



# THE AMERICAN LEGION

## POST 27 / SQUADRON 27

### NEWSLETTER

#### FARMINGTON, UTAH

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

November 2014

STILL SERVING AMERICA

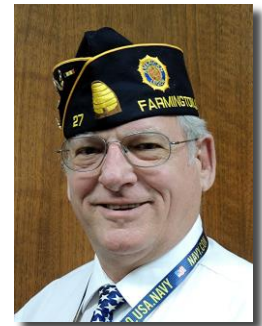
www.post27.org

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

### New Veterans Administration Health ID Card

Many of you may already know this but if you don't have a Veterans Administration Health ID Card, now is a great time to get one. If you have one but it doesn't look like the one pictured below, then you need to get a new one. The new Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC) provides:

- Increased security for your personal information - no personally identifiable information is contained on the magnetic stripe or barcode.
- A salute to your military service – The emblem of your latest branch of service is displayed on your card. Several special awards will also be listed.



Kent Hansen



The VHIC replaces the Veteran Identification Card (VIC) and will be issued only to Veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system. The VHIC is for identification and check-in at VA appointments. It cannot be used as a credit card or an insurance card, and it does not authorize or pay for care at non-VA facilities. Getting one is simple: just go to the VA Medical Center in Salt Lake City, just east of the university, and go to the Enrollment Office, just to the right of the Emergency Room check-in, sign in and they'll call you in and set you up.

### Meet Our New SAL Squadron 27 Commander

His name is Zachary Reichert but he may not answer if you call him that. He goes by Omar, and that's all he needs. Anyone who has been around Boys State for the past few years has undoubtedly noticed this perpetual motion machine inspiring and seeing to the needs of the Boys State citizens. A Boys State graduate himself, he has driven up from California every year since to spend the week as a counselor. Now that he's moved to Utah, we are pleased and proud to have him take the reins of our SAL Squadron and improve it the way he has at Boys State. Beginning with this issue of the newsletter, Omar will have a regular column to keep us all abreast of the activities of SAL Squadron 27. Welcome aboard, Omar!

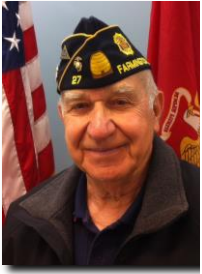
### Post 27 Christmas Party

You won't want to miss our annual Christmas Party, this year it's on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 6:00 pm and will be held at **Lorena's Restaurant** in Woods Cross. (The address is in the Calendar of Events section.) Lorena's is an outstanding Mexican restaurant that has been named for having the best *chili verde* in the state. We'll all order from the menu and pay our tabs separately. We'll also have a contribution box for **Toys For Tots**. You can donate new toys in their original packaging or money. This annual soiree is a great time for us to get together, see some faces we don't get to see near enough and just enjoy each other's company. I look forward to seeing you there.

### A Time for Thanksgiving

I cannot let this month pass without acknowledging some of the things for which I am thankful. We are blessed to live in a free and prosperous land. We are protected by decent men and women who put country above self. In The American Legion, we are surrounded by those who have donned the uniform, answered the call and sacrificed much (some all) to keep our country free and our star spangled banner flying. I am ever grateful to stand among you.

## 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE COMMANDER



Frank Ferrante

Remembering that 11 November 2014 is Veterans Day, and I would like to share with you a short World War I military story – “True Friend”

“Horror gripped the heart of the World War 1 soldier as he saw his lifelong friend fall in battle. Caught in a trench with continuous gunfire whizzing over his head, the soldier asked the Lieutenant if he might go out into “no man’s land” between trenches to bring his fallen comrade back. “You can go,” said the lieutenant, “but I don’t think it will be worth it. Your friend is probably dead and you may throw your life away.” The Lieutenant’s advice didn’t matter, and the soldier went anyway. Miraculously, he managed to reach his friend, hoist him onto his shoulder and bring him back to their company’s trench. As the two of them

tumbled in together to the bottom of the trench, the officer checked the wounded soldier, and then looked kindly at his friend.

“I told you it wouldn’t be worth it,” he said, “Your friend is dead sir,” said the soldier. “What do you mean; worth it?” responded “Yes, sir” the Private answered. “But it was worth it because when I got to him, he was still alive and I had the satisfaction of hearing him say, “Jim...I knew you’d come.”



