

The American Legion



Post 27

Squadron 27

Unit 27

Newsletter

Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116, 28 East State Street, Farmington, Utah

May 2017

Still Serving America

www.post27.org

Commander's Corner

REMEMBER VS. NEVER FORGET

Every year at the end of this month, many of us take time out to remember those who have laid the ultimate sacrifice on the altar of freedom, soon followed by picnics, cookouts and shopping the holiday sales. May I suggest that we adjust our paradigm so that we not only remember but that we **NEVER FORGET**. We enjoy the highest standard of living in the world because of the men and women who sacrificed to make it so. Can our gratitude and acknowledgement be reduced to one day a year?



Kent Hansen

Let me share the true story of a friend of mine named Casey Kunimura. Casey, a long-time Legionnaire, is a quiet, unassuming fellow who has been a fixture at Utah Boys State for many years. But his story is one of valor and love of country that transcends most of us. Casey's parents were Japanese immigrants. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, many Japanese-Americans were forced out of their



homes and into harsh internment camps. Casey, then 16, and his family were sent to a camp in Arizona. Though born in the United States, he lost his citizenship and was reclassified as an "enemy alien." After more than a year, he got permission to leave the camp. Ironically, he turned right around and enlisted in the U.S. Army to serve the country that had imprisoned him and his family. He went on to serve in Europe, becoming a member of the Fighting 442nd Regimental Combat Team (the "Go-For-Brokes") which was made up of Japanese-Americans. They performed so well that it



became the most decorated unit in the history of the United States military.

Casey's truly heroic story is only one of so many that we, as Americans, can never afford to forget – not just on Memorial Day but on every day that we enjoy the American Dream! When I walked among the rows of crosses, Stars of David and Islamic crescents in the American Cemetery at Omaha Beach in Normandy, I realized how much we all owe to these noble Americans and all the others who fell at so many places so that we and our families might live under a free flag. Let's make our Memorial Day every day. God bless America!

Post 27 Programs & Activities

- Flag Education
- High School Constitution Oratorical 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
- DATC 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 Junior Shooting Sports
- American Legion National Emergency Fund support

Veterans Still Serving!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

May 3 – VA Benefits Outreach at Post 27, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. For appointments call: 801-326-2370.

May 4 – SAL Squadron 27 meeting, 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.

May 10 -- Hiring Utah's Heroes Job Fair, 11:00 am–3:00 pm, Davis Conference Center, 165 N700 W, Layton.

May 11 -- Post 27 meeting, 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.

May 12 -- Veterans Business Conference, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm, SLCC Miller Campus. www.slchamber.com/veterans

May 25 – Veterans Golf Tournament, HAFB.

May 26 – National Poppy Day. *Wear a poppy!*

May 29 – Kaysville Memorial Day Program, 10:00 am.

Kaysville Cemetery

May 29 – Farmington Memorial Day Program, 12:00 pm.

Farmington Cemetery

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

June 2 – Kaysville Cemetery Flag pickup, 5:00 pm

June 8 -- Post 27 meeting, 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.

June 12-16 – Utah Boys State, Weber State University.

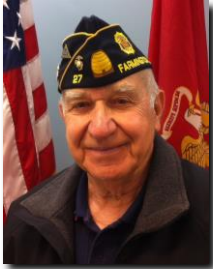
June 15 -- Walk For Veterans with National Commander Charles E. Schmidt. Weber State University, 4:00 pm, \$20.

June 15 – SAL State Convention, 1:00 pm, WSU Union Bldg.

June 23-25 – Department of Utah Convention, Comfort Suites, 2250 South 1200 West, Ogden.

See flyers and more information at www.post27.org in our calendar section.

1st Vice Commander



Frank Ferrante

Marine friend sent me the dramatic photo included here. 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 Note – 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 Day, the flag is displayed at half staff until noon and at full staff from noon until sunset.



There are two days in May that are significant to Veterans and Legionnaires; they are Armed Forces Day, May 20, 2017, and Memorial Day, May 29, 2017. 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 America flag, proudly display your service flag.

On Memorial Day we honor the more than a 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



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

2nd Vice Commander

Recently, I received a letter in the mail from an organization called the “Veterans Memorial Program” Portland Oregon. It was similar to other letters I have received from companies wanting to sell you a funeral plan. Most of these I usually look at and cast them into the garbage. However, with this one, their survey had some questions that struck a chord with me.

- Do you currently have a copy of your DD Form 214 issued to you?
- In the event of your death, who would be responsible for making your funeral arrangements?
- Would it give you peace of mind to know that you could plan your memorial and funeral arrangements in advance and that your family would not have to make these arrangements?



