



THE AMERICAN LEGION

"The Friendly Word" from "The Friendly Post"

1655 Simms Street

Post 178

Lakewood, CO



Vets Are VIPs at Buckley AFB

Colorado Veterans of the 8th Air Force were VIP guests at Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora on Friday, July 29th. Among them were Post 178 members **Chuck Morgan** (95) and **Dewey Fries** (92). The group assembled for a surprisingly detailed technical briefing about the F-16 from **Captain Danny Hull**, who has flown the 9 g, Mach 2, smart bomb-armed aircraft in combat.

After a lively question and answer session, the Vets and their guests were bussed to the flight line where they had the incredible experience of watching a squadron of six F-16s fly in from Utah. Before landing each pilot performed a flyby, buzzing the group and aiming their F-16 straight up and out of sight, trailing a deafening screech.



On the ground inside the hangar, the pilots downplayed their incredible skills and expressed gratitude to their senior counterparts.

Capt. Danny Hull (l.), Lt. Col. Corey Massey (c.), and Capt. Kinder Blacke (r.) were hosts to 8th Air Force Vets Chuck Morgan and Dewey Fries who flank Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. James H. Harvey III. Col. Harvey and his 3-plane squadron of P-47 fighters were winners of the first ever Top Gun Competition in 1949.



Chuck, Dewey, and F-16 pilot Capt. Danny Hull.

Annual Dues Increase Anticipated

The American Legion National Executive Committee will propose a \$5 dues increase at the National Convention in September to take effect next January.

It's been almost a decade since the last increase. Since then the need for services and programs has grown, the cost of providing them has risen, and the primary revenue stream – membership dues – has declined.

The Committee cited several specific economic realities that led to their recommendation including:

- A 16% reduction in overall membership since the last dues increase in 2007.

- U.S. cost-of-living growth of 13% since 2007.
- Reduced income from American Legion investments due to the recession and economic downturn.
- Employee health-insurance benefits having climbed 13.2 percent since the last dues increase.
- The erosion of the value of each dollar at a rate of 1.44 percent per year, resulting in more than \$1 million of additional annual cost.

If the proposed increase is adopted, Post 178 will be faced with either following suit, or absorbing the cost for approximately 750 members.

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT
Wayne McClimans

*Lord, Post 178
needs volunteers to
help with American-*

*ism programs, patriot events, community
events, and visitations to the VA hospital
and home bound. Please put this into hearts
and minds of the Legion family. Amen.*

Every time you meet a situation, though you think at the time it is an impossibility, and you go through the torture of the demand, once you have met it and lived through it, you will find that forever after you are freer than before. — *Eleanor Roosevelt*

You don't have to be a Vet to be involved with volunteer opportunities. The Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders help each other out all the time. Oratorical contest coming soon. **POW/MIA Ceremony Friday, September 18.**

COMMANDER'S REPORT
Bill Radunz

Our September meeting will be Tuesday the 1st at 7:00 p.m. We need your support. We've had 7 or 8 officers and maybe 10 to 12 members attending our meetings. We have over 750 members. Only about 17 to 20 of us are making the decisions for all of you. Thankfully, they've been good decisions. But there are more to come. We will know by the September meeting if National will be raising their annual dues. If they do, the Department of Colorado will also. That will leave our Post with an important decision. If you do not attend the meetings you have no say.

Our budget work is close to being done and I hope to have it finished by the October meeting. **Last month we approved Legion donations of \$125 for the Colorado Boy's and Girl's State Dinner, \$100 to Blind Athletes, \$200 to Toys For Tots, \$100 to Alzheimer's Association, \$500 to Department of Colorado Junior Auxiliary to help send 3 members to National Convention, and \$1059 to purchase items for our Americanism Program.**



You can thank these Riders for the newly re-surfaced and polished wood floors at Post 178.

here on **Sunday, September 20th from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.** We will be serving Sloopy Joes.

Stop by the Post and see our newly finished floors. Until next month, thanks for letting me serve all.

