



The American Legion  
**CENTENNIAL**  
**POST**

February 2020

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

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

## Commander's Corner



William A. Huber

The inclement weather on January 22 failed to thwart four Davis High School student candidates from arriving at the Farmington City Community Arts Center (FCCAC) to compete in Post 27's American Legion's Constitutional Oratorical Contest. They did their school proud with the orations they presented. Thank you to Keith Gardner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander in Post 27 for taking the lead in spearheading coordination with the local school counselors, arranging for judges drawn from our local communities to include Davis County Commissioner Lorene Kamalu, Fruit Heights City Councilwoman Jeanne Groberg, former high school AP History teacher Kathy Layton, past Post 27 Commander Kent Hansen and Post 27 Judge Advocate Paul Hubenthal of Hill Field. The former, along with many of our Post 27 members, pulled together and put on a first-rate Oratorical contest. My salute to you for

your service to the youth of our community.

Boys State is one of The American Legion's great success stories in supporting two of its four Pillars as a veteran's organization, those being "Americanism" and "Children and Youth". Below is an E-mail Note from the Doug Case, President of the American Legion Boys State, which discusses changes in filling the staffing and counselor roles. It was originally sent out to those who had served in 2019 as counselors or members of the staff. I am including it here, so that Post 27 members, desiring to serve at Boys State in 2020, may email their intent to do so at email address [utahboysstate@gmail.com](mailto:utahboysstate@gmail.com).

"This note is being sent to Boys State counselors of the 2019 class.

As some of you have read on our new website, beginning with the class of 2020 attendance at Boys State will be by invitation. We will limit the number of counselors and staff. This was not an easy decision but a necessary one. Depending on the number of boys we get to sign up we will determine how many counselors are needed. If you are interested in returning for the class of 2020 please send me an email at this address and I will put it in my file. As soon as we start getting boys lined up I will send out a package with instructions for you to complete and return to me. As soon as possible I will notify each of you as to whether or not we have jobs available. You should also know that each counselor will be required to complete a background check prior to attending Boys State, we (Boys State) will pay for it. Your package will contain the specifics. As always, thanks for your service and support of the Legion. I look forward to working with and learning from you at another memorable Boys State.

Doug Case"

Keith Gardner has also been busy working with the high school counselors of Farmington, Davis and NUAMES High Schools, furnishing those resources to share with their students and setting up student interviews for Boys State that will be held in March. Boys finishing their junior year of high school are eligible to attend Boys State which this year will be held June 8 – 12 on the Weber State University Campus. Post members are encouraged to refer boys you may know to check out the website for registering at <https://utahboysstate.org/>

At our January 15 Post 27 general meeting, Post member Chuck Stephenson presented a resolution titled: "Re-designation of The American Legion Post 27 as **The American Legion John W. Sheets Post 27**". This change was discussed and approved by the Post membership. As we go through the approval process, we will keep you posted of its progress.

Our next scheduled general meeting of Post 27 will be held on February 10, 2020 at 6:30 pm in the main basement conference room of the FCCAC facility. Nominations for post leadership officers will be accepted for Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander, Adjutant and Treasurer. The Post 27 Election of Officers

THE AMERICAN LEGION

POST 27

P.O. BOX 427

FARMINGTON, UT 84025

will be held on the then next scheduled general meeting of Post 27 on March 25, 2020 at 6:30 PM in the main basement conference room of the FCCAC facility. Following the election, the newly elected officer will be sworn in and commence serving in their new positions. All currently paid-up members in good standing are eligible to run for office.

In addition to the nomination of officers on February 10, 2020, we will be receiving special guests, Jim and Linda Crismer and their two Contract War Dogs, Mazzie and Geli. We will learn of their service in the Middle East and how they came to be adopted and now live in Utah.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

