



The American Legion



Post 27

Squadron 27

Unit 27

Newsletter

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

July 2017

Still Serving America

www.post27.org



Kent Hansen

Commander's Corner

OUR NATION'S BIRTHDAY HAS AN INTERESTING HISTORY

With Independence Day upon us, I thought it might be fun to recall 13 of the lesser known facts about our nation in its infancy.

1. Congress made Independence Day an official unpaid holiday for federal employees in 1870. In 1938, Congress changed Independence Day to a paid federal holiday.
2. Only John Hancock actually signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. All the others signed later.
3. The Declaration of Independence was signed by 56 men from

the 13 original colonies.

4. The average age of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence was 45. The youngest was Thomas Lynch, Jr (27) of South Carolina. The oldest delegate was Benjamin Franklin (70) of Pennsylvania. The lead author of The Declaration, Thomas Jefferson, was 33.

5. The only two signers of the Declaration of Independence who later served as President of the United States were John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.

6. The stars on the original American flag were in a circle so all the Colonies would appear equal.

7. The first Independence Day celebration took place in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776. This was also the day that the Declaration of Independence was first read in public after people were summoned by the ringing of the Liberty Bell.

8. President John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe all died on the Fourth. Adams and Jefferson (both signed the Declaration) died on the same day within hours of each other in 1826.

9. Benjamin Franklin proposed the turkey as the national bird but was overruled by John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, who recommended the bald eagle.

10. The most common patriotic-sounding word used within place names is "union" with 136. Pennsylvania, with 33, has more of these places than any other state. Other words most commonly used in place names are Washington (127), Franklin (118), Jackson (96) and Lincoln (95).

11. Every 4th of July the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia is tapped (not actually rung) thirteen times in honor of the original thirteen colonies.

12. Traditions place the origins of "Yankee Doodle" as a pre-Revolutionary War song originally sung by British military officers to mock the disheveled, disorganized colonial "Yankees" with whom they served in the French and Indian War. It is believed that the tune comes from the nursery rhyme Lucy Locket. One version of the Yankee Doodle lyrics is "generally attributed" to Doctor Richard Shuckburgh, a British Army surgeon.

13. The tune of the National Anthem was originally used by an English drinking song called "to Anacreon in Heaven." The words have nothing to do with consumption of alcohol but the "melody that Francis Key had in mind when he wrote those words did originate decades earlier as the melody for a song praise of wine."

Post 27 Programs & Activities

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

Veterans Still Serving!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

July 4 – Independence Day. *Fly the flag!*

July 4 – Flag Raising. DATC Kaysville, 7:00 am.

July 8 – **Farmington Festival Days**, 9:00 am. Post 27 Information Booth, Forbush Park, 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

July 13 -- **Post 27 meeting**, 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.

July 13 – **Unit 27 Auxiliary meeting**. 6:00 pm, Room 114, Davis County Memorial Courthouse.

July 21 – **Bountiful Handcart Days Parade**, 5:00 pm.

July 24 – **Pioneer Day**. *Fly the flag!*

All times are "arrive by" times.

Aug. 3 – **SAL meeting**. 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.

Aug. 10 -- **Post 27 meeting**, 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.

Aug. 10 – **Unit 27 Auxiliary meeting**. 6:00 pm, Room 114, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.

Aug. 11-13 – **SAL Campout, LaSal.**

Aug. 17 – **5th Annual Flag Retirement & Military Tribute**, 7:00 pm, Davis County Fairgrounds.

For more information on riding with us on a float or helping in the Information Booth, call Kent Hansen at 801-292-3055.

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 which

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 – 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.

Reminder, 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. Invite a potential member to our meetings.



2nd Vice Commander

Most of us have heard the term “NEF”, but have no idea what it is all about. Wanting to know more, I went to the American Legion Officers Guide. I thought it was important for all of us to know more about this critical American Legion Program.

National Emergency Fund (NEF)

The National Emergency Fund program is one of the best examples of “veterans helping veterans” through the American Legion. Since the NEF was re-established in 1989, the no-strings- attached disaster relief program has provided more than \$9 million in direct financial assistance to thousands of Legionnaires and their families recovering from declared natural disasters. Every post officer should understand how to prepare for disasters so that your post can provide immediate and responsive care to members affected.



