



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

THE AMERICAN LEGION
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COMMANDER'S CALL



Jon Rue

For me, May is a time of remembrance. Lately, we are frequently thanked for our service when checking out at stores that have veteran's discounts, or when we are wearing a hat or shirt that signifies our service. My wife goes out of her way to thank service members anytime she sees an appropriate hat or shirt. At the end of May, Memorial Day has always seemed awkward to me, when civilians wished me a "Happy" Memorial Day. It just seemed uncomfortable that a day of remembrance of fallen soldiers have a "Happy" association. A classmate of mine penned an article a few years ago about Memorial Day and changing that greeting. In his article, Denton Knapp (BG, US Army, Ret.) wrote about service members earning our respect and admiration. He opined that we should strive to have and remind each other to have a "Worthy Memorial Day". My writing skills and paraphrasing won't do his speech justice, so if you'd like to read a transcript, please let me know (and I do have his permission to share).

Additionally, during the month of May many choose to wear a Poppy flower as a token of remembrance of service members whom died in service. Most of us know the historical roots of the that practice and that it originates from the poppies that bloomed after WWI in Flanders Field spanning Belgium & France, and immortalized in the poem "In Flanders Field" by John McCrae. I encourage each of you to wear a poppy during May as remembrance for our fallen soldiers. If you need one, reach out to a member of our Auxiliary, as they have a program to distribute poppies as a fund raiser.

Armed Forces Day: This day may not be highlighted on many calendars or get publicity, but for us, it is of significance and may present an opportunity to educate family members and neighbors. It is held annually on the third Saturday of May, this year on Saturday, May 20th. It is a day to thank and honor current military personnel. Whenever you have a chance, please take a moment to thank and recognize those men and women who are currently serving in the armed forces in the United States. We can also clarify for others that Veterans Day honors all those who have previously served in the military. As well as Memorial Day, when we honor those men and women who have died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

Memorial Day: For a number of years now, Post 27 has participated in the observance of Memorial Day. Members of the Post are invited to come to participate in the placement of US flags on veterans' grave at the Kaysville and Farmington City Cemeteries. Mark your calendars for the Friday, May 26th. Bring a long screwdriver for starting a hole in the ground for placing the flags. We will be working in two-person teams. This year Kaysville City has planned a ceremony at 10am at the Kaysville City Cemetery on Memorial Day. Our own Kent Hansen is the emcee, and Post 27 will conduct a 13-Fold American Flag Ceremony. Post 27 will again hold its own Memorial Day Program at 12 noon at the Farmington City Cemetery.

In closing, I'd like to thank all of you for your service, and ask that you have a "Worthy Memorial Day".

Post 27 Family EVENTS CALENDAR



May 11 - Post 27 General Meeting. 7:00 pm
Davis County Memorial Courthouse
May 25 - Posting the Colors . 11:00 am, George E Wahlen
Retirement Home, Ogden
May 26 - Flags on Veterans' Graves. 9:00 am at
Farmington Cemetery, 5:00 pm at Kaysville Cemetery
May 29 - Memorial Day. *Fly the flag.*
May 29 - Memorial Day Ceremonies. 10:00 am, Kaysville
Cemetery, 12:00 pm, Farmington Cemetery.

June 5-10 - ALA Girls State
June 8 - Post 27 General Meeting 7:00 pm
Davis County Memorial Courthouse
June 11-16 Utah Boys
June 14 - Flag Day. *Fly the flag.*
June 24 - Armed Forces Day. *Fly the flag.*
June 23-25 - Department of Utah
Convention, Utah Valley Convention
Center, 220 West Center Street, Provo.

1st Vice Commander



Bob Anderson

Come one, Come all! Celebrate with friends, family, and legionnaires this Memorial Day, May 29. The Kaysville City ceremony is at 10:00 am and the Farmington City ceremony is at 12:00 pm. Post 27 is providing most of the bodies for the two ceremonies. Please help make both memorable by coming out and enjoying them with your Post. There will be plenty of chairs at the Kaysville event.

