

The American Legion Centennial Post



June 2018 The Official Newsletter of Post 27 ★ Squadron 27 ★ Unit 27 www.post27.org

Post 27 Programs & Activities

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



Commander's Corner

JUNE IS BUSTIN' OUT ALL OVER

I love this time of year. The days are longer; the weather is warmer; the skies are generally cloudless. But most of all, June means Boys State. The American Legion's Boys State program has long been near and dear to my heart. Like nearly every other high school student who has attended Boys State, I had no idea what I was getting into when I first attended as a high school student when it was then held at Utah State University in 1965. By the end of the week, I was eternally changed. My whole paradigm of citizenship was elevated and my desire to contribute to my country was set ablaze.



Kent Hansen



Now and for the past seven years, I have had the privilege to serve as a counselor at Boys State, now held at Weber State University. I have marveled as I have watched boys emerge as citizens. I have cheered each year as a couple hundred young men gather in a million and a half dollars-worth of scholarships.

I extend a most enthusiastic invitation to all of you to carve out some time and drop by the WSU Union Building any time from June 11 to June 15 and see this amazing event with your own eyes. Those who lament the perceived devolution of the younger generation will enjoy a happy surprise as they discover that perhaps our future is in good hands.

Utah Boys State has been transforming young men into contributing citizens since 1939. Lives have changed and many of the folks who are leaders in the state today got their foundations at Utah Boys State. Come and see for yourself. It will inspire you.

THE AMERICAN LEGION



THE AMERICAN LEGION Centennial celebration

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

June 4-9 – American Legion Auxiliary Utah Girls State, Weber State University.
June 7 -- Post 27 & SAL General Meeting. 6:30pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
June 11-15 -- American Legion Utah Boys State, Weber State University.
June 14 – Flag Day. *Fly the flag!*
June 14 – SAL Detachment Convention. 1:00 pm, WSU Union Building.
June 22-24 – Department of Utah Convention. Marriott Research Park, 480 Wakara Way, SLC.

July 4 – Independence Day. *Fly the flag!*
July 4 – Kaysville Flag Raising at DATC by Post 27, 6:30 am, followed by breakfast 6:30-9:30 am, Parade 10:00 am.
July 5 – SAL Squadron meeting. 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
July 12 – American Legion Auxiliary meeting. 6:00 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 114.
July 12 – Post 27 General Meeting. 6:30pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
July 14 – Farmington Festival Days Parade. 10:00 am.
July 14 – Vietnam Veterans Memorial. 4:00 pm, Layton Commons Park.

1st Vice Commander



June brings summer and the beginning of several American Legion functions to serve our communities. In June, the American Legion sponsors Boys State and The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors Girls State at Weber State University. Girls State begins June 4 and goes through June 9. Boys State begins June 11 and goes through June 15. Both of these weeks are packed full of teachings of our Republic’s Constitution. Guest speakers from all political offices bring home to the students how America works and why after over two hundred years our Nation is still the best in the world. Last year I attended Boys State on a part time basis and was able to watch the campaigning and voting for several of the Offices these young men were trying to win.

Ron Jugenitz

For all that haven’t attended a Boys or Girls State, it is a rewarding experience. To watch the students grow and become excited about our political system is simply amazing. The students are initially put together and represent a fictional city named for a past American Legion Department Commander. Then they have quickly to interact in their city and elect a Mayor and other city officials. In order to be elected they must run for office, the population of the city votes, votes are counted and the winner is elected to office.

Each day the offices are for a larger population, i.e. County, State and finally Governor, Lieutenant Governor and two Senators. By the end of the week, each student must write three essays – one on a topic that is provided them and two on the guest speakers that they were impressed with and how that speaker motivated them. The essays are read by a Counselor and discussed with the writer of the essay. The essays are used as a final grade for the College Credit earned by the student. Additionally, many scholarships are awarded to the students to help them with the financial costs of attending college.

Adjutant



Dale Crockett

Membership is Our Lifeblood!

Membership. Statistics are membership numbers through 1 June 2018.

2018 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2018 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
101	13	45	36	6	22	122	122%

Memorial Day has just been completed with lots of flags flying in all cemeteries. It makes me feel so proud to see all of the flags waving in the wind. The next big day for flying the flag will be June 14 for Flag Day. it commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States, which happened on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress. The United States Army also celebrates the U.S. Army birthdays on this date. When most people think of summer holidays, they think of the big three: Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day. But people often forget another important American observance—Flag Day. After the flag’s creation, several people in the late 19th century had a helping hand in creating the holiday—but it’s unclear who officially suggested its creation first. One key person was B.J. Cigrand, a Wisconsin-born school teacher, who continuously proposed an annual observance of the flag



The Post 27 Centennial Post

is published monthly for members of Post 27, SAL Squadron 27, Auxiliary Unit 27 and friends of The American Legion.

