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

welcome 2027!

THE AMERICAN LEGION
POST 27
P.O. BOX 427
FARMINGTON, UT 84025
WWW.POST27.ORG

<u>Commander's Corner</u>



William A. Huber

2020 In the Mirror

The year 2020 will go down as roller coaster ride with many ups and down, in fact some pretty steep and fast long downhill runs. We started out the year and held a very viable Oratorical contest with Mackenzie Spackman of Davis High School taking 1st place and placing 3rd at District 2's competition. Our Post held its first online election of officers in the midst of the COVID~19 sea, keeping us in abeyance. In March we also received into our ranks Mazzi and Geli, Contract War Dogs (CWD), as honorary Post members – we think they are the first in the American Legion, and later supported the CWD/MWD statue unveiling in November at the Vietnam War Memorial in Layton.

During the early months of the year the Military Funeral Honors (MFH) team

performed a number of MFH for veterans until the COVID-19 pandemic burst upon our home turf with the government shutting things down throughout Utah. The team typically performs about 55 to 60 MFH per year; this year we were limited to about 18 MFH. Alongside a number of these were



Post Everlasting Ceremonies (PEC) performed for the families of Post 27 members who have departed our ranks, these included: John W. Sheets, Albert Smith, Gerhardt Stracke, Keith H Gardner, Robert E Schiszler, Duane B Gerrard with an additional member's PEC still pending until the pandemic situation improves here.

Notwithstanding the many closures, the Post Family, along with our sponsored BSA troops, together numbering over fifty, worked in teams maintaining separation to place over 500 federal flags at the Farmington Cemetery and assisted in placing over 1,200 flags at the Kaysville Cemetery in observance of Memorial Day. We performed an abbreviated Memorial Day Ceremony at Farmington Cemetery. Post 27 furnished an Honor Guard of federal flag bearers on behalf of 1Lt. Kenneth "Kage" Allen, an Air Force pilot from Utah. Boys State with its companion Girls State here in Utah, were also sidelined by the Pandemic. Other events that were scrubbed were ceremonial support of Independence Day, Farmington Days and our annual Flag Retirement ceremony.

Not everything was shut out. The Post members enjoyed a social shooting activity at the Wasatch Shooter's Association that facilitated keeping good social distancing. We weathered a massive windstorm of 99 – 100 mph, then a few day later we managed to muster a group to observe and honor the fallen First Responders on Patriots Day at the Farmington Fire Station. We worked in a Post 27 Legion Family picnic honing our eyes' recognition while donning our masks and keeping social distancing and enjoying some mighty fine BBQ. We enhanced our skills in manual of arms and flag folding to keep us sharp in performing MFH when government restriction

enabled it. We hosted our first Zoom General Meeting in late October hearing from Post member Congressman Chris Stewart who shared a congressional update. Our planned Veterans Day activities were shut out owing to an intensification of the Pandemic. We were able to Zoom our November General Meeting hearing from the American Patriot Service Corp and learning about the VA pension benefit, **Aid & Attendance**, which may provide very needful financial support to qualifying veterans and their spouses. Auxiliary Unit 27 did an outstanding job leading up the collection of donations and helping our veteran community – see their detailed report below. Although the tightened pandemic restrictions precluded a Christmas Party, the Post was able to come out in strength and support the Wreaths Across America event furnishing both an honor guard and a Dave Standing rendering Taps. Throughout the year we were privileged to hear from Legion Legends, post members, who were kind enough to share some of their memorable life experiences while serving in the military. Intermixed through the year was a lot of effort to perform "Buddy Checks" among the ranks of our Post. You are important and you matter to us. If we failed to reach you, we apologize and will continue to reach out. We appreciate your support and desire to be of service where and when we can.

And now: 2021



We are hoping for a change of winds for the better as we embark on our journey into the new year. A few things on the upcoming horizon: *new meeting time – details below*, a Post Oratorical Contest – this is a time you may want to encourage your children, grandchildren or even great grandchildren that are still in high school to take part in this wonderful US Constitutional contest. See the 2nd Vice's comments below for further details.