Ron Craig



Eligibility

There are no premiums to pay into the NEF program. Rather, grants are made to Legionnaires, SAL members and posts in need. The only requirements on their behalf are:

- Must be a current-year paid member of The American Legion or SAL
- Must be a member in good standing with their post or squadron
- Must have been a current member prior to the date of disaster

Only one grant per household can be considered. The NEF does not cover damages to automobiles, outbuildings (such as sheds and barns), and apartments or businesses. Nor are NEF grants to take the place of, or supplement, insurance compensation. They are intended solely to assist members if they lose, or are displaced

from, their primary homes due to a declared natural disaster. Subsequently, incidents stemming from accidental fires in the home or faulty structural damages do not fall within the confines of the NEF. Posts are eligible to receive grants from this fund, if damaged by declared natural disaster. The application must be supported by substantiating documentation that the post will cease to perform programs and activities in the community due to losses sustained.

How to apply

NEF grant applications may be obtained from department headquarters or National Headquarters at (317) 630-1330, or online at www.legion.org/emergency. The turnaround time for a grant depends on how soon the completed application is received at National Headquarters in Indianapolis.

At the very minimum, the NEF application should include:

- Copies of lodging, food, gas, clothing receipts
- Copies of estimates of damage
- Photographs of the damage
- Description of loss
- List of out-of-pocket expenses incurred as a result of displacement from primary residence

Failure to include this information could delay the grant. Supporting documentation cannot be returned. Once the grant application is completed, it must be forwarded to department headquarters, where it is reviewed and damages are assessed. The department commander and adjutant determine the grant amount, which is not to exceed \$3,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for posts. They sign the application and forward it to National Headquarters, which makes final approval. National Headquarters issues a check to the member or post and forwards it to department headquarters for distribution. All contributions made to the NEF are distributed directly to the Legionnaire or SAL member in need. There are no administrative or fulfillment costs. To learn how to donate, visit www.legion.org/emergency.



The American Legion Post 27 Newsletter



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

Editor: Kent Hansen

Please have your submissions in by the last week of the month previous to publication.

Submit to:

kenthansen7@gmail.com

Adjutant

Membership is Our Lifeblood



Dale Crockett

Membership. Statistics are membership numbers through 1 July 2017.

2017 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2017 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
100	11	41	35	4	5	96	96%

I have completed another wonderful American Legion Boys State class as a lead counselor for Stephenson City. I supervised 24 young men who were the best of the best from schools all over the state of Utah. For those who have not had an opportunity to be a volunteer for the week of Boys State, you are missing out of one of the greatest events that you could ever participate in. It's that Great. Let me tell a little about it. We had a total of 232 high school boys participate. The boys received three college credits of political science at Weber State University. We had a staff of 66 volunteers including nine law enforcement officers and a fire service officer. We had great speakers all week that included Governor Gary Herbert, National Commander of the American Legion Charles Schmidt, Commander of the Utah American Legion Charles Stephenson, Congressman Rob Bishop, 442nd Regiment WWII Veteran Casey Kunimura, many judges, attorneys, mayors, FBI, Chiefs of Police, Veterans, and many more. One hundred eighty one scholarships were awarded amounting to a value of \$1,450,600. The boys learned how to engage in their communities through volunteerism, public service, self-government and responsible citizenship, learning the importance of our nation's Flag, respect of our veterans, and the principles of Justice, Freedom, and Democracy. I believe I took a few of those lessons home with me. It is just a very satisfying experience that you can also have. Just let us know your wishes.



