

The American Legion Centennial Post



July 2018

The Official Newsletter of Post 27 ★ Squadron 27 ★ Unit 27

www.post27.org

Post 27 Programs & Activities

- Flag Education
- High School Constitution Oratorical Scholarship 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
- DTC-Davis Tech 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 charities support



Commander's Corner

BLESSED BY THE LAND I LOVE

Years ago, I read a book titled *MiG PILOT* by John Barron. It was the co-authored autobiography of Viktor Belenko, is a former Soviet pilot who defected to the West while flying his MiG-25 'Foxbat' jet fighter and landed in Hakodate, Japan. I have often thought that every American should read this book. George H. W. Bush, then Director of Central Intelligence, called the opportunity to examine the plane up close an "intelligence bonanza" for the West. Belenko later became a U.S. aerospace engineer. The following is an excerpt from that book. Italics indicate the private thoughts of Belenko as he contemplates what he is seeing on his first tour of America .



Kent Hansen



Soviet Lieutenant Viktor Belenko

The pair escorting Belenko stopped at a shopping center on the outskirts of a small Virginia town and headed toward a clothing store, but Belenko insisted on inspecting a supermarket on the way. He noticed first the smell, or rather, the absence of smell; then he explored and stared in ever-widening wonder. *Mountains of fruit and fresh vegetables; a long bin of sausages, frankfurters, wursts, salami, bologna, cold cuts; an equally long shelf of cheeses, 30 or 40 different varieties; milk, butter, eggs, more than he had ever seen in any one place; the meat counter, at least 20 meters long, with virtually every kind of meat in the world-wrapped so you could take it in your hand, examine, and choose or not; labeled and graded as to quality. A date stamped on the package to warn when it would begin to spoil! And hams and chickens and turkeys! Cans and packages of almost everything edible with pictures showing their contents and labels reciting their contents. Long aisles of frozen foods, again with pictures on the packages. And juices, every kind of juice. Soaps and paper products and toiletries and much else that he did not recognize. [Soft drinks such as Cola!] American, German, Dutch, Danish, Australian, Mexican, Canadian [foods all ready to be eaten.] Nobody doled any of this out. You picked it out for yourself and put it in fancy, clear little bags and then in a big, expensive cart. It was all just there for anybody to take [to the check-out stand, pay for and take home]...*

Never had Belenko been in a closed market selling meat or produce that did not smell of spoilage, of unwashed bins and counters, of decaying, unswept remnants of food. Never had he been in a market offering anything desirable that was not crowded inside, with lines waiting outside. Always he had been told that the masses of exploited [U.S. Citizen] lived in the shadow of hunger and that pockets of near starvation were widespread, and he had seen

photographs that seemed to demonstrate that. If this were a real store, a woman in less than an hour could buy enough food in just this one place to feed a whole family for two weeks.

But where are the people, the crowds, the lines? Ah, that proves it. This is not a real store, The people can't afford it. If they could, everybody would be here. It's a showplace of the Dark Forces. But what do they do with all the meat, fruit and vegetables, milk, and everything else that they can't keep here all the time? They must take it away for themselves every few nights and replace it. As his handlers steered him back toward the clothing store, Belenko bolted into a shop offering televisions, stereos, radios, and calculators. Several color television sets were tuned to different channels, and the brilliance and clarity of the hues as well as the diversity of the programs amazed him. So did a hand-held calculator and the technology it implied. But he was not fooled. A color television set in the [his country] cost a worker approximately five months' wages, and because of difficulties with transistors and solid-state circuitry, the quality was poor. *Obviously this was another showplace of the Dark Forces packed with merchandise affordable only by the exceedingly rich.*



He had to appraise the clothing store only a minute or so to realize that it also was a fake. Here were perhaps 300 suits, along with sports jackets, overcoats, raincoats hanging openly on racks, piles of trousers and shirts lying openly on counters, ties within the reach of anybody passing; even the shoes were out in the open--and all this was guarded by only a few clerks. Peter found a section containing perhaps 25 suits Belenko's size and started taking them from the rack for him to examine. They know him here, and that's why he can do that. The three-piece flannel suit he selected at the advice of Peter required slight alterations, and the salesman suggested they could be made within half an hour if they had other shopping. *More evidence. Who else but the Dark Forces could command such service?* The purchased shirts, ties, underwear, socks, a warm-up suit and tennis shoes for jogging, a blazer, a raincoat with zip-out lining, and the finest pair of shoes Belenko has ever seen.

