



THE AMERICAN LEGION

POST 27 / SQUADRON 27



November 2013

STILL SERVING AMERICA

www.post27.org

Commander's Corner



Kent Hansen

Veterans Day As I write this, November 11 approaches and I cannot help but think of all those who came before me and who will follow after to defend our great nation. I have just returned from vacation in Hawaii and I had the privilege of visiting the National Cemetery of the Pacific, better known as Punchbowl. Whenever



I'm in Hawaii, I always make a trip up there to visit my father's grave. He was a sergeant in the Army Air Corps in World War II. This time, however, I took some time to wander among the headstones and think about the lives these stones represent. Some are famous, such as the storied war correspondent and WW I Navy veteran Ernie Pyle; most are not, as evidenced by the numerous "unknowns" that populate the crater. Another sobering moment occurred as I lingered at the wall of names of the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor. In Punchbowl, aboard the Arizona, and in cemeteries throughout the world, the common denominator is that each name carved into each stone represents a patriot who loved his or her country more than self and wrote a blank check to The United States of America to spend everything he or she had, up to and including their lives, for the defense of our country and for the preservation of our democratic values. It is so for every veteran, living or dead. So as we commemorate each Veterans Day, let us recall Abraham Lincoln's iconic words: *It is for us the living...to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.*



1st Vice Commander

We now have a Post Home, it is in the Davis County Memorial Courthouse. Room 116. We are working hard to get it setup and make it a place for veterans to come and receive help on getting needed services.

Our funeral honors program is alive and well. We can always use more members to be a part of our details.

Our annual Christmas Social will be on December 7 at the Oakridge County Country Club in Farmington. Mark your calendar for that date. Remember that this is a family affair and also a good opportunity to invite your fellow veterans to come and rub shoulders with us and see fun we have together.



Frank Lennartz

2nd Vice Commander



Reports from 2013 Boys and Girls State. What a treat to hear from so many of our Boys and Girls State delegates at our October meeting in our new headquarters at the Davis County Memorial Courthouse. The quality of these young people cannot be understated. Nearly all spoke of the great amount of lessons learned about how our government works and of their renewed commitment to participate in the electoral process in the future.

Of course, we are now ramping up for our annual Oratorical Contest to launch in January, 2014. And soon after that we'll be beginning our interviews with Boys State candidates from Davis, Viewmont and NUAMES High Schools. No sooner does one event end than another is on the horizon. This is a reflection of Post 27's year-round commitment to the youth of our community.

Kenneth Hadley

Adjutant

Membership. You only have 54 more days to renew and claim your "early bird" status for 2014. Statistics are my numbers through 6 November (thru Transmittal No. 4).

2014 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2014 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
81	5	33	15	0	2	55	65%



Chuck Stephenson

National Headquarters target dates are 65% through Veteran's Day and 75% through Pearl Harbor Day. **Don't put it off, we need your renewals now to meet our December target date.**

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.

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	DECEASED	2014 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
15	11	0	0	11	73%

Department of Utah Belt Buckles. The William E. "Bill" Christoffersen "BIG BEE" 50 Years Commemorative Belt Buckles are available for purchase. The buckles were designed to commemorate Bill Christoffersen's 50 plus years as National Executive Committeeman – the longest serving Committeeman for the American Legion. They are 3 ¾" by 2 ¾" oval in shape and depict the state of Utah with the American Legion Family logos on either side. They are a limited edition, numbered and can be purchased for \$60. each. If you are interested in purchasing one of these beauties, please let me know – the buckle would make a GREAT Birthday or Christmas present.



Sergeant-at-Arms



Frank Ferrante

As a result of persistent and herculean efforts of John Sheets, Paula Stephenson and many past Post Commanders, our Post has a permanent home in the historic Davis County Memorial Courthouse. We want to thank them all for a job well done. We also want to thank the Davis County leaders. John Sheets and Paula and Chuck Stephenson have moved our equipment and supplies from their homes and storage closet to our new office and meeting space. John Sheets has put up for display our American, POW and military service flags and what an impressive sight. We are looking forward to the upcoming open house to showcase our new home. Please join us.

American Flag Etiquette – The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.

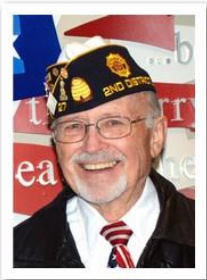
Chaplain

Veterans Day. Our day to celebrate life and the sacrifice of our comrades who did not return home. My heart reflects on my Davis High School and Farmington friends whose families had to place a gold star in the front window of their homes. Not to mention the purple hearts and the newspaper accounts of those missing in action. Yes, it is a day to remember and to thank them. A day to thank all who have served our country be it war or peace. We all owe a great deal of gratitude to those who gave all that was asked while serving in the military forces of our nation, where the stars and stripes wave over the land of the brave and the home of the free. Each of you have contributed to the safety, freedom, and joy that we share as Americans. God bless each veteran for service rendered and all who serve today.