“Many times in life, whether to do a thing or not, really depends on how you look at it. Take up all your courage and do something your heart tells you to do so that you may not regret not doing it later in your life. May each and every one of you be blessed with the company of TRUE FRIENDS. A true friend is one who walks in, when the rest of the world walks out. War doesn’t determine who’s right. War only determines who’s left. “

**American Flag Etiquette** – When the flag is displayed from the same flagpole with another flag – of a state, community, society, or Scout unit – the flag of the United States must always be at the top, except that the church pennant may be flown above the flag during church services for Navy personnel when conducted by a Naval chaplain on a ship at sea.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE COMMANDER

November, the month we give thanks. Thanks for the freedoms we have, thanks for family, thanks for the many blessings in our lives and the month we honor our veterans. The actual day is the 11<sup>th</sup>, and there are many events that we can participate in that will show up in this letter. I hope you will take part in as many as you can. I would like to thank all of you for your service and continued service in the American Legion.



I would like to include in my comments a couple of links. One is the History of the Medal of Honor and the other some of the stories of the recipients of this Honor. The history is <http://vimeo.com/100896594> Kenneth Hadley and the stories <http://cmohedu.org> I hope you will take the time to view these links because these recipients wear the Medal of Honor for all who serve. Have a great month !

## ADJUTANT/AREA 1 COMMANDER



Chuck Stephenson

**Membership.** Statistics are membership numbers through 1 November 2014.

2015 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2014 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
91	7	35	14	4	3	60/3	65%

We have learned from Department of Utah that those Legionnaires who renewed last year On-Line will not receive renewal notifications through the mail. For those that fall in that category, I urge you to again renew for 2015 on the Legion.org website. It is fast and a convenient option for continued American Legion Membership.

The next National Headquarters' target date is near VETERANS DAY November 13th, 2014 – 65%. As you can see, we have already met that goal. For those Post Members who have already made the commitment to continue their membership - I salute you. As always, you may renew by sending your \$30. Annual Membership Dues to our Finance Officer John Sheets. We are working toward obtaining the "yellow membership ribbon" for 2015. If we reach 100% membership by 31 December, we will be awarded the membership ribbon which can be attached to our Post 27 Flag. It will take the effort of everyone in the Post to obtain this ribbon. ***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 H (801) 444-7189 C (801) 698-7750 or email [stphnsnc@aol.com](mailto:stphnsnc@aol.com).***

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## SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

November, where has the time gone? We are now getting ready to celebrate Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. On November 8 we will all be involved in the Ogden Veterans Day Parade. I hope to see all of you supporting this event. November 11 we will all be involved in Veterans Day Tribute at the Farmington Cemetery Flag Pole. We need everyone to participate in this remembrance to all who have served.



**David Layton**



November 27, of course, is Thanksgiving Day. We give special thanks to you who serve our nation as part of The American Legion Post 27, Farmington, Utah. We are truly blessed by your service on behalf of the Post, community and Legion. May you and your family have a safe, happy and blessed Thanksgiving as you pause to give thanks for all the blessings in your life.

Remember, all events we provide to the community and Military Funeral Honors require some physical activity and readiness. So, let's all be ready to assist the Post as we can. Post 27, ready to serve for the good of The Legion, the country and Funeral Honors for the fallen.

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## CHAPLAIN



Veterans Day is not to be confused with Memorial Day; Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans, while Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who *died* while serving. Thus, the parades, the free meals and discounts offered all veterans on November 11 of each year. Yet, ***'man's inhumanity towards man'*** which has existed from the very beginning of time, runs rampant throughout the world today; casting a dark shadow of distrust across the horizon, and tempers our Veteran's day celebration with the stark realization that our men and women in military uniform continue to be in harm's way as they serve God and Country. Man has not yet learned to get along with his neighbor.

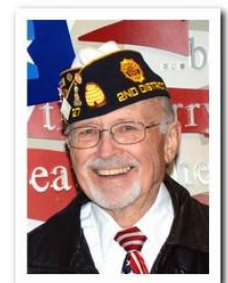
**JGolden Barton**

It is a sincere Chaplain of American Legion Farmington Post 27 that suggests that as we celebrate this Veterans Day 2014, we all pause to offer a humble prayer - that the leaders of world nations, religious societies, political parties, armies, and philosophical causes of all kinds will come to their senses - surround themselves in the light of truth and understanding - stop the awful carnage of death and destruction - and act to serve both their God and respective countries in the peaceful resolve of helping one another. May God bless America, the cause of freedom throughout the world, and each and every Veteran of Post 27 in the days and weeks ahead. In prayerful resolve, Amen.

