

The American Legion Centennial Post



March 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

LEADERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN LEGION

Leadership, at its essence, is communication and successful communicators know – even before the message – the first consideration must be the audience. In the case of The American Legion, the audience is at once disparate and yet bonded by service to country. Members hail from each of the five services, from several different war eras and from various echelons in the rank structure. Some are used to giving orders and some are used to taking them, but without a UCMJ to use as hammer, the military approach is both ineffective and inappropriate in a volunteer organization. Sadly, there is no silver bullet that answers all leadership challenges. A leader in The Legion must lead from the front, from within the group and from behind. Perhaps nothing is more important than ensuring that each Legionnaire knows he or she is welcome, valued and needed. Thus, a leader cannot be a shrinking violet but must extend the hand of fellowship to all during meetings – and more especially when not in an official capacity. A good leader will be quick to publicly acknowledge good work and/or ideas, while offering counsel or correction in private. A leader must remember that he or she was not elected simply to preside but rather to serve and that means showing up and getting your hands dirty.



Kent Hansen

Often, as the leader goes, so goes the post. Hence, the leader must display appropriate enthusiasm and optimism, as those traits are infectious. At the same time, empty enthusiasm and optimism can be just as dangerous as dull negativism. Therefore, the effective leader must be familiar with the Officers Guide and should have graduated from The American Legion Extension Institute Basic Training. In addition, a solid knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order and a well-planned, content-rich agenda will help keep meetings from dragging into endless marathons that will only drive many members away. A good leader must also learn to delegate – not to avoid the minutia but to allow other members an opportunity to grow and feel validated. This also means being available to run interference or offer assistance in projects. At times, a project or an event may go sideways, and a good leader must be able to adapt and overcome, while presenting a face of confidence, especially when none is felt. The effective leader will always have a listening ear to ascertain the wishes of the post.

In the final analysis, leadership in The American Legion is not an exalted throne but rather a stewardship that knows no rank and does not shrink from responsibility. It is a charge to focus the Legion programs into action, involving the members so that they may be magnified by the importance of their service.



THE AMERICAN LEGION
Centennial celebration

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Mar. 1-3 – District 2 Revitalization. 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Layton Post 87. Bring your cell phone & charger cord.

Mar. 1 – SAL Squadron 27 meeting. 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.

Mar. 8 – Auxiliary Unit 27 meeting. 6:00 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 107

Mar. 8 -- Post 27 General Meeting. 6:30pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.

Mar. 8 – Women Veterans Celebration. 6:30-7:30 pm, Zions Bank, 18th Floor, 1 South Main St., SLC. Tickets required: <http://womenveteranscelebration.eventbrite.com>

Mar. 10 – District 2 Executive Committee Meeting. 10:00 am, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116

Mar. 14 – Military Funeral Honors Training. 7:00-8:30 pm, Farmington Fire Department, 82 North 100 East, Farmington. *National Guard Funeral Honors Team will train.*

Mar. 15 – American Legion’s 99th Birthday. *Fly the flag!*

Mar. 17 -- American Legion’s 99th Birthday Party. 6:00 pm The Doubletree Suites by Hilton, 5151 Wiley Post Way, SLC.

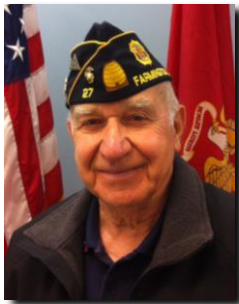
Apr. 5 -- SAL Squadron 27 meeting. 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.

Apr. 12 -- Post 27 General Meeting. 6:30pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.

