



# The American Legion Post 27/Squadron 27 Newsletter Farmington, Utah

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

January 2016

*Still Serving America*

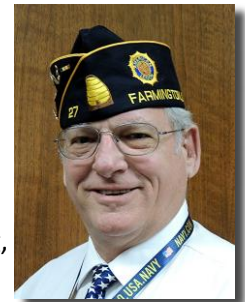
www.post27.org

## Commander's Corner

What will we do with 2016?



A new year has begun and 2016 will play out no matter what we do or don't do. The real question is: will we simply maintain the status quo or will we help build something better? Are we standing still or are we growing, getting better, contributing? This year is as important as any in our history and more important than most. In addition to the perpetual need to maintain peace and good order in our communities, instruct and inspire our youth, assist and honor our veterans and set a positive example to our fellow citizens, this year we will also elect a new president. Or will we? Oh, the pundits will fill the airways with their shrill accusations, the candidates will make promises and assign blame, our landscape will be overgrown with election graffiti in yards and on roadsides, and the election will be held despite the fact that



Kent Hansen

a dismal minority will cast their ballots. Regardless of the outcome many more people than those who actually voted will raise the hue and cry of outrage. We cannot stop that nor should we. The right to express opinions is central to our American way of life. Some may think it unfair that those who did not participate in the process should have anything to say about the results. And they're probably right but one thing is certain: not one of us can change what everyone else thinks or does. What CAN affect is in what WE do, say and think.

Now this is not a passive endeavor. It requires thought and action. Every one of us who has worn the uniform joined up because we believed that freedom and democracy were things that we should protect and project. Can any of us say that the need for that is any less today? Apathy can cripple a nation more completely than any terrorist. We Legionnaires can still serve our country by voting our conscience and by joining with us at Post 27 to keep on giving our communities a real example of what America truly stands for.

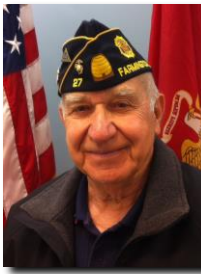
### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **January 1 – New Year's Day.** *Fly the flag.*
- **January 13 – Post 27 Oratorical Contest.** 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
- **January 14 – Post 27 meeting.** 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
- **January 28 – District 2 Oratorical Contest.** 6:30 pm, NUAMES High School, Bldg. D-2, Rooms 103 & 104.
- **February 6 -- Dept. of Utah Oratorical Contest.** Spanish Fork.
- **February 11 -- Post 27 meeting.** 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
- **February 15 – Presidents' Day.** *Fly the flag.*
- **February 16 – Military Funeral Honors Training.** 7:00 to 9:00 pm, Farmington Firehouse.

### Post 27 Programs & Activities

- Flag Education
- High School Constitution Oratorical Contest
- American Legion Utah Boys State & Girls State
- Military Funeral Honors
- Eagle Scout 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 location
- Medal of Honor Character Development Program in Davis County schools
- POW/MIA updates
- Meet The Candidate sponsor in Farmington
- Farmington/Kaysville Cemetery Flag project
- Memorial Day weekend
- Parade participation
- American Legion National Emergency Fund support

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



The American Legion is only as strong as its membership base. The more devoted members it has, the better the organization can advocate for veterans and serve the military community which has given much to our country. Remember, that every Legionnaire is a recruiter for new members. Invite your relatives, neighbors and friends who are veterans to join us. Explain to them some of benefits listed:

**Discounts** - Your membership gives you and your family practical, money-saving discounts that can easily save you many times the cost of your annual membership dues.

**Frank Ferrante Monthly Magazine** - Our nation's leaders speak directly to citizens on the pages of The American Legion Magazine. The Legion's organizational goals are promoted using the words of talented writers, professional journalists, and world leaders.



**A Powerful Force in our Nation's Capital** -The American Legion is the nation's most influential, effective and dependable advocate of veteran affairs fighting for better active-duty pay, improved housing for active-duty families and helping to ensure that the VA's medical system can properly care for veterans.

**VA Benefit Assistance** -Your membership helps support Department Service Officers nationwide who assist veterans in preparing claims and obtaining their full military healthcare benefits through the VA.

A new member can join by going to [www.post27.org](http://www.post27.org) and completing the application under Membership-Join Us. Again, let us make an effort to invite a non-member to our meetings to show him or her what our Post has accomplished and what we do. Have them feel the spirit of comradeship we have. I would like to challenge each of you to recruit one new member for the New Year 2016.

