



THE AMERICAN LEGION

POST 27 / SQUADRON 27

NEWSLETTER

FARMINGTON, UTAH

DAVIS COUNTY MEMORIAL COURTHOUSE, ROOM 116, 28 EAST STATE STREET, FARMINGTON

January 2015

STILL SERVING AMERICA

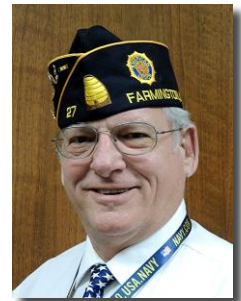
www.post27.org

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Our New Address

Thanks to the great work of John Sheets, Post 27 now has an official mailing address. Now that we have a fine Post Home (also brokered by John), we can cease having mail sent to private residences. So here it is for your use when sending correspondence to the Post.

American Legion Post 27
Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116
P.O. Box 427
Farmington, UT 84025-0427



Kent Hansen

A Sad Farewell



Paul H. Mueller

A member of Post 27 for many years, **Paul H. Mueller**, WWII/Army, passed away December 14, ending a long, full life. He will be buried at Camp Ripley Veteran's Cemetery in Minnesota. He enlisted at age 17 so he could join the war effort as soon as possible. After experiencing Mindanao, and rising through the ranks, he was glad to be part of D-day, and return home. Mueller and his wife spent 45 years in Kaysville, Utah, raising their four children. He was an Air Force civilian procurement specialist for the Missile Project at Hill Air Force Base.



Post 27 Oratorical Contest

You will want to stop by the Post Home on Wednesday, January 15 at 6:30 pm to watch some fine young folks speak on the U.S. Constitution as part of Post 27's annual Oratorical Contest. Monetary prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third place orators. Post 27 historically has been very well represented by the excellent high school students from Davis, Viewmont and NUAMES. Come and see for yourself.

Yet Another Way to Serve

The Davis County Commission has asked Post 27 to provide an Honor Guard at the installation ceremony for the new Commissioners and other county officers on January 5. The Honor Guard posted the colors and Jay Hess led the gathering in the Pledge of Allegiance.

This is another indication of the strong partnership between the Post and the county. And a hearty congratulations to the new and continuing Commissioners and the other newly sworn county officers.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **January 8 – Post Meeting**, 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
- **January 15 – Post Oratorical Competition**, 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
- **January 19 – Martin Luther King Day**. *Fly the flag!*
- **January 29 -- District II Oratorical Competition**, 6:30 pm, NUAMES High School.
- **February 7 -- Department of Utah Oratorical Contest**
- **February 12 -- Post Meeting**, 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
- **February 14 – Valentine's Day**
- **February 16 – Presidents Day**. *Fly the flag!*

1ST VICE COMMANDER



Frank Ferrante

Still serving: It's who we are

In 1919, The American Legion was founded on four pillars: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. Each of these pillars encompasses a variety of programs that benefit our nation's veterans, its service members, their families, the youth of America and ordinary citizens. Nationally, these programs make a difference in hundreds of thousands of lives each year. I would like to address the American Legion's four pillars in more detail in future notices.

Our organization's positions and programs are guided by resolutions passed by the American Legion National Convention delegates, and committee and commission members who represent 2.6 million wartime veterans and their families. These programs and the men and women who take the time to perform them, are what allow The American Legion to make a difference locally, and on the state and national levels. **It's who we are and what we do!**

We need to encourage a veteran who is not a member of our Farmington Post 27 to join us. Membership is our life blood, and to keep our Post functioning and viable we must actively recruit veterans. Make one of your New Year's resolutions to sign up a new member of the American Legion. Everyone is a Recruiter!

Have a happy and healthy New Year!!

American Flag Etiquette – When displaying the flag against the wall, vertically or horizontally, the flag's union (stars) should be at the top, to the flag's own right, and to the observer's left.

2ND VICE COMMANDER

The Davis County School District has adopted the Medal of Honor Character Development Program.

The person in charge of the curriculum (Patty Norman) is excited about it and has directed her staff to place copies of the program in every high school and she is looking into having a team from the Medal of Honor Foundation come and teach the teachers how to teach it. If it works out well then we will see if it can be placed in other school districts.

