



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

Welcome to the November 2023 issue of our American Legion Family Newsletter!

Activities in October settled down a little for our Post, however we were still busy with Military Funeral Honors, and planning for upcoming Veterans Day memorials. Currently, we are on tap for four events between Thursday, November 9 and Saturday, November 11.



Our General Meeting this month is on Thursday, November 9 at 7:00 pm. We have invited graduates from last summer's Boys State & Girls State programs to come share with us their experience and what participation meant to them. Please join us at the Davis County Memorial Courthouse or on Zoom.

Plans for our Holiday party are being developed. Like last year, it will be held at the Davis Tech facility. This year it will be on Thursday, December 14. A catered function, the post is asking \$20 per person to help cover the cost of the meal. Put it on your calendar!

Post 27 Family EVENTS CALENDAR



- November 9 – Flag Raising. 11:00 am Davis Tech
- November 9 -- Post 27 General Meeting. 7:00 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse.
- November 10 – Flag Posting. 9:30 am, George E. Wahlen Veterans Home.
- November 10 – Flag Posting. 1:30 pm, Legacy House of Park Lane.

- November 11 – Veterans Day. *Fly the flag.*
- November 11 – Veterans Day Ceremony. 11:00 am Farmington Cemetery
- November 23 – Thanksgiving Day. *Fly the flag!*

- December 14 – Post 27 Family Christmas Party. 5:00 pm. Davis Tech

Chaplain

Veterans Day

Veterans Day (originally known as Armistice Day) is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11, for honoring military veterans of the United States Armed Forces (who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable). It coincides with other holidays including Armistice Day and Remembrance Day which are commemorated in other countries that mark the anniversary of the end of World War I. Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 when the Armistice with Germany went into effect. At the urging of major U.S. veteran organizations, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.



Steve Steed

Veterans Day is distinct from Memorial Day, a U.S. public holiday in May. Veterans Day commemorated the service of all U.S. veterans, while Memorial Day honors those who have died while in military service. Another military holiday that also occurs in May, Armed Forces Day, honors those currently serving in the U.S. military. Additionally, Women Veterans Day is recognized by a growing number of U.S. states that specifically honor women who have served in the U.S. military.

The United States Congress adopted a resolution on June 4, 1926, requesting that President Calvin Coolidge issue annual proclamations calling for the observance of November 11 with appropriate ceremonies. A Congressional Act approved May 13, 1938, made November 11 in each year a legal holiday: "a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day'.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the bill into law on May 26, 1954 that expanded Armistice Day to celebrate all veterans, not just those who died in World War I. Congress amended the bill on June 1, 1954, replacing "Armistice" with "Veterans," and it has been known as Veterans Day since.

Although originally scheduled for celebration on November 11 of every year, starting in 1971 in accordance with the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, Veterans Day was moved to the fourth Monday of November. In 1978, it was moved back to its original celebration on November 11. While the legal holiday remains on November 11, if that date happens to be on a Saturday or Sunday, then federal government employees and a number of organizations will instead take the day off on the adjacent Friday or Monday, respectively.

While the holiday is commonly printed as *Veteran's Day* or *Veterans' Day* in calendars and advertisements, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs website states that the attributive (no apostrophe) rather than the possessive case is the official spelling "because it is not a day that 'belongs' to veterans, it is a day for honoring all veterans."



VA FLU / COVID VACCINATION CLINIC

The Salt Lake VA Health System has received the new COVID boosters. Veterans enrolled in VA health care may get a free flu and COVID booster shot at their nearest VA health care facility or at the Salt Lake City George E. Wahlen VA Medical Center's

annual vaccination clinic. The Flu and COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic runs October 30 – November 17, 2023, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, Monday through Friday (except holidays), and is located in Building 14, Basement, Room BD01. The drive-thru vaccination clinic **closed** on October 27 due to road construction.