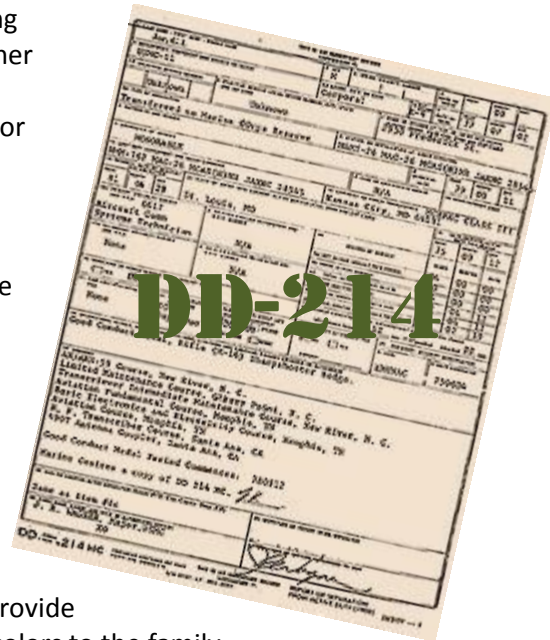
Ron Craig

This month, I am going to address the first bullet. Hopefully, I can address the others in a later newsletter. Since John Sheets has been incapacitated recently, I have been taking the phone calls from the local mortuaries regarding requests to support Military Funeral Honors. It has come to my attention that most veterans do a poor job of informing their family members about their military service and especially where they have a copy of their military discharge papers, DD Form 214. For a family that is already under stress from the loss of their loved one, going through the hoops to validate the deceased veteran’s military service is just another stress factor. Many times the stress is to the point of just eliminating the Military Funeral Honors altogether. This solution leaves many family members, who may or may not understand military procedures, with a bad taste for the military service. This is not fair to the families of the deceased veterans who served their country.

Just to provide you with some clarity on this issue, the Military Service organizations, (Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard) have to verify the veteran’s service and to ensure the discharge was under honorable conditions. Without this validation, the military has no authorization to provide this service. Even the mortuaries we work with have a difficult time understanding this process.

Sometimes the mortuary will request a rifle team and bugler without the flag folding and presentation. This is not authorized. By law, every veteran with an other-than-dishonorable discharge is authorized to have “Full Military Honors”.

“Full” means three Rifle Volleys, playing of Taps, folding of the U.S. Colors and presentation to the family. At a minimum, the Military Service Organization can provide military honors with the playing of Taps, the flag folding and presentation of the colors to the family.



To provide military funeral honors, the key that opens the door to allow the military to provide this support is the DD Form 214, or if discharged before 1950, a War Department Discharge Document. This document that should be locked away for safe keeping. Some veterans disliked their serve experience so much, that they destroyed their DD Form 214. This was common during the Vietnam era, but not all is lost. Military records can be obtained by writing to National Personnel Records Center, Army (or Air Force or Navy) Records Center, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis MO 63132. More information is also available on www.archives.gov.



The American Legion
Post 27 Newsletter
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Editor: Kent Hansen
Please have your submissions in by the last week of the month previous to publication.
Submit to: kenthansen7@gmail.com

In an emergency, complete a Standard Form (SF) 180, Request Pertaining to Military Records. This form can be downloaded from the following: <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>. For those of you who still have members of your family who are veterans and still living, it would behoove you to contact them and see if they have retained a copy of their discharge papers. If they do not have a copy, now is the time to start searching for the document. If you don’t have a copy of your discharge papers, do something today. Avoid the stress by planning ahead.



Adjutant/ Eagle Scout Courts of Honor

Membership is Our Lifblood



Membership. Statistics are membership numbers through 1 May 2017.

2017 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2017 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
100	11	40	34	4	4	93	93%

It has been an honor to be the Farmington Post 27 Adjutant for the past two years. I am still learning what it takes to be a good American Legion member and an Officer with this Post. I have found it takes a few years of activity and becoming involved in all aspects and functions of post operations to learn my duties as adjutant. You may ask, what is an Adjutant and what does one do. The answers can be found in our officer's guide. The adjutant has the same position in the post as the secretary of any other organized body, and a bit more. Like the first sergeant of a company, which rank I held for several years, post activities revolve around the adjutant. Most posts find it wise to retain a good adjutant in office over a period of years. The adjutant may well provide continuity in the post. While the commander's duties are largely inspirational and executive, an adjutant's duties are administrative. The commander navigates the ship, our post commander is Navy guy in real life, but the adjutant is the engineer, who runs the ship's machinery.