**February 10 – Post 27 General Meeting.** 6:30 pm, Farmington City Community Arts Center, 120 South Main St, Farmington

**February 17 – Presidents’ Day.** *Fly the flag.*

**February 17 –SAL Meeting.** 6:30 pm, Farmington City Community Arts Center, 120 South Main St, Farmington

**February 17 – Auxiliary Meeting.** 7:00 pm, Farmington City Community Arts Center, 120 South Main St, Farmington

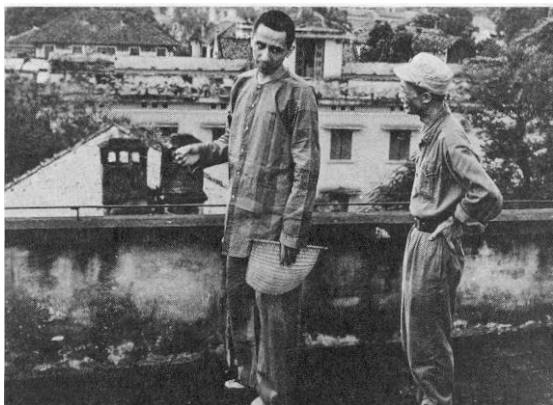
**March 8 – Daylight Savings Time begins.** 6:30 pm,

**March 25 – Post 27 General Meeting.** Farmington City Community Arts Center, 120 South Main St, Farmington

**March 30 – SAL Meeting.** 6:30 pm, Farmington City Community Arts Center, 120 South Main St, Farmington

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

Except for the Oratorical Contest, it’s been a fairly quiet time for the Post this month. The contest went well under Keith Gardner’s management and the support of many experienced Post members. My thanks to all. I personally was impressed with the young people’s courage and enthusiasm. They did great in my opinion. Best of luck to the young lady who won as she progresses toward the National Oratorical Contest.



Though by the time of this publication it will be past, but one of the military days of note I want to share happened in January 26, 1970.

U.S. Navy Lt. Everett Alvarez Jr. spends his 2,000th day in captivity in Southeast Asia.

First taken prisoner when his [Douglas A-4

Skyhawk] was shot down on August 5, 1964, he became the longest-held POW in U.S. history. Alvarez was downed over Hon Gai during the first bombing raids against North Vietnam in retaliation for the disputed attack on U.S. destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin in August 1964. Alvarez was released in 1973 after spending [eight years and seven months] in captivity, the first six months as the only American

prisoner in North Vietnam. From the first day of his captivity, he was shackled, isolated, nearly starved, and brutally tortured. Although he was among the more junior-rank prisoners of war, his courageous conduct under horrendous conditions and treatment helped establish the model emulated by the many other POWs that later joined him. (Source: *This Day in U.S. Military History*, [thisdayinusmilhist.wordpress.com](http://thisdayinusmilhist.wordpress.com))

Please continue to support our veterans by giving them a call or visit and support Post 27 through your continued attendance at the monthly meetings. If you have not been able to attend lately, give us another try; we would enjoy seeing you and sharing some heart-felt comradery.



Bob Anderson



### 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)

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



**Keith Gardner**

As Presidents' Day approaches, I want to remind everyone of some of the characteristics of two of our more famous presidents.

President George Washington, as a young general, had his troops well disciplined, attended church together, and prayed together for success. According to Washington, they had incredible divine intervention in the battles in Boston and New York and many others. In New York, they



confronted the strongest naval force in the world – the British Navy. Sometimes it was in retreat but it was always incredible to others and now to historians alike. Washington's strength of character and how his troops respected him was a model for all whether or not they believed in a higher power.

Similarly, President Lincoln had the vision that would someday enable all men to be treated as equals. So faith in one's conviction and vision are two things that these great presidents have taught me. Let's celebrate Presidents' Day, recognizing the values these two men had and brought to the independence of our great nation.

For information on applying for this year's Utah Boys State, go to [www.utahboysstate.org](http://www.utahboysstate.org).

**Welcome to our new Post 27 members Gary Howard and Franklin Halterman**  
**Welcome to our new SAL Squadron members Keith Gardner and Jack Huber**

## Adjutant

### Membership is Our Lifeblood



**Dale Crockett**  
Sons of the

*American Legion Membership:* Statistics are through 1 Feb 2020.

2019 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2019 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
145	14	60	37	4	5	120	83%

*American Legion Membership:* Statistics are through 1 Feb 2020.

2019 GOAL	REGULAR	NEW	TRANSFERS	2019 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
50	26			26	52%

For the last several years, our post has been providing a Flag Retirement & Military Tribute at the Davis County Fair in August recognizing the importance of community relations, Americanism and the proper disposal of worn and torn flags of the United States, will, in a solemn and spectacular ceremony, dispose of hundreds of flags no longer worthy to be flown. This breathtaking rite will dazzle your eyes and fill your hearts.

