



The American Legion

# CENTENNIAL POST

January 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

As we embark on a new year, it is fitting that we look back at what was accomplished by the members of Post 27 during 2019. Post 27 along with American Legion posts across the country celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in March of 2019. Post 27, Auxiliary Unit 27 and SAL Squadron 27 held an open house at our former facility in the old Davis County Memorial Court House which was followed by a dinner at Davis Tech. This past September the Post resituated its material substance to the Farmington Russon Brother Mortuary facilities. Following extensive research and discussions with Davis County Commissioners, the Post received assurance that it would have a post home in the newly refurbished old Davis County Memorial Court House in due course, (this is still 2-3 years out).

THE AMERICAN LEGION

POST 27

P.O. BOX 427

FARMINGTON, UT 84025

Once again Post 27 joined with Lindquist Mortuary in support of the National Wreaths Across America, on Dec. 14. This event is designed to help the members of our communities to REMEMBER the Fallen. . . HONOR those who Serve. . . TEACH our children the value of Freedom. Following hearing several patriotic messages, members of Post 27 furnished a seven-man rifle team to give a rifle volley salute to both living and deceased veterans. To remember and honor our passed veterans, more than 300 remembrance wreaths were laid on the graves of our country's fallen heroes coupled with the act of saying the name of each and every veteran aloud.

As we now turn to the New Year open before us, at the monthly meeting of Post 27 on Wednesday, January 15 at 6:30 pm, a Post Everlasting Ceremony is planned for the families of recently deceased Post 27 members John Sheets and Albert Smith. This meeting will be held at the Farmington City Community Arts Center (FCCAC) building at 120 South Main Street, Farmington.

Also at our January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, in the tradition of inviting our Post members to share their lived experiences in the military, our Post will be honored to hear from our new Sons of the American Legion Squadron 27 Commander, Bradley Henderson. Additionally, at our first Post Meeting for 2020 on January 15, we will also learn more of the detailed plans of Post 27's Oratorical Speech Contest for high school-age students coming up on January 22 at 5:30 pm at this FCCAC building facility. Please come and join us as we gather for these upcoming events.



## EVENTS CALENDAR

January 1, 2020 – New Year's Day. *Fly the flag.*

January 15 – Post 27 General Meeting. 6:30 pm, Farmington City Community Arts Center, 120 South Main St, Farmington.

January 22 – Post Oratory Contest. 5:30 pm, Farmington City Community Arts Center, 120 South Main Street, Farmington.

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

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

I sure hope the holidays were fantastic for everyone and that all of you are looking forward to our Post events in 2020 as I am. The excitement never ebbs. I have nothing but appreciation for the Post to start the year; so many have contributed to keeping the Post viable and relevant. Thank you all.



Bob Anderson

One of the upcoming military days to observe is **Four Chaplains Day**, February 3rd, 2020. I admit I was not aware of this story, but after learning their story, will hold it dear from now on. Military service often entails sacrifice. Service members must sacrifice time with loved ones in order to carry out orders. Families must sacrifice stability in residence in order for service members to be stationed where they are needed. Troops must sacrifice creature comforts and familiar surroundings in order to forward deploy. At times, men and women of the military might have to make the ultimate sacrifice for their fellow soldiers, sailors, airmen, or Marines. However, these sacrifices may be acknowledged, whether honored publicly or observed privately, they are a part of the reality that is serving in the military.

Each year on February 3, this day of remembrance is celebrated across the country. It honors four military chaplains who sacrificed their own lives to save the lives of their fellow service members during WWII. The men who came to be known as the Four Chaplains were Methodist minister the **Reverend George L. Fox**, Reformed Church in America minister the **Reverend Clark V. Poling**, Reform **Rabbi Alexander D. Goode (Ph.D)**, and Roman Catholic priest **Father John P. Washington**. The four men had met while attending Chaplains School at Harvard in preparation for each of their appointments as chaplains.

After the four new chaplains had completed Chaplain School at Harvard, they all boarded the USAT Dorchester to travel to Europe and report to their new assignments. The Dorchester left New York on Jan. 23, 1943, with a convoy of ships headed for the Army Command Base at Narsarsuaq in southern Greenland. The vessel carried a total of 904 service members. Because German U-Boats were known to monitor sea lanes, and because Coast Guard sonar detected submarine activity in the area the convoy would travel through, the ship's captain Hans J. Danielsen ordered the crew to be on high alert. This included orders for the men to sleep in their clothing and keep their life jackets on most of the time. Due to the heat deep in the ship's hold, many men disregarded these orders and slept without clothes. Many also opted not to wear their life jackets due to how bulky and uncomfortable they were.

