



THE AMERICAN LEGION

POST 27 / SQUADRON 27

NEWSLETTER

FARMINGTON, UTAH

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

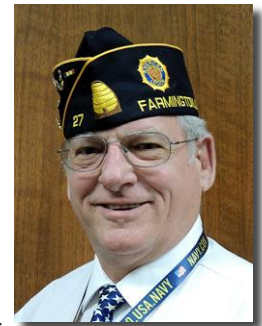
October 2014

STILL SERVING AMERICA

www.post27.org

COMMANDER'S CORNER

You can see the billboards starting to pop up all over the countryside and it's plain to see that it's election time again. We, members of The American Legion wonder which candidates will capture the military vote. Now I don't care if you're a Democrat, Republican or a member of any other party. The fact is that we have a problem. There IS no military vote. Veterans and active-military members vote as voters. When it comes to picking a president, they care about jobs, health insurance, and other kitchen-table issues – just like everyone else. According to the Military Voter Protection Project, just 4.6 percent of the nearly 2 million eligible military voters cast a ballot in 2010 that counted, well below the 15.8 percent who requested ballots. This is significant because even though a member casts a ballot, there is no guarantee that the ballot will count.



Kent Hansen



Now the decision to vote or not to vote is one of the freedoms for which we veterans have fought. That said, how can any candidate take the military community seriously if less than 16 percent ask for ballots and less than five percent actually cast them? Would-be presidents, congressional candidates, legislators, county commissioners are all more likely to listen to those factions that will garner them the most votes.

So what's the answer? Unless you're John Wayne, no one person can win the war. But just like each of us did when we put on our uniforms, we can do what we can – and what we can do is vote. Sure, our one vote may never tip an election but like our service to our country, we continue to serve when we do our citizen's duty, whether great or small.

I love what President Theodore Roosevelt said: *"Do the best you can with what you have where you are."* That means studying out the issues, reviewing all the candidates stands on them and then getting into that voting booth to do your duty. There's still time to do the necessary research to make an informed decision. If you'd like more information, check out vote.utah.gov.

Special Notice: *This Thursday's meeting is one you don't want to miss because our Boys and Girls State 2014 graduates from Davis, Viewmont and NUAMES High Schools will be reporting on their experience at Weber State University. Viewmont student James Clift was elected Senator from Utah and will tell us all about his Boys Nation adventure. In addition, we will be conducting a Post Everlasting ceremony for four of our comrades who have received their final PCS orders. So join us on October 9 at 6:30 pm at the Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116. You won't regret it.*

1ST VICE COMMANDER



Frank Ferrante

With a current membership of 2.4 million veterans, The American Legion was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a **strong national security, veterans affairs, Americanism, and youth programs**. We recently had the opportunity to observed one aspect of our pillar, Americanism. Our Post participated in an American Flag retirement ceremony at a new elementary school in Roy on Patriot Day, September 11, 2014. The Principal thought it would be an appropriate day to retire their old flag, and display a new one. With the students assembled by the flag pole, we lowered the old flag, and performed a flag retirement ceremony. We hoisted a new American Flag. Then our Department Commander, Paula Stephenson, gave an excellent talk to the young students and others on the

meaning and importance of our Flag. What a rewarding and refreshing experience it was to see these young disciplined children, sitting in their little chairs observing as we went through the Flag ceremonies and listening attentively to Paula’s words. I am sure someone in the audience was touched and affected by this program, I know I was.



Left: Legionnaires Frank Ferrante, Dale Crockett and John Sheets salute as the North Park Elementary School flag is appropriately retired on Patriot Day 2014.

American Flag Etiquette Oct 2014 – Displaying the flag indoors, the Flag of the United States should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states, localities, or societies are group for display.



ADJUTANT



Chuck Stephenson

Membership. Statistics are membership numbers through 1 October 2014.

2015 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2014 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
182+	7	29	13	1	2	50/2	60%

The next National Headquarters’ target date is FALL MEETINGS October 8, 2014 – 55%. 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. 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. 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.***

Sons of The American Legion. Squadron 27’s Annual Membership for 2015 is \$10. Please send your 2015 renewal checks to Finance Officer John Sheets. S.A.L. membership numbers through 1 October are as follows:

2015 GOAL	REGULAR	NEW	2015 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
15	7		7	46%

Area 1 Fall Conference. The Area 1 Fall Conference will be held on November 1st, 2014 at the George E. Wahlen Ogden Veterans Home. Address of the GEWOVH is 1102 North 1200 West, Ogden. It will begin at 10:00 AM and run through 2:00 PM. Every effort will be made to make the information presented interesting, informative, and relevant. A salad/baked potato bar will be available for \$6./person. Additional details will be forthcoming. ***Please plan on attending.***

Department of Utah Belt Buckles. The William E. "Bill" Christoffersen "BIG BEE" 50 Years Commemorative Belt Buckles are still available for purchase. **There are only 5 remaining.** The buckles are a limited edition/numbered and can be purchased for only \$60. If you are interested in purchasing one of these beauties, please let me know.



SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Fall is in the air, we have had a very busy summer filled with many Post 27 activities throughout the communities we support. We have been "Thanked" by many residents and families for the service we provide. As an American Legion Post, we are united in our efforts to be professional in all aspects of the services, duties and honors we perform. We can only continue to provide this level of proficiency through your continued dedication and hard work. Thanks to all of you for your service to our country and your continued service with Post 27.



David Layton

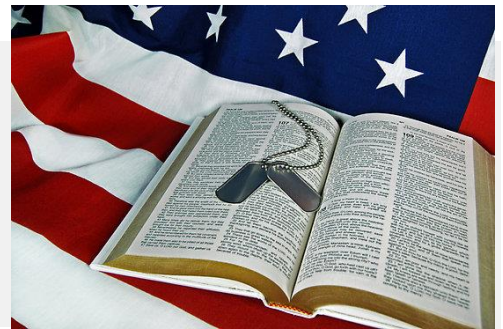
Let us remember when we are asked to participate in Post 27 duties, some were asked to give all. All events we provide to the community and Military Funeral Honors require some physical activity and readiness. So, let's all be ready to assist the post as we can. Post 27, ready to serve for the good of The Legion, the country and Funeral Honors for the fallen.

CHAPLAIN



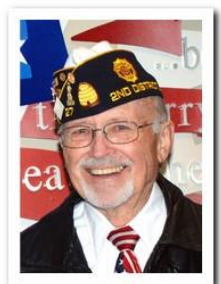
J Golden Barton

I am deeply impressed and appreciative for members of our post that make the time and considerable effort to perform services as an honor guard for each and every funeral they are asked to attend. It is a privilege to associate with such members who spend many countless hours attending to this respectful duty to our departed brothers in arms. We should all commend and express our appreciation for their selfless sacrifice to serve their fellow men. The American Legion motto is For God and Country and the efforts of our honor guard is evidence of their devotion to both.



FINANCE OFFICER

As a member of the Post Executive Committee I am concerned about participation in Military Funeral Honors. We average nearly four Military Funeral Honors per month and the brunt of that effort is borne by less than a dozen members and primarily six or seven stalwarts who spend a minimum of two or three hours per event. Each event requires picking up equipment from the Post, driving to the cemetery, performing the event and return to the Post to store equipment. This is a great contribution of time for the family of our fallen comrade and is one of the most important ceremonies that The American Legion participates in.



John Sheets



"Military Funerals" are important to the Post and to members by training in military protocol by the Utah National Guard. Guardsmen have been trained at "Arlington Cemetery". It is also monetarily important to the Post for gratuities made by families of the deceased. What has one to do to become part of this "elite unit", not a spit and polished outfit, just Legionnaires trying to do their best for the family of the deceased. Our uniform is the Legion cap, white shirt, Legion tie, black pants, shoes and black windbreaker jacket. Comrades, without continued participation of those already trained as part of the Honors group and additional members stepping forward to be trained it will be difficult to maintain the level of participation in "Military Funeral Honors" and the Post's ability to fund many of the activities previously involved in.

The current financial position of the Post is good although expenditure's have out-stripped income due to the fact that there were out-of-the-ordinary expenses for the purchase of equipment for the Post Home and Open House. We must be prudent in our purchases and expenses in the remaining part of the year.

POW/MIA News



MALMSTROM AIR FORCE BASE, Mont. (AFNS) -- Seven decades after his aircraft was shot down during a mission in World War II, an Army Air Forces aviator finally came home to Augusta, Montana. Army Air Forces 1st Lt. William D. Bernier was buried with full military honors September 19 at the veteran's section of the Augusta Cemetery, only a few miles from the ranch where he grew up. By coincidence, the date was also National Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Recognition Day, observed annually on the third Friday of September.

Jay Hess Military funeral honors were rendered by a joint detail of six Soldiers from the Montana Army National Guard's honor guard and eight active-duty Airmen from Malmstrom's base honor guard. Together, they symbolized the Air Force's origins as a component of the Army. A hearse carrying Bernier's remains arrived from Great Falls, Montana, at approximately 2 p.m., escorted by motorcycles from Montana's Patriot Guard Riders. A color guard from the American Legion Post 51 in Augusta, joined by other veterans from around the state, lined the entrance and welcomed the hearse into the cemetery.

