

# Second Century POST

July 2023



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

**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
JOHN W. SHEETS POST 27  
P.O. BOX 427  
FARMINGTON, UT  
84025  
[WWW.POST27.ORG](http://WWW.POST27.ORG)

## COMMANDER'S CALL



Jon Rue

Fellow Legion Family Members, I trust you had a great June, and are looking forward to our Fourth of July activities at Davis Tech, and our Post participation in the Parade and flag raising during the Farmington Festival Days on Saturday, July 15. Your Post was definitely busy with activities over the last two months! Please come join us at meetings to get information on upcoming

opportunities to support our communities and veterans.



As I write this, my personal Legion Family of Utah consisting of Hilary, our boys, and I just returned from the American Legion Utah Department Convention in Provo. We had a great time visiting with old friends and meeting new ones. During the Convention, we had at least a half dozen guest speakers who presented programs for veterans' outreach including medical and health, employment, and disability benefits. I can assure you that everyone in attendance learned something and has one goal ~ supporting veterans in all aspects of their life after military service.

Finally – Get out and enjoy our weather after our long winter! I hope to see you on our float in the Farmington Parade on July 15.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander



Bob Anderson

The USA is one year older and still going strong. I hope all have a great Independence Day. It is one of the most important days in our nation's history and for us be able to celebrate this great country one more year is a blessing our armed forces earn for us on a continuing basis. They are there defending our freedoms and way of life every day. We should always be appreciative of their efforts and sacrifices.

I invite you all to come see your Post 27 represent the American Legion in the Farmington Festival Days Parade on July 15 (10:00 am), but arrive early to get on our float. We are getting ready for fun. The Post will have a presence in the parade and at the fair (noon) following the parade. Look for us. It is an excellent opportunity to be with your Post 27 comrades and an even better chance to talk with the public about joining The American Legion. Sometimes it is just that one conversation with a fellow veteran that creates a new friendship and a new American Legion member.

## Post 27 Family EVENTS CALENDAR

AMERICAN  
LEGION

July 4 – Independence Day. *Fly the flag.*  
July 4 – Flag Ceremony. Davis Tech, 8:00 am  
July 13 – Post 27 General Meeting, 7:00 pm  
Davis County Memorial Courthouse  
July 15 – Farmington Festival Days Parade, 10:00 am  
July 24 – Pioneer Day. *Fly the flag.*

August 10 – Post 27 General Meeting,  
7:00 pm, Davis County Memorial  
Courthouse



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander

We have completed another successful set of Boys and Girls State events this year, once again helping our Next Generation understand how our Federal Republic works with real live examples! Our special thanks to everyone who helped out with this great evolution and for all their time and effort. All of this help literally may have changed the lives of literally hundreds of our young adults in this state and will make this a better country in the future!



Dan Woodward

Of course, July would not be the same without mentioning our Declaration of Independence. This decision by our original 13 colonies is the founding document of these United States. *"When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation."*

Our forefathers were brave men and women to make this break from the mother country. To issue a formal statement asserting that they had the right to form their own government. But, they thought it important enough to put their all on the line for the formation of a Country and Government Of the People, By the People and For the People. While not to their level perhaps, you all have sacrificed part (or in some cases all) of your life to protect and defend those principles. These are some of the most noble activities a person can endeavor to take on.

These are the values of the American Legion! These are the values of the United States! God bless you all for participating in this great democratic experiment. Thank you for continuing the mission with your American Legion participation! Be Safe and Enjoy your 4th of July!

## Adjutant

### Membership is our Lifeblood!



**American Legion Membership:** Statistics are membership numbers through July 1 2023.

2023 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2023 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
134	20	57	34	2	9	121	91%



Dale Crockett

**Sons of the American Legion Membership:** Statistics are membership numbers through July 1 2023.

2023 GOAL	REGULAR	NEW	TRANSFERS	2023 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
34	30	1		31	91%

It's that time of the year again for our wonderful post members. On July 1, 2023, we will again be asking everyone to renew for 2024 and try to complete the 2024 renewal process by the end of December 2023. Please do it sooner than later. If you renew in the month of July, you won't need to worry about it for a whole year. We lost a few members this past year, because it must have been too much of a hassle to take a few minutes to renew. Just go to [legion.org/renew](http://legion.org/renew) and put your American legion ID and last name on the renewal page and your almost done. Please, your membership is important to us and our nation. Your membership and voice bring power to the bills that need to pass for veterans like you and me. Thank you for your past memberships.

