



THE AMERICAN LEGION

Post 27 / Squadron 27

NEWSLETTER

FARMINGTON, UTAH

January 2014

STILL SERVING AMERICA

www.post27.org

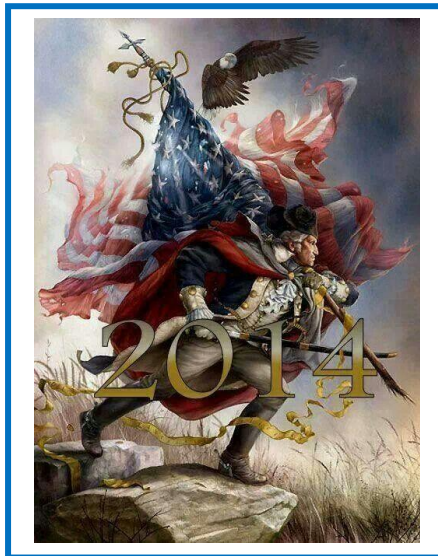
Commander's Corner



Kent Hansen

A Look Ahead. The past year has been wonderful, filled with noteworthy activities and events. But I confess I am even more excited about the year that lies ahead. "The Little Post That Does" already has a lot on its plate for 2014.

January will bring young orators into our midst with the Post competition on Jan. 8 at 6:30 pm in Room 116 of the Davis County Memorial Courthouse. This is a great opportunity to hear fine young people teach us about the U.S. Constitution. Then, the District 2 competition follows closely on Jan. 23 at 6:00 pm at NUAMES High School on the Weber State University – Davis campus. The Department competition kicks off **February** with the event on the 8th. **March** will herald the 95th anniversary of The American Legion and we'll celebrate with an Open House in our new meeting place at the Davis County Memorial Courthouse. We catch our breath in **April** but jump back in again in **May** with armed Forces Day and Memorial Day activities.



June means events galore with Boys State from the 9th to the 13th at Weber State University. The SAL State Convention will also be held there on June 12. Then we jump right in to the Department Convention, June 20-22 in Provo. The 4th of **July** always means a strong Post 27 presence, as well as Farmington Festival Days. One of our biggest events of the year comes in **August** during the Davis County Fair when we hold our massive Flag Retirement Ceremony in their outdoor arena on Aug. 14. **September** marks 9/11 and POW/MIA Recognition Day and Post 27 will be there. In October, we'll hear the reports of our Boys and Girls Staters at our regular meeting and before the Davis County Commission. As we sprint toward the year's finish line, we'll make a strong showing at various Veterans Day events in **November**. We end the year in **December** honoring Pearl Harbor Day and celebrating with our renowned Christmas Social.

Of course, this doesn't begin to touch on all the military funeral honors, Eagle Scout flag presentations, job and veterans fairs and a host of other community outreach opportunities we'll fulfill. Yes, we're "The Little Post That Does" and

that's why I firmly believe that 2014 will be our most productive yet – at least until 2015.

Happy New Year!

1st Vice Commander

I want to wish you all a Happy New Year and now is the time to fulfill your desire to become more active in our Legion activities. We have a great post and YOU can make it even better.

We had a terrific Christmas activity at the Oakridge Country Club. It was great to visit with our Legion Family. Our next activity will be the oratorical competition on January 8. We will need help with all the things that go into running the program or just come and listen. At any rate, come and join us!



Frank Lennartz

2nd Vice Commander



Kenneth Hadley

Welcome to a new year. 2014 looks like it will be as busy--or more so--as in years past and that will give everyone an opportunity to be involved: helping those who are in the military now, along with those who have served in the past, and their families; build patriotism in our schools and community; give honor to all military members; and support and sustain the Constitution of the United States.

One of the ways we can get involved soon is to come out to the Oratorical Contest described below: The Post level of the High School Oratorical Contest will be held this Wednesday, January 8 at the Davis County Memorial Courthouse, room 116 at 6:30 pm. This will be the day before our regular Post meeting and we would invite everyone to come to it and bring your spouses so the contestants will have an audience to speak to. We hope they can gain confidence for the future rounds of competition.



