

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Fellow Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons, I hope you had a great June, and are looking forward to the rest of summer. Post 27 has definitely been busy with activities over the last



month, and by the time you read this, we will have participated in festivities for Independence Day in Kaysville and Farmington. We are also gearing up for the Farmington Days activities including the parade on Saturday, July 9. My thanks to my fellow veterans for assisting in the organizing, planning, and carrying out these activities.



Jon Rue

As I write this, Hilary and I, along with our son Bryan (Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Utah Adjutant), are getting ready to leave for The American Legion Utah Department Convention in Price. I'm looking forward to seeing members of the American Legion Family from across Utah. I

can assure you that everyone in attendance has one goal ~ supporting veterans in all aspects of their life after military service.

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 9.

EVENTS CALENDAR

- July 4 – Independence Day. *Fly the flag.*
- July 9 – Farmington Festival Days Parade, 10:00 am
- July 21 – Post 27 Family General meeting.
Farmington City Cultural Arts Center, 7:00 pm
- July 25 – Pioneer Day (Observed) *Fly the flag.*

- August 18 – Post 27 Family General meeting.
Farmington City Cultural Arts Center, 7:00 pm
OR Davis County Memorial Courthouse.
Stay tuned!

HAPPY PIONEER DAY

JULY 25 (OBSERVED)



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

1st Vice Commander



Bob Anderson

Important events are happening!

One HUGE project is the moving of Post 27 to our new office in the Davis County Memorial Courthouse. As of this newsletter, we have probably started moving our “stuff” from the Russon Brothers Mortuary in late June and are most likely still figuring out where to put it all! If you were a part of the move, your Post appreciates you. Come by and see the office at our first monthly meeting at the Courthouse, either July or August.

On July 9 at 10:00 am, we will have a leading role in the Farmington Parade with our Color Guard out front immediately

followed by the Post 27 float full of Legionnaires. Okay, so it doesn't float with all us on it; sort of labors along, but it will be well appreciated as we throw candy at to all the happy kids. Then at 1200, we will be posting the colors at Forbush Park. All of it will be fun. Come out to see.



We are halfway through the year and we are always happy to welcome more members. Please help by inviting your family, friends, neighbors, and any others who might be interested to come and join The American Legion Post 27. We would welcome them and appreciate your support.

2nd Vice Commander



Dan Woodward

July 4th. A time for Fireworks, Hot Dogs, Family Gatherings, Parades and Fun! We should take the opportunity to celebrate the birth of this nation.

However, in 1776, it was a very different kind of day. In Philadelphia, the Second Continental Congress had unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence. This was the announcement to Great Britain that the Colonies intended to separate from them. Think about that: these founding fathers had put everything they had at risk ... for the chance to establish a Free Nation. If you are ever in Philadelphia, it is quite impressive to visit Independence Hall and imagine all those delegates in there. Writing, re-writing, arguing, and writing again until they came up with the Declaration of Independence. And they signed, identifying themselves to all that they believed in what they were doing.

And while this was the start, I still keep thinking and coming back to those individuals. They were willing to put everything they had and who they were on the line ... just to give these 13 colonies the chance of self-rule. We are fortunate that things worked out the way they did. There was no guarantee they would prevail, and those same gentlemen could have ended up in prison or dead had the British won the conflict. But they did prevail, and they did form the Union, which we and our future generations are now entrusted to keep and defend.

I think the core meaning to July 4th is that it always takes men and women of conviction, to ensure the birth, or the continuation, of this great nation. All of you have taken that same risk and that same oath to protect this nation. We are all grateful that you, like the Founding Fathers, took that chance, that risk, to keep this country safe from harm.

Of course, it doesn't hurt to celebrate with fireworks and hot dogs, too. Happy July 4th!

For Your Information



POST 27 TO THE RESCUE

Utah Boys State faced a critical challenge in assembling a staff for the Class of 2022. To establish an appropriate vetting process, every prospective staff member, from top to bottom, was subject to a background check and child abuse training. Sadly, this requirement turned some of the staff regulars away. Some of the stalwarts stepped forward and conducted themselves with honor and professionalism. Nevertheless, the

number of needed staff members was not met. So, who ya gonna call? Not Ghostbusters – **Post 27!** Members of the Post 27 family filled every needed position and helped to make this year’s Utah Boys State a success. Props to Dale Crockett, Paula and Chuck Stephenson, William Huber, Ron Jugenitz, Omar Reichert, Deb Hansen, Kent Servoss, Frank Ferrante, and Kent Hansen – and our own Jay Hess as a wonderfully inspiring speaker..

