



# THE AMERICAN LEGION

*"The Friendly Word" from "The Friendly Post"*

1655 Simms Street

Post 178

Lakewood, CO 80215

## Easter Party Praised

Attendance at this year's *Auxiliary Children's Easter Party* attracted twice the expected participants. But no child was left without a collection of Easter eggs (many redeemable for prizes) and a special gift from Eater Bunny, **Carol Golob**. Party planners included **Dee Yurko, Marilynn Anderson, Mickey West, Mary Tomlinson, Mar Stecker, and Ginny Martindale**.



## Milestones Mark Memorial Day

Three unforgettable exploits by American WWII Veterans merit special remembrance this Memorial Day. The first occurred April 18, 1942 when 80 volunteers achieved unimaginable success by launching 16 B-25s from the deck of the USS Hornet on a daring and inspirational bombing raid over Tokyo. It was America's first offensive strike since Pearl Harbor, and is widely credited with changing the course of the war. The psychological effect on both sides was profound.

First off the deck was their daredevil leader **Jimmy Doolittle**, an unflappable former prize fighter, acrobat, international air race champion, pioneer flight innovator, and Aeronautical Engineering PhD from MIT who was already larger than life, trusted by generals, and revered by his men. Suspicion that the carrier had been spotted forced lift off 300 miles further out than planned. All but one crew hit their target, inflicting minor damage but shattering Emperor Hirohito's claim of invincibility. All 16 planes were lost as they ran out of fuel attempting to reach China.

Of the 80 men who went on the mission, 60 survived the war. Two drowned off the coast of China and one died bailing out. The Japanese killed four of the eight they captured. One crew of five was held captive by the Russians for 13 months. Thirteen subsequently died in other theaters.

Doolittle feared he would be court-martialed for loosing his planes. Instead, he rose from major to general and was put in command of the 8th Air Force in Europe. An entire section of the Smithsonian Air Museum is dedicated to the Medal of Honor winner. After the war, Doolittle began hosting annual reunion's for his Raiders. Eighty silver goblets, kept securely at the Air Force Academy, were ceremoniously brought by cadets to each reunion for toasts.

Their final toast took place November 9, 2013 at the USAF National Museum in Dayton, Ohio. The decision to end the tradition was made by the four remaining Raiders; **Dick Cole** (Doolittle's co-pilot), **Robert Hite, Edward Saylor, and David Thatcher**. All are in their 90s.



*continued on back page*

**CHAPLAIN'S REPORT***Mickey West*

*As we approach Memorial Day, this is the wish I always make, the prayer I always pray. Dear Lord, may my life help others I touch along the way. As we honor our fallen heroes, some who rest on foreign soil and others on the ocean floor, we thank You for their sacrifices. With reverence and love we pause to pay tribute to them. We pray that we may always be mindful of their service to You and our country. Heavenly Father, please keep their families in Your care. Bless and comfort them at this time of remembrance. We offer these petitions to You in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.*

*Please pray for members and families.*

**Sick Bay**

Joe Handlovitch is recovering from a fall.

**Final Roll Call**

None Reported

**COMMANDER'S REPORT***Steve Tomlinson*

Summer is fast approaching which means there will be a lot more going on, beginning with the **Sons Mother's Day Buffet on Sunday, May 11** and, of course, **Post 178's Memorial Day Service and Picnic on Monday, May 26**.

It would be nice to see a good turnout for this very important Memorial Day ceremony to honor all Veterans who have answered final roll call.

Work continues in the back yard and we are hopeful to have it ready for the picnic. Speaking of picnics it is never to early to volunteer. We will need cooks and people to help clean up. The same people always volunteer for these important tasks, and it would be nice to see some new faces helping out.

As always keep our troops in your prayers and never forget our **POW/MIAs**.

**BUSINESS REPORT***Bob Heer*

We are in the process of acquiring a shuffle board table for the game room. If all goes according to plan it will be installed by the time you read this newsletter. **Memorial Day** kicks off our summer picnic season. The Post will provide brats, burgers, and beer. Everyone attending is encouraged to bring a side dish. **The picnic is FREE for Post members.** Non-member guests pay \$5 and \$2 for their children under the age of 10. A sign-up sheet is posted in the lounge seeking door monitor volunteers for half hour shifts to check membership cards and collect door charges. As reported in prior years, our volunteer monitors bring in enough that our picnics pretty much pay for themselves.

The lounge will be closed at 11:00 a.m. until the Memorial Day Service is concluded.

