

The Official Newsletter of The American Legion John W. Sheets Post 27 🛪 Unit 27 🛪 Squadron 27 🛪 Farmington, Utah

Current Candidates for Post 27 Election on March 15 For Commander: Jon Rue For 1st Vice Commander: Bob Anderson For 2nd Vice Commander: Dan Woodward Nominations will be taken from the floor at the March 15 meeting



COMMANDER'S CORNER

Jon Rue



Greeting fellow Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, Sons, family members, and friends of The

American Legion. At the last General Meeting on February 8, nominations were held for the next year's officers of the Post. I humbly accepted a nomination to run again for Post Commander. Bob Anderson was also nominated to run again as 1st Vice Commander. For our third elected position, the 2nd Vice Commander, Daniel Woodward was nominated. Dan is our current webmaster, and participates on the Rifle Team for Military Funerals when available. Nominations can be made from the floor before the election which will be held at the General Meeting on March 15th at the Farmington City Community Arts Center (FCCAC). Members may also participate via Zoom. Please join for this Important event.

Last month the Post also held our Oratorical Contest. This was organized by our current 2nd Vice Commander, Paul Hubenthal, assisted by William Huber and Bob Anderson. My heartfelt thanks to these gentlemen for the organizing. Additionally, we had more than a dozen volunteers that night to conduct the contest. Thank you to them also! Three contestants from NUAMES & Davis HS presented their prepared speeches, and then followed with a 5-minute extemporaneous speech on a topic related to the Constitution and Amendments. This topic was drawn from a list and each speaker was given five minutes to prepare. Zachery Bytheway, a senior at Davis High School, was the winner of our Post's competition. Zachery then participated at the District level on Saturday, February 12. Due to COVID and other reasons, no other Post in our District held a contest, therefore Zachery won the District level and moves onto the Department (State) level's contest held at the Old Provo Courthouse on Saturday, March 12. If you can, join us to help support Zachery!! Finally, I hope to see as many of you as possible at the General Meeting on March 15.

EVENTS CALENDAR

March 3 – Naval Reserve birthday. March 4 – Hug-a-GI Day. March 5 – Seabee Birthday. March 13 – K-9 Veterans Day. March 13 – Daylight Saving Time begins. Set your alarm. March 15 – American Legion birthday. Fly the flag. March 15 –Post 27 General meeting. 7:00 pm, ALA, 6:00 pm Farmington City Community Arts Center March 21 – Rosie the Riveter Day. March 25 – Medal of Honor Day. March 29 – National Vietnam War Veteran Day.

April 12 – Post 27 Family General meeting. 7:00 pm, Farmington City Community Arts Center

<u>1st Vice Commander</u>



We are almost OPS normal for Post 27. COVID has become more normalized and we are all adapting to it. Some great things are coming up for our Post in the near future. Memorial Day (May 30) is a big event all of us should support. We will help in placing more than a thousand US flags on the graves of our fallen veterans at the Farmington and Kaysville cemeteries. We are a major support for Kaysville City's Memorial Day ceremony and will put on the Memorial Day ceremony for Farmington City. Your Post would appreciate your attendance, if you are not able to support these directly.

Bob Anderson

Boys State is just around the corner in June! We are already interviewing students and gearing up to support this major event. Get involved and become an active member.

Sometime (?), we will be in our own Post 27 office once the Memorial Courthouse is finished this Spring (or Summer). Stay tuned. Once it is announced, it would be great to have as many Post 27 Legionnaires as possible to be at the dedication and see our new location. Be sure to bring a friend/potential Legionnaire.

2nd Vice Commander



In the early tradition of our country, people served out of obligation, duty and love of country. Their service was one of sacrifice and not of ambition for power, prestige or wealth. In fact, our early leaders were willing to sacrifice their lives, fortunes and sacred honor and declared it so. Honor mattered then, perhaps even more than wealth and certainly more than their lives, as life was often put in jeopardy to defend honor. THE AMERICAN LEGION JOHN W. SHEETS POST 27 P.O. BOX 427 FARMINGTON, UT 84025 <u>WWW.POST27.ORG</u>

Paul Hubenthal

As I see it, our service in The American Legion is similarly motivated. The traditions and honor of our Nation are in need of preservation, and who better to do that than those who have put their lives, fortunes and honor on the line? After all, *"America without her Soldiers would be like"*

God without His angels." - Claudia Pemberton.

