



# THE AMERICAN LEGION

## POST 27 / SQUADRON 27

### NEWSLETTER

#### FARMINGTON, UTAH

DAVIS COUNTY MEMORIAL COURTHOUSE, ROOM 116, 28 EAST STATE STREET, FARMINGTON

March 2015

STILL SERVING AMERICA

www.post27.org

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

### Our Chaplain called home to Post Everlasting

It is with utmost sadness that we report the passing of our Chaplain and dear friend **JGolden Barton**. The void he leaves in our hearts and our Post will not be easily filled. As long as he was physically able, he fulfilled every assignment. At our February meeting, he expressed his willingness to continue to serve as Post Chaplain, a position he masterfully held for many years. His kindness, wit and intelligent comments will be sorely missed. Farewell, dear friend.



JGolden Barton

See **JGolden's final message to us in his usual spot in this newsletter.**



Kent Hansen

### Post 27 Election Time

Our March 12 meeting will feature the election of a new slate of Post officers. Nominations will be accepted right up until the voting begins. Anyone who has an Interest in serving in any capacity is invited to come and participate. Of course, all Post members have a vote. We meet, as always in the Davis County Memorial Courthouse,

Room 116, in Farmington, at 6:30 pm. Come and let your voice be heard. We'll see you there!

## 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE COMMANDER



Frank Ferrante

During his address to the first session of the Fall NEC Meetings, National Commander Michael Helm began with a reminder that The American Legion is a "God and country" organization, and ended with a challenge to the department officials present to return home and "stoke the fires" of the Legion presence in their communities. In between, Helm used his remarks to discuss the Four Pillars that the Legion stands on, and how each of them remains highly relevant today. Last month we reviewed the National Commander's comments on the First Pillar, **Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation**, this month I would like to share his comments on the Second Pillar:

### II National Security

- I. Military Quality of Life
- II. Homeland Security
- III. Foreign Relations
- IV. Full Accounting of POW/MIAs

The pillar of **National Security**, Helm said, grows more crucial as operations against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) become more serious. "There is no settling down with people like that who would lop off heads and strap explosives onto their children," Helm said. "We support the president on what he is doing with this war." As the conflict against ISIS ramps up, Helm said it is

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **March 12 -- Post Meeting**, 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116. *Elections of Post officers.*
- **March 14 – District II Meeting**, 10:00 am, hosted by Post 27, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
- **March 14 – American Legion Birthday Dinner**, Dept. of Utah, Spanish Fork, 6:00 pm.
- **March 24 – Heroes 2 Hired Job Fair**, 11 am – 3 pm, South Towne Expo Center, 9575 S. State St., Sandy
- **April 9 -- Post Meeting**, 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116. *Installation of Post officers.*
- **April 11 – District II Spring Convention**, Post 134, 345 Depot St., Clearfield. Social, 11 am, Lunch at noon, General Meeting at 1 pm.

imperative to remember that the U.S. military, which has been hit by sequestration cuts, lacks the funds to wage a successful campaign. It is of the utmost importance to the world and our country, Helm said, that the United States does not lose its status as a first-rate world power. "We don't have the money to wage this war," he said. "We can't allow those people in D.C. to convince people that we are better as a second-rate power. We must remain a first-rate world power, and The American Legion will fight for that." Please share this with a Veteran and a prospective member of our Post. **Still Serving: It's Who We Are**

**American Flag Etiquette March 2015** – The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.

## ADJUTANT / AREA 1 COMMANDER



I feel a profound sense of loss as I pen my input to this month's newsletter. Our Comrade and Chaplain JGolden Barton has left Post 27 for Post Everlasting. Many of you knew JGolden much better than I, but for the time I knew him it was apparent that he was a gentle soul with the heart of a lion. He embodied the American Legion Tradition of service to God and Country in every sense. Many times when the Post's Honor Guard provides Military Funeral Honors for departed service members, family members will come and thank us for being there – that it means so much to the family. I always respond that it is an Honor and a true Privilege to be there for the service member and the family. This time it hits much closer to home. When we provided Military Funeral Honors for JGolden this Saturday, saying it is an Honor and a Privilege just doesn't seem like it says enough. Farewell to a member of the Greatest Generation, we will miss you and things will not quite be the same without you.