How Military Efforts Helped Bring About Thanksgiving

By Katie Lange, DoD



Kent Hansen

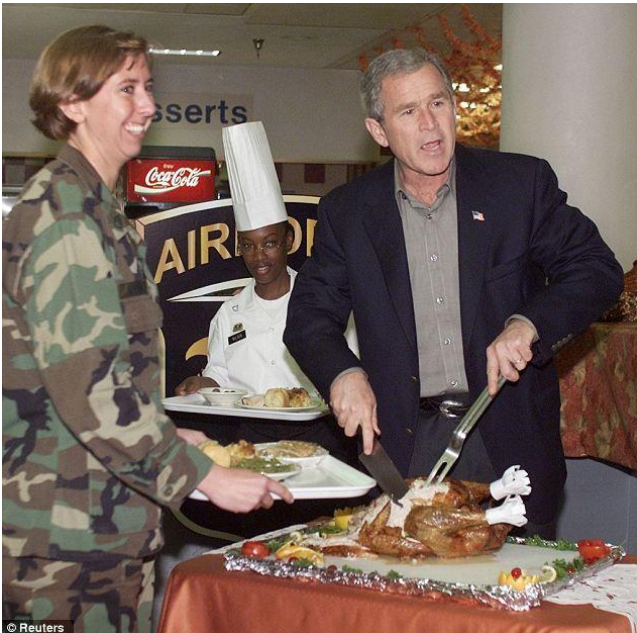
Thanksgiving is a hallowed American tradition filled with family, food, football and fun, but did you know we can attribute its creation largely to the military? While conventional wisdom dates the first Thanksgiving back to 1621, when pilgrims in Plymouth, Massachusetts, joined in with local Native Americans to celebrate the fall harvest, it wasn't a celebration that continued from year to year. In fact, Thanksgiving didn't really become any kind of tradition until we were trying to unify the nation during two of our biggest early struggles – the Revolutionary War and the Civil War.

During the revolution, the Continental Congress decided to declare several days of thanksgiving to help inspire our troops to victory. The first such day fell on Nov. 1, 1777, when news of some victories against the British reached their ears. Gen. George Washington also called for a day of thanksgiving on Dec. 18, 1777, as a victory celebration for the colonial army's win during the Battle of Saratoga that October. He later issued the first formal Thanksgiving Day proclamation for the U.S. when he was president, setting the date for Nov. 26, 1789.

President Abraham Lincoln: At the outbreak of hostilities between the states, President Abraham Lincoln declared Vicksburg "the key," and said "the war can never be brought to a close until that key is in our pocket." While that date fell around that of our current-day holiday, Thanksgiving still failed to become an annual tradition until about 75 years later – when President Abraham Lincoln decided to renew the celebration in 1863, during the height of the Civil War. Even as war raged across the country, Lincoln called for a day of thanks to be held on the last Thursday in November. The day would be known as Thanksgiving – and the tradition finally became official.

For many years, the presidents who came after Lincoln kept Thanksgiving on that final Thursday of the month. But during World War II, there were two years in a row in which November had five Thursdays, confusing a lot of people and causing a lot of arguments about which date Thanksgiving would fall on. In 1942, Congress passed a resolution to clarify that every fourth Thursday of November would be Thanksgiving Day.

As all service members know, not everyone in the military can stop what they're doing to celebrate the holiday. But preparations have always been made to make sure service members could celebrate in some capacity, even if they were deployed or on the battlefield.



During World War I, the Red Cross and other auxiliary organizations started providing Thanksgiving aid to soldiers, while families in places like France, where our soldiers were stationed, would take them into their homes for the day.

During World War II, C- or K-rations were replaced with turkey and cranberry for the holiday. It was either shipped in by the military or collected from local farmers. Nowadays, the Defense Logistics Agency is able to ship out a traditional Thanksgiving dinner of turkey, pumpkin pie and all the fixin's to tens of thousands of service members across the world. Deployed service members have also seen some commanders in chief roll through their bases during the holiday.

President George H.W. Bush served Thanksgiving dinner to troops stationed in Saudi Arabia in 1990 ahead of the Gulf War, while his son, President George W. Bush, did the same in a surprise visit to Baghdad in 2003, at the height of the Iraq War. President Barack Obama made a surprise visit to Afghanistan just after the Thanksgiving holiday in 2010.