Chaplain

"The Star-Spangled Banner" is the national anthem of the United States. The lyrics come from the "Defence of Fort M'Henry", a poem written on September 14, 1814, by 35-year-old lawyer and amateur poet Francis Scott Key after witnessing the bombardment of Fort McHenry by British ships of the Royal Navy in Baltimore Harbor during the Battle of Baltimore in the War of 1812. Key was inspired by the large U.S. flag, with



15 stars and 15 stripes, known as the “Star-Spangled Banner,” flying triumphantly above the fort during the U.S. victory. By November 1814, Key’s composition had appeared in print for the first time under the name “The Star-Spangled Banner.”



Steve Steed

"The Star-Spangled Banner" was recognized for official use by the United States Navy in 1889, and by U.S. president Woodrow Wilson in 1916, and was made the national anthem by a congressional resolution on March 3, 1931, which was signed by President Herbert Hoover more than 100 years after it was composed

Before 1931, other songs served as the hymns of U.S. officialdom. "Hail, Columbia" served this purpose at official functions for most of the 19th century. "My Country, 'Tis of Thee", also served as a *de facto* national anthem. Following the War of 1812 and subsequent U.S. wars, other

songs emerged to compete for popularity at public events, among them "America the Beautiful", which itself was being considered before 1931 as a candidate to become the national anthem of the United States. "Hail, Columbia" was originally considered to be one of the unofficial national anthems of the United States until 1931. It was the personal anthem for the president, until it was replaced by the song "Hail to the Chief", and it is now the official vice president's personal anthem.

As we observe our flag during the celebration of our county’s Independence Day, may we remember its significance and pray that it will continue to wave proudly “O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave”.

Historian

The 4th of July You Never Knew



Kent Hansen

As Benjamin Franklin is alleged to have said “history is written by the winners as an excuse for hanging the losers.” Whether Ben said it or not, what has become

our “history” has often come more from myth than fact. And our national celebratory day of independence is no different.



In fact, it may surprise you to know that the Declaration of Independence wasn't signed on July 4- or in July at all. It might make for an iconic painting (*right*), but that famous image of all

the Founding Fathers and Continental Congress huddled together, presenting the first draft of the Declaration of Independence for a July 4, 1776, signing isn't quite how things really went down.

It's now generally accepted that the Declaration of Independence wasn't signed on the Fourth of July—that's just the day the document was formally dated, finalized, and adopted by the Continental Congress, which had officially voted for independence on July 2 (the day John Adams thought we *should* celebrate). John Hancock and Charles Thomson signed early printed copies of the Declaration to be given to military officers and various political committees, but the bulk of the other 54 men signed an official copy on August 2, with others following at a later date. Hancock signed his name again on the updated version.

Still, the first Fourth of July celebrations weren't much different from today's holiday. After years of pent-up frustration, the colonies let loose upon hearing the words of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Military personnel and civilians in the Bowling Green section of Manhattan tore down a statue of King George III and later melted it into bullets; Philadelphia patriots used the King's coat of arms as kindling for a bonfire; and in Savannah, GA, the citizens burnt the King in effigy and held a mock funeral for their royal foe.

Independence Day celebrations began to look a bit more familiar the following year, as the July 18, 1777, issue of the *Virginia Gazette* describes the July 4 celebration in Philadelphia: *“The evening was closed with the ringing of bells, and at night there was a grand exhibition of fireworks, which began and concluded with thirteen rockets on the commons, and the city was beautifully illuminated. Every thing [sic] was conducted with the greatest order and decorum, and the face of joy and gladness was universal.”* There were even ships decked out in patriotic colors lining harbors and streamers littering city streets. Modern Independence Day celebrations have stuck pretty close to the traditions started in 1777.

Today, there are around 15,000 Independence Day fireworks celebrations every year. According to an American Pyrotechnics Association projection, around 15,000 fireworks displays occur for the Fourth of July holiday (even if some aren't exactly on July 4). Though pricing varies, most small towns spend anywhere from \$8000–\$15,000 for a fireworks display, with larger cities going into the millions, like the Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular that averages more than \$2 million.

