



AMERICAN LEGION POST 27

NEWSLETTER

FARMINGTON, UTAH



March 2013

Still Serving America

www.post27.org

Commander's Corner



Paula Stephenson

We are celebrating the American Legion's 94th birthday on March 15, the day of the first caucus of the American Legion held in Paris, France in 1919. Later that year, the American Legion's charter was signed by the U.S. Congress.

Happy Birthday, American Legion!

At this month's regular Post meeting on March 14, (which, by the way, will be held in our usual place: Room 114 of the old Davis County Courthouse) we will be receiving nominations for the officer positions within our Post. If you are interested in serving, please contact me at 801-444-7189. We are always looking for new talent.



With the transition of offices from the old Davis County Memorial Courthouse to the Davis County Administration Building, John Sheets and I have continued working on nailing down a permanent location for our Post within the Old Courthouse. This would include storage space for our equipment, meeting space, and an office area that has the potential for assisting members and other veterans with their benefits and referring as needed. There are approximately 16,000 veterans in Davis County. I feel the need is there to assist them and for our Post to carry on its mission. We have provided a very long list of accomplishments within our communities, the volunteer hours Post members have given, and our value to our communities. John and I are meeting with the Davis County Commissioners on March 20. Stay tuned . . .

2nd Vice Commander



William Huber

Post 27 will be conducting interviews throughout the month of March at Viewmont and Davis High Schools and at NUAMES for those desiring to enroll at this year's **2013 American Legion Utah Boys State** (Boys State). Interview schedules are being finalized at this time.

The cost to attend this year is \$425. It will be held June 10 – 14, 2013. They will learn about how our democratic republic form of government works through participating in the formation of mock city, county and state governments, serve as a delegate in mock parties, run for office and hear from numerous guest speakers. Those attending and completing the week long program will qualify to receive 3 credit hours in political science from Weber State University (WSU). It will also meet their civics ½ Credit (1 semester) requirement for high school seniors. They will be able to apply for scholarships.

The class of 2012 qualified to receive well over \$900K in scholarships from WSU. To qualify as a potential attendee, the boy must finish his high school junior year prior to the start of the program and plan on attending his senior year. Interested candidates should contact their high school counselors to get details to apply.

Applications are due by April 1, 2013. Legionnaires may contact William Huber at [801-597-9807](tel:801-597-9807) or at william.a.huber@comcast.net for further information.



Adjutant



Chuck Stephenson

Post 27 welcomes our newest member. Mr. John M. Barger was recruited by our Sgt-at-Arms Frank Lennartz. John becomes the member that pushes us over the 100% renewal/recruitment target established by Department Headquarters last fall. John is a Retired Air Force Veteran who lives in the Farmington area. We welcome John to Post 27 and look forward to getting to know him better.

Even though we have reached our 100% target, we need to continue our retention and recruitment efforts. Membership is the "Life Blood" of our program. Our involvement in community programs is supported by dedicated members who are willing to contribute and participate.

Honor Guard Training is scheduled for 18 April 2013. Please mark your calendars NOW. The Training will be conducted by the Utah Army National Guard Military Honors Section. All are welcome to attend. It will be held at the Farmington Fire Station, 82 N. 100 E. Farmington (one block North from the Old Davis County Courthouse) from 7: to 9: PM. The training will be in concert with the Farmington Fire and Police Departments Honors Unit and will cover Military Funeral Honors; folding of the Flag; etc. Post 27 will also rehearse our Eagle Scout Flag Presentation Program.

STOP – Think about it. Do you have sons or grandsons? If you do, they are eligible to become members of our **Squadron 27 – Sons of the American Legion**. It is a way that sons and grandsons can participate in all American Legion Programs with Dad or Grandpa. Our current membership stands at 10 with a target membership set at 12 for 2013. **What better way to honor your father's or grandfather's service?**

The Department of Utah 2013 Convention will be at the Marriott Courtyard in Layton on 21, 22, 23 June. District 2 (Davis, Morgan and Weber Counties) is hosting the event, and working hard to make this the best Convention ever. Post 27 has been asked by the District 2 Commander to "Present the Colors" at the opening of the Convention. If you are interested in volunteering for any of the committee's needed to support this effort, please give me a call at (H) 801-444-7189 or (C) 801-698-7750; or send an email to stphnsnc@aol.com.

We are now on Facebook at "American Legion Post 27 Farmington Utah" or there is a link from our Post website at www.post27.org.



