



# The American Legion Newsletter



**Post 27**



**Squadron 27**



**Unit 27**

*Davis County Memorial Courthouse, Room 116, 28 East State Street, Farmington, Utah*

**September 2017**

*Still Serving America*

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



**Kent Hansen**

## Commander's Corner

### I PLEDGE...

I was sitting in the Main Hall in the Reno-Sparks Convention Center as National Commander Charlie Schmidt went through the series of opening ceremonies including the Pledge of Allegiance. Now, I have recited the Pledge thousands of times dating back to my earliest school days, as I expect you have too. But this time, as I stood among thousands of Legionnaires, the Pledge spoke to me as it never had before. The first two words burned into me: **"I pledge..."** It means that I give my solemn oath that I will do all in

my power to uphold and defend the flag of the United States. It occurs to me that I made this pledge as a child; I made it again when I was sworn into the U.S. Navy; and I am still making it as a veteran. I suspect most of you have, too.

I haven't been a member of the Legion for anywhere near as long as many of you but I joined because I hoped that this organization had some substance beyond the patriotic words. In Post 27, I have found folks who go far beyond the words. They understand what it means to "pledge."

When I came to the Post in 2011, I was greeted and welcomed by a firebrand of a Post Commander in the person of Paula Stephenson. She led me, taught me, mentored me and befriended me. Perhaps, most importantly, she taught me the meaning of "I pledge." With a military career that spanned 30 years, she has never stopped serving. Her pledge is not the passive spectator patriotism of the "Support Our Troops" bumper stickers. Paula is a hands-on patriot who seems to be tireless in finding opportunities to assist veterans and promote our country.



**The American Legion's first female National Commander Denise Rohan with Post 27's Paula Stephenson**

I was privileged to be present as our Past Post Commander, Paula Stephenson, was installed as National Vice Commander for 13 western states plus Mexico and the Philippines. She is a fine living example of "I pledge..." Of course, no one would expect us to duplicate Paula's rise to national prominence but that's not really the point, is it? When she says "I pledge..." she backs it up with action, with service and with palpable love of country. So what does that mean to us? Simply this: When we pledge, have we really done all we can to demonstrate our allegiance to our flag and country? There is so much to be done and American Legion Post 27 can really use your help.

## Post 27 Programs & Activities

- Flag Education
- High School Constitution Oratorical Scholarship Contest
- American Legion Utah Boys State & American Legion Auxiliary Girls State
- Military Funeral Honors
- Eagle Scout Court of Honor Flag Ceremonies
- Flag Retirement Ceremonies
- U.S. Flag sales
- Honor Guard & Rifle Team for community events in Kaysville, Fruit Heights, Farmington, Centerville
- Jake Garn Sea Cadet Squadron sponsor
- DTC-Davis Tech Veterans Center support
- VA Outreach support at Post
- Medal of Honor Character Development Program in Davis County schools
- POW/MIA updates
- Meet The Candidate sponsor
- Farmington/Kaysville Cemetery Flag project Memorial Day weekend
- Parade participation
- American Legion charities support

**Veterans Still Serving!**



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Sept. 7 -- SAL meeting. 6:30 pm, Davis County Memorial

Sept. 11 – Patriot Day. *Fly the flag!*

Sept. 11 – Utah State Fair Patriots Day

Sept. 15 – Annual Post/Squadron/Unit 27 Picnic. 6:00 pm  
Nicholls Park, 1105 E. Nicholls Rd, W. Pavilion, Fruit Heights.

Sept. 15 – POW/MIA Recognition Day.

Sept. 22 – Retiree Appreciation Day. Hill AFB, 8 am-2 pm.

Good time to get a free flu shot.

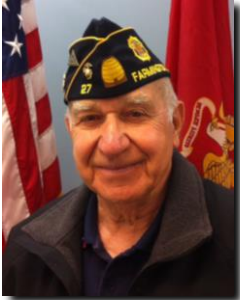
Oct. 5 -- Post 27 meeting, 6:30 pm, Davis County

Admin Bldg., Room. 131 A/B. **Boys and Girls Staters report**

Oct. 12 – Post 27 General meeting, 6:30 pm,  
Memorial Courthouse, Room 116.

Oct. 12 -- Unit 27 Auxiliary meeting. 6:00 pm, Room 116,  
Davis County Memorial Courthouse.

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



Frank Ferrante

*We all remember the attack that happened to our country on September 11, 2001. I recently came across the following article about one of the many incidents that happened on that day, and would like to share it with you.*

A chaplain, assigned to the Pentagon, told of an incident that occurred right after Flight 77 hit the Pentagon on 9/11. A daycare facility inside the Pentagon had many children, including infants who were in heavy cribs. The daycare supervisor, looking at all the children they needed to evacuate, was in a panic over what they could do. There were many children, mostly toddlers, as well as the infants that would need to be taken out with the cribs. There was no time to try to bundle them into carriers and strollers.