The adjutant is the personnel officer and the personal point of contact for individual members of the post. I maintain membership records and minutes of meetings, check up and assists the work of the other officers and committees, and could publish official orders, announcements and instructions. The adjutant is primarily concerned with ways and means and, by virtue of a key position, can add effectiveness to all post activities. My hope is to become a good Post 27 adjutant and to support the needs of this post and all of the members within. If there is anything that I can assist you with, please feel free to contact me and if I can't help, I will find someone who can. My contact info is in the next paragraph.



Our \$35 annual membership dues are past due now for the 2017 membership year. We are getting closer to our 100% goal. Those who have not paid should be getting this newsletter. We would like the rest of the members to renew now. To keep your continuous membership intact, you will need to renew now. **If you are not planning to renew with us**, please let me know so I will not continue to send you emails or letters. You can send it to our Post: P.O. Box 427, Farmington, UT 84025-0427. An even easier option is to go to www.Legion.org/renew 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 you do not know your membership number, please give me a call or e-mail me. **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 Home (801) 451-9493 / Cell (801) 560-2186 or email dalescrockett@yahoo.com.**

Sergeant-at-Arms

It's May, and here we are Post 27 continuing in "Full Operation" with American Legion programs and service. Spring time in Utah means snow, rain, wind and warm, sunny days. Come prepared with approved Black Winter Coat, Bush Hat & Ear Muffs. We could be standing in the cold & snow elements for 30 minutes. Be ready!

I want to remind you that four members of our Veteran Honor Guard are experiencing health concerns, let's remember John Sheets, Frank Lennartz, Dan Miller and Brent Christensen. We wish them all health and strength for recovery and return to MFH Team that they have been so much a part of.



David Layton



Paula Stephenson

Past Department Commander/ Training Officer



AAFES BENEFITS EXTENDED TO ALL VETERANS:

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES), along with its sister exchanges, will offer the benefit of shopping online to all

honorably discharged veterans on November 11, 2017 and after that date. Known as the Veterans Online Shopping Benefit (VOSB), will make available on that date online shopping (shopmyexchange.com) privileges to all honorably discharged veterans. "AAFES, along with its sister exchanges, is ensuring America's veterans are honored for their service and recognized as

Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, and Sailors for life." Active, Reserve Component, and retirees currently have this benefit.

RESERVE, GUARD RETIREES WIN VET STATUS: Ref: "Reserve, Guard retirees win vet status" article, page 22, The American Legion Magazine, May 2017. Approximately 200,000 Reserve and Guard retirees gained honorary veteran status in the eyes of the federal government on December 16, 2016 with the signing of the Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal Veterans Health Care Act of 2016 (H.R. 6416). Section 305 of the law states that any person entitled to retired pay for nonregular service or, but for age, would be entitled under such chapter to retired pay for nonregular service, shall be honored as a veteran but shall not be entitled to any benefit by reason of this honor. After years of attending monthly drills and annual training periods, without deployments or other Title 10 active duty of 180-days, these retirees have earned the right to be recognized at veterans. **Hooah to all who served!**

MAY IS NATIONAL POPPY MONTH / MAY 26 is NATIONAL POPPY DAY

After World War I, the poppy flourished in Europe. Scientists attributed the growth to soils in France and Belgium becoming enriched with lime from the rubble left by the war. From the dirt and mud grew a beautiful red poppy. The red poppy came to symbolize the blood shed during battle following the publication of the wartime poem "In Flanders Fields." On September 27, 1920, the poppy became the official flower of The American Legion family to memorialize the soldiers who fought and died during the war. In 1924, the distribution of poppies became a national program of The American Legion. All veterans, servicemembers and patriotic citizens are encouraged to wear or display a poppy on National Poppy Day, May 26, 2017. "By wearing poppies on May 26, we honor every U.S. servicemember who has given his or her life in the name of liberty, freedom and democracy." (quote by The American Legion National Commander Charles E. Schmidt).



Sons of the American Legion



Dave Parker
Squadron 27
Commander

I recently had a conversation with a young lady who asked me what I would be doing for the weekend. I mentioned that I would be participating in military funeral honors for a deceased veteran. She told me that her father had been a paratrooper but she did not know what branch of service nor what war he was involved in. I asked her how old he was and maybe I could determine what War he served in. She said he was 68 years old which would put him most likely as a veteran of the Vietnam War. How sad I thought that her age group "around 25-30 years" has little knowledge about the War in Vietnam, so I'll include a little history most people will never know.