It has been a blessing to have served as Second Vice for nearly the past year and a half. I have enjoyed organizing opportunities for young Americans to cultivate their knowledge and examine their experiences with the Constitution. Seeing the hope and promise in their eyes and sharing in their enthusiasm is in itself encouraging. I have also enjoyed mentoring our Scouts and military volunteers in conducting a reverent Flag Retirement ceremony. These experiences remind me of the Love of Country and the joy found in Service to Her. I love the words of G.K. Chesterton when he reminds us, *"The true soldier fights not because he hates what it in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him.*"

I love my brothers and sisters in uniform and will continue to give of my time to ensure honors are rendered when my brothers and sister reach the end of their journey. I extend my support and well wishes to whomever will assume the mantle of the Second Vice and wish him or her well in continuing these programs and traditions. There is excitement and momentum in our schools for what we have to share...please keep the torch burning and the caissons rolling along in the great tradition of Post 27.



<u>Adjutant</u>

A HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST POST 27 MEMBERS Noel R. Barton, Brian Cunningham, Carl Lamarr, Michael Webb and Madison Parker



Dale Crockett

Membership is Our Lifeblood! 🥸

American Legion Membership: Statistics are membership numbers through Mar. 1 2022.

2022 Goal	PUFL	REGULAR	OnLine	NEW	TRANSFERS	2022 Total	PERCENT OF GOAL
135	19	53	29	1	12	114	84%

Sons of the American Legion Membership: Statistics are membership numbers through Mar. 1 2022.

2022 Goal	REGULAR	NEW	TRANSFERS	2022 Total	PERCENT OF GOAL
33	31		1	32	97%

The Boy Scouts of America turned 112 years young on Feb. 8, 2022. Our post sponsors a boy's troop, a girl's troop, and a cub pack. Their troop and pack numbers are our post number which is 0027. We are very proud to serve these young people and it helps fulfill one of The American Legion pillars of Children and Youth. The American Legion's National Commission on this is guided by three main objectives: to strengthen the family unit, work with quality organizations that provide services for children and provide communities with well-rounded programs that meet the needs of young people. We believe the Boy Scouts of America is a great way for our post to participate in this pillar. We also do Flag Ceremonies for Eagle Scouts. Our State had the first girls from our troop get their Eagle Scout and we have had two more in February of this year. That award is very special and hard to complete.

I would like to list a few famous people who have obtained Eagle Scout. The list includes presidents and Pulitzer Prize recipients, astronauts and athletes, celebrities and CEOs.

- Buzz Aldrin, second man to walk on the moon
- Dr. James Andrews, surgeon who has treated many high-profile athletes, including Drew Brees and Charles Barkley (Eagle Scout)
- Neil Armstrong, astronaut and first man to walk on the moon (Eagle Scout, Class of 1947)
- Roger Chaffee, astronaut who was killed in the Apollo 1 mission (Eagle Scout, Class of 1951)
- Jim Lovell, astronaut who was commander of Apollo 13 mission (Eagle Scout, Class of 1943)
- Ellison Onizuka, astronaut who died in the Space Shuttle Challenger explosion (Eagle Scout, Class of 1964)
- E. O. Wilson, researcher, two-time Pulitzer Prize winner and the world's top ant expert (Eagle Scout, Class of 1944)
- Hank Aaron, baseball Hall of Famer
- **Bill Bradley**, former basketball player for the New York Knicks and Hall of Famer (Eagle Scout, Class of 1957)
- Michael Jordan, former NBA player and current NBA team owner
- Tommy Lasorda, former baseball manager and Hall of Famer
- Nolan Ryan, former MLB pitcher and current Houston Astros executive
- Mark Spitz, gold medal-winning Olympic swimmer
- Joe Theismann, former NFL quarterback
- Steve Young, former NFL quarterback and sports broadcaster
- Walter Cronkite, journalist, CBS Evening News anchor
- Martin Luther King Jr., civil rights icon
- Harrison Ford, actor in Blade Runner and the Star Wars and Indiana Jones franchises
- Andy Griffith, actor in *The Andy Griffith Show* and *Matlock*

