

Second Century POST AMERICAN LEGION

February 2024

The Official Newsletter of The American Legion John W. Sheets Post 27 ★ Unit 27 ★ Squadron 27 ★ Farmington, Utah

The American Legion
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COMMANDER'S CALL

Greetings! We closed off January with the Post level Oratorical Contest. Details will come out in the next newsletter for results at both Post and District levels. Our winner, will participate at the District Level on at noon on Saturday, Feb 10th at the Davis County Memorial Courthouse

(also where we hold our Post meetings). I encourage you

to come out and hear our youth speak on the US Constitution, and support our Post winner, Simon Parnell from NUAMES JHigh School.

February! What a great month. Among other events is our national Presidents Day. Originally two separate holidays honoring Washington and Lincoln, as you know it is now a combined Holiday honoring all of our nation's presidents. Although, I personally, will continue to recognize both of those great men for leading our country during very difficult eras. Remember to fly the flag.

Valentines Day is coming up quickly. Don't let it slip by without taking an opportunity to recognize that someone special in your circle. Let them know you love and appreciate them.

Our Post General Meeting for everyone is Thursday, February 8 at the Davis County Memorial Courthouse. A Zoom link will be sent out closer to the date for those that cannot attend in person.

During the meeting we will open nominations for our Post's three elected positions ~ Commander, 1st Vice Commander, and 2nd Vice Commander. We welcome nominations and opportunities for others to help our post continue our community outreach and activities. Please come and join us as we plan for upcoming events.



Jon Rue



Post 27 Family EVENTS CALENDAR

February 2 – Groundhog Day. *Fly the flag! Fly the flag! Fly the flag! Fly the flag! Fly the flag!*
February 8 – Post 27 General Meeting. 7:00 pm,
Davis County Memorial Courthouse (Auxiliary:600pm)
February 19 – Presidents Day. *Fly the flag!*

AMERICAN
LEGION

March 10 – Daylight Saving Time begins.
March 14 – Post 27 General Meeting, 7:00 pm,
Davis County Memorial Courthouse
(Auxiliary: 6:00pm)

1st Vice Commander



Bob Anderson

future?

As I write this, we are about to have one of The American Legion's most wonderful yearly events; the 2024 Oratorical Contest! I hope you were in attendance. The students are prepared and talented, and give exciting speeches about the Constitution. They would surprise you. We always hope for as many Post 27 Legionnaires as possible to support our contestants. It is well worth your time. Most of you are missing out on some of the best experiences being a Post 27 member and it is way too bad to continue. The Oratorical is just one of them. What other reason would be better to finally get out to a Post meeting than seeing our youth renew your feelings about of our country's

The real secret is getting involved!

For all of you who have so many reasons to not attend our Post 27 events, getting more active is very fixable. Just come on out and be with your fellow Legionnaires. I look forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings either in person or by Zoom (so easy to do), when we get together for Military Funeral Honors, or at our next Post event in person. Look in this newsletter for events where you can come help and enjoy. We need you and you will be enriched by being a part of our history.

That said, we can use you to help with Military Funeral Honors! By volunteering to help us honor the departed veterans, you give their families an appreciation of how much the veteran's (and family's) service and sacrifice meant to the country. You can easily be trained to fire the rifle volleys or play taps (without learning the bugle). Please consider this. Call me at 801-347-8735 for more information.

2nd Vice Commander

Post 27 was pleased again to conduct the 2024 American Legion High School Oratorical Contest at Post Headquarters in the Davis County Memorial Courthouse. Four contestants from NUAMES High School presented their 8-10-minute orations followed by 3-5-minute extemporaneous speech on one of four constitutional amendments.

Earning top Post honors and a trip to the District competition was Simon Parnell. Katharine Houghton was awarded second place with Emma Pitts placing third Krystal Blakely earned an honorable mention.

The orations were judged by Davis County Commissioner Randy Elliott, Farmington Mayor Brett Anderson, and Jeanne Groberg, Advisor at Fruit Heights Youth City Council.



Dan Woodward



Post 27 2024 Oratorical Contest winners:
(From L to R:) Post Commander Jon Rue, Simon Parnell, Katharine Houghton, Emma Pitts, Krystal Blakely, and Past Post Commander William Huber. All the winners were from NUAMES High School.

Adjutant

Membership is our Lifeblood!



American Legion Membership: Statistics are membership numbers through Feb 1 2024.