All of Belenko's suspicions about the true nature of the shopping center were fully and finally validated when he saw a service station on the corner. Three cars, all, as it happened, driven by women, were being fueled at the same time, a boy was cleaning the windshield of one car, and there were no lines. In Belenko's past life, gasoline outlets were so scarce that a wait of four or five hours for fuel was ordinary.

"I congratulate you," Belenko said enroute back to the mansion. *"That was a spectacular show you put on for me."* "What do you mean?" *"I mean that place; it's like one of our show kolkhozes where [our government] takes foreigners."* ["Belenko], I give you my word that what you've just seen is a common, typical shopping center. There are tens of thousands of them all over [the U.S.A.]. Anywhere you go in the United States, north, south, east, west, you will see pretty much the same. Many of the shopping centers in the suburbs of our cities are bigger and fancier and nicer."

Can the average American worker buy what we saw there? Can he buy a color television set? "Yes; if he's willing to pay more than for a black-and-white set, he can...more families have color sets than not. It's nothing to own a color television. But look, don't take my word. Wait until you travel around and see for yourself." *Why argue with him? That's his job. The Dark Forces, they are not stupid. They would not tell me I could see anywhere what I saw today unless that is true--or unless they intend to imprison me or kill me. But if they're going to kill me or imprison me, what do they care what I think? I don't know. It can't be true. But if it is true, if what I saw is everywhere, then something is very right here.*

This quality of life did not come easily. It was initiated by revolution and paid for with the blood of our citizens. Amid the hot dogs, parades and fireworks of this Independence Day, look around at the amply-stocked stores, the ball parks filled with happy children, the state lines that require no passport, the magnificent mountains, the verdant forests, the fields of grain. Listen to our music, watch our movies and TV shows, and hear the voiced opinions on all sides of every issue that would get you imprisoned or executed in other countries. For 242 years, Americans have blazed their own trails and written their own destinies. The benefits of American living are so numerous that we don't even think about them. Some of us complain that we don't have enough of them. But all in all, we Americans enjoy the greatest quality of life in the world. Let's make this Independence Day a day of gratitude to the nation that encourages our dreams and provides means to realize them. **God bless America!**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

July 4 – Independence Day. *Fly the flag!*
July 4 – Kaysville Flag Raising at DATC by Post 27, 7:30 am, breakfast 6:30-9:30 am, Parade 10:00 am.
July 5 – SAL Squadron meeting. 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
July 12 – American Legion Auxiliary meeting. 6:00 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 114.
July 12 – Post 27 General Meeting. 6:30pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
July 14 – Farmington Festival Days Parade. 10:00 am.
July 14 – Vietnam Veterans Memorial. 4:00 pm, Layton Commons Park.

Aug. 2 – SAL Squadron meeting. 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
Aug. 9 – American Legion Auxiliary meeting. 6:00 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 114.
Aug. 9 – Post 27 General Meeting. 6:30pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
Aug. 16 – 6th Annual Flag Retirement & Military Tribute. 7:30 pm, North Outdoor Arena, Davis County Fairgrounds. *Bring your old and unserviceable flags. This event is **FREE** to the public.*

1st Vice Commander



Ron Jugenitz

Summer began on 21 June and the very successful Girls and Boys State are complete for another year. More than \$1.8 million in scholarships were awarded to members of Boys State; I haven't the amount for Girls State.

The 4th of July is nearly upon us. To begin Independence Day, Post 27 will have the honor of raising the flag at DATC at 8:00 am. This is during the annual 4th of July breakfast held at DATC. All participating in the flag raising ceremony meet at 7:30 am at DATC flag pole. Independence Day is to celebrate our independence from England and the British Rule. Americans celebrate the Declaration of Independence with parades, picnics, fire-works, and outdoor festivities. Independence Day is a Federal Holiday with lots of activities for all so remember to stay safe and drive carefully.

The Kaysville Parade begins this year at 10:00 am and Veterans lead the parade in trucks furnished by the Army National Guard. I've been riding in the parade for more than 20 years and it is humbling to hear all the people watching thank us for our service. If any veteran wishes to ride in the parade it begins at 500 East, West of DATC, and should be there no later than 9:00 to 9:30 am. I talked to the parade organizer and he welcomes all veterans to ride in the parade.