Editor: Kent Hansen

Please have your submissions in by the last week of the month previous to publication.

Submit to: kenthansen7@gmail.com



in magazine and newspaper articles. He even arranged for his pupils to celebrate a day recognizing what he called the flag's "birthday" on June 14.

Another person involved was George Morris, a Hartford, Connecticut resident who instituted a formal observance of the day in his hometown. There was also George Bolch, a New York kindergarten teacher who planned Flag Day ceremonies for the kids at his school. Meanwhile, Elizabeth Duane Gillespie—a direct descendant of Benjamin Franklin—pushed for a similar observance in Pennsylvania in 1893. But it wasn't until May 7, 1937, that Pennsylvania became the first state to establish Flag Day on June 14 as a legal holiday, according to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. It took three presidents to get Flag Day on the government's radar—President Woodrow Wilson issued a formal proclamation for Flag Day in 1916 and President Calvin Coolidge did the same in 1927. But in 1949, Congress finally approved and President Harry Truman signed the national observance of Flag Day on June 14 into law.

"It is our custom to observe June 14 each year with ceremonies designed not only to commemorate the birth of our flag but also to rededicate ourselves to the ideals for which it stands," Truman said in his proclamation. "This beloved emblem, which flies

above all our people of whatever creed or race, signals our respect for human rights and the protection such rights are afforded under our form of government." Let's remember to fly the flag on June 14.

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.



Legion Nuggets

June 11, 1997

The National Emergency Fund surpasses the \$1 million mark in cash grants given to flood victims who belong to the Legion family. Most grant recipients reside in the flood plains of Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Minnesota and North Dakota.

Training Officer (Also National Vice Commander)



Paula Stephenson

ADOPT A VETERAN

How can we show our gratitude to our fallen comrades and fellow service members that are no long with us, not just one or two days a year but on a regular basis? Chuck and I go to Kalispell, Montana once a year to spruce up my parents' graves and prepare them for the winter and spring. Dad served in the Army Air Corps and U.S. Air Force, and Mom supported his efforts serving our country, just like she supported me for 32 years in the Army. The cemetery staff always takes great care of the entire cemetery, just like here in Farmington, but the detail work is left up to individual families. We polish the stonework and the

brass niche on both graves and trim back the grass that has overgrown the granite stone. The florist who puts flowers on their graves on selected holidays for me has parents buried in Ohio. She once said she hopes someone is taking care of her parents' graves with such care and detail.



Here is an idea: Adopt a veteran. If you find a veteran's grave in the Farmington Cemetery or another cemetery you visit on a regular basis that appears to not have special care, periodically go by and spruce it up. On Veterans Day, put a flag by that grave, just like we do collectively on Memorial Day. Talk with that veteran and thank him or her for the freedoms you have. Take your children and/or

grandchildren with you to help. There is always a teaching point with them. You may just feel something special in your heart because of this small "adoption".

POW/MIA News

This is one of the Vietnam POW Flag stories. Probably every POW has a flag story that tells of a very meaningful experience while in captivity.

After being shot down over North Vietnam in 1967, after being tortured and held captive 1 – 4 months, one Navy and three Air Force pilots are put together in a room in a camp they named the "Annex." They really looked bad from shoot-down injuries and torture but inside they were still proud men serving their



country. They had just been together a day or two when they were moved into the "Annex." It was a Saturday night. When they awoke on Sunday the Navy pilot said, "I've heard a thump on my wall most Sundays. I think it could be "Church Call." That prompted the four to put on their pajamas and pray together. As they were pulling off their pajamas, one of the Air Force guy said, "There is something else we ought to do. We ought to pledge allegiance to the flag."

It was just an imaginary flag that day. The four put their pajamas back on, put their hands over their hearts and repeated the Pledge of Allegiance. They felt different afterwards. It was like they were a team and not fighting the war alone anymore.

This weekly ritual was common to most Vietnam POWs, whether they were in solitary or in groups. In each group there was probably someone more patriotic who said, "We ought to pledge allegiance to the flag." In this group, it was the oldest Captain in the Air Force, Capt Konrad Trautman."

Konnie's parents emigrated from Germany to Pennsylvania. Konnie only spoke German when he entered grade school. While some took their citizenship lightly, Konnie did not. Colonel Konrad Trautman USAF (Ret) died Dec 23, 2017 and buried at Arlington June 15, 2018 with full military honors.



