

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

COMMANDERS CALL



Jon Rue

Dear readers, I hope you are all doing well. Your Post and Post leadership continued to be busy this past June, working on events for veterans and also events that support the tenants of The American Legion. Among the most important ones are our youth programs. Our members assisted at the Utah Girls State program, including presenting the POW/MIA Table and its symbolism at the beginning of the Girls State Graduation. My thanks to Paula Stephenson and Bryan Rue for that service. Additionally, many Legionnaires were involved in the Utah Boys State program. Kent Hansen, William Huber, Steve Steed, Dale Crockett, Chuck & Paula Stephenson just to name a few. I'm grateful for their work on these two programs that teach our youth about civics – NOT politics, and how our government works at multiple levels. I am always pleasantly surprised when I hear someone mention how Boys State or Girls State was a positive influence in their lives.



This year for the July 4th Holiday, we will not only raise and present the flag at the Davis Technical College and Kaysville Pancake Breakfast, but we will also provide a Color Guard for the City Parade, similar to our Color Guard leading the Farmington Festival Days Parade. Kaysville is also able to provide a float for veterans to ride and be recognized during their July 4th Parade. Finally for July, we are again preparing for the Farmington Days activities including the parade on Saturday, July 13. My thanks to my fellow veterans for

assisting in the organizing, planning, and carrying out these activities.

As I write this Hilary and I, along with our son Bryan and his wife Rebecca, are getting ready to leave for the American Legion Utah Department Convention, this year in Vernal. 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 13.

Post 27 Family Events Calendar

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

July 4 – Independence Day Ceremony and Parade.
8:00 am, Davis Technical College

July 11 – Auxiliary Unit 27 meeting. 6:00 pm,
Davis Country Memorial Courthouse.



August 8 – Post 27 General Meeting. 7:00 pm,
Davis Country Memorial Courthouse.
Auxiliary Meeting, 6:00 pm, Room 211

1st Vice Commander



Bob Anderson

I hope all had a great Independence Day! The USA is two years shy of the 250th anniversary of the 1776 United States Declaration of Independence and still going strong. The 250-year anniversary will be our Semiquincentennial, Bisesquincentennial, Sestercentennial, or the Quarter Millennial; each are correct. Whatever you call it, it will be monumental. Independence Day 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 every day. They are there defending our freedoms and way of life on a continuing basis. We should be always appreciative of their efforts and sacrifices.

On July 13 at 10:00 am, we will, once again, have a leading role in the Farmington Festival Days Parade with our Color Guard out front immediately followed by the Post 27 float full of Legionnaires. Then at 12:00 pm, we will be posting the colors at Forbush Park. It will be fun. Come out to see.

If you can't be in the parade, be on the parade route. It is an excellent opportunity 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.

2nd Vice Commander

For our Founding Fathers, July 1776 was a very busy month. On the 2nd of July, the Continental Congress adopted the resolution that stated "Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved."



Dan Woodward



That was a bold move by these Colonists. Then, on the 4th of July, the Declaration of Independence was approved by that same Continental Congress, and so the first steps to the forming of the United States was taken!

Interestingly enough, on the 5th of July, the Olive Branch Petition was adopted, in hopes that Britain, and King George III, would consider it. However, he refused to even look at it and declared the colonists to be in a state of open rebellion. Finally, on July 8th, the first

public reading of the Declaration was read in Philadelphia. So began this country's journey to Independence and Freedom!

Our recent Boys and Girls State events celebrated something similar with our next generation of leaders. While not declaring independence, they did assemble, meet, discuss and form a government for, of, and by the people. This experience will follow them the rest of their lives and undoubtedly influence their own Americanism! Well done to all the counselors and volunteer staff that made this event happen. If this sounds interesting to you, don't worry, next year you too can help out with this event! Happy July 4th to you and your families!

Adjutant



Dale Crockett

**Warm Welcome to our new Post member
Bryan F. Moore**

Membership is our Lifeblood!



American Legion Membership: Statistics are membership numbers through Jul 1 2024.