For the past several years, we have tried to collect flays in various ways, but now we have a good solution. We have asked a couple of eagle Scouts to build Flag Boxes for their Eagle Projects. One Scout was Ron Craig's grandson and one was my grandson. Both boys did an outstanding job and made a total of 5 boxes. They have all been placed in several convenient places where you and your neighbors can take and drop off your worn and torn flags. The following are the drop off sites; Fruit Heights City Hall, Kaysville Fire Station, Farmington Fire Station, Davis County Office Building, and Centerville City Hall.

Please use these boxes in the future and please spread the word to you neighbors, friends, and families to use these boxes. Last August we disposed of about four hundred flags at the flag retirement program at the county Fair.


*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).*

# Training & FYI

## Do NOT Miss This One – Doggone it!

Linda and Jim Crismer will present the War Dogs/Contract War Dogs “Mazzie” and “Geli” at our February 10 Post meeting. They will speak about the WD/CWD program, the new statue at the Layton Vietnam Wall for which Mazzie was the model, and legislation they have been instrumental with for all war dogs/contract war dogs.





## SGT. SAGE SEZ

### Basic Flying Rules:

- Try to stay in the middle of the air.
- Do not go near the edges of it.
- The edges of the air can be recognized by the appearance of buildings, sea, trees and interstellar space.
- It is more difficult to fly there.

# POW/MIA News

## Remember - Remember – Remember!

Nearly 500 Utah Service members are unaccounted for.

- From WW II - 435
- Korea - 34
- Vietnam - 14
- Cold War - 1



Jay Hess

Listed below are those from Vietnam:

Service Branch	Country of Casualty	Name	Loss Rank	Status	Date of Incident	Home of Record
USMC	N. Vietnam	CHIPMAN, RALPH JIM	O-3	XX	1972/12/27	OREM, UT
USMC	N. Vietnam	CHRISTIANSEN, JOHN MICHAEL	O-2	XX	1972/04/13	OGDEN, UT
USMC	S. Vietnam	CONNOR, CHARLES RICHARD	O-3	XX	1968/10/28	SALT LAKE CITY, UT
USAF	Cambodia	CROW, RAYMOND JACK JR.	E-3	BB	1972/03/27	SALT LAKE CITY, UT
USN	N. Vietnam	ELLISON, JOHN C.	O-4	XX	1967/03/24	LAYTON, UT
USMC	S. Vietnam	HUBLER, GEORGE LAWRENCE	O-3	BB	1968/02/23	MOAB, UT
USAF	S. Vietnam	JEFFS, CLIVE G.	O-2	XX	1971/03/12	SALT LAKE CITY, UT
USA	S. Vietnam	JENNE, ROBERT EARL	E-4	BB	1968/05/08	SALT LAKE CITY, UT
USN	N. Vietnam	KRUSI, PETER HERMAN	O-4	BB	1967/11/03	SMITHFIELD, UT
USAF	Laos	LUCKI, ALBIN E.	O-3	XX	1970/04/23	SALT LAKE CITY, UT
USA	S. Vietnam	SCHIELE, JAMES F.	E-4	XX	1967/07/12	GRANGER, UT
USA	S. Vietnam	WBIDDISON, IMLAY SCOTT	E-4	BB	1968/05/12	WOODS CROSS, UT
USAF	S. Vietnam	WIECHERT, ROBERT CHARLES	O-4	BB	1968/11/16	WEST JORDAN, UT
USAF	Laos	WOOD, DON C.	O-3	XX	1966/01/16	PROVO, UT

### Report Total:

Total <b>BB</b> : Killed in Action, Body Not Recovered	6
Total <b>XX</b> : Presumptive Finding of Death	<u>8</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>

*Report Prepared: 10/25/2019*

# Historian



**Kent Hansen**

## The Filthy Thirteen

The **Filthy Thirteen** were a sub-unit within the 506<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, better known as the "Screaming Eagles" who descended on Hitler's Fortress Europe with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne during the wee-hours of D-Day for some early-morning foreplay. The Filthies were among the hardest-hitting, harder-drinking roughnecks



in the U.S. Army, and got their name for their tendency to bathe and shave only once a week during training and rarely washing their uniforms, if ever. Hello, scabies!