Post 27's next community service is July 14 at 10:00 am for the Farmington Festival Days Parade where the American Legion leads the parade. Then at 4:00 pm at Layton Commons Park, is the Vietnam Veterans Memorial dedication event.

When you talk to a Veteran, don't miss the chance to invite them to become a member of Post 27 of the American Legion. All you have to mention is to log on www.post27.org, click on MEMBERSHIP-JOIN US, and complete the information. Our Adjutant, Dale Crockett will contact you and assist with the process.

Adjutant

Membership is Our Lifeblood!

Membership. Statistics are membership numbers through 1 July 2018.

2018 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2018 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
101	13	45	36	6	22	122	122%

Let me first begin by thanking everyone for the great support I received the past few years as Post Adjutant and thank you for your support as Post Adjutant this year. I don't want to sound like a broken record, but it is time to think about renewing memberships. We can renew on July 1 and I would again like to be finished by the end of the year. I have everyone's 2019 membership cards now and will send them out to you as soon as you send them to our post box which is PO Box 427, Farmington, UT 84025, or go on line at legion.org/renew and enter your last name and membership number and it can be completed immediately. You do not need to print your card out if you do your membership on line if they ask. We really had a good membership year this past year and we were one of the top posts in Utah for increasing our membership above our goal. We can do better this year. We have so many friends and neighbors that are eligible to join that live around us that all it would take to get them to join is too simply ask them to join us. I have membership applications if you need them. There are so many reasons for why they



Dale Crockett

should belong. The American Legion is America's largest supporter of veterans and their families and one of the most powerful organizations in the USA. Today, it counts more than 2 million members who support their communities in more than 13,000 posts across the United States and beyond. Also, there are more benefits than I can list for members and they can be found on the legion.org web site. Please give as much time in this effort that you can and may God bless you.

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.



Legion Nuggets

July 17, 1925

The Legion creates the American Legion Baseball program. Today, more than 50 percent of Major League Baseball players are graduates of the program. About 82,000 youths play on Legion-sponsored teams each year.

Sergeant-at-Arms



David Layton

Well, here we are in the middle of 2018. Post 27 continues to be involved and planning for 4th of July Flag Ceremony (Kaysville DTC), community parade (Farmington Festival Days), Eagle Ceremonies (as requested), American Flag Retirement Ceremony (held August 16th in conjunction with Davis County Fair), Wreaths Across America (held in December at Lindquist, Kaysville), Veterans Day Programs (scheduled for Monday, November 12) and our on-going signature ceremony and service we provide, Military Funeral Honors (MFH) in remembrance of are fallen Veterans. All Veterans are entitled to MFH consisting of Rifle Volley, playing of Taps and folding of American Flag that presented to next of kin.

The participation and service you have rendered this year in community activities has been exemplary and has brought high praises from the communities and families we serve. Without you, Post 27 cannot operate and provide this service.

As members of the American Legion, we volunteer as invited 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 fallen.

Training Officer (Also National Vice Commander)



Paula Stephenson

NEWS YOU CAN USE: From time to time, we try to provide information that can help you as a veteran, a Legion family member, and a good U.S. citizen in your community.

U.S. FLAG HALF-STAFF ALERTS: The Flag Alert e-newsletter provides notification when the U.S. flag is to be displayed at half-staff. Subscribe to the flag e-newsletter at www.legion.org/newsletter. To receive text alerts from The American Legion when the president declares flags to be lowered to half-staff, simply text the word FLAG to 35893. You will receive a confirmation email within a few minutes. The service is free but message and data rates may apply.

EMBLEM SALES: Emblem Sales (www.Emblem.Legion.org) is The American Legion store you can purchase American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion (SAL), American Legion Riders clothing and items, in addition to patriotic items, flags, and war era caps. You can just order a free catalog, which is a lot more fun to do your shopping than looking on line sometimes. This is also where you order your Legion and SAL hats. A monetary portion of what is bought from Utah zip codes throughout the year is returned to our Department of Utah funds for scholarships and other supported American Legion programs at the state level.

Sons of the American Legion

CARRYING THE COLORS: A COLOR GUARD'S ESSAY FROM AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN PERSPECTIVE

By Dr. John E. Betterson Jr.

It was a clear, hot Memorial Day in Berea, Ohio, when I first experienced the honor of carrying the American flag with my American Legion Color Guard unit. I joined the post in 2017, and I remember the day when my membership became official and I was heading out the door to leave the post, when a fellow Legionnaire welcomed me and asked if I would consider joining the Color Guard. Surprised and pleased by the offer, I immediately said yes and I haven't looked back since. I put in an order for a new uniform and my journey as a member of the Color Guard began.

