



THE AMERICAN LEGION

"The Friendly Word" from "The Friendly Post"

1655 Simms Street

Post 178

Lakewood, CO



RCI Delivers Assistance for Military Families

Ranya Kelly was looking for an empty cardboard box behind a Payless shoe store in 1986 to package a gift when she opened a large dumpster and discovered 500 pairs of brand new shoes that had been discarded. She retrieved them and drove to Father Woody's Samaritan House where she encountered a pregnant, barefoot woman standing in the doorway with a three-year-old child in tow. "It was January, and I just couldn't comprehend that someone didn't have shoes when I had just found 500 pair in the trash."

The experience opened her eyes to the struggles many people in her community were having every day. Later, when she returned looking for more shoes, she was caught and almost arrested. After learning they couldn't legally prevent her from raiding the dumpster, the shoe store began shredding their unsold shoes to stop her. Ranya responded by getting the media involved, and an agreement was eventually reached with the store.

Ranya began establishing relationships with a number of businesses willing to donate unsold food and merchandise, and in 1991 she founded ***Redistribution Center Incorporated*** in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. Since then, under her guidance as Executive Director, RCI has gathered and redistributed over \$70 million worth of new household goods, toys, school supplies, clothing, furniture, food, and other items including more than one million shoes and, in the process, accounted for some 50,000 hours of community service.

In addition to assisting the elderly, ill, and homeless, RCI has provided relief to victims of countless disasters throughout the country including hurricane Katrina and 9-11. When her son entered the West Point

in 2002, Ranya became aware of the needs of many military families. In 2011 she arranged to open ***Warriors Warehouse*** at Ft. Carson in Colorado Springs to provide active duty military families and Veterans with food and new household items. Soldiers (sergeant and below) can visit the facility monthly, which is open three days every week. Supplies are delivered weekly from Wheat Ridge in RCI's truck.



Ranya Kelly

Donated items are never sold, traded, or bartered. RCI is an all-volunteer, tax exempt organization providing assistance to the needy free of charge without discrimination due to race, handicap, or religion. Families and individuals are referred to RCI by advocates from American Legions, the VA, VFW, police and fire departments, and other organizations. RCI volunteers assist approximately 1,500 families and individuals per month.

No salaries are paid. Administration overhead is about 1%, and contributions are used to cover costs associated with pickup, delivery, and purchase of fresh food and needed items for families. For every \$1 contributed RCI redistributes approximately \$78 worth of new goods directly to the needy, accounting for approximately \$3 million per year in aid.

About four years ago, the Legion Riders at Post 178 began an association with Ranya and RCI. Volunteers report every Thursday afternoon to help unload and sort donated goods, and fill containers for delivery to Ft. Carson. Our Post hosts RCI's annual Christmas Party where families receive gifts that include new winter coats, bicycles, and backpacks filled with school supplies.

For more information or to volunteer assistance go to redistributioncenter.org.

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT
Mickey West

Dear
Lord, as we
celebrate

St. Valentine's day this month may we be reminded of all whose sweethearts are absent protecting and defending our freedoms. We thank You for our many blessings. We request Your constant vigilance over the safety of our troops here and abroad. If it be Your will, may they be returned to us safely. Lead us so that we might remain faithful to Your will and walk in the ways of righteousness. We pray that throughout Your creation, Right will always be the master of Might. In Your holy name, Amen.

COMMANDER'S REPORT
Bill Radunz

Welcome all members to 2017. Still time to pay your dues. If you cannot afford dues contact me and we can work something out. We do not want to lose you. I could use a few volunteers to make phone calls about transfers and late payments.

Our next Legion meeting will be on Tuesday, February 7th at 7 p.m. Come and support your Post.

10th Annual SAL Golf Tournament
Friday, June 9th

Volunteers are needed to assist with Tournament set-up, Cooking, Serving, and Cleanup. Sponsors, Co-Sponsors, Hole Sponsors, and Door Prizes are also needed. Contact Bill Radunz 303-995-2663

a first place finish this year that will earn him a trip to the national finals in Indianapolis in April.

Yours in Service, Commander, Bill Radunz

SAL REPORT
Steve Stroud

February is the month of lovers, cupids, and romance—possibly because it is so cold outside. I find myself thinking about all the homeless Veterans who may be in need of a hot meal, a warm blanket, a job, or a friendly word. As members of Post 178, each of us has an opportunity to share some of our warmth with another member and look to see who may need something. Volunteering is not for everyone, but our Post survives on volunteerism. It is a form of love. If you love being a part of the Post, ask an officer or a member of the staff what you might be able to do with the time and energy you have to share the love.

Our SAL meeting for February is Wednesday the 1st at 6:30 p.m. Come to the meeting and bring your gift of love by participating in the process. It is your opportunity to show your colors.

RIDERS REPORT
Bill Torrez

What a year for the Riders. We've ridden in parades, buried our brothers, and donated our time, work, and money to all of the Veterans out there that need a hand for a wonderful 2017.

First and foremost I want to send out our strongest measure of gratitude to our outgoing **President Nick Trujillo**. He has given us a long and very fruitful tenure, and we appreciate his hard work and his leadership.

We also want to thank everyone at the Post for supporting us in a hundred different ways. We are at home here at Post 178.

Please pray for members and families.