Post 27 General Meeting: January 12, 2021

The pandemic is still very much with us. Looking forward we have planned to hold the next Post 27 general meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at a NEW TIME of 7:00 pm. We will be holding our monthly General Meeting starting at 7:00 pm for the foreseeable future in 2021. This month it will be held via the online application, Zoom. Our 1st Vice Commander is available to assist you in getting acquainted with Zoom and becoming an active meeting attendee. He may be reached at phone number 801-347-8735. Here are the links and codes to connect to Zoom:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85933251775?pwd=SEordThvOVBoUk5Cc1lBclNJU0J1UT09

Meeting ID: 859 3325 1775 Passcode: 614202t

Officer Elections for 2021

Our Post Constitution and By-Laws call for the nomination of Officers to be held at the January General Meeting. Nominations will be accepted for the positions of:

a) Commander, b) 1st Vice Commander and c) 2nd Vice Commander Election of Officers will be held at the February General Meeting, following which they will be sworn in and assume their duties.

EVENTS CALENDAR

January 1 – New Year's Day. Fly the Flag!

January 12 – General Post & Auxiliary meeting 7:00 pm, via Zoom.

January 18 – Martin Luther King Day. Fly the Flag!

January 20 – Inauguration Day. Fly the Flag!

January 27 – Post 27 Oratorical Contest. 5:00 pm

Farmington City Community Arts Center.

February 15 – Presidents Day. Fly the Flag!
February 16 – General Post, Auxiliary & SAL meeting.
7:00 pm, Farmington City Community Arts Center.

PLEASE WEAR A MASK TO ALL EVENTS. THANKS.

1st Vice Commander



It's been a good, but strange holiday season. We have all been trying to stay connected to friends and loved ones while not causing them harm or getting sick from them by doing so. It's been a wonderful time of the year and the most stressful time due to the pandemic. We didn't get to do all the normal things we do this time of the year. Those wonderful holiday parties were



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absent or greatly curtailed. Some of us have had to endure the virus first hand and all to date in my personal bubble have done well and weathered it. I hope that is true for each of you as well and that you had a great holiday season.

This upcoming year, 2021, gives us a mental break from the year that was, 2020. I feel the light ahead is the bright sunshine at end of the tunnel and am hopeful it is not another train coming toward us. As we grapple with the evolving situation and see social changes as inoculations increasingly become common, opportunities will be growing to connect with your fellow man or woman. Please remember that person that you connect with may be a veteran that may need help or could benefit from being a part of The American Legion and Post 27. Have a great 2021.

2nd Vice Commander

American Legion Oratory Contest 2021

Each year we invite and encourage the next generation (9-12 grades) to present discourse on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution, outlining their duties and obligation to the same. In this course, we hope to instill a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the U.S. Constitution, promote growth in leadership ability, and instill a deeper understanding of the rights, responsibilities, obligations and privileges of U.S. citizens. Participants also have opportunity to earn scholarship funds as well as gain community, state and national exposure and recognition.



Paul Hubenthal

This year's Post 27 contest will be on January 27, 2021, beginning at 5:00 pm at the Farmington City Community Arts Center. To ensure success, we are looking to fill the following roles:



- **Judges** -5 (3 are tentatively nominated thus far)
- **Tabulators** 3 (calculate the scores)
- Timekeepers 2 (each student will make two timed presentations)
- Ushers 2 (assist guests to the assembly)
- **Escorts** -3 (assist and introduce the speakers)
- Room Monitor 1 (monitor and maintain confidentiality of speaker preparation)
- Commander to award prizes

As you can see there are several roles to make this event successful. I am soliciting volunteers to be appointed no later than the January General Meeting. Please reach out to me with your desired role as well as any questions in filling them. I look forward to a memorable evening with you, where we continue our tradition of service and legacy of John Sheets Post 27.

The American Legion Second Century Post

is published monthly for members of Post 27, SAL Squadron 27, Auxiliary Unit 27 and friends of The American Legion.

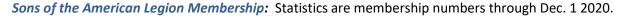
Please send your submissions to: kenthansen7@gmail.com

<u>Adjutant</u>

Membership is Our Lifeblood! 🗫

American Legion Membership: Statistics are membership numbers through Jan. 1 2021.

2021 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2021 Total	PERCENT OF GOAL
131	14	46	45		10	115	88%



2021 GOAL	REGULAR	NEW	TRANSFERS	2021 Total	PERCENT OF GOAL
32	25			25	<i>78%</i>



Dale Crockett

It's a time of anticipation, but also a time to reflect. As we look back on 2020, we are sure it is a year that we will



never forget. We have been filled with sadness at the deep divisions in our country around politics, racial injustice and economic disparities, and we have been appalled by the natural disasters, wildfires and hurricanes. Overshadowing all of this has been the COVID-19 pandemic, which has forced us to make readjustments in our life's.