Statistics from the Vietnam Wall: There are 58,267 names now listed on the Vietnam Memorial Wall. The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by the date and within each date, the names are alphabetized.

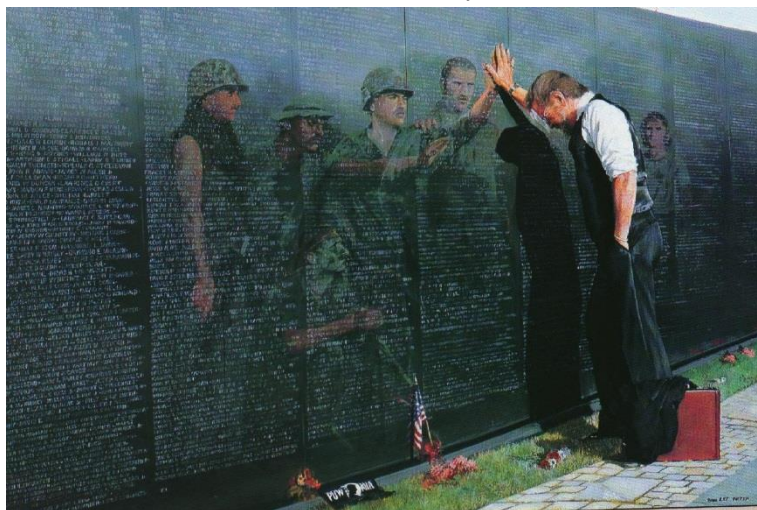


- The first known casualty was Richard B Fitzgibbon, of Weymouth, Mass. listed by the US Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Lance Corporal Richard B Fitzgibbon, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.
- There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.
- 39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger. 8,283 were just 19 years old. 12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old. 5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old. One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.
- The largest age group, 33,103 were 18 years old.
- 997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam. 1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam.
- 31 sets of brothers are on the Vietnam Wall.

- 31 sets of parents lost two of their sons.
- Eight women are on the Wall, nursing the wounded.
- 244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall.
- West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall.
- 9 graduates of Morenci High School in Arizona, enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day 1966. Only three returned home.
- The buddies of Midvale Utah- Lee Roy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez, Tom Gonzalez were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale on 5th, 6th, and 7th Avenues, only a few yards apart. They all went to Vietnam. In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three would be killed. Lee Roy was killed on November 22, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead assaulting the enemy on December 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.
- The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 - 245 deaths during the Tet Offensive. The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 - 2,415 casualties were incurred.

To those of us who survived the war and to families of those who did not, we feel the pain these numbers created and until we also pass away, we hope to remember them and their service because they were our friends, father's, husbands, wives, sons and daughters. There are no noble wars just noble warriors.

Our next SAL meeting will be May 4th same time same place. You can contact me at [\(801\) 725-6134](tel:8017256134) cell / [\(801\) 451-5580](tel:8014515580) home or email dparker5580@comcast.net.



American Legion Auxiliary



Our new unit is growing!! If you know ladies who are eligible to join, please contact us so they can join our awesome group! We are excited that three girls from Davis High will be attending Girls State! Our April meeting was held at the Legion Post meeting room at the Courthouse with yummy soup made by Ashleigh Peterson, rolls by Ann Craig and the best Rice Krispy treats by Michele Done!



Deb Hefner
Unit 27
President

Welcome to our new members: Kathy Layton and Leslie Hefner! Our May meeting will be on May 16 at 6 pm at Michelle Hess' home at 921 North Main

Street in Farmington. We'll have another delicious soup! We are planning to help with the placement of flags at the Farmington and Kaysville Cemeteries on May 26! We appreciate being part of the Farmington Legion family!!!

POW/MIA News



Jay C. Hess

I received this query recently: "Do any of you know of a Lawrence Penny; he claims to have been a POW but he isn't on any list I know of." There is a quick way to check. Go to The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency web site:

<http://www.dpaa.mil/Our-Missing/Vietnam-War/Vietnam-War-POW-MIA-List/>

On the right side of the page under 'Additional Lists' find 'POWs Returned Alive' and 'Escaped Captivity.' Mr. Penny is not listed in either category thus he is a phony POW claimant. On that site is the latest Statistical Report (April 12, 2017) of 'Americans Unaccounted For in Southeast Asia.' There are 1,611 of which 1,023 are under further pursuit. American remains repatriated post-Jan 27, 1973 total 1035.

