



October 2023

AMERICAN
LEGION

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

Greetings fellow veterans, family, and friends of The American Legion. I'd like to thank everyone that joined us for the picnic. We had a really good turnout and enjoyed visiting with each other. It was also on POW/MIA day and we had a nice talk from our very own Jay Hess. Earlier that week we had our 9/11 Memorial outside the Farmington Fire Station. A somber and moving event every year.



Jon Rue

As I write this for the October newsletter, I'm taking a short break from cutting and preparing firewood for the Flag Retirement Ceremony we would have held by the time you read this. I sincerely hope that you were able to attend.

In the next couple of months, we'll try to conduct a **Utah Cold War Victory Medal** presentation to our members and other veterans that haven't received the medal yet. Look for details on eligibility and how to apply in the newsletter.

In closing, I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible later in October and also at Veteran's Day Ceremonies coming up in November.



Post 27 Family EVENTS CALENDAR

October 9 – Columbus Day. *Fly the flag.*
October 12 – Post 27 General Meeting. 7:00 pm,
Davis County Memorial Courthouse.

November 9 -- Post 27 General Meeting. 7:00 pm,
Davis County Memorial Courthouse.
November 11 – Veterans Day. *Fly the flag.*
November 11 – Veterans Day Ceremony. 11:00 am
Farmington Cemetery
November 23 – Thanksgiving Day. *Fly the flag.*

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1st Vice Commander



Bob Anderson

As one who has recently been revisited with the hassles of COVID, I remember that we have many people in our Post who are dealing with health and other personal issues who continue to contribute to the mission and programs of the American Legion. Some in small ways and some in ways that can never be measured. We have an extensive list of quiet Legionnaires, doing service in the name of The American Legion and Post 27. To them, I tip my hat in appreciation. You are heroes to the Post.

If you can't get to a Post 27 Monthly meeting due to your own health or transportation issues, but would like to, **we can help**. Any active member who wants to attend a Post 27 meeting, call me, 801-347-8735 or any other Executive Group member as shown in this newsletter. Someone will come pick you up. Just give us a call or text the day prior and that should do it. We want there to be no obstacles to your participating in the Post. Give it a try.



To all the Buddy Checkers: **Git 'er dun!**

Adjutant

Membership is our Lifeblood!



American Legion Membership: Statistics are membership numbers through Oct 1 2023.

2024 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2023 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
128	22	39	17			79	62%



Dale Crockett

Sons of the American Legion Membership: Statistics are membership numbers through Oct 1 2023.

2024 GOAL		REGULAR		NEW	TRANSFERS	2023 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
32		23	6	1		30	94%

The Pledge of Allegiance is a pledge to our country and we should all be proud of it and recite it with honor and respect. Have you ever thought about the words? The following is a breakdown of the meaning of The Pledge of Allegiance.

The pledge is to be said standing (if able) facing the American Flag, if in uniform (male or female) render a hand salute, if in civilian attire your right hand should be placed over your heart, for males, if in civilian attire and wearing a hat the hat should be removed held by your right hand and placed over your left shoulder (females wearing hats are not required to remove a hat) and causing your right hand to be over your heart.

I Pledge Allegiance - I promise to be faithful and true (promise my loyalty) **to the Flag** - to the emblem that stands for and represents **of the United States of America** - all 50 states and territories, each of them individual, and individually states represented on the flag of American yet formed into a union of one nation **and to the Republic** - and I also pledge my loyalty to the government that is itself a Republic, a form of government where the people are sovereign. **for which it stands**, - this government also being represented by the Flag to which I promise loyalty. **one Nation - under God**, - The 50 individual states - are united as a single Republic under the Divine providence of God. **Indivisible**, - and cannot be separated **with Liberty** - The people of this Nation being

afforded the freedom to pursue "life, liberty - and happiness". and Justice - And each person entitled to be treated justly, fairly and according to proper law and principle. for All. - These principles afforded to every loyal American regardless of race, religion, creed, or any other criteria.

If I can do anything for you to make your membership renewal easier or more convenient in the future, or answer any questions you may have regarding membership, please let me know. I can be reached at Home (801) 451-9493/Cell (801) 560-2186 or email dalescrockett@yahoo.com. You can also VENMO me to renew @Dale-Crockett-7 if you have the app. It does not cost you anything and you can get it from the APP Store.

Chaplain

Americans defeat the British at Yorktown

On October 19, 1781, hopelessly trapped at Yorktown, Virginia, British General Lord Cornwallis surrenders 8,000 British soldiers and seamen to a larger Franco-American force, effectively bringing an end to the American Revolution.

Lord Cornwallis was one of the most capable British generals of the American Revolution. In April 1781 Cornwallis led his weary and battered troops toward the Virginia coast, where he could maintain seaborne lines of communication with the large British army of General Henry Clinton in New York City. Cornwallis settled in the tidewater town of Yorktown in August. The British immediately began fortifying the town.

