



The American Legion

Post 27/Squadron 27

Newsletter

Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116, 28 East State Street, Farmington, Utah

June 2016

Still Serving America

www.post27.org

Post 27 Programs & Activities

- Flag Education
- High School Constitution Oratorical 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
- DATC Veterans Center support
- VA Outreach support at Post location
- Medal of Honor Character Development Program in Davis County schools
- POW/MIA updates
- Meet The Candidate sponsor in Farmington
- Farmington/Kaysville Cemetery Flag project Memorial Day weekend
- Parade participation
- American Legion National Emergency Fund support

Veterans Still Serving!

Commander's Corner

A Happy Surprise

Last month, I wrote about my hope that the service we veterans have rendered would be remembered. And I think it's only right to acknowledge those who do remember what we did. The other day I was dashing into a local store to do some quick shopping. Only a few minutes later I returned and slid into the driver's seat when I noticed something stuck under my windshield wiper. Thinking it was another of those annoying ads that are sometimes attached to vehicles, I jumped out to



remove it. To my surprise, it was a handwritten note and a dollar bill. It said: **"Thank you so much service! It is not forgotten."** I was immediately touched by the message and the expression of gratitude. Perhaps this kind person saw the American Legion and U.S. Navy decals on the bumper of my car. Most folks would not have even seen them, would have just walked on by. But this person took the time to stop and perform an act of kindness that swept away all of the little problems of the day and replaced them with a feeling of genuine warmth. The things we have done and the things we still do matter to many and even those who do not care reap the benefits of freedoms not bestowed but earned. Yes, our country can boast spectacular vistas and ample natural resources, but the true greatness of our nation comes from the brave patriots who have gone in harm's way to maintain and magnify its greatness. To the thoughtful but unknown note writer: Thank **YOU**, it's a real privilege to serve!



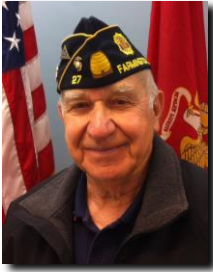
Kent Hansen

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Calendar of Events

- June 9 -- Post 27 meeting.** 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116. Speaker: John Brekke, Veterans Administration. Topic: **"eBenefits"**
- June 13-17 – Utah Boys State,** WSU
- June 14 – DATC Veterans Center Open House** 3-4:30 pm
- June 16 – SAL State Convention,** 1:00 pm, WSU Union Bldg., Senators' Chamber.
- June 24-26 – Department of Utah Convention,** Uintah Conference Center, 313 E 200 S, Vernal, UT
- July 4 – Independence Day.** *Fly the flag!*
- July 9 – Farmington Days Parade** 10:00 am.
- July 14 -- Post 27 meeting.** 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
- July 22 – Bountiful Handcart Days Parade.** 6:00 pm
- July 25 – Pioneer Day (observed)** *Fly the flag!*

1st Vice Commander



Frank Ferrante

The American Legion Preamble has been the beacon light of The American Legion for almost 100 years. It has been amended only once in all that time. That amendment consisted of adding the letter “S” to the word “war.” It makes the Preamble read today “Great Wars,” so as to embrace all wars.

*“For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a 100-percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to **promote peace and good will on earth**; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.*



There are 10 clauses of the Preamble, though brief, each clause has a world of meaning. For the following months I would like to review each clause separately.

TO PROMOTE PEACE AND GOOD WILL ON EARTH...

Until all the world becomes a good neighborhood, Legionnaires must continue the effort to promote peace and good will on earth. It is in pursuit of this founding ideal that The American Legion has supported from the beginning and seeks to strengthen the United Nations organization. Obliquely, The American Legion also contributes to this ideal by firmly supporting a strong national defense to discourage breaking of the peace by aggressors.

Reminder, the American Legion is only as strong as its membership base. The more devoted members it has, the better the organization can advocate for veterans and serve the military community which has given much to our country. Invite a potential member to our meetings

2nd Vice Commander

Boys State is just a few days away. We hope many of you will take the time to visit some of the events during the week of June 13 - 17. If you can only attend one day make it the 17th because that is the graduation day and it is quite impressive. As of now I have not seen a schedule of events and times but as soon as I can I will email one out to all of you, or call me at 801-803-9565.

