LEGION Act Expands Membership

The bipartisan bill known as the The LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act) was signed by President Trump on July 30th. It is a significant legislative victory for The American Legion, which had sought to honor approximately 1,600 U.S. service members killed or wounded during previously undeclared periods of war. The LEGION Act also opens the door for approximately 6 million veterans to access American Legion programs and benefits for which they previously had not been eligible.

The legislation immediately changes The American Legion’s eligibility criteria from seven war eras, as previously defined by Congress, to two: April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941 to a date later determined by the federal government. Veterans who were honorably discharged but whose service did not fall into the previously defined war eras may now join The American Legion. No other restrictions to Legion membership are changed.

Membership criteria will also change for the Sons and Auxiliary to reflect the newly defined war eras. (Sons and grandsons of veterans, living or deceased, are eligible to join SAL. The Auxiliary is open to grandmothers, mothers, sisters, wives, and direct and adopted female descendants of eligible veterans).

“We are grateful that President Trump fully acknowledges the importance of The American Legion by signing the LEGION Act,” National Commander Brett Reistad said. “In an era of partisan gridlock, Republicans and Democrats in Congress overwhelmingly recognized the importance of allowing thousands of honorable but previously ineligible veterans the right to join the largest and most influential veterans organization in the country.

“Recognizing the service of these wartime veterans is the right thing to do. The American Legion’s founding fathers believed ‘a veteran is a veteran.’ We are proud to welcome any of the six million living veterans from the previously unrecognized periods into our organization and call them ‘Legionnaires.’”

A number of veterans have already become members of Post 178 thanks to the LEGION Act. “We want all of our members to realize the significance of this opportunity,” said Post Commander, Mark Ward. “Our members are our best recruiters. We need new members going forward to continue our programs for veterans and keep our doors open.”

Color brochures describing the history and activities at Post 178 are available from Bob Heer or any bartender to give prospective members. Application forms for the Legion, Sons, and Auxiliary are inside the brochure.
Dear Lord, This is the month that veterans are honored for their part in our freedoms. We are honored to be part of American Legion Post 178 where veterans are one of the most important part of what this post is and represents. Bless our veterans and their families. Bless the ones that never made it home and bless those now serving. We know that freedom has a high cost. We know the price is just and your love is just. We ask that you protect those in harms way and bring them home safely to their families and loved ones. Veterans and their families do this “for God and Country.” We ask these Blessing through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

We are into the swing of continuing our busy Fall and Winter schedule. Thanks to Chef Dave Potvin and his volunteers Randy Baria, Shannon Chandler, Mike Lawton, Judy Myers and Shawn Terry, the Early Bird Dinner was a huge success. Veterans Day is fast upon us. As always, the Color Guard will march in the Veterans Day Parade at Civic Center Park on November 9th at 10:00 a.m. The Jr. Shooters and JFK High School ROTC Honor Platoon will march with us again this year. On Veterans Day, the gracious Auxiliary ladies will serve free spaghetti dinners to all Veteran and active-duty members of our Post and at a nominal cost to all guests. Watch for e-mail blasts regarding Thanksgiving dinner here at the Post to be served to members and guests.

As always, we need new volunteers to step up and help with the events of the Post. Please contact any Post Officer to let them know you would like to help. The Auxiliary would like to thank all the folks who support our Wednesday night meals. The profits from these meals allow us to give generously to several Veteran and children’s projects.

On October 26th, we gathered to pack boxes with non-perishable food, hygiene items, socks, etc., to send to active duty military. Veterans Day will, once again, be celebrated all day long with a FREE spaghetti and meatball/sausage meal from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. for all Post 178 members who are veterans or active duty. All others will be $7, children $4.

The Angel Tree will be going up on the Friday after Thanksgiving. Please be generous again this year so we can give the military families who come for the RCI/Auxiliary Christmas Party a token of our appreciation for their service. There will be no Wednesday dinner the night before Thanksgiving.

Looks like Winter is upon us which means the next gig at the Post will be Thanksgiving. We have some volunteers but can always use more help. Please bring a side dish to share with everyone. Turkey, stuffing, and some makings will be provided by the Post. We will serve from Noon to around 3 o’clock, or until interest lapses. Come and eat some vittles.

Christmas is around the corner, so start saving for the funds like the Angel Tree and other fundraisers. Thank a Vet when you see one. We can complain about everything, but this is still the best country in the world thanks to our Veterans.
Winter has shown up and let us know that it is cold enough to consider parking the bikes for awhile....not. The Riders have been busy riding in support of a number of Dignified Honors escorts across the Front Range, namely Corporal Erin Lilley-Fogle, USMC.

Now for better things. We want to welcome three new members and a former member who has returned to the fold. We welcome into our ranks JD and Etheridge Travis, Ana Lebron, and Bill Baer. Please look for them as we do our service around the Post and community.

We are planning for our events next year, including the Flower on Every Grave at Ft. Logan, The Victory For Veterans ride, the ROMP, and our Chili Cook-Off. We love the support Post 178 has provided for our programs.

A big thanks to Dick Moore for bringing in his compressor to winterize our sprinkler system. Wayne McClimans is again doing his awesome job of cleaning up leaves and pine needles around the Post. What Wayne does year around sets the bar extremely high for what a difference volunteering can make.

Rocky Mountain is again coming to our rescue by updating the lighting in our back hall. Thanks, Rocky.

The Corporation Board has installed additional security cameras in the game room, kitchen, and back hall. This was deemed necessary for our in-house security as well as the safety of members.

For those of you who come in for the Saturday brunch, are you aware that Judy, Galad and Mark all volunteer their time? They do accept tips, so please be generous.

Thanksgiving Day we will be open and depending on business may close early. Shawn Bloomer and his team are organizing a Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner and if you can help with the prep and clean-up please tell Shawn.
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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.

BULLETIN BOARD

FRIDAY BANDS
Look Both Ways Nov. 8 5:30—8:30 PM
Outlaw Nov. 15 6:00—9:00 PM

Veterans Day Spaghetti Dinner
Monday, November 11
11 AM to 7 PM
Post 178 Vets FREE
Others $7

Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner
12 Noon to 3 PM

The American Legion Family Centennial Celebration
Saturday, November 2nd from 3 to 5 PM

Members’ Birthdays Celebrated at Post

Chuck Morgan, 100

Hal Mund, 88