

## COMMANDERS CALL



**Jon Rue**

Welcome to the June edition of YOUR Posts newsletter! I hope you all had a “Worthy Memorial Day”. Remembering our veterans that gave the ultimate sacrifice, and participating in community events dedicated to that remembrance, are some of my most cherished activities. Hopefully you were able to participate in placing flags at fellow veterans’ grave markers in Farmington, Kaysville, or a cemetery of your choosing.

I also thank those that participated in or attended the Memorial Day Ceremony at Kaysville, where you saw our own Post prominently present and involved.

This year the arrival of June again brings out thoughts of Normandy and the D-Day Allied Invasion, especially since 2024 marks the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this action to defeat tyranny. It is especially important to me personally, as this fall my family has the opportunity to spend a day at Normandy during our vacation. I’ll also reflect on the Poppies that my family will help the American Legion Auxiliary distribute.



June also has significance for our American Legion Family with the activities of Girls State and Boys State. Our Post members are involved in significant roles for Boys State.

**Flag Day:** Remember that June 14<sup>th</sup> is Flag Day. Celebrated on the anniversary of the original flag’s official adoption. Fly your flag – I DO!

We want your photos of American Legion and other veteran’s activities. Please reach out to our 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice/Webmaster to determine the best way to get pictures to him.

## Post 27 Family Events Calendar

- June 2-7 – American Legion Auxiliary Utah Girls State. Weber State University
- June 6 – Post 27 General Meeting, 7:00 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse
- June 9-15 – American Legion Utah Boys State. Weber State University
- June 14 – Flag Day. *Fly the flag!*
- June 14 – U.S. Army Birthday *Fly the flag!*
- June 21-23 – American Legion Department of Utah Convention, Vernal

- July 4 – Independence Day. *Fly the flag!*
- July 24 – Pioneer Day. *Fly the flag!*



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



**Bob Anderson**

As I suggested last month, *“Remember our veterans and keep looking out for more potential Legionnaires!”*

One of the best ways is to reach out to those members who aren’t actively able to participate in American Legion functions or attend meetings. It builds up the comradery with our veterans that is the heart of The American Legion; the same comradery we all felt for our fellow service men and women when we were active; we all struggled to balance our commitments to our country, needs of our family, and our bond with our comrades in arms. Though we are not actively serving with them now, we still feel the bond of the service and love of country we shared while active and after. Reaching out means renewing that bond and comradery from one veteran to another we felt in service and we will never forget.

Call a veteran. Stop them on the street. Ask them how they served. Remind them of your bond to them. Ask them if they would like to be a part of The American Legion. Tell them just to go to <https://www.legion.org/join> and ask to be in Post 27 - Farmington Utah.

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

On June 1st, 1813, the Captain of the USS Chesapeake, James Lawrence, during the War of 1812, uttered the famous words "Don't give up the ship!" It was his last command before his death. Later, Oliver Hazard Perry (namesake for a class of modern Destroyers) had this phrase embroidered into a blue battle ensign. A large replica now hangs in the Memorial Hall at the Naval Academy, where Midshipmen reflect on those five words every day. These are more than just five words. They represent a commitment to see the mission through.



**Dan Woodward**

We, as Legionnaires, must not give up our ship. Our mission to continually help Veterans in need. That is our job and it is an honorable profession. Your help with Girls and Boys State (happening this month!), the Oratorical Contest, Military Funeral Honors, Flag Retirement, contributing to our Airman's Attic food replenishment...these are all great tasks that help the Veteran and Military community near us. Please continue your support and efforts with Post 27, it is most appreciated!

**Don't Give Up the Ship!**

# Adjutant



**Dale Crockett**

## Membership is our Lifeblood!



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

2024 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ON-LINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2023 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
128	21	54	34	1	3	113	88%

*Sons of the American Legion Membership:* Statistics are membership numbers through Apr 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](https://www.legion.org/renew) and sign up for three years at a time and you will pay \$35 each year. The responsibility given to the individual post

is a source of our strength and ability to grow. Our post encourages and asks our members to renew every year. Each one of our members should strive to renew each year, preferably in the month of July when the membership opens up for the next year. That keeps our post strong and active. We help our veterans and the surrounding communities in several activities and programs. Without your support and membership, we could slowly disappear and that would be tragic. Please, if you have not renewed or signed up for the 3 year plan for those savings, do so now. 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](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

### D-DAY 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

As early as 1942, the United States and the British were considering the possibility of a major Allied invasion across the English Channel. Hitler charged Rommel in 1943 with fortifying the Atlantic Wall, a 2,400-mile fortification of bunkers, landmines and beach and water obstacles.



On the morning of June 6, 1944, Allied forces staged an enormous assault on German positions on the beaches of Normandy. Codenamed Operation Overlord, the battle began on June 6, 1944, when some 156,000 American, British and Canadian forces landed on five beaches along a 50-mile stretch of the heavily fortified coast of France. The invasion was one of the largest



**Steve Steed**

amphibious military assaults in history and required extensive planning. According to some estimates, more than 4,000 Allied troops lost their lives that day, with thousands more wounded or missing.

