



## THE AMERICAN LEGION

Department of Utah

OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

PO BOX 148000, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, 84114-8000 • WWW.UTLEGION.ORG • P: (801) 539-1013

Dear Comrades,

August 7, 2022

To begin, thank you for your service and your membership in The American Legion. As we embark on a 104<sup>th</sup> year as our country's largest wartime veteran's organization, I think it fitting to pause and reflect on some of the many challenges that those who preceded us overcome. In 1919 little could they imagine a second world war, the great depression, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq & Afghanistan, not to mention putting a man on the moon and the digital technology that we enjoy today. Our founders created our preamble in 1919 and since its adoption it has been our guiding light, laying down a concise set of principles that continue to challenge each of us to live up to something bigger than self.

As you are aware, I have recently been elected to serve as your Department Commander the theme of my tenure is "**Embrace the Family**". My objective is to advocate for every member and strive to welcome all-hands into the Legion family. We total over 6,000 members, each with a differing opinion, a different skill set, and of course a different war story. Let us come together to embrace and strengthen our common bond and pledge to do what we do best, advocate for and lookout for veterans, mentor youth and help improve our communities. Every member is valued, as is every membership.

Here are a few highlights that **your** membership has brought about over the past several months:

- Thousands and thousands of **volunteer** hours that substantially improved veteran visibility and contributed greatly to the betterment of your communities.
- Hundreds of **funeral honors** paying final respect to fallen veterans. Numerous Flag ceremonies, promoting patriotism and a positive image of veterans.
- When it comes to actively assisting veterans, your service officers have answered the call, they have processed nearly **300 veteran's claims**, over 2000 contacts assisting veterans, assisted 10 veterans with appeals. Each claim essential to the health, welfare, and wellbeing of a veteran and by extension his/her family. Estimated dollar value of claims awarded to veterans exceeds three million dollars.
- In fitting memory of our recently deceased Adjutant, the Department created a donation-based fund to **help veterans** in need, with nowhere else to go, the Randy Knight Veterans Assistance Fund.
- Thanks to those of you that volunteered, put in the time and effort, Utah was one of only two departments to continue your Boys State program through the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Thanks to your effort interacting with your local schools to promote Boys State, Girls State and the oratorical programs, the State of Utah has been spotlighted by the Ronald Regan Institute as a **leader in civics** education.

I could go on at great length – you have accomplished amazing things. Imagine how much more we could do if all-hands were engaged in the challenge to live up to our preamble.

Our strength is in our numbers. Without your continued membership and the necessary funding collected through your member dues, lots of veterans and the benefits that we all too often take for granted will surely suffer.

In closing, as we know all too well, we always find the time to do the things we want to do. With this letter, I ask you, implore you, make active participation in The American Legion, even if for only one hour a month something YOU WANT TO DO.

All the best, ever forward.

*Doug Case*

Doug Case,  
Department Commander

Copy to: PDC's  
Adjutant File