



THE AMERICAN LEGION



"The Friendly Word" from "The Friendly Post"

1655 Simms Street

Post 178

Lakewood, CO

Clarence "Dewey" Fries: March 19, 1923 – February 21, 2021

One of Post 178's favorite personalities passed away Sunday, February 21st at age 97.

Dewey Fries joined the Navy in 1942 where he served aboard the USS Aleutian protecting the Alaskan coastline, then went to the South Pacific where he was a weapons man on guns ranging from 20 caliber to 4 inch. He was discharged in 1945.

In 1947 Dewey joined the Air Force to serve in the Philippines then at McCord AFB in Washington where he ran a small arms range. England was his next assignment with TDYs to Germany and South Africa, then to

March AFB and finally Lowry AFB with TDYs in Guam, Japan, and Korea. While in the Air Force Dewey loaded weapons, including nuclear bombs, onto F-86 and F-100 fighter jets, and B-47 bombers.

He served until 1964 then was recalled as an instructor at Lowry from 1967 to '69. He continued working at Lowry as a civilian until his retirement.

During an Honor Flight to Washington DC with other WWII veterans in 2015, Dewey was selected to place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



At Post 178, Dewey's reputation as a poker player was unequaled. During his 95th birthday party held at the Post, friends challenged him to a single game of 5-card draw, winner take all. To no one's surprise, Dewey won the pot.

Dewey never missed a meal at Post 178, enjoying a beer with lunch every weekday and dining with friends for breakfast and dinner every weekend. He also played poker and bingo twice weekly. The pandemic ended his active lifestyle, and although he regularly visited his good friends Hal and Jean Mund at their residence, Dewey was clearly affected by his forced isolation.

More friends than can be counted will always remember Dewey and how, without fail, he brightened our Post with his presence every single day of the year.



Virgil Arthur Bird: August 20, 1916 – November 15, 2020

Virgil Bird, age 103, was a member of Post 178 for 25 years. He served in both the Army Air Corp and Marines, where he became an expert rifleman and earned numerous ribbons including "Sharp Shooter" while serving in the China-Burma-India, European-African, and Middle Eastern Theaters.

He was a carpenter in civilian life and an avid league bowler who won many trophies.



He also loved rock collecting and treasure hunting, and had a gold mine together with two partners.

Post artist Chuck Elsen created a ceiling tile for Virgil that is displayed in our lounge. Virgil celebrated his 100th birthday with a memorable party at Post 178, where he was honored by family, friends, and a contingent of active duty Marines.

AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN
Rosemary Young

Mighty God, thank you that you can satisfy our every need. Hear our prayer of thanks

for our veterans who made great sacrifices on our behalf. We ask that you would bless them and meet all their needs. We pray you would give them peace when they suffer from past trauma. We acknowledge the debt of gratitude that we owe them for the freedom of our country. Lord, bless them and keep them, make your face shine upon them. Turn your face towards them and give them peace. Amen.

COMMANDER'S REPORT
Mark Ward

We were able to reopen the Post in early January and things were slow with the restriction to limit capacity to 50 members. We are maintaining compliance by wearing masks and doing our best to maintain social distancing. Thanks to our few remaining volunteers for their hard work in making this happen.

We are fortunate that no members have come to the Post with COVID-19, so there have been no outbreaks. The State moved to level yellow and we can now have 100 members seated inside.

The Post is gaining momentum. **BINGO** is taking off and the pots are getting close to normal. Come play and enjoy the delicious lunches that are being served. Please see the monthly calendar for our other scheduled meals.

As always, we need members to step up to volunteer to help in the kitchen. Legion 2021 membership is only at 80%. If you haven't renewed please do.

The **Post Constitution and Bylaws** were amended in December, approved by the Executive Committee and were posted on the bulletin board. The amendments will be read at the membership meeting on March 2nd, so please attend.

SAL REPORT
Brad Hall

Welcome back! It's been quite a while since a newsletter went out, not sure when the last one was penned. (Last issue was October, 2020—Ed.)

