



THE AMERICAN LEGION

POST 27 / SQUADRON 27

NEWSLETTER

FARMINGTON, UTAH

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

May 2014

STILL SERVING AMERICA

www.post27.org

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Memorial Day: A Time to Look Back...and Forward

Each year Memorial Day marks the unofficial beginning of summer, conjuring images of picnics, barbeques or just a lazy day off. Traditional observance of Memorial day has diminished over the years. Many Americans nowadays have forgotten the meaning and traditions of Memorial Day. At many cemeteries, the graves of the fallen are increasingly ignored, neglected. Most people no longer remember the proper flag etiquette for the day. While there are towns and cities that still hold Memorial Day parades, many have not held a parade in decades. Some people think the day is for honoring any and all dead, and not just those fallen in service to our country. Of course, this is not so for members of The American Legion, as evidenced by our participation in multiple appropriate observances of the hallowed holiday. This represents one of the most important reasons that The Legion exists.



Kent Hansen

Yet even as we look back in reverence in memory of our fallen comrades, perhaps it is also a good time to look forward so that their sacrifice might not be in vain. Surely, our DD-214s and Discharge Certificates attest to who we are and what we have done but the blue hat each of us wears sends an equally powerful message. It says that while we have served honorably, we are not finished yet. It says that we are still serving the nation we love. It says there is more important work yet to be done.



So we must look ahead to determine what we can do to make our America a better place. Perhaps it's rendering military funeral honors to a deceased veteran or folding an American flag for presentation to an Eagle Scout. Maybe it's contributing to the Legion's National Emergency Fund or assisting with Boys State. It could also mean volunteering at a VA Hospital or visiting a former GI at one of our veterans' homes. Whatever you choose to do, the efforts you make validate the sacrifices made by those who preceded us. President John F. Kennedy said it best: *"Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."*

1ST VICE COMMANDER



Frank Ferrante

There are two days in May that are significant to Veterans and Legionnaires; they are Armed Forces Day, May 17, 2014, and Memorial Day, May 26, 2014. Armed Forces Day is a day to pay tribute to the men and women who serve the United States armed forces in times of war and peace. Those who are honored on this day include people who serve in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard. On this day, in addition to the American flag, proudly display your service flag.

Memorial Day we honor the more than one million men and women who lost their lives defending America in wars from the Revolution to the global war on terrorism. On this day let us remember and ponder on those who fell fighting in the prime of their lives to give us the freedom we enjoy.

A former Marine friend sent me the dramatic photo on the right. Steeped in symbolism, it was taken at the National Cemetery in Minneapolis, MN on a June morning, as it appeared in the Minneapolis Star/Tribune. It was titled "Our symbol standing guard" Talk about a picture being worth a thousand words! It says it all.



American Flag Etiquette– To place the flag at half-staff, hoist the flag to the peak for an instant and lower it to a position half way between the top and bottom of the staff. The flag is to be raised again to the peak for a moment before it is lowered. On Memorial the flag is displayed at half-staff until noon and at full staff from noon until sunset.

ADJUTANT



Chuck Stephenson

CONGRATULATIONS TO POST 27 FOR NOT ONLY REACHING THE DEPARTMENT GOAL OF 81 MEMBERS BUT EXCEEDING IT FOR AN ALL TIME HIGH!

Membership. Statistics are membership numbers through 1 May 2014.

2014 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2014 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
81	5	47	23	10	7	85/7	104%

The next National Headquarters' target date is May 14th – Armed Forces Day 100%. As you can see, we have already met that goal. However, we still have 6 of our 2013 members who have not renewed for 2014. **We encourage them to renew for 2014.** Don't lose your "continuous year's membership" in The American Legion and other associated benefits. You may renew online with a credit card at www.legion.org or send your \$30. Annual Membership Dues to our Finance Officer John Sheets. **If I can do anything for you to make your membership renewal easier or more convenient, please let me know. I can be reached at H (801) 444-7189 C (801) 698-7750 or email stphnsnc@aol.com.**

REMEMBER – MEMBERSHIP IS OUR LIFEBLOOD AND IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY!