And as if that weren't enough, Americans eat an obscene amount of hot dogs on the Fourth of July. We Yankee Doodles consume about 150 million hot dogs while celebrating Independence Day. According to the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council, that amount of dogs can stretch from Washington D.C. to Los Angeles more than five times.

Three presidents have died, and one was born, on the Fourth of July. You probably know that both Thomas Jefferson and John Adams died on July 4, 1826—50 years to the day after the Declaration of Independence was adopted. They're not the only presidents to have died on the Fourth, though; James Monroe—the nation's fifth president—died just a few years later on July 4, 1831. Though the holiday might seem like it has it out for former presidents, there was one future leader born on Independence Day. The country's 30th Commander-in-Chief, Calvin Coolidge, was born on July 4, 1872.

Oh, and one final note: the diary of King George III of England carried this entry on July 4, 1776: “Nothing of importance happened today.”

POW/MIA News



Jay Hess Forty nine years ago, 662 of us were released from the caves, cages and cells of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and China. At the end of the year 2021, 402 were living. During that year 13 died including Commander Dale Osborne of Salt Lake City, Lt Col Larry Chesley of Arizona and Idaho and Capt Gerald Coffee of Hawaii. Two inspiring cellmates, Capt Robert Naughton of Texas and Col Dan Doughty of Wisconsin were among the 13.

A toast to the some 260 who have flown west was



LtCol Jay Hess (center) with two of his POW colleagues

given at the Poinsett Club, Greenville, SC on Saturday, June 4, 2022 by 75 former VN POWs in formal dress and guests including two courageous team members of the Son Tay rescue mission 21 Nov 1970.

Remarkable Brenda hosted the reunion, raised funds to pay hotel rooms, meals, bus transportation to the professional driving experience at the BMW factory tracks, tours of the BMW factory, Lockheed-Martin F-16 facility, Clemson University and a Broadway cast musical "Salute to American" at Fluor Field with fireworks for POWs and one guest.

Wow! Thanks, Brenda. It was a great event.

Downtown Greenville SC is a nice place and it is worth \$350 for the professional driving experience at BMW. One of the first persons I talked with at the reunion was Col Tom McNish who retired as Command Surgeon in the Office of the Air Force Reserve at the Pentagon. He said, "We have been blessed. I would have never been able to do the things I have had I not been a POW." Not everyone agrees with this but that is the theme I felt at this event and I agree, "We have been blessed." God bless the USA.

The last planned reunion of the NAMPOW organization is their 50th at the Nixon Library in Yorba Linda, California May 2023.

American Legion Auxiliary



Deb Hansen

What a month June has been! After a fabulous, and slightly wet Memorial Day, we were in full swing with Girls State! There were 200 girls who attended and it was such a privilege to be a counselor in Rampton City! The sad part was that in a pre-COVID year, we would have had over 300 girls...so we charged each girl to return home and be an ambassador for Girls State! Our Post did a beautiful flag folding ceremony (Weber wouldn't let us have a real flag retirement ceremony) and the girls loved the program! It was so nice for the girls to see a real female veteran, our very own Paula, and hear her speak about her love of our country! The next week was Boys State with our Post again well represented! I got to be an academic advisor with Omar Reichert and be part of the scholarship process. There were 149 boys there and we gave them the same instruction!! After two weeks with amazing young women and men, I am

confident in our country's future!!

We are still collecting stuffed animals for our First Responders! Give Chris Decker a call at 801-644-6221 and she will pick them up! Please keep Marlys in your thoughts and prayers as she has had some tough health issues going on. Farmington Festival Days Parade is July 9! The parade starts at 10:00 am and there is room on the float or you can walk the route, Thank you all for the service you give to our veterans!!



Stuffed Animal Drive

First Responders need stuffed animals to give to children who are suffering from a traumatic event. The stuffed animals cannot be larger than 12 ½ inches as there is limited space in the

vehicles. New or gently used will be accepted. Please bring them to the Legion Meeting or I will come pick them up. Thanks so much for your help. Chris Decker (801) 644-6221

Legion Laffs BY KENT HANSEN



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



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: **801-662-8256**.

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



Legion Family Membership Coupons

The American Legion Membership Application

(Name) _____ (Date of Birth) _____

(Mailing Address) _____ (Phone Number) _____

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

(E-mail) _____ Male Female **\$35.00** (Gender) _____ (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**22** Post # **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:

WWII (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 _____

\$ **15.00** for 20**23** **27** **UT**
Squadron No. _____ Department of _____



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