J Golden Barton

Finance Officer



John Sheets

Thanks to the hard work and dedication to various members, the Post financial picture has come a long way. Prior to the revitalization of the Post, in 1992, there was no bank account, just a cigar box with less than \$5.00 in change. As of the end of October, our bank balance is a healthy **\$4,031.32**. Our income consists primarily of donations by families of fallen comrades and the National Guard. Our Funeral Honors unit is staffed by 10 to 12 Comrades who are willing to devote a few hours on Saturday or during the week as requested by families. We could use more on our list of volunteers. All that you need is; black slacks, white shirt, Legion tie and hat; black windbreaker jacket and an hour or so of training and a desire to serve veterans' families.

Each of the three Legion districts in the Area (Davis, Weber, Morgan, Box Elder, Cache and Summit Counties) have exceeded the target date objectives for Veterans Day. Just a reminder, don't be afraid to let your neighbors know that you are a veteran, wear your medals, go to the restaurants that offer a thanks to veterans on Veterans Day. Ask them to join.

POW/MIA News



Jay Hess

The Utah Department of Veterans Affairs web page <http://veterans.utah.gov> is a helpful reference. From that site you can link to the quarterly newspaper 'The Utah Veterans Voice.' The 2013 Fall issue has a detailed and insightful story of Lt Vernal J Bird of Vernal, the most recent Utah MIA recovery, written by Lorna Byrd Snyder, a niece, and titled 'The Long Lonely Wait.'

This is recommended reading at

http://veterans.utah.gov/documents/VOICEFALLREVUSF2013_000.pdf. Lt Bird's last flight was from New Guinea March 12, 1944. We join with his family and friends in a salute of appreciation for his service.



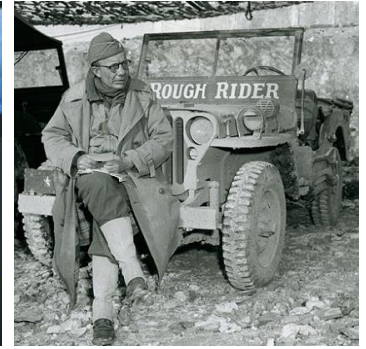
Historian



Kent Hansen

Like Father, Like Son

General Douglas MacArthur was not so much proud to receive the Medal of Honor as he was relieved. For his many (sometimes reckless) demonstrations of valor in World War I, he had received a number of distinguished decorations. But the top prize, the Medal of Honor, which



his father, **Arthur MacArthur**, had earned for heroism at Missionary Ridge in the Battle of Gettysburg, eluded him. Douglas MacArthur believed that he had let his father down, even as he felt overshadowed by him.

At last, while he was in Australia, to which he had been evacuated during the Japanese invasion of the Philippines, the younger MacArthur was awarded the Medal of Honor “for conspicuous leadership in preparing the Philippine islands to resist conquest, for gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against invading Japanese forces, and for heroic conduct of defensive and offensive operations on the Bataan Peninsula.” When he accepted the Medal of Honor, MacArthur declared that he was accepting it as “intended not so much for me personally [but] as...a recognition of the indomitable courage of the gallant army which it was my honor to command.”

The MacArthurs were the only father and son ever to receive the Medal of Honor – until **Theodore Roosevelt** was awarded it posthumously in 2001 for his service in the Spanish-American War. His son, **Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt Jr.** (well known to all Legionnaires as the father of The American Legion), had received it in 1944 for his personal leadership on Utah Beach during the D-Day landings – the only general officer to accompany his men in the first wave of the assault. Unfortunately, Roosevelt suffered from severe arthritis, the legacy of World War I battle injuries, and severe heart trouble. He died in Europe of a heart attack on July 12, 1944, little more than a month after D-Day, and the Medal of Honor was therefore conferred posthumously, on September 28, 1944.

Legion Laffs



Calendar of Events

- **November 9 – Veterans Day Parade**, 11:11 am, 31st St. & Washington Blvd., Ogden.
- **November 11 – Veterans Day**. Ceremony at Farmington City Cemetery, 11:11 am (Post 27 & Farmington City). *Fly the flag!*
- **November 11 – Grand Opening & Open House: Veterans Service Center**, 9:00 am, 200 North Washington Blvd., Ogden.
- **November 11 – “Unite for Veterans with Channel 2”** Infothon. Volunteers needed, to answer phones, 5:30 am to 6:30 pm at KUTV 2, 299 So. Main, Suite 15, SLC (lobby of Wells Fargo Bldg.)
- **November 11 – 58th Annual Veterans Day Concert**, 7:00 pm, Huntsman Center, Univ. of Utah, SLC.
- **November 14 -- Post 27 Meeting**, 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
- **November 28 – Thanksgiving**. *Fly the flag!*
- **December 1 – 4 – American Legion Auxiliary VA Gift Shop**.
- **December 7 – Pearl Harbor Day**. *Fly the flag!*
- **December 7 – Post 27 Christmas Party**. 6:00 pm, Oakridge Country Club, 1492 W. Shepard Lane, Farmington.



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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