Apr. 12 -- Auxiliary Unit 27 meeting. 6:00 pm, 847 Shepard Creek Parkway (Rose Cove) in Farmington



1st Vice Commander



Frank Ferrante

CHANGES TO THE GI BILL

The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2017

Named after the American Legion national commander who wrote the original GI Bill language in 1944, the “FOREVER GI BILL” was signed into law by President Trump on August 16, 2017. The legislation contains 34 provisions that expand or enhance veterans’ education benefits for service members, veterans and their families. Most notably, Veterans who transitioned out of the military after January 1, 2013 will not be limited to the 15-year deadline to use their GI Bill benefits – hence the bill’s nickname, “Forever GI Bill.” This law also restores benefits to Veterans, who were impacted by school closures since 2015, and expands benefits for reservists, surviving dependents,

Purple Heart recipients, and provides many other improvements. Highlights below and full details at: <https://benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/ForeverGIBill.asp>

- Eliminates time limitations.
- Purple Heart recipients to receive more benefits.
- Expansion of the Yellow Ribbon Program.
- Authorizes VA to provide an additional year of GI Bill funding to student veterans to complete STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) degrees.
- Unused benefits transfer to another dependent in case of death. Allows dependents of deceased members to make changes to transferred benefits. Effective August 2018 and applies to all deaths since 2009.
- Survivors’ and Dependent’ Educational Assistance Program monthly stipend increases to \$200.00. Limited to 36 months. Effective August 2018.



Harry W. Colmery

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 given much to our country. Invite a potential member to our meetings.



Legion nuggets

Sept. 1, 1966: The Legion voices great concern over the fate of prisoners of war in Vietnam. *Today, the Legion urges a full accounting of all POWs and troops missing in action; and has formed a special group from among the nation's major veterans organizations to continue pressing for further resolution of this issue.*

2nd Vice Commander

American Legion Utah Boys State. On-line registration for American Legion Utah Boys State 2018 opened December 1, 2017 and will remain open through April 30, 2018. Registration for the 2018 Program will be electronic only. Utah Boys State has been working with the IT people at Weber State University for the last several years and the application process has been improved and refined each year. The electronic application can be found at www.weber.edu/utahboysstate. Completion of the registration package is self-guided and straight forward. When the online application has been completed / approved, the student citizen must print off the completed application package (hard copy). Two additional steps are required to complete enrollment. The high school Counselor must certify current GPA and make comments concerning student's interest in the program. Post 27 must interview/comment on student's interest and desire to complete this program which earns them 3 college credits in Political Science. Once all steps have been completed, applicants must follow the instructions below.



Chuck Stephenson

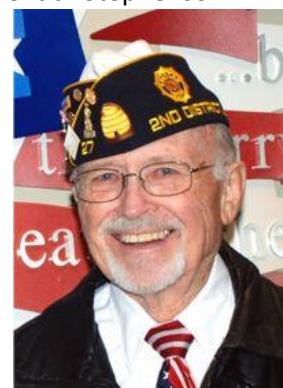
All completed applications must be received, to include family insurance card(s) and tuition of \$375.00 by May 15th, 2018. Completed packages should be mailed to American Legion Utah Boys State, Post Office Box 783, Clearfield, Utah 84089-0783.

Boys State Information packets are currently being distributed to the four major High Schools that are supported by Post 27; included are NUAMES, Davis HS; Viewmont HS and Mountain HS. Counselors at each school are being told that interviews will be scheduled the last week in March and the first full week in April.

How can you help? 1. Help with the interviews at the four high schools Post 27 supports. 2. Volunteer June 10-15, 2018 at Weber State University as a faculty counselor for one of the 10-12 "cities" with its student citizens. The staff course curriculum is provided. All meals and housing are provided free. Police officers, firefighters and first responders, Legionnaires, Sons of the American Legion, and Boys State graduates may all volunteer. Contact Chuck Stephenson if interested at email stphnsnc@aol.com or cell: 801-698-7750.

