



# THE AMERICAN LEGION

## POST 27 / SQUADRON 27



October 2013

*STILL SERVING AMERICA*

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

### Commander's Corner



**Kent Hansen**

**Crossing the threshold.** For far too long Post 27 has functioned at a high level of activity without a place to call home. Finally, it appears that circumstance is over. Though our events and activities will continue with the traditional enthusiasm we have always displayed, we now have a permanent home! I have signed the lease and the Davis County Commission has approved our use of **Room 116** in the Davis County Memorial Courthouse.



In addition to providing ample space in which to conduct our meetings, it also offers appropriate locked storage for our ceremonial rifles and the great variety of other equipment and memorabilia that the post has accumulated over the years. Another big feature is an area in which we can provide counseling to veterans. I am very excited to get settled in there and turn that office space into a real home. Your ideas and suggestions for using our new space are not only welcome but encouraged.

**Meet the Candidates.** As part of our ongoing efforts to provide service to our community, Post 27 will host a **Meet the Candidates Night** on Oct. 16 at 7:00 pm at the Farmington City Hall. We will moderate the event and present the candidates to the public for questions. It would be appropriate to have a good cap-wearing showing from as many Legionnaires as can be there.

**Plan ahead to chow down!** It has become a welcome tradition for some of the restaurant chains to honor veterans on Veterans Day by offering free or discounted meals. It has been my privilege to attend the Veterans Day meal at Golden Corral on several occasions and can give my heartiest endorsement. Not only was the food quite good and the price right but the gratitude expressed by the staff was nothing short of amazing. I hope you can find an opportunity to take advantage of this fine celebration. Perhaps a bunch of us can hook up and go together. And be sure to wear your Legion hat! Here are some tips before heading out.

- Review the official site information and rules before heading out. Many websites list previous years promotions that are no longer valid.
- Be sure to bring proof of military service, uniform photo or be in uniform.
- Pay attention to the dates on the Veterans Day offer as some offers may be for days other than Nov. 11.
- Many of the restaurant free meals are for dine in only.
- Call ahead if you're unsure about anything.

Here are some folks who are expected to offer some veterans' specials on or about Veterans Day:

Applebees Free Meal  
 California Pizza Kitchen  
 Chili's Free Meal  
 Denny's All You Can Eat Pancakes  
 Einstein Bagels Free Bagel  
 Famous Dave's Free or Discounted Meal  
 Golden Corral Free Meal

Hooters 10 Free Boneless Wings  
 Krispy Kreme Free Donut & Coffee  
 Little Caesars Free Crazy Bread  
 Mimi's Cafe Free Meal with a Purchase  
 Olive Garden Free Meal  
 Outback Steakhouse Free Bloomin'  
 Onion® and Coca-Cola®

Red Lobster  
 Sizzler Free Lunch  
 Texas Roadhouse Free Lunch  
 TGI Fridays Free Lunch  
 Tony Roma's Free Entree  
 Village Inn Free Pie or Pancakes

See <http://militarybenefits.info/veterans-day-discounts-sales-deals-free-meals/> for more details.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander

The 9-11 program in Kaysville went great and we have had many complements on our participation in it. It is great to have so much support at our activities and I hope that you all enjoyed it as much as I did. Our military funeral honors are picking up and we are doing super on the presentation we do. It is an honor to show our respect for our departed comrades. We manage to look good even in a rain storm.

Now that school is back in session we are getting more requests for Eagle presentations. We hope that any and all of our Post members will feel free to join us at our activities, it is always great to rub shoulders with our fellow vets.



Frank Lennartz

## Adjutant

**Much to Do!! Project Operation Verify.** Legionnaires, there is much to do regarding Operation Project Verify. The requirement remains, but I have not received any service documents since our last newsletter. Please take a few minutes when you read through this month's newsletter and send in or email a copy of your service document for our Post records. The IRS requires American Legion Posts to maintain dates of service and character of service records for all members. The penalty for not having the required proof of eligibility can be \$1,000 per day. (*The American Legion Dispatch – August 2013*). We currently have only 23% of our members who have submitted service documentation. You may provide either a copy of your DD-214 or Discharge Certificate. You may also redact (blackout) any information on the form other than dates and character of service. They are scanned to a "thumb drive" and the original is placed kept in a safe. Mail to: Adjutant Charles Stephenson, 1258 E. Eagle Way, Fruit Heights, UT 84037-3222.



