



POST 90 GAZETTE

AUGUST 2019

EDITED BY AMY OSTLER AND HARVEY HEFLEY

UPCOMING EVENTS

**START OF 2019-2020
MEMBERSHIP**

**WASHINGTON COUNTY
FAIR**
AUGUST 7 - AUGUST 10
*TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN
SOLDIER*

**MEMBERSHIP
WORKSHOP FOR
COMMANDER / VICE
COMMANDER**
INDIANAPOLIS
AUGUST 8 @ 8:00 AM - 5:00
PM

**101ST NATIONAL
CONVENTION**
INDIANAPOLIS
AUGUST 23 - AUGUST 29

**PATRIOT DAY AT
SOUTHERN UTAH
VETERANS HOME**
SEPTEMBER 11 @ 2:00 PM -
4:00 PM

CONGRATULATIONS SENTINELS!!

The Washington Sentinels have made it to the State tournament finals. Beating Roy and Pleasant Grove last weekend in the quarterfinals. On Monday, they lost 5-4 to Springville and came back strong with victories over Alta 5-1 and Mountain Crest 3-2.

On July 31st they will play Springville today for 3rd place and will go on to Play Lone Peak at 7 PM for the Championship if they win. We wish them GOOD LUCK!!



"THE LITTLE-KNOWN U.S. NAVY MINESWEEPER FLEET



Harvey Hefley

My military career started back in my early college days. I entered the college Air Force R.O.T.C. program and after two years had to drop out when I had to start wearing glasses. In the early "50's" the Air Force only wanted pilots.

But that didn't stop me from joining the service.

.....Continued on page 3.

VA Mission Act Updates As Of June 6, 2019

Effective June 7, 2019, the Dept. of Veterans Affairs no longer offers care to eligible Veterans under the Veterans Choice benefits program (VCP).

This is not a termination of benefits, just an end to the VCP. Read more on this important issue.

<https://militarybenefits.info/va-mission-act/#ixzz5uvNTtCkI>

Start of 2019 – 2020 Membership

Along with your membership renewal, it's time to check in with your Post and we have some questions for you.

The American Legion's success depends entirely on **ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP.**

Please take a few moments and read thru the questions on page 4 and send your responses to **Harvey Hefley** at hvhefley@gmail.com or call **Amy Ostler** at 435-218-6921.

**STILL SERVING: IT'S WHO
WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO!**



Commander's Column

Marti Bigbie

The membership year for 2020 began on July 1st, 2019. Thanks to all those that have gone on-line at mylegion.org to make their yearly dues payment of \$40.00.

Thanks also to those members who mailed their \$40.00 to our PO Box 910931, St George, Utah 84791. It helps to make membership goals that will be given to the Posts after the Department attends the Membership meetings on August 8-10. Please keep in mind also if you bring in 3 NEW members you will be eligible for the National Commanders Pin. Last year we ended up with 15 members receiving this pin.

I want to thank every member for their help as Lester Keate Post 90 St George received several Department and National certificates and plaques. In September we will be starting our Dinner meetings on the 4th Wednesday of most months. Please plan on coming as this is a way to meet the new members and reunite with current members.

The BUDDY CHECK is still an ongoing program. Get to know the Veterans in your area, call on them to see how they are doing, and invite them to the American Legion dinner meetings and to join the Post.



Commander Department of Utah

Marti Bigbie

Looking over the members that have gone on-line to mylegion.org and checking the payments made from the Posts and Virginia's Membership report, it LOOKS like we are making a great effort towards the early-bird goal which is 50%. (will let you know the dates and the percentages to reach the membership goals as I would like to see UTAH be in the top 10 again next year.)

Remember: Retain your current members and Recruit new members

Washington County Fair August 7 thru the 10th 2019.

The St. George Chamber of Commerce was awarded the management of the Washington County Fair this year and will celebrate our heritage, agriculture and culture.

Some of the new attractions this year include a junior rodeo and barrel racing, a more robust petting zoo for the kids and for the first time ever a beer garden for those over 21.

One highlight of this year's fair will be a replica of the **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier**. If you can, please come out to pay tribute and to enjoy the festivities.

"THE LITTLE-KNOWN U.S. NAVY MINESWEEPER FLEET

My military career started back in my early college days. I entered the college Air Force R.O.T.C. program and after two years had to drop out when I had to start wearing glasses. In the early "50's" the Air Force only wanted pilots.

But that didn't stop me from joining the service. After graduating from college, I walked into the Navy recruiting office and volunteered. I was asked if I wanted to apply for the Navy's Officer Candidate School in Newport, R.I.? I said...sign me up! After graduating in 1956 from that school, I was commissioned an Ensign in the Navy. Later I was sent to Engineering & Minesweeping schools for advanced training in Virginia.



When I volunteered for the minesweeper fleet, I was told it was stationed in Hawaii. Sounded like good duty to me. BUT when I receive my first ship orders, I found out the hard way that the fleet had been moved to Long Beach, California. So, I learned ---do not volunteer in the service! I reported to the USS CONQUEST-MSO 488 an ocean minesweeper and met the captain, Lt. Commander Stansfield Turner, who later rose to Vice Admiral in his career and after that was appointed as Director of the CIA under President Carter. He taught me a lot as his new "green junior officer". Our ship deployed a month later after I reported on board. As the junior officer aboard, I had the Midnight to 0400 am duty on the bridge when underway. It was then I learned to cat-nap when I could, since during the day, you had to do your routine day duties while at sea.