SHEETS CITY

It is a High Honor Indeed. Each year at American Legion Utah Boys State, each city is named after a Past Department of Utah Commander. Last year at the conclusion of my year in office, it was my first opportunity to have a Boys State city named in my honor. I had been receiving questions all year about what I was going to name "my city" since Paula already had the STEPHENSON name up in the rafters. It did not make sense to try and come up with some derivative or other "cute" city name. I do consider the naming of "my city" a very high honor indeed. Last year I chose to



John Sheets

name "my city" after Colin Rowley. Rowley City was named in honor of our Department Adjutant's son, Colin who passed away in November 2016 after fighting a very courageous battle with cancer for much of his life. Adjutant Greg said that Colin's goal was always to attend Boys State between his Junior and Senior years of High School, but was too sick to attend when the session was held.

This year for the 2018 Program I have chosen our own **John Sheets** as the Legionnaire I would most like to honor by naming "my city" in his name. Paula and I visited John at his home and asked his permission. He was kind enough to say yes and was a little emotional at hearing the news. All of us that know John have a deep appreciation for what he has done for Centennial Post 27, District 2, Area 1, and the Department of Utah. I would go so far as to say that in all likelihood, Post 27 would not exist today had it not been for John's efforts in keeping the flame lit. It was so good to see John – he doesn't move quite as fast as he once did, but he still has that spark in his eye that tells me he would do it all over again. I cannot give enough high praises to a man who has given so much to the local community and The American Legion!

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



Adjutant

Membership is Our Lifeblood



Dale Crockett

Membership. Statistics are membership numbers through 1 Mar 2018.

2018 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2018 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
101	13	45	36	5	5	105	104%

Thank You for all of those who have renewed their memberships. We have met our goal of 100% and some for the 2018 year. There are lots of reasons to join the American Legion, but even more reasons to stay in it at all levels.

I have a list of good reasons to become part of and stay in the nation's largest organization of war time veterans which I have taken out of a publication I receive each month and would like to pass along to you. The reasons may have **national scope**, such as: Strengthening the veteran voice in Washington for more effective bills, Keeping the GI bill updated and relevant, and it providing substantial veteran oversight of congressional committees and agencies. Reasons to the American Legion **Department:** Adding to the network of like-minded Legion family members, ensuring support, resources and training to department service officers, and building future leaders through American Legion Boys State and other youth programs. Reasons **Locally:** Young people in the community need mentoring through Scouts, ROTC, junior shooting sports, etc., and community memorials to those who served before and must never be forgotten. **Individual** reasons: Camaraderie with fellow veterans and patriotic Americans, helping to understanding VA benefits, and discount programs.

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.

Training Officer (Also Nat'l Vice Commander-West)



Paula Stephenson

ANNUAL TRAINING FOR FLAG ETIQUETTE & FUNERAL HONORS

The Utah Army National Guard will be training and fine tuning our skills again this year with proper folding/presentation of the U.S. Flag, and bugle/rifle team protocols, on **Wednesday, March 14, 2018, 7:00-8:30 PM, at the Farmington City Fire Department, 82 North 100 East, Farmington.** This training is for the American Legion Family members, and members of the Farmington City Fire and Police Departments, if they would like to join us. Questions may be referred to Paula Stephenson at stphnsnc@aol.com or C: 801-589-2871.

TIME AND TALENT FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

In my position as National Vice Commander, I am blessed to be able to travel to 13 of the 15 Departments (states) in the Western Region for The American Legion. In my travels, I get to visit many American Legion Posts along the way, and meet proud members of the Legion, the Auxiliary, the Sons of the American Legion, and the Legion Riders (known as The American Legion Family). I see so many happy faces and great attitudes working together in their communities, and see so much talent to make their events and Post homes something to be proud of, and all for what our American Legion motto says "For God and Country". I want to pass this great feeling on with a new section at Post 27, in our monthly newsletter, and on our webpage (www.post27.org).

TALENTS NEEDED:

1. Wood working skills and/or painting skills: Build nice **U.S. Flags Collection Boxes** for citizens to deposit U.S. flags for respectful retirement. Boxes could be placed at city halls (Farmington, Fruit Heights, Kaysville) or their Fire Departments. This can also be done as a project with an Eagle Scout. Collections done by Post 27 members at least monthly.