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

I would like to wish everyone a wonderful New Year filled with pleasant times with family friends and associates, and may your New Year be a great one.

Coming up soon will be the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the American Legion and we have been asked to gather together as much history about our Post as we can get. Some of the information we need are the names of the members, their pictures, officers, the years they held that office, ceremonies the Post was involved in, community service, Boys and Girls State sponsored by the Post. At one time there was an Auxiliary and we need to know who was involved with that and the years that it operated, and the same for the Sons of the American Legion.



**Kenneth Hadlev**



We all have a piece of history. You may know some members who served with us and are no longer with us—their names, their service, their stories, **AND PICTURES**. You may have news articles about the Post. What were the activities that were held? I have heard that there were parties and dances held in the basement of the Court House and we had a baseball team. Does anyone have information about this? We only have 18 months to put this together, so the sooner we can get your information the better; and if you would like to help put a history book together please let us know. I would like to print the history of Post 27 and see that everyone who is or has been a member receives a copy or that their children have a copy.

# Adjutant/ Eagle Scout Courts of Honor

**Membership.** Statistics are membership numbers through 1 Jan 2016.



**Dale Crockett**

2016 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2015 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
106	7	47	28	5	0	87	82%

Thank you so much for your dues because membership is our lifeblood. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support this past year. As post adjutant, I am the secretary for this post and maybe a bit more. I have enjoyed my responsibilities and getting to know some of you in the Post. I would love hearing from you if you have questions about your memberships or anything else. We still have a few out there who have not paid yet. Please let me know if you will be renewing your membership or not with a short email back to me. That way I won't keep trying to contact you in the future. For those who have paid, please see if you have friends or neighbors that would like to join us. We have a lot of fun doing Eagle Scout Courts of Honor, military funeral honors, flag ceremonies and a lot more. The service we provide to our community brings great joy to us.

Just a reminder, the membership price has increased by \$5 per year this January, so I would love to get the rest of the membership cards out to you as soon as possible. As always, you may renew by sending your \$35 annual membership dues to our Post: P.O. Box 427, Farmington, UT 84025-0427. An even easier option is to go to [www.Legion.org/renew](http://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 H (801) 4561-9493 / C (801) 560-2186 or email [dalescrockett@yahoo.com](mailto:dalescrockett@yahoo.com).***

**Department of Utah Belt Buckle Pin.** A pin version of the William E. "Bill" Christoffersen "BIG BEE" 50 Years Commemorative Belt Buckles is NEW and is currently available. These beautiful pins are 1 ½ inches across and are an excellent addition to your Legion hat or lapel. We continue to celebrate Bill Christoffersen's 50 years as the Department of Utah National Executive Committeeman and his long standing support of the American Legion Utah Boys State Program. If you are interested in obtaining one or more of these pins, please let me or Chuck Stephenson know. The cost for the pin is \$10. All profits from the sale of the pins will go to the American Legion Utah Boys State William E. Christoffersen Scholarship Fund. A scholarship will be awarded to each of the two young men elected as Boys Nation Senators each summer at Utah Boys State.



## Sergeant-at-Arms

Happy, Happy New Year 2016. Want to wish all of you the very best for you and your family as we move forward with our New Year Resolutions and in our busy lives schedule. The Executive Committee of Post 27 wants to thank all of you for the service you have rendered throughout 2015 in community activities and for honoring our fallen with Military Funeral Honors. Without you, Post 27 cannot operate and provide this service.



**David Layton**

Post 27 of the American Legion continues to serve the families and communities where we are asked to provide ceremonies and honors in remembrance of are fallen comrades. We do invite all of us to help in meeting the services we are asked to provide. Let us remember when we are asked to participate in Post 27 events, 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.

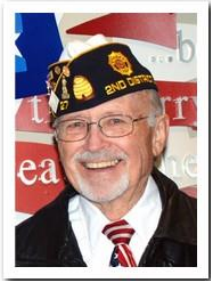


**SGT.  
SAGE  
SEZ**

*'Incoming fire has the right of way.'*

**- MARINE ADAGE**

# Financial Officer/Military Funeral Honors



John Sheets

My report as to the Financial condition of The American Legion Post 27 Farmington will follow as soon as all the Year End expenses and receipts are accounted for within the next 30 days. I would like to report that barring some emergency requiring our MFH unit response before year end that The American Legion Post 27, Farmington rose to the requests for Military Funeral Honors for 48 members from all branches of the Armed Forces. There were five members of Post 27 who have reported to Post Everlasting; Dr. Jan Freeman, Legrand Reeder, William (Bill) Allen, Chaplain JGolden Barton, and Warren Jack Fenner. The Post participation in these solemn events is much appreciated by family members and loved ones.