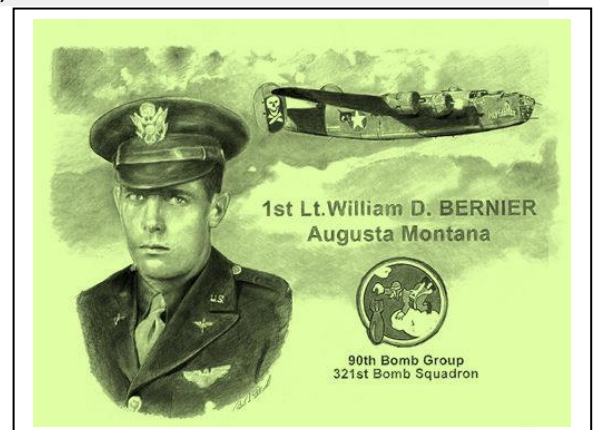
The motto of the Joint Prisoner of War/Missing In Action Accounting Command, which handled the recovery, investigation and repatriation of 1st Lt. Bernier's remains, is, "Until they are home." Bernier was born in 1915 in Augusta and attended Montana State University. He purchased some land near his parents' ranch, and planned to homestead it after the war. Bernier never married. On Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese forces attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, drawing America into the global war. Three days later Bernier, then 26, enlisted into the Army in Seattle, Washington, as a private.

He was assigned to the 90th Bomb Group, 321st Bomb Squadron, in the Fifth Air Force. The 'Jolly Rogers' were already veterans in a desperate campaign to neutralize Japanese forces encroaching on Australia's northern coast. The group's heavy bombers decimated sea convoys and pounded Japanese defenses throughout the Southwest Pacific. By March, 1944, the 90th BG had relocated to Nazdab Air Field, a forward base on New Guinea approximately 100 miles southeast of enemy strongholds on that island.

Bernier was reported missing in action April 10, 1944, during a raid on a vital Japanese-controlled port at Hansa Bay. His B-24D was leading a 60-bomber formation when it was mortally struck by anti-aircraft bursts. The burning aircraft arced west, disintegrated, and plummeted into a dense bamboo forest a few miles inland. At least four of the 12 crewmen on board were able to parachute from the aircraft, according to observers, but were later reported to have died in captivity. Search attempts for the downed crew began immediately and continued after the war. The Army Graves Registration Service recovered the remains of three of the missing Airmen. In 1949, however, AGRS concluded the remaining nine crew members -- including Bernier -- were unrecoverable.

Wreckage bearing the tail number of Bernier's aircraft was located in 2001 by a team of the U.S. Central Identification Laboratory. Human and non-biological evidence was excavated from the site between 2008 and 2011 by teams from Joint Prisoner of War/Missing In Action Accounting Command (JPAC). Bernier's remains were positively identified earlier this year by scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory using circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools including mitochondrial DNA that matched Bernier's cousins.

"It took a long time to bring him home, but America never forgot," said Maj. Gen. Jack Weinstein, the Task Force 214 and 20th Air Force commander. "It takes a massive amount of effort and time to locate a missing person, and it's truly amazing when we can bring home America's sons and daughters who sacrificed it all for the freedoms we hold dear



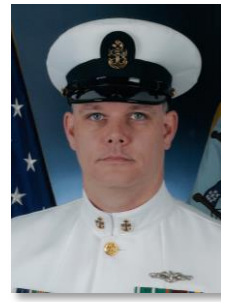
today. It's fitting that Lt. Bernier is laid to rest on National POW/MIA Day, and I'm proud to know this Airman and his family have found peace."

SEA CADET NEWS

September was an interesting drill month with several challenges and several successes. The Hill Air Force Base, South Gate access point was closed for construction which required the unit to drive the entire parameter of the base to access our building which is actually only one block away from the South Gate. Although this was a beautiful drive, it took a lot of extra time away from drill and required some quick schedule changes on the part of the unit. Due to rainy weather conditions on Saturday, time outside was limited.

Several training classes were delivered and an awards ceremony was conducted. Seven cadets joined the program and three visitors attended drill. One adult agreed to become part of our volunteer team. The final preparations were done with regard to the issuing of winter dress blue (cracker jack) uniforms and records were updated to reflect the most recent cadet advancements. The unit is growing much more rapidly than anticipated, much to the credit of our relationship with the Utah Military Academy. The unit received donated equipment from the Hill Air Force Base Honor Guard which will allow us to begin organizing an Honor Guard of our own. It is our hope that this Jake Garn Squadron Honor Guard will eventually be able to support the American Legion in all their patriotic activities. The cadets are excited about this venture and as soon as funds allow it, we will get project up and running.