The invasion is often known by the famous nickname “D-Day,” yet few people know the origin of the term or what, if anything, the “D” stood for. Most argue it was merely a redundancy that also meant “day,” but others have proposed everything from “departure” to “decision” to “deliverance” to “doomsday.”

According to the U.S. military, “D-Day” was an Army designation used to indicate the start date for specific field operations. In this case, the “D” in D-Day doesn’t actually stand for anything—it’s merely a placeholder used to designate a particular day on the calendar.

The Normandy invasion began to turn the tide against the Nazis. A significant psychological blow, it also prevented Hitler from sending troops from France to build up his Eastern Front against the advancing Soviets. The following spring, on May 8, 1945, the Allies formally accepted the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany.

May God bless us never forget all those who gave their lives on “D-Day” to preserve our liberty and freedom.



# HISTORIAN

## Famous Folk Who Were There on D-Day



### Henry Fonda

Although he was already 37, actor Henry Fonda enlisted in World War II in 1942, saying he “didn’t want to be a fake in the war studio.” On D-Day, he gave support to the allies by serving as quartermaster on the destroyer USS *Satterlee*. He later appeared in the 1962 film *The Longest Day*.

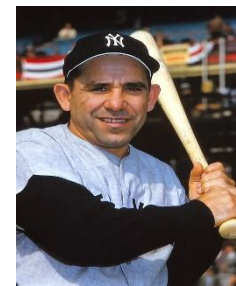


Kent Hansen

### Yogi Berra

He was best known as a catcher for the New York Yankees, but before his record-breaking career as a MLB star, Yogi Berra served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He manned a naval support craft during the invasion of Normandy and later told NBC News that he didn’t quite grasp the gravity of the situation until it was over.

“Well, being a young guy, I thought it was like the Fourth of July, to tell you the truth,” he said. “I said, ‘Boy, it looks pretty, all the planes coming over.’ And I was looking out and my officer said, ‘You better get your head down in here if you want it on.’”



### James Doohan

Before he played Scotty on *Star Trek*, James Doohan was a lieutenant in World War II. Because he was part of the Canadian Army, Doohan and his men were in charge of taking on Juno Beach on D-Day. Doohan was struck by six bullets on that historic day, but the only injury he walked away with was a missing middle finger.



### David Niven

Oscar-winning British actor David Niven, who was famous for playing British war heroes, was desperate to leave the war early and return to Hollywood ahead of D-Day, which surprised many who knew him. He stuck it out, though, and was one of the first officers to land at Normandy. He was later awarded the U.S. Legion of Merit Medal.



### Charles Durning

American actor Charles Durning landed on Omaha Beach in one of the first waves of the D-Day invasion and was one of the few soldiers in his group to survive. He was shot several times during the invasion and went on to be awarded a Purple Heart and Silver Star.



### Alec Guinness

British actor Alec Guinness—famous for *Star Wars* and *The Bridge on the River Kwai*—was part of the British Royal Navy during World War II and helped land an aircraft that brought British troops to the beaches of Normandy.

# POW/MIA NEWS



Jay Hess

## Some POW Stats

The 'Historian' for Vietnam POWs (Mike McGrath, Capt. USN Ret) writes and Department of Defense (DOD) and Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency ([www.dpaa.mil](http://www.dpaa.mil)) records that there were 735 military POWs. Seventy three died in captivity.

Erich Anderson, Veteran Tributes Founder (<http://veterantributes.org>) notes that most military POW statistics for wars before Vietnam are estimates. The following is his list:



WAR	POWs	DIED IN CAPTIVITY
Revolutionary	20,000	8,500
1812	unknown	
Civil Union	194,000	30,000
Civil Confederate	214,000	26,000
Spanish	12	0
WW I	4,120	147
WW II	124,000	11,000 Death rate by who captured. German - 1%, Japan - 37%
Korea	7,100	2,700
Persian Gulf	23	0

## American Legion Auxiliary



Deb Hansen

May is always such a nice month! Although you can never predict the weather, we are hoping for a beautiful evening for the Flag Retirement Ceremony on May 31! While I was back in Massachusetts earlier this month, I paused to reflect at the grave of a young man from my little town, serving in the Marines, who was killed in Vietnam in February 1968. I remember being in the ninth grade when the news came that Larry Leigh had been killed in action.

He is buried just a long putt away from where my parents' grave is. It has always been a privilege when I have visited their graves to stop and reflect at Larry's. When our daughter Ashleigh was young, and we would have our trimmers with us to trim the trees

at my parents' grave, she would always trim the ones at Larry's. He would've been 78 this month.

This Memorial Day we remember all those who didn't come home and we love and honor them!



# **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](http://www.post27.org)



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- In the subjects scrolling at the beginning, select the **CONTACT US** button under the subject “VA Benefits & Claims Assistance”
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