



THE AMERICAN LEGION



"The Friendly Word" from "The Friendly Post"

1655 Simms Street

Post 178

Lakewood, CO

Kids, Vets Celebrate Christmas With RCI, AUX



Thank you Santa, Shannon Chandler

Photos by Sheryl Funakoshi

CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER
Frank Henson

Every year at this time I think about the Vets that have come home only to find a world they no longer understand, or find themselves alone even with family present. So I offer this prayer for all who have someone in their lives in this situation.

Father God, You know that it can be difficult for a person who has returned from battle or stressful military service to reintegrate into "Normal" everyday life. You know that veterans can feel isolated and alone even in the midst of their friends and families because there are few around who understand their experience. So I ask You to place in the path of our veterans those who do understand (or strive to), that they may feel less alone. Remind them often that while their fellow human beings may never fully comprehend, You see, You know, and You identify with them in everything. Amen.

COMMANDER'S REPORT
Mark Ward

Mark Another busy month—and year—are in the record books. During December, the **Legion Buffet Breakfast** set a record for Saturday for sales, then during the last Saturday snowstorm, barely broke even. Thanks to our team of Saturday volunteers for never missing a step. Going into the new year, we need volunteers to help with Saturday and Sunday breakfasts and other events on the Post Calendar.

The **Legion State Oratorical Contest** will be held in March and the deadline to enroll is January 31st. This is for grades 10 through 12. We need volunteers to assist before and during the event, which will be held at Metro State University. If you have a grandchild or know a student in the 10th—12th grades who would like an opportunity for scholarships, get one of the brochures at the Post.

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Boy's and Girl's State is in June. This is an outstanding, unique, and coveted educational opportunity for 11th grade high school students to learn the ideals and principles of American government.

The appointed Adjutant position is currently vacant, and we are recruiting members who would be interested in joining our team of Officers. The position requires three hours per week and compensation is \$300 per month.

AUXILIARY REPORT
Juday Myers

Our project for December was collecting money for the **Angel Tree**. **Dee Yurko**, almost single-handedly,

raised \$4,400 so that each of the families and Vets who came to the RCI Christmas party on December 14th was able to receive

\$100 in cash. Your generosity and her hard work made this the most successful Angel Tree ever.

On December 16th, **Dee Yurko, Beverly Tompkins** and I went to teach a simplified version of paint pouring to a group of 13 developmentally-disabled adults at a friend's church. When they were done the look of joy on their faces and the sense of accomplishment in having created something beautiful was amazing to behold. We'll do it again.

We are always looking for volunteers for **Burger Night**. Please contact me if you can give us a few hours on a Wednesday night. Even if you can't do it regularly, perhaps we can call you to help when someone is not able to make it to serve or cook.

The 4th Wednesday dinner will be **Lasagna and Salad** and the 5th Wednesday meal will be **Zuppa Toscana**.



Welcome

NEW MEMBERS

Thomas B. Bauer—USA—Active Duty
Robert S. Anderson—USN—Vietnam
Michael J. Hill—USAF—Korea
Robert Nino—USAF—Vietnam
Eyvind M. Logan—USA—Legion Act

TRANSFERS

Lloyd B. Anderson
David M Addison—USM—Grenada
Bernard G. Nichter—USA—Vietnam

BUSINESS REPORT
Bob Heer

For those of you who visited the Post over the holidays you found a very festive environment thanks to **Kathy and Doug Schwab, Dawn and Randy Rehbein, Shauna and Don Stockmar, and Dee Yurko**. Thanks to all of you for your outstanding effort.

The many poinsettia plants were all donated by **Ranya Kelly**. Ranya continues to amaze us at the many things she acquires and donates to the Post.

Lets all make 2020 another year filled with blessings and continued Post growth.

SAL REPORT
Brad Hall

Another year in the books. Strange, but I haven't seen a single flying car like they said would be common by 2020.

