



THE AMERICAN LEGION

"The Friendly Word" from "The Friendly Post"

1655 Simms Street

Post 178

Lakewood, CO



Mother's Day Founder Fought Against the Holiday

By Dave Dupree

The origin of Mother's Day is credited to West Virginia native Anna Maria Jarvis. The story begins with her own mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis, who was a well-known social activist and community organizer. Mrs. Jarvis had 13 children, only four of whom lived to adulthood. Anna was the oldest surviving daughter. She never married or had children of her own.

Beginning in 1858 Anna's mother began organizing "Mothers' Day Work Clubs" to educate women about issues of sanitation, with emphasis on combating the high rate of infant mortality. During the Civil War local legend recalls a Union colonel seeking Mrs. Jarvis' help in stopping the spread of disease that was killing soldiers. She responded by organizing mothers to declare their neutrality and care for soldiers in both Union and Confederate camps.

After the war she organized a "Mother's Friendship Day" to foster peace and help heal the lingering divide between families in the region.

Anna's mother taught Sunday School for 25 years at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia. Impressionable 12-year-old Anna listened intently to one particular Sunday lesson about mothers of the Bible, concluded in prayer by Mrs. Jarvis appealing for someone someday to create a day to honor mothers for their service.

According to Anna, her mother's Sunday School prayer stuck in her head. Thirty 30 years later, when Ann Reeves Jarvis died, Anna declared, "I'm going to dedicate my life to promoting my mother's vision of a day honoring mothers."

Anna launched her campaign in 1907 by handing out white carnations at her mother's church. She picked the second Sunday in May because it was the closest Sunday to May 9th, the anniversary of her mother's death, and white carnations because they had been her mother's favorite flower.

A much larger ceremony was held in Philadelphia the following year in which Anna distributed white carnations to mothers, sons, and daughters in attendance, making it the first official observance of Mother's Day.

Anna left her job in 1909 and dedicated herself to a full-time letter-writing campaign. She wrote to governors, charities, the editor of Ladies Home Journal, and even to President Teddy Roosevelt imploring them to institute a national day for mothers. Her efforts resulted in Mother's Day

services at churches in 46 states that year.

In 1910 the West Virginia governor declared the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. By 1912 most states recognized Mother's Day. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Mother's Day as an official national holiday in 1914. Canada joined the popular movement in 1915.

Anna was pleased at the placement of the apostrophe in "Mother's Day," making it singular possessive instead of plural possessive. She wanted her holiday to be a private, intimate observance where children spent time with their mother or wrote them a letter. She didn't anticipate the wave of commercialization that would follow.

A flood of greeting cards, expensive floral arrangements, packages of candies,

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*Ann Reeves Jarvis
1832—1905*

*Anna Maria Jarvis
1864—1948*

LEGION CHAPLAIN*Mary Johnson*

Welcome to the month of May. The military honors those who have died in the service of our country on Memorial Day (May 26th). I hope all of you have a meaningful day remembering those who answered the ultimate call.

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8:

May God bless all the veterans who died to protect our freedom. And let us not forget to celebrate mothers on Mother's Day (May 11th). We should look to Proverbs 31:31 which states:

"Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate."

COMMANDER'S REPORT*Russ Scott*

Once again it is time for election of Post officers. Some of our current officers have volunteered to remain, but there are a few positions that need to be filled. All positions are open for nominations for the upcoming year.

The two positions that need someone to step up and fill are First Vice and Finance Officer. I encourage everyone interested in a position to attend the general membership meeting on Tuesday, May 6th, at 6:00 p.m. If you can't attend the general membership meeting, you can email me of your intention to be considered for any position. My email address is **commanderpost178lk@gmail.com**.

Please plan to attend our Memorial Day Service beginning at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, May 26th followed by our annual backyard picnic. The week will end with a Legion Dinner on Friday featuring meatloaf, twice-baked potatoes, and a veggie.

I am honored to serve our Veterans and encourage all of our membership to get involved in the day to day running of our Post.

AUXILIARY REPORT*Kay Scott*

Welcome Spring with warmer weather and hopefully without snow! A HUGE thank you to **Diana McCarl**, **Susie Rice**, and **Glenna Phelps-Aurich** for your time and energy cleaning the cupboard doors in the kitchen! Thanks also to **Dee Yurko** and all those taking "**Purple Up**" donations for the military kids at Ft. Carson during the month of April.

Thank you **Daisi and Ruby Vanderpool** for participating with me in the **Military Child Table Setting Ceremony** and then taking donations before Bingo on April 12th. As of this writing, we have raised \$ 300!

Ranya Kelly (RCI) delivers food baskets to Veterans and we have been asked to conduct a canned food drive to assist her. A receptacle for the canned goods is located by the Post manager's office. We will be conducting this drive for the foreseeable future, so please look through your cupboards and/or buy a few extra cans of food when you shop and drop them off at the Post for this worthy cause. Thank you all so much for all those of you helping others.

A special thank you for all those who cook, serve, and clean for the Auxiliary Wednesday Night dinners. Thank you for your time and energy serving our delicious meals.

May begins with our monthly meeting on the 6th at 6:00 p.m. and will include officer elections for the 2025-2026 year, planning for **New Member Initiation Ceremony** on May 18th at 2:00 p.m., **Poppy Day** on Friday, May 23rd, and the **Post Memorial Day Picnic** on Monday May 26th at Noon.