Our 2018 membership season will begin on July 1, 2017, so get your new membership cards NOW by going on-line or sending \$35 to our post office box (see below). Our 2017 membership season has come to an end. \$35 annual membership dues are past due now for the 2017 membership year. We did not quite reach our 100% goal. Those who have not paid may soon have our newsletter discontinued. We would like those who have not paid to still consider renewing. To keep your continuous membership intact, you will need to renew now. **If you are not planning to renew with us**, please let me know so I will not continue to send you emails or letters. You can send it to our Post: P.O. Box 427, Farmington, UT 84025-0427. An even easier option is to go to 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 Home (801) 451-9493 / Cell (801) 560-2186 or email dalecrockett@yahoo.com.**

Sons of the American Legion



Dave Parker
Squadron 27
Commander

The Sons of the American Legion offers recognition plans to those who epitomize qualities such as patriotism and citizenship. The most well-known programs are the Ten Ideals and the Five Points program of service:

The Ten Ideals: This award of recognition may be presented to SAL members who have completed the Ten Ideals programs. The Ten ideals are: Patriotism, health, knowledge, training, honor, faith, helpfulness, courtesy, reverence and comradeship.

The Five Star award: This award can be presented to SAL members who show perfection in the Five Point program of service. The award is a gold plated metal bearing the SAL emblem, and the symbol is of the Five Points.

The Five Points are:

Patriotism: love of flag; love of country

Citizenship: individual obligations of citizenship

Discipline: respect for and obedience to rules

Leadership: participation in group activities

Legionism: knowledge of the American Legion

Detailed information on the Ten Ideals and the Five Point program can be found in the **Squadron Handbook of Sons of The American Legion**.



American Legion Auxiliary



June was an amazing month for our Auxiliary Unit! We welcome **Leslie Hefner** as our Secretary to take Ann's place...which is a spot we know cannot be filled and we are grateful to Leslie for accepting this assignment! We spoke in our June meeting of how fun it was to have Ann with us at our April meeting and just how spoiled we were with her amazing rolls! Ann was a delight to our Unit and there will always be a place in our hearts for this dear lady. We miss our Ann!



Deb Hefner
Unit 27
President



Girls State was the best! **Kylee Madsen** of NUAMES was presiding as governor and she was by far, the favorite of the girls! She called them her "little nuggets", which by the end of the week turned into her "golden nuggets". There were 355 girls and Weber State awarded \$1.7 million in scholarships! We are so proud of all the girls who attended and know that this experience changed their lives!

Boys State was also amazing! Our newly elected Governor and Lieutenant Governor are from our Post!! **Brock Lagucki** and **Daniel Barack** will do a fabulous job! It was so humbling to be in the presence of these young men! Reading the essays at both Boys State and Girls State---I came away with the feeling that these programs are absolutely the best way for our young people to gain a greater appreciation of our country, patriotism, and how blessed we are by God!



POW/MIA News

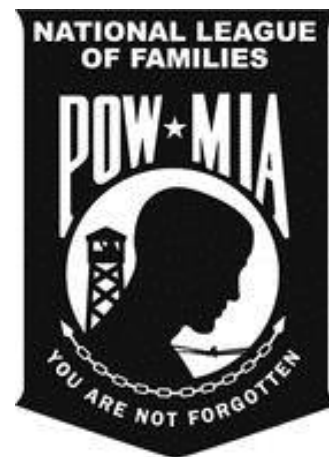
HOW THE POW FLAG CAME TO BE



Jay C. Hess

You see it everywhere—the stark, black-and-white POW/MIA flag. It has become an icon of American culture, a representation of the nation’s concern for military service personnel missing and unaccounted for in overseas wars.

From the Revolution to the Korean War, thousands of U.S. soldiers, Marines, airmen and sailors have been taken prisoner or gone missing. But it took the Vietnam War—and a sense of abandonment felt by wives and family members of Americans held captive—to bring forth what has evolved into the nation’s POW/MIA symbol.



Air attacks on North Vietnam began in August 1964. Navy Pilot Everett Alvarez became the first POW in the North. Navy Commander James Stockdale’s A-4 went down in September 1965. He became the highest ranking POW in North Vietnam and his wife, Sybil Stockdale, one of the organizers (June 1969) of the National League of Families of American Prisoner and Missing in Southeast Asia. Its mission was to spread awareness of the mistreatment of prisoners of war at the hands of their captors.

