



# POST 90 GAZETTE

MAY 2020

EDITED BY AMY OSTLER AND HARVEY HEFLEY

## COVID-19 UPDATE as of 05/01/2020

4828	112558	403	46
Total COVID-19 Cases in Utah	Total People Tested	Total COVID-19 Hospitalizations	Total COVID-19 Deaths

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**\*\* POST POTLUCK HAS BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE \*\***

**SOUTHERN UTAH VETERAN'S HOME**  
NOT ALLOWING VISITORS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

**PARKS IN SOUTHERN UTAH ARE CLOSED**  
NOT ALLOWING VISITORS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

**2020 BOY'S STATE HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

### JUST FOR FUN!

Help ease some of the stress and hardship of this pandemic and put a smile on your Legion brother's face. **Send an email to [commander@post90.org](mailto:commander@post90.org) with the funniest experience you had while serving in the military.** Share the memories that make you laugh when you remember them. We would like to include as many as we can in the June issue.

Thank you for following the stay home, stay safe, wash hands. Hope this finds you in good health. If you are in the at-risk age group and cannot get out to say stores for groceries or get to Doctor appointments or Prescriptions to be picked up and/or need help around the house please call so we can arrange someone to help you.

We are putting together under the BUDDY CHECK a team of volunteers to be called Team COVID to help anyone in the above that needs help.

***If you would like to volunteer please call Marti at 435-668-5770.***

### 1/2 BOY 1/2 MAN

The average age of the military man is 19 years. He is a short haired, tight-muscled kid who, under normal circumstances is considered by society as half man, half boy. Not yet dry behind the ears, not old enough to buy a beer, but old enough to die for his country. He never really cared much for work and he would rather wax his own car than wash his father's, but he has never collected unemployment either. *Full Story on page 7*



## Commander's Column

Marti Bigbie

I hope everyone continues to stay home and stay safe. I know places are opening up but still protect yourself and family from any chance of contacting the COVID 19 Virus.

The new Executive Board of Officers will be installed this month (place and time to be determined). Our Ritual Honor Guard Team were able to be at funerals for our departed Veterans within the guidelines to protect the Team and Family members at the Cemeteries.

If you need help of any kind please call and we will attempt to help you.



## District 7 (Southern Utah)

Marti Bigbie

On April 18th at the District 7 meeting (online and phone) the newly elected District 7 Commander is Jerry Curtis also Commander of Post 100. In July the new rosters and membership cards for all Posts within District 7 will be available.

Certificates and Pins have been mailed to District 7 posts that obtained 100%. Only 1 Post within the District has yet to reach 100%. CPR's for 2019-2020 are due NOW. If you need help please call Marti and she will help you either online at [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org) or paper copy. Needs to be at Department by 6-1-20/

## Commander Department of Utah

Marti Bigbie

Utah is in 3rd place on the TAL Membership Report as of April 26th, 2020. As each District conducts their Conventions (by email, mail, phone) there are 7 items that each District has been notified to provide for the BOOK OF RECORDS that would have been used at the Department Convention end of June. Since the Convention has been cancelled ASKING that all the items asked for be sent to Marti by 6-1-20 so they can be compiled into a report that will be copied along with Committee reports and reports from the DEC members - it will be sent to each DEC member, finance and Committee members for review - reason we are trying to have a meeting on ZOOM for the finance committee and then DEC. Roll Call will be taken for those that sign on at the meeting times. (Date and time to be furnished as soon as everything is worked out).

Continue to use the BUDDY CHECK to check on members within Posts, Communities and neighbors. Ask if they need anything and check on their well-being.

