



# The American Legion Centennial POST

December 2019

The Official Newsletter of Post 27 ★ Unit 27 ★ Squadron 27 ★ Farmington, Utah

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

## Retiring Commander's Corner



*Sadly, Ron Jugenitz' medical condition has necessitated that he step down as Commander of Post 27. Ron has assured us that he will continue to be an active member of the Post. We are all grateful for the stellar service Ron has rendered. For the remainder of the Commander's tenure, the Post Executive Committee has elected William A. Huber to complete the term. But before we let him go, Ron has just returned from his Honor Flight and submits the report.*

THE AMERICAN LEGION

POST 27

P.O. BOX 427

FARMINGTON, UT 84025

My Honor Flight was a big success. On this quick but amazing trip to Washington D.C. were 48 Veterans and their

### Ron Jugenitz

companions along with a staff of eight. My companion, Jim Bishop (also a member of Post 27) was a friend of 20 years. We had a great sendoff at the SLC Airport on Sunday, November 10 after being greeted by Governor Gary Herbert, Senator Mitt Romney and Congressman Ben McAdams. During the flight, there was a military-style "mail call." Opening the packet that had my name on it, I discovered about 20 letters from family, friends, some of my Legion family, and most surprising of all, letters from several of my submarine crew from 50 years ago. Obviously, my wife had been very busy recruiting these folks to write me letters of encouragement, good tidings, wishing me an awesome flight, etc. After an uneventful flight we were greeted in the Baltimore Airport by a huge group of patriots cheering, waving flags and yelling welcome Veterans.

They had two buses for us and the first and only stop that day was the Marines Iwo Jima Memorial. It was dark by then but the statue was lit up and magnificent. Then on to the Hilton, our home for the trip. We had a wonderful dinner, listened to the staff welcome us to D.C. and tell us about our next day's itinerary, then off to bed, excited and tired as we were.

Monday morning bright and early, we had a great breakfast and boarded the buses for our exciting day. We began at the National Archives, closed for Veteran's Day but opened for a private tour for our little group. We viewed the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, both stored under glass with the Constitution encased with Argon gas. Both documents, even with this preservation method, were barely readable, but we all knew the words. The Archives is an amazing building with marble floors and walls with high, tall ceilings which makes the building magnificent.



**Ron (left) and companion, Jim Bishop at the National Archives**

Next, we went to the Washington Mall where we visited the Korean Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial and the Lincoln Memorial. We had lunch at the Lincoln Memorial then walked to the Vietnam Wall for a special program which included a third dedication of the wall for the women of the Vietnam War. At the end of the dedication many wreaths were laid at the base of the wall. The wall itself is huge, and unexplainable...so many names, covered in flowers and medals and notes left by loved ones who have visited their friends or family members who gave it all for that war.

We then visited the WWII Memorial where a group photo was taken with the Washington Monument in the background. We had one WWII Veteran, one Korean War Veteran and one Korean/Vietnam War Veteran in our group which was mostly Vietnam War Veterans. We then boarded the buses for a tour of the Navy Memorial which had the complete history of the Navy's vessels and accomplishments. Then onto the Air and Space Museum which had many exhibits of rockets and space craft from the United States and Russia.

Our next stop was the Air Force Memorial and after that it was back to the hotel for a banquet and awards ceremony for us. We each received a "Utah Cold War Victory Medal."

We got up early Tuesday morning had another

wonderful breakfast and boarded the buses for Arlington National Cemetery where we were privileged to watch the changing of the guard and the presenting of the wreath to the grave of the Unknown Soldier. Unfortunately, our trip was ending and we then got back on the busses for the last time and headed to the Baltimore Airport for our trip home.