SAL Sunday Breakfasts are rolling again. Dave McBrien and his staff of volunteers are putting on the usual good feed. Hey, need to get out of the house? Talk to Dave or Brad to help out in the kitchen on Sundays.

Please get your dues in to the Post as soon as you can. State drops people from their files if not paid by April. If you're dropped you'll lose your seniority.

The **13th Annual SAL Golf Tournament** will be held on June 18th at Applewood Golf Course. Shotgun start with sign-up beginning at 0630 and golf at 0700. Cost is \$80 per golfer and the math says \$320 per four-some. Price includes golf, bucket of balls, steak lunch, first drink, and raffle ticket. A flyer and registration form are on pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter. The Golf Tournament is the largest fundraiser for the year for SAL. Please help so we can give to the Veterans, Children, and Community Charities this year.

We (SAL) will hold a meeting in March so come on in and get involved. Meeting will be March 4th at 6:00 p.m.

AUXILIARY REPORT
Judy Myers

It's good to be able to have meetings again even though we must be socially distanced.

Our next big project will be the **St. Patrick's Day Dinner** on March 17th from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. We definitely need some help in the kitchen that day. We will be serving from the kitchen so there won't be a need to serve to tables or the bar. It is a messy meal so help with cleanup will be especially appreciated. Sign-up sheets are on our bulletin board in the hallway.

Our membership is just over 80%. If you know a member who hasn't already paid their dues, please encourage them to do so.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 2nd at 7:00 p.m. We need to set up a slate of officers for next year.

Please pray for members and families.

Final Roll Call

John Dean—USA

Tony McCrary—USN

John Anderson—USAF

Virgil Bird—USA/USMC

Dewey Fries—USAF/USN

Welcome

NEW MEMBERS

Arthur Apple

John Pietsch

Henry Reeves

William Trujillo

Eric Wetherall

TRANSFERS

Leslie Elm

Hugh McDougal

Ernest Ojeda

Ben Romero

Frank Van Bocken

BUSINESS REPORT
Bob Heer

As with our first shutdown, we took advantage of the closure during the latter part of last year to make some Post improvements. First, a huge thank you to **Dawn and Randy Rehbein** for having quartz counter tops installed behind our bar. Wow, what an improvement!

Chuck Elsen painted several of the cabinets behind the bar and installed door closures. No, he did not use a sprayer! **Bill Beard** spent numerous hours cleaning, repairing, and resealing the floor in the bar area. It looks brand new thanks to his efforts. Bill also took the lead in resurfacing the hardwood in the main lounge area.

Because of our limited business upon re-opening, as a cost saving measure we have delayed bringing back our full-time janitor. Thanks to **Bill Beard and all of the Bartenders** we are keeping the Post very clean and fresh smelling.

Mark Ward and **Judy Myers** spent innumerable hours in the kitchen getting it in tip top condition. Mark also helped with many of our plumbing repairs in the kitchen and bathrooms. Overall, our volunteers did an awesome job in really dressing up the building. I can't thank them enough.

Lastly, I want to thank **Mark, Judy, Randy Baria, Bill Jackson and all the other Volunteers** for coordinating and making sure we have lunch on Thursday and Saturdays.

At this time, we're not making our back hall available for be-reavements or group gatherings. Stay safe.

RIDERS REPORT
Rodney Jones

The Riders would like to welcome everyone back to legion. Along with our regular **Friday Dinners** this month, we are going to be serving **Pulled Pork Sandwiches for Lunch** on the 6th of March from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we weren't able to hold our regular **Chili Cook-off** in February. So we're offering an abbreviated version on March 13th from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. For \$5 you'll be able to sample three different chilis and enjoy a full bowl of your favorite, while it lasts. We will not be awarding winners this year.



Post bartender **Brittany Ness** stands next to one of the two refinished cabinets with quartz counter tops sourced from **Al Rios**, owner of **Colorado Better Kitchens**.



Post Acquires Very Valuable Pool Table

Please play responsibly and never set anything on top.