Mrs. Norman has also volunteered to be one of the judges for the Oratorical Contest that will be held at the Post on the 15th of this month. So far we will have three students but I will be checking again several times until the 15th.



Kenneth Hadley

The beginning of a new year is a good time to take stock of how things went for you the last year and see how we can make things better this year. It is my hope that we as Legionnaires work together to support our Veterans and their concerns, our troops and the security of the nation, the American way of life and the children in our community. Have a great and giving New Year.

ADJUTANT/AREA 1 COMMANDER



Chuck Stephenson

Membership. Statistics are membership numbers through 1 January 2015.

2015 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2014 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
91	7	46	19	7	4	79/4	87%

The next National Headquarters' target date is MID-WINTER January 21st, 2015 – 80%. This month as you can see, our Post 27 has already met that goal. Again, I salute all our Post 27 members who have already made the commitment to renew their membership and continue supporting all the American

Legion programs we value so highly. However, we still have 23 of our valued members who have not yet renewed for 2015. Their 2014 memberships officially expire on 1 January 2015. I urge them all to renew as soon as possible. The Department of Utah is currently 290 members short of meeting the 80% goal, and any renewal by a Post 27 member will help the Department narrow this gap. As always, you may renew by sending your \$30 annual membership dues to our Finance Officer John Sheets, 1368 Fairway Circle, Farmington, UT 84025. An even easier option is to go to www.Legion.org 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 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 H (801) 444-7189 / C (801) 698-7750 or email stphnsnc@aol.com.***

But I've already renewed, haven't I? Some members continue to receive notification from National Headquarters urging them to renew, even after they have already renewed locally. With the exception of on-line renewals, renewing by check can take up to 4-6 weeks before it is processed by National. If you receive a mailing from National Headquarters during the submission process, it is because the renewal mailing and renewal submission have crossed in the mail. I make it a priority to send out 2015 Membership Cards once I receive notification that a Post Member has submitted his or her dues, or has renewed on-line. Renewing on-line is instantaneous and once submitted, National knows at that moment the renewal has been made. If renewing by check, I may not submit the renewal to Department Headquarters for a week or two, pending the total number of renewals I have to submit. Once received at Department Headquarters, they may also not forward the Department transmittal to National Headquarters for a week and sometimes two weeks. Rest assured, if you have your 2015 Membership Card in hand, you have renewed. Disregard the notification from National Headquarters. If you still have questions, please call or email me at the numbers or email address above.

Legionnaire Insurance Trust. I saw a number recently that puzzles me. Department Adjutant Greg Rowley showed me a report which shows that only 25 of our Post 27 members have signed up for LegionCare. Legion Care is a no-cost (up to) \$5,000. Accidental Death Insurance policy. It is available to you as a paid-up American Legion member. However, you must sign up with Legionnaire Insurance Trust. Once signed up, your coverage is good through August 31, 2016

- This coverage is Underwritten by Life Insurance Company of North America, and Administered by A.G.I.A. Inc. for The Legionnaire Insurance Trust.
- Your acceptance is guaranteed regardless of your age, health or occupation.
- Your coverage is effective the date your Enrollment is received – BUT, you must sign up by submitting the insurance card application.
- There are some exclusions, additional information can be found on the application card or by calling 1-855-837-2639.

I have a stock of the Legionnaire Insurance Trust application cards. Please let me know if you require one and I will mail it to you immediately. This is an important benefit for being an American Legion Member – don't miss out.

~~SERGEANT-AT-ARMS~~

January, Happy New Year to everyone! Wow, what a way to finish 2014, we have been involved with many Funeral Honors ceremonies for Veterans families this December. We have witnessed the dedication of service from post members by the number of participants who have answered the call to pay tribute to the fallen. Post 27 has received many "Thank You for Your Service" from family members.

As we look forward to the many opportunities to serve, remember, all events we provide to the community and Military Funeral Honors require some physical activity and readiness. So, let's all be ready to assist the post as we can. Post 27, ready to serve for the good of The Legion, the country and Military Honors for the fallen.



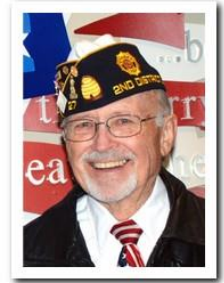
David Layton

Again, Happy New Year 2015 to you and yours for continued health and ability to make someone's life better by the things we do for others.

