



THE AMERICAN LEGION

"The Friendly Word" from "The Friendly Post"

1655 Simms Street

Post 178

Lakewood, CO



Harold Nelson Celebrates 102 Years

Harold Nelson celebrated his 102nd birthday in February with a grand celebration that filled Janssen Hall with family and friends. **Commander Bill Radunz** presented him with a plaque created by **Hal Mund and Dewey Fries** proclaiming that he will always be "our Hero" at Post 178.



The Saga of Harold's Helmet

The helmet Harold Johnson wore for three years during WWII tells a remarkable story, so he had it recreated after throwing away the original "because it would no longer hold water."

According to Harold, the helmet saved his life at least three times; once while he was shoulder-deep in Italy's Volturno River and a bullet went through the side just above his ear, once in Sicily when a bullet left it's mark in the back of his helmet ("I must have been retreating"), and one time when his convoy truck went over backwards leaving a large dent in it as evidence.

"If it weren't for my helmet, I wouldn't be here!"



Photos by Sue Clinger.



CHAPLAIN'S REPORT
Wickey West

Father, as we enjoy the signs of Spring may we be reminded that the beauty of Your green earth is a gift to be treasured. Though they are temporary and will surely fade, they represent a promise of renewal to be enjoyed again and again. May we recognize the beauty in life's cycles and offer gratitude to You, dear Lord, for Your many blessings. We sing Your praise as we celebrate and as we grieve, for in all seasons there is wonderful evidence of Your paternity, love, and dominion.

We bow to Your will Lord, and humbly pray for the welfare of our veterans, our active-duty military, and their families. We praise Your holy name. Amen.

COMMANDER'S REPORT
Bill Radunz

Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 4th at 7:00 p.m. Please plan to attend. There are many items to be dealt with. It's the time of year to nominate Officers for next year. Nominations are open for all positions. Elections will be held at our May meeting. If you are interested, job descriptions are available at the Post.

Membership is at an all time high for this time of year. If you know of anyone who hasn't paid their dues or needs help, contact us.

Happy 94th Birthday Dewey Fries



Commander Bill. Gourmet meatloaf and special entertainment.

Thanks for letting me serve you, great things are happening at the original "Friendly Post."

Yours in Service, Bill Radunz, Commander

SAL REPORT
Steve Stroud

If April showers bring May flowers, we better start getting some rain. March flew by and now we are enjoying the reality of Springtime in the Rockies. It's time to spring into action and be a part of your Legion where you are needed. Too few folks carry too much of the load around our Post. We are looking at officer elections, kitchen duty on the weekends, the upcoming "Duck Races," the Son's Golf Tournament, and many other activities that require help. It is a privilege to be apart of the Sons of the American Legion, so step forward and give a little time and energy. Consider running for office, volunteer for a weekend in the kitchen, support an event, or just show up for a meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

SAL is a fine group of dedicated individuals who contribute thousands of dollars each year to projects, events, charities, and the like. You can put your personal stamp on these events by standing tall with your brother SAL members. Invite a friend to join and show them what it means to be a member.

RIDERS REPORT
Bill Torrey

The Riders had another great month of planning and are getting ready for our new year events. Be sure to come to our Lasagna Dinner Saturday, April 22nd from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., prepared by Team 2 with love and care. The cost is only \$8, and includes lasagna, salad, and Italian bread. *Delizioso Para su Famiglia.*

Englewood High School (3800 S. Logan) will host its 3rd Annual Memorial Day Celebration to honor Veterans on Sunday, May 28th from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

79th Highlander Bagpipers

Veterans Honor Bell

Colors by Douglas County Young Marines

Vietnam Veteran Speakers and Film

Joe Peterson Orchestra

Rolling Thunder Flyover (Missing Man)

Rifle Salute and Taps

Flag Presentation to Gold Star Family

Info: 303-740-8789

Do you know what the **Four Pillars** are? They're what we are about and why we belong. They are 1, taking care of our Veterans; 2, strong national security; 3, patriotism; and 4, helping our children. If you would like more information about any or all of the pillars stop by the Post.

We are holding a raffle for the **2017 American Legion Western Regional Tournament** to be held in Denver Wednesday, August 2nd. The fundraiser is for a 100 oz. bar of silver. Tickets can be purchased at the Post, and the drawing to be held April 22nd. Volunteers are needed for the tournament. More info to follow.

Lunches are doing well at the Post (11:00 a.m to 1 p.m Monday thru Saturday). Great lunches at a great price. To receive the weekly menu we need your e-mail address

Whoever wanted to help make phone calls, the list is ready.