At Salt Lake City a wonderful welcome home was awaiting us. A Veterans motorcycle brigade escorted our buses to the Utah National Guard Building where they dismounted, unfurled the flags they were all carrying on their bikes and formed a line on each side of the walkway from the buses to the building for us Veterans to walk through, with our friends and family members greeting us with welcome home Veterans signs, waving flags and calling out to us "Welcome Home", "Welcome Home" as we walked to the building, because for most of us, this was finally our welcome home, which we had never had. At a ceremony inside, each returned Veteran was given a folded American flag and a book of the Vietnam War. Our trip was sponsored and provided by Nate Wade Subaru of Salt Lake City. They also gave a short talk as to why they and other Utah businesses were sponsoring these trips for America's Soldiers/Veterans. It is truly something every Veteran of every American War should experience and I would encourage all Veterans who have not gone on-line, to do so, complete the application and wait to be called. When the call comes, your heart soars and says "YES", finally. And you should go no matter what you think your health is or is not...you can be accommodated. I also encourage each of you to have the young soldiers who are just retiring, sign up for this program. As long as it's continued, should eventually, I'd think, include all the Middle Eastern War soldiers and these soldiers also need to go. It will change you. It did me.

*For more information and application, go to [utahhonorflight.org](http://utahhonorflight.org)*

## **Commander's Corner**



**William A. Huber**

November has been a wildly busy month for Post 27. Right out the chute on November 1, our Honor Guard helped with the Davis County Library-Syracuse Branch addition dedication ceremony. The addition steps up the support to the education and welfare in a very positive way for the members of the community.

Veterans Day began with many Post members congregating at Farmington Elementary school bright and early. We gathered around the flag pole with the student body and school staff. Post 27 did a formal flag retirement ceremony of the school's large federal and state flags requiring nine members to assist with their folding into large triangles. The meanings of the 13 folds of the

U.S. flag were explained to the audience. The flags were presented to Principal Cameron Forbush, who will be building shadow boxes for the flags display. A new flag was raised and the student joined the Post in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Then, approximately

12 members of Post 27 Color Guard, relocated to Davis Tech for a flag raising ceremony and a complimentary recognition dinner given in appreciation for their service as Veterans. The Veterans Day activities continued as the Post members moved to Farmington City Cemetery. There, we joined with Farmington City's Mayor Jim Talbot and the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade student classes from Farmington Elementary School, where Veterans were shown appreciation through several songs sung in their behalf. Four students spoke to honor the Veteran in their



families who were also in attendance. Rounding out the ceremony, Post 27's seven-member Rifle Team fired a rifle salute to all Veterans in attendance.

At the request of the Davis County Commissioners, Post 27 posted the Colors at the opening of the weekly meeting on November 12. This was a special day as the students who had attended Boys and Girls State 2019 were invited to be recognized by the Commissioners. The Post Commander gave a summary report on the successes of the Boys State graduates and Paula Stephenson did likewise for the Girls State graduates. Those youth attending were given an opportunity to share what they liked best about their experience and some of their future aspirations.

At the monthly meeting of Post 27 on November 21, a Post Everlasting Ceremony was conducted for the families of recently passed Post members **Gerhard Stracke** and **Gordon H. Weed**. Also at that meeting, in the tradition of inviting our Post members to share of their lived experiences in the military, our Post was honored to hear from a member who was a former Vietnam War POW/MIA, **Jay Hess**. Jay related experiences during the course of his five and a half years of captivity. He also shared insights of his internment and how it has affected him throughout his life as a born again American.

On November 25, a meeting was held with the chairman of the Davis County Commission, Randy Elliott, and a few members of his staff along with Post 27 Commander William Huber, 1st Vice Commander Bob Anderson, Adjutant Dale Crockett and a good friend, attorney Stephen Howard. We had an excellent discussion in which the Post membership's needs to function as a post were fully discussed. The increased service demands being imposed upon Davis County, owing to newly passed Utah State law, were discussed and its impact on the limited facility resources. The Post was praised for the valued services it has rendered to Davis County, its cities, schools, veterans and individual citizens. In discussions amongst the Commissioners, they have decided to support Post 27 Farmington's request for space in the old county memorial courthouse following its renovation to meet state earthquake building code standards. POST 27 has a future post home, albeit it will take a bit of time for the building renovation work to be completed. The furnished space will support an office, a storage room and a functional room, sizable enough for our general meetings and those of Auxiliary Unit 27 and SAL Squadron 27. This hoped-for outcome is the consequence of the thousands of volunteer hours of service provided by you, the membership of Post 27. We are deeply appreciative of this action on the part of the Davis County Commissioners. We will continue to keep you apprised in these matters.