Since March, we have self-isolated in our homes except for necessary trips to the grocery store or medical appointments. We've learned to order everything from groceries, curbside

pickup or delivery. We have even learned how to use Zoom and other applications for meetings, school and family. For my wife and me, it's not seeing our family as much as we are accustoming to or giving them a hug. We have found the separation from family and friends has been very difficult for us, but we are so grateful for the technology that enables us to "see" each other and share times of celebration, as well as times of stress. As we continue through this next year, let us have hope for the end of this pandemic and may this recent holiday bring us joy and peace. Thank you all for your support of our Farmington post.

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.

<u>Sergeant-at-Arms</u>



David Layton

Thank you all who have participated with Military Funeral Honors (MFH), during the calendar year 2020. For 2020 we performed 19 MFH's. COVID-19 had a major impact on all American Legion activities and programs and particularly MFH's. In a normal non-COVID-19 environment Post 27 averaged 60 plus MFH for family members of deceased veterans. Let us never forget that when we offer MFH for our deceased veteran we are offering the last token of appreciation for the service they rendered to our country. We invite all Post 27 Members to obtain the MFH Uniform and become familiar with the ceremony. The correct MFH uniform is purchased on line from Emblem Sales Catalogue. The MFH Uniform consists of; Legion Cap, Legion Long Sleeved Shirt with Uniform Tie. Items that may be purchased or are already in your closet are; Black Pants, Black Shoes, and Black Jacket worn in inclement weather. White Gloves are provided by Post 27. Please let

me know if you are interested and want to participate in this ceremony.

All Veterans are entitled to MFH consisting of rifle volley, playing of TAPS and folding of American Flag. Post 27 also offers a token of 3 shell casing for the family. Without you, Post 27 cannot operate and provide this MFH Ceremony. As members of The American Legion, we volunteer as required to meet the demands that we are asked to perform. Let us remember when we are asked to participate in Post 27 duties, 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 deceased. "IT IS AN HONOR AND A PRIVILEGE"

<u>Chaplain</u>

End of the Vietnam War



Forty-eight years ago, on January 27, 1973, the United States, South Vietnam, the Viet Cong and North Vietnam signed the Paris Peace Accords, which formally brought an end to the Vietnam War. The Paris Peace Accords, or "An Agreement Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam," brought an end to direct U.S. involvement in the war. The agreement established a cease-fire throughout Vietnam, and the United States agreed to



Steve Steed

remove all of its troops and advisors (totaling nearly 24,000) and dismantle its bases within two months. The North, in turn, agreed to release U.S. troops and other prisoners of war. The following month, in what

became known as "Operation Homecoming," North Vietnam returned more than 590 American prisoners of war, including our comrade Jay Hess.

In January 1975, President Gerald R. Ford, who became president following Richard Nixon's resignation, ruled out any further U.S. military involvement in Vietnam. In the summer of 1976, the North and South unified as the Socialist Republic of Vietnam under communist rule that continues today. By the end, 58,000 U.S. service members were killed in the Vietnam War, including more than 1,200 in Cambodia and Laos. In all, more than two million soldiers and civilians were killed in Vietnam in a generation of war.

May God grant us to honor and never forget the men and women who sacrificed so much in the service of our country.



Never interrupt an enemy when he is making a mistake.

Training & For Your Information

Post 27 Receives COVID-19 Grant



American Legion Post 27 received \$5,000 as part of the Davis CARES Business Grant Program. A Post 27 COVID-19 Team was assembled consisting of Steven Steed, Scott Done, Paula Stephenson and Frank Ferrante (a dentist, a registered nurse, a medical administrator, and finance officer). The Team met several times by Zoom to determine supplies and equipment felt most appropriate to keep our membership healthy in the performance of our volunteer activities and getting input from Post team leaders in many areas. The team developed a list, shared the list for approval by our Post 27 Executive Committee, and

proceeded to purchase items on the list to protect our Legion family members and the community when we carry out our programs (military funeral honors, flag raising and rifle salutes, public and post activities). Guidelines with the receipt of these funds stated the items must be related to COVID-19 safely protocols and purchased by December 31, 2020. Our team has completed that mission. Next step: receiving ordered supplies/equipment and organizing our storage area. We will not let COVID-19 negatively affect our business of helping our veterans, our military, and our communities any longer!

SUCCESSFUL POST 27 FOOD DRIVE!!!