2024 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2023 TOTAL	% OF GOAL
128	21	53	32	1	2	109	85%



Dale Crockett

Sons of the American Legion Membership: Statistics are membership numbers through Feb 1 2024.

2024 GOAL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2023 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
32	24	7	1		33	103%

I have important information to give our membership about future dues. Starting in the 2025 membership which begins on July 1, 2024, the membership dues are going to increase. I'm not sure yet what the increase will be, but it will probably be a minimum of \$10 more than the current \$35. There are a couple of ways to avoid the increase. First, the legion has just recently started a new program where a member can go online at legion.org/renew and be able to sign up for three years at a time or still one year.

This means you can renew for the 2024-2026 membership at \$35 for a total of \$105 if you have not renewed yet for 2024). There are around 15% of you that have not renewed. For those that have renewed already for 2024, you can go online and renew for the 2025-2027 membership for the next three years for a total of \$105. All members can do that up until July 1, 2024, but after that date, you will get the new price for renewing for one year or the option of three years. As you can see, it would be cheaper for you to do the 3-year option now (before July 1, 2024. Second, you might want to consider the option of Paid Up For Life (PUFL) so you don't need to worry about increases in yearly dues. Two days ago, I went into legion.org and did the PUFL for myself. It is based on your age and at 73 years of age, it came to \$599.00. Next year I am sure the prices for PUFL will also go up.

It is important to note that I cannot renew members for the 3-year option or PUFL option, but I can still help you renew for the one-year option. If you want the 3-year option or the PUFL option, members need to go online at legion.org/renew or call membership support at 1-800-433-3318 and they will do it for you. A little warning, they are busy and I had to wait for over 35 minutes to speak to someone. I think all of you should seriously look at doing this. It will save you a lot in fees.

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. 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.



**SGT.
SAGE
SEZ**

Close air support
and friendly fire
should be easier
to tell apart.

Chaplain



The Four Chaplains

The **Four Chaplains**, also referred to as the **Immortal Chaplains** or *the Dorchester Chaplains*, were four World War II chaplains who died rescuing civilian and military personnel as the American troop ship SS *Dorchester* sank, in what has been referred to as the second-worst sea disaster of World War II.



Steve Steed

The ship left New York on January 23, 1943, in route to Greenland, as part of a convoy of three ships. During the early morning hours of February 3 the vessel was torpedoed by the German submarine *U-223* off

Newfoundland in the North Atlantic. The chaplains helped the other soldiers board lifeboats and gave up their own life jackets when the supply ran out. The chaplains joined arms, said prayers, and sang hymns as they went down with the ship.

On Feb. 3, 1943, four Army chaplains – Father John P. Washington, Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, and the Revs. George L. Fox and Clark V. Poling – gave up their life jackets on a sinking Army transport in the North Atlantic so that others might live.

Of the 902 soldiers, Navy armed guard, ship's crew and civilian passengers on board the Dorchester, only 230 survived. They have told us of the chaplains' efforts to restore calm in a hopeless and chaotic situation, and how they were last seen at the ship's stern, arms linked in prayer.

The survivors' testimony and the chaplains' bravery are enshrined at the Chapel of Four Chaplains in the Philadelphia Navy Yard, where the Chapel Memorial Foundation honors acts of selfless service nationwide in memory of the Four Chaplains and crew of USAT Dorchester.

– Louis A. Cavaliere, retired Navy captain and chairman of the Chapel of Four Chaplains, and Christine Beady, the chapel's executive director

The impact of the chaplains' story was deep, with many memorials and extensive coverage in the media. Each of the four chaplains was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Purple Heart. The chaplains were nominated for the Medal of Honor, but were ineligible as they had not engaged in combat with the enemy. Instead, Congress created a medal for them, with the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor. May God continue to bless and watch over America.

Historian

Adapt and Overcome

Marine Corps Maj. Douglas Thomas Jacobson was one of more than two-dozen men whose valor earned him the Medal of Honor at Iwo Jima. The five-week fight on the tiny Pacific island was the Marines' bloodiest battle of World War II, and Jacobson played a major role in winning a crucial part of that fight.

In 1942, World War II was raging, and he wanted to serve. Jacobson enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in January 1943 at the age of 17. By December 1943, Jacobson was a private first class on active duty who had been transferred to the Pacific war zone as part of the 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division. He spent the next year battling in campaigns in the Marshall and Marianas islands. But the biggest fight of his life — and that of many Marines — was still to come.