**Chuck Stephenson**

**Membership.** Statistics are membership numbers through 1 March 2015.

2015 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2014 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
91	7	50	24	10	8	91/8	100%

### Membership is Our Lifeblood

### Congratulations to Post 27! We have met and exceeded our Department of Utah Goal for 2015.

The next National Headquarters' target date is LEGION BIRTHDAY March 11, 2015 – 90%. I salute all our Post 27 members who have already made the commitment to renew their membership and continue supporting all the American Legion programs we value so highly. However, we still have several of our valued members who have not yet renewed for 2015. Their 2014 memberships officially expired on 1 January 2015. I urge them all to renew as soon as possible. As always, you may renew by sending your \$30. annual membership dues to our Finance Officer John Sheets, 1368 Fairway Circle, Farmington, UT 84025. An even easier option is to go to [www.Legion.org](http://www.Legion.org) 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 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) 444-7189 / C (801) 698-7750 or email [stphnsnc@aol.com](mailto:stphnsnc@aol.com).***

This month, Post 27 will elect a new Post Adjutant. I have made the decision to vacate the position after nearly three years serving as your Adjutant. My decision was not an easy one, but it was made because I will be running for Department Vice Commander for 2015-2016. I believe that the Adjutant's position is the most important position in the Post. It is the Adjutant who takes care of the members, and without members – there is no Post! I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for allowing me to have served these last couple of years. I look forward to working with the incoming Adjutant to ensure that he or she will continue to provide membership service to Post 27.

### Retention / Recruitment / Revitalization



**Department of Utah Belt Buckle Pin.** YES, you read correctly! A pin version of the William E. “Bill” Christoffersen “BIG BEE” 50 Years Commemorative Belt Buckles is NEW and is currently available. These beautiful pins are 1 ½ inches across and are an excellent addition to your Legion hat or lapel. We continue to celebrate Bill Christoffersen’s 50 years as the Department of Utah National Executive Committeeman and his long standing support of the American Legion Utah Boys State Program. If you are interested in obtaining one or more of these pins, please let me know. The cost is \$10. All profits from the sale of the pin will go to the William E. Christoffersen Scholarship Fund which will be awarded each year at Utah Boys State.

## **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**

Like you, I was depressed today to receive the e-mail from John Sheets informing Post 27 of the passing of our beloved Chaplain and Comrade JGolden Barton. We have truly lost a friend, soldier and comrade whose life is dedicated to the service and helping of others. My personal introduction to JGolden began when I became a member of Post 27. It was JGolden who came up to me and introduced himself and said “I believe we are cousins.” We have repeatedly shared stories of our heritage and laughter since that first experience.



**David Layton**

I know that JGolden is a religious man and I truly believe he passed this life fully prepared to meet his Savior and he was honorably received in the Kingdom of God and that he continue to serve in any capacity he is asked. JGolden is an example to all members of Post 27 in serving and doing all we can for each other and for the fallen we honor. We will keep JGolden’s memory and legacy alive by continuing to serve as he would have done for us. It has been my honor and privilege to have met and served with JGolden Barton. My life has been enriched by his standard that he has set for all of us to follow. JGolden, I salute you for a job well done and for the example you are for Post 27.

## **CHAPLAIN**



I died today (March 3, 2015), after 86 years of joyous living. I laid aside a tired body in a temporary parting. Like all of my other travels I gave little notice but went with enthusiasm for the adventure. I went knowing that early in the journey I will be joined by my beautiful mother Florence Perkins and a noble father, Golden J. Barton, who brought me into earthly existence April 7, 1928 and nurtured me to manhood in their Farmington, Utah, home. Two older brothers whom I greatly respected, Don W. and Wilson G., will assist in the welcome committee of the family order. A sister Deanna (Fru-danya) Flint and brother Walter E. have been left behind awaiting their turn.

**JGolden Barton** I was almost turned back by the angel sentinel at the processing center because of excess baggage. On my earthly trips I usually returned home with excess luggage but this time I left with some. I took with me the love and devotion of my loyal, darling, Norene, my companion and eternal sweetheart who organized and packed 54 years of love, kindness, joy, and happiness into every corner of my heart. Like always, the little XOXOXO notes signed by `secrets' fell out of various pockets and places. I blushed as the angel smilingly read the notes but they all passed and I was able to keep every one. The angel nodded with re-assurance as he checked the volumes of memory supplied from years of association with the six vital links of my own patriarchal chain. Beautiful Teresa Norene, Dr. Jason Golden and lovely wife Kathy, Darling Nannette, Energetic Jay Golden, Gorgeous, bubbly, Candice and her handsome, bright Jeffery Reynolds. Jared Golden Barton, who taught me the enormity of trust and his adorable Jenny. Together with the 24 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren who affectionately called me `Papa J'. I will be gone from your sight but will watch over you each day. I promise I will sleep at night with only one eye closed. I have loved each one of you so very dearly and take leave fully trusting. If I go with any pride it is that which I share for each of your educational accomplishments, your missionary service, and knowing that each of you have brought to your marriage the covenants of the temple.