Just then a young Marine came running into the center and asked what they needed. After hearing what the center director was trying to do, he ran back out into the hallway and disappeared. The director thought, "Well, here we are, on our own." About two minutes later, that Marine returned with 40 other Marines in tow. Each of them grabbed a crib with a child, and the rest started gathering up toddlers. The director and her staff then helped them take all the children out of the center and down toward the park near the Potomac and the Pentagon.

Once they got about three quarters of a mile outside the building, the Marines stopped in the park, and then did a fabulous thing - they formed a circle with the cribs, which were quite sturdy and heavy, like the covered wagons in the Old West. Inside this circle of cribs, they put the toddlers, to keep them from wandering off. Outside this circle were the 40 Marines, forming a perimeter around the children and waiting for instructions. There they remained until the parents could be notified to come and get their children. The chaplain then said, "I don't think any of us saw nor heard of this on any of the news stories of the day." It was an incredible story of our men there. There wasn't a dry eye in the room. The thought of those Marines and what they did and how fast they reacted; could we expect any less from them? It was one of the most touching stories from the Pentagon.



**It's the Military, not the politicians, that ensure our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.** It's the Military that salutes the flag, that serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag. If you care to offer the smallest token of recognition and appreciation for the military, please pass this on and pray for our men and women, who have served and are currently serving our country, and pray for those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for freedom.

**Reminder, the American Legion is only as strong as its membership base. The more devoted members it has, the better the organization can advocate for veterans and serve the military community which given much to our country. Invite a potential member to our meetings.**

**Flag Etiquette** – The flag should be raised briskly and lowered slowly and ceremoniously. Ordinary it should be displayed between sunrise and sunset. It should be illuminated if displayed at night.

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

The wise and great sage and soothsayer Yogi Berra said, “when you come to a fork in the road – take it.” I want to thank Commander Kent and Post 27 for affording me the opportunity to serve as the Post 27 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander. The normal breakdown of duties and responsibilities has the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander responsible for Post Programs, i.e. High School Oratorical Contest and American Legion Utah Boys State. As a Past District, Area, Department Vice Commander, and Department Commander these programs are very near and dear to my heart. I am excited about working with our local high schools and beginning yet another year of opportunities for our young people to learn about and participate in American Legion programs.

This year marked my sixth American Legion Annual National Convention. Always an exciting and worthwhile event, this year’s Convention in Reno, Nevada provided an opportunity for some Utah



**Chuck Stephenson**



Legionnaires to attend their first National Convention. It was exciting to see some new faces from the Department of Utah and I hope that they all enjoyed the event as much as I do each year. I have said before that one of the highlights for me each year is an opportunity to see and hear the Youth Champions. The American Legion Youth Champions are the Eagle Scout of the Year; National Oratorical Contest Winner; Precision and Sporter Rifle Champions; American Legion Baseball Academic Scholarship Winner; and the Boys Nation President. They are always a joy to listen to and represent the best of the best that our country has to offer as tomorrow’s future leaders. I was especially impressed by this

year’s Boys Nation President. Darius Thomas from Phenix City, AL told the audience that he was the son of a single parent mother and that his brother was in prison and would be through the year 2030. Not offering any excuses, Darius said that he was proud of his mother and that he loved his country too much to get into trouble like his brother had done. I thought that his openness and willingness to tell others his story spoke volumes about his character and that he was an excellent role model for other young people who find themselves in challenging family situations.

If you would like to help work with our local high schools to promote either the National Oratorical Contest or American Legion Utah Boys State, please let me know. Working together, we can make a difference.

### SAVE THE DATE.



On 5 October 2017, we will be honored to hear presentations / comments from last summer’s graduates of American Legion Utah Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Utah Girls State. This Annual Event will be held Thursday evening, the 5<sup>th</sup> of October in Room 131 A & B of the Davis County Administration Building, start time for the event is 6:30 PM. It is always a pleasure to hear about the experiences each attendee had while participating as a student citizen at Weber State University. Please plan on attending this fun event – we look forward to seeing everyone there!



# Adjutant

## Membership is Our Lifeblood



**Dale Crockett**

**Membership.** Statistics are membership numbers through 1 Sep 2017.

2018 GOAL	PUFL	REGULAR	ONLINE	NEW	TRANSFERS	2018 TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL
101	12	28	17	2	2	61	60%

One of the most gratifying programs we run is the Eagle Courts of Honor. We honor our flag by doing a tribute to our flag through a ceremony of folding the Stars and Stripes for those scouts that have achieved the rank of Eagle. The flag is folded with the star upper-most, which reminds us of our national motto, 'In GOD We Trust'. It is the duty and obligation of every American to uphold, defend, and preserve these Stars and Stripes, Old Glory, our flag. This is what we are trying to instill in the Eagle Scouts through this ceremony.