Also coming up: Boys State and Girls State in June. As usual, Post 27 has interviewed many fine students from the local high schools to participate. Although it is too late for you to be new support for the two events, think about if you could for next year. Contact Deb Hansen and Kent Hansen (not related), for their respective programs.

Remember our veterans and keep looking out for more potential Legionnaires!



2nd Vice Commander



At the height of the Cold War, on May 1st of 1960, an American U-2 Spy Plane was shot down over the then-Soviet Union. Flying at altitudes of 70,000 feet, this amazing aircraft could take pictures of newspaper headlines on the ground. Piloted by Francis Gary Powers, he was shot down over Soviet territory with anti-aircraft weapons that the US did not realize the USSR had. What followed was a huge diplomatic incident that derailed nuclear arms control talks and ended with a prisoner swap in the Bridge of Spies incident. While controversial, these flights were determined to be an essential activity to protect our country against communist aggression.



Dan Woodward

One of the best ways to protect our country is to help develop our young people to be strong Americans. Our Oratorical and Boys State/Girls State programs promote civic duty and allows these students to talk about and practice our form of democratic representative government. Though it's too late to participate this year, Boys State/Girls State happens every year. Should you have the time, the Boys State can always use Counselors to help out during the week-long event. It does require a background check prior, but it is a worthy event to support!

Adjutant

Membership is our Lifeblood!



Dale Crockett

American Legion Membership: Statistics are membership numbers through May 1 2023.

2023 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2023 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
134	20	57	34	2	8	122	91%

Sons of the American Legion Membership: Statistics are membership numbers through May 1 2023.

2023 GOAL		REGULAR		NEW	TRANSFERS	2023 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
34		30		1		31	91%

As you can see in the above charts, we are struggling to get to 100%. Of those who have not renewed and are not planning to renew, please send me an email or give me a call and let me know. If you are planning to renew, please do it soon. This month, I just want to shout out to all my friends I have met in Post 27 a very big thank you. You are so awesome and supportive to me. Since my wife and best friend is having medical issues, some of you have been there. One big reason all Post 27 members should renew every year is because you are such great people. I love you all.

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. You can also VENMO me to renew @Dale-Crockett-7 if you have the app. It does not cost you anything and you can get it from the APP Store.

Chaplain

American Red Cross

Clara Barton established the American Red Cross in Dansville, New York on May 21, 1881, and was the organization's first president.

Barton founded the American chapter after learning of the Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland. In 1869, she went to Europe and became involved in the work of the International Red Cross during the Franco-Prussian War. She was determined to bring the organization to America.



Steve Steed



Prior to the United States entry into World War One, the American Red Cross was a neutral organization aiding both the allied and central powers.¹ However, when the United States joined the allied powers, the American Red Cross aid to the central powers ended immediately. On May 10, 1917, President Wilson created the American Red Cross War Council to aid funding initiatives and direct the activities of the organization.

The American Red Cross in the war was a quasi-state organization and a non-governmental organization, as it was not officially part of the United States Government. The American Red Cross in the war focused principally on

overseas civilian aid and not domestic disaster relief. The American Red Cross during the war provided food, employment, housing, and medical assistance to millions of civilians displaced by the war. During the course of the war, over one-third of the population of the United States joined the organization.

The power of the American Red Cross was soon recognized by the Government which began to see "the value of overseas aid as a tool of statecraft". The American Red Cross was increasingly being used as an arm of the state to facilitate the realization of American foreign policy objects. Principally, the American Red Cross enhanced America's image abroad while also disseminating American practices and values throughout Europe. The American Red Cross, therefore, served the dual functions of assisting the realization of United States foreign policy objectives and promoting international humanitarianism.

At the end of the war the League of Red Cross Societies was created. This international society of national Red Cross organizations was spearheaded by the United States and sought the "improvement of health, the prevention of disease, and the mitigation of suffering throughout the world."