SAMPLES:



2. Wood working, painting, soundproofing skills: We need a **3-panel room divider** (light weight) during our VA Outreach days at the Post home to give privacy to Veterans & Counselors.
3. Organizational, inventory management, and marketing skills: We need a **“Flag Program Coordinator”**. Post 27 has a large inventory of flags, etc. for donations (prices are already set). Opportunities also exist in expanding into our communities Post 27’s involvement with The American Legion Emblem Flag Sales Program that earns us dollars at the American Legion “Store” for supplies needed at the Post.

We will start with the three projects above. Funds are available, with approval, from Post 27 funds. No one is alone with any project. That is the fun part of veterans working with veterans or other American Legion Family members. Come to one of our monthly meetings to learn more from our Officers.

Sons of the American Legion



“IT REALLY BREAKS YOUR HEART” by Steve B. Brooks

For 15-20 years, Legionnaire Loretta Young has worked with the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. She calls the JROTC cadets the best of the best and a source of pride for nearby Arthur R. Lanni Memorial Post 365 in Sunrise, which sponsors the school’s JROTC program. But on Feb. 14, pride turned to sorrow when three of the school’s JROTC cadets – along with 14 of their fellow classmates and teachers – were gunned down by a former student at the school.

And six days later, Young and hundreds of other mourners gathered at Kraeer Funeral Home in Coral Springs to say goodbye to one of those students, 15-year-old Peter Wang.

One week after the loss of Wang and fellow JROTC cadets Martin Duque and Alaina Petty, both 14, Young still was having trouble verbalizing how emotionally difficult the past week has been. “It really breaks your heart,” Young said. “Really, I can hardly describe how you feel when you work closely with them, when you see them on a regular



basis. You admire all that they do. And then to know that their life is gone, I can’t even put it into words. “We shouldn’t have to go see them put in the ground and to see their families so heartbroken. I’m a mother, so I know.” Young, the longtime commander of Post 365, has seen the benefits of the JROTC program as both the Department of Florida’s JROTC and Shooting Sports chairman, and as a member of the staff at the Legion’s 3-Position Junior Air Rifle Championship in Colorado Springs, Colo. “They work very hard,” Young said. “They are the cream of the crop when you speak about the JROTC cadets and their instructors. They are shining examples of what our youth is and what we have to look forward to as a country. To lose any one of them is devastating.” Post 365 members attend the school’s JROTC events as often as they can, as well as sponsor year-end award ceremonies for military and scholastic excellence. Young recently had met with school officials about the JROTC’s formal inspection program, which was scheduled for the day after



Ron Craig
SAL Squadron 27
Commander

the shooting. Young said the formal inspection program, which only takes place every few years, is a “shining example of what the cadets are.”

An Air Force veteran, Young had visited Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School a few weeks ago to prepare for the awards ceremony and had shaken Wang’s hand. And the day of the shooting she spoke with the school’s curriculum advisor. “I was hanging up saying ‘I’ll see you tomorrow morning at the inspection,’” Young said. “To hang up the phone and then look and the see the school on the news ... I was speechless. It’s devastating.” After their deaths, the U.S. Army presented all three cadets with the Medal of Heroism for the danger and extraordinary responsibility they took on during the shooting. Fellow students said Wang was holding a door open to allow others to escape when he was gunned down. And the U.S. Military Academy, which Wang had hoped to attend, posthumously admitted the slain youth to the institution on the day of his funeral. Young, who is a member of U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz’s service academy nomination committee, said the posthumous honors are a good way to honor the three teens, but it doesn’t take away the pain of knowing all three are gone. “It is a nice recognition, and it is nice that West Point did that for Peter,” she said. “But it doesn’t diminish the fact that I saw a 15-year-old lying in his casket in uniform that I only saw a few weeks ago. And he’s gone forever.”

