



# THE AMERICAN LEGION



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

1655 Simms Street

Post 178

Lakewood, CO

## ***Ranya Kelly Receives U.S. Army Awards***

“Congratulations to **Ranya Kelly** on receiving the *Meritorious Public Service Medal* from the **Department of the Army** and the *Exemplary Volunteer Service Award* from **Fort Carson**. Both awards were presented to her in a ceremony at Fort Carson on 19 April 2023.

A huge thank you also goes to Ranya from Post 178 for everything she has done for us over many years. She is a shining example of living volunteerism!” —**Wes Vanderpool, Post 178 Commander**

“All of us at Post 178 already know what a very special person Ranya is, and it’s only fitting that others celebrate her as well. Her passion for Veterans is unmatched. When you see Ranya at the Post please let her know how much we love her efforts!” —**Kay Scott, Post 178 Auxiliary President**

## ***A Veteran Died Today***

— **AUTHOR UNKNOWN**

He was getting old and paunchy  
And his hair was falling fast,  
And he sat around the Legion,  
Telling stories of the past.,

Of a war that he once fought in  
And the deeds that he had done,  
In his exploits with his buddies;  
They were heroes, every one.

And ‘tho sometimes to his neighbors  
His tales became a joke,  
All his buddies listened quietly  
For they knew where of he spoke.

But we’ll hear his tales no longer,  
For ol’ Joe has passed away,  
And the world’s a little poorer  
For a Veteran died today.

He won’t be mourned by many,  
Just his children and his wife.  
For he lived an ordinary,  
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,  
Going quietly on his way;  
And the world won’t note his passing,  
‘Tho a Veteran died today.

When politicians leave this earth,  
Their bodies lie in state,  
While thousands note their passing,  
And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories  
From the time that they were young,  
But the passing of a Veteran  
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution  
To the welfare of our land,  
Some jerk who breaks his promise  
And cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow  
Who in times of war and strife,  
Goes off to serve his country  
And offers up his life?

The politician’s stipend  
And the style in which he lives,  
Are often disproportionate,  
To the service that he gives.



While the ordinary Veteran,  
Who offered up his all,  
Is paid off with a medal  
And perhaps a pension, small.

It is not the politicians  
With their compromise and ploys,  
Who won for us the freedom  
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,  
With your enemies at hand,  
Would you really want some cop-out,  
With his ever-waffling stand?

Or would you want a Veteran  
His home, his country, his kin,  
Just a common Veteran,  
Who would fight until the end.

He was just a common Veteran,  
And his ranks are growing thin,  
But his presence should remind us  
We may need his likes again.

For when countries are in conflict,  
We find the Veteran’s part,  
Is to clean up all the troubles  
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor  
While he’s here to hear the praise,  
Then at least let’s give him homage  
At the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline  
In the paper that might say:  
“Our Country Is In Mourning,  
A Veteran Died Today.”

**LEGION CHAPLAIN***Russ Scott*

*Dear Lord, as Memorial Day approaches this month we pause to remember those who bravely served our great country and, as a result of their service, were called home by you.*

*Father, we ask for Your blessing upon the souls of those good men and women who gave their last breath in defense of our nation, our freedom, and our children's future. We can never be grateful enough for the sacrifices they made, and we are humbled by their willingness to put their own lives aside for the benefit of ours. Father, carve their sacrifices into our hearts so we may never forget the loss of these heroes.*



*We pray that they are never forgotten, nor is the pain of their families. We acknowledge that freedom comes at a cost and pray that we can always pursue peace. Let us turn to You, Lord, in our grief and in our remembrance of the fallen. Guide us toward a harmonious existence as we honor our fallen heroes this Memorial Day. Amen.*

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

Happy May Post 178! It's great to see more consistent sunshine and all of the beautiful flowers blooming.

The Rider's dinner on 21 April was a huge success. Not to steal President Jones' thunder, but I want to thank him and everyone who volunteered making that evening happen. Dinner was great and the **All American Big Band** was really impressive. Thank you to **Public Relations Officer, Mitch Moore**, for his coordination efforts and to all of the members who filled our hall. It was one of the biggest crowds we have had in a long time and is hopefully the beginning of many well-attended events to come.

The May membership meeting will be Tuesday, May 2nd at 7:00 p.m. I encourage all Legion Members to come and vote for your next group of officers to fill leadership positions in the upcoming year

A big thank you to everyone who has volunteered in the past months. The number of volunteers is increasing, but we can always use more. Did you know that your volunteer hours are documented and reported to National and the numbers are used by leadership when testifying before Congress. Our membership numbers and volunteer hours prove to those in D.C. that the Veteran community takes care of it's own. When you volunteer, your voice packs a punch to lawmakers. Lets continue building our legacy of service to Veterans and active duty military. Make ourselves heard in D.C. through our volunteerism. Ever Forward!

**BUSINESS REPORT***Bob Heer*

I want to thank **Jim Waldner** of **JMW Roofing** for having his nephew **David** clean the rain gutters and the pine needles off the roof. Timing was perfect as gutters got cleaned right before the rain events.

I also want to thank **Brad Hall** for fabricating and installing shields on the range to comply with insurance requirements. Great job Brad!