Jay Hess

Sons of the American Legion

Founded in 1932, Sons of The American Legion exists to honor the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires. S.A.L. members include males of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the U.S. military and were eligible for American Legion membership. Members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion comprise the Legion Family, which has a combined membership of nearly 4.2 million.



Although Sons has its own membership, the organization is not a separate entity. Rather, S.A.L. is a program of The American Legion. Many Legionnaires hold dual membership in S.A.L.

The Sons organization is divided into detachments at the state level and squadrons at the local level. A squadron pairs with a local American Legion post; a squadron's charter is contingent upon its parent post's charter. However, squadrons can determine the extent of their services to the community, state and nation. They are permitted flexibility in planning programs and activities to meet their needs, but must remember S.A.L.'s mission: to strengthen the four pillars of The American Legion. Therefore, squadrons' campaigns place an emphasis on preserving American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for veterans and their families, and teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship.

Since 1988, S.A.L. has raised more than \$6 million for The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. S.A.L. members have volunteered over 500,000 hours at veterans hospitals and raised over \$1,000,000 for VA hospitals and VA homes. The Sons also support the Citizens Flag Alliance, a coalition dedicated to protecting the U.S. flag from desecration through a constitutional amendment.

All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in Service during World I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf War and the War on Terrorism, during the delimiting periods set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the



Ron Craig
SAL Squadron 27
Commander

National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for Membership in the Sons of The American Legion.

American Legion Auxiliary



**Deb Hefner
Hansen
Unit 27 President**

Dear Ladies!

What a wonderful opportunity I had this past Friday with Michelle Hess! Our post was placing flags on the veterans' graves at the Farmington Cemetery Friday morning. Michelle and Jay had completed their section and I was about halfway through my section next to theirs. Michelle came and took my flags and I managed the clipboard with the list and the map...but what was special was that as we searched for the graves, we each repeated the name of the veteran, it was almost as though we ourselves were paying tribute to these heroes. One was even in the Mormon Battalion... now that's a long time ago!!!

How blessed we are to live in this land made free by the blood and sacrifice of those who served!

Girls State starts June 4th and yours truly will be a counselor for the first time! Leavitt City!! You may know that the cities are named after former Utah Governors. Boys State cities are named after past State Legion Commanders...yes, there is a Stephenson city for Paula!! So should Chuck's be "Charlestown"?? We will be reading essays at Girls State on Thursday, June 7th at 10 am in the Shepard Union Building at Weber State! We'd love to have you come...and there's a free lunch!!!

Be keeping track of all your service hours so we can report them!!! Hope your Memorial Day weekend was great!



Living the Legion Life

Kent Hansen

Kent is living the dream serving with his fellow veterans and helping to make a difference in a world that sometimes takes our great nation for granted. The ideals contained in the Four Pillars are totally in sync with his own principles.

Branch of Service: U.S. Navy from 1967 to 1971, 1977 to 1994

Place of Birth: Alliance, Ohio

My War: Vietnam: 1968-1970.

Hobbies: Cartooning, Directing Musical Theatre, History, Movies.

Offices Held: Post Historian, Post 2nd Vice Commander, Post Commander, District II 2nd Vice Commander, Centennial Post Editor, The Buzz Editor.

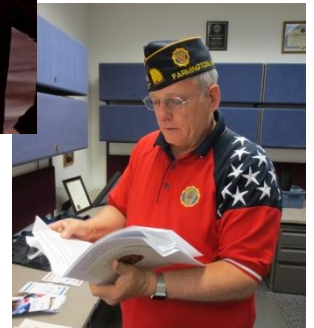
Reason for joining The American Legion: I joined to fill a void in my life, to continue to serve my country and to rub shoulders with fellow veterans.

Years in The Legion: 8

Other Legion Affiliation: SAL Squadron 27, SAL National Executive Committeeman.

Favorite Legion programs: Boys State, Oratorical Contest, Military Funeral Honors

What The Legion means to me: I confess to being a bit of an idealist. I have always believed the practice of ideals creates new realities. The American Legion has given me a bully pulpit to realize American ideals, assist other veterans and help our nation's youth to become participating and contributing citizens. My friendship with other veterans is beyond price and without The American Legion, I might never have even met them.



Legion Laughs

YOU DON'T THINK HE WANTED TO CARPOOL, DO YOU?



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

Every first and third Wednesday from 11:00 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.

Veterans Outreach Schedule

June
6 & 20

July
18 & 25