The American Legion Post 27 delivered food and other needed items to the Ogden Homeless Veterans Fellowship on December 11, 2020. This organization is supported by the VA with caseworkers and counselors, has temporary housing for 13 Veterans, and supports many homeless Veterans in the area. Donated items from the Post included twin bed sheet sets, towel sets, 70 cans of food, 60 oatmeal packets, gloves, and packets that contained 2021 calendars/scratch pads/pens/everyday & holiday cards. Having no public collection point, we worked out of our garages on this project and with our local Target store (coordinated by 2nd Vice Commander Paul Hubenthal). Thanks to all for being so generous. We will do this again in six months.

HAPPINESS FOR HEROES

Looking for a way during these trying times of COVID-19 to spread encouragement, reassurance and hope to Veterans Home residents? Learn about the HAPPINESS FOR HEROES program, organized by the Utah Department of Veteran and Military Affairs. Rally your family, friends, and coworkers to send kind messages to these amazing Veterans in our four Utah Veterans Homes in Ogden, Salt Lake City, Payson, and Ivins. Go to www.veterans.utah.gov and scroll down to the HAPPINESS FOR HEROES link for more information and guidance/suggestions. Please make a difference in their lives.



HOMES FOR HEROES

An organization that has been vetted by our Utah Department of Veteran and Military Affairs is the HOMES FOR



HEROES (www.homesforheroes.com). It is the largest nationwide network of affiliate real estate, mortgage, and local business specialists, and is committed to providing easy ways for heroes to save on a home. Qualifying heroes are Firefighters, EMS, Law Enforcement, Military (Active/Reserve/Veterans), Healthcare Professionals, and Teachers. If you are considering buying, selling, or refinancing a home, they can help get it done and save you money. Most heroes save at least \$2,400 when they buy or sell a home through this organization. There is a video available through their website, and also a live chat online.

Historian

The Story Behind the Iconic Photo

This classic photo by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal of the American flag being

planted atop Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima may be the Second World War's most iconic photo. Fifty years after the picture was taken, the Associated Press wrote that it is perhaps the world's most widely reproduced.

Half of the six Marines in the photo never made it off the

Kent Hansen

island. They were killed as the fighting went on for another 30 bloody days. Among the 6,821 Americans who died in the battle were Marines Franklin Sousley, Michael Strank, and Harlon Block. Marines Harold Keller, Ira Hayes, Harold Schultz survived the battle. Rosenthal received a Pulitzer Prize for the photo in 1945.



But there is more to the story. As emblematic of the courage and determination of the American armed forces as it is, the flag in the photo was not the first one raised on that day. About two hours earlier, another smaller flag was hoisted aloft on the mountain peak (as seen on the left) but was considered too small to be seen clearly by the troops fighting below. So, a larger flag was ordered up. Joe Rosenthal followed the flag detail up the mountain with his Speed Graphic camera and, perhaps more than any person ever, was in the right place at the right time.

Ironically, Navy Pharmacist's Mate Second Class John Bradley was identified as one of the second flag raisers. In



The First Iwo Jima Flag

addition, Harold Keller was previously believed to have been Rene Gagnon. Bradley, Gagnon and the correctly identified Ira Hayes, who <u>was</u> one of the six flag raisers, were whisked away to the United States for appearances at a cross-country War Bond Drive tour. Reports from the tour indicate that at least Bradley and Hayes were very uncomfortable with their imposed celebrity. Hayes begged to return to his unit as he felt guilty for being honored while his buddies were fighting and dying. Ultimately, the powers-that-be relented and Hayes rejoined his fellow Marines. Still, he suffered from the resentment some of his comrades had for Hayes' treatment back home. Hayes' demons never left him and after returning to his Pima Tribe Reservation home in Arizona, he ultimately died a victim of alcoholism.

Though John Bradley was part of the detail that raised the first flag and was present during the second flag raising, he remained very closed-lipped about the whole thing and never spoke of it – even to his own family. Upon his death, his son, James, uncovered the story and wrote a book, *Flags of Our Fathers*, which included his belief, along with everyone else's, that his father was pictured

in the photo. In 2006, the book was made into a movie directed by Clint Eastwood. But in 2016 the Marine

Corps released results of a new investigation into the identities of those picture. The Corps determined that Bradley and Gagnon were misidentified and not the Marines in the photo. Evidence points to the probability that Bradley and Gagnon were ordered to remain silent for public relations purposes.