## CALENDAR

- ◆ **December 14 – Wreaths Across America.** 10:00 am, Lindquist Memorial Park, 1867 North Fairfield Road, Layton.
- ◆ **December 16 – National Guard Birthday.** *Fly the flag.*
- ◆ **January 1, 2020 – New Year's Day.** *Fly the flag.*
- ◆ **January 15 – Post 27 General Meeting.** 6:30 pm, Farmington City Community Arts Center, 120 South Main Street, Farmington.
- ◆ **January 22 – Post Oratory Contest.** 5:30 pm, Farmington City Community Arts Center, 120 South Main Street, Farmington.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander

Wow, what a great December Christmas party! Thank you to all the many people who added to the festivities, especially Dave Layton and Frank Ferrante for their critical efforts. The ladies (and Chuck) of the Auxiliary came through with the beautiful cake and set up the fun raffle and auction. I was gently and happily convinced to try my hand at being auctioneer. I enjoyed the



**Bob Anderson**

spirited bidding wars that benefitted the Post, Aux, and SAL coffers. A hit was Kent Hansen's fun Christmas trivia quiz that kept everyone thinking. From the Stephenson's presentation to Chief Guido Smith, Farmington Fire Department, to Commander William Huber's good news about our probable return to the County Memorial Courthouse, to Past Commander Ron Jugenitz's words of appreciation, it was an interesting and memorable evening.

For my part as I write this input into the newsletter, I am reminded how much we should appreciate the effort that our very talented editor puts in every month to put it together. No one does it better. Thanks Kent Hansen.

On December 9, we honored one of our cornerstone members of Post 27, Past Commander John Sheets. Though I did not get to know John well, I have felt his presence in the spirit of the Post and in the respect and admiration of the older members show when they speak of his leadership and efforts. We are a better American Legion Post due to John and better Legionnaires by his example. If there weren't already a Post in heaven, John would probably start one.

# Adjutant

## Membership is Our Lifeblood



Welcome to our new comrades! **JOHN DECKER, TROY RACHMAN & LANE KAMALI**

**American Legion Membership:** Statistics are membership numbers through 1 Dec 2019.

2019 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2019 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
145	14	50	31	3	3	101	70%

**Dale Crockett**

**Sons of the American Legion Membership:** Statistics are membership numbers through 1 Nov 2019.

2019 GOAL	REGULAR	NEW	TRANSFERS	2019 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
46	23			23	50%

American Legion Post 27 sponsors a Boys Troop, a Girls Troop, and a Venturing Crew in the Great Salt Lake Council of the Boys Scouts of America (BSA). At this time, we are in the middle of chartering these three groups which are growing in strength by leaps and bounds. Right now, we have about 30 boys and after the year, it will grow to more than 40. The girls Troop is not as big but is expected to catch up quickly in the next year. Right now, I do not know the strength of the Venturing Crew, but it should also grow larger next year. I am currently working with all 3 groups as the Charter Organization Representative (COR) Each Charter Organization appoints a volunteer to represent the organization as a member of the District Committee and as a voting member of the local Council. My primary responsibilities are to help units be successful and to provide coordination between the charter origination and the BSA. I serve as a member of the Key 3 of a unit, the other two being the Committee Chairman and the Scout Master, and to encourage unit leaders and committee members to take advantage of training opportunities and to regularly attend district round tables. It is a big job, but I really enjoy working with the leaders and the scouts. Let me give you a little information about the Venturing program. Venturing is the BSA's youth development program for young men and women who are 14 through 20 years of age. Venturing's purpose is to provide positive experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults. What a Venturing crew does is limited only by the imagination and involvement of the adult and youth leaders and members of the crew. They might sail the Caribbean, produce a play, climb a mountain, teach disable people to swim, or attend the Olympics.

