



THE AMERICAN LEGION



"The Friendly Word" from "The Friendly Post"

1655 Simms Street

Post 178

Lakewood, CO

Harlem Globetrotters Trace Roots to American Legion

In the mid-1920s, a semi-professional African-American basketball team was formed on the South Side of Chicago that played under the banner and sponsorship of **George L. Giles Post 87 of The American Legion**. Its nucleus was a group of graduates from Wendell Phillips High School.



The George L. Giles Post 87 of The American Legion in Chicago sponsored the original Harlem Globetrotters, pictured in 1927 with their promoter/manager Abe Saperstein.

The **"Giles Post"** team played in Chicago and the surrounding area, racking up an impressive record.

They became the **"Savoy Big Five"** while playing exhibition games at the Savoy Ballroom to help boost the dance hall's sagging attendance. When a Jewish promoter from the North Side of the city named Abe Saperstein became the team's manager in 1926, he changed their name to the **"New York Harlem Globe Trotters"** to assert out-or-town status and capitalize on Harlem's recognition as the center of African-American culture.

In January 1927, the team played a game in Hinckley, IL that is credited by the Globetrotters as its first game. Through the early 1950s, the Globetrotters were one of the finest basketball teams in the world, winning the World Professional Basketball Tournament in 1940 and twice defeating the NBA World Champion Minneapolis Lakers in 1948 and '49.

The Globetrotters went international in 1950. They played in Berlin's Olympic Stadium in 1951 before 75,000 spectators, and traveled to the USSR in 1959.

Eventually the Globetrotters were eclipsed by the rise of the National Basketball Association after NBA teams began including African-American players in

the 1950s. Globetrotter Nathaniel "Sweetwater" Clifton became the first African-American player to sign an NBA contract when he joined the New York Knicks in 1950.

Globetrotter humor began in the late 1930s as a means of entertaining the crowd during often lopsided victories and to give the team's small roster a chance to catch their breath. By

the 1940s, they had worked a variety of comic routines into their act, and eventually became known more for entertainment than sports.

Their trademark antics feature incredible coordination and skillful handling of one or more basketballs, precision passing or juggling balls between players, balancing or spinning balls on their fingertips, and making unusually difficult shots. The team popularized the slam dunk, the fast break, the forward and point guard positions, and the figure-eight weave.

Saperstein died in 1966, the year of the team's official 40th anniversary. Saperstein, his team, and several of his players are enshrined in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Approximately 750 men and women have played for the world famous team, entertaining popes, kings, queens, presidents, and audiences of all ages.



Medowlark Lemon, the "Clown Prince of Basketball," was renowned for half court hook shots and his famous confetti-in-the-water-bucket routine.

Thanks in part to an American Legion Post, the Harlem Globetrotters have become worldwide ambassadors for America. They continue to astonish millions of fans with over 400 events each year, always accompanied by their signature song, a whistled version of "Sweet Georgia Brown."

CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER
Patti Wagner

Dear Lord, as we settle into the routine of a New Year, let us endeavor to keep a promise, seek out a forgotten friend, listen, laugh, brighten the heart of a child, encourage the young, appreciate our elders, express our gratitude, take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of life, and speak your love to others. Amen.

COMMANDER'S REPORT
Mark Ward

As 2020 begins, I hope everyone had a great year in 2019. We have had to hit the ground running into this new year. With no Post Adjutant, it has been a strain on us to keep up with membership. We're still dealing with work that was left undone, but have sorted and processed the documents that were left in disarray.

Many members are receiving the notice from the National Department that your membership is due or has expired. If you renewed your membership online you should not have received the notice, and it's an easy fix. If you renewed by check and submitted payment to the Post 178 before November 1, 2019 and received the notice from National, let me know (commander178@comcast.net), so your records can be reviewed. If you renewed by check and submitted payment to the Post 178 after November 1, 2019 and received the Notice that your membership is due or has expired, be patient because these renewal records are now at the State Department to be processed.

That said, I have GREAT news. We have a new Post Adjutant. She is **Jill Cardona** (U.S. Army). Jill stepped up to maintain membership through Officer elections in May. If you submitted CASH to the Post 178 at any time, please contact the Jill, Post Adjutant (adjutant178@comcast.net) ASAP. Thank you, and thanks for your patience.

SAL REPORT
Brad Hall

Our Baby Back Rib Dinner was a success. Thanks to those who came and supported us and a big thanks to the regular cast of players; **Randy Baria, Bob Black, Bill Black, Beth Hall, Jenny Leiper-Coble, and Jody and Michelle Marcotte.** We sold out of the ribs and made some money to give to our charities.

We will be serving Prime Rib Dinner on Friday, February 14th so come down and enjoy. Price will be \$12.00.

Thank a Veteran when you see one.