Chuck Stephenson

**Membership.** You have until the end of 2013 to renew and claim your "early bird" status for 2014. Statistics are as of 3 October 2013.

2014 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	DECEASED	2014 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
81	5	28	12	0	1	45	55%

You may renew online with a credit card at [www.legion.org](http://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](mailto:stphnsnc@aol.com).

**Sons of The American Legion.** Membership in the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 27 is the same as that of The American Legion. You can begin to renew your 2014 SAL Membership on 1 July. Squadron 27's Annual Membership for SAL is \$7.50. Please send your 2014 renewal checks to Finance Officer John Sheets.



2014 GOAL	REGULAR	NEW	DECEASED	2014 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
TBD	10	1	0	11	%

**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

In the last two months we have participated to several events that should be noted. Besides rendering military funeral honors to our deceased veterans, giving an American flag presentation at an Eagle Court of Honor, in August we were involved in our first ever American flag retirement ceremony held during the Davis County Fair, and on September 11, 2013 we participated in the unveiling of the firefighter monument in the Utah State Botanical Gardens in Kaysville. Again the Legionnaires of our Post have demonstrated their versatility and willingness to serve. Thank you all that have participated.

**American Flag Etiquette** – The flag should never have placed on it, or attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, number, figure, or drawing of any kind.

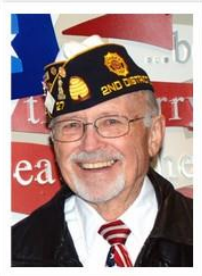
## Chaplain

The months pass quickly as Post 27 continues to serve God and Country with devotion to flag, fallen members, and each other. We thank those that represent us in the many activities. May the Lord bless and keep you. We encourage all of you to meet with us the second Thursday of each month at our secure new office in the old Farmington Court House. A special wish for your health and happiness.



JGolden Barton

## Finance Officer



John Sheets

Comrades, it is with a great deal of appreciation I offer, for all of the hours donated, by our Legion members, who have braved, wind, snow, sleet, hail and rain to render the service of Military Honors for the Families of our comrades. Post 27's Honor Guard has performed its service at a great number of funerals and due to the close working relationship, we have with the National Guard we have been rewarded by the Guard as well as the families of the deceased. Our coffers now total **\$3822.63**, much due to the dedication of a small group of Legionnaires. Thank you to all who know who you are and thank you to those who would like to be with us but have obligations preventing it, perhaps your day will come.

## POW/MIA News



Jay Hess

### World War II airman missing since 1944 to be buried with full military honors

Only a sole surviving sibling has a distant memory of a World War II pilot whose recently identified remains will be buried Saturday with full military honors in Utah. U.S. Air Force 2nd Lt. Vernal J. Bird had more than a dozen brothers and sisters when he crashed over a Pacific Ocean island nearly 70 years ago. He disappeared over Papua New Guinea on a 1944 bombing run of Japanese airfields there. He was 25. The crash site was discovered 12 years ago, but it wasn't until this summer that the Air Force was able to identify partial remains found there as belonging to Bird.

About 150 distant relatives showed up at the Salt Lake airport as those remains -- only a single leg bone was recovered -- arrived inside a flag-draped casket on an airliner. None of them knew Bird personally. His younger sister, Elaine Bird Jack of Eugene, Ore., is his lone surviving sibling and the only one who has a memory of him, said Lorna Bird Snyder, the airman's 66-year-old niece. The 92-year-old Jack is in Utah for the burial at Evergreen Cemetery in Springville. She was the 13th child of the family; Bird was the 12th.

Jack provided a DNA sample that was used to identify her brother's fibula, the outer and thinner of the long bones of a lower leg. Relatives are hoping a full excavation of the crash site will yield more remains, Snyder said. The Air Force is moving cautiously because a 500-pound unexploded bomb is still attached to the A-20G Havoc bomber. The remains of Bird's co-pilot, Staff Sgt. Roy Davis from New Hampshire, have not been found.