On Feb. 3, 1943, at 12:55 am, German submarine U-223 torpedoed the Dorchester off the coast of Newfoundland. This blow knocked out the ship's electrical system. As darkness set in, so did panic, as many men were trapped below decks. In the midst of this chaos, the chaplains worked together to try and instill calm and also help as many men as they could. This cooperation was deemed extraordinary at the time due to the four being from such different backgrounds and beliefs. There are numerous eye-witness accounts of the four chaplains' heroism. When the supply of life jackets ran out before each man had one, the chaplains removed their own life jackets and gave them to others. The chaplains also helped as many men as they could into lifeboats.

Petty Officer John J. Mahoney recalled that, when he attempted to reenter his cabin to retrieve his gloves for protection against the Arctic cold, Rabbi Goode stopped him, said, "Never mind. I have two pairs," and gave Mahoney gloves. The petty officer later realized the sacrifice Rabbi Goode had made: the rabbi had not had two pairs of gloves, but given his only gloves to Mahoney with the intention to remain on the Dorchester.

As he floated in the frigid Arctic water, surrounded by debris, oil, and dead bodies, Pvt. William B. Bednar heard "men crying, pleading, praying. I could also hear the chaplains preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going." Grady Clark, another survivor, said, "As I swam away from the ship, I looked back. The flares had lighted everything. The bow came up high and she slid under. The last thing I saw, the four chaplains were up there praying for the safety of the men. They had done everything they could. I did not see them again. They themselves did not have a chance without their life jackets." The four then linked arms, said prayers, and sang hymns as they went down with the ship.





Because the water temperature was 34 degrees and the air temperature was 36 degrees, hundreds of men died due to hypothermia before rescue ships came. Of the 904 men aboard the ship, only 230 were rescued. On Dec. 19, 1944, Congress posthumously awarded each of the chaplains the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Cross. Congress also attempted to posthumously confer the Medal of Honor on each chaplain. However, because the chaplains had acted after the torpedo attack was over, and this medal required heroism performed “under fire,” they did not technically qualify. In response, members of Congress authorized the Four Chaplains’ Medal, a special medal intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor. It was approved by a unanimous act of Congress on July 14, 1960, and Secretary of the Army Wilber M. Brucker presented the medals to the next of kin of each chaplain at Ft. Myer, Virginia on Jan. 18, 1961.

## Adjutant



Dale Crockett

## Membership is Our Lifeblood

*Hail & Farewell: Welcome to Gary F. Howard & Farewell to Albert Smith*

**American Legion Membership:** Statistics are membership numbers through 1 Dec 2019.

2020 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2020 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
145	14	56	37	3	3	113	78%

**Sons of the American Legion Membership:** Statistics are membership numbers through 1 Nov 2019.

2020 GOAL	REGULAR	NEW	TRANSFERS	2020 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
46	24			24	52%

Happy New Year. I hope that this coming year will be a successful and promising year for all of you. I have enjoyed my many years in The American Legion and hope to continue serving our community and fellow veterans for many more. It has been a joy serving with such great men and women of our Post 27. I have sent out many reminders to renew your memberships in both the Legion and the Sons, but as you can see, there are still many who have not renewed. If you are not planning to renew, please send me an email so I don’t keep bugging you. I hope you see a benefit in being a member of the American Legion and our Post. Thanks again for your service to our great nation.

*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).*

## Chaplain



Keith Gardner

As President’s Day approaches, I want to remind everyone of some of the characteristics of two of our more famous presidents had. President George Washington, as a young general, had his troops well disciplined; attend church together, and pray together for success. According to Washington, they had incredible divine intervention in the battles in Boston and New York and many more. In New York, they confounded the strongest navy 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.



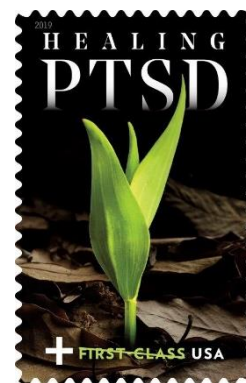
Similarly President Lincoln had the vision that would someday enable all men to be treated equally. So faith in one’s conviction; and vision are 2 things I learn from these great presidents. Let’s celebrate Presidents’ Day recognizing the values these two men had and brought to the independence of our great nation.

