



The American Legion



Post 27
Squadron 27
Unit 27

Newsletter

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

February 2017

Still Serving America

www.post27.org



Kent Hansen

FEBRUARY IS AMERICANISM MONTH

Perhaps few can appreciate the greatness of our country until they have served in or visited a foreign land. We enjoy, as a matter of simple fact, so many benefits of good living that they cannot be counted. An isolationist America rallied to the flag in the wake of attack on Pearl Harbor that pulled us into World War II. It can be argued that World War II melded the nation into one voice and one effort more than at any other



time in our history. When the Korean Conflict required America's assistance, American patriots, many still weary from WW II, once again entered the fray in defense of freedom. By the time we were fully engaged in the Vietnam War, patriotism occupied one pole of a deeply divided nation. Operations Desert Storm, Desert Shield and Iraqi Freedom required no less valor than the preceding wars but once again our country struggled through deep divisions on the handling of war policy. The point is that patriotism seems to have devolved somewhat into bumper sticker platitudes and empty rhetoric. Real Americanism compels action. Please don't misunderstand: Americanism does not require a war. Americanism is all about improving our community, state and nation. But how do we do that? The answer is and has been right in front of us. Our participation in The American Legion fills all the requirements that define patriotism. Providing military funeral honors, retiring unserviceable flags, and sponsoring high school students to Boys State are

only a few of the activities that address the clause in the Legion Preamble: to foster a 100% Americanism. Sadly, the few who participate in most of the Post activities are the only ones who reap the all benefits of Legion membership. It doesn't have to be this way. Our doors and opportunities are wide open and we would be delighted to have you join us. What we did while in uniform mattered; **well, so does this**. Your participation does honor to your Legion membership.

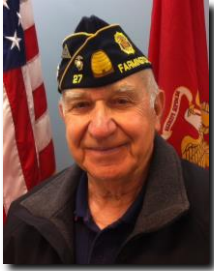
Post 27 Programs & Activities

- 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
 - 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 Junior Shooting Sports
 - American Legion National Emergency Fund support
- Veterans Still Serving!**

Calendar of Events

- Feb. 2 -- SAL Squadron 27 meeting**, 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
- Feb. 4 -- Department Oratorical Contest**, 1:00 pm, Provo Historic Courthouse, 3rd Fl, 51 S. University Av.
- Feb. 9 -- Post 27 meeting**, 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
- Feb. 20 -- President's Day**. *Fly the flag.*
- Mar. 2 -- SAL Squadron 27 meeting**, 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
- Mar. 9 -- Post 27 meeting**, 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
- Mar. 12 -- Daylight Savings Time begins.**

1st Vice Commander



Frank Ferrante

Please share the following with a veteran that is not a member of The American Legion.

Do you remember when you first went into the military you were a little scared, unsure what was going to happen to you and apprehensive about your future. In many situations you didn't know whether you would ever get home again; see your family, your loved ones. And the only thing that you could count on in that instant was your military comrades. And you knew he or she was counting on you, too. Do you remember the tediousness of garrison life? Do you remember the interminable hurry up and wait? Do you remember the inane make-work projects you were ordered to do? But your comrade was always there alongside you, making the wisecrack, helping you make it through each day, maybe even covering for you on occasion.

Your comrade still needs you!!!

Maybe your comrade is in one of the VA hospitals; his war wounds and/or time have taken its toll on his body. Maybe he or she is a young veteran, just discharged from service in the Gulf War, Bosnia or Afghanistan and is having difficulty finding a civilian job. Maybe your comrade, who served in World War II to the present conflicts, is just an ordinary guy or gal like yourself, wanting to share stories and comradeship with someone who was in a similar situation.

Your comrade still needs you!!!