*Sons of the
American Legion*

| 2024 GOAL | PUFL | REGULAR | ON-LINE | NEW | TRANSFERS | 2023 TOTAL | % OF GOAL |
|-----------|------|---------|---------|-----|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 128 | 21 | 54 | 34 | 2 | 3 | 115 | 90% |

Membership: Statistics are membership numbers through Jul 1 2024.

| 2024 GOAL | REGULAR | ON-LINE | NEW | TRANSFERS | 2023 TOTAL | PERCENT OF GOAL |
|-----------|---------|---------|-----|-----------|------------|-----------------|
| 32 | 24 | 8 | 1 | | 34 | 106% |

Remember, our membership dues are going up on July 1 to \$45. Go online at legion.org/renew and sign up for three years at a time and you will pay \$35 each year for this coming week only. We have around 14 members that have done that. Our post's challenge is to focus on service and veterans. I think our post does this very well. We have several programs that we accomplish in a very dignified way and we can always use the help. The preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion is an ideal, set of mission and battles that can never be decisively won or lost – only fought for. It serves as our Post mission statement from which to establish short-and-long-term goals. If there is anything you would like us to do, please speak up. We want your ideas and suggestions. Thank 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. 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, fought from July 1 to July 3, 1863, is considered the most important engagement of the American Civil War. After a great victory over Union forces at Chancellorsville, General Robert E. Lee marched his Army of Northern Virginia into Pennsylvania in late June 1863. On July 1, the advancing Confederates clashed with the Union's Army of the Potomac, commanded by General George G. Meade, at the crossroads of the town of Gettysburg.



Steve Steed

The next day saw even heavier fighting, as the Confederates attacked the Federals on both left and right. On July 3, Lee ordered an attack on the enemy's center at Cemetery Ridge. The assault, known as "Pickett's Charge," managed to pierce the Union lines but eventually failed at the cost of thousands of rebel casualties.

Between 46,000 and 51,000 soldiers from both armies were casualties in the three-day battle, representing the deadliest battle in U.S. history. Lee was forced to withdraw his battered army toward Virginia on July 4. The battle is widely considered the Civil War's turning point, ending the Confederacy's aspirations to establish an independent nation. The battle inspired Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address," which became one of the most famous speeches of all time.

HISTORIAN

Editor's Note: I am exercising my editorial prerogative to thank the members of the Post 27 family who not only carried the largest portion of the load at this year's **Utah Boys State**, but also made it one of our most successful events yet. Heartfelt gratitude and personal thanks goes to Chuck and Paula Stephenson, Ron Jugenitz, William Huber, Omar Reichert, Deb Hansen, Jay Hess, John and Chris Decker. Our post has by far the greatest participation in Boys State than any in the state. Once again, Post 27 leads the way. Many, many thanks!



Kent Hansen

4th of July Fun Facts

The Fourth of July makes us think of a lot of things: Barbecues. Parades. Fireworks. Supporting U.S. troops. Lots of red, white and blue. Will Smith's movie "Independence Day."

Oh yeah, and the freedom that the Founding Fathers declared to the world over 200 years ago. On that day years ago, 56 patriots pledged their lives and honor to defend the United States' rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness – a sentiment our current troops still live by. While the date July 4, 1776, is ingrained in most of our memories, here are some cool facts you may not know about the holiday:



1. Unofficially, the United States' Independence Day is actually July 2 — when the Second Continental Congress made the unanimous decision to break from England.

However, the actual Declaration of Independence wasn't approved and adopted until July 4, when the document was officially printed and dated. The document also didn't become official until August 2, 1776, when most congressional delegates finally signed it.

2. It's often thought that July 4 kicked off the fight for independence, but the

Revolutionary War actually began more than a year before that on April 19, 1775, when the first shots were fired at Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts. That was one day after the legendary ride of Paul Revere.

3. John Adams and Thomas Jefferson — both signers of the Declaration of Independence who later became president — died on July 4, 1826, within hours of each other.

4. On July 4, 1776, there were an estimated 2.5 million people living in the American colonies. On June 28, 2021, there were almost 332.5 million living in the United States, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

5. Many Americans today avidly celebrate Independence Day, but it took a while to build up to modern-day festivities. The first anniversary drew fireworks, a 13-shot cannon salute and spontaneous jubilee in Philadelphia, but it wasn't until the War of 1812 that observing Independence Day became common.

Back then, the day was often used to coincide with large public events, such as the groundbreaking of the Erie Canal in 1817 and the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad in 1828.

6. Americans eventually began celebrating the Fourth of July with parades, flag-waving and fireworks – all things that Adams would have likely approved of.

According to a celebration letter he wrote to his wife on July 3, 1776, Independence Day “ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade ... bonfires and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other from this time forward forever more.”

7. By the 1870s, July 4 was one of the U.S.’ most celebrated holidays. On June 28, 1870, Congress passed a law making it an unpaid federal holiday. It took 64 more years for it to become a paid one.

American Legion Auxiliary



Deb Hansen

Hello all!

What a great time at Boys State which was a couple of weeks ago! Nearly 170 boys attended and received close to \$2 million in scholarship offers from Weber State! I have to highlight the stars of the show from our Unit and Post!