Scouting is important and the American Legion in some states sponsor local troops. Taking a glance at the representation of scouting in Congress shows how important it is in this county. Of the 535 members of the 115<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress, 150 have some sort of connection to the BSA. That's 28 percent. We define connection as one or more of the following: They were in Scouting as a youth (Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Venturer, Sea Scout, Explorer), They earned the Eagle Scout rank, They served (or are still serving) as a BSA adult volunteer. These Scouting alumni come from every state and represent both major political parties. The list includes an impressive 33 Eagle Scouts. If you know of any future Eagle courts in your area, be sure to tell him of our flag tribute ceremony and have them contact me.



Please consider renewing your membership now, before December 31. You can send it to our Post: P.O. Box 427, Farmington, UT 84025-0427. An even easier option is to go to [www.Legion.org/renew](http://www.Legion.org/renew) and renew online. All you need is your current American Legion Membership Number and a valid credit card. Your renewal is instant, and the Post can see your renewal on-line within 24-48 hours. If you do not know your membership number, please give me a call or e-mail me. ***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 Home (801) 451-9493 / Cell (801) 560-2186 or email [dalescrockett@yahoo.com](mailto:dalescrockett@yahoo.com).***

## Sons of the American Legion



**Ron Craig**  
**SAL Squadron 27**  
**Commander**

This is my first message since becoming the next Commander of Squadron 27 of the Sons of the American. I am excited to be selected to serve in this capacity. I have been a member of the American Legion for the past 17 years and a member of the Sons for the past 5 years. I have been serving as the 2nd Vice Commander under Commander Hansen. In this position I have had responsibility for the American Legion Oratorical Scholarship program, Boys State Scholarship program, the annual American Legion Flag retirement program, and have been the Team Leader of the Military Funeral Honors program. This have been a big challenge, but a very satisfying adventure. Enough about me.



I thought I would give you a few facts on our membership. Currently, we have 40 Members in Squadron 27 in the following age groups:

- Birth to 14 years of age: 13
- 15 to 18 years: 6
- 19+ years: 21
- We also have 9 members who are Dual members; they are veterans and have served in the military service.

As you can see, this is a diverse membership. It makes our mission a little daunting. However with 19 members under 18, it is going to be a lot of fun. With 21 members over 19, we have a lot of leadership to draw from. Also, the Dual members with military experience will add a lot of structure to our program. I am going to give you a little bit of information about the Sons of the American Legion.

"The Sons of the American Legion (SAL), created on 1932, is an organized program within the American Legion. It is made up of boys and men of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the United States military and became eligible for membership in the American Legion." "A primary mission of the Sons is to support veterans and their families and the policies of The American Legion. Virtually everything that involves the Sons could be grouped under three areas:

- Supporting veterans and their families
- Promoting patriotism and Americanism
- Advocating for programs which benefit the youth of our country



"These ideals have motivated hundreds of thousands of males to join the Sons, enabling them to become involved in American Legion programs with their fathers and /or grandfathers. Many younger members get involved and learn valuable leadership skills involving organization, public speaking, negotiating, budgeting and fundraising skills. Membership in the SAL also provides individuals with opportunities to forge lifelong friendships with people who share a common bond." Additional activity programs are: High School Oratorical Scholarship, Boys State, American Legion Baseball, Junior Shooting Program, Youth Cadet Law Enforcement, and Children and Youth programs. I just wanted to give you a feel for the Sons of the American Legion Program. It is an exciting program and should be a lot of fun. Now for a couple of invites:

I can be contacted at [801-628-3480](tel:801-628-3480) or email at [sal@post27.org](mailto:sal@post27.org)