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## FINANCE OFFICER

The American Legion Post 27, Farmington, Utah is in adequate financial position with funds to support the "Four Pillars" of the Legion: "Veterans Affairs", the executive committee has approved funds for the Christmas programs of the Legion Auxiliary at the Veterans Hospital in Salt Lake; "Americanism", the Post continues to participate in the High School Oratorical program, Boys and Girls State and recognize Eagle Scouts by the 13-fold program and presenting a flag flown over the National capital. "Children and Youth", "Veterans Affairs" the Post has paid "Final Respects" to 37 Veterans with Military Funeral Honors. We support the National Legion goals of "National Security" through the activities of our membership.



**John Sheets**

## SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON 27



### What are the Sons of the American Legion?

Founded in 1932, Sons of The American Legion exists to honor the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires. SAL members include males of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the U.S. military and were eligible for American Legion membership. Members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion comprise the Legion family, which has a combined membership of nearly 4.2 million. Although Sons has its own membership, the organization is not a separate entity. Rather, SAL is a program of The American Legion. Many Legionnaires hold dual membership in SAL.

Zachary "Omar"  
Reichert

The Sons organization is divided into detachments at the state level and squadrons at the local level. A squadron pairs with a local American Legion post; a squadron's charter is contingent upon its parent post's charter. However, squadrons can determine the extent of their services to the community, state and nation. They are permitted flexibility in planning programs and activities to meet their needs, but must remember SAL's mission: to strengthen the four pillars of The American Legion. Therefore, squadrons' campaigns place an emphasis on preserving American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for veterans and their families, and teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship.

Since 1988, SAL has raised more than \$5 million for [The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation](#). SAL members have volunteered over 250,000 hours at veteran's hospitals and raised over \$915,688 for VA hospitals and VA homes. The Sons also support the Citizens Flag Alliance, a coalition dedicated to protecting the U.S. flag from desecration through a constitutional amendment.

As the Commander of the Sons of American Legion for Post 27, I am excited to get our post up and running this year.

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## POW/MIA News



### Airmen Missing From WWII Accounted For

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced today that the remains of U.S. servicemen, missing in action from World War II, have been accounted for and are being returned to their families for burial with full military honors.

Army Air Forces 1st Lts. William D. Bernier, 28, of Augusta, Mont., Bryant E. Poulsen, 22, of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Herbert V. Young Jr., 23, of Clarkdale, Ariz., and Tech Sgts. Charles L. Johnston, 20, of Pittsburgh, Penn., and Hugh F. Moore, 36, of Elkton, Md., Staff Sgt. John E. Copeland, 21, of Dearing, Kan., and Sgt. Charles A. Gardner, 32, of San Francisco, Calif., have been accounted for and will be buried with

full military honors. Bernier was buried on Sept. 19 in his hometown. Young was buried Oct. 15 in Prescott, Ariz. The other service members will be buried at dates and locations still to be determined.

On April 10, 1944, Bernier, along with 11 other B-24D Liberator crew members took off from Texter Strip, Nazdab Air Field, New Guinea, on a mission to attack an anti-aircraft site at Hansa Bay. The aircraft was shot down by enemy anti-aircraft fire over the Madang Province, New Guinea. Four of the crewmen were able to parachute from the aircraft, but were reported to have died in captivity. Following World War II, the Army Graves Registration Service (AGRS) conducted investigations and recovered the remains of three of the missing airmen. In May 1949, AGRS concluded the remaining nine crew members were unrecoverable.



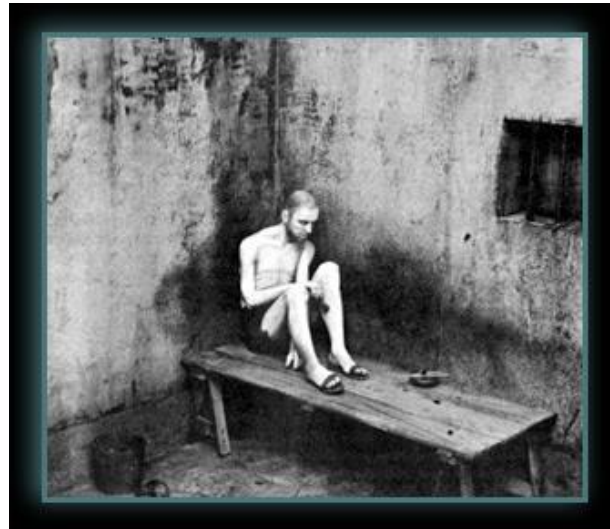
In 2001, a U.S.-led team located wreckage of a B-24D that bore the tail number of this aircraft. After several surveys, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) teams excavated the site and recovered human remains and non-biological material evidence. To identify Young's remains, scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools, including, mitochondrial DNA, which matched Young's sister. For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans, who went missing while serving our country, visit the DPMO website at [www.dtic.mil/dpmo](http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo) or call (703) 699-1169.