- Jay Leno, former host of NBC's The Tonight Show
- Jon Bon Jovi, Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter
- Steven Spielberg, Academy Award-winning director of *Schindler's List* and *Saving Private Ryan* (Eagle Scout, Class of 1961)
- Jimmy Stewart, Academy Award-winning actor in The Philadelphia Story
- John Wayne, Academy Award-winning actor in True Grit
- George W. Bush, 43rd U.S. president
- Bill Clinton, 42nd U.S. president
- Gerald Ford, 38th U.S. president (Eagle Scout, Class of 1927)
- Jon Huntsman Jr., U.S. ambassador to Russia (Eagle Scout, Class of 1975)
- John F. Kennedy, 35th U.S. president
- Bill Gates, co-founder of Microsoft
- Arthur Eldred, first Eagle Scout and Navy veteran (Eagle Scout, Class of 1912)
- Charles McGee, fighter pilot, member of the Tuskegee Airman and inductee into the National Aviation Hall of Fame (Eagle Scout, Class of 1940)
- Thomas Norris, Navy SEAL who received Medal of Honor for his actions during the Vietnam War (Eagle Scout, Class of 1959)
- Mitchell Paige, Marine who received Medal of Honor for his actions at the Battle of Guadalcanal in 1942 (Eagle Scout, Class of 1936)
- Leo K. Thorsness, Air Force colonel who received the Medal of Honor for his actions in the Vietnam War (Eagle Scout, Class of 1949)

There are hundreds more that I could list, but I would run out of paper

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 <u>dalescrockett@yahoo.com</u>.

<u>Chaplain</u>

THE AMERICAN LEGION BIRTHDAY ~ March 15

The American Legion was established on March 15, 1919, in Paris, France, by delegates to a caucus meeting from units of the American Expeditionary Forces, still stationed in Europe awaiting passage home from World War I, which adopted a tentative constitution. The action of the Paris Caucus was confirmed and endorsed by a similar meeting held in St. Louis, MO, from May 8 to 10, 1919, when the Legion was formally recognized by the troops who served in the United States.



Steve Steed



The Paris Caucus appointed an Executive Committee of 17 to represent the troops in France in the conduct of

the Legion. The St. Louis caucus appointed a similar Committee of 17. These two national executive committees amalgamated and were the initial governing body of the Legion. The temporary headquarters was located in New York City. The Legion was chartered on September 16, 1919, by the United States Congress.

The very first American Legion convention was convened in Minneapolis on November 10, 1919, where the Constitution and preamble were adopted. This is also the convention where the Legion delegates voted 361-323 to locate the Legion's national headquarters in middle-America (Indianapolis, Indiana) instead of Washington, D.C.

The American Legion, from its inception, realized the need to assist a wave of disabled and unemployed veterans who faced uncertain futures in their communities, states and the nation. The American Legion's emergence and rise to prominence was based on a mission to strengthen the nation through programs, services and advocacy that helped millions throughout the organization's first century. The American Legion built its legacy with a vision to make the nation prouder, stronger, smarter, and more respectful of those who have sacrificed some, or all, in defense of the nation. Over the years, the Legion has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for veterans and produced many important programs for children and youth.

For Your Information

FOOD DONATIONS DELIVERED TO HOMELESS VETERANS FELLOWSHIP

Several Post 27 families collected and delivered 232 food items and miscellaneous calendars, cards, socks and reusable bags to the Homeless Veterans Fellowship in Ogden on February 22. Our next food drive for the springtime will be for our military families at Hill Air Force Base through donations to the Airman's Attic. The Smith's Inspiring Donations checks we receive quarterly always help support these food drives. You can help all year long by signing up with this program, designating American Legion Post 27 as a recipient. Stay tuned . . .

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH USO Utah



The USO Utah had its grand opening at the Salt Lake City Airport (Terminal A) on February 4, 2022. The USO worldwide serves men and women in the U.S. military and their families. You can

support America's service members and their families by volunteering with the USO at Utah.USO.org.

VA BENEFITS CLAIMS ASSISTANCE

Qualifying veterans may be eligible for disability benefits and other pension programs, including Aid and Attendance. Individuals and organizations are available to help you file for VA benefits *free of* charge. One of the below can assist:

State of Utah Department of Veteran & Military Affairs (UDVMA), Salt Lake City (801) 326-2372

UDVMA Service Officer for Weber and Davis Counties Office at the George E. Wahlen Veterans Nursing Home 1102 N 1200 W, Ogden, UT 84404 (801) 662-8256



American Legion Post 27 Support every time you shop at Smith's. Signing up is free and easy!

1. Go to SmithsFoodandDrug.com/inspire 2. Sign into your digital account or choose "Create an Account" and fill in the information.

3. Link your Rewards Card to your organization: Enter your organization's number: **X N 4 5 3** or at least 3 letters of your organization's name and click 'Search', select the organization and choose 'Save'.

Then, every time you shop at Smith's with your Rewards Card, they donate 0.5% of your total order to our nonprofit.*

Helpful Information:

What purchases qualify? Just about everything you purchase during your regular shopping trips! The only exclusions are alcohol, tobacco, postage stamps, Smith's Gift Cards, re-loadable Gift Cards and debit cards, lottery and promotional tickets, West-ern Union, fuel and sales tax.

