website to read what he says. During this past election, the candidates continually addressed the "uninformed voters". As patriots, we can't afford to be uninformed. I challenge each of you to register on "The American Legion" website so that you can receive emails from our National Headquarters. This will inform you about the issues of today. I always enjoy reading the "Burn Pit" articles where legionnaires have a chance to address issues that affect the Legion. The Honor and Remembrance e-newsletter features news stories, videos and photo galleries that pay tribute to service members who protected our freedoms. Here's the link: <https://www.legion.org/newsletters>

I look forward to serving each of you.

Adjutant/ Eagle Scout Courts of Honor

Membership is Our Lifeblood

Membership. Statistics are membership numbers through 1 Dec 2016.



Dale Crockett

2017 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2017 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
100	9	35	22	3	5	74	74%

Every once in a while a great movie comes out to remind us how great veteran soldiers are. I recently saw the movie **Hacksaw Ridge**. It is an extraordinary true story of conscientious objector Desmond T.

Doss who saved 75 men in Okinawa, during the bloodiest battle of WWII, without firing a single shot.

Believing that the war was just but killing was nevertheless wrong, he was the only American soldier in WWII to fight on the front lines without a weapon. As an Army medic, Doss single-handedly evacuated the wounded near enemy

lines - braving enemy fire and putting his own life on the line. He was the first conscientious objector ever to be awarded the Medal of Honor. While watching this true story, I reflected upon the fact that freedom is not free, and blood has been shed to free us as a nation. I am so grateful for those who have served in our military and who are willing to protect all of us from those who want to do harm to us. Thank you so, so much.



Our \$35 annual membership dues are due now for the 2017 membership year. We are almost to 75%. We would like the rest of the members to renew by the end of the year, preferably sooner than later. 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 H (801) 4561-9493 / C (801) 560-2186 or email dalescrockett@yahoo.com.

Sergeant-at-Arms



David Layton

December, wow! Where has the year gone? We are all so involved with family, church and community that the year is almost slipped by. Regardless of the season, Post 27 of the American Legion continues to serve the families and communities where we are asked to provide ceremonies and honors in remembrance of are fallen comrades. Thanks to all of you for the service you have rendered this year in community activities and for honoring our fallen with Military Funeral Honors. Without you, Post 27 cannot operate and provide this service.

We do invite all of us to help meet the endless demands we are asked to perform. Let us remember when we are asked to participate in Post 27 duties, some were asked to give all. Let's 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.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and Joy this Christmas Season!!!!

Past Department Commander/ Training Officer

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY (ALA):

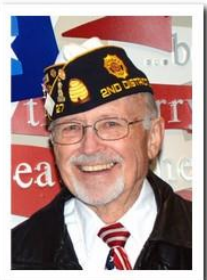


Last month was the first official meeting for Unit 27. Elected officers are **Deb Hefner** – President, **Ann Craig** – Secretary, and **Paula Stephenson** – Treasurer. Ladies, we need to get your official photos compliments of our cell phone cameras. The purpose of the American Legion Auxiliary is “to participate in and contribute to the accomplishments of the aims and purposes of the American Legion”. To all female Veterans, Legionnaire spouses, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, and great granddaughters of war-era Veterans, “let's roll” and



Paula Stephenson

get Unit 27 going! The cost \$25/year for Senior members (18 years old and above) and \$5/year for Junior Auxiliary (birth to 18). We won't make you do anything – you set your own pace and participation. Email me (stphnsnc@aol.com) and I will send you an application. If you want to transfer from another Unit, I have transfer forms. For the seven new applications recently received, your membership cards will be coming soon. Be patient. We have some events already scheduled for the High School Oratorical Scholarship Contest in January with our Legion/SAL members, and ALA Utah Girls State interviews in February. Deb's order of business for our first year is to have fun!



John Sheets

Military Funeral Honors

Although we are starting December at a slow pace for Military Funerals, good news for families that are faced with a sad Christmas we can almost bet that the pace will increase to "double time" before the end of the month, so be prepared. Last December we assisted in nine MFH's.

We appreciate your assistance in all these events. We have yet to fail in our response to a call from the family of the deceased, from the Mortuary or from the Service branches.



**SGT.
SAGE
SEZ**

*There are more planes
in the ocean
than there are
submarines in the sky.*

Old Navy Adage

Sons of the American Legion



Dave Parker
Squadron 27
Commander

Greetings SAL 27 members. During the month of November, SAL members participated in several activities related to Veterans Day, such as parades, Color Guard duties, and even a Veterans Appreciation Program at Viewmont High School, put on by the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). Our own Vice Commander, Tim Hansen, and Nick Bell, our newest recruit, both students at Viewmont High, also participated in the event.



I'd like to welcome Spencer Hill, and Nick Bell, as new members into our squadron. Both young men were high achievers at Boys State last summer and we're honored to have them join us. Nick Bell is also training as a Bugler, and assisted in the Veterans Day ceremony at the Farmington Cemetery. Vice Commander Tim Hansen also did a fine job participating in the Color Guard flag raising ceremony.

For the month of December, our Squadron can and will assist our sponsoring Post 27 in various Christmas Charities, and other seasonal goodwill activities. I would also encourage our squadron members to seek out elderly Veterans, and Gold Star families in their neighborhoods and offer our assistance this holiday season.

