



THE AMERICAN LEGION



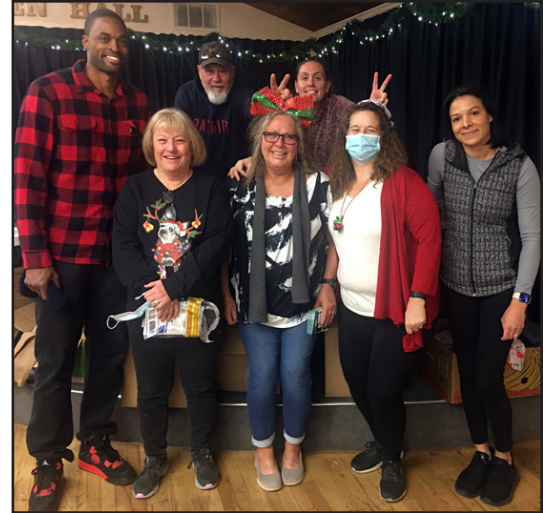
"The Friendly Word" from "The Friendly Post"

1655 Simms Street

Post 178

Lakewood, CO

Ranya Kelly Hosts Annual Christmas Party for Military Families



Left: *Dee Yurko's Angel Tree Project* enabled the Auxiliary to present a cash gift of \$150 to each of the 40 military families who attended Ranya Kelly's Annual RCI Christmas Party.

Center: *Post 178 Commander, Wes Vanderpool*, presents Certificates of Appreciation to *Ranya Kelly and Costco* recognizing their donations of the flowers and plants that beautify our backyard during summer months.

Right: Volunteers with Ranya who make the Annual RCI Christmas Party a resounding success.

Marilynn Anderson Remembered (March 10, 1940—December 26, 2022)

Marilynn was born in Detroit and moved to Chicago after marrying Wally. The couple moved to Golden in 1976. They were married 54 years before Wally passed in 2013. Marilynn was an executive with Target. She volunteered at Colorado Christian Home for over 20 years and was a member of the Post 178 Auxiliary for 19 Years, where she was the Treasurer for several years. She was an avid golfer and loved playing regularly. Marilynn is survived by two daughters, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.



LEGION CHAPLAIN
Russ Scott

Dear Lord, as we begin a new year please continue to bless all of the members of Post 178, particularly our volunteers, as we work to support Veterans and active military. Amen.

COMMANDER'S REPORT
Wes Vanderpool

Happy New Year Post 178! The last six months have flown by. Of course they say that happens when you're having fun.

The last Legion breakfast of the year was a gift from the Post so everyone ate for free. We served 51 breakfasts that morning! We also had RCI's Christmas Party that Saturday (December 17th). Many Ft. Carson families came to get gifts and the kids were surprised when Santa showed up for the party. A huge thank you to all of our volunteers who were on hand to make that event happen. RCI always goes above and beyond for Veterans and this event really made Christmas special for all of the families in attendance.

Starting January 1st, the door card color will be **Orange**. Please make sure you pay your dues for 2023 to ensure continued access to the Post and all the benefits that come with membership.

Speaking of membership, if you know of any Veterans who are not members of our post, please invite them in for a beer on me. Let's show them around and get them signed up to be a part of the best Post in the state of Colorado. The more members we have, the greater our voice is on Capitol Hill to get funding for Veterans programs.

We are five months out from Post elections. If you are interested in becoming an officer in any of the units, please get with leadership of that group to discuss the position in detail.

Last but not least, thank you to all of the officers in every unit at Post 178. This place runs on the power of the volunteers and leadership that spend their time making things happen. We couldn't put on the numerous dinners and events without the dedication of everyone to the common goal of helping our Veteran family.

If there are events or other things you would like to see happening at our Post, please speak up and be ready to make it happen. Reach out to me with any and all ideas or inquiries on officer positions via email at commander178@comcast.net. Ever forward!

AUXILIARY REPORT
Kay Scott

Happy New Year 2023! I am confident you will agree with me 2022 was a challenging year for most of us. However, we have had many blessings and successes. Go with me down memory lane of the last few months, and then I hope to give some ideas for helping our Vets near and far and have some fun at the same time.

BLESSINGS:

A BIG thank you to **Max Thompson** for his generous donation of \$1,000. Another thank you to **Phil and Nick Garvin**, owners of **Mobile TV Group** (where **Doug Lemons** is employed) for their generous donation of \$200. Another thank you to **Connie Stark** and **Ardyth Fournier** for your donations.

Thank you to everyone donating to **Dee Yurko's Angel Tree Project**. Proceeds enabled the Auxiliary to give \$150 to each of the 40 military families attending the RCI Christmas Party on December 17th at the Post. Thank you, Dee, for all your hard work on this project.

Judy Myers is a blessing as Treasurer and Membership Chair. *Thank you Judy.* **Sue Vacilek** continues to bless us with being available seemingly at the right time. *Thank you Sue.* Thank you **Shauna Stockmar** for organizing and helping our **Juniors** decorate Holiday cookies on December 10th, having them begin Bingo with the Pledge of Allegiance, and taking donations for their cookies. You are a blessing to our Unit.

SUCCESSSES:

The **Silent Auction** conducted at the **Commander's End of the Summer Pig Roast** August 20th netted \$1,600. The **Car Show Bake Sale** September 17th netted \$600. The October **Bizarre Bazaar** during Bingo conducted by **Judy Eberley and Nancy Chandler** netted \$2,300. They took cookie and treat donations, and had 50/50 and quilt raffles. A BIG Thank you to **Carol Doehler** and **Sue Vacilek** as well as **Donna McKelvy** for all your assistance.

