

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**  
 P.O. BOX 427  
 FARMINGTON, UT  
 84025  
[WWW.POST27.ORG](http://WWW.POST27.ORG)

## COMMANDER'S CALL



**Jon Rue**

A belated Happy Thanksgiving to you all. I'm starting off with that greeting because I am drafting this on Thanksgiving morning, while floating on the Discovery Princess off of Baja California. For an Army Artilleryman (Redleg!) I've sure enjoyed ships lately 😊. I also want to THANK YOU for taking the time to read our monthly newsletter. We always try to pack it full of information that is pertinent to YOU, our veterans; families, and friends. Quite a bit of effort goes on behind the scenes to prepare it.

This being December ~ Happy Holidays from the Rue Family and the members of the Post's Executive Team. I also feel a need to repeat last years' message. With the season of peace and goodwill upon us, please reach out to a post member, veteran, family member or even neighbor and check in on them. As happy as this season should be, for some it is equally sad and depressing, as they remember the loss of a loved one. Remember to BE THE ONE.

This year our Holiday Party will be similar to last year. It will again be at the Davis Tech Center and on THURSDAY, December 14 this year. Please join us at 5pm for a social start and a buffet dinner shortly after that. There 'might' also be a special guest. Additional details are provided in separate flyer and e-mail(s) throughout December. Please reply to Frank Ferrante at [fbferrante@aol.com](mailto:fbferrante@aol.com) with how many in your family will be joining us.

Additionally, continue to use our website and Facebook pages for information on our events, links to services, and other important information! Keep an eye on [www.post27.org](http://www.post27.org)

### **Post 27 Family EVENTS CALENDAR**



**December 14** – Post 27 Family Christmas Party.  
 5:00 pm, Davis Tech (see flyer on last page)  
**December 16** – Wreaths Across America. 10:00 am  
 Lindquist Mortuary, 1867 N. Fairfield Rd., Layton

**January 1** – New Year's Day. *Fly the flag!*  
**January 11** – Post 27 General Meeting. 7:00 pm,  
 Davis County Memorial Courthouse  
**January 25** – Post Oratorical Contest

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



**Bob Anderson**

It's time again to put your hand, heart, and a bit of human-kindness to help strangers as well as family and friends. Everyone needs your support in so many ways to get through the holiday season. It's a time to be light, joyful, and happy, but some may need your support to make them that way. Contact old friends, greet strangers, converse with other veterans. Show that they matter by asking if they need any help. Thank you in advance.

Perhaps you are one of those people in need. If so, give one of the Post members listed on this newsletter a call or contact us through the website, [www.post27.org](http://www.post27.org). We are here to support you, in any way we can.

The Holiday Party is this month. Come out to see us. Look for details on this newsletter.



Again: If you can't get to a Post 27 monthly meeting due to your own health or transportation issues, but would like to, **we can help**. Any active member who wants to attend a Post 27 meeting, call me, 801-347-8735 or any other Executive Group member as shown in this newsletter. Someone will come pick you up. Just give us a call or text the day prior and that should do it. We want there to be no obstacles to your participating in the Post. Give it a try.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander

On December 6, 1884, the Washington Monument in Washington D.C, was completed by the Army Engineers. Construction started on July 4, 1848 but funding ran out and it was not completed until President U.S. Grant authorized the funding to finish the 555-foot obelisk. At the time of completion, it was the tallest structure in the world.



On the night of Christmas Day in 1776, George Washington, our first US President and Founding Father was crossing the ice choked Delaware River with the Continental Army to initiate a surprise attack against the 1,400 Hessian soldiers garrisoned there. In shallow draft Durham cargo boats, Washington and his soldiers made their way in driving cold rain, and secured an important victory in our war for independence.

The December Holiday Season is certainly a time to give thanks. We give thanks for our friends, for our faith and for our families. But let us also give thanks to those Americans who came before us to create this great country. Without their efforts and sacrifices, we would certainly have much less to be thankful for.



**Dan Woodward**

### American Legion High School U.S. Constitution Oratorical Contest

As a reminder, on January 25, we will be conducting our Post American Legion Oratorical contest. Consider helping us out and seeing the youth of our community present on the values of this great Nation, which you all sacrificed to protect.