Not much has changed with the Jr. Shooting Sports Club, we are still in the process of finding an indoor facility for practice and competitions. We are still soliciting and gathering membership applications. Those of you wishing to join can contact me for further information.

Our future SAL meetings will be held on the first Thursday of each month. I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting, scheduled for Thursday, January 5th, at the Davis County Memorial Court House, room 116, at 6:30 p.m.

If I can be of further service, I can be reached at [\(801\) 725-6134](tel:8017256134) cell / [\(801\) 451-5580](tel:8014515580) home or e-mail dparker5580@comcast.net.



Left: Vice Commander Tim Hansen & Commander Dave Parker. Right: Nick Bell & Commander Parker

POW/MIA News

Bergdahl Pardon Request

The New York Times reported Dec 3, 2016 that Sgt Bowe Bergdahl is asking President Barack Obama to pardon him before leaving office. White House and Justice Department officials on that date said Bergdahl had submitted copies of the clemency request seeking leniency. If granted by Obama, it would allow Bergdahl to avert a court-martial trial scheduled for April where he faces charges of desertion and misbehavior before the enemy, the latter of which carries a maximum penalty of life in prison. Bergdahl of Hailey, Idaho walked off his post in Afghanistan in 2009 and was held captive by the Taliban and its allies for five years. He was released in May 2014 in exchange for five Taliban prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.



Jay Hess

Following the Vietnam War leniency was granted to American POWs who cooperated with their captures despite considerable efforts by senior-ranking POWs to bring charges against them. This precedent may have some influence on President Obama's decision.

Jake Garn Sea Cadet Squadron



Courtney Putnam

November drill afforded the Jake Garn Squadron a unique opportunity to train with the Department of Public Safety on firearms. Cadets met at Salt Lake Community College, Miller Campus and received excellent training on pistol and rifle. Some cadets were shooting for the first time and everyone earned a marksmanship ribbon. Several cadets qualified as Sharpshooter or Expert. Cadets are able to earn Sharpshooter or Expert on both rifle and pistol. All the firearms use and ammunition was provided by the Department of Public Safety. I would like to specifically thank Commissioner Keith Squires for helping us arrange and allowing this remarkable training opportunity. Commissioner Squires is a previous Sea Cadet instructor and has always supported our unit. He is a great leader and we are fortunate to have him supporting our unit. Next month, our squadron will have our annual, end-of-year, dinner and awards ceremony. We may also have a special presentation by Captain Dave Hill, (USNR-Ret.), if he can make it work with his schedule.



Legion Laffs



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



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



From the Department Commander

*What a Great Time to be a Member
of The American Legion Department of Utah Family!*

At this most wonderful time of year, I would like to present my thoughts regarding the many posts I see every day on Facebook and other social media from friends proclaiming that this time of year they are proud to say without hesitation **Merry Christmas – not Happy Holidays**. The implication is that to simply say Happy Holidays is unacceptable and almost “un-American.” In a small way, I suppose that I felt that same sentiment until 1997 when it was my great good fortune to relocate to St. Louis, Mo with Paula and begin working at the US Army Reserve Personnel Command. In St. Louis, Paula and I made many new friends who did not celebrate Christmas, but celebrated Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa. As we see every day, the world has become a complicated mixture of nationalities and beliefs. In my mind, to see only one side of the Holiday Season is short sighted. **Yes, we must remember the true reason for the season.** Just exactly what that means is different to each of us and we should celebrate and honor the season with our time tested traditions and customs. But, we should also honor and respect the great diversity that makes us the Greatest Nation on Earth! With that in mind, Paula and I would like to send to all of you this greeting at this most wonderful this time of year - **Happy Holidays – Merry Christmas – Happy Hanukkah – or a Joyous Kwanzaa!**



**Chuck Stephenson
Commander
Department of Utah**

Membership is Our Lifeblood

SOYAL!
KWANZAA
Hanukkah
Las Posadas
Yalda!
DONGZHI
Bodhi Day
CHRISTMAS

**December Holidays
Around the World**



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.

VA CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP



The American Legion Auxiliary has sponsored the VA Gift Shop for over 60 years at the George Wahlen VA Medical Center. The Gift Shop serves any veteran registered in the VA system who is in need of assistance for Christmas. During the three days the Gift Shop is open, veterans bring information about their families (sizes, ages, etc.) and are allowed to choose gifts for themselves and their immediate family (sons, daughters, parents, grandchildren). Volunteers assist the veterans in "shopping", wrap the gifts and they can either take them with them or the Auxiliary will mail them. There is no charge for the gifts, wrapping or mailing.

All of the items the Gift Shop has available are donated by Units, individuals or companies or purchased by the Utah American Legion Auxiliary through donations. Longtime Auxiliary members believe it was originally set up for inpatients. The Auxiliary used to take a cart of gifts up to the wards, but this practice has expanded to serve any veteran that is registered with the VA. This includes also the veterans residing at the Veterans Homes. Dates for 2016 VA Gift Shop are December 5 – 7, Bldg. 8, Multi-purpose Room. Hours are from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, except Wednesday, which is 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. For more information, contact the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Utah office, 801-539-1015, or email alautah@yahoo.com.