There will be three contestants from Davis High School. They are Kait Hill, Skyler Gray and Andrew Frost. Please come and support these great students. I am looking forward to serving you in this Post and working with the High School students in the Oratorical Contest and Boys State this year. *Semper Fi.*

Adjutant

American Legion Flag Rewards Program (ALFRP). We have received official notification back from Emblem Sales that we are now officially part of the American Legion Flag Rewards Program. Post 27 can make this program as BIG as it wants or something else, it all depends on us. If you are interested in becoming the ALFRP Ambassador, let Commander Hansen know. The program allows Post 27 to receive back \$0.10 (in credit) for every \$1.00 in flag sales. Flags sold may be either through the Post or directly from Emblem Sales. This is an exciting opportunity to make additional revenue, but think that it will require a smart marketing strategy. Additional information on this exciting NEW Program will be forthcoming.



Chuck Stephenson

Membership. Statistics are membership numbers through 2 January 2014.

2014 Goal	PUFL	Regular	On-line	New	Transfers	2014 Total	Percent of Goal
81	5	39	18	2	5	65/5	80%

The next National Headquarters' target date is January 15th; we have already met that goal. Thanks to all Post 27 members who took advantage of the "Early Bird" opportunity and renewed for 2014 in 2013. You may renew online with a credit card at www.legion.org or send your \$30 Annual Membership Dues to our Finance Officer John Sheets. If I can do anything for you to make your membership renewal easier or more convenient, please let me know. I can be reached at H (801) 444-7189 C (801) 698-7750 or email stphnsnc@aol.com.

Sons of The American Legion. Squadron 27's Annual Membership is only \$7.50. Please send your 2014 renewal checks to Finance Officer John Sheets.

2014 Goal	Regular	New	2014 Total	Percent of Goal
15	11	0	11	73%

Project Operation Verify. The American Legion National Headquarters issued a memorandum on December 10, 2013 which provided new guidance on the IRS and the issue of service verification/ DD-214s. DD Form 214 is no longer absolutely required by the IRS. Various methods of providing eligibility are outlined in the memo. In short, DD Forms 214 are now required only if there is doubt of eligibility by an agent (IRS). Post 27 members may still continue to provide copies to the Post Adjutant as back-up to their own personnel files.

Department of Utah Belt Buckles. The William E. "Bill" Christoffersen "BIG BEE" 50 Years Commemorative Belt Buckles are available for purchase. There are only 35 remaining. The buckles are a limited edition/ numbered and can be purchased for only \$60. If you are interested in purchasing one of these beauties, please let me know.



Sergeant-at-Arms



Frank Ferrante

I like the New Year resolution of the American Legion as stated by our past National Commander James E. Koutz, "American Legion resolutions, the marching orders our members adopt to improve the lives of veterans, U.S. military personnel, families and communities everywhere".

From what I have read, the VA has an unacceptable backlog of undecided disability benefits claims. The problem is now counted in the hundred thousands, and with veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars returning home and re-entering civilian life, the backlog continues to grow in both volume and complexity.

It is reported that the American Legion has more than 2000 service officers working every day to help veterans correctly file for their benefits. The VA has piloted and implemented many promising programs to accelerate the claim process, but they still have a long way to go. If you, or know of a veteran, having a problem with filing a VA claim please contact us and we will provide you with a service officer who can help. There also web sites and a phone application available for filing VA claims through www.va.gov.

American Flag Etiquette: When a flag is so worn it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country, it should be destroyed by burning in a dignified manner.

Chaplain

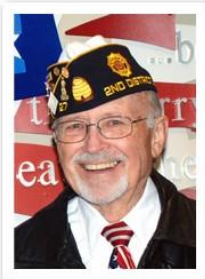
We are privileged to welcome the New Year with new resolve to discover all the joy that comes with each new day. The vast universe, the earth and its people, nature and its grandeur, all evidence that a greater intelligence rules with power over heaven and earth. May each member of the American Legion Post 27, find happiness and good health while serving our family, God and Country!

A Happy New Year to All! May God bless you and all America.



