

The American Legion Centennial Post



December 2017 The Official Newsletter of Post 27 ★ Squadron 27 ★ Unit 27 www.post27.org

Post 27 Programs & Activities

- Flag Education
- High School Constitution Oratorical Scholarship 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
- DTC-Davis Tech 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 charities support



Commander's Corner

100 ACTS OF SERVICE

The American Legion has, from its very beginning, been all about service – service to veterans and service to community, state and nation. Nowhere is this ideal more omnipresent than in Post 27. And this is reflected equally in Squadron 27 of The Sons of The American Legion and Unit 27 of The American Legion Auxiliary.

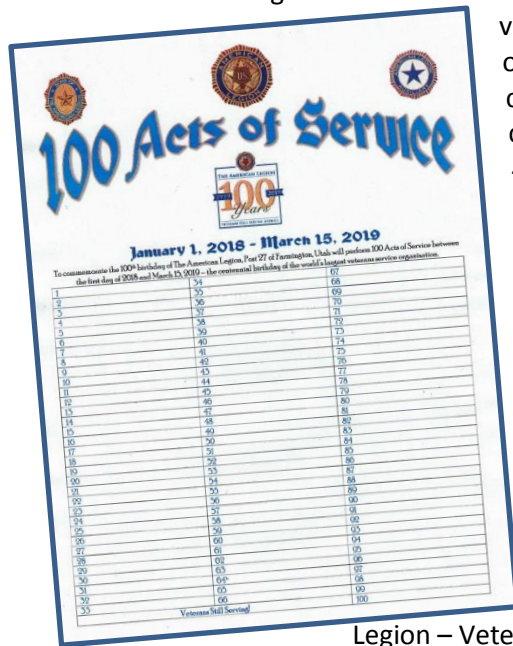
As we approach the centennial celebration of the birth of The American Legion, we in the Post 27 Legion Family would like to pay it forward by performing **AT LEAST** 100 acts of service to veterans and our community. We will begin next month on January 1 and continue to March 15, 2019 – our 100-year anniversary. Of course, the services we have always provided will continue. But the dedication of these acts of service to The Legion Centennial is both fitting and appropriate.

We have prepared a tote board to record each act which will be displayed at the Post and we would be proud to list your acts of service. These could include participation in military funeral honors or Eagle Scout Courts of Honor; visiting an ailing veteran or shoveling a

veteran's walk; serving at Boys or Girls State or any of a hundred different things that serve our community. To have your service recorded, simply contact our Post Adjutant, Dale Crockett, at (801) 451-9493 / Cell (801) 560-2186 or email dalescrockett@yahoo.com. Please include your name, what you did and the date you did it. If you stop by the Post, you can sign the tote board to solidify your part of this historic event. In future issues of *The Centennial Post*, we will be publishing service opportunities for any who would like to participate. We will have 439 days to complete the 100 acts, which, knowing our Legion Family, I believe we can do without breaking a sweat. But here's the thing: we want to do **AT LEAST** 100 acts of service. We have no intention of stopping at 100. The American Legion – Veterans Still Serving! It's what we do; it's who we are.



Kent Hansen



THE AMERICAN LEGION
Centennial celebration

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Dec. 3-6 – American Legion Auxiliary Christmas Gift Shop, VA Medical Center campus, Bldg. 8 in the Multipurpose Room

Dec. 8 – Post/Squadron/Unit 27 Christmas Party. 6:00 pm
Morelli's Italian Ristorante, 2798 N. Hill Field Rd., Layton.
Order from the menu. **Bountiful Post 79** will be joining us.

Dec. 16 – Wreaths Across America Program. 9:00 am, Lindquist Mortuary, 1867 N. Fairfield Road, Layton. *Wear Legion caps.*



Jan. 4 – SAL Squadron 27 meeting. 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.

Jan. 11 – Auxiliary Unit 27 meeting. 6:00 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 114.

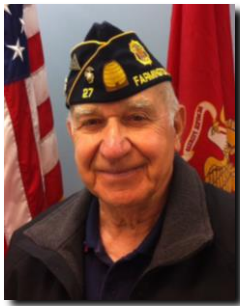
Jan. 11 – Post 27 General Meeting. 6:30pm,
Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.