There's no cost to participate in this program, and you'll still earn fuel points on eligible purchases every time you shop!



American Legion Service Officer (Mondays/Wednesdays) Office: 550 Foothill Drive, Suite 105, Salt Lake City, UT 84113 (SLC VA Campus) (801) 326-2380

<u>Historian</u>



HUT-TWO-THREE-FOUR

Because this month is March, perhaps it's appropriate to look at the history of marching. Everyone who has worn the uniform has experienced this form of troop movement but I suspect that not a lot of thought has gone into this phenomenon.

Whether you call it marching or drill, it's still marching, plain and simple. Way back in history, the most powerful, efficient and developed empires came up with ways of moving troops from one place to another without them getting mixed up with other troops. So, they marched together from one place to another. The thinking was, without marching together, masses of soldiers would end up getting lost on the way to battle and have to fight with just

any ol' unit they could find, instead of the unit they trained with.



As time went on, a system of flags developed. These flags, or guide-ons as they were sometimes known, allowed soldiers to find their own units (and side) on the battlefield if they got lost. However, the military quickly discovered that sticking to formed units worked better, as everyone was present when needed for battle. Unfortunately, with the advent of ranged weapons, these formed units became marvelous targets that the enemy could hardly miss.

These days, military drill is mostly used for military ceremonies, such as military parades, and to instill pride and discipline during military training (such as basic training). In fact, the military drill manual (a book about 6 inches thick) presented states that drill is the foundation of discipline in battle, and that its importance has been proven again and again.

For example, back in 2002 and 2003, when the North Koreans claimed that they were developing nuclear weapons, they conducted a huge number of public military parades, receiving lots of attention from the press, which commended them on how modern and disciplined their military was. The North Korean forces could clearly be seen to be skilled, which would act as a deterrent against many lesser military forces.

Today, regular parades in public display the military as a highly trained, disciplined and professional force. Even though the parade itself doesn't provide any useful function on the battlefield, it instills public confidence in the nation's military forces. A ragtag military is likely to be unable to put on parades, so it holds that larger and better military forces can display their discipline by means of public performances.

There's not much else to say except "Hut-two-three-four!"

POW/MIA News

Iraq and Libya MIA

The current number of personnel missing from operations in Iraq and the Persian Gulf being actively pursued by Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) is five-two service members from Desert Storm, and three DoD contractors from Iraqi Freedom. DPAA also continues to pursue the fullest possible accounting for one service member lost in 1986 during Operation El Dorado Canyon in Libya.



- F-111 aircraft went down during a strike over Libya. •
- **Jav Hess** Lt. Cmdr. Barry T. Cooke, of Austin, Texas, U.S. Navy, was lost on Feb. 2, 1991, when his A-6 aircraft went • down in the Persian Gulf.
- Lt. Robert J. Dwyer, of Worthington, Ohio, U.S. Navy, was lost on Feb. 5, 1991, when his FA~18 aircraft • went down in the Persian Gulf.
- Mr. Kirk Von Ackermann, of Albuquerque, N.M., DoD contractor, was lost on Oct. 9, 2003, while working • in Forward Operating Base Pacesetter, Iraq.
- Mr. Timothy E. Bell, of Mobile, Ala., DoD contractor, was lost on April 9, 2004, while working in Baghdad, • Iraa.
- Mr. Adnan al-Hilawi, of Orlando, Fla., DoD contractor, was lost on March 3, 2007, while working in Baghdad, Iraq.

Sourse : https://dpaa~mil.sites.crmforce.mil/dpaaFamWebIragandLibya

<u>American Legion Auxiliary</u>

February has flown by and we will be doing our Girls State interviews in March!! Please see if you might be available to help interview these awesome young ladies and make the very tough decision of who gets to go!

Here are dates and times, and how many interviewers we need: March 14-NUAMES- 6 interviewers 3:00 pm March 15-Davis High School-2 interviewers 2:00 pm March 16-Farmington High School-2 interviewers 2:30 pm



Deb Hansen

We had an amazing webinar for Girls State staff and counselors, presented by National ALA about Diversity and Inclusion. This looks like it will be an awesome year and it will be exciting to be back in person!!

Our next Unit meeting will be held just before the Post meeting on March 15 at the Farmington Arts Center. Please plan to come at 6 pm!

Thank you for all you do to serve our veterans!







Take Advantage of our Veterans Outreach Program

A representative from the Utah Department of Veteran and Military Affairs can assist veterans with benefit questions, disability and benefit applications, and families of veterans. Call for an appointment with a Service Officer at 801-662-8256.

Be sure to bring a DD-214 or Discharge Certificate with you.



