

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

July 2014

STILL SERVING AMERICA

www.post27.org

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Welcome to the new Department of Utah Commander



**Commander,
Department of Utah
Paula Stephenson**

We have always known what a force of nature she is but now everyone else will, too. Hearty congratulations to Post 27's own and the new **Commander of The American Legion Department of Utah Paula Stephenson!** The conventioners came to their feet in resounding support for Utah's first female commander. But in a larger sense, Paula is not unique because she is a woman but rather because she is a singularly gifted leader, an inspiring patriot and first, last and always a Legionnaire. The coming year is bound to be exciting with new growth, greater community outreach, increased Legionnaire involvement and a whole lot of fun.



Kent Hansen
involvement and a

We, in Post 27, have had the privilege of having Paula as our Post Commander, and, as such, she has blazed numerous new trails while exciting all of us with her dedication, enthusiasm, organization and commitment. She has made all of us better and we couldn't be prouder of her.

Much of Paula's success can be attributed to her ever-faithful Aide-de-Camp, her husband, Chuck. By happy circumstance, Chuck Stephenson was elected the new Area 1 Commander, succeeding our own legendary John Sheets. We could not be in better hands. Not only is he a proven leader but he is also a graduate of the Legion College. If The American Legion is to continue to be a powerful and vital advocate for veterans, these are the sort of people we need to make that happen.

Please join me in rendering a heart-felt salute to these two friends, leaders, patriots and fellow Legionnaires.

1ST VICE COMMANDER



Frank Ferrante

July is one of my favorite months, when we celebrate the birth of our great country. My love for the month of July and this great country started when I was growing up in Boston. I am the youngest of five children and my sister, who was the oldest sibling, had been a great influence in my life. On many occasions she would take me to the various museums and historical landmarks in and around Boston, educating me on this country and the freedom we enjoy. On the 4th of July, and as long as I can remember, she would take me to the Esplanade on the Charles River to hear the Boston Pops play patriotic music, such as John Philip Sousa's marches and always concluded with the 1812 Overture by Tchaikovsky with the sounds and sights of cannon fire, ringing chimes and fireworks. You could feel the patriotic spirit of the crowd. July was also the middle of the major league baseball seasons, and we would enjoy going to an afternoon baseball games to see the Boston Red Sox play, and the greatest hitter of all time and a Marine, Ted Williams. He was my hero and because of him I joined the Marine Corps.

Finally and most important, let us not forget the 56 delegates, called Founding Fathers of our country, that signed the Declaration of Independence. They signed this historical document knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured by the British. They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. God Bless the USA!!

Flag Etiquette July 2014 – When flown with the flags of other states, communities, or societies on separate flag poles which are the same height and in a straight line, the flag of the United States is always placed in the position of honor – to its own right.

The other flags may be smaller but none may be larger.

No other flag should ever be placed above it.

The flag of the United States is always the first to be raised and the last to be lowered.

Congratulations to our own Paula Stephenson who was recently voted in, by acclamation, as the new Commander, American Legion, Department of Utah. For me personally, it was refreshing to see a woman veteran and person of the “younger generation” to take the helm of the Department. Hang on for the ride!!

2ND VICE COMMANDER

This year our 4th was spent in Leeds Utah, because of deadlines on our restoration project and car problems. We were not able to be with the Post in the Kaysville ceremonies, but it gave us a chance to see a small town celebration. Main Street was lined with flags by the Boy Scouts long before residents were waking up. Next they had a flag raising ceremony at 0700 followed by 2 races: one a mile the other a 1.5K, with mostly the youth participating. The townspeople were gathering in the city park, visiting and welcoming new people in town. A great breakfast was cooked by the fire department after the race.



Kenneth Hadley

The Mayor came and had breakfast with us and he talked about our project and what it is going to mean to the town. We are happy that our restoration is accepted and approved by townspeople we have met.



The rest of the day was taken up with talent shows, games, neighbor visiting neighbor—even a family reunion—and at 1900 a light dinner was cooked once again by the fire department. Miss Leeds and her two attendants were there to greet people and take part in the talent show. Lots of entertainment during dinner. Then the pavilion was turned into a dance floor mainly for the kids and youth until just before the fireworks. We all stood at attention with our hands over our hearts while the National Anthem was sung. The whole park was filled as the townspeople all gathered together in families to watch the great fireworks “bombs bursting in air gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.” How great it is to be

an American, to know that in all the towns great or small Americans gather together to celebrate the founding of this free country. GOD BLESS AMERICA!!! Semper Fi!

ADJUTANT



Membership. There is excitement in the air. Post 27 is growing and becoming stronger and more relevant than ever. Thus far for Membership Year 2014 we have welcomed 13 new members to the Post. What a great time to be a Legionnaire and a member of Post 27 – **The Post with American Legion Heart!** Paula tells me all too often that I’m a glass half-empty kind of a guy. I’ve come to realize that I’m not necessarily a glass half-empty guy as much as a guy who wants it ALL! I feel so, so good about all the new members in the Post, as well as all of my comrades who have renewed – but feel a little sad about the handful of members that did not renew and wonder if we could not have done more to convince them to stay.