Now for the lighter side; There are many types of leaders, those who guide and direct with superior management skills and those who wander and wonder (my style) I "wander" and then "wonder" what the heck I'm supposed to be doing. For instance, at our funeral for Mr. Perkins I dutifully put on my Legion hat and noted that it felt a bit strange and I "wondered", but looking at all the pins from the outside of the hat, nothing sparked my thought process. Then looking at the inside of the hat I realized what the strange feeling was. All of the brass hardware holding the pins in place were making an impression on my "chrome dome". I said to myself, when did I get all those Pins, and why did I put the anchors inside the hat? I finally got it: it was not my hat. Frank Lennartz was accused of trading hats with me, quickly denying the allegation. David Layton was on the firing team and did not have his Legion hat so I traded with Dave who has a bit more hair to protect from the vicious barbs inside the hat. The hat was returned to me after the funeral, but still a mystery? To whom does the hat belong? Well, one thing for sure, whoever it is, he's not afraid to "Lead with his head". So help me look for a Legionnaire who has plenty of hair to protect him from the multitude of harpoons inside the hat and has an affinity for blasting away with our O3's that have replaced the Artillery pieces he once commanded.

## Training Officer



Paula Stephenson

**TRAINING IN FEBRUARY:** Sharpen your skills: flag folding, ceremonial handling of rifles, and ceremonial handling of the bugle. **Tuesday, February 16, 2016, 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 Arlington Cemetery Unit. Those who complete this training will be given a Military Funeral Honors flag pin and Certificate of Training. Fine tune your skills that are used at Eagle Courts, flag education activities, military funeral honors, and other events.

**VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES:** American Legion Post 27 wants to support our members who own businesses by adding business cards to our newsletter's "white space". This is free advertising for our Post 27 member Legionnaires, Sons of the American Legion (SAL), and American Legion Auxiliary. We cannot promise it monthly, but when there is



space, business cards will be rotated on a regular basis. Now isn't that worth the price of your membership? Our newsletter goes out to approximately 125 members, and is available on our website at [www.post27.org](http://www.post27.org). Another resource for our members who own their own businesses is the website supported by the Utah Veteran and Military Affairs Department at [www.veterans.utah.gov](http://www.veterans.utah.gov), click on "Veteran Business Resources". Mark your calendar for May 19, 2016 for the second Utah Veteran Owned Business Conference, location yet to be determined.



**THE AMERICAN LEGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB:** Under the pillar of National Security, this program exists to help during disasters from floods, wild fires, earthquakes, and any other natural or man caused disasters. Here In Utah, the American Legion Amateur Radio Club is open to all American Legion family members who are licensed amateur radio operators. The American Legion State Coordinator for this program is Richard Fisher, NS7K, with Post 139 in Roy. You

don't have to transfer to that Post to participate. If you do become a participant in this program, please let the Post Commander know as a resource for our Post. Get started by contacting Richard Fisher (NS7K), (801)773-9312, [Rfisher590@earthlink.net](mailto:Rfisher590@earthlink.net).



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY (ALA):** Guidance has been received on how to establish our ALA Unit 27. I still need the names and contact information for ladies who are or want to become members of this Legion Family program. That includes spouses, daughters, granddaughters, Lady Legionnaires. Send your information to Paula Stephenson, Post 27, email: [stphnsnc@aol.com](mailto:stphnsnc@aol.com) or 801-589-2871.

*Let's get this going!*

## POW/MIA News



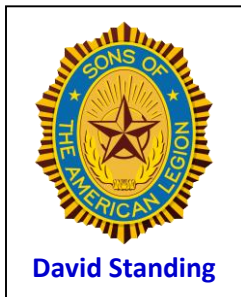
Jay Hess

### *Compensation for Captivity*

On Nov. 4, 1979, 53 Americans at the U. S. Embassy in Iran were seized by angry Iranians during an uprising and taken hostage. They were held captive for 444 days. It has been reported that the spending bill signed into law in December authorizes restitution payments of \$10,000 to each victim or their estates for every day of captivity. If they actually receive those payments, they will each receive \$4.4 million.

