



# THE AMERICAN LEGION

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

1655 Simms Street

Post 178

Lakewood, CO



## Dewey Fries Goes to Washington

"It was the trip of a lifetime!" exclaimed Post 178 member **Dewey Fries** as he was being greeted by literally hundreds of people at DIA welcoming him back home from *Washington D.C.* It was the culmination of a trip to visit Veterans memorials and America's monuments.

Three days earlier, Dewey and 27 other *WWII and Korea Veterans* were the first to board a Southwest 737 that took them From DIA to Baltimore, Maryland, accompanied by an equal number of "*Guardians*" ready to assist the Vets in any conceivable way during the journey.

A huge crowd greeted them at the Baltimore airport. People cheered, applauded, shook their hands, and thanked them for their service as they walked through the concourse to a bus that took them to their rooms and a 6:00 p.m. dinner banquet at the *Hilton Hotel*.

Breakfast was at 6:00 a.m. and the tour bus departed at 7:30 for the hour-long drive to D.C. First stop was the *WWII Memorial*, with the bus driver serving as a very informative tour guide. The entourage moved on to the *Naval Memorial* then visited the *Lincoln Memo-*

*rial, Korean War Memorial, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.* The day's final stop was the *Washington Naval Shipyard*, then it was back to the Hilton in time for another fantastic dinner.

*Arlington National Cemetery* was the destination on day two where the group watched the *Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns* from a special viewing area, and participated in a wreath-laying ceremony. Dewey was selected to be one of four Vets to step forward and present the wreath.



*Dewey Fries, second from left, after presenting the wreath for a ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns.*

The *Air Force Memorial* was next on the itinerary followed by the *Marine Corps Memorial.* After lunch at *China Garden*, they visited the *FDR and Martin Luther King Memorials.* Then it was time to board the bus and

drive to the airport for the flight back to Denver.

The Vets were whisked through security and were again greeted by a cheering crowd on the concourse. Before boarding the airplane the gate attendant used the intercom to lead everyone gathered around in singing "God Bless America."

Waiting for them at DIA was the largest crowd yet. Well over 200 people had gathered inside the terminal. Bag pipes played, cheerleaders cheered, and active duty service members saluted the Vets as they walked slowly through a long line of people on both sides applauding them. It was an emotional moment for the Vets and Guardians that brought tears and hugs.

"Anyone who can go on an *Honor Flight* should," concluded Dewey. "They treated us like royalty. We had everything we needed. Nate was my Guardian, and he was terrific. All the people at DIA was a real surprise."

### "Here They Come"

Post 178 member **Dave Cleveland** went on an *Honor Flight* in 2014, and agrees with Dewey that anyone eligible should go. Dave remembers deplaning at DIA and overhearing someone say, "Here they come." A loud round of applause and cheers erupted from hundreds of people gathered inside the terminal to greet the returning *Rocky Mountain Honor Flight Veterans.*

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

*Dear Lord, this Christmas let us: Mend a quarrel. Seek a friend. Dismiss our doubt*

*with trust. Write a letter. Share some treasure.*

*Answer softly. Encourage youth. Show mercy in word and deed. Keep a promise. Find the time. Forego a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Listen. Apologize. Try to understand. Flout envy.*

*Examine our demands on others. Think first of someone else. Appreciate. Be kind and gentle. Laugh a little. Take up arms against malice. Go to church. Welcome a stranger. Gladden the heart of a child. Love. Amen.*

**COMMANDER'S REPORT**  
*Bill Raduzy*

Happy holidays to one and all. As usual i will be traveling to Naples, Florida to be with my other family on December 15th, and returning January 5th for our meeting. Membership dues must be submitted before I leave to get your 2016 door card before the first of the year. Remember, dues go up to \$52 on January 20th.

We're thinking about starting **Yoga Classes**, possibly beginning in January on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. or Saturday/Sunday at 3:30 p.m. If interested let us know which would be your choice.

Hopefully many of you will make a New Year's resolution to be more active in Post programs in 2016. Legion programs that need your help are **Boy's State, Oratorical Contest, 5th Friday cooks and staff, Veterans Assistance, Color Guard, Honor Guard, and Americanism school visits.**

Why do you belong? For God and country, still serving America, social life, assist other Veterans, their families, and to make America a better place to live? Hopefully we're striving to work in all these areas. Where can you help? The American Legion began in 1919 with Four pillars. Number 1 is Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, to

make sure our government takes care of past and present veterans at local and national levels. Please make it one of the reasons you joined our Post. Yours in service.

**RIDERS REPORT**  
*Nick Trujillo*

The Holiday season had begun, and once again served the Veterans at **Heather Grove Assisted Living Center** with Thanksgiving Dinner on Saturday morning November 21st. We'll return to Heather Grove for a Christmas Party on December 12th with

gifts for the Vets.

The Riders will be assisting **Ranya Kelly** at the **Redistribution Center Inc. (RCI) Toy Giveaway** on Saturday, December 19th beginning at 10:00 a.m.

