



# THE AMERICAN LEGION

*"The Friendly Word" from "The Friendly Post"*

1655 Simms Street

Post 178

Lakewood, CO



## Wish of a Lifetime Fulfills Dreams for Vets, Others

What's on your bucket list? Whether you're a Veteran or not, if you have an unfulfilled dream **Wish of a Lifetime** is looking for you.

WOL's mission is to shift the way society views and values our oldest generations by fulfilling older adults' dreams and sharing their stories to inspire those of all ages.

Anyone can submit a wish for themselves or on behalf of someone by completing an online application. Criteria for granting wishes includes commemorating service, fulfilling lifelong dreams, reconnecting loved ones, and renewing and celebrating passions.

The only requirements are a minimum age of 65, U.S. resident with actual street address, unable to fulfill the wish on your own, capable of experiencing the wish, and able to obtain approval from a doctor, if necessary.

Each wish granted enables older adults to reconnect

with the communities, passions, and people they love, helping them to live more vibrant and purposeful lives. With each wish experience shared, WOL hopes to inspire people of all ages to live their best life.

For complete information and to submit an online application go to WOL's website: [wishofalifetime.org](http://wishofalifetime.org). See page 4 to read examples of wishes granted by Wish of a Lifetime.



### Join WOL for a Trip to DC

Wish of a Lifetime is looking for 5 Veterans to join their annual trip to Washington, DC in May. The deadline for submitting applications is February 15. Call Elija Valdez at 720-647-9740 for information and to sign-up.

### Harold Nelson Turns 108



Post 178 member Harold Nelson, who was awarded a Silver Star last October, will celebrate his 108th birthday with a party in his honor to be held at VFW Post 3631 at 18545 East Colfax in Aurora on Saturday, February 25th at 1:00 p.m. Friends and members of our Post are encouraged to attend.

### Commander Receives Quilts

Nancy Chandler, Auxiliary Chaplain, presented Commander, Wes Vanderpool, with two "pink" quilts compliments of her Hug-A-Vet Program. Daughters Daisy and Ruby presented them to their dad, noting that they should fit nicely on their own beds.



### Post 178 Volunteers Step Up to Help Vet

Two years ago Post 178 volunteers moved Army Veteran Carroll Weimer's hospital bed to an assisted living care center. Post 178 received the request to move Carroll's bed from assisted living to the Cedars Healthcare facility in Lakewood. Our volunteers did not hesitate to step up. Three days later Jim Feeney, Bill Jackson, Andy Weatherall, and Andy Orona, using Andy's truck, moved Carroll's bed again for her.

—Mark Ward

**AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN**  
*Nancy Chandler*

*Dear Heavenly Father we come to you, in a brand new year, to thank you for the many blessings you give us. Lord, We pray for your guidance, strength, and grace, as we pledge to love one another even as we disagree about issues that are dividing us. Let us see each other as precious American humans and not enemies. Help us practice Valentine's Day and random acts of kindness during 2023. We pray that the United States will heal and become the giving, faithful, kind, and strong country that it can be. We are thankful to live free and to be able to kneel before you and salute our military. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.*

**COMMANDER'S REPORT**  
*Wes Vanderpool*

Hello Post 178! We've made it to February, which is the start of several events that will be happening over the next several months.

March 17th will be our **St. Patrick's Day** celebration, which will feature the Auxiliary's world famous corned beef and cabbage, with entertainment by **Steve and the Cruisers**. Friday, April 21st will be the Riders Dinner and **The All American Big Band**. In May the post will have its **Memorial Day Service and Picnic**. Details of these and other events still in planning will be available as time grows closer.

I want to recognize **Randy and Lorie Kipp** for their work getting beef jerky to troops deployed overseas and for documenting all post members who passed away that we still had records of. Those books and the jerky can be found at the post, under the video board. To help Randy continue this great project you can make donations in the same location. The Post Jr. Auxiliary members will be making *Thank You* cards to send along with the next batch of jerky, as a personal touch from the post.

As always, if you are looking to make an impact at the Post, you're in luck. We have open volunteer spots. If you are interested in volunteering, stop in and talk to **Bob Heer** or email me at commander178@comcast.net. You can also see **Brad (SAL), Rodney (ALR), or Kay (AUX)** who can get you set up to make a difference.

In closing, let's remember what our focus is. The bands and dinners are fun but most importantly, we are here for all of those who served us. Ever forward!

**AUXILIARY REPORT**  
*Kay Scott*

Auxiliary members are already busy in this New Year and we invite you to join us in our many projects, activities, and FUN!