There are two great symbols depicting the concept of liberty: the Statue of Liberty and the Liberty Bell.



On the bell in raised letters it is quoting Leviticus 25: 10 which states “Proclaim liberty throughout all the land.” What is LIBERTY? The dictionary says that liberty is “the condition of being free to choose with an implication of wisdom and voluntary restraint.” How do we obtain wisdom and restraint? We cannot leave it up to the government or the public schools. The real teaching must be done in the home and in the churches. You have control of teaching the principles of honesty, integrity, respect, character, love and patriotism. Then you can find a church that will emphasize what you teach in the home. President George H. W. Bush said that what matters most is not what we do in the White House but what you do in your house.



Kenneth Hadley

We can turn this country around and put it back on the track that our founding fathers envisioned it to be once the people have learned these basic principles and learn how the government is set up as taught in Boys and Girls State.

Adjutant/ Eagle Scout Courts of Honor

Membership is Our Lifeblood

Membership. Statistics are membership numbers through 1 June 2016.

2016 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2016 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
106	7	50	35	6	3	101	95%

I am reminded every day how wonderful the United States flag is. Showing respect to the American flag is a sign of true citizenship. Yesterday I was honored to participate in placing a small flag on the graves of American veterans and heroes at the Farmington and Kaysville cemeteries. How wonderful is it to see all the flags flying as they are spread across the whole grounds. I recently attended my grandson's high school graduation where the senior class sang the Star Spangled Banner and we all said the Pledge of Allegiance. I overheard one woman in the audience say after we were done, that she hadn't said it for a very long time. I felt a small pain in my heart for the woman because we all need to remember and pay tribute to the flag often. We repeat it at all of our general meeting and I feel patriotism to the flag every time I repeat it.



Dale Crockett

Our \$35 annual membership dues will start again next month on 1 July for the 2017 membership year. You can send it to our Post: P.O. Box 427, Farmington, UT 84025-0427. An even easier option is to go to www.Legion.org/renew and renew online. All you need is your current American Legion Membership Number and a valid credit card. Your renewal is instant, and the Post can see your renewal on-line within 24-48 hours. If you do not know your membership number, please give me a call or e-mail me. ***If I can do anything for you to make your membership renewal easier or more convenient, or answer any questions you may have regarding membership, please let me know. I can be reached at H (801) 4561-9493 / C (801) 560-2186 or email dalescrockett@yahoo.com.***

Sergeant-at-Arms



David Layton

Thank you, thank you all for your services in the Memorial Day Activities and for the continued Military Funeral Honors Post 27 provides for the families of the departed. The performance of Military Honors is the most important service we provide to our Veterans. Now is the time to start talking with all your associates about our American Flag Retirement ceremony that we do in conjunction with the Davis County Fair on August 18. We need all unserviceable American Flags gathered and taken to the Post so we are prepared for this 4th Annual Event.

Let us remember that when we are asked to perform American Legion duties, we represent all of our military comrades and especially those who gave all. We are Post 27, ready to serve for the country, the community and honors for the fallen.

Financial Officer/Military Funeral Honors

We are in the most patriotic time of year. Armed Forces Day has just past on May 5; Peace Officers Memorial Day was May 15, Armed Forces Day was May 21, D-Day is June 6, Flag Day is June 14, the entire month of July is filled with opportunities to fly the Flag. Coming up very soon is Post 27's Flag Retirement event on August 18 with more opportunities to suggest to friends and neighbors the retirement of their old "tattered and torn" flag with a new one.

Post 27 has a large inventory of flags of various sizes with the most popular (home flag) a nylon 3 x 5 foot with sewn Stars and Stripes and made in the USA. Various Flag stores sell for \$24.95 and we ask for a donation of \$10.00. We also have a very ample supply of 3 x 5 foot flags with printed Stars and Stripes for a donation of \$5.00.