On Memorial Day we will have a member picnic following our ceremony at 11:30 AM. There is no charge for members of our Post to attend the picnic. Non-member adult guests will be charged \$8, and non-member children under age 12 will be charged \$5. As in prior years, I am soliciting volunteers to check membership cards at the lounge door. A sign-up sheet for a 30-minute shift is on the wall by the pull-tab cage. The Post will provide burgers, brats and beer. Attendees are encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Please use disposable containers to minimize cleanup.

**RIDERS REPORT***Rodney Jones*

Welcome to May everyone! The Riders are chomping at the bit now that the weather is teasing us into believing we should ride all day.

We thank you all for your support during April as we had some really great turn outs. Thanks to the **All American Big Band** who performed during our prime rib night. It was awesome to see couples dancing and having fun! Thanks to all the Riders who helped serve and our SAL brothers who helped in more ways than you can imagine! **Brad, Bobby, Randy**, we can't say enough. And thanks to **Ranya Kelly** for her invaluable assistance.

Our monthly meeting is the 6th of May. We are always open for ideas suggestions and just some good old fashioned ideas. Let us know how we can make your experience better with us here at the Legion. We are looking forward to serving you all. May we all have a great time!

**AUXILIARY REPORT**  
*Kay Scott*

Welcome Spring!! Tuesday May 2nd starts this busy month with our 6:00 p.m. meeting that will include planning for **Poppy Day** and **Memorial Day Picnic**. We will also have Officer elections for the 2023-2024 year. Please plan to attend, give your input, and volunteer.

April was the **Military Child Month**, and on the 15th we had a short ceremony that was attended by a few of our members and Juniors. The day was sunny, windy, and chilly.



*Military Child Month was observed in April at the Post.*

included upon your return starting at 4:00 p.m. The sign-up sheet is at the bar; reservations and payment are required in advance. Anyone is invited to attend: family, friends, neighbors!

Always the last Friday before Memorial Day is **Poppy Day** (this year May 26th) and for more than 100 years the Auxiliary has distributed paper poppies to remind all of us that millions have sacrificed their lives to keep our nation free. Post 178 members will be at **King Soopers** at Colfax & Quail and at **Lowe's** at Colfax and Miller offering poppies and taking donations. We will also have cookies and treats available at the Post. All proceeds go entirely to assist Veterans and their families.

Our **Memorial Day Ceremony and Picnic** is Monday May 29th with burgers, brats, and hotdogs from the backyard grill! We are asking for anyone to bring sides, salads, and desserts to share. If you bring them in reusable dishes, please know you need to pick them up after the picnic as they are; we will not be washing any dishes. Let's make this a fun and enjoyable holiday celebration for all our members and guests!

**Memorial Day Raffle and 50/50!** Bring a few extra \$\$ with you to the Picnic for your chance to take home some treasures and maybe more money than you came with!

Our Wednesday Night Dinners will feature Burgers, Fish, or Shrimp on the 3rd, 10th, and 24th. We'll serve Reuben Sandwiches on the 31st, and on the 24th we'll begin serving Burgers, Salad, and Chips at 4:00 p.m. just as the Bus from Bally's returns from a day of fun in Blackhawk.

A hearty thanks to all volunteers grilling, cooking, serving, and cleaning on Wednesday Dinner Nights. Your time is valuable, and your service is most appreciated!

**SAL REPORT**  
*Brad Hall*

Spring is finally in the air, except for the days we still have snow and cold. **Dave McBrien** and his crew are on a well-deserved vacation so we didn't have a couple meals in late April.

The Post is still in need of volunteers to do a long list of different services.

The **SAL Golf Tournament** is June 16th. The tournament is a 4-man scramble format with a shotgun start at 7:30 a.m. You can sign up using the website at this address: <https://tinyurl.com/yx7y3tra> or use the QR code.

We have run out of 2023 key cards at the Post. As soon as they become available, I will send out renewal/and new membership cards.

Don't forget **Mother's Day** on May 14th. SAL will serve complimentary breakfast to Post 178 moms from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. All others for \$7.



## All American Big Band Entertains Post 178 Members



## Thank You Post 178

Dear Randy, Lori, and the Veterans and families of American Legion Post 178. Greetings from B/326 BEB in Romania! Our company was absolutely delighted to receive your wonderful packages!

The Soldiers were wild about the Jerky you sent and very appreciative for the other care items. I think Jalapeño was definitely a crowd favorite flavor! After the first few months over here, many of the Soldiers are beginning to feel a bit homesick and your package arrived just in time to help lift their spirits.

Despite missing their homes and loved ones, the Soldiers are doing excellent and are very excited to be going to the field. We will be doing a demolition range, practice breaching obstacles, and digging fighting positions with our construction equipment. Very cool stuff!

Once again, I really can't thank you all enough for the prayers and support you have shown us. A huge thank you for the service and sacrifice your members and families have made over the years, and for the noble mission of American Legion Post 178. God bless you all!

Respectfully,

CPT Charlene Coutteau ("Savage 6")



**Just Like Dad's and  
Hearts of Love  
Are Looking For Troops**



"Just Like Dad's" and "Hearts of Love" projects are looking for deployed troops. The primary goal is to take care of troops from post 178 before we take care of others. So, if you have any family members who are deployed or who are about to deploy PLEASE connect them with us via email or phone. We will need their stateside mailing address or their FPO/APO address if they are already deployed.



**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***



# SAL Golf Tournament

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



Friday, June 16, 2023  
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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, 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**