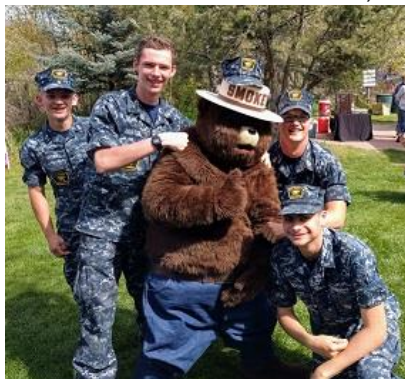
Below are those from Utah who remain Unaccounted For from the Vietnam War, either Missing in Action or Killed in Action/Body not Recovered. Remember them.

NAME	HOME	LOSS RANK	SERVICE	DATE	COUNTRY	STATUS
Chipman, Ralph Jim	Orem	Capt	USMC	12/27/72	Vietnam	XX
Christensen, John Michael	Ogden	1/Lt	USMC	4/13/72	Gulf of Tonkin	XX
Connor, Charles Richard	Salt Lake	Capt	USMC	10/28/68	Vietnam	XX
Crow, Raymond Jack Jr.	Salt Lake	Sgt	USAF	3/27/72	Cambodia	BB
Ellison, John Cooley	Layton	LCDR	USN	3/24/67	Vietnam	XX
Hubler, George Lawrence	Moab	Capt	USMC	2/23/68	South China	BB
Jeffer, Clive Garth	Salt Lake	Capt	USAF	3/12/71	Vietnam	XX
Jenne, Robert Earl	Salt Lake	SP4	USA	5/8/68	Vietnam	BB
Krusi, Peter Herman	Smithfield	LCDR	USN	11/3/67	Gulf of Tonkin	BB
Lucki, Albin Earl	Salt Lake	Capt	USAF	4/23/70	Laos	XX
Schiele, James Francis	Granger	SP4	USA	7/12/67	Vietnam	XX
Widdison, Imlay Scott	Woods Cross	PFC	USA	5/12/68	Vietnam	BB
Wiechert, Robert Charles	West Jordan	Maj	USAF	11/16/68	South China	BB
Wood, Don Charles	Provo	Capt	USAF	1/16/66	Laos	XX

XX – Presumptive Finding of Death BB – Killed in Action, Body Not Recovered

Jake Garn Sea Cadet Squadron

Drill for the Sea Cadets started off with community service at Ogden Nature Center. Saturday was Earth Day, and the Ogden Nature Center had vendors, National Forest Service, and various groups that came to entertain or inform about numerous activities that will help the Earth. The Sea Cadets helped set up the event, hand out popcorn, make sure the vendors had a clean area, and a few cadets dressed up like Smokey Bear.



Courtney Putnam
Commanding
Officer

Legion Laffs

WELL, WHAT D'YA KNOW?
IT DOES TASTE LIKE RATTLESNAKE!



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



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.

From the Department Commander

What a Great Time to be a Member of The Department of Utah American Legion Family!

As I close in on the end of my tenure as the 100th Commander of the Department of Utah, I would be remiss if I did not extend my sincere appreciation to those that have supported both Paula and me on this amazing journey. As the “unofficial Aide” to the 98th Commander of the Department I had an idea about just what the journey would be like. I realized from day one that my position would be for the most part ceremonial. Representing 8,000 plus Legionnaires at local and state events has been a humbling experience. I have been fortunate to have been able to stand on the shoulders of giants, men such as William E. “Bill” Christoffersen, Darrell “Sarge” Loveland, Casey Kunimura, and many others who have blazed trails and set a standard that I have tried to emulate.

Leadership is difficult, especially in an all-volunteer organization. Expectations often go unfulfilled. We must remain strong. The future of our organization is in our hands. As a truly great friend and mentor, Bill Christoffersen says, “Don’t get discouraged.” Bill served as the National Executive Committeeman for 50 years. I have thought about these priceless three words of guidance countless times. My opportunity to serve as Department Commander has been doubled by having my life partner, proof-reader, counselor, and 98th Department of Utah Commander Paula Stephenson by my side. I learned many years ago that when in a Leadership or Supervisory position it truly takes a hard-working Team to be successful. I believe that I have had that support from the Department of Utah Staff. I thank them for their support and guidance.

National Commander Charles E. Schmidt says, “It is time to stop the slide and start the climb.” Our Membership numbers continue to shrink each year. We must continue to “Stay on Course.” We are all proud of our Legion. We must convey that message to younger Veterans. We must find that common bond and not be afraid to ask them to join the biggest and best Veterans Service Organization in the country, because without members, we have no American Legion. Always remember.....

Membership is Our Lifeblood



**Chuck Stephenson
Commander
Department of Utah**