**Lest we forget: This Thanksgiving poem was taped to a wall in the Hanoi Hilton.**

As we pause to reflect on this Thanksgiving Day  
Of the many blessings that have come our way  
Of a country so great and families so fine  
Of good health, strong spirits and soundness of mind  
For these things, we are thankful.

For having lived in a country so rich and divine  
Where justice prevails over evil and crime  
For being more fortunate than many a friend  
For just being alive while their lives end  
For these things, we are thankful.

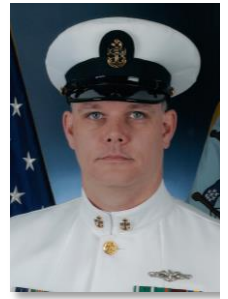
For having lived in a country where the air is free  
For having lived in a nation of true democracy  
So let us not forget our greatest blessing of all  
Our American heritage – let us stand tall  
For this, we are most thankful.



## SEA CADET NEWS

October was a short, half-day drill for our cadets that consisted of uniform checks and phonetic alphabet field testing. The cadets navigated via radio communications using phonetics to transfer information. All directions had to be spelled-out phonetically. It was a lot of fun and the weather was beautiful for the exercise. The weather also allowed us to post the United States of America and United States Navy flag for the duration of the drill. Although our flag ceremony needs some work, it was exciting to post our colors during our stay at Hill.

This month also marked some significant contributions to the unit by way of material donations. The Hill Air Force Base, Honor Guard donated four drill rifles to the unit. This is a significant contribution as the cadets have been very anxious to start an Honor Guard and start working with the American Legion. Additionally, and most note-worthy, the American Legion Post 27 donated many Honor Guard materials, including an American Legion flag, to make our materials list almost complete. Our unit very much appreciates the swift action and generosity exhibited by our humble sponsor. Their Post is one of a kind and is a great asset to the USNSCC program. November will be a full two-day drill. With any luck, we will get to practice with some of that new gear that has been donated. Stay tuned.



**Courtney Putnam**



**Sea Cadets doing their phonetic alphabet field testing.**



**Sea Cadets retire the colors at the end of drill.**

## EAGLE COURTS OF HONOR



Dale Crockett

One of the many things we do as an American Legion is to support our local Boy Scouts of America. When we get the opportunity to teach Boy Scouts, we hope to influence them to respect and honor the flag so that they can take time to think about what it means to be an American and to pledge themselves to making our country the best it can be. As we recite the Pledge of Allegiance, we hope our scouts and everyone remember the meaning of that pledge. I promise to be true to the sign of our country, each state joining to make our country, a republic where the people choose others to make laws for them. The government for the people. The flag means the country, a single country, where people believe in a Supreme Being, a country that cannot split into parts. With freedom and fairness for each person in the country, you and me. This is why we do a tribute to our flag at Eagle courts, a ceremony for folding the Stars and Stripes.

## HISTORIAN



Kent Hansen

### WWII Tiger Rider

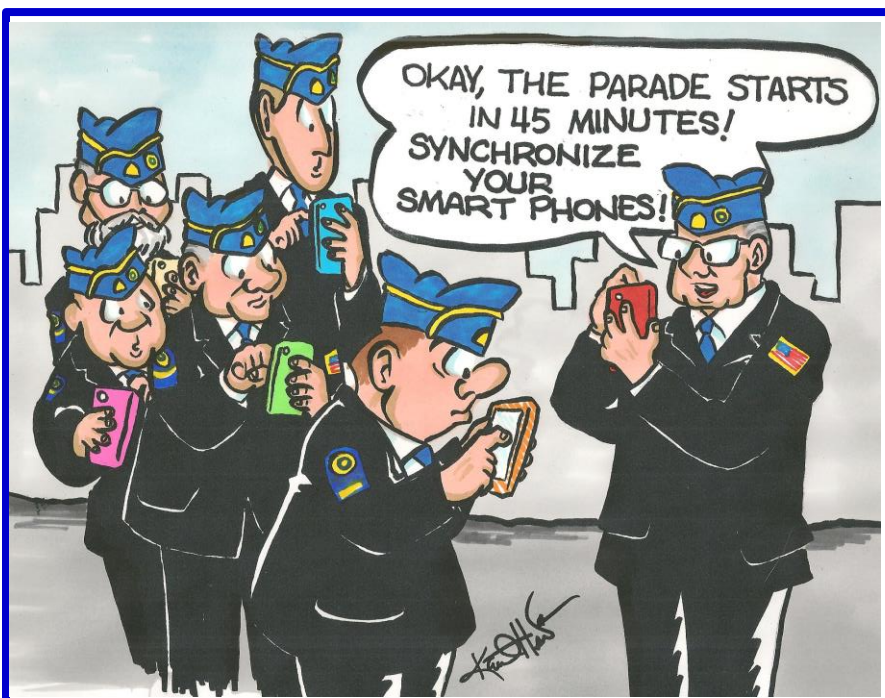
In January 1944, **James H. Howard** and his squadron of P-51 Mustangs were escorting a formation of American bombers back from a mission to wipe out some aircraft factories near Berlin. While still over Germany, Nazi fighter planes attacked the American formation, and Howard, along with the other escorts, swooped in to defend the bombers. After a short battle, all of the German fighters were either driven off or shot down, but Howard found himself alone, separated from the rest of his squadron. He returned to the bomber formation by himself, only to find the sky swarming with between 30 and 40 German fighters.