RIDERS REPORT
Nick Trujillo

In August the Riders gave gifts to the Vets at **Heathergrove Assisted Living Center** and, although we didn't get the turnout we wanted, we pulled it off.

September 12th is our Fall Poker Run and it will be a good one. We've also scheduled a fun ride for the 19th to see the fall colors. The Riders floor team redid the main hall and finished the game room. Our next project will be the bar area.

SAL REPORT
Steve Stroud

Greetings as your new SAL Adjutant! To keep you up to date on SAL activities and volunteer opportunities, I need your e-mail address and phone number. Please contact me at **alpost178sms@gmail.com** to comply.

Thanks to all who volunteered with the SAL Golf Tournament and the Duck Races. Loads of fun and money raised for good causes.

<i>Please pray for members and families.</i>
Sick Bay None Reported.
Final Roll Call Louis Ernst—WWII—Navy—8/18/15 Robert L. "Doc" Holliday—WWII—Navy 8/08/2015

The Annual Duck Races raised \$3800 for Child Welfare even though we could not race in Clear Creek this year. The water too high and there were not enough volunteers if we could have. **Our Post raised \$1364 of the total.** We sold 682 ducks. Thanks to our volunteers **Alex Montoya (the duck again), Sue and Rocky Mountain, Dave McBrien, Wayne McClimans, Bill Radunz, Steve Stroud, Fred Griffin, Linda Melnick, Cheryl Funakoshi,** and financial contributor **Chuck Morgan.** Squadrons 21 and 17 were co-sponsors of the event.

Friday, September 18th is POW/MIA day. The Riders are hosting dinner that night and will conduct a **POW/MIA Ceremony at 5:30 p.m.** **Joker Poker** follows at 6:00 p.m. and **Bob Briggs Band** will perform from 6:30 until 9:30 p.m.

We have POW/MIA t-shirts available for \$15. Profits will benefit POW/MIA program.

The **Colorado Country Music Hall of Fame** will be playing

New T-shirts Unveiled

For the first time in many months, Post 178 again has T-shirts available. The long-awaited POW/MIA shirt features the familiar black and white logo on the front breast and an eagle on the back. This year's Car Show shirt has The American Legion emblem on the front breast (except for pocketed shirts) and artist Jeremy Potts' exclusive artwork on the back.

The designs and quality of both shirts mean they'll sell fast, so get yours now at the Post.

Get your dues paid for 2016 before October 1st and get **FREE Early Bird Dinner on October 24th**. The \$20 dues can be dropped in the SAL box at the Post or mailed to The American Legion Post 178, 1655 Simms St. Lakewood, CO 80215 in care of SAL Membership.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, September 2nd at 6:30 p.m. Please attend and learn more about the Sons and your role in The American Legion.

AUXILIARY REPORT

Carol Conway

First of all I'd like to send a "Thank You" to all those wonderful ladies for helping out with the many things around the Post that make it our home! You are truly appreciated!!! There are all sorts of happenings around the here. Our next monthly meeting is 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 1st. Please plan on attending!

The Post's annual **Labor Day Picnic is Monday, September 7th**. I need a volunteer to put out the pop before the picnic. Please let me know if you can help!

We're doing a **Bake Sale** from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (or sold out) during the **Annual Car Show on Saturday, September 26th**. Please bring some goodies to sell!

Wednesday Burger Nights – sign up to help and enjoy a wonderful meal with friends!

You can pay your 2016 dues now (\$ 30.00) and get in on the **Early Bird Dinner on October 24th!** Yum! You'll be able to pick up your card in the lounge.

Last but not least, remember to turn in your volunteer hours! Thank you again for all you do!!!!

BUSINESS REPORT

Bob Heen

Our final member picnic of the season will be on **Labor Day, September 7th** beginning at noon. As always the Post will provide the burgers, brats, and beer. Members provide the side dishes. Volunteers to check membership cards are needed – call the office if you can give 30 minutes of your day. **303-234-0178**.