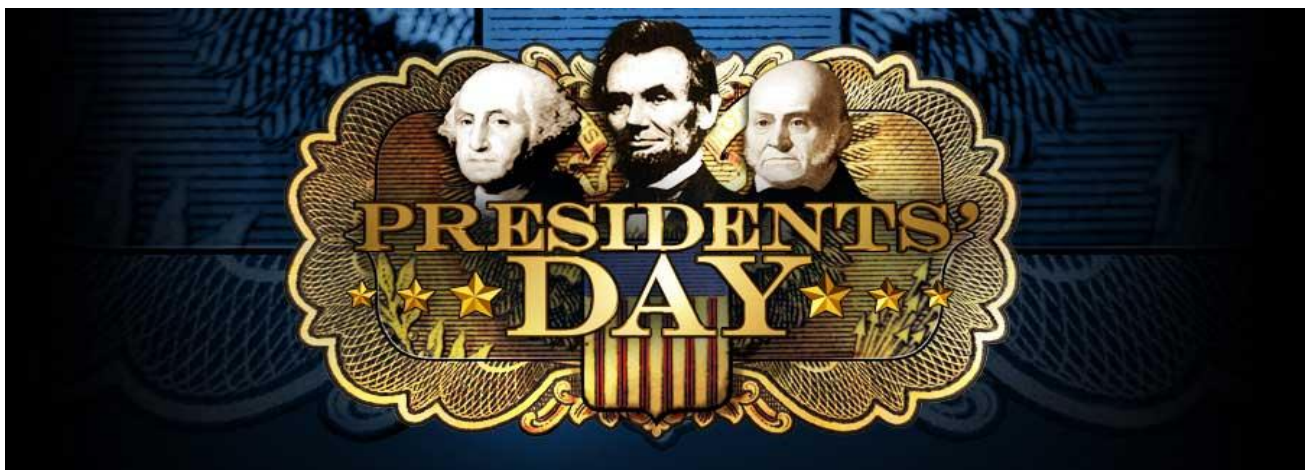
The American Legion is the place for you to help your buddy and for your buddy to help you. Founded in 1919, it is the largest veteran's organization in the United States with more than 2 million members.

Your comrade still needs you!!!

Farmington Post 27 was chartered in 1919, almost 100 years ago!! We are veterans just like you. We care about America, our fellow veterans, our families and our children. As a member of Farmington Post 27 we continue to serve our God, our Country and our Community. Our Legionnaires, or comrades, participate in many community activities such as parades, memorials, dedications, flag ceremonies, etc. We have a Military Funeral Honors detail ready, willing and able at the family's request. Our funeral detail is available to all veterans. We sponsor local students to participate in Boys or Girls State; sponsor scholarships to better educate our children. We sponsor an Oratorical contest for high school students with cash rewards. Presently some of our active Legionnaires have health issues that will prevent them from participating in the activities mentioned. We need help; please let us know if, or if you know someone who, is willing and able to join us. We will provide the necessary training, and we promise you will receive great satisfaction taking part in these activities. Come join us!!



AMERICA NEEDS YOU – JOIN NOW!



2nd Vice Commander

This past month was almost as exciting as welcoming in the New Year. The Military Honors Team assisted with seven military funerals during the month; three at Lakeview, two at Bountiful, one each at Kaysville and Clearfield. The Executive Committee met at the Bountiful Russon Brothers Mortuary on Jan 18 to honor the mortuary staff for the support they have given our MFH's team at both the Bountiful and Lakeview Cemeteries. We presented them with a plaque and two sets of magnetic military crests for their funeral coaches. It was interesting that the funeral we had that same day the US Army crests were on the coach. The crests caused so much attention that members of the deceased's family were taking pictures of the crest.



Ron Craig



Anthony Coombs (center) with District 2 2nd Vice Commander Kent Hansen (L) and District 2 Commander Joe Guimond (R).

On January 11, we met at the Post Headquarters for our annual Oratorical Scholarship Contest. We had two boys competing; Anthony Coombs (DHS) and Benjamin Henrie (Viewmont). Both boys did an outstanding job, but as in most cases, someone has to win. Anthony Coombs did an outstanding job and walked away with a first place medal and a nice check for his efforts. On Jan 27, we met at the Weber State University Davis North Campus and NUAMES HS facility for the District Oratorical Scholarship Contest. There were three contestants, Anthony and two girls. They represented the Utah Military Academy, and Morgan high schools. The vote went down the line and was decided by one single vote for Anthony Coombs.

On Feb 4, we will be in Provo for the Utah Department Contest. Anthony is expected to do a great job in the competition. He knows the subjects very well and has a great presentation. The winner will represent Utah at Nationals in April in Indianapolis, IN.

Presently, we are knee deep in Utah Boys State. We work directly with Davis, NUAMES, Mountain, and Viewmont. Boys State is scheduled for June 12-16 at

Weber State University. Girls State is the week before on June 5-10. We will be doing student interviews at our four high schools in March 2017. If you are interested in assisting with these interviews, please contact me.

Adjutant/ Eagle Scout Courts of Honor

Membership is Our Lifeblood

Membership. Statistics are membership numbers through 1 Feb 2017.