• Our **New Auxiliary Member Initiation Ceremony** is set for Saturday February 4th at 11:00 a.m. Of course, any new members are invited to participate, any longtime or recent new members not having participated in the ceremony in the past are invited, AND any member is invited just to attend! Casual attire, the ceremony only thirty minutes, is inspiring, and we will be serving light refreshments afterwards! Please RSVP to Kay (720-244-1594).

• Our **February Auxiliary Meeting** will be held on Tuesday the 7th at 6:00 p.m. Please join us!  
• **SAVE THE DATE** and come dance with us Saturday February 18th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. **Line Dancing!** Diane Casper will teach us the moves and her husband **Karl Wiedenhoff** will supply the music. Snacks and appetizers will be served. Minimal cost of \$5 per person, \$2 for kids under 10 with proceeds going to Auxiliary projects helping our Veterans.

• **Deployed Military Care Package Drive:** When you are shopping, please buy a bit extra to support those deployed. Needed items include but not limited to socks, snacks, toiletry items, paperback books, and magazines. No liquids or batteries please. A tub in the Auxiliary Room is labeled for your donations. We will pack and mail in a few months.

• **Paint Pouring Class**, Sunday March 5th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$30 for adults and \$15 for kids under 12. **Judy Myers** and her assistants will help participants learn new techniques in this fun hands-on class. Class size is limited so reserve your spot early. A sign up sheet is posted on the Auxiliary bulletin board in the hallway off of the Game Room. 100% of the money for this class will go to the **VA Creative Arts Festival** here in Denver 2024!

• **SAVE THE DATE! St. Patrick's Day Dinner** will be served Friday March 17th from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet is posted as well on the Auxiliary bulletin board for Volunteers willing to help prepare, serve, and clean afterwards. There will also be a band playing that evening.

# Post Everlasting

Steve Nash, 01/14/23



## BUSINESS REPORT

*Bob Heer*

Big thanks to **Brad Hall** and **Wayne McClimans** for handling the snow shoveling this past month, it is greatly appreciated.

We will again be a host site for **Life Line Screening** on April 5. Life Line Screening offers a package of four screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease, and other chronic conditions. The four screenings are: Carotid Artery, Peripheral Arterial Disease, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, and Atrial Fibrillation. Call 1 844-591-7160 to register or if you desire more information.

**Wood Crafts by Tom (Tom Hall)** donated a custom highly detailed wooden flag to the Post. This unique flag is on display in the South door entrance alcove. A big thanks to Tom for this awesome creation.



*The beautiful wooden U.S. flag created by **Tom Hall** of **Wood Crafts by Tom** and donated to our Post. Thank you, Tom.*

## SAL REPORT

*Brad Hall*

Hello and welcome to February! Hopefully Old Man Winter will loosen his grip as I am sure most are getting pretty tired of the cold weather. I guess on the upside, the snow the State has been getting is doing us some good in the drought department.

The **15th Annual SAL Golf tournament** will be held on June 16, 2023. See the attached flyer and registration form (emailed newsletter version) or pick one up at the Post. Due to the price of just about everything going up by around 10%, the cost of this year's tournament will be \$90 per player or \$360 per foursome. Please remember that this is for Charity! We keep nothing from the proceeds of this tourney. As in the past, sponsors are needed for golf holes, prizes, and to defray some of the cost.



*A long-overdue Thank You "**Pickle Bill**" **Groves** for all you do at our Post.*

Don't forget the Auxiliary's **Line Dancing** event beginning at 4:00 that afternoon. It will be a full day of fun with **Legion Breakfast** from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., followed by the **Chili Cook-Off** at noon, **Bingo** at 1:00 p.m., and **Line Dancing** at 4:00 p.m. All of these support Veterans and our community. Volunteers are always welcome. Enjoy this month and you'd better not forget **Valentine's Day** on the 14th!

Hopefully we will be having some special meals coming up soon. **Bob and Randy** may be ready to do some cooking this Spring.

We will start rolling with the regular SAL monthly meetings in February. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. This is when we give money away, which is kind of our job here. Make money to give money away.

Please let me know if you have any ideas etc for fundraising and what not. Of course, I will tell you to come to a meeting to bring it up.

Pay your dues if you haven't already to avoid losing your seniority. And remember to thank a Veteran when you see one.