This year's **Annual Car Show is scheduled for Saturday, September 26th** so we will not be having Bar Bingo that day as there will be only limited parking available. Dave Dupree is looking for volunteers to help park show cars on the morning of the 26th. Call the office if you want to help out.

Several months back I asked that members not park SUVs, vans, or trucks on the Simms side of our building. Some of you are disregarding this request and still parking there. Large or high profile vehicles make it very difficult to see around when exiting the parking lots. Compact cars and bikes only please.

The following Legion Riders volunteered their time last month refinishing the back hall and game room floors: **Brian Conway, Chuck Elsen, Bruce Earnheart, Gary Blumer, David Clinger, Nick Trujillo, and Frank Benton**. An awesome job guys! These volunteers take real pride in their work and their Post home.

POST 178 T-SHIRTS



POW/MIA
Black or Red
\$15



2015 CAR SHOW
Pocket Optional
\$20

Welcome

NEW MEMBERS & TRANSFERS

Edward G. Vigil — Vietnam — Army
Henry L. Reeves — Vietnam — Navy
James L. Bowman — Vietnam — Army
Edward Branham — Vietnam — Army
Ronald J. McGowan — Vietnam — Marine

THE AMERICAN LEGION

1655 Simms Street Post 178 Lakewood, CO 80215

Bill Radunz, Commander 303-995-2663
commander178@comcast.net

Bill Radunz, Adjutant bradunz@msn.com

Wayne McClimans, Chaplain 303-279-6712

Carol Conway, Auxiliary President 970-275-2891
snoopypls2@yahoo.com

Mickey West, Auxiliary Chaplain 303-238-0039

Dave McBrien, SAL Commander 720-621-8791

Steve Stroud, SAL Adjutant 303-988-9686
alpost178sms@gmail.com

Nick Trujillo, Riders President 303-763-9510
sgmnickt@q.com

Dave Dupree, Newsletter Publisher 303-238-9723
alpost178news@gmail.com

Bob Heer, Post Manager 303-234-0178
alpost178@comcast.net

Lounge and Dining 303-232-4041

Lounge Hours*

Mon.—Thurs. 11:00 AM to 12:00 Midnight

Fri. 11:00 AM to 2:00 AM

Sat.—Sun. 9:00 AM to 12:00 Midnight

*Bartenders may close earlier on slow nights.

NEWSLETTER BANNER PHOTO BY BETH HALL

THE AMERICAN LEGION 2015
Krackel Fest AND POST 178 CAR SHOW
Saturday September 26

Colorado SAL 3rd Best Nationally in CWF Contributions

Total donations to *The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF)* for the fiscal year ending May 31st totaled \$618,896, surpassing the previous year by over \$73,000. More than half the total was raised by the *Sons of The American Legion* (58%, or \$360,510), bringing the total contributed since SAL began supporting CWF to \$6.4 million.

Top contributor was the Detachment of Ohio with an even \$50,000 raised, or \$1.60 per member. Florida was second (\$29,155 total, or \$1.81 per member) and Colorado placed third (\$27,274 total, or \$9.01 per member).

Hawaii's \$600 contribution qualified it as number one in per member giving (\$19.35). Mississippi placed second (\$14.18) and Colorado was third (\$9.01).

Post 178's SAL Squadron received the Children First Gift Club Award for its contribution of \$6,067, or \$28.48 per member.

Colorado Country Music Hall of Fame

Sunday, September 20

2—5 PM

Legion Members FREE, others \$10

Sloppy Joes 2—4 PM

POW/MIA Ceremony

Friday, September 14 — 5:30 PM

Early Bird Dinner

Saturday, October 24 — 6 PM

3rd Annual SAL Horseshoe Tournament

Tom Tucker & Conrad West Memorial

Saturday, October 3 — 10 AM

\$40 per 2-Person Team Double Elimination
Payout 50% Winners / 50% Post 178 SAL
Tom Davies 720-297-9507