2017 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2017 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
100	9	37	28	4	4	82	82%



Dale Crockett

I have been asking all members to pay their membership dues by the end of the year and 82% has done just that, and **thank you**. I believe the American Legion also sends out notices quite often. Collecting dues is always a continuing effort and can sometimes become a hassle getting all those mailings or reminders from us. There is one nice solution to avoid this hassle. **PAID UP FOR LIFE!** The American Legion rolled out a simplified application process and cost calculation formula for the national PUFL plan. Anyone who is currently an American Legion member or who is eligible for membership may become a PUFL member. Legionnaires can apply for a PUFL membership online at www.legion.org/join/pufl. After providing a name and member ID number, the member will receive a cost quote: he or she can pay by credit card or print out a personalized form and mail it in with a check or pay in 12 equal monthly payments. If the member pays in full online, he or she will receive a \$100 automatic discount applied at the time of application. You can also contact Customer Service at 1-800-433-3318 for their personalized offer. When paid in full, the member will receive a permanent plastic card identifying him or her as a lifetime member. Also, no refund will be made if the member chooses to cancel membership or discontinue participating in the monthly payment plan. For general questions about the PUFL program, contact Internal Affairs at (317)630-1330. Once the member pays in full, he or she will be protected from any future dues increases at the post, department or national levels. As you can see above, we only have 9 PUFL members in our post.

Our \$35 annual membership dues are due now for the 2017 membership year. We are getting closer to our 100% goal. We would like the rest of the members to renew now, or in the near future. However it is never too late to renew. To keep your continuous membership intact, you will need to renew soon. If you are not planning to renew with us, please let me know so I will not continue to send you emails or letters. 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



David Layton

February, the New Year is here and Post 27 is in "Full Operation" with American Legion programs and service.

We want to thank all of you for the service you have rendered this past year in community activities and for honoring our fallen with Military Funeral Honors (MFH). Mark your calendar February 21, 6:00 PM, for Military Funeral Training to be held at the Farmington Fire Station. We invite all of you to participate so we are always prepared to provide the MFH for our fallen Veterans. Without you, Post 27 will have greater difficulty operating and providing this service.

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.

Past Department Commander/ Training Officer

TRAINING IN FEBRUARY: Sharpen your skills on properly folding the American flag, ceremonial handling of rifles, and ceremonial handling of the bugle (no musical talent necessary). **WHEN: Tuesday, February 21, 2017, 7-9 P.M. at the Farmington City Fire Station, 82 N. 100 E., Farmington.** Instructors will be the Utah Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors Team, who were trained by the Army's elite Arlington Cemetery soldiers. Those who complete this training will be given a Military Funeral Honors Flag Pin and Certificate of Training. All first responders, Legionnaires, and Sons of the American Legion are invited. Fine tune your skills that are used for Boy Scout Eagle Courts, flag education activities, military funeral honors, and other events the American Legion is invited to take part in.



Paula Stephenson

"VETERANS VOICE": The January issue of the **Veterans Voice** is now online at www.post27.org. This veterans newsletter is published every other month by the Department of Utah Veterans and Military Affairs, and is jammed packed with helpful information, which you can use or pass on to other Veterans. Copies are also available in our magazine rack in the hallway of our Post 27 home outside of Room 116, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, 28 East State Street, Farmington. You can obtain copies during regular business hours when you are in the neighborhood.

VETERANS BENEFITS DIRECTORY: The American Legion national website now offers a handy state-by-state directory of veterans' benefits, some of which are little known. From health-care services to hunting and fishing license exemptions and free passes to state parks, the new online guide details state and federal benefits alike for those who have served the nation in uniform, and their families. The web page is located at www.legion.org/veteransbenefits/state.

LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION ONLINE: The American Legion Legacy Scholarship application for 2017 is online for new and returning applicants to fill out. The Legacy Scholarship is available for children whose parents lost their lives while honorably serving on active duty on/or after 9/11, AS WELL AS for children of post 9/11 veterans with a VA disability rating of 50 percent or higher. The renewable scholarship will award up to \$20,000 for the expense of graduate or post graduate tuition, books, room and board, meal plans, transportation and other supplies needed to achieve a higher education. The application deadline is April 20, 2017. Yes, there have been Utah students that have received this scholarship in the past. www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy

Sons of the American Legion



Dave Parker
Squadron 27
Commander

During the month of January, our membership participated in about a half dozen Military Funeral Honor Guard Ceremonies, and helped Post 27 present Russon Brothers Funeral Home with magnetic military insignias, representing each branch of service. They will be placed on their funeral coaches during military funerals.



I would like to thank **Spencer Hill** for his fine Boys State presentation at our last January meeting. We will be looking forward to seeing Anthony Coombs tell us about his Boys State experiences at the February Meeting. Our intention is to have each young man who participated at Boys State, Scouting Projects etc. give us a presentation in turn. In the near future, I would like to have our SAL members prepare presentations about their ancestors that qualify them to be SAL members, it should be interesting to hear those stories. At the last Post 27 meeting, I took my turn at portraying my military / Vietnam War experience.

I would like to congratulate our own **Anthony Coombs**, for taking first place in the recent Oratorical Competition held on January 11 and 27 at Post 27 and NUAMES High School. He now moves on to the State wide competition.

