

The American Legion
Second Century
POST

July 2021

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



Jon Rue

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Fellow Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons, I hope you had a great June, and are looking forward to the rest of the summer. By the time you read this, we will have participated in festivities for Independence Day in Kaysville; and are gearing up for the Farmington Days activities. We also held a handful of successful Memorial Day events for Kaysville and Farmington. My thanks to my fellow veterans for assisting in the organizing, planning, and carrying out these activities. This last week-end was the American Legion Utah Department Convention in Ogden. The Adjutant will highlight some details in his section of this newsletter. For me it was a nice opportunity to meet others, learn more about the workings of the Legion at levels up to state, and interact with fellow veterans from all branches. I can assure you that everyone in attendance has one goal ~ to support veterans in all aspects of their life after military service. I am also looking forward to attending the National Convention that begins the last week-end in August. For this year it will be held in Phoenix, AZ.



Liberty Bell Day: Trivia ~ Did you know that July 8th is Liberty Bell Day? The Liberty Bell was rung to commemorate the reading of the Declaration of Independence! Of course, the original Liberty Bell (with the crack) was last rung on Feb 26, 1846 in honor of Pres. George Washington's birthday. (*multiple internet sources*). I never knew that, so I guess an old dog CAN still learn new tricks 😊!

Calling any tech-skilled members – We NEED you!! - Webmaster assistance – our current webmaster is consumed with work commitments, and updates to our site is more than his time allows. If anyone has the skills to assist, please let me know. Thank you.

Finally – Although a little hot, enjoy the nice weather! Get out as you are able and participate in community events. I hope to see you on our Float in the Farmington Days Parade on July 10.

EVENTS CALENDAR

June 1-July 31 – American Legion Utah Boys State.
 July 4 – Independence Day. *Fly the flag.*
 July 8 – Liberty Bell Day. *Fly the flag and ring your bell.*
 July 10 – Farmington Festival Days Parade. 10:00 am
 July 13 – General Post, Auxiliary & SAL meeting.
 7:00 pm, Farmington City Cultural Arts Center and Zoom
 July 20 – Contract War Dog Mazzie Celebration of Life.
 Vietnam Veteran Memorial, Layton Commons, 7:00 pm
 July 24 – Pioneer Day. *Fly the flag.*

August 4 – U.S. Coast Guard birthday. *Fly the flag.*
 August 11 – General Post, Auxiliary & SAL meeting.
 7:00 pm, Farmington City Cultural Arts Center
 and Zoom.

1st Vice Commander



Bob Anderson

We are getting ready for fun. The Post will have a presence at the Farmington Festival Days in the parade and at the fair. Look for us. It is an excellent opportunity to be with your Post 27 comrades and an excellent opportunity to talk up joining the Post with the public. Sometimes it is just that one conversation that creates a new friendship and a new American Legion member.

Man, has the weather been HOT! I am blessed that my air conditioning has Been able to keep up with the heat outside and I have been pretty comfortable. I hope you have been comfortable, too.

Why is this a newsletter-worthy topic? Not everyone is blessed to have a way to stay cool and they could be in danger from this heat. If you are suffering with the heat, reach out to the person who Buddy Checks you. If you do Buddy Checks, ask the question if our comrades are suffering without a way to stay cool and help them by any means.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
JOHN W. SHEETS POST 27
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WWW.POST27.ORG



2nd Vice Commander

For the second year running, Post 27 will **NOT** be conducting a Flag Retirement Ceremony. Such flag retirement ceremonies have been an integral service provided by The American Legion since 1937, and Post 27 has conducted them, in alliance with the Davis County Fair and the Farmington Fire Department, for several years. This has been a popular event, not only promoting

Americanism, but providing a public service for the community, by helping those who are unaware of such protocols and wish to have their Flags retired in a reverent and dignified manner.



Beginning in 2022, the Davis County Fair will be moving to Kaysville, at the Utah State University Extension. Furthermore, the Fair, and subsequently the Flag Retirement Ceremony will move to May. We hope to retain the support and involvement of the community, our Scouts and the Utah National Guard as we make this change, and trust that our Legionaries will do their part to help spread the word.



Paul Hubenthal

Adjutant

Membership is Our Lifeblood

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

2021 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2021 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
126	14	52	51		14	131	104%



Dale Crockett

Sons of the American Legion Membership: Statistics are membership numbers through July 1 2021.

2021 GOAL	REGULAR	NEW	TRANSFERS	2021 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
32	32			32	100%

First of all, congratulations to both the Legion and the Sons of the American Legion for reaching 100 percent membership for this past year. Our membership drive for the 2022 year starts July 1, 2021. I now have everyone's 2022 membership cards and you can now send me your \$35 fee for the Legion. Just a heads up, the Sons of the American Legion fee has now been raised to \$15 beginning in 2022. It is still one of the lowest fees in our state.