## RIDERS REPORT

*Rodney Jones*

Welcome to February. This is the month to take care of your sweetheart. It's also our planning and organizing month. Saturday, February 4th at 10:00 a.m. is our monthly meeting. Any bike enthusiasts are welcome to join us and help us get ready for our spring events. We would love to answer any questions or concerns about our efforts to assist Veterans.

Our annual **Chili Cook-Off** is Saturday, February 18 from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. \$5 gets you samples and a bowl of your favorite. Contestants please sign up and show us what you got! We invite both red and green versions and you are welcome to compete in one or both. A sign-up sheet is at the Post.

## Sal Gets a Bite of The Big Apple

87-year old Salvatore is the quintessential New Yorker and a huge Yankees fan. For his Wish of a Lifetime, Sal wanted to return to The Big Apple once again.

This charismatic Bronx native was brought up to believe that it was his duty to protect and serve others, and that he did. Sal served in the U.S. Army for two years before returning to serve as a police officer for five years. Shortly thereafter, Sal joined the New York Fire Department, which became his second home for 21 years.

His father took him to his first Yankees baseball game in 1936. He longed to visit once more to revel in the buzz of the stadium air and the enigmatic energy of New York City. Reconnecting with the people and places that were so important to him would be "the greatest gift I could ever imagine," Sal said.

Sal flew to New York City with his son, Nick and grandson, Nick Jr. He first returned to Firehouse 130, where several New York Yankees greeted him for a hero's welcome. Next, Sal rolled up to the Yankees game in style, where he got the chance to hang out with the players during batting practice. Finally, Sal was honored at the game, where he threw-out the first pitch.



For once, this charismatic old soul seemed at a loss for words. "This experience was more than I ever dreamed of," Sal said.

Jeremy Bloom founded Wish of a Lifetime in 2008 as a tribute to his beloved grandmother, Donna Wheeler.

His grandfather, Jerry, taught him how to ski when he was three years old by throwing candy bars down the mountain slopes.

Jeremy achieved success on the ski slopes as a two-time Olympian and



## Judi Gets a Formula 1 Ride

Judi, age 81, has been hooked on racing for as long as she can remember. She will be the first to tell you that she has not missed Formula 1 race on TV in nearly 30 years!

She was an active volunteer for the Vietnam Veterans Association. For over a decade, she traveled across the United States to different conferences, sharing information about Agent Orange and POW/MIA resources available to Veterans. She also served on a board as the Oregon State representative advocating for those affected by Agent Orange.

Judi also spearheaded a project to honor Vietnam Veterans. She helped plan, construct, and raise flags over three miles across Highway 101 in Oregon in recognition of their service. She is so proud that all three of her brothers are Veterans who bravely served their country.

Judi has always dreamed of riding in a pace car, which ceremoniously starts the race by leading the rest of the cars on formation lap around the track. Her wish came true at the famous Circuit of The Americas in Austin, Texas for the Formula 1 United States Grand Prix.

Proudly wearing her favorite Ferrari cap and shirt, Judi had the chance to talk to the Ferrari team's drivers and have her picture taken! Then it was time to climb into the pace car. "We got to lead all the race cars on the track," she said. "I saw them behind us, zigging and zagging across the track—holy moly! It was just incredible."



eleven-time World Cup gold medalist. He was an All-American football player for the University of Colorado, and played in the NFL. He is the cofounder and CEO of Integrate.

AARP-affiliated Wish of a Lifetime is based on the premise that older adults should be respected, honored, and aided in our society.





**15<sup>th</sup> Annual**

# **SAL Golf Tournament**

**Friday, June 16, 2023**  
**Applewood Golf Course**  
**14001 W. 32nd Ave, Golden**



**Player / Team Sign-in at 6:30 a.m.**

**Shotgun Start at 7:30 a.m.**

***\$90 per Player / \$360 per Foursome***

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

***Entry Deadline June 5 (NO EXCEPTIONS)***

**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, Lunch, and Door Prizes at Post 178, 1655 Simms Street, Lakewood**

## ***Tournament Sponsorship Opportunities***

**Contact Brad Hall 720-471-9383 (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 6**

***Proceeds go to Sons of The American Legion Charities***



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**15<sup>th</sup> Annual**

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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, Lunch, and Door Prizes at Post 178, 1655 Simms Street, Lakewood

## REGISTRATION

**\$90 per Player / \$360 per Foursome**

Register online at: <https://tinyurl.com/yx7y3tra> (cut and paste)

*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 5 (NO EXCEPTIONS)**

**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**  
**720-471-9383**  
**(leave a message)**

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