Visit us on
Facebook

Sergeant-at-Arms



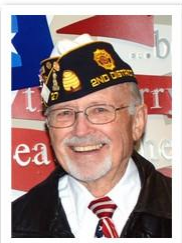
Frank Lennartz

We have had a busy month with the Department Oratorical contest, Eagle Flag presentations, and military funeral honors. We are also starting interviews for Boys State. There are plenty of opportunities for all Post members to participate, if you think that all we do is have meetings that sometimes run long and are boring – not true!

We would love to have your input and can use your talents in many areas. This is your Post and it is always rewarding to do one of these service projects and rub shoulders with fellow vets. If you can't make our monthly meeting, call any of our Post officers with what you would like to help us with.

Also we are having nominations for post officers to serve for this next year. The nominations will be at the March meeting with the election at the April meeting. Come and make your voice heard.

Finance Officer

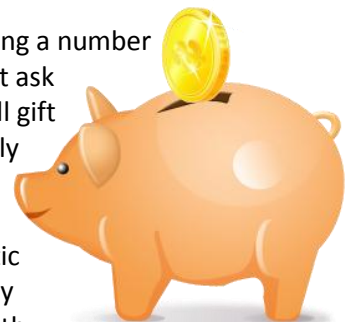


John Sheets

Comrades, our Funeral Honor Guard has been very responsive in answering a number of calls to Honor our departed Comrades in February. Although we do not ask for a monetary contribution from the family, we do not turn down a small gift the family may offer. As of the end of February, the Post checking is solidly in the black with **\$2063.15** in Zions Bank, Farmington.

We are coming into our busy season of the year with a number of patriotic holidays the first being Memorial Day on the 27th of May. We will be busy placing flags at the Kaysville and Farmington Cemeteries on Friday the 24th.

We will be involved in other activities, so watch the calendar. We need everyone to participate.



POW/MIA News



POW/MIA Update

This year the Defense Prisoner of War-Missing Personnel Office has accounted for 13 U. S. military service members who were previously missing, five in February and one in March. **Army Sgt Bowe Bergdahl** of Idaho is still MIA.



JPAC INVESTIGATION TEAMS SEARCH FOR MISSING SERVICE MEMBERS

A specially trained investigation team from the [U.S. Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command](#) is conducting an extended investigation operation in the Philippines for about six weeks, searching for evidence of service members who remain unaccounted-for from World War II. A nine-member investigation team will conduct back-to-back missions at numerous locations throughout the Philippines, searching for information about 20 sites and approximately 90 individuals who are unaccounted-for from World War II. Investigation teams authenticate leads from eyewitnesses, conduct field research and gather information throughout various locations to determine whether or not there will be an excavation at a later date. Falling directly under the U.S. Pacific Command and employing more than 500 joint military and civilian personnel, JPAC continues its search for the fullest possible accounting of the more than 83,000 Americans still missing from past conflicts. The ultimate goal of the JPAC, and of the agencies involved in returning America's heroes home, is to conduct global search, recovery, and laboratory operations in order to support the Department of Defense's personnel accounting efforts. **"Until They Are Home"**

