



THE AMERICAN LEGION

"The Friendly Word" from "The Friendly Post"

1655 Simms Street

Post 178

Lakewood, CO



Ranya Kelly Named Colorado Auxiliary Member of the Year

Post 178 member **Ranya Kelly** has been selected as the *District of Colorado Auxiliary Member of the Year* by The American Legion Auxiliary, and will be considered for the prestigious national honor at the National Convention in Phoenix later this month.

In 1991 Ranya founded *Redistribution Center Incorporated (RCI)* in Wheat Ridge and began establishing relationships with a number of businesses willing to donate unsold food and merchandise. Since then, RCI has gathered and redistributed over \$100 million worth of new household goods, toys, school supplies, clothing, furniture, food, and other items.

Thousands of new coats are given each year to military families in need, Tens of thousands of Troop Packages have been distributed to service members both deploying and returning. Food is supplied to National Guard families in need, and vehicles have even been given to seriously injured or ill Veterans. RCI also provides items for disaster relief through Team Rubicon volunteers. To date, Ranya herself has accounted for over 58,000 hours of voluntary service to community, state and country.

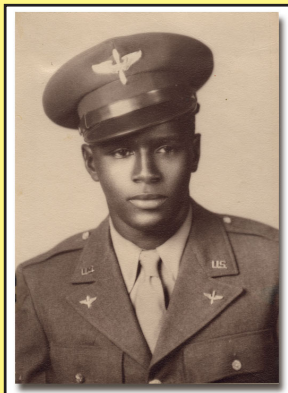
In 2011 she established *Warriors Warehouse* at Ft.

Carson in Colorado Springs to provide active duty military families and Veterans with food and new household items. Soldiers (sergeant and below) can visit the facility monthly, which is open three days every week. Supplies are delivered weekly from Wheat Ridge in RCI's truck.

Since joining the Auxiliary in 2015, Ranya has become a familiar presence at our Post. She stocks our *Bread Store*, fills our backyard with flowers, and her *Annual Kids and Veterans Christmas Party* is the highlight of the Holiday season. She and her volunteers collect and give some 4,000 toys each year to children.

RCI is an all-volunteer, tax exempt organization. Families and individuals in need are referred to RCI by advocates from American Legions, the VA, VFW, police and fire departments, and other organizations. RCI volunteers assist approximately 1,500 families and individuals per month, accounting for approximately \$3 million per year in aid.

For the complete story of Ranya and her amazing work see the February, 2017 (V17#8) issue of the Post 178 newsletter at alpost178.org "Newsletter Archives" and go to Ranya's web site at: redistributioncenter.org. "Congratulations" Ranya, from your friends at Post 178.



America's First Top Gun Hits 98

Longtime Post 178 member **Lt. Col. (ret.) James H. Harvey III** turned 98 on July 13th.

"Harvey," as he's known to friends, is the first African-American to pilot a jet aircraft in combat (F-80, Korea, 1950) and one of three primary P-47N pilots of the 332nd Fighter Group (Tuskegee Airmen) who won the first ever USAF Weapons Meet in 1949 at Las Vegas AFB (later named Ellis).

"Happy Birthday" from everyone at Post 178 to a true gentleman and genuine American Treasure.



AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN
Kim Jackson

God of justice and truth, rock of our lives, bless our veterans, these men and women of courage and valor. With a deep and abiding understanding of our profound gratitude, protect them and their families from loneliness and want. Grant them lives of joy and bounty. May their dedication and honor be remembered as a blessing from generation to generation. Amen.

COMMANDER'S REPORT
Mark Ward

We are fully open now and our Post events are being enjoyed by all. For example, close to 200 members and guests participated in our **July 4th Picnic**.

The Early Birds are starting to renew their Post memberships for 2022. Almost 200 members have renewed since July 1st. We are beginning plans for the **Early Bird Dinner**, scheduled for October. Because of COVID, we could not have the dinner last year. This year we want to make it a special occasion, so get your dues paid now.

We will not have a Labor Day Picnic this year, but the **Son's Horseshoe Tournament** is scheduled that weekend on Saturday, September 4th. Come out to compete or if you don't play the game, enjoy the benefit barbeque. The **11th Annual Legion Car Show** will take place two weeks later, on Saturday, September 18th.

SAL REPORT
Brad Hall

SAL Sunday Breakfasts will be continued as soon as **Dave McBrien** has recovered from his injury and is able to cook again. Apologies for not having enough time to give notice, but an injury is hard to see coming.

This does bring up the subject of volunteers and the need for them. Dave has his group of volunteers who rock the Sunday breakfasts every week along with the **Junior Shooters** who come in once a month. **Saturday Breakfasts** are another time that volunteers are needed. Saturday breakfast is a Legion event, so why is it that almost every week the commander of the Post is working in the kitchen along with several Auxiliary members when there are more than 750 Legion members registered at Post 178? It comes down to having the same group of Volunteers doing all the functions all the time even though many others could help.

2022 dues are now payable for SAL. Either mail them in or drop them in the SAL strong box. Please make certain we have your correct e-mail address so you can get the newsletter and updates to other goings on.



Thanks again to Boy Scout Troop 554 from League City, TX who stayed overnight at our Post in June on their way home from South Dakota and left us with the unique and beautiful flag now displayed in our lounge.

LAKWOOD AMERICAN LEGION POST 178
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Post Hours

Mon. — Fri. 12:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Sat. — Sun..... 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM
Bartenders may close earlier on slow nights.