FINANCE OFFICER

Finance: The Post is in good position to support the programs of the "Four Pillars of The American Legion", Americanism, Children and Youth, Veterans Affairs, National Security and other programs that the Executive Committee might consider.

Honor Guard: Post 27 ended the month of December with a flurry of requests for Military Funeral Honors. Our Honor Guard participated in 10 Military Funeral Honors and one Wreathes Across America. This required a total of 64 participants with an average of 4 hours spent by the participants, Post 27 contributed 256 Volunteer hours to the community, State and Nation. The entire Post should be very proud of the effort of our Honor Guard unit, that without fail, has stepped up to the challenge of providing this service to the families of our fallen comrades.



John Sheets

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON 27



Goals for the Sons of The American Legion?

* Goal for 2014-2015 year to get 50 members into Squadron 27.
It's a great time to be a member of the Sons of The American Legion.
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Z.Omar Reichert.
Omar.ubs.advisor@gmail.com



Zachary "Omar"
Reichert

POW/MIA News



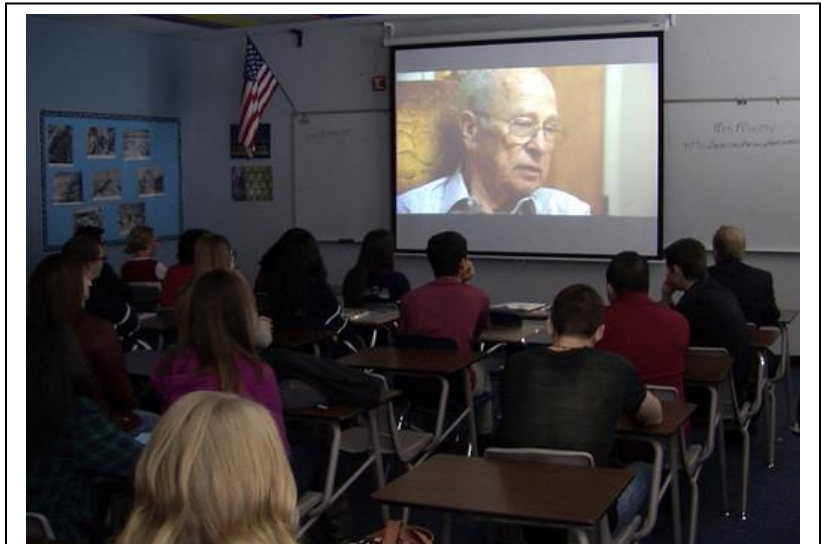
Jay Hess

POWs prove the American spirit is "Unbroken"

'Unbroken', a monumental...mesmerizing book about **Louis Zamperini** by Laura Hillenbrand and now a movie that began showing Christmas day is a World War II story of survival, resilience, redemption and a brutal POW experience. Zamperini was to be the 2015 Grand Marshal for Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade. His life epitomized the parade's theme of "Inspiring Stories." Unfortunately he passed away on July 2, 2014 at age 97. Tom Brokaw put it best when he said, "Louis Zamperini never gave up; he just ran out of time." POWs speak of "Bouncing back" and "Never give up – never, never." That is an attribute of service men and women who have survived captivity. They were ordinary people who rose to extraordinary achievements.. We should be aware of what they have given us. Their inspiring stories should be remembered and taught for their inspiring lessons.

Lorna Murray, a teacher at Copper Hills High School, does just that. She taught her class about her father, **Eugene Nielsen**, a POW on the Philippine island of Palawan 70 years ago. Nielsen died in 2011 at the age of 95 in Ogden. Remarkably, Lorna grew up not knowing her father had been a POW. It was only when the POWs from the Vietnam War returned home 42 years ago with considerable publicity that Nielsen mentioned that he had been a POW. Lorna was amazed at his almost unbelievable story.