General George Washington instructed the Marquis de Lafayette, who was in Virginia with an American army of around 5,000 men, to block Cornwallis' escape from Yorktown by land. In the meantime, Washington's 2,500 troops in New York were joined by a French army of 4,000 men. Washington made plans to attack Cornwallis with the assistance of a large French fleet, and on August 21 they crossed the Hudson River to march south to Yorktown. Covering 200 miles in 15 days, the allied force reached the head of Chesapeake Bay in early September.



Meanwhile, a British fleet under Admiral Thomas Graves failed to break French naval superiority at the Battle of Virginia Capes on September 5, denying Cornwallis his expected reinforcements. Beginning September 14, Washington's men were transported down the Chesapeake to Virginia, where they joined Lafayette and completed the encirclement of Yorktown on September 28. During the first two weeks of October, the 14,000 Franco-American troops gradually overcame the fortified British positions. A large British fleet carrying 7,000 men set out to rescue Cornwallis, but it was too late.

On October 19, General Cornwallis surrendered 7,087 officers and men, 900 seamen, 144 cannons, 15 galleys, a frigate, and 30 transport ships. Pleading illness, he did not attend the surrender ceremony, but his second-in-command, General Charles O'Hara, carried Cornwallis' sword to the American and French commanders.

Although the war persisted on the high seas and in other theaters, the Patriot victory at Yorktown effectively ended fighting in the American colonies. Peace negotiations began in 1782, and on September 3, 1783, the Treaty of Paris was signed, formally recognizing the United States as a free and independent nation after eight years of war. May God continue to bless the United States of America!



Steve Steed

POW/MIA News



Jay Hess

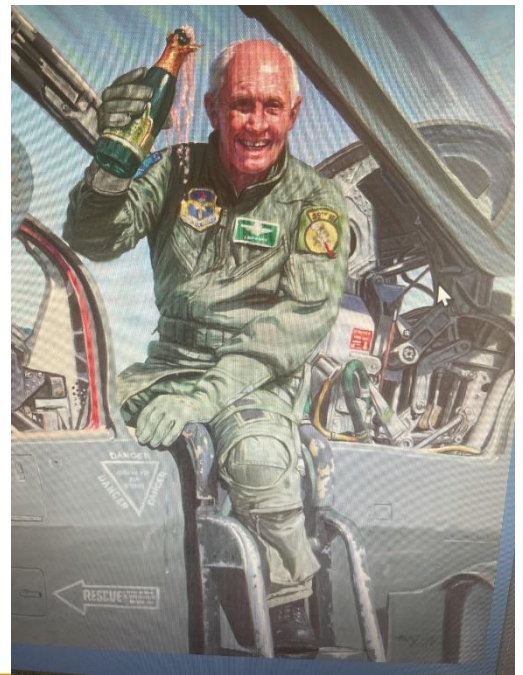
Finis Flight

During Vietnam War the USAF instituted a one-year or 100-combat-mission tours for aircrews flying over North Vietnam. The 100-mission tour policy spawned a rich tradition among Air Force air crews which included a special patch, a victory roll or high-speed pass, fire truck spraying a water arch over the returning aircraft, throwing the aircrew into a pool and soaking them in champagne as they got out of their aircraft.

Since misfortune cheated POWs of enjoying their end-of-tour celebration, 'Finis Flights' in T-38s at Randolph AFB, Texas have been given for more than 200 aircrews during the past 50 years. These Airmen were hosed down when they exited the cockpit just as if they were competing a 100-mission tour in Southeast Asia.

The 560th Flying Training Squadron allowed me the opportunity to return to the skies for my "Finis Flight" in March 2010. I was number 195. Michael McGinty painted a jubilant portrait that is currently on display in the Pentagon on the 5th floor, E-Ring, corridors 9-10. (USAF Art program 2013.036)

It seems ironic that an abstainer is waving a champagne bottle in the Pentagon. Here is a real photo and the artist's rendition.



Historian

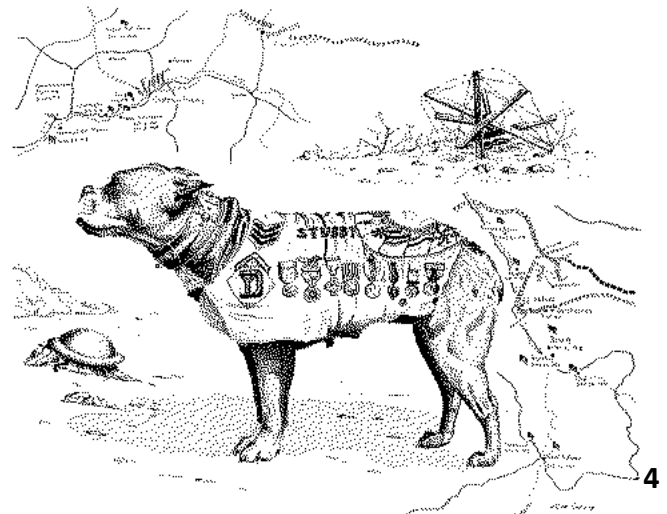


Kent Hansen

Stubby, the Hero War Dog

The story of Stubby actually starts with the beginning of the Great War in Europe. From 1914 to 1917 the French, Germans and others struggled with each other for control of France and Europe. In April of 1917 America finally entered the war and mobilized its National Guard forces.