I was permitted to take with me the memory of my first wife Dorothy Jean and the five stalwart sons that graced our union. Only the kindest and most tender concerns remain for Dr. James Benson, Jerry Bennett, John Golden, Dr. Jeffrey

Charles, and Joseph William, together with their beautiful spouses and loving children each of whom known and unknown, have added and will continue to add to my eternal joy and happiness. My family is my earthly accomplishment, all else dims in perspective. In addition to love of family, I loved my country and my Church. It was an honor to serve my flag and country in World II and one of my great desires is to share with fallen comrades the joy of life which they forfeited as they sacrificed all for the liberty I have known.

---

## FINANCE OFFICER



John Sheets

Finances are in good shape for our small post without the income of a Canteen as well as the problems that accompany it. We assisted the National Guard on three Veterans Funeral Honors and two Navy military funeral honors.

---

## EAGLE SCOUT COURTS OF HONOR

American Post 27 would like all Eagle Scouts in our area to have a wonderful ceremony performed in their behalf and we would like all post members to participate with us. The following is copy in a new flyer we have created:

"A Tribute to Our Flag" is performed by the American Legion, Post 27. It's a ceremony for folding the Stars and Stripes for those who have achieved the Rank of Eagle. The US Flag is folded in a triangular fold as a tribute to our nation's honored dead and presented to the Eagle Scout, with grandfather(s) or father and Eagle Scouts participating in the ceremony. This ceremony can be done for one or several scouts at the same time. The US Flag has flown over the United States Capital at the request of the Honorable Rob Bishop and Chris Stewart, Members of Congress and has a certificate of authenticity. The Eagle Scout will also receive a Good Citizenship Citation from the American Legion. The ceremony is approximately fifteen minutes long, and the memory lasts a life time. Please let us join you in this outstanding achievement you have attained. We welcome all new Eagle Scouts who would like to have this ceremony done at their Eagle Court of Honor. The cost is only \$20.00, for the cost of the flag. To coordinate this ceremony please contact Dale Crockett, American Legion Post 27 at [801-451-9493](tel:801-451-9493) or E-mail [dalescrockett@yahoo.com](mailto:dalescrockett@yahoo.com).



Dale Crockett

Please, if you know a boy who would enjoy this great experience or you would like to join us, contact me at the phone number above or e-mail me the information. We will soon get this flyer on our home page so that you can download it to pass on to those who would like to take advantage of it. Thanks to all who have joined with us in the past.

---

## POW/MIA NEWS



Jay Hess

### Three MIAs Identified

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced the identification of remains belonging to one airman and two soldiers who had been missing and unaccounted for since World War II and Korea. Returned are:

**U.S. Army Air Forces 1st Lt. James F. Gatlin**, 25, of Jacksonville, Fla. On Dec. 23, 1944, Gatlin was copiloting a B-26C Marauder that was shot down while on a bombing mission near Ahrweiler, Germany. Gatlin and four other crew members were reported killed in action. He was assigned to the 575th Bombardment Squadron, 391st Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force, and was buried with full military honors Jan. 30 in Bushnell, Fla.

**Army Sgt. Gilberto L. Sanchez**, 19, of New Braunfels, Texas. Sanchez was assigned to Medical Company, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 31st Regimental Combat Team. His unit was deployed east of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea when it was attacked by overwhelming numbers of Chinese forces. On Dec. 1, 1950, remnants of the 31st RCT, known historically as

Task Force Faith, began a fighting withdrawal to more defensible positions south of the reservoir. Sanchez was reported as missing in action on Dec. 2. He was buried Jan. 23 with full military honors in San Antonio.

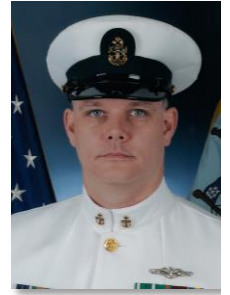
**Army Cpl. C.G. Bolden**, 24, of Van Buren, Ark. Bolden was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. He was captured by enemy forces on Jan. 5, 1951, and reportedly died in a North Korean POW Camp on April 30, 1951. He was buried Jan. 27 with full military honors in Clinton, Ark.