In 1971, League member Mary Hoff recognized the need for a symbol to create awareness of the POW/MIA issues. Her husband, Navy pilot Lt. Cmdr. Michael Hoff, had been missing in action in Laos since January 7, 1970. An article in the Jacksonville, Florida, Times-Union about a banner being created for the Peoples’ Republic of China, the newest member of United Nations prompted her to contact the country’s oldest and largest flag-maker, Annin Flag makers of Verona, N.J.

She then explained everything Annin president, Randy Beard. There was no hesitation. He just said: ‘Absolutely. We would be honored.’” The job of designing the banner was given to Annin’s small advertising agency, Hayden Advertising, where the task was assigned to graphic artist Newton F. Heisley. After getting the POW/MIA banner assignment, Heisley sat down at his drawing table and sketched three designs. The one he chose had an image of a gaunt man in profile, with a guard tower and a strand of barbed wire in the background—the design that we recognize today. Heisley modeled the flag’s silhouette on his 24-year-old son, Jeffrey, who was on leave from the Marines and looking gaunt while getting over hepatitis. Heisley’s inspiration for the words that are stitched on the banner, “You are not forgotten” came from memories of piloting planes on long flights across the South Pacific during WW II with the possibility of being taken prisoner and being forgotten. The original POW/MIA banner was donated to the National POW Museum at by Mrs. Hoff in 2011. For years it hung on her front door. It soon became apparent to the League that a flag would be useful than a banner.

It took nearly a decade, but the POW/MIA flag began getting attention in a big way in the early 1980s. In 1982 it became the only flag, other than the Stars and Stripes, to fly over the White House, after it was first displayed there on POW/MIA Recognition Day. In 1989 that flag was installed in the Capitol Rotunda. It also has the distinction, historians and flag experts believe, of being the only non-national flag that any federal government anywhere in the world has mandated to be flown regularly. . On August 10, 1990, the 101st Congress passed U.S. Public Law 101-355, which recognized the League’s POW/MIA flag and designated it “as the symbol of our Nation’s concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, thus ending the uncertainty for their families and the Nation”. That law also designated the third Friday of September as National POW/MIA Recognition Day.



In 1998, Section 1082 of the Defense Authorization Act—codified as Title 36, Section 902 of the U.S. Code—mandated that the POW/MIA flag be flown over the Capitol, the White House, the Korean and Vietnam Veterans Memorials, the offices of the secretaries of State, Defense and Veterans Affairs, of the Selective Service System, and on the grounds or in the lobbies of every major military installation, every post office and all VA Medical Centers and national cemeteries on six days: POW/MIA Recognition Day, Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Fourth of July and Veterans Day.

Adapted from an article first published in the June 2012 issue of Vietnam Magazine and found online at <http://www.historynet.com/the-story-of-the-powmia-flag.htm> authored by Marc Leepson, arts editor and senior writer for The VVA Veteran.



Take advantage of our 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 the Veterans Service Office at 801-326-2370 or 801-326-2372.

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

Jake Garn Sea Cadet Squadron

The Jake Garn Squadron mixed-up the drill schedule for the month of June. Drill was split between two weekends to support a charitable event called Coats For Kids, which is sponsored by the Bountiful Rotary Club. The first weekend was a Saturday drill and the cadets watched a Recruit Training orientation video and has a dress whites inspection. The second weekend was held in Bountiful and consisted of assisting vendors with their booths, and a formal flag raising to honor veterans. An American flag was parachuted to the park and delivered to the cadet color guard to be hoisted at the main flag pole. This included a silent and solemn marching of the flag, raising of the flag, singing of the national anthem and saying the Pledge of Allegiance. The ceremony was followed by a few short remarks by LT(jg) Courtney Putnam regarding the importance and value of our veteran population. "You may, right now, be standing next to a veteran and not even know it. Not all veterans talk about their experiences, but they are no less important than those who proudly display their service. Today we honor our veterans for the sacrifices they made to keep this country free. If it were not for them, the place where you stand today could be very much different and certainly less free."



Courtney Putnam
Commanding Officer



Legion Laffs



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Post website at
www.post27.org.