***ALL STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY, WASH HANDS, TRAVEL CAREFULLY***

## COVID-19 update as of 05/01/2020

### Total Number of Lab-Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Utah

Jurisdiction	Cases	Hospitalizations	Deaths
Bear River	61	10	1
Central Utah	23	1	0
Davis County	293	23	2
Salt Lake County	2526	236	29
San Juan	47	7	2
Southeast Utah	13	0	0
Southwest Utah	101	13	2
Summit County	373	33	0
Tooele County	68	6	0
TriCounty	13	1	0
Utah County	993	47	7
Wasatch County	155	7	1
Weber-Morgan	162	19	2
<b>State Total</b>	<b>4828</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>46</b>

## A Tribute to the Fallen

Written by Jim Hester, USN (Ret)

Within a two-week period, I personally witnessed, as a ten-year-old, the arrival of a brown Army car with a big white star on its doors. In it sat two uniformed Army officers along with our parish priest, Father Shaughnessy. He was a man I came to know well as on many occasions I was to serve Mass under him as an altar boy at St. Michael's church in Elizabeth, PA. It was the same church where my older brothers, Christopher and Jonathan had also served as altar boys a few years earlier. As the good Father crossed my lawn, it was the most somber look I had ever seen on his face. The faces of the Army officers were also stoic. It was February 12, 1951 and the Korean War was only months old.

Both of my brothers were serving with General MacArthur's 8th Army, 2nd Infantry Division. They had both been stationed in Japan and went over in the first wave in the early Fall of 1950. Jonathan was 19 with Christopher a close second at 18. They were inseparable. They served, however, in different platoons on the front lines.

What was to occur on that day in our living room and then only 13 days later would change the lives of every one of my five surviving siblings. I can only describe my parents' lives as having been changed forever. They were never the same.

As this entourage entered our home, Father Shaughnessy whispered in my ear to run and get my Dad at the steel plant only a mile away. When I told my Dad, a combat veteran of World War II, who was in our home, I had never seen him run that fast to get home. When my Dad came in the door, the officers stood at attention and one of them uttered that dreadful first sentence: "On behalf of a grateful nation, we regret to inform you that your son, Private First Class Jonathan Hester, was killed in action on January 25, 1951". My mother sunk to her knees. My father's face turned ashen.

Only 13 days later, Father Shaughnessy and the same two Army officers returned to our driveway. Our family had hardly taken a breath in the grief that had swallowed us from their first visit. It was February 25, 1951 and the exact same trio of saddened faces were coming up our walk. Again, "on behalf of a grateful nation....." This time it was our Private First Class Christopher Hester. We were now a family with two Gold Stars in our front window. What is worse, is the bodies of my two older brothers never came home.

I tell this brief story only because there are times when Americans can reasonably forget that there are far more casualties in wars than just the fallen, affecting thousands of additional lives. I once read that Lt. General Chesty Puller, USMC stated, "One battlefield death eventually affects about 17 people left behind". Parents, spouses, children, friends and community are all encompassed in the General's statement. For the family, the grief and its effects can be insufferable and life-lasting.

I have been particularly taken by two winning Memorial Day essays in a Branford, WI 8th Grade competition a few years ago. The contest had been sponsored by Branford's Veteran Memorial Day Committee. First place went to Charlie Russo who submitted this heartfelt essay for all veterans to appreciate. "When most people think of Memorial Day, to them it's opening their pool, barbecues and going to the beach, basically the first day of 'summer'. But the real meaning is a day of remembrance. The day we thank the ones who passed away fighting for us. To me this day is to honor the men and women that didn't get to come home. The ones who didn't get to see their family one more time. To me, it also means putting up an American flag, visiting them at their grave, giving flowers and visiting local monuments dedicated to Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines. Even one prayer for them that night would be my way of saying thank you and appreciating them and what they have done. This is what Memorial Day means to me and thank you for risking your lives for us."

Second place went to Tommy Acosta who wrote, "On May 29th, America will celebrate Memorial Day. Everyday my road to school places me next to the cemetery at the Green. On Memorial Day I pause to honor the names on the gravestones that died protecting America. To me, Memorial Day is about remembering our fallen compatriots that fought to the last breath to defend our country. I remember all the ordinary people who joined the military service, and then became our heroes. These are the people who value keeping their country's citizens safe above their own life. Thus, when asked what this day means to me, I say Memorial Day is about honoring all those who died keeping every one of us safe."

For years past most of us in the American Legion have been involved in Memorial Day services honoring our brothers and sisters who have fallen.

Because of their selfless sacrifice for the United States of America, we are all humbly grateful that we and our loved ones enjoy the many gifts of life. As we stand before those interned beneath the long rows of white stone, we feel the

overwhelming weight of freedom. Because of their courage they have set the standards we must adhere to in our daily lives for all those freedoms this country has been meant to have forever.