From details, to ceremonies, parades and special events, I've raised my hand to participate in just about every activity possible. What an amazing experience it's been so far. As a retired Air Force veteran, I now have the privilege of donning a uniform once again, to serve alongside some of the country's best: the men and women of The American Legion. My first opportunity to serve in this capacity was participating in the Memorial Day parade.

There I was, shoulder to shoulder with my fellow brother and sister military veterans, marching in the Memorial Day parade, dressed in our traditional Color Guard uniform, looking sharp and feeling proud. As an African-American, the emotion and dynamics took on a completely different feeling for me altogether. While there are a few African-American members on the books, none of them are as active or visible. As a minority, my involvement at the post level has many



meanings attached to it. However awkward or tenuous one might believe the atmosphere to be, my genuine love and affection for people, regardless of race, penetrates the ugliness of societal views and engenders the kind of friendships and camaraderie that I've come to enjoy as an active-duty Air Force servicemember. And it wasn't lost on me that my willingness to serve on the Color Guard seemed to have appealed to a large majority of the members at the post. I agreed to serve and was accepted into the fold right

away. To me, that is a small example of what service above self looks like. When people serve, we tend to see the service and not the person. In other words, putting service above yourself has a transcending element to it. I believe people are drawn to those who serve in any capacity. In my opinion, true service transcends gender, race, creed, et cetera. But I digress...

On that fateful Memorial Day, there wasn't a cloud to be found in the sky. There were, however, tears found in the eyes of every veteran who cheered us on, watched with pride, and rendered their salute as we passed by. I was asked to call cadence to help keep us in step as we marched in the parade. I've called cadence plenty of times when I was active-duty, but I don't think I ever called cadence quite as loudly as I did that day. What a treat, and a special honor. It seemed like with every glance and smile that I received from the crowd, the cadence became louder and more pronounced. As a Color Guard unit, we often talk about that Memorial Day experience we shared. It's difficult to put into words what we all felt that day marching down the street. There was no traffic, no pedestrians or animals in our path that day. Of course, everything was blocked by the local police to make way for our arrival in the parade. It was as if everything in the world stopped just for us to display our military bearing, our synchronized gate, and most importantly, to display Old Glory waving in the Memorial Day wind.

In a culture riddled with racial divides and harmful rhetoric, it is refreshing to know that you belong to an organization of like-minded men and women who share common goals, aspirations, experiences, and a commonly shared thread that has been intricately woven into the fabric of our American flag. People talk a lot about God and country. The difference for me, however, is the fact that I serve God and my country with boldness and passion; and until you've put on that military uniform, jumped out of bed to the sound of reveille, marched in step in inclement weather, shipped out and landed boots



Ron Craig
SAL Squadron 27
Commander

first onto a foreign land not knowing what to expect, laughed out loud with a fellow servicemember, or held back tears whenever the national anthem is played, you won't understand what service to God and country looks like from the eyes and perspective of an African-American Color Guard. God Bless America!

American Legion Auxiliary



**Deb Hefner
Hansen
Unit 27 President**

Wow... Girls State! I have been a huge supporter of Girls State for many years...but my experience as a Counselor in Leavitt City was amazing! Yes, the dorm bed was not great, the food was OK, and the 24 girls in my city could not have been more amazing! It's like I now have 24 more daughters! We were so fortunate to hear amazing speakers, including Governor Herbert and Mitt Romney who were both inspiring for the girls! In all, there were over 300 girls in 12 cities which are named after Utah governors!

Thank you to Michele Done for coming and reading the girls essays! Now I know when they write them! Weber State awarded over \$1.4 million in scholarships and get this...the girls only need to keep a 2.5 GPA and take 12 credits per semester to keep the award! They offered the same opportunity to the boys at Boys State!

One of the coolest things is that the newly elected Utah Girls State Governor is the cutest girl from Bountiful High...I plan to have her come to one of our meetings. Her name is Emma Leishman and she is such a great girl!

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 12 at 6:00 pm at the Courthouse! The Farmington Festival Days Parade will be July 14 at 10:00 am and it would be awesome to have you on the float or walking! Last year we handed out small flags!