Jan. 23 – Post 27 Oratorical Scholarship Contest. 6:30
Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.

Jan. 31 -- District 2 Oratorical Scholarship Contest. 6:00 pm
WSU – Davis Campus, Bldg. D-3.

1st Vice Commander

I recently read an article written in December 2013, where our past national commander of the American Legion was demanding answers from the Veterans Administration after hospitals in three states placed restrictions on Christian volunteers, including a group of schoolchildren who were told they could only perform Christmas carols from a government-approved list.



Frank Ferrante

"Every Christmas, every religious holiday, Christians are more and more often targeted for censorship and restriction at VA facilities," the Past National Commander Daniel Dellinger said. "Veterans in these hospitals fought to protect such freedom."

In Iowa City, American Legion members were told they could not hand out presents if the wrapping paper said Merry Christmas. In Augusta, Ga., the VA told a group of students from a Christian school that they could not sing religious-themed Christmas carols. Instead, the students were presented with a list of government-approved, secular songs. And in Dallas, the VA

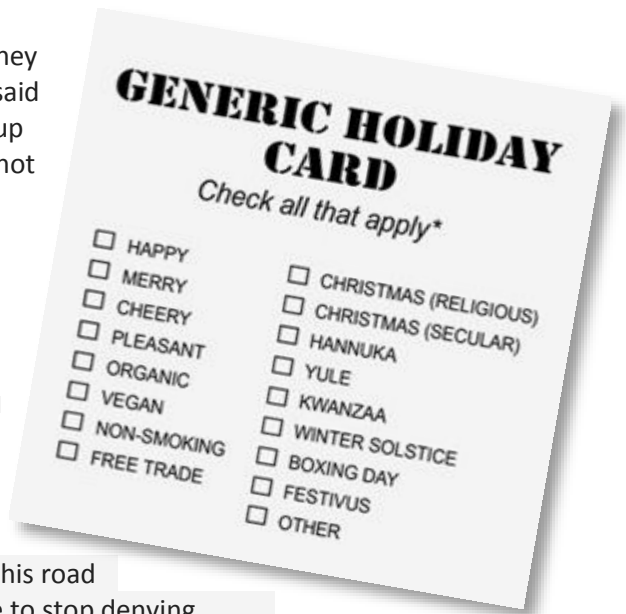
hospital refused to allow children to distribute Christmas cards to patients because the cards included phrases like "Merry Christmas" and "God Bless You."

The article mentioned, that the American Legion has asked the VA Central Office for an explanation of why it appears Christians are being singled out for restrictions. Commander Dellinger went on to say, "First of all, VA's decision to prohibit the delivery of Christmas cards that mentioned Christmas is ludicrous. Second of all, VA has been down this road before, and recently, VA has been warned through a federal court decree to stop denying freedom of religious expression at its facilities."

Let us not forget our homebound and hospitalized veterans this holiday season, and visit them and give them a small gift or card, whatever holiday they celebrate.

To my fellow Legionnaires of Post 27, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Enjoy the special time of the year with your family and love 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 who have given much to our country. Invite a potential member to our meetings.



2nd Vice Commander

The American Legion National High School Oratorical Scholarship Program – “A Constitutional Speech Contest.”

The date for the District 2 Oratorical Contest has been moved to January 31st. It will be held at NUAMES HS beginning at 6: PM. If you are interested in helping conduct this competition, please see District 2 Vice Commander Kent Hansen. Since the District competition has been moved to the end of the month, Post 27 will hold its competition on January 23d at our Post location. Post 27’s competition will begin at 6:30 PM. I’m looking for judges / scorekeepers, if you are interested in helping, please let me know at the earliest opportunity.



Chuck Stephenson

American Legion Utah Boys State. On-line registration for American Legion Utah Boys State 2018 opens December 1, 2017 and runs through April 30, 2018. Registration for the 2018 Program will be electronic only. Utah Boys State has been working with the IT people at Weber State University for the last several years and the application process has been improved and refined each year. The electronic application can be found at www.weber.edu/utahboysstate. Completion of the registration package is self- guided and straight forward. Once the online application has been completed / approved, the student citizen must **print off** the completed application package and follow the instructions below..