JGolden Barton

Finance Officer



John Sheets

Comrades: I am sure you recognize that the 13 members of the Honor Guard are quite proud of the service we are honored to give families of the veterans who have departed for "Post Everlasting". I have been entrusted to coordinate our activities for military funeral honors and report the volunteer hours of 13 trained and dedicated members of the team.

We completed 55 Military Honors at Funerals in 2013. The average time spent from the pick-up of equipment at the Post, travel to the cemetery and return to the post and store, clean equipment and return home is 3½ hours. Assuming a contingent of 5 individuals times 3.5 hours equals 17.5 hours for each funeral, equates to 962.5 hours of volunteer time. 962.5 hours divided by the 13 members of the team gives a total of just over 74 hours for each of the team members have averaged for the year.

I recognize that not all are able to join this honored group because of health, age, or work, however if you can find the time, please consider.

POW/MIA News

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS) -- Exactly 45 years after an Air Force pilot disappeared over Laos, his family finally had their chance to say their goodbyes in a repatriation ceremony at the Air Force Memorial here Dec. 13. Following the ceremony, Col. Francis J. McGouldrick Jr.'s family accompanied his flag-draped coffin to Arlington National Cemetery for burial.

On Dec. 13, 1968, McGouldrick served as a navigator on a B-57E Canberra on a night strike mission when the aircraft collided with a C-123 Provider over Savannakhet Province. McGouldrick was never seen again and was listed as missing in action. In July 1978, a military review board amended McGouldrick's official status to *presumed killed in action*, according to a DoD POW/Missing Personnel Office news release. Between 1993 and 2004, several attempts to locate the crash site proved unsuccessful, but on April 8, 2007, a joint team located a possible crash site near the village of Keng Keuk.



Jay Hess

From October 2011 to May 2012, joint U.S. and Laos teams recovered human remains and aircraft wreckage consistent with a B-57E. Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command scientists and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools, such as mitochondrial DNA, which matched McGouldrick's great nephew and niece, to identify McGouldrick, according to the release. Before the family received the answers they'd been searching for since they first learned McGouldrick was declared missing, his wife Jacqueline and two siblings died. However, his children and grandchildren were able to finally see him return and receive the burial with full military honors he was due.

McGouldrick's ceremony was the first of its kind at the Air Force Memorial. However, Barbara Taylor, the Air Force Memorial's managing director, expects there to be more, with another veteran's family already expressing interest in having their service on the site overlooking Washington. There remain more than 1,600 American service members still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War, according to DoD figures.



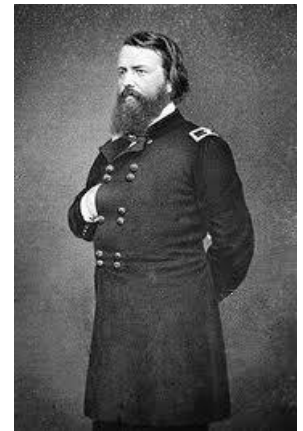
Historian



In the Rear with the Gear

Ask any combat soldier and he'll tell you that "headquarters" is one of the great misnomers of wartime. The truth is that all headquarters are really *hindquarters*, planted safely in the rear of a war zone to dispatch and control the personnel actually risking their lives in the line of fire at the real *head* of combat. So it is not surprising that, among themselves, troops often speak of "reporting to hindquarters" or identifying a new officer as having come to the front "straight from hindquarters."

Kent Hansen Of course, the anatomical reference is more than a nod to the rearward location of headquarters. It also refers to the disparity between the seat of intelligence, the human brain, and the just plain seat, the human hindquarters. This formulation may have been initially articulated by whoever was the first to mock, sometime in 1862, an expression that the insufferably pretentious and enormously unpopular Union Major General John Pope liked to use. He made it his custom to begin all of his written orders with the dateline phrase, "Headquarters in the Saddle." Pretty soon, someone – no one knows who – pointed out that this described to a tee General Pope's chief weakness as a tactical and strategic commander. He made the mistake of locating his headquarters where his hindquarters should have been.