Chuck Stephenson

July 1st marks the first day that a Legionnaire may renew for 2015. We already have one new member for 2015 and Finance Officer John Sheets has sent me three emails listing many of you that have already submitted your renewal dues for 2015. I will be getting out your “Early Bird” Membership Cards to you this next week. I salute you!!



Incoming Commander Paula Stephenson accepts the "Gavel" from Past Commander Randy Edwards at the Department Convention (June 29, 2014).

MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

I wish to issue this Membership Challenge. In honor of our own Paula Stephenson becoming Department of Utah Commander for 2014/2015 I challenge ALL Post members to renew at the earliest opportunity. Please support her and the Department of Utah in their Membership Goals for 2015.

WHAT A TRIBUTE IT WOULD BE TO BECOME THE 1ST POST IN THE STATE TO REACH 100%.

REMEMBER – MEMBERSHIP IS OUR LIFEblood AND IS EVERYONE’S RESPONSIBILITY!

TAPS

Long-time member of Post 27, Comrade William Haugen (42 Continuous Years with The American Legion) passed to Post Everlasting on the 2nd of July 2014. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones. The funeral for Comrade Haugen was on July 7, 2014 in Farmington. Post 27 provided full Military Honors.

Sons of The American Legion. Squadron 27 picked up one new member at this year’s Utah Boys State. Zachary “Omar” Reichert is our newest S.A.L. Member. “Omar” attended Boys State a few years back and has returned each year since as a Counselor. Welcome!! REMINDER - Squadron 27’s Annual Membership Dues for 2015 will increase from \$7.50 to \$10. The entire amount is forwarded to Detachment of Utah. Any male descendent of an eligible Legionnaire is eligible to become a member of the Sons of the American Legion.

Department of Utah Belt Buckles. The William E. “Bill” Christoffersen “BIG BEE” 50 Years Commemorative Belt Buckles are available for purchase. **There are only 15 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

Here we are 1/3 on Post 27 Summer Activities are completed. Thanks to all for your dedication and service to the post, without your involvement, the service to the community and Funeral Honors for our fallen comrades would not be possible.

The remainder of the month is filled with activities: July 12, Farmington Festival Day Parade, July 23, Bountiful Handcart Days Parade. We encourage all to mark your calendar and be available; we will discuss both activities at the upcoming Post 27 Meeting Thursday July 10th at 6:30pm. Please be in attendance so we can communicate the information (time, uniforms, staging area, etc.) to all.



David Layton

As a reminder, we are going to have the Flag Retirement Ceremony in conjunction with the Davis County Fair, August 14th. Now is the time to start collecting “American Flags” from your family and neighbors to be honorably retired at this ceremony.

All events we provide to community and Military Funeral Honors require some physical activity, 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 Funeral Honors for the fallen.

CHAPLAIN



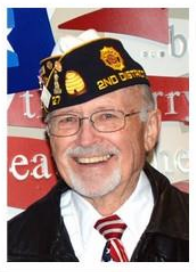
Golden Barton

Utah and Farmington bid farewell to one of our truly great men who was buried near the flag of his country he served during World War II as a Chaplain. A kind and gentle man with a heart of gold. He served as a spiritual giant to thousands of men and women who grew to respect him as a friend, Bishop, advocate, and example. I speak of **Milton J. Hess**, who almost reached 100 years before leaving the world he enriched with his service and humility. Farmington and Davis County will forever be better for having been blessed with his presence. It is such men who have made America an ensign of hope to all nations. A country where freedom and liberty are celebrated on the 4th of July by all of us who have served God and Country at the side of true patriots such as our friend Milton J. Hess. May he forever be remembered as a true and dedicated warrior for American peace and good will toward all men. Amen.



Milton J. Hess

FINANCE OFFICER



John Sheets

Comrades: We have just completed elections for our post and over the weekend the Department of Utah elections. I am proud to report that Post 27, the little Post that does, for the first time in history elected a member of the Post to the high office of Department Commander and in addition that person is a lady Legionnaire first class, Paula Stephenson. Her nomination was made by Past Department Commander Glenn Bradford and seconded by too many to count. Her election was by acclamation. Commander Hansen, Franks Lennartz and Ferrante and I held a rousing demonstration with signs and flags to celebrate the event.

In addition, Charles "Chuck" Stephenson was nominated by myself and also elected by acclamation as Area I Commander which is also a Vice Commander in the Department, Chuck now gets all the vice, poor Paula, no more vice.

The Post Honor Guard participated in six Military Funeral Honors during June, which is one of the most sacred honors we can offer to our departed comrades and their families.