Completed applications must include family insurance information and copies of insurance cards, input and signatures from high school counselors, interviews by Post 27 Legionnaires for Davis High, Viewmont High and NUAMES, and a check for \$375.00 tuition. Applications must be finalized and received by The American Legion Utah Boys State by May 15th, 2018. Questions may be directed to Chuck Stephenson, Post 27, at stphnsnc@aol.com or cell: 801-698-7750.

Merry Christmas and **Happy Holidays** to all of you and to all of our brothers and sisters who are protecting our freedoms all around the world!



The Post 27 Centennial Post

is published monthly for members of Post 27, SAL Squadron 27, Auxiliary Unit 27 and friends of The American Legion.

Editor: Kent Hansen

Please have your submissions in by the last week of the month previous to publication.

Submit to: kenthansen7@gmail.com



Legion Nuggets



June 1, 1938

The final round of the Legion's first annual National High School Oratorical Contest is conducted in Norman, Okla. Today, more than 3,400 high-school students from around the country compete annually in the contest, which promotes a greater understanding of the U.S. Constitution. Winners receive thousands of dollars in college scholarships.

Adjutant

Membership is Our Lifeblood

Membership. Statistics are membership numbers through 1 Dec 2017.



Dale Crockett

2018 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2018 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
101	13	36	24	3	3	79	78%

I have often mentioned that our post does a ceremony for folding the Stars and Stripes for young men getting their Eagle Scout award. It is a special tribute to our flag. However, one benefit that we see at some of these Eagle Courts is a live eagle presentation. An experienced handler walking in with a live bald eagle is a sight to behold. Make no mistake--these birds are not tame. But they are trained and safe. Handlers from Sky King Birds will bring in "Liberty" or "Freedom" which are adult Bald Eagles that have been injured and can no longer take care of themselves. It is a live and up-close presentation with strong environmental and conservation message, and a focus on increasing understanding of these magnificent animals. It can make the Eagle Court very interesting. Below is a picture of one of the eagles with its handler. You can see the World of Flight Bird Show at Utah's Hogle Zoo if you are interested in seeing the presentation. I believe our Post members have seen it dozens of times at Eagle Courts and it never gets old. We just had an Eagle Court on Nov. 29 with five new Eagle Scouts, at which we got to see it again.

Also, every year, as November blows in, hundreds of bald eagles fly into Utah. They stay until the ice starts to melt in March. Latest estimates put the number of visiting eagles in Utah at around 1,000. Utah is among the top 10 winter stops for bald eagles. Some years, it's among the top five. Held every February, the annual Utah Bald Eagle Day gives many children and adults the first - and maybe only - opportunity of their life to see a bald eagle close up in the wild. As many as 350 eagles have been spotted during a single Bald Eagle Day! Originally held only at Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area, this yearly event has been expanded to include sites in central, northeastern and southwestern Utah. And this amazing experience is free. It's a fantastic way to see the national symbol of the USA in its natural setting.



Please consider renewing your membership now, so we can finish by the end of the year. 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.***

Sergeant-at-Arms

Wow! Where has the year gone? Many of us are involved with family, church and community as this year is almost in the books. Regardless of the season, Post 27 continues to serve Veterans and their families. We are honored to participate in community parades, Eagle Court ceremonies, American Flag Retirement ceremonies and Military Funeral Honors for fallen Veterans. We thank you for your willingness to serve. The participation and service you have rendered this year in community activities have been exemplary and have brought high praise from the communities and families we serve. Without you, Post 27 cannot operate and provide this service. As members of the American Legion, we are encouraged to meet the demands that we are asked to perform. 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. To all, we wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and Joy this Holiday Season!!!!