# Training & FYI

## U.S. POSTAL SERVICE ISSUES 'HEALING PTSD' STAMP TO RAISE FUNDS FOR VETERANS

The United States Postal Service is taking action to help veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress with the release of a new commemorative stamp. Proceeds from the "Healing PTSD" stamp purchases will be donated to the Department of Veterans Affairs and National Center for PTSD, the Postal Service announced during a dedication event in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The image on the stamp, created by Mark Laita and Greg Breeding, features a sprouting green plant surrounded by withered leaves, a design meant to elicit feelings of growth, healing, and hope, the release said. . . . Nearly 3 million service members have deployed in support of American war operations since 2001. Approximately 11 percent to 20 percent of returning personnel suffer from PTSD. Some studies suggest that number is as high as 30 percent.



## Historian

### THE ORTHODONTIST WHO BECAME THE FIRST NAVY SEAL



Everyone loves a good underdog, and Navy LT (j.g.) Jack Taylor is one of the best "little guys" we've ever heard of. Before the start of World War II, Taylor was an orthodontist in Hollywood, California. When the U.S. declared war on Japan, however, Taylor swapped his dental scrubs for a Navy uniform, planning to teach boat handling skills to American and Allied servicemen — a pretty safe wartime occupation. Fate had other plans for Taylor however, and they were way more exciting than pulling teeth or rigging sails.



LCDR Jack Taylor

He didn't know it yet, but DDS Jack Taylor would soon become LT (j.g.) Taylor, and would prove his worth as the first ever Navy SEAL, undertaking ocean operations in Greece, land operations in Albania, and parachuting into Austria — 20 years before the first SEAL team had ever been assembled. His military career began when he was ordered to serve with the OSS, or the Office of Strategic Services in 1942. He then became the Chief of the Office of Strategic Service Maritime Unit, and things only got cooler from there. In the Maritime Unit, Taylor personally commanded 14 missions into the enemy-occupied Greek and Balkan coasts. He and his team delivered spies, weapons, explosives, and other supplies to friendly forces from September 1943 to March 1944.

Taylor also commanded a land team in Central Albania around this time, escaping near-capture by enemy forces at least three times. For his valor, he received the Navy Cross. Unfortunately, Taylor and his men would run into trouble after their drop into Austria during the "Dupont Mission," where he and his men rallied Austrians sympathetic to the Allied cause, formed a network of cities and towns that would support them, and photographed German defense strategies and equipment.

Before Taylor and his men could head to Italy to meet up with American troops, the group was captured on December 1, 1944, and sent to prison in Vienna before being transferred to Mauthausen, a camp that was notorious for its cruel treatment and deplorable living conditions. There Taylor was jailed as a political prisoner, and watched as inmate after inmate was executed — a brutal reminder of what his own fate would surely be.

Taylor was nearly executed on two different occasions. The first time a friend who worked in the camp's office found his papers among a stack of to-be executed prisoners and removed it, burning it before his superiors noticed it was gone. Eventually the Nazis realized Taylor had evaded his sentence, and scheduled a second execution. But just when it seemed that his number was up, the 11th Armored Division liberated the camp, only days before he would have been killed. When an American film crew arrived and asked him for an interview, Taylor got the chance to tell the world what he and so many others had experienced under Nazi prison conditions, later recounting the same information at the Nuremberg trials, where his testimony of the horrors of Mauthausen would lead to the conviction of all 61 camp personnel.



**SGT.  
SAGE  
SEZ**

If at first you don't succeed,  
call in an air strike.



# American League Auxiliary



Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. Thank you to those who donated their time or monetary goods to the VA Christmas store. January begins Girls State preparations. I hope to get our information from the staff shortly so we can set our dates with our schools soon. I would like to discuss this at our next meeting on January 15th at 6:30, at the Farmington Community Arts Center, following the post everlasting. Let's start 2020 out with a great attendance to our first meeting. February's meeting will be on Monday, February 17 at 6:30 pm, lower level of the Farmington Community Arts Center, 120 S. Main Street, Farmington.



Marcie Mojica

## Legion Laughs 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)



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

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

## Recovery is possible.

Hear inspiring stories from Veterans about treatments that work and explore mental health resources.

MAKE THE CONNECTION  
[www.MakeTheConnection.net](http://www.MakeTheConnection.net)

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.

[f](https://www.facebook.com/VeteransMTC) [@VeteransMTC](https://www.instagram.com/VeteransMTC)



## 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.*



**It's a New Year, a New Decade and a New Century  
for  
The American Legion Family**  
*Celebrate with us. Serve with us.*