



THE AMERICAN LEGION



"The Friendly Word" from "The Friendly Post"

1655 Simms Street

Post 178

Lakewood, CO

Red Robin Donates Gift Certificates to Post 178 Vets

Red Robin Restaurant at 7708 W. Long Drive (Bowles & Wadsworth) in Littleton collected gift card donations during the month of November for local veterans. Thanks to the marketing of this program by employees and the generosity of customers, Manager **Lynn Powers** was able to present our Post with gift cards in the amount of \$2,345. She has requested the gift cards be distributed to veterans of Post 178.

To involve as many Post veterans as possible, it has been decided to award \$25 gift cards to the first 90 veterans who would like one. To secure your gift card please see **Bob Heer**. He will collect your name and branch of service. When all cards are distributed the list will be forwarded to Ms. Powers.

Choose from over 25 delicious Gourmet Burgers including the fan fave Whiskey River® BBQ, the Cheesy Bacon Fondue, and the Royal Red Robin®. Bottomless Steak Fries® are the perfect side, or try their Bottomless Garlic Parmesan Broccoli or Bottomless Coleslaw.

If you're looking for something other than a burger, try their sandwiches, fresh salads, wraps, or a piping hot pizza from Donatos®. Don't forget to treat yourself to a handmade Gourmet Milkshake, or enjoy a generous slice of Mountain High Mudd Pie.

The gift cards are good at any Red Robin Restaurant, but it would be nice if we would redeem them at the Bowles location. When you go there, be sure to personally thank Ms. Powers on behalf of Post 178.



Jackson Family Pizza Night at Post 178



LEGION CHAPLAIN
Mary Johnson

Happy New Year! I know that the holidays can be stressful, and many find that there is a letdown after the New Year. January can be a lonely month for some, so reach out and communicate with a friend who may be in need.

The American Legion's "**Be The One**" campaign is designed to combat veteran suicide. If you know anyone in need of outreach, please contact me at 361-445-5432 or by email at mary.johnson2@dhha.org.

I will leave you with the following verses from Psalms 34:18-19:

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit. The righteous person may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all.

COMMANDER'S REPORT
Russ Scott

I hope your holidays went well and that you are looking forward to a prosperous and happy new year.

The December 21st **Post Secret Santa Christmas Party** went well with 54 people attending. A total of \$540.00 was raised and all proceeds went to the insurance fund for the Post.

We had a white elephant gift exchange and fun was had by all. Special holiday drinks were available in the lounge by **Patty Bautista**, and lots of food was consumed.

MC of the festivities was **Mark Ward**, whose humor added greatly to the gift exchange. Thanks to Mark and to **Shari Davis** for all her hard work in creating and coordinating the food. Thanks also to everyone who brought gifts and food. You all made our party a great success.

Many who attended expressed their desire to have another Christmas party next year, perhaps on a Sunday afternoon. Judging by the success of this initial effort, we may make it an annual Christmas tradition.



Post 178 Secret Santa Christmas Party



BUSINESS REPORT

Bob Heer

I want to thank **Kathy Schwab** for her help in decorating the lounge for the Christmas holidays. Very festive Kathy! I also want to thank **Ronnie Braun** and **Brad Hall** for installing our new ice machine. Excellent job guys.

Big thanks are also in order to **Jimmy Waldner** for making his nephew **David** available to clean the gutters and complete some repairs on the roof. Thank you also to **Randy and Dawn Rehbein** for their significant year-end cash donation. Your generosity is appreciated.

The **Auxiliary, Riders, and Sons** all made donations to the **Corporation Board** to help pay the cost of our annual insurance. With their support we were able to take advantage of a cash discount on the overall premium.

Remember, you will need to use your *purple key card* to access the lounge door beginning on January 1st. Best wishes for a Happy New Year.

AUXILIARY REPORT

Ray Scott

Happy New Year! Unit 178 Auxiliary enjoyed a busy December. Twenty-four families attended the **RCI Holiday Party** on December 14th. **Ranya Kelly** and her volunteer crew delighted children and their parents with an abundance of presents

and edible treats.

Post 178 Riders helped set-up for the party and provided pizza for lunch. A HUGE thank you to **Beth Hall** for all her time taking donations for the **Angel Tree**. We were able to give a total of 50 military families a cash gift to help make the season a bit brighter.

Our third annual **“Keep the Kids & Vets Warm”** project with hats, scarves, and gloves was a huge success. We also included socks this year, and we donated everything to those attending the RCI party. Remaining items were taken by Ranya and delivered to the vets she supports. Many Post members donated, made, and/or purchased items for this project. I am so thankful for all of you.

Ranya Kelly helped to make our Post festive with poinsettia's and table centerpieces for the RCI party as well as for our FIRST annual Holiday Party and white elephant gift exchange on December 21st. Thank you, **Mark Ward** for conducting the gift exchange, **Patty Bautista** for the delicious holiday

drinks from the bar, and **Shari Davis** and other auxiliary members for the appetizers and desserts. Lots of smiles and laughter along with the gifts were exchanged that day. This event was a fundraiser for the Post insurance bill due at the end of December 2024. Thank you to all who participated! We appreciate your support.

In a follow-up to our **Bizarre Bazaar**, I want to thank **Teresa Randolph** for her volunteer assistance and the **Legion Riders** for their generous contribution. Both were overlooked in the list of volunteers named in last month's newsletter, but their support is greatly appreciated.

Our January monthly meeting will be on Tuesday the 7th at 6:00 p.m., and I look forward to working with you in this new year!

SAL REPORT

Brad Hall

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and a great New Year. Going into the dead of the Winter, let's not forget the veterans who are having to spend these cold nights out in the weather. Please help when you can.

On that note, we will be doing a fundraiser in February where Bobby's famous prime rib will be served. The dinner will be Friday, February 14th from 5:00 p.m. until it runs out. So come on down to the Post and have some great chow!

I would like to thank all the volunteers who help out in the kitchen mostly on Fridays and Sundays. These folks take time out of their day to bring you the different meals we prepare and serve. Without them, we would be in a world of hurt. Thank You!

Please get your dues for 2025 in as your 2024 key cards will no longer give you access to the Post.

Thank a veteran when you see one!



Beth Hall and Sheri Davis sort items donated by Post members to the Auxiliary's "Keep the Kids & Vets Warm" project.

Ranya Kelly's RCI Christmas Party for Veterans and Children