Since our last newsletter the potholes in our east and south parking lots have been repaired at a cost of \$643.50, which was paid by the lounge. **Pete Zuniga** has again

cleaned and refinished our back hall floor and everyone is requested to not drag the tables and chairs across the floor. Please carry them to keep our floor looking good. Thanks Pete for your hard work.

**Service**

11:00 AM

*A Tribute to  
Departed Post 178  
Members and  
America's Veterans*

**Picnic**

12:00 Noon

*Members FREE  
(bring a side dish)  
Guests \$5  
(\$2 children)*

**AUXILIARY REPORT***Nita Calcum*

The Auxiliary would like to thank everyone who helped with our **Angel Tree** during the holidays. Special thanks to everyone who donated. We were able to send 13 military families \$200 each.

Please don't forget about our Tuesday night meeting on May 6 at 7:00 p.m. We will be voting on our new officers so please come and help.

**Fathers Day is Sunday, June 15.** Breakfast buffet will be served from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m., **FREE for Fathers.** The cost for others is \$7. The Post's **Annual Installation Dinner is June 14.** Sign up at the Post to welcome our new officers and enjoy a delicious **FREE** dinner.

Our **Memorial Day Service begins at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, May 26**, with the picnic following at noon. It's a great time to meet your fellow members, eat lots of food, and enjoy the games provided. Please come to honor our country's departed Veterans and enjoy your membership at our Post.

SUNDAY

SAL Breakfast  
9:00-11:30

MONDAY

Doug's Poker  
1:00

Steve's \$6 Lunch  
11:00-2:00

**BINGO**  
5:30

TUESDAY

Steve's \$6 Lunch  
11:00-2:00

WEDNESDAY

Steve's \$6 Lunch  
11:00-2:00

Burger Night  
5:00-7:30

**RIDERS REPORT***Brian Conway*

Turn out for our **Annual Lasagna Dinner** was great! Thank you very much for supporting the Riders and our causes. A special thanks goes to the **Johnson Family** for preparing the lasagna. "This lasagna is fantastic!" was overheard frequently. We served 84 dinners and made a little money for our charities (I don't have the exact figures yet). And we had a great time doing it.

St. Joe Veterans Home is in need of bicycles. Located in Denver's Globeville neighborhood, the organization houses up to 16 male Vets re-entering society from various stages of substance abuse or homelessness. The bikes will become needed transportation for them. Legion Rider **Ron Nelson** (Arvada Post 161) has volunteered to repair/rebuild donated bicycles. **Ron Peddycoart** got Post 178 off to a great start by contributing six bikes. **If have a bike to donate please call Ron Nelson at 303-956-3551 or Brian Conway.**

Downtown **Denver's Memorial Day Parade** starts at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, May 24. Riders will meet at the Post for an 8:15 a.m. departure to our staging area. We'll return to the Post about 11:30 a.m.

Our first **Poker/ Benefit Run** of the year begins at the Post on Saturday, May 31. Sign up at 9:00 a.m. Cars are welcome to join the run, food (sloppy joes), and fun (music, horseshoes).

The **Riders Scholarship Program** is finally funded and accepting college or high school senior applicants through July 1, 2014. Our first \$250 awards will go to the boy and girl whose essay best conveys "**What it Means to be an American.**" Winners will be announced in August. Essays of any length may be dropped into the Riders mailbox at the Post. See Brian Conway for further information.

**You'll Have Fun Volunteering at Post 178****ADJUTANT'S REPORT***Bill Radunz*

Membership stands at 730, or 101%. Thank You All.

Lamar, Colorado will host the **State Convention June 20 through 22**. Contact me soon for rooms if you would like to attend.

Fans of live **jazz music** will want to enjoy listening and dancing at the Post on **Friday, May 30 from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.** **Baked whole chicken entree will be served from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.**

Effective May 3, the price of Saturday Buffet will increase to \$7 due to the higher cost of food. It has been four years since our last increase. We are still one of the best buys in town.

**SAL REPORT***Bill Radunz*

Membership stands at 208, or 93%. Our next meeting is Wednesday, May 7 when we may

or may not elect next year's officers. It all depends on a few more Sons willing to step-up and help out, or we may not have a SAL Squadron at Post 178. We simply won't have a quorum at monthly meetings.

Our menu for Friday nights will be Pulled Pork or Chicken Fried Steak on May 9, and Meatloaf or Baked Chicken Breast on May 23. Zantys Band will perform on May 23 from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Come enjoy and dance.

The SAL-sponsored **Girl Scouts Pancake Breakfast is Sunday, May 4**. Chose pancakes or a basic breakfast and support our commitment to youth. Sunday, May 11 is our annual **Mother's Day Buffet**. All moms who are members of Post 178 dine for **FREE**. Others pay \$7 or \$3 for children.