**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](mailto:dalescrockett@yahoo.com). You can also VENMO me to renew @Dale-Crockett-7 if you have the app. It does not cost you anything and you can get it from the APP Store.**

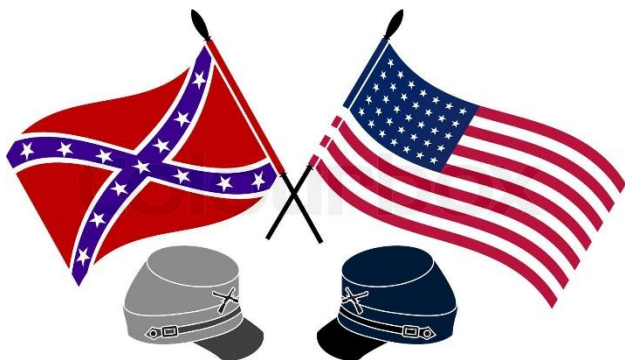
## Chaplain

### The Battle of Gettysburg

The Battle of Gettysburg was fought July 1–3, 1863, in and around the town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, by Union and Confederate forces during the American Civil War. In the battle, Union Major General George Meade's Army of the Potomac defeated attacks by Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, halting Lee's invasion of the North. The battle involved the largest number of casualties of the entire war and is often described as the war's turning point due to the Union's decisive victory and concurrence with its victorious Siege of Vicksburg



Steve Steed



On the third day of battle, fighting continued on Culp's Hill, and cavalry battles raged to the east and south, but the main event was a dramatic infantry assault by around 12,000 Confederates against the center of the Union line on Cemetery Ridge, known as Pickett's Charge. The charge was repelled by Union rifle and artillery fire, at great loss to the Confederate army. Lee led his army on a difficult retreat back to Virginia. Between 46,000 and 51,000 soldiers from both armies were casualties in the three-day battle, the most costly in US history. On November 19, President Lincoln used the dedication

ceremony for the Gettysburg National Cemetery to honor the fallen Union soldiers and redefine the purpose of the war in his historic Gettysburg Address. It remains one of the best-known speeches in American history.

The last part of Lincoln's speech goes as follows:

*...that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.*

May we honor, and may God grant us never to forget, those from the Civil War and all wars who have given “the last full measure of devotion” to protect our liberty and freedom.

## POW/MIA News

### Celebrating 50 years of Freedom

Nearly 200 previous residents of the ‘Hanoi Hilton’ were guests of the Anaheim Weston Resort in California the last week of May 2023. American Airlines provided free flights to and from the event for former Vietnam POWs plus one. The Nixon Library (Yorba Linda) staff showed their

skills by filling the streets leading to the library with flag waving school children and citizens, hosting a repeat of the dinner President Nixon held in a

**Jay Hess** giant tent on the White House south lawn 50 years ago, providing remarkable tour guides for the 450 POWs plus guests and hosting great entertainment with BBQ meals for all plus two long ‘In-N-Out Burg’ semi-trucks The POW group had their pictures taken with both Presidents Nixon's daughter and President Reagan's granddaughter.

Thanks to the many generous sponsors the event was free to the POWs except for some meals. The event was very capably organized by the first guest of the Hanoi Hilton, Everett Alvarez and his committee.



His A-4 was shot down August 5, 1964 over North Vietnam. He was released on February 12, 1973. He spent eight years, six months in captivity second to Army Colonel Floyd Thompson who was captive in the forests and mountains of South Vietnam, Laos and North Vietnam 10 days short of nine years.

Alvarez retired as a Navy Commander, with 20 years of service, in 1980. He later served as Deputy Director of Peace Corps, Deputy Director of Veterans Administration and founded a multimillion-dollar business, Alvarez LLC.

I was fortunate that Michelle, six of my children and their spouses and two grandchildren could join me for perhaps the Vietnam's POW's final salute.

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## Historian



**Kent Hansen**

### 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fun Facts

*Here, you'll find a list of fun July 4th facts that you may not have known.*

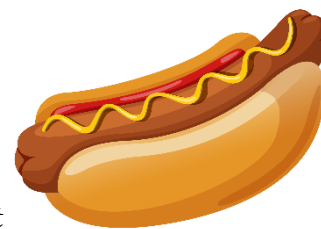
**The Liberty Bell was tapped 13 times on July 4<sup>th</sup> until 1846.**

Every year on July 4, descendants of the Declaration of Independence signers tap the Liberty Bell 13 times. The tradition was created as a way to honor the original 13 colonies. But the Liberty Bell hasn't been rung since 1846. The last time the bell rang was on Washington's birthday in February 1846, when a major crack appeared on the bell.

**Americans consume a lot of hot dogs on July 4<sup>th</sup>. About 150 million, to be exact.**

According to the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council, Los Angeles residents alone consume about 30 million pounds of hot dogs on July

safe to say they're a holiday favorite! The Nathan's Famous 4th of July hot dog eating contest began more than a century ago. According to the company itself, the first unofficial contest took place on July 4th, 1916. The contest, which began with four immigrants competing to determine who was the most patriotic, ended up becoming one of the most widely known July 4th traditions in America. Coney Island hosts a famous hot dog-eating contest every year on July 4th. It takes place at Nathan's Famous Corporation's original and best-known restaurant in Coney Island, New York City. But if you can't make it in person, you can still watch the televised event from home! Joey Chestnut currently holds the title of hot dog-eating world champion after setting the new record at Nathan's. He ate a record-breaking 76 hot dogs and buns in the 2021 competition.



