



# THE AMERICAN LEGION

## POST 27 / SQUADRON 27



September 2013

*STILL SERVING AMERICA*

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

### Commander's Corner



**Kent Hansen**

*Post 27 does it better with fire!*

I cannot begin to express my pride for the wonderful job the members of Post 27 did in producing the spectacular Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Davis County Fair last month. For a first time out, it could not have gone better. We received many positive comments from the crowd and the fair staff. In fact, we have already been invited back on August 14, 2014 for the second of what we plan to make an annual event.



Special kudos go out to **John Sheets** and his merry band of event organizers: **Frank Lennartz, Frank Ferrante, Ken Hadley, Dave Layton** and **Chuck and Paula Stephenson**. Of course, we could not have done it without the able assistance the Baker-Merrill American Legion

Post #9, the magnificent American Legion Riders, the Farmington Fire Department, the Utah National Guard, the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. A special mention also goes to the POW/MIA Association, who showed up and pitched in to help. Of course, a special salute goes to you, my fellow Legionnaires, who attended, participated and conducted yourselves with honor and dignity. With good news coverage from the *Standard-Examiner*, *Deseret News* and Fox News, it was a gala occasion for everyone involved.

*Put on your thinking caps.* Post 27 represents all that is good about The American Legion. Our active involvement in funeral honors, Eagle Scout flag presentations, community activities, flag retirement, Boys State, the Oratorical Competition, of course, will continue. But I believe there is more we can do – both for our community and for our own members. Keeping in mind our four pillars (veterans affairs and rehabilitation, national security, Americanism and children and youth), I'd like to ask each of you to think seriously about where you would like our Post to go. What would you like to have at our monthly meetings? What untapped areas of service might we explore? How can we encourage our less active members to join with us? I would be happy to hear from any of you about ways in which we can improve.



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

I want to thank our post members for all their hard work and enjoyment on our flag retirement program we did at the Davis County Fair. Everything went off without a hitch and I have heard nothing but praise on it. Our post has already been asked to do it at the Fair again next year.



**Frank Lennartz**

Our next event is participating at the Patriot Day program in Kaysville. It will be September 11 at 6:30 am, at the Utah Extension Service Park on 50 West. We can use all hands as we are presenting the colors and raising the flag. Also we will be doing the rifle volley at the end. Come and join us. Even if you don't want to be part of the program, come and be part of the crowd. For those who want to be part of the action, please call me ASAP at 801-451-5198. Program participants will meet at 6:00 am to finalize our parts.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander



**Ken Hadley**

In the past few years I have become aware of the fact that many Americans (mainly the youth) have a lack of knowledge and understanding of the exceptionalism of the American way of life. There is little recognition that the founding fathers and the constitution have provided the envy of the world with our freedom, liberty, and opportunity to pursue a better way of life. We were once a super power in the world—not just because of our military might but also because of the patriotism of the people who would rise up to defend the right and overcome injustice throughout the world. People were flocking to America for the chance to live free and have a better life for themselves and their posterity through hard work, work that is rewarded by just laws that are impartial to any group of people.

It has been said that we are just one generation from losing our freedom. Let's help this generation to further the cause of freedom so that we will become a strong nation again. As Legionnaires, we have dedicated our lives to the preservation of freedom and liberty. Now let us get behind the Oratorical and Boys State programs to help the youth carry on the banner of liberty. If you are acquainted with any high school students, use your enthusiasm and patriotism to encourage them to apply for these programs. The Oratorical contest starts soon. Substantial money for scholarships can be won at each level of competition. Even more important, patriotism in the individual can be increased while preparing their talks and also as they associate with other like-minded people. If you are willing to participate or if you have questions, contact Ken Hadley at 801-803-9565.

## Adjutant

**Project Operation Verify.** 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*). Post 27 Members – it is time for those members who have not submitted some form of service documentation to do so at the earliest opportunity. We currently have only 23% of our members who have submitted service documentation. Please take some time and dig through those old service records and provide either a DD-214 or Discharge Certificate. You may redact any information on the form other than dates and character of service. They are scanned to a “thumb drive” and the original is placed in a safe.



**Chuck Stephenson**

**Mail to: Adjutant Charles Stephenson, 1258 E. Eagle Way, Fruit Heights, UT 84037-3222**

**Membership.** 1 July kicks off another “Membership Year.” You have until the end of 2013 to renew and claim your “early bird” status for 2014.

<b>2014 GOAL</b>	<b>PUFL</b>	<b>REGULAR</b>	<b>ONLINE</b>	<b>NEW</b>	<b>DECEASED</b>	<b>2014 TOTAL</b>	<b>PERCENT OF GOAL</b>
TBD	5	28	12	1	1	45	%

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.



<b>2014 GOAL</b>	<b>REGULAR</b>	<b>NEW</b>	<b>DECEASED</b>	<b>2014 TOTAL</b>	<b>PERCENT OF GOAL</b>
TBD	10	1	0	11	%

**Department of Utah Belt Buckles.** The NEW William E. “Bill” Christoffersen “BIG BEE” 50 Years Commemorative Belt Buckles are here and 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 ¼” by 2 ¼” 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.