This was a great month with a lot of progress made toward establishing the Jake Garn Squadron as a permanent, commissioned, US Naval Sea Cadet unit. I have no doubt that given our current level of dedication and support, in less than a year, our unit will be one of the best units in the Region. The attention to detail that I have seen in my wardroom staff is nothing less than amazing. It's dedication like this that makes for a great Sea Cadet unit and I am proud to be part of that team. **Bravo Zulu.**



Courtney Putnam



HISTORIAN



Kent Hansen

Lessons Learned Out of School

A Marine shared this story:

My grandfather (SSG Army Ret.) once told me a story about his time in the Korean War that one of my high school teachers (COL USMC Ret.) also told me. It turns out that they were the same. At the time my teacher was a 2nd Lieutenant. His platoon was traveling down a dirt road to their objective when they were ambushed by sniper and small arms fire. My teacher, holding his compass, was shot by a sniper. The bullet entered the back of his neck and shot out the front, going through his left hand. One of his men radioed in for assistance. The response he received was that an Army tank battalion was the closest support to them. Within minutes, the Army tankers rolled up to escort what was left of the Marines. Only four out of the 32 Marines were left.

Barely able to breathe, the 2nd Lt. (my teacher) told his other three Marines to get into any tank that had available room. Amazingly enough, there was just enough room for the three of them. The sad news was the lieutenant would not be able to get inside of any tank. Meanwhile, the enemy was still assaulting them with sniper and small arms fire. In a rush to get out of there, the lieutenant had one of his Marines (a PFC) put him on the back of the tank the Marine would be riding in (my grandfather's tank). After the Marine placed the lieutenant on the back of the tank, he was ordered to get inside of it; then they started to roll out to safety. Moments after the Marine had gotten into the tank, he started to get out of it. My grandfather (at the time, a Sergeant) ordered him to stay in the tank. He replied with a negative; he had to protect his commander.



Whereupon the PFC abruptly got out of the tank and laid his body over the lieutenant. Despite direct orders, requests and pleas from the lieutenant to save himself and get back in the tank, the PFC with one small tear in his eye smiled and said "No sir, it is my duty to protect you so you can continue to lead Marines far greater than myself." Upon reaching safety of an Army camp, the PFC was urgently pulled away from the lieutenant so the medics could treat him of his wound to the throat in order to save his life. The PFC succeeded in his mission as the lieutenant had not been shot during the evacuation. However the PFC sustained 67 bullet wounds which had ended his life. My teacher is very grateful to this man who had sacrificed his life for him. My grandfather is amazed at one man's loyalty. And I, myself, was and still am inspired at how one man can give his life for another. This is one of the many reasons I have enlisted into the Marine Corps. Semper Fidelis, my friend. **Cpl. James D. Anderson, USMC**

LEGION LAFFS



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **October 9 – Post 27 Meeting**, 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.
- **October 13 – Columbus Day**. *Fly the flag.*
- **October 28 – Davis County Commission**, 10:00 am, Boys/Girls State graduates' reports, Room 302, 61 S. Main St., Farmington.
- **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.



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.



Visit us on
Facebook

FROM THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

What I learned this month was subtle and overwhelming. The story begins at the Salt Lake City airport homecoming for the first of two Utah Honor Flights take took our World War II, Korean, and Vietnam Veterans to Washington, D.C. The “welcoming” group in the baggage area was not the fanfare of the second flight, but sincere and teary eyed, none the less. As our small group of Legion Family members, Patriot Guard Riders, family members and other travelers waited in the two lines that led out to the waiting busses, I noticed what I believed to be a business traveler who had just picked up his luggage and was heading to the parking lot.

“What is going on?” he asked. I told him there was a group of World War II, Korean and Vietnam Veterans returning from a trip to Washington, DC to see their war memorials, and we wanted to welcome them home. He had a shocked look on his face and asked if he could join us. As we waited, I learned that this traveler who joined our group was not a Veteran himself, but his father was a World War II Veteran. He was quiet and never said why he wanted to join us in welcoming this group back, but we welcomed him like family.

The excitement, the flag waving and cheers, and the pride in those that we welcomed home was exciting for all. When it was over, our businessman picked up his luggage to leave. I asked him if the long wait was worth it. He looked at me with tears in his eyes and said “a hundred times more than he ever dreamed . . . it will get me through the week”. I shook his hand and thanked him for waiting with us. He was my age and as I watched him leave, I thought of my Dad who was a WWII and Korean War Veteran. He never got a chance to see his two war memorials in Washington, D.C. before he passed away.

Back to the subtle and overwhelming part. This one, quiet gentleman seen respecting the service of Veterans--there was a connection and an impact on that one individual. The overwhelming part is the impact that we have as Veterans and service members on many, many Americans and others who have been touched by war. I have seen it in small ways at the military funeral honors and the Eagle Scout Courts of Honor we participate in. Subtle and overwhelming at the same time can be emotionally conflicting and difficult for some. Keep up the good work in making contact with other Americans as Veterans. All of us can make a difference, even if it is only with one person. For more information on the Utah Honor Flights, go to www.utahhonorflight.org.

If you are a World War II, Korean, or Vietnam era Veteran and want to see your Washington, DC Memorials, you will find the applications and more information there.



Paula Stephenson
Commander
Dept. of Utah