CONGRATULATIONS! At our last SAL meeting we elected some vacant positions. Cameron Skinner will be our new 2nd Vice Commander, Parker Johnson will be our Sergeant-at-Arms and William Huber will be our Chaplain. Thanks guys! 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.

American Legion Auxiliary

Fellow Legion Auxiliary members!

Thank you so much to Paula Stephenson for reigniting a Legion Auxiliary Unit in Farmington! We are Unit 27! And yes, we are recruiting members! So far, we have many spouses of Post 27 members...but there are also those who could join us who are widows of servicemen! The dues are only \$25 per year...and we promise a great many activities will be planned in the coming months! There are lots of ways we can make a wonderful contribution to our community and this wonderful land where we live!



Girls State interviews will be coming up and we will be needing volunteers to interview these amazing girls who want to have a life changing experience! Girls State is only open to girls who are completing their junior year of high school...and so far our Unit is assigned 8 slots which we will share with NUAMES and Davis High Schools.

Ann Craig, our awesome secretary, will be emailing you about our meeting time for February! Meanwhile, look around you and see if there are spouses of those who have served who would love to join our Unit!!!

POW/MIA News



Jay C. Hess

The POWs held in North Vietnam started coming home 44 years ago this month during Operation Homecoming. A total of 602 POWs were released between 2-12-73 and 4-1-73. This was the result of the December 72 Operation Linebacker II B-52 attacks against North Vietnam, mining of ports and the subsequent Peace Accords signed at Paris in January 1973.

One report lists 325 Air Force, 138 Navy, 77 Army, 26 Marines, 25 Civilians and 11 Foreign Nationals released. There were several releases of around 100 at intervals of about two weeks. Typically two C-141 transports and one C-130 support aircraft brought released POWs from the airport at Hanoi to Clark AB in the Philippines. Louds shouts of joy sounded in each C-141 at take-off and when crossing the coast of Vietnam.

After the C-141s parked at Clark AB, the anxious passengers were asked to form a line in order of their shoot down date. Each former POW was introduced as they departed the plane. Large crowds and TV cameras greeted them. Cmdr Jeremiah Denton (shot down 06/18/1965) bumped LTJG Everett Alvarez, Jr. (shot down 08/05/1964) out of first place on the first flight. He was given a microphone to address the waiting crowd. "We are honored to have had the opportunity to serve our country under difficult circumstances. We are profoundly grateful to our Commander-in-Chief and to our nation for this day. God bless

America." Alvarez who later served as Deputy Director of the Peace Corps and Deputy Administrator of the VA would have been equally eloquent.



American Legion members too feel honored to have served and grateful to be able to still do so. Jeremiah Denton Rear Admiral (Ret), U.S. Senator representing Alabama from 1981 – 1987 died in 2014 at the age of 89 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. After a year in captivity he was forced to have an interview with a Japanese reporter. The “V” were embarrassed by his actions. He was creative enough to blink in Morse code “T-O-R-T-U-R-E.” You can see this at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BgelmcOdS3>

Asked about his treatment, Denton responded—contrary to his thin and haggard appearance: “I get adequate food and adequate clothing and medical care when I require it.”

Asked about his views on the actions of the U.S. government, he said: “I don’t know what is happening, but whatever the position of my government is, I support it—fully. Whatever the position of my government is, I believe in it—yes sir. I’m a member of that government and it is my job to support it, and I will as long as I live.” *His response took more than a little back bone.*

Jake Garn Sea Cadet Squadron



Courtney Putnam

Recently, the Jake Garn Squadron has had some challenges. Several of our adult volunteers have had to leave the program which has made it difficult for us to manage the program effectively. Cadet numbers are important, but adult leadership is essential. Three new adults have indicated that they will join the program in February. If they do, the squadron should be just fine. I am optimistic that we will find the leadership we need. This weekend, our unit recognized our first ever Presidential Fitness Award recipient, Seaman Apprentice Ashley Martos. For Saturday the squadron participated in a dress uniform inspection and attended classroom lessons for the rest of the day. Although it is a challenge to sit in a classroom, the best time to do this sort of required training is during the winter when it’s snowing outside. The cadets did very well and were very attentive. As a result, on Sunday they were rewarded with sledding on Hill Air Force Base. We kept a couple of vehicles running and toasty inside so that cadets could warm-up as needed. I think they had a really good time. Next month is our annual unit inspection which will be conducted by Regional Director, LCDR Jeanette Hernandez and her assistant LT Baker. I look forward to their valuable feedback on how we can improve our squadron.



Legion Laughs



Check us out on Facebook
at

“American Legion Post
27 Farmington Utah”



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.