Randy Baria and Bob

Black will be putting on their **Famous Smoked Baby Back Rib Dinner** on Friday, August 27th. You can pre-order racks or dine at the Post, but come early as these dinners are always a sell-out.

The **Annual SAL Horseshoe Tournament** will be on Saturday, September 4th. This is Labor day weekend so come out and toss some shoes. Flyers for this event are available at the Post.

BUSINESS REPORT

Bob Heer

Our last picnic of the year on July 4th had 160 members and guests in attendance. Big thanks to **Sheri and Vern Schmitt, Dee Yurko, Rita Moore, and Lisa and David Mull** for checking membership cards. Hopefully, other Post members will step up next year to help out. I also want to thank the **Legion Riders** for cooking and cleaning up. Great job!

While on the subject of volunteers, it is very sad that we have more Auxiliary members helping out on Saturday mornings than Legion members. Saturday breakfast is a Legion activity and with over 750 registered members, we need the Auxiliary to bail us out? Unless we get some Legion members to step up, there is a real strong possibility that this breakfast will be discontinued. Ideally, we would like a group of individuals to draw upon so no one needs to work every weekend. Call me if you can help out.

I want to thank **Mark Ward** for the hard work he has put in running wires and replacing speakers as well as upgrading the sound equipment used for our bingo occasions. Big improvement. Additionally, Mark is taking the lead in getting our South parking lot repaired.

Rocky Mountain installed a new LED light in our South parking lot to make it brighter during the night-time hours. Lastly, I want to thank all of the **bartenders** for pitching in emptying trash,

To subscribe to the Post 178 Newsletter and Calendar, and receive email blasts announcing menus, upcoming events, and more, go to our web site at alpost178.org and sign-up on the left side of the home page.

bottles, and cleaning since, in the short term, we are saving money not having a contract janitor.

Mike's Hard Seltzers are now available at the bar for your enjoyment.

RIDERS REPORT

Rodney Jones

Our **Victory For Veterans Ride** was a huge success! We raised over \$2,000 to help Veterans. We are blessed to have so many here at the Legion who pitched in and made it happen.

August is not slowing down for us. Please keep an eye out for riders as the season is not over. We are riding even more during August in support of various organizations. Thank you all for your support and kindness!

AUXILIARY REPORT

Judy Myers

We have been notified that our Auxiliary member and benefactor (RCI), **Ranya Kelly**, has been awarded the **Department of Colorado Auxiliary Member of the Year**, a recognition that she so well deserves. She will be going the National Convention in Phoenix in August to vie with other state winners for the national honor.

My sister, **Margot Myers** (who is also a member of 178), **Chris Harvey** and I will be at the luncheon in Phoenix as will several other members of the Department of Colorado. Both the Legion and SAL will join us in paying for her expenses to go to this event. We'll keep you posted. If you'd like to learn more about Ranya's story go to this web site: <https://redistributioncenter.org/about/>

District 5 Auxiliary is holding a raffle for a 12 qt. air fryer oven w/accessories. The drawing will be held on October 30th and you don't need to be present to win. Tickets are \$10 each and \$4 of that comes back to our Auxiliary unit. Please see me if you're interested.

School starts soon and we'd like to receive donations of supplies so we can pass them along to a local elementary school and to Ranya to give to families of Ft. Carson soldiers who have just been deployed to the Russian border. Suggested items include notebooks, folders, highlighters, rulers, 3-ring binders, scissors, tissues/paper towels, disinfecting wipes, glue/glue sticks, and any kind of writing utensil.

We'll be serving a full menu on Wednesday, August 18th with your choice of Burgers, Fish, or Shrimp with Onion Rings or French Fires, and on the 25th we'll serve Pulled Pork Sandwiches with Coleslaw and Chips.

Get ready to start baking for the **Car Show Bake Sale** which will be on September 18th.



Riders make their way through Morrison, CO on their way back to Post 178 during the Victory For Veterans Ride in July. The event raised more than \$2,000 for Vets.

America's Birthday Celebrated at Post 178



Backyard Flower Show



**Legion Auxiliary
Ranya Kelly (RCI)**

Thank You

**Costco
Wayne McClimans**





Tommy Tucker & Conrad West Memorial Horseshoe Tournament

9th Annual

Saturday September 4

Sign-up Starts 11:00 a.m.
Tourney Starts 12:00 noon
\$15 Buy-in
Blind Draw (Double Elimination Format)

**Pulled Pork, Beans, Cole Slaw
\$10 per plate
FREE for Tourney Players**

Sponsored by Post 178 SAL Fundraiser for SAL Beneficiaries
Info: Tom Davies, 720-297-9507

Lakewood American Legion 1655 Simms St. Lakewood, CO



Opening
Ceremonies

PLEASE REPORT SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

LAKWOOD AMERICAN LEGION

Awards
Presentation



JFK HIGH SCHOOL HONOR
PLATOON PERFORMANCE
10:00 AM



AUXILIARY
BAKE SALE

Cookies, Cakes, Breads,
Brownies, Fudge
and MORE



FIRST COME
FIRST PARKED
PLEASE, NO CARS BEFORE
7:00 AM

BUFFET BREAKFAST
8 AM to 11 AM
Bob and Randy's
BBQ LUNCH
11 AM to 1 PM

Fund Raiser to Benefit the
"JFK High School Honor Platoon"

SPECIAL HONOREE
TBA

SHOW SPONSOR
INDIAN
RV CENTER

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