## Sergeant-at-Arms



Frank Ferrante

It is with some reservation for me to see Commander Paula Stephenson resign as the Commander of our Post. She has been an outstanding Leader. But, I do congratulate her on her new position as Vice Commander of the Department of Utah. This is a first for a woman veteran to be in this position. I was present when she was nominated and elected at our recent State convention, and I saw one of the five women veterans present with tears in her eyes when it was announced.

I would also like to congratulate Kent Hansen as our new Commander. I am looking forward to working with him and other members of our great post in future activities.

**American Flag Etiquette:** The flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform, except that a flag patch may be used on the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen and members of patriotic organizations.

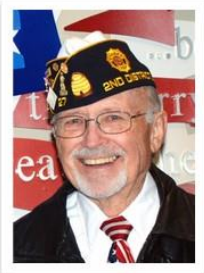
## Chaplain

The flag retirement celebration was spectacular. Over a hundred participants, several hundred observers and a beautiful August evening! It was a great occasion to be a member of Farmington American Legion Post 27 and witness the detail and effort of those involved. For God and country, we stand together. It was encouraging to see the Boy and Girl Scouts pay proper respect for our flag. It can only get better in years to come as thousands will come to pay tribute to our flag as the word spreads and the fire lights the night sky. A fire kindled in the hearts of our post leaders, members, our honor guard and our rifle squad. What great joy it was to be with you.



JGolden Barton

## Finance Officer



John Sheets

Month end August Bank balance is **\$1839.70**. There are no other outstanding bills to be paid other than membership dues of \$24.50 to the Department of Utah which will be paid on the next transmittal in September.

As a member of the "Flag Retirement" committee I would like to thank all of the Post members who contributed their time to this very successful event. We have had many complementary remarks from the public and good press coverage in the newspaper. The management of Davis County Events Center has already given us the date in 2014, August 14th for our repeat performance. We have 11½ months to go.



## Historian



Kent Hansen

**What's the point?** On March 9, 1906, Congress authorized furnishing headstones for the graves of Confederate soldiers buried in national cemeteries as well as in Confederate burial plots. Congress specified that the headstones be fashioned in the same size and of the same material as those of Union soldiers and of U.S. soldiers who had died in the Spanish-American War. There was to be one difference, however. Whereas U.S. headstones were rounded at the top, the Confederate design was pointed. Immediately, a story was circulated that one of the Confederate veterans consulted on the design of the headstones declared, "We don't want any damn Yankee sitting on our tombstones." The story stuck and is

still widely offered up as the explanation for the difference between Yankee and Rebel military headstones. There is, however, no evidence that the tale is true. More likely, it was just deemed appropriate to make some simple distinction between Union and Confederate graves. A change in shape was a way to do this without necessitating the use of different materials.



## Legion Laffs



## Calendar of Events

- September 2 – Labor Day *Fly the flag!*
- September 11 – Patriot Day *Fly the flag!*
- September 11 – Kaysville Flag Ceremony, 6:30 am. Utah Extension Service Park on 50 West.
- September 13 – Post 27 Picnic, Freedom Hills Park, 2150 North 150 East (off Old Haul Road/Main St.), Centerville, 6:00 pm. Guests & spouses welcome.
- September 20 – POW/MIA Recognition Day *Fly the flag!*
- September 29 – Gold Star Mothers' Day *Fly the flag!*
- October 10 – Post 27 Meeting, 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116 (*new room*).
- October 14 – Columbus Day. *Fly the flag!*



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).



Visit us on Facebook



District 2 Commander Chuck Stephenson presents Certificates to Baker-Merrill Post #9 Commander John Ott and Post 27 Commander Kent Hansen for assistance provided by their Post members at the Department Convention In Lavton.

## THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT

by Paula Stephenson, Vice Commander, Department of Utah

Houston was hot and humid (expected), cooler, overcast weather for the Legion parade through the streets of Houston (not expected); all locals were extremely friendly and helpful (not expected), Utah made an impact (expected); had fun and learned a lot (hoped for). Chuck and Paula Stephenson from Post 27 attended as delegates for the Department of Utah, along with 14 other delegates from Utah.



The impact Utah made was striking, compared to the past three years that I have attended.

1. Utah presented a resolution which was approved and The American Legion will sponsor support for national legislation in establishing the higher deductible mileage allowance of 55.5 cents per mile driven for members involved in their program and community activities.
2. Utah was #5 of 16 Departments that met or exceeded its membership goal of 100 percent or better. We attained 101.455 percent of our goal, reaching 7,181 American Legion members in Utah.
3. We reached all of our target dates throughout the year, including the Early Bird target dates—award presented.
4. The Department of Utah Commander Bill Dunlap won “Commander of the Year” for Membership. With all that we attained above, Utah was seated three rows from the main state; normally we are in the back of the convention hall.
5. Bill Christoffersen, Utah’s National Executive Committeeman for 50+ years (only Legionnaire/state to accomplish this longevity) retired as NEC. The bottom line--well done Utah!! ***The best in the West!***



Shots from the Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Davis County Fair, August 15, 2013, hosted by American Legion Post 27, Farmington, Utah.



Photos courtesy of the **Deseret News**.