No matter where you're celebrating Thanksgiving this year, know that the tradition grew out of your predecessors' efforts to bring unity to the United States. We can all be thankful for that!

American Legion Auxiliary



Deb Hansen

Such a beautiful fall!! We enjoy living in such a fabulous country and our little part of it is sure pretty!! Veterans Day will be celebrated at the Farmington Cemetery on November 11 at 11:00 am. This is always such a nice program!

Paula, Marlys and I delivered food items to the Airman's Attic at Hill and as always, are gratefully received! We love to support the Airman's Attic as it is an all-volunteer venture which benefits so many who are stationed so close to us!!



By the time of this publication, we will have delivered our stuffed animals to Kaysville and Layton Fire Departments!!!

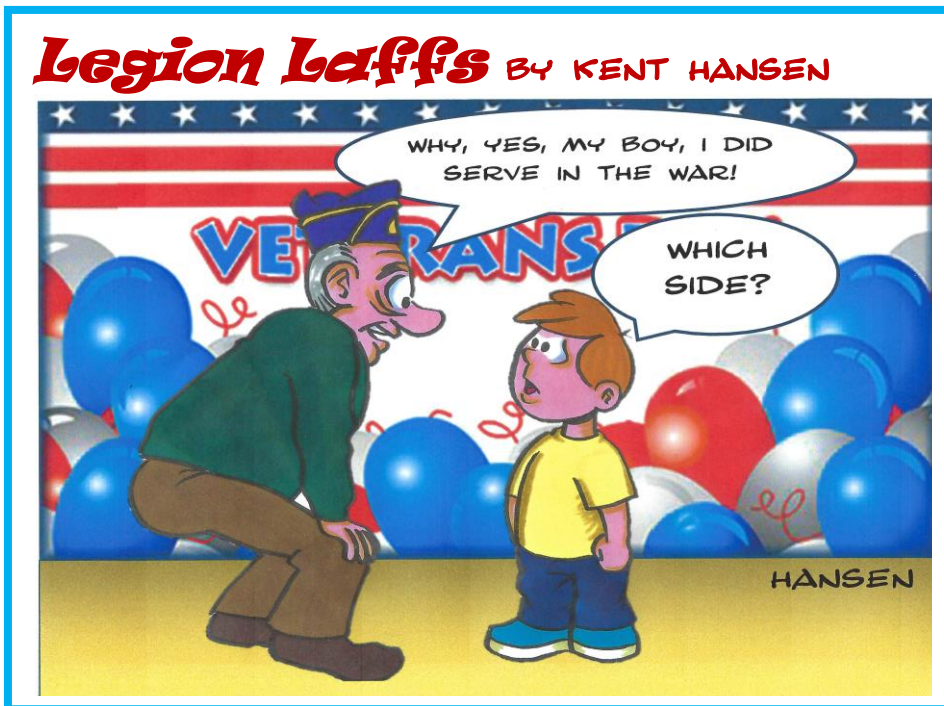
Paula, Ron and I attended the 50th commemoration of the Vietnam War that was co-sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Vietnam Veterans of America. I was so proud to be sitting with these two amazing veterans who served during that time of our history!

The Veterans' Gift Shop will be needing volunteers at the VA Medical Center on Foothill Drive in Salt Lake City! Sunday, December 3 is set up and Monday, December 4 and Tuesday, December 5, will be the shopping days! Please email Judy Daybell at judy.daybell50@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer!!

Our Christmas party will be held December 14 at the Davis Technical College! More info coming! Please renew your membership if you have not already done so! Welcome to new member Bev Ferrante!!

Our Unit meeting on November 9 will be held with the Post meeting at 7 pm. The Boys and Girls State citizens from NUAMES, Davis and Farmington High Schools have been invited to report about their experiences!

Happy Veterans Day and Happy Thanksgiving to all!!!



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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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

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