Due to rising costs, we will no longer serve free juice on Sundays. Juices can be purchased at the bar.

Don't forget **Memorial Day Services at 11:00 a.m. on May 26**, the **SAL Golf Tournament Friday, June 13**, and the **State Convention June 20-22** in Lamar.

**Welcome****NEW MEMBERS**

Thomas F. Simms—Korea—Navy  
Joseph John Saranello—WWII—Army  
Ralph O. Rodriguez—Vietnam—Marines

**TRANSFERS**

Lyle J. Summers—WWII—Army  
Joseph M. Giardiello—Gulf War—Navy

THURSDAY

Steve's \$6 Lunch  
11:00–2:00**BINGO**  
1:00

To Be Announced

FRIDAY

Steve's \$6 Lunch  
11:00–2:00SAL or Riders Dinner  
5:30–7:30

SATURDAY

Legion Brunch  
9:00–11:00**BINGO**  
1:00

# THE AMERICAN LEGION

1655 Simms Street Post 178 Lakewood, CO 80215

Steve Tomlinson, Commander ..... 303-500-2250  
 commander178@comcast.net  
 Bill Radunz, Adjutant ..... 303-995-2663  
 bradunz@msn.com  
 Nita Calkum, Auxiliary President ..... 303-910-6660  
 alaunit178@gmail.com  
 Bill Radunz, SAL Commander (acting) . 303-995-2663  
 Barb Bunting, 40 et 8 President..... 303-988-7351  
 Wayne McClimans, Legion Chaplain.... 303-279-6712  
 Mickey West, Auxiliary Chaplain..... 303-238-0039  
 Brian Conway, Riders President..... 303-424-0902  
 bcon178@yahoo.com  
 Dave Dupree, Newsletter Publisher ..... 303-238-9723  
 dave\_dupree@q.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.

# BULLETIN BOARD

## Service

11:00 AM  
 A Tribute to  
 Departed Post 178  
 Members and  
 America's Veterans



## Picnic

12:00 Noon  
 Members FREE  
 (bring a side dish)  
 Guests \$5  
 (\$2 children)

## COMING THIS MONTH

### Girl Scouts

Pancake or  
 Basic Breakfast  
 9 – 11:30 AM  
 SUPPORT OUR YOUTH

### Mother's Day

Buffet Breakfast  
 9 – 11:30 AM  
 POST 178 MOMS DINE  
 FREE (OTHERS \$7)

## Attention Golfers

### Mike Moss Campaign Golf Tournament

Friday—May 30—Fitzsimmons Golf Course

### 7th Annual SAL Golf Tournament

Friday—June 13—Applewood Golf Course

INFO:  
 Bill Radunz

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 Bill Radunz

French citizens cheered wildly on the Spring day in 1944 when *William Overstreet Jr.*, piloting a P-51C Mustang, chased his prey, a German ME 109, underneath the Eiffel Tower and shot it down. The American pilot's astonishing show of skill and bravery is credited with lifting the spirits of the French Resistance.

The incident began when Overstreet followed an ME 109 after it left the bombers he was escorting. A running dogfight ensued, resulting in a hit to the Messerschmitt's engine. Its pilot sought protection from anti-aircraft artillery by flying low over Paris. Still in hot pursuit, the Mustang took some hits around 1500 feet. Surprisingly, the German aimed his smoking fighter directly at the Eiffel Tower. Undeterred and taking intense enemy flak, Overstreet followed the desperate German between the tower's legs, firing furiously until the wounded warbird finally went down.

Artist *Len Krenzler* immortalized Overstreet's feat. The war-time Mustang pilot became an accountant, and in 2009 received the French Legion of Honor. Bill Overstreet died December 29, 2013 at the age of 92.



*Glenn McDuffie* was changing trains on August 14, 1945 when he learned that Japan had surrendered. "I was so happy. I ran out in the street," recalled the then 18-year-old on his way to visit his girlfriend. "And then I saw that nurse. She saw me hollering and with a big smile on my face. I just went right to her and kissed her. We never spoke a word. Afterward, I just went on the subway across the street and went to Brooklyn."

McDuffie's magic moment in Times Square on V-J Day was famously captured by Life Magazine photographer *Alfred Eisensteadt*. As a civilian, McDuffie was a semi-pro baseball player and mail carrier. He died March 9, 2014 in Dallas at age 86. Eisensteadt's photo of McDuffie and that nurse will live forever as an icon of American history.