## POW/MIA News

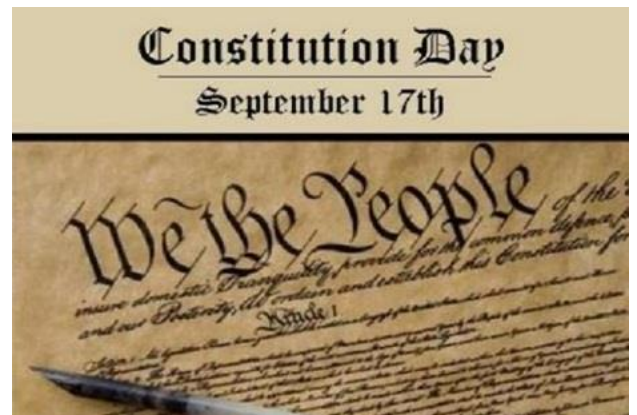
### TWO FORGOTTEN DAYS



Jay C. Hess

In 1979, Congress passed a resolution authorizing **National POW/MIA Recognition Day**. Since 1986 this observance had been on the third Friday in September. Observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day are held across the country on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols and veterans' facilities. This year, local former POWs and families have been invited to the Utah State Capitol. This is one of the six days that Congress has mandated flying of the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag. The others are **Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day** and **Veterans Day**. Today, more that 1,600 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Vietnam conflict. During August, four MIA's were accounted for; one from WW II, one from Korea and two from Vietnam.

**Constitution Day** commemorates the formation and signing of the U. S. Constitution by 39 brave men on September 17, 1787. *"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessing of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United State of America."*



# Jake Garn Sea Cadet Squadron



Prior to drill, this month, some cadets were able to support the Davis County Fair, Flag Retirement Ceremony. It was a great event, as it always is and the cadets were proud to be part of it.

August drill was an overnight drill up in Pineview. Saturday August 19, 2017 the cadets were given a presentation on underwater recovery by the Department of Public Safety, Dive Team. The cadets were involved in scenarios that mimicked identifying and recovering weapons of mass destruction, identifying and recovering a drowning victim, and understanding the importance of the gear they use and the redundancy involved. We wrapped up with recovering a body from the water emphasizing the dignity and respect involved. Each time we work with the Dive Team, they surpass our expectations in the training that they provide. Later in the day Cadets were given a class on tactical maneuvers that involved approaching an enemy and clearing a room and building. The Cadets found the training exciting and had a chance to wear a vest that was fully loaded with plates and handle training weapons to give them the feel of actually conducting a maneuver. After evening chow the Jake Garn Squadron conducted a flag retirement ceremony which was done with solemnity and reverence. To close the day the squadron was broken down into two teams and Alpha team and a Bravo team. The objective was to capture the Jake Garn Squadron Flag but there were some twists.



**Courtney Putnam  
Commanding  
Officer**

Sunday August 20, 2017 brought further instructions on how to clear a room and practice maneuvers with the gear from Saturday's training. After the training was drown-proofing, An assessment was conducted on each cadet to see their level of swimming ability and to see if they have basic skills in the water. Most of the cadets are ready to move to the next level of drown-proofing training which will be conducted during a different drill. After the assessment, the cadets were able to unwind in the water and have fun. August drill brought new experiences for many cadets. During instructions and capture the flag brought opportunities for cadets to practice leadership skills by moving their team members during maneuver practice and or leading their team to victory.



## ABOVE AND BEYOND

We never know just what challenges await us. It was true when we wore the uniform and it is just as true under the blue Legion cap. Very recently, the Post 27 Honor Guard was called upon to provide military funeral honors for a fallen veteran. As we have already done this nearly 50 times this year, we were pleased once again to accept the assignment. However, this interment was unique in that the deceased veteran had seven sons, each of whom wanted the flag from the coffin. The National Guard MFH unit was authorized to fold and present only one flag. So in the spirit of "adapt and overcome," the Post 27 Honor Guard arranged for six more flags to be draped on the coffin. After the first presentation, the rifle volley and the playing of Taps, the rifle squad marched smartly to graveside. In pairs, the Legionnaires lifted each flag, folded them ceremoniously and presented them to each of the brothers. The Post 27 Honor Guard on that day included: Ron Craig (commanding), Frank Ferrante, Dave Parker, Dave Layton, Dave Standing, Paul Hubenthal, Dale Crockett and Kent Hansen. There are a million reasons why something cannot be done but there is always at least one way it can be done.



# Legion Laughs

HONEY, YOU KNOW THAT EAR RING  
YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR?  
WELL, I THINK I FOUND IT!



Check us out on  
Facebook at  
"American Legion  
Post 27 Farmington  
Utah"



or the link from our  
Post website at  
[www.post27.org](http://www.post27.org).



## American Legion Post 27 Annual Picnic

Friday, September 15, 2017, 6pm

Nicholls Park West Pavilion

1105 E. Nicholls Road, Fruit Heights



Legionnaires, Auxiliary, SAL  
Family and Friends

**NOTE: NO regular Post  
or Auxiliary meeting in  
September**

CATERED BBQ meats  
provided by Post 27  
plus Potluck dishes

Please **RSVP** not later than **Monday, September 11**  
with # people coming & potluck item  
Frank Ferrante: 801-589-3292 (voice or TXT)  
or 801-544-1307 or email: [fbferrante@aol.com](mailto:fbferrante@aol.com)