Please reach out to me if you are interested in helping out or being involved or donating to our 3 units for the support of their equipment and activities. They would really appreciate it and honor the chance to be an active and prosperous group within our local community.

*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](mailto:dalescrockett@yahoo.com).*

**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 prior to publication.*

Submit to: [kenthansen7@gmail.com](mailto:kenthansen7@gmail.com)

# Chaplain



**Keith Gardner**

The holiday season is upon us and with it a variety of exciting celebrations. They could embrace Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or even Boxing Day. Regardless, this time of year focuses on **giving** and **peace**. So, it doesn't really matter at all how or what you celebrate as long as we remember those two important elements that make our world a better place for all of us. Let kindness garnish our actions and speech. And may our vision see the good in others and our minds dwell on noble thoughts. If each of us can do that, the gifts of giving and peace will reward us and all around us.



# Americanism Programs

**BE THE SPARK** by Past National Vice Commander Paula Stephenson

*The following is a reprint of an article that ran in our April newsletter. With the unfortunate passing of our dear comrade, **John Sheets**, it is offered again here.*

John Sheets was visited by his Post Commander one day about 25 years ago. The Commander handed him a cigar box with \$1.67 in it. The Commander said “Congratulations, John, you are now the Post Commander. I quit.” That left four members in Post 27.

John did not know what to do. But he had a vision. He pulled out all the Legion manuals he could find. Found four small books that talked about the Legion pillars and formulated a plan. He started with recruiting his friends who were Veterans in his hometown. He learned about all the Post positions and what functions they handled. One of the members had passed away and the family wanted military funeral honors. That was the start of the Post’s first community program. He got a domain name for the Post website, spoke to the county about holding meetings in the County Memorial Courthouse that was built with money for veterans during WWI.

After he had enough Legionnaires in the Post, John went on to be the District Commander, and revitalized the District. Then he became the Area Commander and was very influential with three Districts and the Utah Department. He was a doer, leader, an example, and a SPARK of what “STILL SERVING AMERICA” is all about. John is one of my mentors. He recruited me 13 years ago—a transfer from Montana.

Today, John is 90 years old. He still calls me and my husband to give words of encouragement, and how proud he is of the Post. I always tell him he is my spark when I am feeling “challenged and impatient.” Twenty five years ago, Post 27 in Farmington, Utah had four members. Today, the Post has 120+ members. We have our “usual suspects” who are always participating. We reactivated our Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron, and after a 50-year hiatus, we reactivated our Auxiliary Unit charter. We have members join our Post that cross city and county lines, because the Veterans say they want a Post that is active in the community.

Military Funeral Honors is our most active weekly program. Flag ceremonies for Boy Scout Courts of Honor is popular, and our Scouting Program the Post just sponsored/chartered is on the road to success. Our Post is responsible for three local high schools for several Legion programs. The Post last year sent 50 boys to Utah Boys State. We have had state winners that went on to National for the Oratorical Contest. Our area of responsibility in our county covers four cities and support our three county commissioners with community programs. We lead our local parades with our Honor Guard and Post decorated float. We are on our 8<sup>th</sup> year with the Davis County Fair doing a flag retirement ceremony in the main arena with a 20’ x 30’ fire pit managed by our Farmington Fire Department where we “retire” 400-500 flags collected from around the county. Our Farmington Fire Chief was a first-time counselor at The American Legion Utah Boys State this past year, and his plans include getting all county fire departments to send one firefighter as a counselor to Boys State each year. And much, much more. Our Post has a lot of talent and sparks now. And more walking through the door every month. All this because of one member became a spark 25 years ago.