Rather than wait for the rest of his squadron, or even hesitate for a moment, Howard blazed directly into the heart of the German fighter formation. For the next 30 minutes, Howard viciously attacked the German planes with the astonished bomber crews looking on in awe. He shot down or damaged at least six enemy aircraft and received in return only a single bullet through the wing. Running dangerously low on fuel (remember this was all happening over Germany) and with half of his guns jammed, Howard continued to swoop in on the enemy planes and force them away from the bombers before the German aircraft eventually gave up. When Howard returned to his base in the U.K., he didn't tell anyone what had happened. Only after an inquiry by the bomber crews was Howard's identity as the legendary Mustang pilot revealed. In a press conference a few weeks later, a reporter asked Howard why he didn't wait for the rest of his squadron, and his response was -- *"He who rides a tiger cannot dismount."*



James H. Howard

## LEGION LAFFS



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **November 6-8** – National Commander **Michael Helm** visit.
- **November 8** – Military & Veterans **Appreciation Dinner/Dance**, sponsored by American Legion Post 9, Eagles Lodge, 975 Wall Ave., Ogden. \$15 per person. Reservations & tickets required. Contact Jan Miller (801-399-1072), Barb Beck (801-737-9682) or Sara Garcia (801-866-9662).
- **November 11** – **Veterans Day ceremony**. 11:00 am, Farmington City Cemetery. *Fly the flag.*
- **November 13** -- **Post 27 Meeting**, 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
- **December 1-3** -- **VA Gift Shop**, VAMC Multipurpose Room, Bldg. 8, 500 Foothill Blvd, Salt Lake City.
- **December 6** – **Post 27 Christmas Party**, 6pm, Lorena's Restaurant, 2477 S 800 W, Woods Cross.

## FROM THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

The middle of October found several of our Department leaders, me included, in Indianapolis attending fall conferences, and attending the National Commander's meeting. I am always fascinated at how the American Legion operates in other states, and hope that I can bring something back to our 100 Posts around the state of Utah. As a side discovery in the National Headquarters building, our Department Adjutant found Post 27's original "Application For Post of American Legion", dated September 5, 1919. Yes, Post 27 is a "Centennial Post", many of the signatures are legible, and I brought home copies for our historian to prepare for framing.



**Paula Stephenson**  
**Commander**  
**Dept. of Utah**

I am not sure November has enough days in it. Post 27 starts on November 1 attending an Area 1 Fall Conference and November 2 with an Eagle Court. On November 3, I will be escorting our World War II Army Nurse/Post 27 Member Elaine Perkins Roberts to the VA's Annual Women Veterans Dinner in Salt Lake City. Then Commander Hansen and I will be supporting the Heroes2Hired Job Fair in Sandy on November 5. Commander Hansen was recruited at this fall job fair several years ago—remember, Kent? November 6-8 the Department will host our National Commander Mike Helm and his Aide, Don Suchy, both from Nebraska. We will be riding in the Ogden Veterans Parade on November 8 in a 1944 Willies MB "the jeep". How cool is that! And the rest of the schedule is jammed packed.

Then there are all of the Veterans Day activities. This will be my first Veterans Day not participating with Post 27 at the Farmington Cemetery. I will be riding in that same "Army Jeep" in the Taylorsville Parade, theme "Honoring Women Veterans". Then on November 20, we are hosting next year's incoming National Commander Dale Barnett from Georgia. We take a breather for Thanksgiving. Oh, my! Brother coming in from Florida . . . Thank you all for serving America and I hope you all have as much fun as I am having.



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](http://www.post27.org).



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