Final Roll Call

Charley Johnson—SAL—(11/07/16)
William R. Mitchell—WWII (7-12-16)
Cy Martinez—Korea—Army (1-10-17)
Edward Loeffler—Korea—Army (1-11-17)
Paul Stroud—Vietnam—Marines (1-06-17)
Larry Chamberlain—Vietnam—Air Force (11-16)
Margaret "Peggy" Slattery—Vietnam—Air Force (10-20-16)

The American Legion Oratorical Contest is scheduled for Saturday, March 11th at Metropolitan State University. The contest involves delivering a speech about the U.S. Constitution. If you have students in high school and could use scholarship money, contact **Wayne McClimans** for details. The deadline to enter is January 31st. Volunteers are needed to help as escorts, judges, etc.

Lakewood High School's **Luke Giusto**, who placed 3rd last year and is sponsored by Post 178, is striving for

Medal Ceremony for Buford Johnson

Post 178 member Buford Johnson will be formally presented with medals he earned during his WWII service by U.S. House of Representative Ed Perlmutter and a contingent of military officers. The ceremony will take place on Friday, February 24th at 9:30 a.m. at the Post.

Rep. Perlmutter's office worked diligently to make this possible, and we are proud to host the ceremony at our Post.

*Please plan to attend and honor a very special Veteran
RSVP please.*



Bob and Randy's Ribs prepared and served on Legion Friday nights by Brad and Beth Hall, Jody and Michelle Marquette, and of course, Bob and Randy.

AUXILIARY REPORT

Carol Conway

I would like to start off by sending a heartfelt Thank you to all the wonderful people that have helped the Auxiliary with your donations and time! We couldn't do it without you! We welcome two new members: **Carol Suman** and **Wendy Carlson**.

Mark your calendars for the **Annual Auxiliary St. Patrick's Day Dinner** of corned beef and cabbage on Friday, March 17th from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., or while the food lasts. We'll have a sign-up sheet posted on the Auxiliary board during February. Please sign up to

help with prep the night before and with serving on Friday. We really appreciate all your time and help!

We're still serving a delicious menu every Wednesday for Burger Night! There's a sign up sheet in the kitchen if you'd like to help. Please remember to turn in your volunteer hour

Last but not least, the Riders are having their annual **Chili Cook-Off** on Saturday February 18th! Should be a fun time! Yum!

Riders Scholarship Fund

Applications available at Post 178 are currently being accepted. Members and families are eligible for nomination. Winners (1 boy, 1 girl) will be announced August 15, 2016. Deadline for applications is August 1st. See any Rider for more info.

Welcome

NEW MEMBERS

- Justin Gailey — SAL
- Eron R. Gailey — SAL
- Austin E. Gailey — SAL
- Jeffery S. Torrison — SAL
- Steven R. Beckwith — SAL

BUSINESS REPORT

Bob Heer

A big thank you to **Chuck Elsen** and **Dave Clinger** for helping take down the Christmas decorations and also to **Wayne McClimans** for moving them to storage. Chuck Elsen donated lights that Dave Clinger installed around the bar area. All indications are that most everyone liked the ambiance the lights provided.

With the recent number of counterfeit \$100 bills being circulated, the bartenders have been asked to check all such bills before accepting them. Your understanding is appreciated.

We now have **Stella Artois** on draft which will be served in specially designed Stella chalices. It is requested that you not take these special glasses home.

Chili Cook-Off
Taste Every Chili for Just \$5

THE YEAR'S HOTTEST EVENT
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 18TH

ENTRANTS MAY BRING RED OR GREEN CHILI AFTER 11 AM
TASTING BEGINS AT 2 PM



LAKWOOD AMERICAN LEGION POST 178

1655 Simms Street

Lakewood, CO 80215

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

Bill Radunz, Adjutant bradunz@msn.com

Wayne McClimans, Chaplain 303-279-6712
chaplain178@comcast.net

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
news@alpost178.org

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

BULLETIN BOARD

Coming Events at Post 178

Chili Cook Off Feb 18

St. Patrick's Day March 17

60s & 70s Dance March 18



NEW LUNCH MENU

Monday thru Friday — 11 AM to 1 PM

- **Daily Special** \$6
- **Deli Sandwich** \$6
- **Chicken Tenders**

Free Yoga Classes

Beginning Level 1 Classes

*Sign-up anytime—come as often as you like.
Contact an instructor for a list of what to bring.*

Thursdays 6 to 7 PM Brie birdnerd35@gmail.com

Saturdays 9 to 10 AM Jessica littleckert@yahoo.com

Sundays 2 to 3 PM Steve ghostpiper@comcast.net

*Relieve stress, transform your health,
and discover a more peaceful, balanced life.*



New Lunch Menu

Members and guests of Post 178 may now chose to enjoy a fresh Deli Sandwich or basket of Chicken Tenders in addition to a different daily special served Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All three items are still priced at just \$6 and are always homemade by volunteers **Dave and Galadriel Potvin**.

B-21 "Raider"

In a ceremony last fall, **Lieutenant Colonel Richard E. Cole**, the 101-year-old last surviving member of Jimmy Doolittle's Tokyo Raiders, officially named the Air Force's next generation stealth bomber the B-21 "**Raider**." Cole was Doolittle's co-pilot on the April 18, 1942 mission that boosted morale in America's homeland and changed the course of WWII. The name was selected after a website survey of service members.