**President Zachary Taylor died after falling ill at a July 4 celebration.**

He died on July 9, 1850, after only 16 months in office. The exact cause of his death is still debated by historians but many believe it had something to do with the large quantities of cherries and iced milk he had during the 4th of July festivities.

**John Adams predicted that Independence Day would be a huge celebration for many generations to come but thought we picked the wrong day.**

In a letter he wrote to his wife, Abigail Adams, he declared that the day should be filled with games, sports, parades, and laughter. He basically planned the day for us! But he thought Independence Day should be celebrated on July 2. He had a point, given that the Continental Congress *did* declare its freedom from Great Britain on July 2, 1776. However, an official document explaining this move to the public wasn't published until two days later, on July 4, 1776.



**Three U.S. presidents have died on the 4th of July but only one was born on that day.**

James Monroe, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson all died on the patriotic day. (Adams and Jefferson passed in 1826, and Monroe passed five years later in 1831.) America's 30th president, Calvin Coolidge, was born on July 4, 1872.

**There are some copies of the Declaration of Independence with a woman's signature on it.**

Mary Katharine Goddard wasn't one of the official signers in 1776, but the printer and publisher added her name to the Declaration of Independence after she was hired by Congress to print copies.

There are about 16,000 Independence Day fireworks displays that take place each year.



America's 4th of July tradition is a bit of a loud one, but iconic nonetheless. According to History.com, the custom dates back to 1777. When we look at the costs, Americans spend over \$1 billion on fireworks every 4th of July. Hospitals receive a surplus of patients on July 4th due to fireworks-related injuries. In 2020, an estimated 15,600 people were hospitalized with injuries related to fireworks. Learning proper firework handling protocol can help prevent these mishaps.

July 4th wasn't an official holiday until almost 100 years after the Declaration of Independence was signed.

It wasn't common to celebrate this patriotic event for the first few decades of America's independence. When it was established as an official holiday in 1870, it became one of the most popular nonreligious celebrations in the United States.

## **American Legion Auxiliary**



**Deb Hansen**

Man, what a month this has been! Thank you to all who helped place the American flags on the graves of our veterans at the Farmington and Kaysville Cemeteries! June was the month we have worked so hard for! Girls State! Chris and I were Co-Counselors for Leavitt City at the 75<sup>th</sup> Session of Utah Girls State! What an amazing experience as we spent the week with 22 amazing young ladies from all over the state! Bear to St George!! These girls were immersed in city, county and state government and left with their hearts changed! Our theme was "Oh, the Places You'll Go" and we are confident these women will definitely let their voices be heard and make a difference! They love their

country, and they have an enhanced appreciation for the service rendered by our military men and women! We were delighted to have Paula Stephenson and SAL Bryan Rue presented the POW-MIA table at graduation! In all, 20 girls represented our Unit! Chris also supported John as he was a counselor at Boys State! The Deckers are all in! We also got to have Marcie serve on staff and she was a huge help, and most importantly, a fabulous inspiration to our citizens! Unit #27 was well represented and we appreciated all the texts cheering us on! Our next meeting will be Thursday, July 13 at 6:00 pm at the Davis Memorial Courthouse! Be on the lookout for good deals on stuffed animals and backpack supplies! We will participate in the Farmington Festival Days Parade on July 15 so stay tuned!! Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!



### **Legion Laffs** BY KENT HANSEN

SO YOU WANT TO BURN SOME CALORIES?  
NO SWEAT! I'VE ALREADY DONE THAT  
FOR YOU!



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27 Farmington Utah"



or the link from our Post  
website at

[www.post27.org](http://www.post27.org).



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## Gregory Popp

Veteran Service Officer  
The American Legion  
State of Utah



550 Foothill Drive  
Salt Lake City, UT 84113  
[Gregory.popp@va.gov](mailto:Gregory.popp@va.gov)

Office: (801) 326-2380  
Cell: (435) 255-5265  
Fax: (801) 708-8074



The American Legion  
American Legion STATE OF UTAH

## WAYNE JACKSON

Past Utah State Commander  
The American Legion

[Nolen.Jackson@VA.gov](mailto:Nolen.Jackson@VA.gov)

801-326-2380 (Office)

435-253-2975 (Cell)

45 West 200 North, Fillmore, UT 84631

AMERICAN  
LEGION

TERRY SCHOW  
(801) 644-2058

**ALSO, CHECK THIS OUT:**

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[www.veterans.utah.gov](http://www.veterans.utah.gov)

- In the subjects scrolling at the beginning, select the **CONTACT US** button under the subject "VA Benefits & Claims Assistance"
- A veteran can make an appointment in person or virtually from This source.