American Legion Auxiliary

It’s March! Finally we had a touch of winter...enough to cover up the bulbs that were starting to peek through! We had a great meeting in February and we welcome Karla McGuigan to our Unit...and our Post! Karla is a US Army Veteran and served in the Viet Nam era. Thank you to Leslie Hefner who is Karla’s neighbor for bringing her to our Unit! More on Karla in our next issue!!



**Deb Hefner
Hansen
Unit 27 President**

We will be busy with Girls’ State interviews! Thank you to Michele Done for setting up NUAMES on Monday, March 5 so if anyone would like to come and help, please let Deb or Michele know! On March 7, we will be doing Davis High interviews...these are both after school!

For our April meeting, we will meet at the Rose Cove Apartments in their common area. We are hoping that this will bring out some potential members who live at the Rose Cove! This will be at 6 PM and the address is 847 Shepard Creek Parkway in Farmington. The date is April 12th. We are planning a light dinner and a presentation on the Auxiliary...and will go over the details on our March 8 meeting. This will also be at 6 PM at the Courthouse!

Please keep track of service hours you perform so we can report them to the state! Thank you to Chuck and Paula Stephenson for a \$50 donation to our Unit in honor of your president’s marriage (truly, so much better than another appliance!!!!) Looking forward to seeing you all on March 8...and welcome back Kathy from her trip to the Land Down Under!!



100 Acts of Service

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 9. | Feb. 3: Dept. Oratorical | 12. | Feb. 8: MFH for Tommy Bailey USMC |
| 10. | Feb. 3: MFH for Brian Mitchell, USAF | 13. | Feb 21: Veterans Outreach |
| 11. | Feb. 5: MFH for Herbert Jones, USAF | 14. | Feb 28: Veterans Outreach |



**SGT
SAGE
SEZ**

*“A slipping gear could let your M203 grenade launcher fire when you least expect it. That would make you quite unpopular in what’s left of your unit.”
- PM Magazine, the Army’s magazine of preventive maintenance.*

Living the Legion Life



Ron Craig

Ron has held office in many of the offices in the Post and currently serves as the Squadron 27 Commander in The Sons of The American Legion. He was one of the pioneers of our Military Funeral Honors team and has added substantial discipline and professionalism to our efforts.

Branch of Service: U.S. Army from 1960 to 1996

Place of Birth: Corvallis, Oregon

My War: Vietnam era

Hobbies: Commitment to The American Legion, coaching soccer, Watching my grandchildren play

Offices Held: Post 1st Vice Commander, Post 2nd Vice Commander, Team Leader – Rifle Squad, Project Officer – Annual Flag Retirement

Reason for joining The American Legion: After retirement, I needed to fill a void from my military service.

Years in The Legion: 17

Other Legion Affiliation: SAL Squadron 27 Commander

Favorite Legion program: Military funeral honors / Eagle Scout Courts of Honor

What The Legion means to me: The Legion is an extension of my 36 years in the United States Army. Right now, I am in transition from commitment to the Military Funeral Honors program to commitment to the Sons of The American Legion. I am excited to be able to encourage young men and adults without military service to appreciate what our veterans, and especially their fathers and grandfathers, gave to their country through commitment to military service.



Living the Legion Life

Each month, we will spotlight a member of Post 27 so that the general membership will have the opportunity to get to know them better. Included here is an information form upon which you can submit information and photos of yourself for a future feature. Ideally, we would need a photo of you in your Legion cap (if you have one) and a picture of you in uniform from "back in the day." You can scan them and the form and e-mail them to kenthansen7@gmail.com.

Name: _____ Branch of Service: _____

Years of Service: From _____ to _____ Your War(s): _____

Place of Birth: _____ Your Hobbies: _____

Years in The Legion: _____ Offices Held: _____

Reason for joining The Legion: _____

Other Legion Family Affiliation: _____ Favorite Legion Program(s): _____

Why Your Favorite? _____

Statement about what The Legion means to you: _____

Legion Laughs



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 11:30 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.

Veterans Outreach Schedule

March
14

April
4 & 18