Major General John Pope

From Weird War: Curious Military Trivia by Alan Axelrod, Fall River Press.

Legion Laughs



Calendar of Events

- **January 1 – New Year's Day.** *Fly the flag!*
- **January 8 – Post 27 Oratorical Contest.** 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
- **January 9 -- Post 27 Meeting,** 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
- **January 20 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day.** *Fly the flag!*
- **January 23 – District 2 Oratorical Contest.** 6:30 pm, NUAMES High School, 2750 University Park Blvd, Layton
- **February 8 – Department Oratorical Contest.** 1:00 pm (noon for participants), Memorial County Courthouse, 3rd floor, 51 S. University Ave., Provo
- **February 13 -- Post 27 Meeting,** 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.

From the Department...

Happy New Year to all! Hang on to your hats because we are in for an exciting new year in Utah for The American Legion. Post 27 will have an Open House and Dedication in March for their new "home" in the Davis County Memorial Courthouse. Members, the Legion Family statewide, dignitaries, folks that helped us along the way, and the National Western Vice Commander for the American Legion will all be invited, along with the statewide American Legion birthday party during that same period. We are working out details for having that party in Farmington.

The American Legion Auxiliary VA Gift Shop in December was fun and a great success. This event has been going on annually for over 60 years in Salt Lake City. 175 Veterans were served, 903 gifts for their families were wrapped, with 46 packages mailed; there were \$5,625.71 in donated items collected, \$1,510 in donated funds collected from Auxiliary Units and Posts from around the state; and 3,780 donated hours from Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion and hospital volunteers. Wow!

In June, I will be running as a candidate for Commander, Department of Utah. I want to thank Post 27 members for supporting me all along the way with my different positions at the Post and Department levels. My goal is to help the Utah American Legion continue to move forward. Post 27 has made its mark in serving our communities and sets the gold standard. Thank you.

NEWS YOU CAN USE:

- 1. Honor Flights of Utah:** Veterans from World War II, Korean, and Vietnam Wars and terminally ill veterans from all wars can apply for these free flights to the Washington, D.C. area to visit war memorials and museums there. The WWII and terminally ill veterans have priority. Tentative dates for flights from Salt Lake City or Las Vegas are April 2-5, April 16-19, April 30-May 3, May 14-17, and May 28-31. Applications for Guardians on these flights/trips (cost of approximately \$700) are also being taken. If anyone is interested as a Veteran or Guardian, please let me know and I will get you an application and help you with the process. Call 801-444-7189 (Paula).
- 2. Korean War books** have been donated to our Utah American Legion office by Korea to give (free) to our Korean War veterans. Send me your name, and I will deliver a book to you.
- 3. Blood drives** are part of the American Legion programs too. This year, our Department has set a goal of 500 pints, in honor of our Department Adjutant's son, Collin Rowley, who is 18 and has terminal cancer. We are looking for a Post level blood drive coordinator (just for our Post). The Department has a nurse coordinator that can assist with all aspects of this program. Do you have the talents and time to organize semi-annual drives for our Post? Call 801-444-7189 (Paula). I will get you started. Thank you.

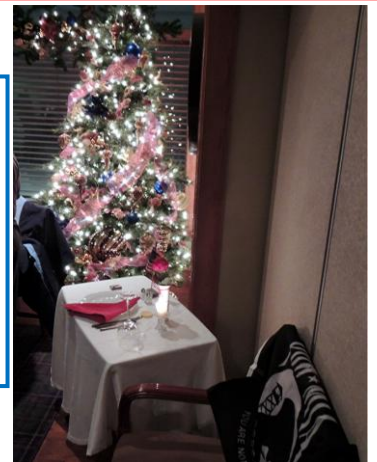


Paula Stephenson
Vice Commander
Dept. of Utah



Left: Post 27 Commander Kent Hansen presents Jay Hess with an honorary Life Membership to The American Legion.

Right: The POW/MIA table at the Christmas Social at Oakridge Country Club.



Check us out on Facebook at "American Legion Post 27 Farmington Utah" or there is a link from our Post website at www.post27.org.



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Facebook