---

## SEA CADET NEWS

Hello again from the Jake Garn Squadron. Our unit continues to grow. We now have 30 cadets and 16 adult leaders. During the month of February, our unit visited the 421<sup>st</sup> Fighter Squadron, Black Widows. We learned about flight equipment and even got up-close and personal with a Viper fighter aircraft. Training was conducted on flight suites, night vision goggles and ordinance that the pilot uses to operate the aircraft. It was a fascinating experience for both cadets and adults alike. Thank you 421<sup>st</sup>!

In addition to the tour, drill weekend, we were fortunate to have a VIP presentation given by Major Triplett who outlined his amazing career flying the C-130 aircraft. Major Triplett shared personal experiences and specifications of this amazing aircraft that has been in constant production and use since 1955.



**Courtney Putnam**

Also, this month, the cadets began learning about the history of the submarine. Instructor Leon White showed a video and gave a presentation about the restoration of the H.L. Hunley. The submarine is currently being preserved at the Warren Lasch Conservation Lab. The Hunley was the world's first successful combat submarine. Submarine training will continue during drill in May as March drill will be the unit's first inspection and April will be the unit's official commissioning. Unit commissioning is scheduled for Saturday, April 18' Hill Aerospace Museum, time TBD. We hope to see Post 27 members support the Squadron Commissioning. More information to follow. See you next month.

---

## HISTORIAN



**Kent Hansen**

### Green Beret Special

President John F. Kennedy enthusiastically championed the development of the U.S. Army's Special Forces as part of what he called the doctrine of "flexible response," an initiative to make the U.S. military more capable of fighting the guerilla or insurgent wars of the 1960s. He is widely credited with proposing the U.S. Special Forces wear a green beret to distinguish themselves. Although JFK does deserve a big share of the credit, the backstory is a bit more complicated.

The modern U.S. Army Special Forces has its origin in World War II, when the first elite Army Ranger Unit, "Darby's Rangers," was created in the summer of 1942. After forming in Northern Ireland, Darby's Rangers received advanced training from British commandos at the Commando Training Depot at Achnacarry Castle, Scotland. The British encouraged the men to wear the bright green beret of the British Commando, but the U.S. Army brass banned this headgear as a violation of uniform regulations. A decade later, at the end of the Korean War, the U.S. Army's Tenth Special Forces Group (Airborne), which included a large number of World War II Darby vets, casually wore various berets, in crimson, maroon, and black before "rifle green" was officially chosen, based on a Canadian Army precedent. When the Tenth wore the new green berets during a 1955 ceremony at Fort Bragg, NC, many in attendance started asking where the "foreign delegation" had come from. A mortified Fort Bragg commandant, General Paul D. Adams, immediately banned the rifle-green beret.



**Capt. Robert L. Howard**

When he was appointed commander of the U.S. Army Warfare Center at Fort Bragg, Brigadier General William P. Yarborough petitioned the Pentagon to reinstate the green beret for Special Forces. His request received no traction until President John F. Kennedy personally intervened, and on September 25, 1961, the Department of the Army issued

“Message 578636,” designating the green beret as the “exclusive headdress” of the U.S. Army Special Forces. JFK later called it a symbol of excellence, a badge of courage, a mark of distinction in the fight for freedom.”

## LEGION LAFFS



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



Visit us on  
Facebook

or there is a link  
from our Post website at  
[www.post27.org](http://www.post27.org).



## FROM THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

It is that time of year again where the American Legion tries to impact legislation for our veterans and military, at state and national level. It can be mind boggling, but many good things come from all the efforts. I try to keep in mind that the GI Bill and the creation of the Veterans Administration were the brainstorms and efforts of the American Legion many years ago. Our organization is also a “watch dog”. How long would the issues at today’s VA gone on without the intervention by the American Legion?

One local piece of legislation, H.B. 36, Veterans Definition, is currently on the fast track to becoming state law. This would give Reserve Component (U.S. Army Reserve/Utah National Guard) members who served at least 180 days, served honorably, but were never deployed (that magic 180 days of actual Title 10 active duty) the right to call themselves “veterans”. This does not mean they can get the full benefits of those who deployed or activated for 180 days, just the right to call themselves veterans.

This is huge. As I traveled throughout the state, I have been careful when talking to former members of the military services in asking if they are veterans. Many tell me no, I was just in the Reserves or National Guard and was never activated. My blood boils when members in this category don’t think they are veterans, especially when they retire from the military and have the same retirement ID card as I have. We were all brothers and sisters in arms. But that is what they were told while they were serving—you cannot claim you are a “veteran”. That, Comrades, is change for the better.



**Paula Stephenson**  
Commander  
Dept. of Utah