



THE AMERICAN LEGION

"The Friendly Word" from "The Friendly Post"

1655 Simms Street

Post 178

Lakewood, CO



"Christmas is for Vets' Kids" Thanks to Ranya Kelly and AUX



Thank you Pizza Night volunteers (l. to r.)
Cameron Jackson, Deb Schell, Kim Jackson Rhea Vail, Bill Jackson, Victor Calderon, and Andrew Rios.



LEGION CHAPLAIN*Mary Johnson*

Dear Lord, as we enter a new year, it is a time for new resolutions and plans for the future. Please rain down blessings on all veterans and their families. Bring peace, prosperity and joy to all those who have given so much for the freedom and safety of our country. I pray that the year 2024 brings great gifts to us all. As is written in Numbers 6:24-26, "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." Amen.

COMMANDER'S REPORT*Wes Vanderpool*

Happy New Year Post 178! As we bid farewell to the challenges and triumphs of the past year, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering commitment to our shared mission. Together, we've stood strong, supporting our Veterans and fostering a sense of camaraderie that defines our Post.

As we embrace the new year, let us carry forward the spirit of resilience and unity that binds us. May 2024 bring you and your loved ones prosperity, good health, and moments of joy. Happy New Year to the proud members of American Legion Post 178!

RIDERS REPORT*Steve Petersen*

First off, I would like to thank everyone who participated at **RCI's Christmas Party**. **Ranya** did a great job once again supplying gifts and goodies to families in need. Just goes to show when we all work together we can only be successful.

We hope you all had the best of the Christmas season. Good time to celebrate, relax, and reflect.

Our next event will be the **ALR Chili Cook-Off** on Saturday, February 17th. Details to come.

As we enjoy our holidays let us not forget those who protect our liberties and freedom, those who sacrifice for the people and country they love. With so much conflict and volatility in the world today, those who serve need our prayers more than ever. God bless America.

AUXILIARY REPORT*Kay Scott*

Happy New Year to all Post 178 Members!

I hope this finds all of you looking forward to a great year ahead as we continue to help our Veterans, Active Military, and their families, and enjoy each other's company.

Much thanks to **Ranya Kelly** and her crew for a great **Christmas Party** on December 16th for forty families. Thank you, **Dee Yurko** for your time and effort with the **Angel Tree Project** to raise the money to give each family \$200. Thank you, **Penny Polsten, Ayla Polsten (Santa's Helper!), Crystal Jones, Nikki and Jack Donnell, Russ Scott, and Post 178 Riders**.

A BIG Thank you again to **Max Thompson** for his generous donation of \$1000.

Auxiliary members, please remember to turn your volunteer hours in to me in any form you desire: email, Auxiliary mailbox, or place on the desk in Auxiliary room. Thanks!

We will have an **Auxiliary Art Class** on Sunday January 28th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. For a minimal fee for materials, you will learn a new craft to take home! And we will get to spend a bit of time with each other! Details coming. All money raised will go towards the **VA Creative Arts Festival** happening here in Denver this May. Sign-up sheet will be available on the Volunteer Board after our January meeting on Tuesday the 9th at 6:00 p.m.

For **Wednesday Night Dinners** we will be offering a few different choices this month, all for a great price! Our full menu of burgers, fish, shrimp with sides of fries, onion rings will be served January 3rd and 10th. January 24th we will serve Beef Stew with Garlic Bread. On January 17th we'll have patty melts with fries or onion rings, and on January 31st we will serve coconut shrimp, bacon-wrapped pineapple bites, and Hawaiian rice.

SAL REPORT*Brad Hall*

Well, another trip around the Sun is complete. Hopefully 2024 treats all of us well.

The SAL will be continuing in the same direction as we have for several years.

Sunday breakfast is a steadfast way that we raise funds for our donations. The kitchen staff gives up a ton of hours of their own time to make the Sunday breakfasts happen. Please be kind to these people, as Karma can jump up and bite you in a heartbeat. A personal thank you also goes a long way.

If you would like to help for one of our events, please let us know. There is a sign-up sheet on the pickle cage wall at the Post.

We will be doing the **SAL Golf Tournament** in June (date not firmed up yet), the **Horseshoe Tournament** Labor Day weekend, and several special meals between those two events. Please come out and support whatever is going on at the Post as all fundraising gets funneled to Veterans, Active Duty and Veterans charities.

Please get your 2024 dues in as the orange card will not work after January 1st.

Post Everlasting

*Remembering some Post 178 members
who passed away last year.*



Marilynn Anderson



Hal Mund



Connie Jones



Dave McCarl



Barb Bunting



Jim Gibson



Harold Nelson

BUSINESS REPORT

Bob Heen

First and foremost, I wish to thank **Max Thompson** for his generous donation of \$5,000.00 to the Post. Your generosity is greatly appreciated Max. I also want to thank **Doug and Kathy Schwab** for their help decorating the Post for Christmas.

Really made the Post very festive. Remember, effective January 1 you need to use your blue door card to access the lounge

Chuck Elsen requests that everyone who has commissioned a panel displayed above the bar to please contact him so he may enhance their panel with more personal information about their unit and when they served. Chuck's telephone number is 303-233-0142. Since most of the ceiling space above the bar is filled up with panels painted by Chuck, we will be displaying future panels in the game room.

On behalf of myself and Post staff we wish you a healthy and happy new year and look forward to seeing you in the Post soon.

Year 2023 in Review at Post 178



Top Row l. to r.: Post 178 backyard, Post Legion and Auxiliary Officers, Dancing to the All American Big Band.
 Row 2: The All American Big Band entertains overflow crowd, New plaque dedicated at Post flagpole.
 Row 3: Memorial Day Ceremony, Hearts of Love volunteers, Memorial Day Picnic.
 Row 4: Birthdays for Harold Nelson (108) and James Harvey (100), Cherokee Trail HS volunteers, Jr. Shooters.
 Row 5: Independence Day Picnic, Golf Tourney winners, Bizarre Bazaar, Horseshoe winners, Car Show winner.
 Row 6: Our volunteers are the lifeblood of Post 178. Thanks to everyone who volunteered during 2023.