David Layton

Chaplain



William Huber

“For God and Country,” this, our Legion motto, is the base plate from which we embark as soldiers, sailors and airmen true -- a touchstone reminder as we journey on our life’s path. As veterans, we willingly took a path to defend our nation and the principles upon which it is founded. That effort has blessed the lives of our whole Nation. Now, at this season of the year, we have a special opportunity to reflect on the birth of our Lord, to remember His example and invitation to come follow Him as we serve others. Now may be the time to make that good intension phone call or visit to a fellow Legionnaire or veteran that our busy lives has put out of reach for a time. Or, perhaps there is family in your midst who has a loved one deployed abroad that would do well to hear from their neighbor. Let us do what we can to bring cheer and a smile to those about us and find that secret warmth that comes into our hearts as we do so. May God bless you and yours families and bring new light to your souls.

Sons of the American Legion



Here are a few thoughts that I would like to share with each of you.

First, I need to discuss membership activity. Presently, we have 41 members on our roster. With Tim Hansen departing on a church mission, we will have five SAL members unavailable for the next two years. We also have 10 members who live out of the state. As you can see, 26 members are available to participate in our activities. Of the 26, we have nine members who are in dual status, meaning that they are also members of American Legion Post 27. These men play an important role in our squadron. As they are all veterans, they are suited to be mentors to our 19 younger SAL members.

Second, having given you some statistics, the sole purpose of The Sons of The American Legion is to build a foundation of young men who have an interest in the American Legion and support to our veterans and their families, to promote Patriotism and Americanism and to be advocates for programs that benefit the youth of our country.

It is important to all Legion Family programs that their members get involved. Included below are some great tools to get you excited about the SAL program. I just added the SAL Mobile app to my phone and discovered that this is a great avenue to get information from our leadership very quickly. I invite you to download the links below and get excited about the Sons of the American Legion. Also, did you know that if you recruit just three American Legion Family members, you will be rewarded by our National American Legion Commander with a great looking pin for your Legion or SAL hat. I received my pin just last week.

Our next SAL meeting is December 7 at 6:30 pm. Check out the newsletter calendar for the Post 27 Christmas Party. Here are some links you might enjoy. As a minimum, download the mobile app.

<https://www.legion.org/sons>

<https://www.legion.org/mobileapps/sons>

<http://www.legion.org/sons/about>

<https://www.facebook.com/americanlegionsons>



Ron Craig
SAL Squadron 27
Commander



Deb Hefner
Unit 27 President

American Legion Auxiliary

Ladies of the Auxiliary! Wow! You went above and beyond with donations for the Veterans’ Shop! Because of your generosity, there are going to be some very happy people on Christmas morning!!

We are awaiting word from Cary Fisher of Girls State so we can know how many slots we have for Davis, Viewmont and NUAMES...we already have had several inquiries from Davis High so that will be great to have more representation from them!

Please to our Christmas party on December 8 at Morelli’s in Layton. You may email me utahredsox406@gmail.com or our Commander Kent! See this newsletter for more details!

Wishing you and all yours a wonderful Christmas season!



Jake Garn Sea Cadet Squadron



Drill for the month of November was met with five new cadets joining the unit. For Saturday, November 18th, the cadets were taught weapon and range safety with the Utah Highway Patrol. Rifle training and qualifications were done in the prone and four cadets qualified with a perfect score. Hand gun training and qualifications resulted in two cadets with a perfect score and one of those cadets, SA Buxton, received a perfect score on both qualifications.



Courtney Putnam
Commanding Officer

After weapons training and qualifications, the cadets practiced their knowledge with a competition game that was set up similar to Jeopardy. Team 3, consisting of PO2 Haines, SN Haines, LC3 Direen, and SA Buxton, beat the other teams by showing their knowledge and exceptional capabilities of picking out clues in the questions. To complete Saturday's drill, the cadets had a presentation about the universe and how an observatory works to capture images.

Drill for Sunday November 19th started off with letter writing to deployed soldiers. After letting writing, the unit went over to the Clark Planetarium for a presentation of the Aircraft Carrier where they got to learn about how the US Navy operates on a carrier and all the associated tasks and support. The presentation was interesting and quite educational. After the presentation, the cadets explored the planetarium. The cadets enjoyed learning about our planet, space and aircraft carriers.