Make plans for **Friday Dinner April 31st.** Chef will be **Com-**

BUSINESS REPORT

Bob Heer

Everyone's cooperation is requested to not go to the back smoking patio when we have meetings or special events in our back hall. When the doors to the hall are closed, please respect the privacy of the group utilizing the it and do not enter. Passing through the hall to the patio is disruptive and disrespectful. We do have a designated smoking area on the south side of the building for those times when the back hall is rented out.

Wheel stops have been placed on both the North and South sides of our building/fence to stop people from hitting the building or fence when parking. Please use caution so you do not stumble over them when entering or leaving the building. Thank you **Chuck Elsen and David Clinger** for getting the job done.

AUXILIARY REPORT

Carol Conway

Our *St. Patrick's Day* dinner

was a huge success! A HUGE thank you to all 21 Auxiliary ladies that pitched in serving and preparing over 180 dinners!

The gentlemen; **Les Metcalf, Brian Conway, Russ Scott, Frank Benton, Brad Hall, Randy Berria, Keith, and Terry** were such a BIG help we can't begin to thank you for everything!! You are awesome! Please forgive me if I missed your name here but know that you were part of the reason for our Big Day! **Russ Gleason** and his family and friends added a festive touch with the band. And a grateful thank you to everyone that purchased over \$291 in shamrocks! It made our little Post look wonderful! THANK YOU!

We've welcomed several new members: **Sandra Gailey, Peggy Beckworth, Lorraine Schofer, Beth Morishige, Alysyn Harvey-Green, Tonia Carroll, and Janis Wagner.** And they are pitching in already!

We are planning a ***New Member Initiation in May.*** If you are a new member and/or haven't received your Auxiliary pin, please RSVP to join us! You must RSVP by April 15th! If there are a LOT of members who wish to participate, we may move the May meeting to Tuesday, May 9th at 7:00 p.m. I will send out a Blast to let you know. SO please RSVP to **Dee Yurko** at d.yurko@comcast.net or me, **Carol Conway** at golob877@gmail.com as soon as possible. Thank you!

We will start taking officer nominations in April. Elections are in May, and our Installation is in June.

And unfortunately, due to the low number of participants last year, we've decided to not have an Easter Party this year. **Upcoming events at Post 178 include the Riders Lasagna Dinner (April 22), Memorial Day Picnic (May 29), and Father's Day (June 18).**

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 AND TRANSFER MEMBERS

Ron Utecht—SAL
James Koch—SAL
Dean Decker—SAL
Eric Skougstad—SAL
Richard Carlson—SAL
Allan Lockheed Jr.—SAL



St. Patrick's Day volunteers included AUX President Carol Conway and daughter Susan McCracken.



Sign-Up for E-mail

Give us your e-mail address and you'll receive:

- Weekly Lunch Menus
- Special Announcements
- Weekend Events Schedules
- Monthly Newsletter in Color (on time)
- Final Role Call Names and Arrangements

Send your e-mail address to news@alpost178.org and please include your street address so we can save money by taking you off our USPO snail mail list.

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
golib877@gmail.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



JOKER
POKER



6 PM FRIDAYS

Marilynn Anderson
\$640 Winner
March 24, 2017

RIDERS LASAGNA DINNER

Saturday

April 22

4 to 7 PM



So Good It Won't Last Long

Buford Johnson, 99, Awarded His Medals...Finally

Post 178's **Commander Bill Radunz** was instrumental in making sure **PFC Buford Johnson** finally received the medals he earned while serving in the 5th Army under General George Patton in Normandy, Northern France, and Germany during WWII. Johnson was wounded during the Battle of the Bulge, received battle-field dressings, and returned to the front lines. He is a 60-year member of The American Legion and currently belongs to Post 178. Buford has 10 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, and 3 great-great grandchildren.

Brigadier General Laura Clellan pinned a chest-full of medals on Johnson, who turns 100 on October 25, during a ceremony hosted at our Post on February 24th that was emceed by **Congressman Ed Perlmutter** and attended by an overflowing crowd of family, friends, and military officials. Fox 31 provided TV coverage.



Medals Presented to Buford Johnson

Purple Heart

Marksman Badges

Army Good Conduct Medal

American Campaign Medal

European-African-Middle East Campaign Medal

Bronze Star

World War II Victory Medal

Combat Infantryman Badge

Honorable Service WWII Lapel Pin

Army of Occupation of Germany Medal