In war time, every GI goes where he is told to go and does what he is told to do. Few would choose to endure the nightmare of Iwo Jima nor would they want to be ripped away from their buddies for a boondoggle tour Stateside. But they obey orders and do what is expected of them, whether they like it or not. This story has some interesting twists and turns but no deceit nor sophistry by anyone involved was ever intended and every named man, as well as the thousands unnamed, can only be called heroes.

American Legion Auxiliary

Happy New Year to all of you. I would like to thank personally those who donated and participated in our collection for the Homeless Veterans Fellowship. It was a successful drive. Thank you to the Stephenson's for collecting the items at their home and coordinating everything. I am hopeful 2021 will allow us more service opportunities to our Veterans.



Marcie Mojica

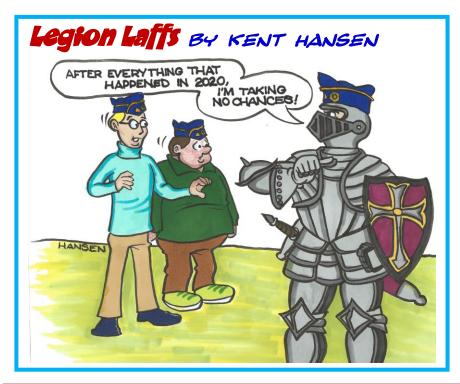
I am expecting more information on Girls State interviews soon. I will let you members know when I know how these will be handled this year.

Since it is the beginning of a new year, I thought it was a good time to remind ourselves what the American Legion Auxiliary is all about.

ALA Mission Statement

GRADUATE

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.





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

* EVERY LEGIONNAIRE SHOULD COMPLETE THIS! *

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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.

Be sure to bring a DD-214 or Discharge Certificate with you.



INSTRUCTIONS FOR JOINING THE AMERICAN LEGION GENERAL MEETINGS VIA ZOOM:

Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85933251775?pwd=SEordThvOVBoUk5Cc1lBclNJU0J1UT09

Meeting ID: 859 3325 1775 Passcode: 614202

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



Confidential crisis chat at **VeteransCrisisLine.net**or text to **838255**



Come one! Come all!



Your Community & American Legion John W. Sheets

Post 27, Farmington, Utah need you –

or at least your blood. Giving Blood is Giving Life!

- Looking for a great reason to get out of your virus-imposed isolation while providing a vital public service?
- Join your fellow Legionnaires in giving blood, plasma, or platelets.
- · The need cannot be overstated!
- Every donation reflects on our Post to our community and the National office
- It shows the John Sheets American Legion Post 27 doesn't just stop helping others even in a pandemic!
- · It is safe, vital, and a service to your community to be proud of
- Looking for location or how to schedule an appointment?
- It's just four easy steps...



Through the American Red Cross:

- 1. Go to www.redcross.org
- 2. Click on "Give Blood".
- 3. Click on "Find a Drive".
- 4. Enter zip code.

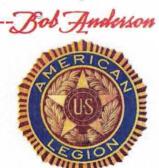


Through ARUP:

- 1. Go to www.utahblood.org
- 2. Click on "Schedule an Appointment".
- 3. Click on "Locate a Blood Drive".
- 4. Enter zip code.

If you have given before and this is nothing new; be proud, get out of your house, and keep up the effort to help your fellow man. If you have never donated, find out about donating, and give it a try. You won't regret it.

Contact: Bob Anderson, 1st Vice Commander American Legion John W. Sheets Post 27 – Farmington, UT (801) 347-8735



Legion Family Membership Coupons







American Legion Auxiliary MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Address				1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1			
City			Stat	е	ZIP		
Home Phone		-	Cell Phone		Email Address		
1	1	☐ Birth - 17	☐ 18 and over 27		Farmington, UT		
Date of Birth (R	equired)			Unit #	Location		
Have you been	a member previously	/? 🔲 Yes	☐ No (If yes, fill in	below.)			
Previous Unit City/State					ALA ID # (if known)		
					1		
Signature of Applicant (or legal guardian if under 18)					Date		

American L	agian Mambar ID #					
	agian Mambar ID #					
Descend Hystore	egion wember iD#	Post #		City		State
	n is deceased, contact A Discharge Papers: www					
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Male Spouse	nship to the Veteran: Female Spouse Granddaughter	☐ Mother	☐ Grandmother	Sister	☐ Self	
	The American Legi amed individual served a bly.			ne dates marked abov	e and was hor	norably discharged
				1	1	