This past weekend, the American legion Department of Utah, had its yearly three-day State convention. Because of the pandemic, it was cancelled last year, so all of the department officers stayed in office for another year. The

convention was held at the Comfort Suites Hotel in Ogden, Utah. Marti Bigbie from Hurricane, Utah finished her term as Department Commander and her Vice Commander, Gary McKay from Ogden became Department Commander. Joe Guimond from Layton, Utah was voted in as the new Vice Commander.

Our post is in District 2 and Scott Sparks is again our District 2 Commander. Our post is in Area One and Bob Jones was voted in as our Area One Commander. Let me know if you would like to communicate with any of these officers and I will get you their contact information.



Some of the notable highlights were a special memorial in memory of William E. Christoffersen, NEC Emeritus, a World War II Veteran, a 75-year Legionnaire who will always be remembered as a man who fought for his country and his fellow Veterans. It was his life's mission. Christoffersen died in the state veteran's home in Salt Lake named in his honor. The Cache Valley native was just days shy of his 94th birthday soon after leaving the military, he joined The American Legion and was elected department commander in 1959. He was elected to the American Legion National Executive Committee – the highest state post within the Legion and part of its national board of directors – just four years later. Soon he made it his mission to bring a Veterans nursing home to Utah. He brought three national conventions to the beehive state, and with them, roughly 10,000 visitors including dignitaries, senators and in 2006, President George W. Bush. He used his clout to better Utah's Veteran landscape. One of his initiatives even rose to the level of federal law. He was one of the drivers for the Transition Assistance Program, which provides service members leaving the military with a weeklong course on how to create resumes, apply for benefits, and more. Even in his eighties, Christoffersen continued advocating for veterans. In March of 2013, he was honored when the facility he helped create was renamed the William E. Christoffersen Salt Lake Veterans Home. Having led the Legion for more than a half-century, he retired in August of 2013, but apologized for not being able to do more.

A few other highlights were guest speakers, Rob Liebenow, National Vice Commander, a welcome by Weber County Commissioner Jim Harvey, remarks from US Representative Blake Moore, remarks by Salt Lake Regional VBA Office Director Jack Kammerer, remarks by VAMC Hospital Directors Office, US department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training of Utah, Director Dale Brockbank Utah Veteran and Military Affairs Director Gary Harter. We then had an Awards Recognition to half a dozen nurses that served during the pandemic.

Next year on June 24 -26, we will hold our next department convention in Price, Utah. All are invited to come. Next year, if you would like to attend, please let me know. This August 27 – September 2, 2021, the American Legion's 102nd National Convention will take place in Phoenix, Arizona. For info, please go to legion.org.

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.

Sergeant-at-Arms



David Layton

Shout out a big "Thank You" for all who have participated with Military Funeral Honors (MFH) during the covid 19 pandemic. We will continue to adhere to health & safety standards during all MFH Ceremonies. 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 the Emblem Sales Catalog. The MFH Uniform consists of: Legion Cap, Legion long-sleeved shirt with uniform tie. Items that may be purchased 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.

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.

Chaplain

The **Korean Armistice Agreement** brought about a complete cessation of hostilities of the Korean War (1950-1953). On July 27, 1953, seven months after President Eisenhower's inauguration as the 34th President of the United States, an armistice was signed, ending organized combat operations, and leaving the Korean Peninsula divided much as it had been since the close of World War II at the 38th parallel. The armistice was designed to "ensure a complete cessation of hostilities and of all acts of armed force in Korea until a final peaceful settlement was achieved.



Steve Steed



During the 1954 Geneva Conference in Switzerland, the Chinese Premier suggested that a peace treaty should be implemented on the Korean peninsula. However, the US secretary of state, John Foster Dulles, did not accommodate this attempt to achieve such a treaty. A final peace settlement has never been achieved. The signed armistice established the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), the *de facto* new border between the two nations, put into force a cease-fire, and finalized repatriation of prisoners of war. The DMZ is currently the most heavily defended national

border in the world.

South Korea never signed the Armistice Agreement, due to President Syngman Rhee's refusal to accept having failed to unify Korea by force. China withdrew from the Military Armistice Commission, essentially leaving North Korea and the UN Command as the only participants in the armistice agreement.

On National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, July 27, we honor and pay tribute to the more than 36,000 American brave patriots killed and the more than 103,000 wounded who fought for freedom and democracy throughout the Korean War, leaving behind everyone they loved to secure the blessings of liberty for a country they never knew and a people they had never met.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR JOINING THE AMERICAN LEGION GENERAL MEETINGS VIA ZOOM:

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85483980262?pwd=UjJMZzBzaEpxVHkvWmRLRlNZVZVDdz09>



Meeting ID: 859 3325 1775

Passcode: 614202

It's easy. It's fun! And it's a great way to stay in touch with your fellow Legionnaires. We've even had some attending from Massachusetts, Florida and Australia.