Keep in mind our minesweeper was 150 ft long with 5 officers and 60 enlisted men. Our ship could make up to 10 knots with a good wind and current....it took 30 days each way to sail to Japan and back.



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Our duty after arriving in South Korea was to sweep hundreds of left-over bottom mines in several Korean harbors for several months. Once located, we would blow them out of the water. While on one operation, we detected, we thought, several "pots". Believing they were mines, we prepared to blow them up..... Then we discovered they were very old fishing pots used by Korean fishermen. Well the joke was on us, so we picked them up, hauled them aboard and stored them to take home. I got a lot of ribbing for a while as the Officer of the Deck that day when we went to general quarters to destroy those mines (fishing pots). We finished up our 8-month deployment with port stops at Hong Kong, Formosa, Midway, Hawaii and finally to Long Beach.

The next year, our ships deployed to Canada for joint operation off the Canadian shores. We were invited over for dinner at the end of the operations. They served wine before dinner (they had it right) and we returned to our ship back to the states with our coffee, tea and powdered milk!

After three years of sea duty, I was asked if I wanted some shore duty. Still single at the time, it sounded good to me so I extended my service time. I was assigned as the Personnel Officer for the PACIFIC MINEFORCE FLEET where I divided my time between North Island in San Diego (my office) and Long Beach. It was by duty to keep all of our 50 minesweepers in the fleet manned with enlisted men as they rotated on and off the ships. I did this for over two years. One of my duties was to drive to Long Beach every month to meet with various ship's Captain's to review their manpower needs first hand. Seems like I received the "red carpet" treatment and was served (steak dinners) aboard ship on those nights...I didn't complain....not bad duty!



Before leaving the Navy, I was promoted to a full Lieutenant which I was very proud to receive. After those years of active Navy service, I was released to inactive Navy reserve. In 1969 I received my Honorable Discharge with 13 year's total Navy service. I will always be proud to have served in the Navy for my Country.

My civilian career started as a recruiter for North American Aviation in Downy, Ca. I traveled all over the U.S.A. recruiting graduating college engineers. At that time, the company was building the APOLLO. I had the opportunity to sit inside one of the APOLLO wooden models. Boy.. you had to be crazy to pilot one of capsules to the moon and back. Many years later I started up my own H.R. consulting business and retired at age 65 to care for my disabled wife. As a hobby, I grew a white beard and have played Santa Claus going on 27 years....still having lots of fun.

I was introduced to the local American Legion Post 257 in California and then when I made the move to St. George, Utah, in Sept. 2016 I transferred to Post 90 and very happy to be a member of the Firing Squad.

2019 – 2020 MEMBERSHIP

The American Legion's success depends entirely on **ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP**. Please take a few moments and read thru the questions on page 4 and send your responses to Harvey Hefley at hvhefley@gmail.com or give him a quick call at 435-(435) 429-6500 or Amy Ostler at 435-218-6921.

1. Can you contribute some of your time and volunteer for upcoming events?
2. If you are in the HONOR GUARD, and not currently active, are you able to contribute more time to performing at the ceremonies? We have been selected THE BEST HONOR GUARD unit in the state of Utah in 2018.
3. If you are not in a position to be in the HONOR GUARD, does that mean you are just not able to get out anymore?
4. If you cannot help, would you consider donating all or part of your uniform to our POST'S CLOSET to pass on to future HONOR TEAM members? Uniforms are getting very expensive!
(If you would like to donate, let us know by e-mail, and we'll contact you and pick up your contribution.)
5. Do you have a BUDDY MEMBER checking on you monthly? If not, please let us know.
6. Can you donate some of your time (in person or by phone) to be a BUDDY to check on a fellow buddy each month?
7. Do you receive the "up and coming events of Post 90 by e-mail?
8. Do you have any suggestions/ articles for your GAZETTE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER?
9. Lastly, what do you suggest to get more members out to our monthly Post meeting / Pot-Luck dinners? Would you go if you had a ride? for a hour of enjoying / "B's ing" among fellow members ? We meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month – Come out and enjoy an hour of B's'ing with your brothers-in-arms.
Our next dinner is Wednesday, 9/25/19 at 1800 hours....P.S. The dinners are damn good!

If you can, please contact HARVEY HEFLEY @ my e-mail address hvhefley@gmail.com or give Amy a call at 435-218-6921.

American Legion Baseball - UTAH

The Department of Utah is in the final days of the American Legion Baseball Senior State Tournament games. This year there were 64 Senior and Junior teams playing American Legion Baseball in Utah. The Junior Champions were Post 87 – Layton. We will post the Senior winners on our Post 27 Facebook on August 1.



To see if your town had a Legion Baseball team this year, log on to www.legion.org/baseball to locate a team in Utah. The winner of the state tournament plays in the Region 8 Western Tournament, August 7-11, in Fairfield, California. To follow Legion Baseball from the Regionals to the World Series in Shelby, North Carolina August 15-20, 2019, download the free app to your cellphone "ALWS Baseball" and follow all 2019 events through the "World Series link".

Chuck Stephenson, Department of Utah Baseball Liaison