Our annual **Veteran's Day Spaghetti Dinner** was enjoyed by our Veteran members as well as non-Veterans. The greatest success of the day was the outpouring of all the Auxiliary members helping with preparing, serving, and clean-up after the meal!

Post Everlasting

David Calkum, 11/30/2022
Marilynn Anderson, 12/26/2022

Kay Scott, continued The **RCI Christmas Party for Military Families** organized by **Ranya Kelly** was held on December 17th with Auxiliary members assisting setup, serving, enjoying, and cleaning up. Thank you so much to **Dee Yurko, Penny Polston and Granddaughter Ayla, Nickie Donnell and her husband, Sue Vacilek, Stephanie, Daisy, and Ruby Vanderpool.**

On December 21st, **Holiday Cookie and Treat Plates** were delivered to long-time Post Legion members not often at the Post. Treat donations came from **Misty Fisher, Tracy Brown, Elene Miles, Stephanie Vanderpool, Kim Gebinine, Sandi Gailey, Sheree Metcalf, Traci Schoonover, and Melodie Casper.** Thank you all so much! Thank you to **Elene Miles, Sandi Gailey and her girls, Sue Vacilek, and Abby Arpan** for helping me to put the plates together! We were able to bag extra treats for donations for Bingo December 22nd. And a BIG Thank you to **Larry Posner, Les Hayes, and Randy Baria** for helping me to deliver the plates to 20 members and to **West Metro Rescue 2 Station.** The temperature plummeted that afternoon with wind and snow. Your support was greatly appreciated.

A BIG Event is being planned in February. Auxiliary members please attend our next meeting on January 10th at 6:00 p.m. to give your input and ideas to help make this event FUN and a success!

BUSINESS REPORT

Bob Heer

Happy New Year! Lots of people to thank for their help and assistance this past year. First I want to thank **Max Thompson** for his \$5,000 donation that he requested be divided between the Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and Riders. *You're awesome Max.*

I also want to thank the following individuals who have made significant cash contributions over this past year: **Lois Tate, Dawn and Randy Rehbein, and Mobile TV (Doug Lemons).** Their financial assistance helps support our Veterans programs and is greatly appreciated. Others who have made a significant difference at the Post this past year by donating their time and expertise include **Wayne McClimans, Bill Beard, Doug Schwaab, Mark Ward, Judy Myers, Kathy Schwaab, Russ Scott, Les Hays, Steve Pederson, Randy Baria, Bob Black, Brad Hall, Wes Vanderpool, Nick Trujillo, Ranya Kelly, Jan Casper, Sue Vacilek, Dee Yurko, Bill and Kim Jackson, Eric Wetherall, Shauna Stockmar, Jeanie Whittenburg, Joe Hiller, Mark Moyer, Bill Groves (Pickle Bill), Shawn Bloomer, Chuck Elsen, Kay Scott, Rodney Jones, Brian and Carol Conway, Dave McBrien, Rocky Mountain, and Dave Dupree.** I apologize if I have missed recognizing someone but wanted to say thank you to all the members that have made our Post so successful and for all they have done for me personally.

For those of us who go to the grocery stores we are all appalled at the high prices, particularly for eggs, butter, and bacon. The reason I mention this is that the aforementioned items are a big part of our Saturday breakfast and if they continue to be this expensive we will have no choice but raise our price from \$8 to probably \$9 or \$10. Your understanding is appreciated as well as your continued support.

SAL REPORT

Brad Hall

Another year has flown by and it seems they go quicker and quicker each year. Hopefully everyone had a Merry Christmas and a good New Year!

With another year approaching, I would like to say a big "Thank You" to all the people who volunteer throughout the year making it possible to donate to some great causes.

This year the SAL donated to the following groups to name a few. **The American Legion National Child Welfare Fund, the Legion's National Emergency Fund, Homelake Veterans Home, Redistribution Center Inc. (Ranya Kelly's charity), the JFK High School Honor Platoon, and the Arvada Junior Shooters.** There are others, but these are the major charities that we give to several times a year.

The Sons at Post 178 gave over \$20,000.00 to these and other charities in 2022. Every time we have a meal, event, or other get together, all the proceeds go to our charities.

So, a big "Thank You" to all of those that contribute their time and hard-earned money to all of our events. Thank a Veteran when you see one.

RIDERS REPORT

Rodney Jones

January is not known for the riding weather. So this is our time of the year to enjoy helping others. While we do our best throughout the year to acknowledge all the help we received, we may have missed some. To all those who have joined our dinners, meetings, rides, and events we offer a great **THANK YOU!**

Special thanks to **Bob, Brad, Beth, Shawn, Julie, Dee, Judy, Kay, Mitchell, Leslie, Nancy, Judy, and Donna.** Each of these people and many more have gone to great lengths to help us. Ranya (RCI) is amazing with all she provides for our Post.

We kick off our January dinners on the 6th when we will serve steak, salmon, pork chops, and shrimp from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The 20th we'll serve our popular tacos and burritos buffet-style.

Our January meeting is Saturday the 7th at 10:00 a.m. Please join us. We love new bike enthusiasts.

RCI Christmas Party



Thank You Christmas Cookie Decorators