Compensation for being held hostage or prisoner might be a subject of discussion. Did those held hostage by Iran continue to receive their regular pay? There could also be questions about rank and promotions during the period of captivity. Vietnam Prisoners of War were eligible to apply for compensation of \$1.50/day for inadequate housing and \$3.50/day for inadequate food. Some of these great Americans did not apply because they considered it was part of the job and the housing and food were enough for them to survive. However, most probably receive the \$5/day. They did continue to receive their normal pay and allowances and were promoted with their contemporaries. The average time of captivity for Vietnam POWs was 5-6 years. Some were nearly nine years. The \$5/day compensation for 5 ½ years was around \$10,000. A few of our guys who evaded capture for a week or more were denied the \$5/day for those days they evaded. They lived in the rain and ate bugs. The regulations specified "captivity" to be eligible for the compensation. A few notes received at Christmas time put in perspective the important compensations in life. The lesson learned in captivity was 'appreciation.' The task was 'endure.' The compensation was friendship, fraternity, comradery, love of God and Country.

## Sons of The American Legion



David Standing

Hello, I am your new Commander of Squadron 27 of the Sons of The American Legion. I served in the both Marine Corps Reserve, Army National Guard and Active Marine Corps both enlisted and as an officer. I am happy to serve you and hope I will live up to the calling. I am the proud son of a father who served in the Army as a Corporal in India during WWII in a railroad Company somewhere on that famous Burmese Hump. Additionally, two of my Uncles served, one in the Air Force and the Army respectively, in the South Pacific. I am immensely proud of their service during an important time. If there are any veterans who served near there or know more about it than I, I would so appreciate the story. I am a young'n among you I think. I do love to hear the stories of service persons who have served before me in the olden days clear back to last century. That is a very important part of who we are. I hope you are passing stories to your young'ns. Though I didn't

serve in a combat zone, I still prepared to do so. I think it is an incredible thing that we have done and that is to serve, it is and was no easy thing to have sacrificed our time and lives or betterment, focusing so intently on keeping the person next us alive or at least on task. I appreciate all of you and for your service. I am terrible with names but continually love to get reacquainted and to know each of you better.

I am employed at Hill Air Force Base with Defense Information System Agency DISA for the last 8 years. I enjoy anything that keeps me active but won't kill me, mostly riding a bike, throwing a frisbee, flying a kite, amateur fishing and more so hunting elk and hopefully a buffalo in the near future in the mountains. I love cold water. I live in Kaysville with my wife of twenty years and four children and one cat that we saved from certain death from the jungle in Okinawa 2003.

I don't have any business information to pass at this time. I believe we have a very high recruitment rate at that present time. **Semper Fi, David Standing**



## Take advantage of Post 27's 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 Larry Dawson at 801-326-2370.

*Be sure to bring a copy of your DD-214 or other discharge certificate.*

## Legion Laughs



Check us out on Facebook at "American Legion Post 27 Farmington Utah"

Visit us on Facebook

or the link from our Post website at [www.post27.org](http://www.post27.org).



## From the Department Vice Commander



The Department of Utah has purchased one of the Limited Edition Model 1915 .45 Cal Pistols. These pistols were commissioned by The American Legion to celebrate and commemorate the Legion Centennial in 2019. The pistol is finished with 24 kt gold, antique gold, high polished nickel and black chrome. The Legion emblem is engraved in the custom metal grip while one side of the pistol is engraved with a WWI doughboy, "For God and



**Chuck Stephenson**  
Department Vice Commander

Country" banner, the Legion's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo, and a 1919 48-star US Flag. The other side of the pistol is also engraved with the 100th Anniversary logo, "For God and Country" banner, as well as a 50-star US flag and an active-duty military service-member. This pistol is number 45 of 100; the number 45 coincides with Utah as being the 45<sup>th</sup> State admitted to the Union. Retail price of the pistol is \$2,695. The pistol is an amazing piece worthy of owning and collecting. The Department is offering chances for this beauty at a cost of \$50. / ticket. If you are interested in purchasing a chance(s) for the pistol or if you have questions please let me know. Only 200 chances will be offered. The drawing will be held when all 200 tickets are gone. The monies made from the pistol will go to the VA Hospital in SLC, to purchase vests with The American Legion logo for service dogs to Veterans. My contact information is H 801-444-7189 / C 801-698-7750 / email [stphnsnc@aol.com](mailto:stphnsnc@aol.com). Additional information concerning these pistols may be found online at [www.legion.org/Centennial](http://www.legion.org/Centennial).

**Membership is Our Lifblood**