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

Eligible participants must be citizens of or lawful permanent residents of the United States. All contestants must be bona fide students herein described as any student under the age of 20 years on the date of the national contest who is presently enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or home school). The curriculum of the school must be considered to be of high school level, commencing with grade 9 and terminating with grade 12. Students must be enrolled in high school or junior high school during the time of participation at any level of The American Legion National High School Oratorical

Contest. Contestants must either be legally domiciled within or attend an educational institution within the department that they enter competition. Contestants can enter competition through only one department.

High school students that graduate early during the school year are eligible to compete if they are not enrolled in a college, university, trade school or other institution of higher learning at the time of the department finals contest.

## Adjutant

**Welcome aboard to our new Post 27 members!  
Davis Van Otten and Noel R. Barton**



Dale Crockett



## Membership is our Lifeblood!

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

2024 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2023 TOTAL	% OF GOAL
128	21	47	25	1	1	95	74%

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

2024 GOAL		REGULAR		NEW	TRANSFERS	2023 TOTAL	% OF GOAL
32		24	6	1		31	97%

Well, we are almost three quarters complete for renewals this year for the 2024 membership drive. That is not too bad, but we can do better. I would love it if we could get to 100% by the end of the year. I also hope that you are reading and using the American Legion Magazine to keep a connection with The American Legion. There is information in it to keep you fully engaged with the organization. If you do not renew, this magazine will discontinue. One of my duties as Adjutant is to convey information and instruction through regular communication or to help members in need.

Just the other day I received a call from a member who had flooding in her home and needed help moving food storage and a couple of freezers. I contacted her commander and he promised he would help her. She was not a member of Post 27 and did not know who to call from the post she was in. We are all family and we should serve each other when we can. We meet once a month on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Davis County Memorial Courthouse on the second floor to the east. I would love meeting you if only once so I can get acquainted with you. If not, send me an email if there is something you want to talk about.

***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). 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

The **United States Bill of Rights** comprises the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution. Proposed following the often bitter 1787–88 debate over the ratification of the Constitution and written to address the objections raised by Anti-Federalists, the Bill of Rights amendments add to the Constitution specific guarantees of personal freedoms and rights, clear limitations on the government's power in judicial and other proceedings, and explicit declarations that all powers not specifically granted to the federal government by the Constitution are reserved to the states or the people.

The first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution are known as the Bill of Rights and were passed by Congress on Sept. 25, 1789 and ratified on Dec. 15, 1791. To date, there are 27 amendments to the Constitution.



Steve Steed



## The Amendments that comprise the Bill of Rights are:

- The First Amendment: Freedom of Speech, Religion, and Assembly
- The Second Amendment: The Right to Bear Arms
- The Third Amendment: Quartering of Soldiers
- The Fourth Amendment: Protection Against Unreasonable Searches and Seizures
- The Fifth Amendment: Protection of Rights to Life, Liberty, and Property
- The Sixth Amendment: Right to a Fair Trial
- The Seventh Amendment: Right to a Jury Trial in Civil Cases
- The Eighth Amendment: Protection Against Cruel and Unusual Punishment
- The Ninth Amendment: Protection of Unenumerated Rights
- The Tenth Amendment: Reserved Powers of the States



The first ten amendments, the Bill of Rights, are a testament to the Founding Fathers' commitment to safeguarding individual liberties and protecting against government overreach. These amendments have stood the test of time, serving as a foundation for the principles of justice, freedom, and equality in the United States.

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## 10 things about the U.S. Space Force

On Dec. 20, 2019, the U.S. Space Force, the newest branch of the U.S. Armed Forces - was officially instituted with the signing

of legislation by President Donald Trump. On the occasion of the Space Force's birthday, here are some facts the intervening years may have obscured.



1. The Space Force previously existed within the Air Force since 1982, as the Air Force Space Command.
2. The first official member of the Space Force to be sworn in was its most senior officer: Chief of Space Operations Gen. John W. Raymond.
3. The branch's motto is Semper Supra – “always above.”
4. The initial uniforms were utilizing current Army/Air Force uniforms, saving costs of designing/ producing a new one," according to a Space Force source. "Members will look like their joint counterparts they'll be working with on the ground."
5. The Air Force Academy's class of 2020 included 86 graduates set to become the Space Force's first company-grade officers.
6. On Sept. 15, 2020, a virtual mass swearing-in was held for about 2,400 troops transferring into the Space Force from locations around the world.
7. On Dec. 10, 2020, the first seven people to enlist directly in the Space Force graduated from basic training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in Texas.
8. It took no special action for Space Force members to become eligible to join The American Legion, as the organization's charter only indicates active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces.
9. The Space Force flag was unveiled at the White House in May 2020; by October, Alpharetta American Legion Post 201 in Georgia had obtained one and was flying it above their post home.
10. The official song of the Space Force, also called "Semper Supra," was unveiled in September 2022.