POW/MIA News

WWII POW and Olympian Louis Zamperini dies at 97

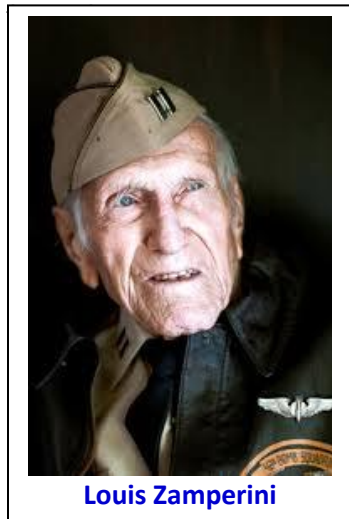
Seventy years ago, the world was convinced that Louis Zamperini was dead. There had been no word of the track star and former Olympian since his World War II bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean. The military told his parents he was dead, and an annual collegiate track competition named one of its races in his memory. But Zamperini was alive, and very much so. After surviving 47 days in a life raft in shark-infested waters and enduring two years as a Japanese prisoner of war, Zamperini was liberated in time to attend the second running of the invitational mile that had been named in his memory. It was a story



Jay C. Hess

man who lived a life on the edge of endurance, an ordinary man who did extraordinary things – all while sustained by a hope and strength that at times seemed superhuman.

Zamperini, a war hero, Olympian and the subject of a celebrated book and upcoming movie on his harrowing story of survival against all odds, died after a long battle with pneumonia, his family said Thursday in a statement. He was 97. Zamperini outlived almost all of those who watched him weave his way through his remarkable life, but the outpouring from those who came to know and love the man in his later years was as immediate and intense as the life he lived. Lauren Hillenbrand, the author of the best-selling book "**Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption,**" said over countless hours of interviews Zamperini became a surrogate grandfather and beloved friend who helped her cope with her own debilitating illness, chronic fatigue syndrome.



Louis Zamperini

HISTORIAN



Kent Hansen

The History of the Sea Cadets

In 1958, the Department of Navy requested the Navy League of the United States develop an organization to promote maritime education in America's youth. Their response was the founding of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps. On September 10, 1962, the U.S. Congress federally chartered the Naval Sea Cadet Corps under Public Law 87-655 as a non-profit civilian youth training organization for young people, ages 13 through 17. A National Board of Directors establishes NSCC policy and guidance for the administration and operation of the Cadet Corps programs. The National Chairman of the NSCC is a National Officer of the Navy League of the United States, and serves on its Steering Committee.

The National President of the NSCC serves as the Vice Chairman of the NSCC Board of Directors, and assists the National Chairman in overseeing the functions of the NSCC and NLCC. Day-to-day administration of the programs is accomplished by a full-time Executive Director and small staff in Arlington, Virginia. These professionals work with volunteer Regional Directors, unit commanding officers, and local sponsors. They also collaborate with Navy League councils and other civic, or patriotic organizations, and with local school systems.

The annual fee for cadets in 1959 was only \$2.43 (\$1 for registration, \$1 for insurance and 43 cents for their insignia). Shortly thereafter, the program received congressional support and became a federally chartered, non-profit civilian organization for the expressed purpose "to encourage and aid American boys to develop an interest and skill in basic seamanship and in its naval adaptations, to train them in seagoing skills and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred virtues.

The Sea Cadets hold a steady history as a progressive organization. For example, the NSCC opened its doors to female cadets in 1974 who began attending Sea Cadet boot camp with their male counterparts the following summer. That same decade saw the formation of the first Seabee cadet unit. The 1970s was also a period where the NSCC expanded to include an exchange program with sea cadet programs in Canada and Bermuda.

The Jake Garn Squadron, that drills at Hill Air Force Base, focuses on naval aviation. The squadron is commanded by Courtney Putnam and is sponsored by American Legion Post 27. Courtney is now a member of Post 27. The Squadron is in need of adult support so if you can provide some, get in touch with one of the Post officers and we'll get you more information.



Courtney Putnam

LEGION LAFFS



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **July 4 – Independence Day.** *Fly the flag!* Kaysville Flag Raising ceremony, 8 am, Kaysville Parade, 11 am
- **July 10 -- Post 27 Meeting,** 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
- **July 12 – Farmington Festival Days Parade.** 10:00 am
- **July 23 – Bountiful Handcart Days Parade** with American Legion float, 6:00 pm.
- **July 24 – Pioneer Day.** *Fly the flag!*
- **August 7 -- Post 27 Meeting,** 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
Date change because of Flag Retirement Ceremony.
- **August 14 – Flag Retirement Ceremony.** Approximately 8:30 pm, Outdoor Arena, Davis County Fairgrounds. Admission is free.



FROM THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

It is a tremendous honor to be elected as the American Legion Department of Utah Commander for 2014-2015. Representing more than 7,000 Legionnaires within Utah seems overwhelming. However, after 33+ years in the Army, I know a commander does not do the mission alone. There are still approximately 165,000 Veterans in Utah we need to support. I ran the election as a Veteran and was elected without any hesitation. Yes, history was made in Utah with a Lady Legionnaire being the first woman commander for our Department. Many other state departments have come before. We will continue to move forward in positive ways, including the election of capable Veterans to lead Posts, Districts, Areas, and key staff positions at the Department level, both male and female Veterans. Teamwork and wanting to make a difference in our Posts, communities and state will move us forward in our "missions" with veterans advocacy and rehabilitation, Americanism within our communities, our children and youth, and national security. Each member and Post has a "niche mission." Be proud of doing it well and being a "Warrior Still Serving." Thank You all for what you do and for being a member of The American Legion.



**Paula Stephenson
Commander
Dept. of Utah**



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.