When I hear about posts that want to turn in their charters or are going downhill fast, I think there MUST be a spark out there somewhere. **BE THAT SPARK.** Being positive takes practice. Things don’t happen overnight, especially in an all-volunteer organization. We must also talk “young” and accept new ideas. Be respectful of all who have served this great nation. Our veterans (that is all of us) need us. We must open our eyes and hearts, for GOD & COUNTRY, to be those sparks, or to find those sparks and just ask. Thank you, John. Now we must all . . .

**BE THE SPARK!**

## MILITARY EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES

According to the Department of Defense, starting January 1, 2020, all service-connected Veterans, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war (POW), and individuals approved and designated as the primary family caregivers of eligible Veterans under the Department of Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) can use commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online.

For more information regarding these privileges and access to military installations, visit [www.militaryonesource.mil/expanding-access](http://www.militaryonesource.mil/expanding-access)



**KNOW A VETERAN TELL A VETERAN**

All honorably discharged Veterans are eligible to shop online.

Millions of Veterans don't know that they are eligible for this benefit. If you know a Veteran, share the news!

To learn more, visit [shopmyexchange.com/veterans](http://shopmyexchange.com/veterans)

**EXCHANGE**



## SUPPORT OUR VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESSES

Once a quarter our plan is to support in our newsletter our Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion who own their own businesses. In the past we have used the last page and printed the Veteran-Owned Business cards from that business. THIS IS FREE ADVERTISING to support our American Legion Family. **One rule:** you must be a member of American Legion Post 27, Unit 27, or Squadron 27. Our members have been validated as eligible to be members of our American Legion Family. In a small way, this is what we can do for you.

Another resource for Utah veteran-owned businesses is through [www.veterans.utah.gov](http://www.veterans.utah.gov) and scroll down to VETERANS BUSINESS RESOURCES. Please scan/send your business card, your name, email, and a good phone number to our Editor, Kent Hansen, at [kenthansen7@gmail.com](mailto:kenthansen7@gmail.com). He can answer any questions you may have.



## Legion Nuggets



Dec. 15, 1943

Past National Commander Harry W. Colmery starts to write in longhand, on Mayflower Hotel stationery in Washington, the first draft of what will later become the "GI Bill of Rights" – considered the Legion's single greatest legislative achievement.

## Historian

### THE WEST POINT EGGNOG RIOT



Kent Hansen

Today, the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York is thought to have one of the most disciplined student bodies in the nation. It may come as a surprise, then, that the school was once the site of one of the worst examples of eggnog-fueled debauchery in American history.

During West Point's early years following its founding in 1802, it hardly resembled the highly revered institution that exists today. According to *Smithsonian*, admission standards were lax, and students could be enrolled at any point during the year. Drinking was also a significant part of the campus culture, especially around the holidays. It was an annual tradition at West Point for cadets to drink eggnog during their Christmas festivities, but in 1826, the school's superintendent, Colonel Sylvanus Thayer, cut them off.

As a means of whipping the community into shape, Thayer imposed a harsh new rule that prohibited the purchase, storage, and consumption of alcohol on West Point property. Unfortunately for Thayer, a few cadets took these new restrictions as a challenge come Christmas Eve.

The cadets (among them class of '28 student Jefferson Davis, a.k.a. the future president of the Confederacy) smuggled in three or four gallons of whiskey from a local tavern. Thayer suspected there might be shenanigans afoot for the holiday party, but he only took the normal precautions that night, assigning two officers to the North Barracks. The officers went to bed around midnight with no trouble to report, but that all

changed around four in the morning. One of the officers, Captain Ethan Allen Hitchcock, was awoken by the sounds of partying a few floors above him.