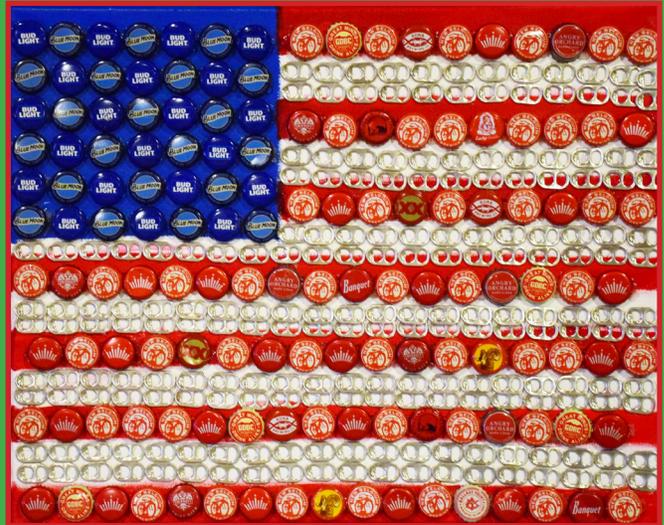
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Post Hours

Mon. — Fri. 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Sat. — Sun..... 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Bartenders may close earlier on slow nights.

BULLETIN BOARD



The U.S. Flag created entirely from bottle caps by Angie Hopkins and gifted to Post 178 where it is proudly displayed next to the pickles cage in the lounge.

Quilt Winner is Rosie Fouts

Ranya Kelly drew the winning entry for the incredible quilt crafted and donated by **Nancy Chandler**. **Rosie Fouts** took home the valued prize on Veterans Day, 2020. Rosie is an avid bingo player at the Post. She has four brothers, one of whom served in WWII, one in Korea, and two in Vietnam.

Nancy's months-long raffle raised \$1,500 for the Auxiliary and another \$500 for Black Ops. She is now working on a number of fidget quilts. They offer an alternative to nervous fidgeting with buttons, jewelry, and other items for people suffering from Alzheimer's/Dementia.



In addition, Nancy is making another large quilt to raffle that will be ready in October.





13th Annual

SAL Golf Tournament

**Friday, June 18, 2021
Applewood Golf Course
14001 W. 32nd Ave, Golden**



Player / Team Sign-in at 6:30 a.m. Shotgun Start at 7:30 a.m.

\$80 per Player / \$320 per Foursome

(Includes 18 holes, of golf, cart, and range balls)

Entry Deadline June 15

Register online at: <https://tinyurl.com/yx7y3tra>

Prizes and Awards

- **Team Awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place**
- **Awards for Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, and Longest Putt**
- **1st Drink, Steak Lunch, and Door Prizes at Post 178, 1655 Simms Street, Lakewood**

Tournament Sponsorship Opportunities

Contact Brad Hall 303-210-4125 (leave a message)

Hole Sponsor \$150

Prize Hole Sponsor \$200

(Includes sign placed on tee box, recognition at lunch and in Post newsletter)

Sponsors' Deadline June 11

100% of Funds Raised go to Sons of The American Legion Charities



SAL Golf Tournament

13th Annual



Friday, June 18, 2021
Applewood Golf Course
14001 W. 32nd Ave., Golden

Player / Team Sign-in at 6:30 a.m.
Shotgun Start at 7:30 a.m.

- 18 Holes of Golf, Cart, Range Balls
- Team Awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place
- Awards for Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, and Longest Putt
- 1st Drink, Steak Lunch, and Door Prizes at Post 178, 1655 Simms Street, Lakewood

REGISTRATION

\$80 per Player / \$320 per Foursome

Register online at: <https://tinyurl.com/yx7y3tra>

Mail entries to: Lakewood American Legion, 1655 Simms St., Lakewood, CO 80215

Make checks payable to: "SAL Golf"

(Register as a single or group. Specify which group players you're paying for.)

Entry Deadline June 15

Team Captain

Name: _____ Player #2 Name: _____

Address: _____ Player #3 Name: _____

Phone: _____ Player #4 Name: _____

I cannot participate but would like to make a contribution

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

**Direct inquiries to:
Brad Hall
303-210-4125
(leave a message)**

Proceeds from the Golf Tournament benefit Sons of The American Legion Charities