Never forget, life without freedom is intolerable. We must never lose sight of what they made possible for us. General George Washington said during his inauguration speech, "Americans would rather die standing, than live on their knees".

As we look over the vast expanse of gravestones, we should feel a deep sense of reverence for the fallen's passionate desire to preserve our culture and freedom.

They carried this desire with them to their death on the seas, the battlefields and in the skies, on behalf of the United States.

Do not, my fellow patriots, ever allow those who give little and always ask for more, and are seeking to disrespect, disgrace and destroy the very fundamentals of our Nation, the chance to ever succeed. Those tens of thousands, since the birth of our young Nation, who shed their blood and perished to preserve our way of life must know that their sacrifice was not in vain. We must do this in loving memory of them and for God and Country.

***God Bless and keep those gone before us.***

***God Bless our American Legion.***

***God Bless the United States of America.***

## **This Month in History**

**May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1960** - An American U2 spy plane flying at 60,000 feet was shot down over Sverdlovsk in Central Russia. The pilot, CIA agent Francis Gary Powers survived the crash. He was to serve only two years of a ten-year sentence in a Russian jail.

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011** - U.S. Special Operations Forces killed Osama Bin Laden during a raid on his secret compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Birthday** - Golda Meir (1898 – 1978) was born in Kiev, Russia.

**May 4<sup>th</sup>, 1494** - Christopher Columbus discovered Jamaica.

**May 5<sup>th</sup>** - Celebrated in Mexico Cinco de Mayo, a national holiday in remembrance of the Battle Puebla in 1862.

**May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1865** - Decoration Day, now known as Memorial Day, was first observed in the U.S. with the tradition of decorating soldiers graves from the Civil War with flowers.

**May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1961** - Alan Shephard became the first American in space.

**May 5<sup>th</sup>, Birthday** - Communism founder Karl Marx (1818 – 1883) was born in Treves, Germany.

**May 6<sup>th</sup>, 1937** - The German airship Hindenburg burst into flames and crashed approaching its mooring mast at Lakehurst, NJ.

**May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1915** - The British passenger ship Lusitania was torpedoed by a German submarine off the coast of Ireland losing 1,198 passengers.

**May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1945** - German General Alfred Jodl signed the unconditional surrender of all German fighting forces thereby ending World War II in Europe.

**May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1954** - The French-Indochina War ended with the fall of Dien Bien Phu, in total victory by Vietnamese forces over the French.

**May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1942** - The Battle of the Coral Sea began in the South Pacific in which Japan would suffer its first defeat of the Second World War.

**May 8<sup>th</sup> Birthday** - President Harry S. Truman (1884 – 1972) our 33<sup>rd</sup> U.S. President was born in Lamar, MO.

**May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1869** - The newly constructed tracks of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific Railways were linked at Promontory Point, UT. A golden spike was used.

**May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1994** - Former political prisoner Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as President of South Africa.

**May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1969** - During the Vietnam War, the Battle of Hamburger Hill began. It raged for ten days in bloody hand-to-hand combat ending in an American victory.

**May 12<sup>th</sup>, 1949** - Soviet Russia lifted its blockade of Berlin, thus ending the Berlin Airlift. It lasted for 462 days where American and British planes flew over 278,000 flights delivering 2.3 million tons of food, coal and medical supplies with a plane landing and taking off every minute.

**May 14<sup>th</sup>, 1607** - The first permanent English Settlement in America was established in Jamestown, VA.

**May 14<sup>th</sup>, 1804** - Lewis and Clark departed St. Louis on their expedition to explore the Northwest.

**May 17<sup>th</sup>, 1792** - Two dozen merchants and brokers established the New York Stock Exchange.

**May 17<sup>th</sup>, 1875** - The first Kentucky Derby horse race took place at Churchill Downs in Louisville, KY.

**May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1804** - Napoleon Bonaparte became Emperor of France.

**May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1980** - Mount St. Helens volcano erupted in southwestern Washington State.