Their specialty was blowing up bridges and whatever else they figured could go "boom" if they strapped it to enough TNT, which caused a nightmare for the Germans as they tried in vain to fend off the Allied invasion. The jobs were as risky as they could be, but the Filthy Thirteen were able to blow the guts out of Nazi-occupied France all the way from Normandy to the Battle of the Bulge. Their fearless leader, Jake McNiece was part Native-American, and his fellow Filthies chose to honor this by going into battle sporting mohawks and war-paint.

But before he even made it that far, McNiece had to enlist and, at the age of 23, was delivered this nugget of advice from the enlisting officer: *"You may just be 23. I don't know, but your face and your head looks like it's been used as practice for hand grenade tossing and wore out three bodies already."*

If that's not the stuff of movies, we don't know what is. Wait, yes we do, this quote from fellow Filthy Thirteen Robert Cone regarding the D-Day mission: *"We landed near a hedgerow, from which the Germans were firing at us, and the guy I was with was killed. I got hit in the right shoulder, which broke my arm all the way down into the forearm. The bullet was lodged in there for a year. I was able to get away, though, but could not hold my rifle."*

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## Sons of The American Legion

I am the new Commander of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 27 and I am hoping for great things in 2020. My vision for the SAL is an organization that supports the Post when it's short-staffed for events, and offers opportunities to help people, especially young folks, grow their patriotic sentiments. The Post is involved in a lot of community service – the flag retirement, providing honor guards at funerals, placing flags on veterans' graves on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, etc. – and often needs additional help. The SAL should be there to lend a hand when necessary.



**Bradley Henderson**

We live in a society where folks – again, mostly young – spend their time on social media, video games, and other screen time. Or they spend it in school and physical activities that do not promote patriotism as a primary goal. Although our sponsored scout troops are growing, the number of scouts in Utah is shrinking, and with it the historical place our youth learned love of country. The SAL should be a place to help fill this void.



I believe this can be done in many creative ways but will only focus on a few in this letter. First, and most obviously, serving the community in the activities discussed above. Being in an honor guard, placing flags on graves, gives a young person patriotic vigor. Hearing the stories of veterans – Post members and others – can have a similar affect. With the number of citizens that have served in the armed forces constantly shrinking, this is one of the primary ways young folks can understand the sacrifices that have been made by those that did serve.

Learning United States history – military and non-military – through lectures and presentations at the monthly SAL meetings is another method I hope to employ to teach

patriotism. Other topics that can be presented include geopolitics, military strategy, or why patriotism is important. These, and other activities will need to be interesting, and fun, or folks won't make time in their schedules to come. But with the success and anticipation of war films and video games, I hope this will be a successful strategy.

## **American Legion Auxiliary**



It's February and that means it's time for Girls State interviews. I received my packet this week and will be setting up interviews with NUAMES, Farmington and possibly Davis High Schools very soon. I will need some help with those interviews. If that is something you would like to do, please e-mail Michelle, Paula or me. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb 17 at 7:00 pm. All of our meetings unless otherwise noted will be held in the basement of the Farmington Community Arts Center.



Take a look at your national Auxiliary Magazine on pages 44 and 45. You may recognize a couple of our Unit 27 members. Have a lovely month.

Marcie Mojica

### **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**

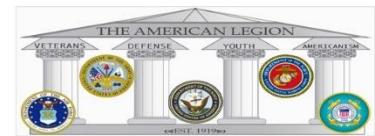


## **BASIC TRAINING COURSE**

*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.**



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



Confidential crisis chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net) or text to **838255**

## Recovery is possible.

Hear inspiring stories from Veterans about treatment that works and explore mental health resources.

## MAKE THE CONNECTION

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

### [MakeTheConnection.net](http://MakeTheConnection.net)

- Hear** from Veterans about treatments that work.
- Explore** mental health conditions and symptoms.
- Find** local resources for Veterans and their families.



# SISTERS IN SERVICE

20 20

*Honoring Utah's Women Veterans*

FRIDAY, MARCH 20 | 6 PM

CAPITOL ROTUNDA



## SAVE THE DATE

*Light dinner will be served.*

RSVP: [utah-womenvets-2020.eventbrite.com](http://utah-womenvets-2020.eventbrite.com)

CONTACT: **STEPHANIE REEDER**

[stephaniereeder@utah.gov](mailto:stephaniereeder@utah.gov)



ZIONS BANK