John Sheets

If you know of a business that needs a larger flag we have some, which might work, if you will call me with the size, I will check to see what we have available and price. We have arranged with most of the Fire Stations in the Davis County area to provide the drop-off points for flags to be retired or you can bring the Flag to our Post Home at the Court House.



Paula Stephenson

Past Department Commander/Training Officer

THE AMERICAN LEGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB: Have a little fun with your equipment and talents while also being a member of the American Legion. The Legion has this program to help during disasters from floods, wild fires, earthquakes, and any other natural or man caused disasters. Here in Utah, the American Legion Amateur Radio Club is open to all American Legion family members who are licensed amateur radio operators. The American Legion State Coordinator for this program is Richard Fisher (NS7K), with Post 139 in Roy. Their Post call is K7HLR. You don't have to transfer to that Post to participate. If you do become a participant in this program, please let the



Post Commander or Adjutant know as a resource for our Post. Get started by contacting Richard Fisher (NS7K), (801) 773-9312, email: Rfisher590@earthlink.net.

NEW AMERICAN LEGION MEMBER DISCOUNT FOR Office Depot/Office Max:



Save up to 80%! Thousands of products discounted below retail! Free next-day delivery on online orders over \$50! (excludes furniture).

According to the American Legion "Dispatch", May, 2016, to print your own card or to sign-up for tax-exempt status (if applicable), visit:

officediscounts.org/tal-program.html . I printed my card and they give you free lamination for the card at Office Depot/Office Max. Now I can't wait to use it. ☺

VIETNAM VETERANS 50th ANNIVERSARY BOOK & DVD "Long Journey Home":

For all Vietnam Veterans who served during this war period (worldwide, not just in Vietnam), that live in or around the Salt Lake Area, please feel free to come to the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs office on the VA-Salt Lake City Campus and pick up a copy of the book and DVD at: 550 Foothill Drive, Suite 105, Salt Lake City, UT 84113.



If you are unable to go there, let me know and I will make arrangements to pick up requested amounts so you can be picked up your copy at our Post 27 home in Farmington or delivered to your home, if necessary. Paula Stephenson, (801) 589-2871 or email: stphnsnc@aol.com.

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED for June 27-July 2, 2016 for the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Salt Lake City. Go to the Utah American Legion website at www.utlegion.org and scroll down on the first page to "Volunteers Needed" and click on National Veterans Wheelchair Games. It tells you about the events, times, venues, etc. Our Department is donating six pallets of water for the participants, and our new state Department Commander will be presenting some of the medals at the games.



**SGT.
SAGE
SEZ**

*Don't draw fire.
It irritates the people around you.*

POW/MIA News



TAPS ON THE WALLS

Each individual must find his own way to deal with captivity. For one it could be physical, for another mental. John Borling survived six years and eight months of soul-crushing imprisonment in the Hanoi Hilton during the Vietnam War by writing poetry. How did he do it without pencil or paper? He wrote them in his mind, memorized them and shared his creations with fellow captives by their only means of communication – the POW tap code.

Jay Hess The POW tap code uses two series of taps for each letter. Twenty five of the 26 letters in the alphabet are placed in a 'box' grid of five rows and five columns. The first taps identify the row, the second taps ID the column.' A' is tap, pause, tap.' Z' is five taps, pause, five taps. Getting one of John's poems through the wall was emotionally something like getting 'Funnies' in the Sunday paper when you were a kid. Here is one of them:

REFLECTION

*A golden ladle dips in the western sky,
An evening breeze gentles fir trees high.
The plain song of a nest-bound bird grows dim.
Think of places been, those to roam,
And now, far away, think of home.*

TAPS on the WALLS, poems from the Hanoi Hilton by John Borling is available at Amazon.