Let the bells ring out...

Independence Day – July 4

Give thanks & fly the flag.

Historian

HOW AMERICAN SOLDIERS CELEBRATED THE FIRST INDEPENDENCE DAY

By Hannah Ostroff and Marko Zlatich, National Museum of American History



Kent Hansen

In the Revolutionary War era, news did not exactly travel fast. There was no air mail, no email, and no @ThomasJefferson to tweet the news of independence to the newly-formed nation. Instead, many of the soldiers fighting in the war had to wait days, or even weeks, to know that the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776.

The Declaration of Independence was signed by 56 delegates in Philadelphia's Independence Hall. It was considered essential that Revolutionary soldiers hear the document read, but the reading required sufficient copies to be made and distributed to the headquarters of the various Continental Army commands. Even with dispatch riders and fast-sailing ships, the nation (and its armed forces) had to wait to celebrate independence until Continental

regiments in the faraway south could actually hear the momentous words.



When the news did reach them, many soldiers' diaries and memorials mention that the celebration of "Independency" was a ceremonial occasion. They would assemble in two lines with 13 cannons (one for each colony) stationed to the right of the line. The troops would start by discharging 13 shots, followed by a fusillade (shots fired at the same time or in quick succession) of musketry and cannons. This action would travel through the lines, repeating three times in total. After the smoke cleared, there would be speeches and three cheers to conclude the formal portion of the celebration. Soldiers kept the spirit of merriment alive with games and an extra allowance of rum for the rest of the day. In the next weeks following July 4th, the Declaration reached all American soldiers in the Continental Army. On July 9th, 1776, it was read in a New York City square to George

Washington and his troops. Upon the reading, the men went from colonial to Continental regiments, and prepared to meet the army of King George III, on its way to New York.

Jefferson's words made it to Captain Joseph Bloomfield of the 3rd New Jersey Continental Regiment on July 15th. He recorded the orders of the day in his journal, which read (*punctuation and spelling left as it was*):

"The Declaration of Independency being read, the whole present signified their hearty & sincere Approbation by Three Cheers and cheerfully drinking the following Patriotic Toastes, Harmony, virtue, Honor and all Prosperity to the free and independent United States of America, Wise Legislatures, brave & Victorious Armies, both by Sea & Land to the American States."

It took until August 5th, more than a month after the document was adopted, for the text of the Declaration to be read in South Carolina. Henry Drayton, in his *Memoirs of the Revolution*, says that it was received in Charlestown "with the greatest joy" by "all officers civil and military, making a grand procession in honor of the event." All of the troops in the area paraded to the Liberty Tree, where colonial independence was first advocated by Christopher Gadsden in 1766, and the Declaration of Independence was read and applauded. The tree is gone now, but a historical marker commemorates this spot.

In a world where all of our news is accessible in an instant, it's amazing to contemplate how long it took the soldiers of the Revolutionary War to hear the words that defined their rebellion. July 4th is our national Independence Day, but it's clear that the ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness can be celebrated on any day of the year.

POW/MIA News

	Captured and Interned	Died While POW	Returned to U.S. Military Control	Refused to Return	Alive at end of 2005
GRAND TOTAL	142,246	17,010	125,213	21	29,350 (a)
WW I	4,120	147	3,973	--	--
WW II	130,201	14,072	116,129	--	26,750 (b)
Korea	7,140	2,701	4,418	21 (c)	-2,000 (b)
Vietnam	725	65	660	--	579
Gulf War (Desert Storm)	47 (d)	25 (d)	21 (d)	--	21 (d)
Somalia	1	--	1	--	1 (e)
Kosovo	3	--	3	--	3 (e)
Bosnia	--	--	--	--	--
Iraq	9 (f)	--	8	--	8 (f)



Jay Hess



At present, **more than 81,700** Americans remain missing from WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Gulf Wars/other conflicts. Seventy five per cent of the losses are located in the Indo-Pacific, and more than 41,000 of the missing are presumed lost at sea (i.e. ship losses, known aircraft water losses, etc.).

Since 2005, most of the WWII and many Korea POWs have died. Two hundred fifty four Vietnam POWs have died. Four hundred eight are living and 47 enjoyed a reunion in Colorado Springs June 14 – 17. Wives, family and guests brought the total to 113.

American Legion Auxiliary



Marcie Mojica

Happy Independence Day!!! I love our country and I am so grateful for those who fought for our freedom.