We would like to welcome back Legionnaires **Mike Watson** and **Bob Shiflet**, and we have a new Rider member of the Auxiliary, **Pauline Walls**.

**SAL REPORT**  
*Steve Stroud*

Many thanks to all who helped in November with Veteran's Day events, the Thanksgiving Day feast, and the other activities at Lakewood Post 178. The December holidays are upon us and there are many who could use a hand in the kitchen. Volunteer where you can for Legion, Auxiliary, or Sons food service dates, and invite another member to help you. It's a group effort, which means that many individuals are needed to make things work well. Start the New Year with the spirit of helping out.

*Please pray for members and families.*

**Sick Bay**

Robert "Woody" Wood—COPD  
St. Anthony's Rm. 344, Visitors Welcome

**Final Roll Call**

None Reported

**Welcome**

**NEW MEMBERS & TRANSFERS**

- Henry J. Norris—Vietnam—Navy
- Jerry J. Honebein—Vietnam—Navy
- Lawrence L. Lilley—Vietnam—Navy
- Jeffery J. Butzen—Vietnam—Marines

**Walking Canes for Vets**



**Randy Baria** has given canes to several Post 178 Veterans over the years. Each cane is custom made by Randy and fitted with an antler used as a handle.

Randy hopes to continue fulfilling the need for his canes, but production has stopped because he's out of antlers. Anyone willing to donate antlers to Randy for this cause may leave their contribution with the Post bartender.

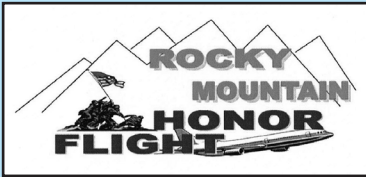
# Rocky Mountain Honor Flight

Now filling an upcoming expense-paid trip to Washington D.C. for senior WWII and Korea Veterans.

Over 800 Veterans have taken our 3-day, 2-night trips to honor them and their service.

Celebrate your service with the no-cost journey of a lifetime.

Contact Cliff Fejfar  
clayvin2@q.com  
303-961-8065



Non-profit 501(c)3 organization receiving no government funds. Honor Flight Network member. Your support is appreciated.

## AUXILIARY REPORT Carol Conway

It's that time of year when family and friends gather near.

Please remember all our Veteran's and their families through the holiday's and coming year! We appreciate their service and they are not forgotten. Please show your support for all they have done and continue to do!

Speaking of Veteran's, we served 187 lunch/dinners on Veteran's Day! Thank you to all those wonderful people that helped make it such a great success!

We're still looking for dates to have an Auxiliary Meet and Greet Brunch. We'll keep you posted. It'll be wonderful to see all the ladies of the Auxiliary and meet the new members!

December 12th is our Auxiliary Christmas Party! Please sign-up to buy a gift for one of the children and to help with the party! Thank you!

And on a final note, remember we're serving delicious soups on Wednesday Burger Nights. Sign up to bring one or just come and have some! Yum! And if you

have a December birthday please join us at the meeting December 1st for a treat!

## BUSINESS REPORT Bob Heer

On Christmas Eve the Post will close early, and will also be closed on Christmas Day. On January 1st Steve will be serving **Steak & Eggs Breakfast** from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Cost is \$8 a plate.

Thanks to the **Legion Riders** we now have an M27 recoilless rifle on display in front of our main flag pole. The weapon was donated to us by Post 84 when it disbanded. Thanks to **Ron and John** of that Post for thinking of us.

On behalf of all our employees we wish you a **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.**



## Mary White Dances the Night Away at Her 90th Birthday Party

Mary White took time out from restoring a 126-year-old quilt to celebrate her 90th birthday at the Post in November. Her friends filled Jansen Hall, enjoyed a buffet dinner with birthday cake, and danced along with her to the live music of **Rudy Grant**.

"I was so exhausted afterward," Mary disclosed, "that I had to have a glass of wine before going to bed."



# THE AMERICAN LEGION

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**Mickey West**, Auxiliary Chaplain ..... 303-238-0039

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### 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

# MERRY CHRISTMAS



### Friday Bands

**Boomers Band** ..... Dec 4

**Loose Change Gang** ... Dec 11

**Stumble Monkey** ..... Dec 18

# HAPPY NEW YEAR



## New Year's Day Steal & Eggs Breakfast



**January 1, 2016**

**9 AM — 1 PM**

## Big Gun Joins Post 178

*M27 105mm, breach-loaded, single-shot, man-portable, crew-served, recoilless rifle.*

Now on display under the U.S. Flag in front of Post 178 is a Korean-



era artillery weapon donated by disbanded *Denver Post 84*. The Riders moved the over 350 pound recoilless rifle to its new location on October 31st.

Development of a 105mm recoilless rifle began in 1944, was halted in 1947, and revived in 1950. M27 recoilless rifles saw extensive use as anti-tank weapons firing fin-stabilized, high-explosive rounds during the Korean Conflict. M27s have also been used to trigger controlled avalanches in the United States.