STORIES FROM BACK IN THE DAY

THE SUNBONNET KING

Submitted by Past Post 27 Commander John Sheets

The following is a personal experience of the Cold War with communism and North Korean aggression. I enlisted in the United States Air Force in January 1951 and by November was stationed in northern Japan and assigned to the 511th Air Defense Command of the 5th Air Force at Misawa AFB. The 511th was an aircraft control and warning group made up of the control center with radar sites along the coast of Hokkaido and the northern end of Honshu; the mission was to identify all air traffic, friend or foe.



By late 1952, I was on duty in the Control Center (ADCC) as an Identification crew chief. The Korean War was hot as was the Cold War, and we were in a constant state of alert. Russian aircraft tested our defense systems by sending flights over the ADIZ (air defense identification zone). The ID section reviewed all the data from flight plans, military and commercial flights. If the aircraft could not be identified, fighters were scrambled to intercept. On October 7, 1952, an R-B29 of the 91st Strategic Recon Wing from Yokota Air Base known as, "The Sunbonnet King" was on a recon mission that was attacked off the Kurile Islands by a LA-11 Russian Interceptor with the loss of eight American lives. Aboard the Sunbonnet King were; Capt. Eugene M English, Capt. John R. Dunham, 1Lt. Paul E. Brock, TSGT. Joseph H. Hirsch, SSGT Samuel A. Colgan, A1C Thomas A. Ship, A2C Fred C. Kendrick, and A2C Frank E. Neall.

The navigator, Capt. John R. Dunham, graduated from the Naval Academy on June 2, 1950, and married his sweetheart, Mary, the next day. Shortly after the Sunbonnet King's crash, Captain Dunham's body was recovered from the sea by a Soviet maritime border guard Sgt. Vasily I. Saiko. This Soviet border guard removed a ring from the finger of Captain Dunham's body with the thought that it should be returned to the Dunham family. Saiko reported the incident and burial to his superiors but kept the ring through the rest of the Cold War.



When the US and USSR Joint Commission on POW/MIA affairs was formed 40 years later, researchers found the "incident information" submitted by Sgt. Saiko. The rest is history. In 1995, I was reading the morning Deseret News and noted that the Captain's remains were recovered, and on August 1, 1995 his body was laid to rest at Arlington Cemetery. The ring taken from the finger of Capt. Dunham was presented by Sgt. Saiko to the Captain's daughter, Suzanne, born just prior to her father's being KIA. Her mother Mary had died several years before.

Now the rest of the story: To say the least, the brass were not happy with the loss of American lives by an act of "cold war." The incident was never made public by either the Russians or the US but in February of 1953, we retaliated. Because of the short runways at Chitose AFB, F-86s could take off but not land, two planes were disassembled at Misawa and shipped by ferry to Chitose AFB. They were then reassembled and positioned at very high altitude, out of range of Russian radar. An RB-26 was sent to the ADIZ to draw the Russians across. The plan worked as the F-86's dove on the Russians, shooting one down and driving the other off. The cheers of our squadron were loud that night and large amounts of Nissan beer were consumed.

As I write this, I'm reminded of the importance of history and how it can affect the lives of others. The action of Sgt. Saiko preserved this historical event, bringing peace not only for Captain Dunham and his family, but also the fellow crew members who made the ultimate sacrifice on October 7, 1952.

LETTER TO AN EAGLE

As many of you know, members of Post 27 are proud to perform a ceremony at Eagle Scout Courts of Honor at which each of the 13 folds of the American flag is explained. When folded, the flag is given to a grandfather or parent for presentation to the new Eagle Scout. At a recent ceremony in which five new Eagles received their flags, a young mother read a letter from her daughter, PFC Camryn Grant, who is currently serving in uniform. The letter is amazing in its depth, maturity and patriotism. With permission, we share it with you here.



myself at 19 and younger, desperately missing families that they can't return to unless told they can.

I've seen a memorial for a boy my age. He went over to Afghanistan, with plans to have a wedding with his fiancée, and to invite his family down to Texas, and to start a life. It was all gone within minutes, and she sat two pews in front me. As long

as I live, I'll never forget the sounds of her tears and sobbing as I watched her shoulders shake, mourning for the loss of someone who was never coming home.