**May 19<sup>th</sup> Birthday** - Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh (1890 – 1969) was born in the Vietnamese village of Kim Lien.

**May 20<sup>th</sup>, 1927** - Charles Lindbergh took off from Roosevelt Field, Long Island, NY in the Spirit of St. Louis for the first non-stop flight between New York City and Paris.

**May 20<sup>th</sup>, 1932** - Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic from Newfoundland, Canada to Londonderry, Ireland.

**May 21<sup>st</sup>, 1881** - The American Red Cross was founded by Clara Barton.

**May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1844** - Telegraph inventor, Samuel Morse sent the first official telegraph message, "What hath God wrought?"

**May 26<sup>th</sup>, 1940** - The Dunkirk evacuation began on the coast of France.

**May 26<sup>th</sup> Birthday** - Actor, singer Al Jolson (1886 – 1950) was in St. Petersburg, Russia.

**May 27<sup>th</sup>, 1937** - In San Francisco, 200,000 celebrated the grand opening of the Golden Gate Bridge by strolling across it.

**May 27<sup>th</sup> Birthday** - Legendary figure Wild Bill Hickok (1837 – 1876) was born in Troy Grove, IL.

**May 29<sup>th</sup> Birthday** - John Fitzgerald Kennedy (1917 – 1963) the 35<sup>th</sup> President was born in Brookline, MA.

**May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1922** - The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC was dedicated.

**May 31<sup>st</sup>, 1889** - When a dam broke near Johnstown, PA, it led to a 75-foot wall of water pouring over the city and killing 2,300 people.

## ½ BOY ½ MAN



The average age of the military man is 19 years. He is a short haired, tight-muscled kid who, under normal circumstances is considered by society as half man, half boy. Not yet dry behind the ears, not old enough to buy a beer, but old enough to die for his country. He never really cared much for work and he would rather wax his own car than wash his father's, but he has never collected unemployment either.

He's a recent High School graduate; he was probably an average student, pursued some form of sport activities, drives a ten-year old jalopy, and has a steady girlfriend that either broke up with him when he left, or swears to be waiting when he returns from half a world away. He listens to rock and roll or hip-hop or rap or jazz or swing and a 155mm howitzer.



He is 10 or 15 pounds lighter now than when he was at home because he is working or fighting from before dawn to well after dusk. He has trouble spelling; thus, letter writing is a pain for him, but he can field strip a rifle in 30 seconds and reassemble it in less time in the dark. He can recite to you the nomenclature of a machine gun or grenade launcher and use either one effectively if he must.

He digs foxholes and latrines and can apply first aid like a professional.

He can march until he is told to stop, or stop until he is told to march.

He obeys orders instantly and without hesitation, but he is not without spirit or individual dignity. He is self-sufficient.

He has two sets of fatigues: he washes one and wears the other. He keeps his canteens full and his feet dry.

He sometimes forgets to brush his teeth, but never to clean his rifle. He can cook his own meals, mend his own clothes, and fix his own hurts.



If you're thirsty, he'll share his water with you; if you are hungry, his food. He'll even split his ammunition with you in the midst of battle when you run low.

He has learned to use his hands like weapons and weapons like they were his hands.

He can save your life - or take it, because that is his job.

He will often do twice the work of a civilian, draw half the pay, and still find ironic humor in it all.

He has seen more suffering and death than he should have in his short lifetime.

He has wept in public and in private, for friends who have fallen in combat and is unashamed.

He feels every note of the National Anthem vibrate through his body while at rigid attention, while tempering the burning desire to 'square-away' those around him who haven't bothered to stand, remove their hat, or even stop talking. In an odd twist, day in and day out, far from home, he defends their right to be disrespectful.

Just as did his Father, Grandfather, and Great-grandfather, he is paying the price for our freedom. Beardless or not, he is not a boy. He is the American Fighting Man that has kept this country free for over 200 years.



He has asked nothing in return, except Our friendship and understanding.

Remember him, always, for he has earned our respect and admiration with his blood.

And now we even have women over there in danger, doing their part in this tradition of going to War when our nation calls us to do so.

As you go to bed tonight, remember this photo.....A short lull, a little shade and a picture of loved ones in their helmets.