HAIL AND FAREWELL

Ten new members so far this year is a phenomenal accomplishment. Post 27 would like to Hail our newest members:

Kent W. Boam	Kaysville	George T. Dewey	Kaysville
Jan S. Freeman	Bountiful	Elden Hamblin	Roy
William B. Jaques	Layton	Nicole Miller	Bountiful
Richard L. Newton	Farmington	Bruce E. Nielsen	Kaysville
Chris Stewart	Wash. DC	Blanche R. Wesley	Roy

We also say Farewell and send to Post Everlasting our Comrade **William T. Carpenter** of Centerville who passed away earlier this year.

Sons of The American Legion. Squadron 27's Annual Membership is only \$7.50. Please send your 2014 renewal checks to Finance Officer John Sheets.

2014 GOAL	REGULAR	NEW	2014 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
15	12	2	14	93%

Department of Utah Belt Buckles. The William E. "Bill" Christoffersen "BIG BEE" 50 Years Commemorative Belt Buckles are available for purchase. **There are only 30 remaining.** The buckles are a limited edition/ numbered and can be purchased for only \$60. If you are interested in purchasing one of these beauties, please let me know.



District 2 Update. The District 2 Spring Convention was held April 12th at Post 134 in Clearfield. Officers for 2014/2015 were elected: **John Thompson** (Post 9) is the new Commander; **John Ott** (Post 9) is the new 1st Vice Command; and our own **Kent Hansen** is the new 2nd Vice Commander. We were honored to have in attendance at our District 2 Spring Convention Leading Candidate for National Commander 2014/2015 **Mike Helm** from Nebraska. He spoke to us about American Legion membership, and the culture of growth and the 5-year plan leading up the 100th American Legion Anniversary in 2019. Thanks to all who participated and took the time to support one of our most important meetings in District 2. It has been an Honor and a Very High Privilege to serve as District 2 Commander these past two years – I would like to especially thank Post 27 and all my Comrades for their support and service. Post 27 was always willing to serve and do whatever was asked in support of District 2.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Summer time, summer time! Now is the time proudly to display the American flag at our homes and work. American Legion flags offer American-made storm-ready flags at a great price. All proceeds go to American Legion programs that support military families and veterans. Go to www.emblem.legion.org to order flags. Let's do our part and proudly display the American flag.



David Layton

The next few calendar months are Post 27's busiest time of the year. We will need all of Post 27 members to step up and prepare physically and ensure your uniform (white shirt and blue hat) are ready. Scheduled community events include:

- May 26: Memorial Day activities
- June 9-13: American Legion Utah Boys State
- July 4: Kaysville 4th of July Parade
- July 12: Farmington Festivals Days Parade
- July 23: Bountiful Handcart Days Parade
- August 14: Davis County Fair Flag Retirement Ceremony

All events will require some physical activity, so let's all be ready to assist the Post as we can. Post 27: ready to serve for the good of The Legion and the country.

CHAPLAIN



JGolden Barton

Once again we will soon place the flag of our country at the grave site of the veterans of all wars who rest in peace in the Farmington cemetery. For five years it has been my privilege to reminisce, even if for only a moment, the friendships I had with so very many of them. Memories of marble games under the canopy of the blacksmith shop across from the county court house. We would gather, draw a ring in the dirt, and take turns at the taws in the circle. I remember the basketball pick-up games at the net-less hoop in our dirt yard. The summer music from the merry-go-round at Lagoon and the laughter and cheer of those daring the rides. The early morning whistle at Miller Floral calling many to the rose and carnation beds. The sleigh rides down the path leading up to the school house. The Thursday night movies at the Rock Chapel.

I also remember the cheerful and happy faces of the boys, men, and women, who in Army, Navy, Marine and Air Force uniforms, sat at the counters of the Rampton Drug store or Smith's café and shared their experiences serving flag and country. Never will I forget the blue stars, purple hearts, and gold stars that were in the front window of almost every home in Farmington. It was a time of selfless sacrifice and dedication to protect the liberty and freedom that all Americans enjoy today.

With a happy heart I will walk through the grass, step around monuments, plant a flag at the grave, salute, and express my love and appreciation for the voice, face, personality, and life of each warrior who served God and Country. They were and are our relatives, friends, neighbors, and hero's. God bless each one of them. And God bless each living warrior of American Legion Farmington Post 27, on this special memorial day of remembering.