2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Vernal Bird



In the airman's last letter to his family, he described how he flew his light bomber barely above tree-top level, saying "we fly right in the leaves at times." It was written two days before his bomber went down March 12, 1944. His niece spent years researching where -- over the Pacific Ocean or New Guinea -- his plane might have gone down. She compared boxes of the airman's letters against records of the American-Australian effort against the Japanese. If not for Snyder's dogged efforts, the recovered bone might never have gotten a DNA comparison.

Vernal Bird was born Oct. 29, 1918, in Lindon to Walter F. and Christina Pearsson Ash Bird. He attended schools in Lindon and Pleasant Grove. The family later moved to Springville, another Utah County town, according to an obituary.

## Historian



**Kent Hansen**

### *The Colorblind leading the non-colorblind*

Far from providing the oft-coveted reason for a 4-F exemption from the military draft during World War II, colorblindness was a sought-after military asset.

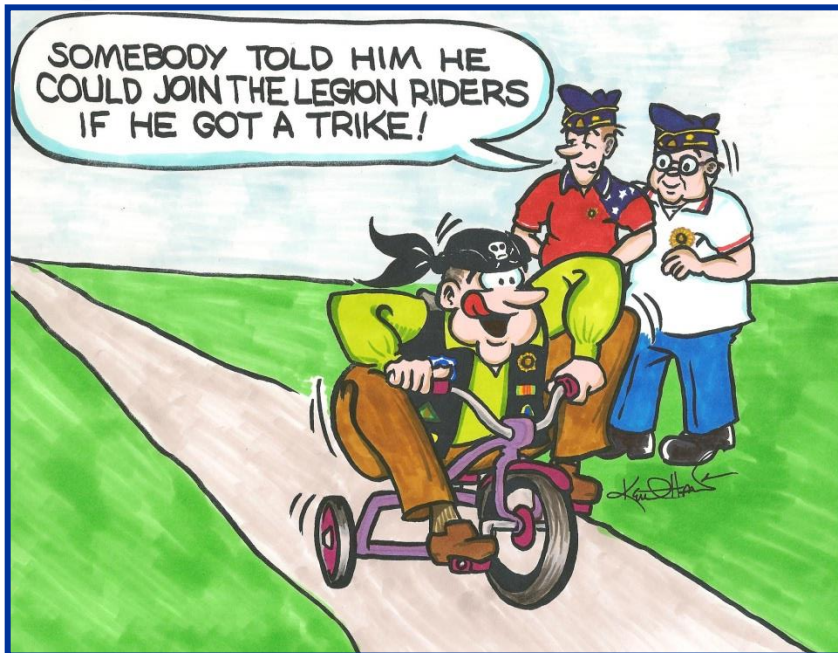
On August 17, 1940, the scientific journal *Nature* published a study showing (among other things) that, in the case of a building camouflaged with large irregular patches of color, the actual outline of the building may be lost in the jumble

of these patterns. But the colorblind person may be scarcely conscious of the variegated colors, so that, to him, the outline of the building may be almost unaffected by the camouflage.

U.S. and other Allied military medical officers picked up on this, confirmed the results of the study with their own tests, and issued a recommendation that colorblind personnel be specifically identified and deployed to units fighting in the forestlands of Europe as well as the jungles of the Pacific Theater to serve as camouflage spotters.



## Legion Laffs



## Calendar of Events

- **October 10 – Post 27 Meeting**, 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116 (*new room*).
- **October 14 – Columbus Day**. *Fly the flag!*
- **October 16 – Meet the Candidates**, 7:00 pm at Farmington City Hall.
- **November 9 – Veterans Day Parade, Ogden**
- **November 11 – Veterans Day**. *Fly the flag!*
- **November 14 -- Post 27 Meeting**, 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
- **November 28 – Thanksgiving**. *Fly the flag!*
- **December 7 – Pearl Harbor Day**. *Fly the flag!*
- **December 7 – Post 27 Christmas Party**. 6:00 pm Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 1131 So. Main Sr., Centerville.



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).