Meet the Quilt Maker

Pictured here are **Starla** and **Fred Phelps**. A relative of our own fellow Legionnaire John Sheets, Starla designed and made the quilt that graces our Post. She had never seen how we displayed it. She was pleased to see how it was hung as a primary feature in the Post. Many of us do not know that the back side is almost as beautiful as the front with military memorabilia. Starla and Fred went away knowing that her art is being prized by our Post.



(From left to right:) Fred Phelps, Starla Phelps, and John Sheets

Take advantage of our Veterans Outreach Program



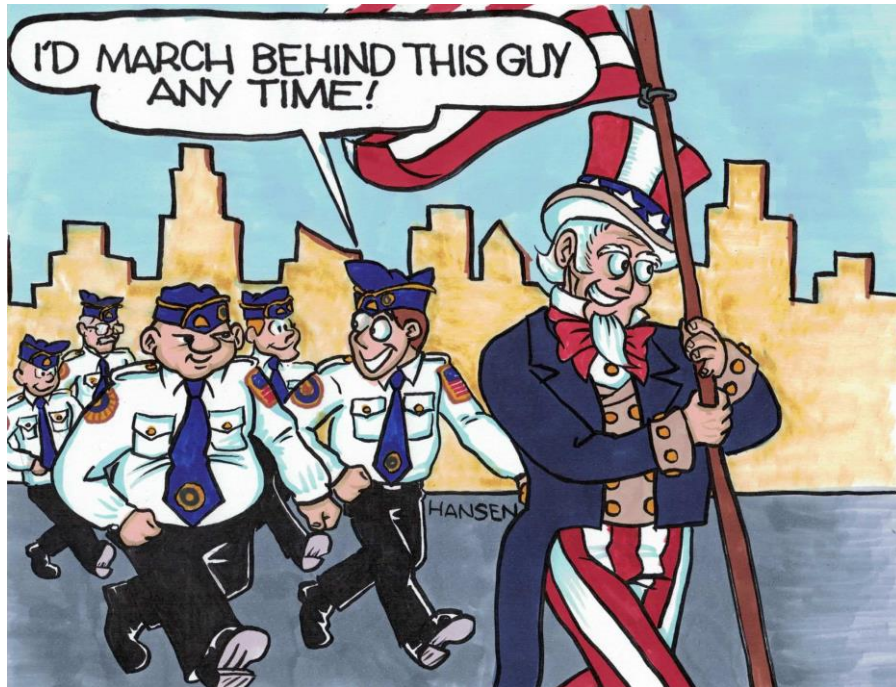
Every first and third Wednesday from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm, a representative of the Veterans Administration will be at the Post (*Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116*) to assist you with your questions. Call for an appointment with the Veterans Service Office at 801-326-2370 or 801-326-2372.

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

Veterans Outreach Schedule

<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
18 & 25	1 & 15

Legion Laughs



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.



The American Legion

FLAG RETIREMENT

& MILITARY TRIBUTE

**THIS EVENT IS
FREE
TO THE PUBLIC!**

AUGUST 16, 7:30 PM

NORTH OUTDOOR ARENA

DAVIS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

The American Legion Post 27-Farmington, will, in a solemn and spectacular ceremony, dispose of hundreds of flags no longer serviceable. This breathtaking rite will dazzle your eyes and fill your heart.

Those who have flags unfit to display as the symbol of our great nation may drop them off at their local Fire Department. Then come to the Davis County Fair on August 16, 2018, where at about 7:30 pm, their flag will be appropriately retired.





The Utah Vietnam Veterans of America
and Layton City

Cordially invite you to attend the

*Vietnam Memorial Wall Replica
Dedication Ceremony*

Saturday, July 14, 2018

6:00pm

Layton Commons Park

(Light refreshments served)



Dedication Ceremony Events – Saturday, July 14, 2018

5:00pm	Walk to the Wall	Join the Utah VVA for the Walk to the Wall. Walk begins at Wasatch Drive and Hawthorne Street and proceeds along Wasatch Drive to the site of the Vietnam Memorial Wall Replica in Layton Commons Park. Walk will be led by an honor guard, local bagpipe organizations, and Utah VVA members.
6:00pm	Dedication Ceremony	Dedication ceremony includes musical selections, flag raising, speakers, and a dedication of the memorial wall and surrounding grounds.
8:00pm	USO Tribute Show	USO Tribute Show in the Ed Kenley Amphitheater. Gates open at the conclusion of the Dedication Ceremony. FREE Admission.