Chris Decker did an amazing job helping out **Omar Reichert** on all things I see. She is a real guru when it comes to data! Chris is one of the reasons that there were so many scholarships offered! It was fun to see her grandson **Anderson Decker** at Boys State! **Kent Hansen** from our post did a superb job in his leadership at Boys State! **Paula Stephenson** represented both Unit and the Post very well as she performed so many of the administrative duties! **Chuck**

Stephenson does an amazing job as treasurer of the Boys State Foundation! **Ron Jugenitz** was everywhere as the official photographer of Boys State and captured so many memories! Omar is the absolute favorite person ever at Boys State! He is a member of our Sons Squadron! So you can see that our Post and Unit rocks Boys State!!

We will have our next Unit Meeting on Thursday, July 11 at 6 pm at the Davis County Memorial Courthouse! We will be talking backpacks, socks for the Veterans Gift Shop and several other projects! Then on Saturday, July 13, we will walk or ride in the Farmington Festival Days Parade at 10:00 am! Practice your candy tossing skills! Happy July 4th!!

For Your Information

More than 120 Military Funeral Honors (MFH) Honor Guard members, who have performed in more than 100 MFHs each, had their names called out in the Utah State Capitol rotunda. Utahns in The American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars Honor Guards were recognized for their work providing funeral honors for our deceased veterans in a ceremony held in the Utah Capitol rotunda on May 10, 2024.

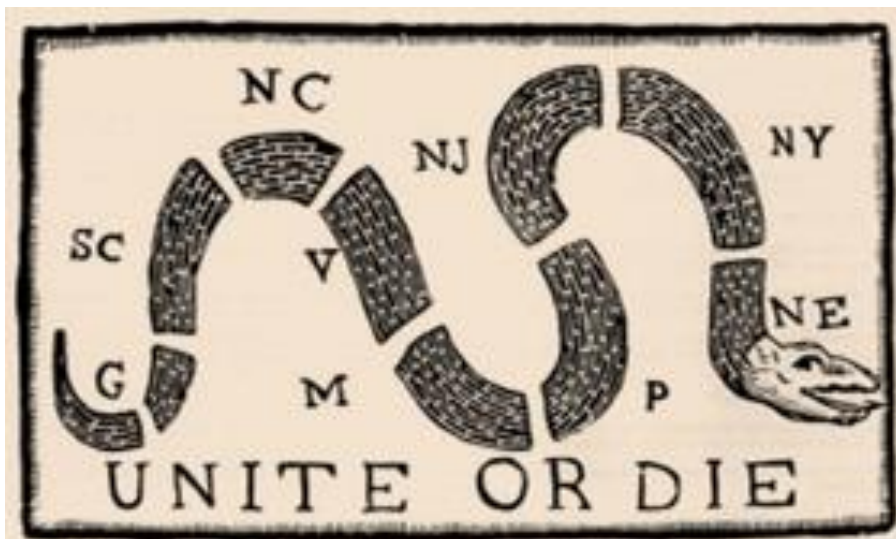
During the “Honoring Our Honor Guards” ceremony, several members from our own Post 27 were given awards and several souvenirs as recognition for having performed over 100 MFHs. Those in attendance were appreciative of the acknowledgment.

The two Legionnaires below are Ron Jugenitz and Paula Stephenson from Post 27.



Legion Lafts BY KENT HANSEN

WITH MUCH OF OUR COUNTRY POLARIZED INTO ENEMY CAMPS, I YIELD MY SPACE TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S ORIGINAL EDITORIAL CARTOON FOR THIS 4TH OF JULY.



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

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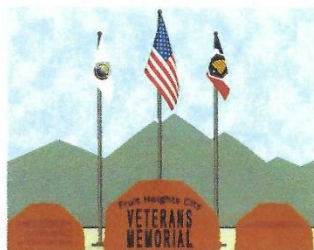


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FRUIT HEIGHTS CITY VETERANS MEMORIAL



SUBMIT NAMES TO BE HONORED ON THE MEMORIAL BY JULY 31, 2024

Memorial to be Installed at Fruit Heights City Hall

To honor veterans, a beautiful stone memorial will be placed near the flag poles at City Hall. The memorial will consist of three stones; a central stone commemorating branches of the military, and side stones listing the names of veterans and those currently serving who have ever lived in Fruit Heights.

Residents organized this memorial, and have raised about half of the \$10,000 needed. The committee is now turning to the community to raise additional funds.

MAKE A DONATION

We need your help to bring this memorial to our community.

Scan QR code to donate online, or call City Hall at 801-546-0861.



Scan to donate or submit name

SUBMIT A NAME

To honor a veteran who has ever lived in Fruit Heights, complete a form online or at City Hall by July 31.

New names will be added once each year.

www.fruitheightscity.com

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- 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