Historian



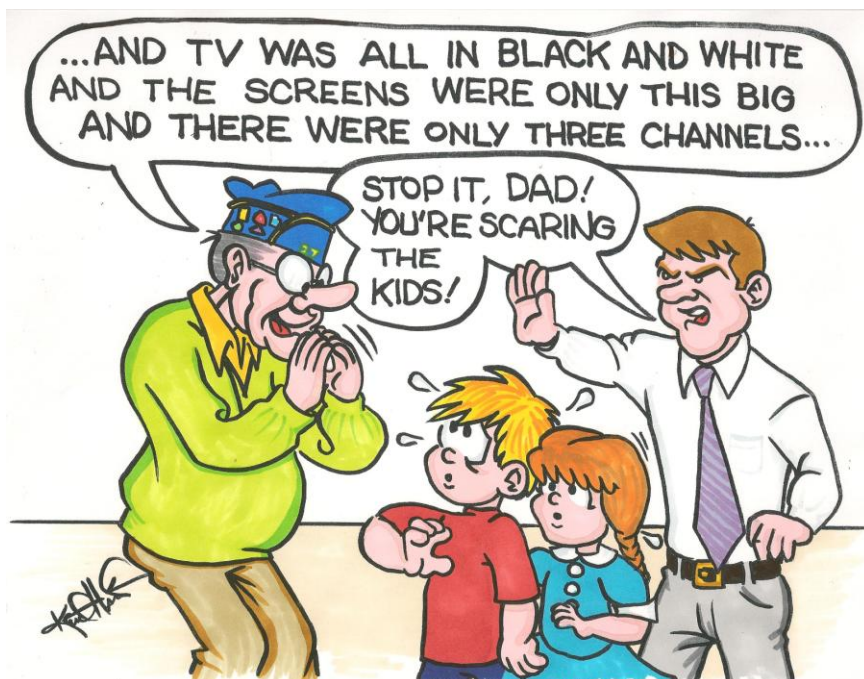
Kent Hansen

The Purpose of Side Boy Honor Guard aboard military ships

In today's military, we have many unique customs. What is not realized is that what is now a custom formerly had a real purpose. Take the use of Side Boys to welcome a ranking visitor aboard a military vessel. It is the task of assigning two, four, six, or eight men to line both sides of the gangplank based on the ascending rank of the officer visiting the vessel, with two being assigned for ensigns and lieutenants, up to eight for admirals and above. More rank, more honor guard, right? But this system originally served a more practical purpose.

The custom came from the British Navy of the 17th-18th Century. Then, men often didn't have the luxury of walking onto their ships. Most had to transfer from a small boat to the larger ship by ladder, or by a device called a bosun's chair, which was essentially a seat attached to a yardarm by a block and tackle. The younger and less rank you had, the lighter you were likely to be. Thus, a light midshipman or lieutenant needed only two men on the haul rope, while a corpulent Admiral, having eaten everything and then some during his 40-year career, tended to need eight men to pull him up. Additional jobs, such as steadying the person after getting him on deck and helping with the luggage, also required number of hands based on the weight or amounts of belongings collected throughout the years.

Legion Laffs



Calendar of Events/Items of Interest.

- March 11 -- **Veteran Speaker Series**, Salt Lake City Library, 210 E 400 S, Auditorium, 7:00 pm.
Featured speaker: Donald Curtis, Army, Korea.
- March 14 -- **Next Scheduled Post Meeting:** 6:30 pm, old Davis County Courthouse, Room 114
- March 15 – **The American Legion Birthday:** Fly the flag.
- March 17 – **St. Patrick's Day.** Begorrah! Wear the **green**.
- April 8 – **Veteran Speaker Series**, Salt Lake City Library, 210 E 400 S, Auditorium, 7:00 pm.
Featured speaker: Jerry Cannon, Air Force, Vietnam.
- April 18 – **Honor Guard/Rifle Team Training:** 7:00-9:00 pm, Farmington Fire Station, 82 North 100 East, Farmington.



Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) is a program dedicated to meeting the needs of wounded, injured or ill military personnel by providing them with comfort items not usually supplied by the government. OCW ensures that patients at U.S. military hospitals and warrior transition units are given items such as sweat suits, DVDs, puzzles, electronic devices, books, calling cards and more. OCW also provides larger items such as ping pong tables, entertainment centers, computers, kayaks and other recreational goods for use by wounded warriors in common areas.

American Legion Post #27 in Farmington, UT has adopted **Operation Comfort Warriors** as its official fund-raising project for 2013. Those of us who have worn the uniform and gone in harm's way know the importance of support from home. Some of us have served in a time when the home front seemed much farther away than the physical distance. Participation in the nation's defense was ignored at best and scorned at worst.

Wounded and injured service personnel were often avoided and sometimes even treated as if their wounds were justified. As today's warriors continue to be sentinels of freedom, often sacrificing body and spirit to crippling mental and physical injuries, we cannot and shall not allow the attitudes of the past to be repeated.



As the war in Afghanistan winds down, U.S. military personnel are coming home, joining other recent veterans who served in Iraq. Many of these servicemembers left the battlefield only to be faced with a new fight: a struggle to overcome the mental and physical wounds suffered during deployment. Those with traumatic brain injury (TBI) or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are returning home in unprecedented numbers. In fact, the Army has estimated that up to 20 percent of the men and women who served in Afghanistan or Iraq have suffered TBI.

Even as the wars end, those in the military still face inherent dangers while fighting the global war on terrorism, during training exercises and while performing other hazardous duties. While the care at military hospitals and transition units is extraordinary, The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors program was created to provide "non-essentials" – items that help wounded warriors in their recovery but that don't usually show up as a budget line on government spreadsheets.

Farmington's Post #27 kicked off the fund drive at its annual Christmas Social but will continue throughout the year. Contributions will be welcomed by the Post Adjutant at any time or you can visit www.legion.org/ocw to contribute a donation electronically, using your credit cards. Checks may be mailed John Sheets, Post 27 Finance, 1368 Fairway Circle, Farmington, UT 84025. Be sure to mark the memo section: "OCW."

All of OCW's administrative and marketing costs are paid from Legion membership dues received, meaning that 100 percent of donated funds go directly to purchasing comfort items for the troops. If you would like additional information, check out www.legion.org/ocw for the latest news and information about the program.