Jake Garn Sea Cadet Squadron

Despite the fact that weather did not cooperate with us, May turned out to be a fantastic and exhausting drill. The squadron overnighted at Middle Fork Campground in Huntsville, UT. The cadets participated in many activities including several "capture the flag" events and a support event where the cadets assisted the Wasatch Front Chapter of the Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA) in cleaning equestrian facilities. The association remarked that the task would have taken them all day. With the help of the Sea Cadets, it only took them one hour. The cadets finalized the day's activities by working to collect three key items to finish a challenge. One Wing had to locate a fire source and another Wing had to locate fuel. Each item was buried with clues to find it. Once the two items were found, the Wings had to combine to find the final item, an axe. Using clues provided, the squadron determined the location of the axe and sent two cadets up the mountain to retrieve it. Using fire, fuel and an axe, the cadets were required to build a fire in order to eat dinner. They had absolutely no problem accomplishing the task. As a matter of fact, most cadets said the challenge was too easy. The day was ended by leisure time and enjoying a movie. During the night rain descended on the campground and the weekend was cut short by about four hours. Not one cadet complained. The most impressive thing I noticed about the entire weekend was the complete lack of electronics use. We never set the expectation that electronics would not be used. The cadets, instead, did it all on their own. The talked, bonded, explored and relaxed during the entire day. It was a sight to be seen. Our cadets are really something special.

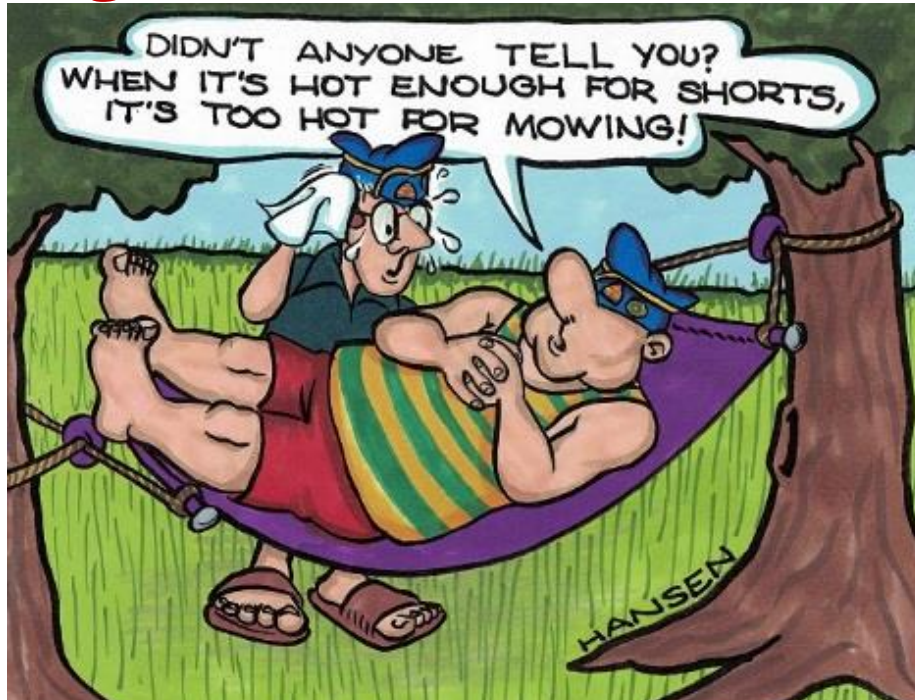


Courtney Putnam



Jake Garn Sea Cadet Squadron cadets drill with the Back Country Horsemen of Utah.

Legion Laffs



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



or the link from our Post website at www.post27.org.



Take advantage of our Veterans Outreach Program

Every first and third Wednesday from 11:30 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.



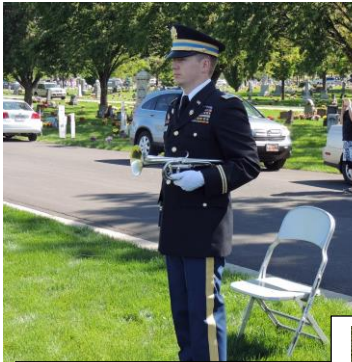
AMERICAN LEGION
BOYS STATE



**WEBER STATE
UNIVERSITY
June 13-17**

***Come see the
Magic!***





**Memorial Day
in Kaysville
and
Farmington**