AUXILIARY REPORT
Judy Meyers

Sadly, we had to bid farewell to another of our members, **Nikki Holden.** Nikki had been a member since 2014. A celebration of Nikki's life was held January 11th at the Post.

Our 4th Wednesday Dinner will be Hamburger Stroganoff over Noodles with Salad.

Welcome

NEW & TRANSFER AUXILIARY MEMBERS

Ketti Peery
Jessica Haas
Stacey Lynne Fergurson
Shirley Bralish
Lisa Marie Aberle
Crystal Jones
Darlene Gonzalez
Elaine Mosburg
Jo Lynn Tessean
Nicole Kier
Susie Vacilek
Frances Stall
Kathleen Sangl
Amy Howard
Shauna Kunst-Stockmar
Janey P. Posner
Sharon Ann Cooke
Christine Coleman
Stefanie Thiessen-Betts
Teresa Jiminez
Frances Richards



VALENTINE'S DAY PRIME RIB DINNER



FEBRUARY 14

5 PM UNTIL GONE

\$12 / PLATE

MUSIC BY FRONT RANGE HIGHWAY

5:30 — 8:30 PM

BUSINESS REPORT
Bob Heer

Shannon Chandler has taken over serving week day lunches. Shannon is offering a different entrée each day with his weekly menu, e-mailed to members every Sunday. Please stop in and support him, you will be happy that you did. His lunches have all been excellent, and you can't beat the price. Shannon is also available to cater your special events. His number is (303) 875-2810.

Because our daily draw is a progressive raffle, all winners must be paid by check. We previously paid winners in cash. This is a requirement of the Colorado Secretary of State's Office.

As we start a new year, I want to thank all the volunteers who manage our bar bingo on Thursdays and Saturdays. Without all of you stepping up we would not have the successful games we do. **Pickle Bill, Faye, Joe, Fran** and all the callers, you are all very appreciated.



Shannon Chandler has taken over the kitchen on weekdays and is serving a delicious assortment of lunches. Shannon baked his first meatloaf when he was 8-years-old. He's a self-taught chef and finds most of his recipes online or from cooking shows like America's Test Kitchen. So far, every one of his offerings has been a hit with the Post's lunch goers.

RIDERS REPORT
Mike Watson

Well, our Colorado winter is being as fickle as ever. Plenty of snow in the mountains, but little down here, though the cold and wind hastempered our riding so far. We want to make certain that everyone is ready for our annual **Chili Cook-Off** on February 23rd at 1:00 p.m. Make certain you bring an appetite, are ready for the heat, and have some antacids available as our great group of chili chef's will be trying to unseat the reigning champions. Cost will be \$5.00 to eat/sample, with no charge for the challengers.

We always make certain to have corn bread muffins, cheese, and onions for those who want to add to their chili.

We will also be supporting the **Legion Riders Legacy Scholarship Pony Express Ride** again this year, and they are asking for a minimum donation of \$101.00 from each the Legion, SAL, Auxiliary, and Riders (they want to blow away the old donations to try and compete with Minnesota).

The Riders will also be ramping up for a **"Flower on Every Grave"** at Ft. Logan on Memorial Day, and our fundraising rides in the summer.

As always, we are doing our steak/chops/salmon dinners the first and third Friday nights for \$9.00, to which you may add some grilled shrimp for an additional \$3.00.

Welcome

NEW & TRANSFER MEMBERS

- Ronald Cable—USCG—Vietnam
- Jack Caviness—USA—Legion Act
- John Edelblute—USA—Gulf
- Daniel Higginbotham—USN—Gulf
- David Muray—USN—Gulf
- Patrick Reining—USN—Vietnam
- Steve Willardson—USAF—Vietnam



ALR CHILI COOK-OFF

Taste Every Chili for Just \$5

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 23RD

CONTESTANTS PLUG-IN @ 12 NOON

TASTING BEGINS @ 1 PM

THE YEAR'S HOTTEST EVENT

LAKEWOOD AMERICAN LEGION POST 178

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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

AUXILIARY DINNER NIGHTS

4TH AND 5TH WEDNESDAYS EVERY MONTH

Serving Popular Special Entrees



SAL Golf Tournament

FRIDAY, JUNE 12TH

Applewood Golf Course

Sponsorship and Volunteer Opportunities Available



Above: Ceiling tiles in the lounge are the creations of Post Historian and Artist, Chuck Elsen. Contact him to have your service unit's patch added to the collection at charles.elsen@comcast.net or 303-233-0142.

Below Left: New Year's Day Steak & Eggs Breakfast volunteers Jimmy Walker, Mark Ward, Dave McBrien, Judy Myers, Kathy Marshall, Chip Reidmiller, and Dawn Diment.

Below Right: SAL Friday Night Baby Back Rib Dinner volunteers Brad Hall, Randy Baria, Dan Jajczyk, Kristina Cardora, Jenny Leiper-Coble, Randy Rehbein, Jody Marcotte, and Bob Black.