## Post 27 and Home Depot honor a Veteran for Veterans Day

Home Depot with the help of American Legion Post 27 helped make this past Veteran's Day even more special for one of our members, Leen Van Hulten. When asked if there was anything he needed, Leen, like a true patriot responded, "I could use a new flag pole with a light."

Leen immigrated to the United States as a teenager. Though he was new to the country that didn't stop him from enlisting in the Army and serving in the Korean War.

A work crew from the Centerville Home Depot led by assistant store manager, Pat Stark, volunteered to help Leen get a new flag pole with a solar light and do some much needed yard maintenance. On behalf of Home Depot, Pat thanked Leen for his service to our country. She expressed her gratitude to him for serving even though he hadn't been in the country long and was still learning to speak English. She also presented Leen with a house for his cat, Princess, his companion and an Army Gnome for the porch.



## Veterans, Gold Star Families get free lifetime pass to national parks, wildlife refuges, other public lands

*By Courtesy of the National Park Service*



On Veterans Day 2022, the National Park Service unveiled a lifetime pass providing free entrance to national parks for Veterans and their families. The Interagency Military Lifetime Pass waives entrance fees for the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and standard amenity recreation fees for the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sites for current military service members and their dependents, Veterans and Gold Star Families.

Veterans and their families have free access to approximately 2,000 public locations spread out across more than 400 million acres of public lands, which host activities to fit any lifestyle—from serene to high octane, including hiking,

fishing, paddling, biking, hunting, stargazing, camping, and much more.

The Military Pass has been expanded to include a pass that does not expire for Veterans and Gold Star Family members. The National Defense Authorization Act of 2022 authorized a free lifetime pass to national parks and other federal recreational lands for eligible Veterans and Gold Star Families. In recent years, they were able to receive annual passes.

### Are you eligible?

For purposes of this program, a Veteran is identified as an individual who has served in the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserve, and is able to present one of the following forms of valid (unexpired) identification:

- Department of Defense Identification Card
- Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)
- Veteran ID Card
- Veterans designation on a state-issued U.S. driver's license or identification card

Gold Star Families are next of kin of a member of the United States Armed Forces who lost his or her life in a "qualifying situation," such as a war, an international terrorist attack, or a military operation outside of the United States while serving with the United States Armed Forces.



**The America the Beautiful – the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass (Interagency Pass) Program**  
The Interagency Pass Program includes a free annual pass for active-duty members of the U.S. Military and their dependents. Current Military service members must show a valid (unexpired) Department of Defense ID. Dependents of current service members must show a valid (unexpired) DD Form 1173 AD or DEC. Other free or discounted passes, including some lifetime passes, are available for persons with permanent disabilities, fourth grade students, volunteers and senior citizens age 62 years or older.

### How to get your Interagency Pass

Interagency Passes can be obtained in person while visiting a participating site. Visit Places to Get Interagency Passes for a searchable list and be sure to contact the site before you go, to make sure they are open and have passes in stock. In addition, Military passes, as well as those for seniors and persons with permanent disabilities, are available online through the USGS Online Store with an additional processing fee. Existing passes remain valid. You do not need to obtain a new pass if you already have a Lifetime Senior or Access Pass. For more information about eligibility and passes, visit Free Entrance to National Parks for Veterans and Gold Star Families (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov). The participating agencies also offer several fee-free days for everyone throughout the year to mark days of celebration and commemoration. Examples of fee-free days include the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., National Public Lands Day, Veterans Day and the signing of the Great American Outdoors Act. Fee-free days and fee policies vary among the agencies, so it's best to check the agency website or contact the site you plan to visit in advance of your trip.

## AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF UTAH TRAINING THURSDAYS

**WHEN:** First Thursday each month through May 2024, 6:00-7:00 pm

Added subjects as needed LAST Thursday each month

ZOOM.COM: Meeting ID: 895 1643 2296 Password: 716204

### SCHEDULED TOPICS:

November 30, 2023: How to Organize an American Legion  
Oratorical "U.S. Constitution" Contest

December 7, 2023: Boys State Counselors Job Descriptions and How to apply

January 4, 2024: Success in Legion Programs and Due Dates for Recognition and Scholarships



*All Legion family members are welcome to join the Zoom training.*

## Historian

### A Foxhole Christmas

This poem was written from a foxhole on the front lines in Rollesbroich, Germany on December 25, 1944, while Cleburne R. Martin was serving with the 78th Lightning Division of the U.S. Army. One year later, on Christmas Day, Martin was on a ship headed back home to Mineral Wells, Texas. He died on Christmas Eve, 2002.