The 102nd Infantry and was made a part of the 26th (Yankee) division of Massachusetts. It was also around this time that Stubby wandered into the encampment and befriended the soldiers.



In October 1917 when the unit shipped out for France, Stubby, by this time the "Unofficial - Official" mascot, was smuggled aboard the troop ship S.S. Minnesota in an overcoat and sailed into doggy legend.

Times were not good in France, the American Expeditionary Force was looked upon as second class soldiers, not to be trusted without French oversight and trench warfare combined with deadly gas took a toll on both the men and their spirits. Stubby did his part by providing morale-lifting visits up and down the line and occasional early warning about gas attacks or by waking a sleeping sentry to alert him to a German attack.

In April 1918, the Americans, and the 102nd Infantry, finally got their chance to prove their mettle when they participated in the raid on the German held town of Schieprey. As the Germans withdrew, they threw hand grenades at the pursuing allies. Stubby got a little over-enthusiastic and found himself on top of trench when a grenade went off and he was wounded in the foreleg.

After the recapture of Chateau-Thierry, the women of the town made Stubby a chamois blanket embroidered with the flags of the allies. The blanket also held his wound stripe, three service chevrons and the numerous medals, the first of which was presented to him in Neufchateau, the home of Joan of Arc.

In the Argonne, Stubby ferreted out a German Spy in hiding and holding on to the seat of his pants kept the stunned German pinned until the soldiers arrived to complete the capture. Stubby confiscated the German's Iron Cross and wore it on the rear portion of his blanket for many years. Stubby was also gassed a few times and eventually ended up in a hospital when his master, Corporal J. Robert Conroy, was wounded. After doing hospital duty for a while, he and Conroy returned to the 102nd and spent the remainder of the war with that unit. Stubby was smuggled back home in much the same way as he entered the War, although by this time he was so well known that you have to suspect that one or two general officers probably looked the other way as he went aboard ship to sail home and muster out with the rest of the regiment.

Oddly enough this not the end of the story, but rather in some ways the beginning. Stubby became something of a celebrity. He was made a lifetime member of The American Legion and marched in every Legion parade and attended every Legion convention from the end of the war until his death. He was written about by practically every newspaper in the country at one time or another. He met three presidents of the United States: Wilson, Harding and Coolidge and was a lifetime member of the Red Cross and YMCA. The Y offered him three bones a day and place to sleep for the rest of his life and he regularly hit the campaign trail, recruiting members for the American Red Cross and selling victory bonds.

In 1921, General "Blackjack" Pershing, the supreme commander of American Forces during the War pinned Stubby with a gold hero dog's medal that was commissioned by the Humane Education Society the forerunner of our current Humane Society. So famous was he that the Grand Hotel Majestic in New York City lifted its ban on dogs so that Stubby could stay there enroute to one of many visits to Washington.

When J. Robert Conroy went to Georgetown to study law, Stubby became the mascot for the football team joining a long list of Georgetown Hoyas. Between the halves, he would nudge a football around the field much to the delight of the crowd. This little trick with the football became a standard feature of the repertoire of Georgetown mascots throughout the 20's and 30' and is thought by some to be the origin of the Half Time Show.

In 1926, Stubby finally passed on. His obituary in the *New York Times* was three columns wide by half a page long.

American Legion Auxiliary



Deb Hansen

We are collecting stuffed animals for our annual drive and our recipient agency will be the Kaysville Fire Department. You can bring the stuffed animals to our October 12 Unit Meeting at 6:00 pm at the Davis Memorial Courthouse. We are also having a Fall Food Drive for the Airman's Attic at Hill Air Force Base! You can bring the food items to our meeting also!! There will be a box at Deb's home (931 Lands End, Farmington) for either the food or the animals!



We had the awesome opportunity to visit three amazing cemeteries in the past month. The Punchbowl in Honolulu is majestic with its view and memorials. While we were in Europe, we visited Normandy and the cemetery at Luxembourg. These beautiful, peaceful places remind us of the sacrifices of so many to keep us free! See you at the October 12 meeting!!



Members of American Legion Post 27 and fire fighters from the Farmington Fire Department render honors during the annual 9/11 Remembrance ceremony.



Post 27 Honor Guard provides an honorary rifle volley during the annual 9/11 Remembrance ceremony.

Legion Laffs BY KENT HANSEN



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at

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