Last month, I was able to participate in Utah's first (and hopefully last) virtual Girls State. It went better than expected. The Director's staff worked tirelessly all year to make it happen. Cities met through Zoom meetings as well as the General and breakout sessions. We had live speakers as well as some pre-recorded. The new Lt Governor Deidre Henderson spoke as well as Jennie Taylor and a handful of other wonderful speakers. The girls had assignments to do through an online canvas program, which took some of us older generations some time to figure out. The elected officials from 2019 presided over the session and new officials were elected for next year. You can learn

more about them on our Instagram page: [Alautahgirlsstate](#). I was so impressed with the caliber of girls and their willingness to participate in an online session. As always, I am forever grateful to the American Legion Auxiliary for this amazing program. I was able to participate in 1990 (as well as 5 years as counselor) and my daughter in 2019 and again this year. It is truly a life changing program.

Have a wonderful month.

UTAHNS CELEBRATE
PIONEER DAY
JULY 24



Legion Laughs BY KENT HANSEN



Check us out on Facebook at
 "American Legion Post 27
 Farmington Utah"



or the link from our Post
 website at

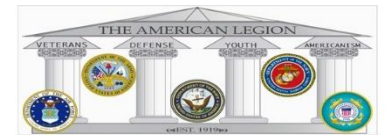
www.post27.org



AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS

BASIC TRAINING COURSE

Learn why we do what we do



It's a **FREE** on-line course for members of The American Legion Family Go to: WWW.LEGION.ORG/ALEI

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.*



Giving Blood is giving Life!

Support your community and The Legion.

Make an appointment today.



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 LABORATORIES

1. Go to www.utahblood.org.
2. Click on "Make an appointment."
3. Click on "Locate a Blood Drive."
4. Enter ZIP Code.

Legion Family Membership Coupons

The American Legion Membership Application

(Name) _____ (Date of Birth) _____

(Mailing Address) _____ (Phone Number) _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____ (Post #) **27**

(E-mail) _____ Male Female **\$35.00** (Dues)

I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably. **Please check appropriate service era and branch of service below**

Global War on Terror U.S. Army

Gulf War U.S. Navy

Panama U.S. Air Force

Lebanon/Grenada U.S. Marines

Vietnam U.S. Coast Guard

Korea Merchant Marines (WWII only)

WWII

Other Conflicts

30-009 Signature of applicant _____ Date _____ Name of recruiter _____

Receipt of Dues
(Please Print)

From \$ **\$35.00** for 20 **21** to 20 **27**

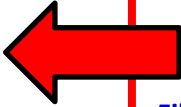
Recruiter's Name _____

Recruiter's Signature _____

Recruiter's Phone # _____



Fill this out and get it to the Post Adjutant with \$35.00.



American Legion Auxiliary MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name (First) _____ (M.I.) _____ (Last) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Email Address _____

Date of Birth (Required) _____ Birth - 17 18 and over **27** Farmington, UT
Unit # _____ Location _____

Have you been a member previously? Yes No (If yes, fill in below.)

Previous Unit City/State _____ ALA ID # (if known) _____

Signature of Applicant (or legal guardian if under 18) _____ Date _____

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Eligible Through—Name of Veteran (Female Veterans: List Your Own Name) _____

If Living: American Legion Member ID # _____ Post # _____ City _____ State _____

Deceased—If veteran is deceased, contact ALA unit about the necessary military records. For Veteran's DD214 Discharge Papers: www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records

Veteran Served:

WWI (4/6/1917-11/11/1918)

Anytime After 12/7/1941 (check all that apply):

Global War on Terror Panama Vietnam WWII

Gulf War Lebanon/Grenada Korea Other Conflicts

Applicant's Relationship to the Veteran:

Male Spouse Female Spouse Mother Grandmother Sister Self

Daughter Granddaughter

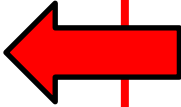
To Be Completed By The American Legion Post Adjutant/Officer

I certify that the above named individual served at least one day of active duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or is still serving honorably.

Post Adjutant/Officer Membership Verification _____ Date _____



Fill this out and get it to the Unit Secretary with \$35.00.



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION - MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date _____

Detachment of _____ Squadron No. _____ Birth Date _____

Name (First) _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) _____ Recruited by _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) _____

Address _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____ (Phone) _____

Veteran through whom eligibility is established _____

(a) Above is a member in good standing of Post No. _____ Department of _____

OR (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from _____ to _____

(c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran _____

Has Applicant previously been a member of the SAL? _____ Where? _____

I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, apply for membership, and

Email Address _____ Transmit \$ _____ for 20 _____ annual membership dues

Signed By Applicant (or Parent) _____ Eligibility certified by _____

DUES RECEIPT
(Please Print)

Date _____

Received From _____

\$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Squadron No. _____

Department of _____



Fill this out and get it to the Squadron Adjutant with \$15.00.