On Feb. 19, Jacobson and about 70,000 other Marines stormed ashore on tiny Iwo Jima, an 8-square-mile island made of volcanic ash. Iwo Jima was crucial to the allies because its airfields were necessary for U.S.



Kent Hansen

bombers to be within striking range of Japan's mainland. Once the fight began, it didn't let up for more than a month. On Feb. 26, 1945, Jacobson's Company I assaulted Japanese defenses on Hill 382, the highest point north of Mount Suribachi that was used for field artillery and anti-tank positions. According to his Medal of Honor citation, it was the heart of Japan's cross-island defense.

When the company's anti-tank missile gunner was killed, Jacobson grabbed the man's bazooka and destroyed an enemy 20mm anti-aircraft gun and its crew. The bazooka was a weapon meant for use by two people, but Jacobson managed to use it with deadly accuracy by himself when his platoon was pinned down by heavy enemy fire. He destroyed two enemy machine gun positions, neutralized a large observation fortification known as a blockhouse, and then he took out the five-man crew of a pillbox before blowing up the bunker.

Jacobson kept moving up the hill, wiping out a hidden rifle emplacement. When he realized there was a cluster of similar emplacements near him making up the perimeter of the enemy's defenses, he continued forward anyway. He was able to take out all six guns and 10 enemy fighters, which allowed allied forces to take over the position.

Jacobson wasn't done, though. He was determined to widen the allied breach of Japanese defenses, so he volunteered to help an adjacent assault company. He neutralized a pillbox that had pinned down the company, and then he opened fire on an enemy tank that had been raining gunfire on an allied tank. Jacobson then smashed the enemy tank's gun turret and singlehandedly subdued another blockhouse. With his fearless actions, Jacobson destroyed 16 enemy positions and took out about 75 enemy fighters. Hill 382 was finally captured by the allies after four days, and Jacobson's efforts were an essential contribution to that victory.

The Battle of Iwo Jima didn't end until May 26, 1945, and it was the bloodiest in Marine Corps history. Aside from Jacobson, 26 other Marines and sailors earned the nation's top honor for valor for their actions. After Iwo Jima, Jacobson was promoted to corporal. When the war ended a few months later, he returned to the U.S. and was assigned to Marine Corps Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

He received the Medal of Honor on Oct. 5, 1945, from President Harry S. Truman during a White House ceremony. Thirteen other men received the award that day, including fellow Marines Cpl. Hershel Williams and Lt. Col. Gregory "Pappy" Boyington. Jacobson was discharged from the Marines in December 1945 but reenlisted the following April. He was discharged again in 1949 and spent a few years as a civilian before rejoining again in 1953. At that point, he went to Officer Candidates School to earn his commission, which he received in March 1954. He retired as a Major.



American Legion Auxiliary



Deb Hansen

We had a great Unit meeting on January 11! We had enough of our members attend that we are moving our February 8 meeting to the big room on the 2nd floor of the Davis Memorial Courthouse! The meeting will be at 6 pm and will be available by Zoom as well! We reviewed some of the projects that we are undertaking this year and they are many! There will surely be something for everyone as we continue to serve our Veterans!

We will be looking for Girls State interviewers, hopefully in late February and early March! Our Michele Done is our Girls State Chair and she will be lining these meetings up for us with the prospective candidates from Davis, Farmington and NUAMES.

Our Air Force fleece has arrived so if you would like to tie a fleece blanket, let Deb know! These are the blankets we give to the family of a member of our Post who has passed. Chuck saw this at a Military Funeral Honors and the family who received the blanket was very grateful! Happy Valentine's Day to all! Thank you for all your service!!



VIRTUAL FOOD DRIVE

You supply the money
& the Auxiliary will do all the shopping.

*For Hill Air Force Base Food Pantry
and Military Families*

The Airman's Attic has supplied a list of required items to buy

DONATE UNTIL MARCH 15

Stephenson's: 1258 Eagle Way, Fruit Heights

Decker's: 2270 Field Stone Way, Layton

Cash/Check Donations: "ALA DEPT OF UTAH UNIT 27"

Send to: AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, P.O. BOX 427, FARMINGTON, UT 84024-0427

Or send to: Paula Stephenson at her home address above

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Legion Laffs by kent Hansen



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