He went to investigate and found six or seven cadets in a drunken



state. He ordered them back to their rooms, and as he went to leave, he heard a second party going on in the room next door. There he found two intoxicated cadets hiding beneath a blanket, and a third party who was so drunk he refused to remove the hat he was using to conceal his face. When Hitchcock

demanded that he show himself, they argued, and things got so tense that after the officer left, the cadets declared, “Get your dirks and bayonets ... and pistols if you have them. Before this night is over, Hitchcock will be dead!”

Soon after, the infamous West Point eggnog riot was underway. Anywhere from 70 to 90 cadets ended up taking part, and while no one was killed that night, the chaos did result in assaults on two officers, several shattered windows, and banisters being ripped away from stairways. By the time morning arrived, the North Barracks had been completely wrecked.

Instead of indicting up to a third of the academy’s 260 students and further reinforcing its reputation as an unruly institution, superintendent Thayer chose to only target the worst offenders. Jefferson Davis was able to evade a charge, and he, along with fellow classmates (including future Confederate General Robert E. Lee) testified in their peers’ defense. Nineteen cadets were eventually expelled, and the buildings that served as the site of the riot were demolished.

When new barracks were constructed in the 1840s, the school took special precautions that would make similar riots more difficult in the future. The buildings were constructed to include short hallways that forced students to exit the building entirely before reaching another floor, which would introduce an added element of crowd control in case it was ever needed. Today, the story of the West Point eggnog riot is largely unknown to its current students, the school's historian told *Smithsonian*. Their debased holiday parties are a thing of the past, and when the school does throw parties, any alcohol that’s present is available in limited quantities. Perhaps the administration doesn’t want their cadets getting any ideas from the academy’s rowdy history.



**SGT. SAGE SEZ** To ensure perfect aim, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.

## **POW/MIA News**



**Jay Hess**

SALT LAKE CITY — A Utah Marine who died during World War II was accounted for in September, the U.S. Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced, almost 76 years after he was killed in battle. Pfc. Robert J. Hatch, of Woods Cross, was 21 years old when he was killed on Nov. 22, 1943, fighting the Japanese on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands, according to a news release. It was the third day of the battle for the island. About 1,000 Marines and sailors were killed and more than 2,000 were wounded in the battle, according to the release.

In 1946, all the American remains found on Tarawa were centralized, but almost half the known casualties were never found. Hatch was declared “non-recoverable” in 1949. The nonprofit organization History Flight, Inc., identified multiple sets of remains at an island cemetery in 2014 and turned them over to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. Using “dental, anthropological, and chest radiograph comparison analysis, as well as material evidence,” the agency identified Hatch’s remains, the release says.

He is to be buried on Dec. 14 in Bountiful. Hatch’s brother, Clyde, died in Guam in 1944. More than 400,000 Americans died fighting in World War II, and the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency says 72,648 of them are still unaccounted for.



## **Scoutmaster**



**Brian Knox**

Hi all, a brief update about scouting. We had a combined campout this past month at Bountiful Lake. We welcomed a whole passel of new boys on their first campout with our troop. Two of our adult leaders, Jon Hyatt and Brian Knox, received the District Award of Merit. We are also visiting some elderly folks in a nursing home to sing Christmas carols. Otherwise, we are plodding along and enjoying our youth.



# Legion Laffs BY KENT HANSEN



Check us out on Facebook  
at

“American Legion Post  
27 Farmington Utah”



or the link from our  
Post website at

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



## AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS

# BASIC TRAINING COURSE

*Learn why we do what we do*

It's a **FREE** on-line course for members of The American Legion Family

Go to: [WWW.LEGION.ORG/ALEI](http://WWW.LEGION.ORG/ALEI)



## Take advantage of our Veterans Outreach Program

A representative from the Utah Department of Veteran and Military Affairs can assist veterans with benefit questions, disability and benefit applications, and families of veterans. Call for an appointment with a Service Officer at 801-662-8256 (Monica Mann).

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



Department of Veterans & Military Affairs  
STATE OF UTAH

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