The SAL had a **Salisbury Steak Dinner** December 13 that sold out. Thanks to all who came and supported us. The money raised goes to several charities such as **RCI, Homelake Veterans Home, National Emergency Fund and the Child Welfare Fund**, to name a few.

The Sons will serve dinner on Friday, January 10th featuring **Randy and Bob's Famous Baby Backs**. We will serve from 5:00 p.m. until they are sold out. Come and get a taste of Summer this Winter.

A special call out goes to **Max Thompson** who made a very kind and generous donation to the SAL. Thanks a bunch for your generosity Max.

Please get your memberships into the Post ASAP as your grey key cards will no longer work after December 31st. The Sons have a strong box and envelopes to drop them into located next to the bookshelf in the game room. It is a big help if you put your name and key card number on the envelope.

If anyone has something of interest for the Post's newsletter, please get it to me no later than the 15th of the month. Don't forget to thank a Vet any time you see one.

RIDERS REPORT
Mike Watson

Welcome to the Roaring 20's. 2020's that is. A new decade and a new opportunity to serve our members, our Veterans, and our active duty service members. As we start the new year off in the quiet slumber of winter, the Riders are looking back at all we have accomplished over the last year e.g.; serving our twice monthly **Steak/Salmon/ Pork Chop Dinners**, riding escort in the dignified transfers of our fallen service members on their final journey home, **A Flower on Every Grave** at Ft. Logan, our annual ride to support **RCI**, our growing **Victory For Veterans Ride**, the **Pony Express Run** to support the **Legacy Scholarship Fund**, awarding scholarships from our own fund, the **Ride on Military Pride (ROMP)**, the annual **Denver Veterans Day Parade**, Thanksgiving and Christmas at **Heather Grove**, and supplying Thanksgiving meals to our service members at the **Navy Operations Support Center at Buckley**.

As busy as 2019 seemed, we learned a lot and want to do better in 2020 and beyond. Our annual **Chili Cook-Off** is planned for 23 February. We will continue preparing our dinner service, and be making plans to support the events we have in the past, all while looking for ways to continually improve and execute motorcycle safety. Happy New Year.



Auxiliary Gives Quilts To VA Patients

Nancy Chandler and Dave and Debbie Mull visited 12 rooms at Denver's VA Hospital on Saturday, December 8th and delivered a dozen quilts to patients contributed by the Auxiliary. The trio represented Post 178 among other Auxiliary Units from around the state, all bearing gifts for the Vets. "They loved their quilts," said VA Liason, Diane Ericson.



LAKEWOOD AMERICAN LEGION POST 178

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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

Auxiliary Dinner Night

Every 4th and 5th Wednesday 5 – 7 PM

Always a Special Entree

(something besides burgers)



COME AND GET 'EM

RANDY & BOB'S FAMOUS BABY BACK RIBS

JANUARY 10

5 PM UNTIL GONE

\$10 PER PLATE

MUSIC BY THE SUNSETTERS

5:30 — 8:30 PM

First Sgt. Paul Mahoney Cited For Excellence

Denver Public School teacher **First Sergeant (R) Paul Mahoney** from John F. Kennedy High School has been named **Army JROTC Instructor of the Year** and recipient of the prestigious **Meritorious Civilian Service Award**. Paul is a “proud member of Post 178” and well-known for leading the **JFK High School Honor Platoon** to perennial national honors.

“There are more than 4,000 instructors in Army JROTC,” said Lieutenant Colonel Steve Osterholzer, the Director of Army Instruction for Denver’s 10 JROTC programs. “Each year the Army selects the top

Army Instructor through a demanding evaluation process. We’re extremely proud that the very best instructor in the world is among Denver’s ranks.”

The presentation ceremony was officiated by JROTC officials and attended by school administrators, teachers, many of Paul’s past teachers, and other distinguished guests including his wife, Denise, and his childhood mentor, Randy Brown.

First Sergeant Mahoney gives credit to his JFK student cadets. “I am a direct reflection of my students. This award belongs to them.”