I've spoken with the medic who attempted to save that boy, this medic who is now a good friend and a mentor. I've seen the guilt in his eyes, despite his best efforts to hide it, as he talked about how even though the boy had already passed on, he was still doing everything he knew how to save him, because he couldn't just give up.

I've seen story after story how a simple mission in a foreign country ended in tragedy, tragedy that despite best efforts, couldn't be avoided. Now that I've seen those, those few things, and yet not even experienced all the military is, I will never look at the flag the same. The flag that was on the arm of Private First Class Hansen Kirkpatrick as he took his final breath. The flag that was on the sleeve of Specialist Nealey as he did everything he knew how to bring Kirkpatrick back, even though deep down, he knew it was futile.

This flag is so much more than a country. This flag does not represent a mass of land, a government, or a president. Not even close. It doesn't represent just one thing. It represents people. People with hearts, people with courage. It stands for everything going on overseas. It stands for sacrifice. It stands for suffering. It stands for doing what you know you have to do, even if it means your life. It stands for the men I take care of everyday, who have looked me in the eye and told me they'd take a bullet for me because they know I'd do everything in my power to save them.

If you look on the uniform of a soldier, airman, Marine, or sailor, you'll notice it is facing the "wrong" direction. No, it is not. It represents the flag flying backwards as the serviceman moves forward.

This flag means unity. This flag means bravery. This flag is one I will fly every day, as long as I live, even when my time in the Army is done. I will always be proud of this flag.

PFC Camryn Grant

Combat Medic, 1st Armored Division, 1-36 Infantry Division

Living the Legion Life



Jay C. Hess

Jay is a quiet, humble man without a hint of braggadocio. Yet this man bravely endured five and a half years as a POW in and near Hanoi, North Vietnam. The recipient of three Silver Star medals, he was not finished serving when he retired from the Air Force in 1973. He came home to Utah where he became a JROTC instructor at Clearfield High School. As a member of The American Legion, Jay can always be counted on for any duties that assist veterans or the community. "I went to Vietnam as a fighter pilot," he says, "and I came home a born-again American."

Branch of Service: U.S. Air Force from 1953 to 1973

Place of Birth: Ogden, Utah; raised in Farmington, Utah

My War: Vietnam

Hobbies: Gardening, fishing, hiking and following the Utes

Offices Held: POW/MIA Information Officer

Reason for joining The American Legion: John Sheets' arm twisting

Years in The Legion: 7

Favorite Legion program: Boys/Girls State – they are quality programs that make a difference in young folks.

What The Legion means to me: The Legion provides me with the opportunity to associate with dedicated and inspiring people, to confirm my love of God and Country and to say I'm thankful to be free.



Jay greets his daughter on his release as a POW in 1973.



Jay addresses a crowd on Memorial Day in Farmington.



Each month, we will spotlight a member of Post 27 so that the general membership will have the opportunity to get to know them better. Included in **The Post** is an information form upon which you can submit information and photos of yourself for a future feature. Ideally, we would need a photo of you in your Legion cap (if you have one) and a picture of you in uniform from "back in the day." You can scan them and the form and e-mail them to kenthansen7@gmail.com.

Living the Legion Life

Name: _____ Branch of Service: _____
 Years of Service: From _____ to _____ Your War(s): _____
 Place of Birth: _____ Your Hobbies: _____
 Years in The Legion: _____ Offices Held: _____
 Reason for joining The Legion: _____
 Other Legion Family Affiliation: _____ Favorite Legion Program(s): _____
 Why Your Favorite? _____
 Statement about what The Legion means to you: _____

Legion Laffs



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.



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.



Post/Squadron/Unit

27

Christmas

Party

Friday, Dec. 8

6:00 pm



Morrelli's

Italian Ristorante

2798 North Hill Field Road

Layton

Order from the Menu

Bountiful Post 79 will be joining us.

Please *RSVP* to Kent Hansen: 801-589-7667

or kenthansen7@gmail.com



Bring your contributions
to the party.