### CHRISTMAS IN A FOXHOLE

*by Pfc. Cleburne R. Martin, Christmas Day, 1944*

*I guess the way I should begin  
Is "Peace on earth, Goodwill to men,  
But over here, it is differently told  
With shells and bullets and life in a hole.*

*Now Hans and Fritz just over the way  
Don't seem to know that it's Christmas Day,  
Or maybe they value their exploits bold  
And choose to live out here in a hole.*



**Kent Hansen**

*We have the trees, the ice and snow,  
But to places like this old Santa don't go;  
If he were here, I'm sure he'd say,  
"What an awful place to spend Christmas Day."*

*The thing in life that drives us on  
Is a spot in the States that we all call home,  
And though our loved ones are far away,  
They're with us in spirit this Christmas Day.*

*When it will end, we do not know,  
This miserable life in the rain and snow:  
But for one thing I earnestly pray –  
Unoccupied foxholes next Christmas Day.*



## **American Legion Auxiliary**



**Deb Hansen**

Hello Unit Members!

November is such a special month with Veterans Day! Our Unit made November special for many who need to use the Airmen's Attic as Paula spearheaded a massive drive, including a large Costco run with the more than \$700 in donations!

We were in Australia for Remembrance Day, November 11 and I can tell you that the Australians truly know how to honor their Veterans! People get up early and stand at the end of their driveways with candles, poppies and pictures of their Veterans! The world-famous Sydney Opera House was highlighted in poppies. News announcers all wore poppy pins!

**AMERICAN  
LEGION  
AUXILIARY**

If you would like to volunteer for the Veterans Gift Shop, you may on December 3 which is set up, or shopping with the Veterans on December 4 and 5th. Judy Daybell is the contact person and her Email is [Judy.daybell50@gmail.com](mailto:Judy.daybell50@gmail.com) and let her know!

Our Christmas party is on Thursday, December 14 at the Davis Technical College and should be a blast! Please RSVP to Frank Ferrante at [fbferrante@aol.com](mailto:fbferrante@aol.com) Have a great holiday season! See you on the 14th!

### ***THANK YOU FOR A SUCCESSFUL FOOD DRIVE FOR OUR MILITARY FAMILIES***

Thanks to all of the food in-kind donations, and your cash/checks/Smith's Inspiring Donations (**\$733**), we were able to make two deliveries to the Hill Air Force Base Airman's Attic Food Pantry with the final delivery on November 16 with 744 items. The Pantry's goal was to try feeding 140 military families between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Airman's Attic Manager Sharaya Woodwick sent us a shopping list of needed items, and with



your \$ donations Chuck, Paula, and Omar (all Legion Family) went shopping with \$733.00 at the local "big box store" to supplement donated items. Helping us deliver the goods on November 16 were **John and Chris Decker, Gordon and**



**Sharen Hall, Chuck and Paula Stephenson.**



## **Legion Laffs** 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](http://www.post27.org).



## **American Legion Family Members**

Don't miss your chance to take the

**BASIC TRAINING COURSE**



*Learn why we do what we do!*

It's a **FREE** self-paced online training for The American Legion Family.

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



# VA Claims Assistance

Disability Claims, Applications, Appeals **FREE**

## Gregory Popp

Veteran Service Officer  
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The American Legion  
American Legion STATE OF UTAH

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 AMERICAN  
LEGION

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UTAH DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN & MILITARY AFFAIRS:

[www.veterans.utah.gov](http://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



**Post 27**  
**Family**  
**Holiday Party**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14**

**5:00 PM**

**DAVIS TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

*550 East 300 South, Kaysville  
Health Bldg. (next to Main Bldg.)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor \* Use large elevator*

*Please **RSVP** now to Frank Ferrante  
**(801) 589-3292***

*or email [fbferrante@aol.com](mailto:fbferrante@aol.com)*

*Cash, check, Venmo or ApplePay welcome.*



**\$20**  
**per person**

Please bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to a charitable organization.



**Maybe even a visit**  
**from a very special guest**