In the 1940s during World War II, the Red Cross enrolled 7.5 million volunteers along with 39,000 paid staff and more than 104,000 nurses for military service, prepared 27 million packages for prisoners of war, shipped more than 300,000 tons of supplies, and collected 13.3 million pints of blood plasma for the armed forces. By the time World War II ended in September 1945, American society contributed over \$784 million in support of the American Red Cross.

The American Red Cross (ARC) provides emergency and non-emergency services to the United States military. The most notable service is emergency family communications, where families can contact the Red Cross to send important family messages (such as a death in the family, or new birth). ARC can also act as a verifying agency. The agency operates call centers to provide these services. ARC works closely with other military societies, such as the Department of Veterans Affairs, to provide other services to service members and their families.

Historian



Kent Hansen

10 Ways to Honor Our Fallen Heroes This Memorial Day

1. Pause for a moment of silence at 3:00 pm for the National Moment of Remembrance.
2. Show your patriotism by flying your American flag. The formal ritual is for the flag to hang at half-staff until noon on Memorial Day and then raised to the top for the rest of the day.
3. Visit a military cemetery or war memorial.
4. Watch the National Memorial Day Concert on PBS.
5. Wear a red poppy or place them in your home. According to history.com, this tradition originated from a World War 1 poem about a brigade surgeon who once saw the bright red

flowers growing on a ravaged battlefield. A tradition developed to wear the flower to commemorate the sacrifice so many made while fighting for their country.

6. Tell a story or share a photo on social media about a friend or family member that made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.
7. Call, text, or visit someone that has lost a soldier. Celebrate the memory of this hero.
8. Donate to a charity that supports military families.
9. Go to a Memorial Day parade.
10. Be thankful for our fallen soldiers, sailors and airmen and extend your thoughts and prayers for their families.

Memorial Day is set aside as a day to remember the people that have lost their lives to secure and defend our freedom, but every day is a good day to be kind to our military, their families, and the memory of the soldiers we have lost.



**SGT.
SAGE
SEZ**

No one is ever really gone
if they are remembered.

American Legion Auxiliary



Deb Hansen

This month of April has been a busy one!! We started on April 1 with a wonderful lunch at Hilary Rue's home where we made poppies! What made this really special was that the poppy kit was from our dear friend Judy Lewis' husband, Byron Lewis. We lost Byron during the week of Boys State last year, and he is missed greatly. The poppy has always been special to me ever since I learned "In Flanders Field" when I was in the 4th grade.



The great news is that all of the girls from Davis High, Farmington High and NUAMES will be going to Girls State!!! This is wonderful as Girls State is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! Chris Decker and I will be the counselors for Leavitt City!!! We are busy making some fun gifts for our girls!!

Thank you to Paula for spearheading a mini food drive for our Airman's Attic at Hill! We will be having a food drive from May 1-May 31 with drop-offs at Paula's (1258 Eagle Way, Fruit Heights), Michele Done's (954 Lands End, Farmington), Kathy's (1543 North 725 East, Bountiful), and Chris' (2270 Field Stone Way, Layton). Cash donations are also welcome! We use our money that we get from Smith's to supplement our donations! (We need a picture of Paula and Chuck at Costco!)

Memorial Day will be busy and the information for our ceremonies is in this newsletter!!

I submitted our service hours for the year April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023! This is how we spent our year!

Total hours served: 3,312
Dollars spent: \$6,470
Families/individuals served: 2,299

See you at our May 11 meeting at 6:00 pm! Paula will send a zoom link!

Legion Lafts BY KENT HANSEN



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





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ALSO, CHECK THIS OUT:

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN & MILITARY AFFAIRS:

www.veterans.utah.gov

- In the subjects scrolling at the beginning, select the **CONTACT US** button under the subject "VA Benefits & Claims Assistance"
- A veteran can make an appointment in person or virtually from This source.