HISTORIAN



Kent Hansen

The History of Memorial Day

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. There are many stories as to its actual beginnings, with more than two dozen cities and towns laying claim to being the birthplace of Memorial Day. There is also evidence that organized women's groups in the South were decorating graves before the end of the Civil War: a hymn published in 1867, "Kneel Where Our Loves are Sleeping" by Nella L. Sweet carried the dedication "To The Ladies of the South who are Decorating the Graves of the Confederate Dead" (Source: Duke University's Historic American Sheet Music, 1850-1920). While Waterloo N.Y. was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson in May 1966, it's

difficult to prove conclusively the origins of the day. It is more likely that it had many separate beginnings; each of those towns and every planned or spontaneous gathering of people to honor the war dead in the 1860's tapped into the general human need to honor our dead. It is not important who was the very first, what is important is that Memorial Day was established. Memorial Day is not about division. It is about reconciliation; it is about coming together to honor those who gave their all.

Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, and was first observed on 30 May 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The first state to recognize the holiday officially was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day,

honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war). It is now celebrated in almost every state on the last Monday in May to ensure a three-day weekend for Federal holidays), though several southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead: January 19 in Texas, April 26 in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi; May 10 in South Carolina; and June 3 (Jefferson Davis' birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee.



LEGION LAFFS



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **May 3 – District 2 meeting**, 10:00 am, Post 27, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
- **May 8 -- Post 27 Meeting**, 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
- **May 12 -- Veterans Speaker Series**, 7:00 pm. SLC Library. Speaker: U.S. Army Vietnam veteran Maureen Brinkman.
- **May 15 – HireOurHeroes Job Fair**, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm, Davis, Convention Center, Layton.
- **May 17 – Armed Forces Day**. *Fly the flag!*
- **May 23 – Place flags at Kaysville Cemetery**. 5:00 pm
- **May 26 – Memorial Day**. 9:00 am, Kaysville Cemetery; 12:00 pm, Farmington Cemetery. *Fly the flag!*
- **June 5 -- Post 27 Meeting**, 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116. *(This early date because of Boys State.)*
- **June 9-13 – American Legion Utah Boys State**, Weber State University.
- **June 12 – Sons of The American Legion Convention**, 1:00 pm, Weber State University Union Building
- **June 28-30 – Department of Utah Convention**.

FROM THE DEPARTMENT RAMPING UP WITH MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

During the month of May 2014, we celebrate the 15th Annual Military Appreciation Month. I have not seen this advertised anywhere except the "Army Times". So this is what one former warrior (me) likes to think it really means.

We have two significant holidays in May, Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day. They both have great meaning to the military, veterans, and their families. Schools may teach about famous military leaders. We stop and thank those in uniform for their service. The commercial establishments on and around military posts/bases give "good" discounts to military members and their families. Food establishments give discounts to military members and veterans.

There is a HireOurHeroes job fair in Layton on May 15th for military and veterans. Most American Legion Posts and other veteran service organizations around the nation are preparing for their participation in community Memorial Day activities. For Post 27, we place flags on veterans' graves at the Farmington and Kaysville cemeteries, participate in the Memorial Day programs in Farmington and Kaysville, and continue planning for summer events that include Boys State, the Department Convention, the Kaysville 4th of July flag raising and parade, Farmington Festival Days parade, Handcart Days parade in Bountiful, and the premier end-of-summer Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Davis County Fair in August. Participation in these events and activities support our veterans and military, and teach Americanism in our communities. What better way to celebrate Military Appreciation Month all summer long!

As individuals, we can do small things that show support: visit a fellow veteran in the hospital or care facility; mow a lawn for the family of a deployed military member, volunteer at the Ogden VA Nursing Home or the VA Medical Center/Nursing home in Salt Lake City; donate blood for the military or our Department Adjutant's son, Collin Rowley; visit one of the local university/college Veterans Center and see if there are any opportunities to assist fellow veteran students in any way or just talk with them; or encourage veterans who are having a difficult time readjusting to contact the VA for more definitive help. Some local resources can be found at the Utah Military & Veterans Affairs Department website www.veterans.utah.gov.

Thank you ALL for your service to this great country, and remember that you can still serve America in small ways. Enjoy Military Appreciation Month and enjoy your summer.



Paula Stephenson
Vice Commander
Dept. of Utah



Check us out on Facebook at "American Legion Post 27 Farmington Utah" or there is a link from our Post website at www.post27.org.



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