Eugene Nielsen joined the U.S. Army in January, 1941 and was assigned to the Coast Artillery Battalion for the defense of the Philippines at Corregidor. He was captured by Japanese forces in May, 1942 and subjected to more than two-and-a-half years of



Lorna Murray's class learns about her POW father.

starvation, disease and slave labor. On December 14, 1944, as American troops under Gen Douglas

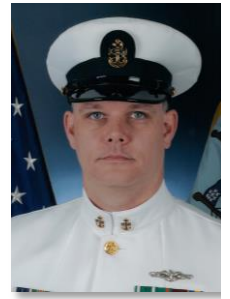
MacArthur slowly advanced toward the island of Luzon, the Japanese captors ordered the mass execution of all prisoners. Nielsen and his contingent of 150 POW's on Palawan Island were forced into underground bunkers or trenches (Air Raid Shelters). The Japanese poured gasoline on them and set them on fire. Most were shot or bayoneted as they ran on fire from the bunker. Nielsen made it to the camp perimeter, jumped off a 50-foot cliff where a tree broke his fall before hitting the water. He was shot at and wounded three times as he swam away. After nine hours of swimming he reached another island where he hid for two days. As he was exploring this island he was found by native guerrillas who took him to a small Allied military intelligence team. When the team learned of the condition of the POW camp, they informed advancing rangers who planned the most daring rescue of WW II. The movie "The Great Raid" and the book "Ghost Soldiers" are about this mission where 500 POWs were rescued.

Without Eugene Nielsen's and a few others will and ability to survive these 500 POWs might not have been rescued. . Louis Zamperini (1917 – 2014) and Eugene Nielsen (1916 – 2011), I know about you because of Laura Hildenbrand and Lorna Murray. These WW II POWs can be an inspiration to us all.

SEA CADET NEWS

This month's drill was a lot of fun and many things were accomplished. The cadets participated in Physical Training (PT) and many of them had excellent results. In the afternoon they learned a life-saving technique, Morse code. They had a lot of fun learning Morse code, sending and receiving messages, decrypting messages. The hallway was darkened and flashlights were used. They really enjoyed this exercise.

On the second day of drill several of the cadets attempted the Presidential Physical Fitness Award. There are several who are very close to achieving this milestone. The cadets were excused early from the second day of drill so they could prepare for the annual Awards Banquet that was to be held later that evening. Space was very limited this year and next year we are hoping to have a larger space and invite our wonderful sponsor. It was a potluck dinner and there was a variety of delicious foods ranging from Hispanic to Southern BBQ.



Courtney Putnam

After the banquet, guest speaker, LCDR Marsh, made some comments on the history of Pearl Harbor. Commander Marsh also mentioned that he would like to see a summer competition between the other Utah Sea Cadet Unit, Battleship Utah, and the Jake Garn Squadron. That would be a very exciting activity and would be fun for both officers and cadets, alike. Commander Marsh also noted that during our awards ceremony more PT ribbons were given to our Cadets than in any other unit in an entire year. Given the age of our unit, seven months, that is quite an accomplishment.

This Squadron also has a new challenge that was established during the November drill. While fund raising at the Crossroads of the West Gun Show, an NRA member approached our Cadets with a challenge to win a challenge coin. The first Cadet to repeat the 2nd Amendment would receive the coin. Cadet Thompson Jr won the coin. He held the coin until on Dec 14th when he challenged Cadet LaSeure to also state the 2nd Amendment, who is now in charge of the coin until the next drill, at which time he will challenge another cadet.

We really want to thank the American Legion Post 27 for all their support. Especially for the help in establishing our Color Guard. We expect to be ready for ceremonies by March of 2015 at which time we are hoping to both conduct independent ceremonies and support American Legion Post 27 in any of their ceremonies. Cadets are literally lining up to be part of this privilege.

HISTORIAN



Kent Hansen

Amazing But True!

The folks who have served in America's military have done many great things for this country -- and some unbelievable things, too. Take **Matthew Little**, a Seaman for 70 years who served in four wars, including World Wars I and II. Not only was his ship sunk by a German U-boat in WWI, he was sunk twice in WWII and spent 5 days in a lifeboat. Then he was in charge of a ferry that rescued 1,200 men at Dunkirk, only to be sunk for the fourth time. He survived all of those life-threatening

wartime experiences -- only to be hit by a truck in Baltimore. Little not only received plenty of medals, his unbelievably bizarre war experiences have earned him a place at [Ripley's Believe It Or Not!](#)

Some of the stranger stories that deserve to be retold:

- In 1943, **Master Sgt. John Hassebrock** of Buffalo Center, Iowa, received a three-day pass to marry a WAC Corporal before he went overseas. They lost track of each other until one night in France, he made a convoy to the front lines and went to a farmhouse to spend the night. There he unexpectedly ran into his wife -- on the exact day and hour of their wedding one year earlier.
- During World War II, **Gunner's Mate Allen C. Heyn** was saved three times in three minutes by his equipment. When his boat, the Juneau, was sunk by a Japanese submarine, his life was saved by his helmet, which was crushed and his skull fractured. Two minutes later, he sank with the ship, but his life jacket brought him up to the surface, where he was saved by a raft. He was the only survivor of the 12 men on that raft.
- **Private Leo Carrara** of the Sixth Armored Division was truly the indestructible man. A German bomb destroyed his half track and killed 12 men and only Pvt. Carrara escaped, although he was badly wounded. His sergeant tried to save him and was killed, his lieutenant tried to save him and was killed and his litter bearer tried to save him and was killed.
- **Lt. Commander Robert W. Goehring**, aboard the Coast Guard Cutter U.S.S. Duane, was swept off his ship by a mountainous wave during a storm. The ship was turned around to rescue Goehring when suddenly another giant wave tossed him back on board to safety.
- **Joe Frank Jones** of the Eighth Army Air Force fell 13,000 feet and suffered no broken bones. Returning from his 22nd mission over Germany in a Fortress, he collided in mid-air and fell 13,000 feet in the severed tail section of his plane -- without serious injury and no broken bones.
- During the Korean War, **Lt. Fred J. Fees, Jr.** continued to direct air strikes after he had been shot through the head.
- **U.S. Infantryman Donald Morehouse** was shot through the chest while fighting in the Korean War. Still, he walked 35 miles to safety -- and only discovered later that the bullet had gone through his heart.
- **Pfc. Billy Campbell** of the 101st Airborne Division serving in Vietnam, survived being shot in the chest when the bullet deflected off a spoon he was carrying in his breast pocket.
- During the Vietnam War, American soldiers tossed "Slinky" toys over tree branches to serve as radio antennas.
- While fighting in Afghanistan, U.S. Army **Pvt. Channing Moss** survived a body hit from an anti-vehicular rocket when the explosive head broke off just before he was impaled by the rocket shaft.

LEGION LAFFS



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.



FROM THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

I want to wish everyone a very Happy New Year and hope that your efforts will be rewarded and your dreams for 2015 will be realized.

First, for those in Post 27 that have already renewed their membership for the 2015 Membership Year, THANK YOU for supporting the American Legion and all the good things that are accomplished by our members. There are 23 Post 27 members that have not renewed yet for 2015. Five more who last paid in 2013 and will be dropped from our Post rolls soon by National. I would ask for your support of the work that is accomplished by the American Legion for the military, veterans, our communities and youth by RENEWING your 2015 membership as soon as possible. The ADJUTANT'S SECTION of this newsletter will assist you. This is MISSION #1. Without members, the other missions cannot happen.



Paula Stephenson
Commander
Dept. of Utah



Second is the Department of Utah Commander's Charity Project 2015. Each year our Department focuses efforts on a charity project, with guidance from the National Commander. This year, the Department of Utah will be collecting donations for the American Legion National Emergency Fund (NEF). This fund consistently supports our American Legion members, families, and posts impacted by a natural disaster. Here in

Utah, we have seen high winds, wild fires, and flooding on an annual basis. A Legion member who is affected by a natural disaster can apply for up to \$3,000. A post affected by a natural disaster can apply for up to \$10,000. Utah has been given a goal of \$2,500. At the annual Christmas Party, Post 27 collected \$130.00 for this fund. There are two ways to give: 1) send a check with a note in the memo section marked "NEF" made to "American Legion Post 27," and send to our Finance Officer, John Sheets, 1368 Fairway Circle, Farmington, UT 84025, or 2) go online to the National American Legion website www.legion.org and click on DONATE. Please select the NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND (NEF). The National American Legion will count your donation towards the Utah goal. Thank you so much for your support.

Finally, thank you all for your military service and for all the volunteer hours you do for the Legion, your churches, schools, and whatever you feel needs your help. For one, I feel good that I have found a niche in "still serving America", which includes my fellow comrades in arms and our wonderful communities. Utah is a great state. I have been blessed to be able to possibly make a difference through volunteering with the American Legion, locally and throughout Utah. **Happy New Year!**