Please Join The American Legion Auxiliary

Kentucky
DERBY PARTY

Saturday, May 3rd

Derby Hat Contest (with prizes), 50/50
Raffle & Mint Juleps

BUSINESS REPORT

Bob Heer

I want to personally thank **Max Thompson** for his recent donation to the Post of \$5,000. Max requested I split this donation evenly between the lounge, Legion, Auxiliary, SAL, and Riders, which I have done. Thank you again Max for your generosity.

You are awesome! Your donation will be used to help support our many Veteran related programs.

We will be holding our first member picnic following the Memorial Day Service which will be at 11:30 a.m. on May 26th. The Post will provide draft beer, burgers, brats, and baked beans. Members are requested to bring a dish to share. As in prior years we will charge \$10 for each non-member guest and \$8 for non-member children under age 12.

A sign-up sheet is in the lounge if you are available to volunteer 30 minutes of your day to check membership cards. Everyone must enter through the South door on Memorial Day and show their membership card to secure a wrist band. The East entrance door will be locked on that day.

SAL REPORT

Brad Hall

Doesn't seem like it's May already, but I'll take it. Come on Summer!

The Jr. Shooters pancake breakfast in April was quite a success. A lot of people came out to support this program which is always great to see.

A reminder that the SAL Golf Tournament coming June 13th at Applewood Golf Course. We can use hole sponsors and still have plenty of spots for teams. Sign up and come out to support this charity fund raiser.

Please get your dues paid ASAP as the fiscal year end is growing near.

If any SAL members have information they would like for the newsletter, please let me know. Thank a Veteran when you see one!

RIDERS REPORT

Steve Petersen

"...It is a proud privilege to be a soldier – a good soldier ... [with] discipline, self-respect, pride in his unit and his country, a high sense of duty and obligation to comrades and to his superiors, and a self confidence born of demonstrated ability."

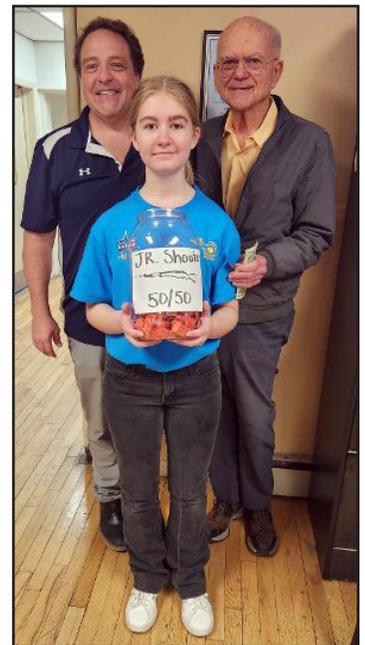
— George S. Patton Jr.

We who serve The American Legion, whether veterans or not, are here because we hold in high regard those who have served honorably and patriotically for their country.

The Riders genuinely enjoy our contribution to Veterans and especially those in need. Please support our efforts in this great cause. One of our current beneficiaries is **Ranya Kelly's RCI**, which in turn helps so many active duty military and Veterans in need. We are looking for other entities to assist. In addition to Veterans, the Legion's charities include organizations like the Jr. Shooters. We look forward to your suggestions.

Right: Pancake Breakfast 50/50 winner Allan Lockheed Jr. drawn by team member Cloey Tolman and Shooter's coach Chad Meyers.

Below: The 2025 Jr. Shooters Team.



and other presents were subsequently unleashed on America's mothers by what Anna called "commercial racketeers." She accused them of undermining a noble celebration with their greed.

To Anna, Mother's Day was always her holiday. She copyrighted it. She became enraged whenever Woodrow Wilson was given credit for Mother's Day. She had become well known around the world at a time when successful, independent women were a rarity. Her movement defined her and she defended it ferociously. She threatened lawsuits against the floral, greeting card, and candy industries. She endorsed boycotts against flower shops raising the price of carnations just before Mother's Day.

The military co-opted Mother's Day during the 1920s to convince mothers to raise sons willing to "make the world safe for democracy."

In 1923 Anna threatened to sue the New York Mother's Day Committee which included Governor Al Smith and Mayor John Hylan over plans for a large Mother's Day celebration. The event was cancelled.

When a group named American War Mothers began raising funds by selling carnations, Anna responded by crashing the group's annual Philadelphia convention in 1925 and was arrested for disturbing the peace. Charges were later dismissed.

Politics entered the fray in 1933 when, amid the economic hardship of the Depression, the U.S. Senate amended their original Mother's Day resolution to include a plea for charitable donations. That opened the floodgates, and numerous charities seized on Mother's Day to solicit financial support for their causes.

Powerful people like Eleanor Roosevelt and Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, the first woman cabinet member, expressed agreement for the holiday's association with fundraising. Anna sent telegrams to FDR in protest, and demanded that Perkins resign. "We're promoting your day," replied Mrs. Roosevelt, who couldn't understand why Anna was so angry.

President Roosevelt and Postmaster General James Farley unveiled a Mother's Day stamp in 1934 featuring a portrait of painter James McNeil Whistler's mother

with white carnations and the words "In memory and in honor of the Mothers of America." It came as a result of the lobbying effort by the American War Mothers group. Anna was miffed. The stamp missed the meaning of her holiday entirely.

At one time Anna had over 30 lawsuits pending. She warned, "You don't have permission to use my day. You don't have permission to use my carnations. How dare you?" She would not be intimidated by anyone, and stood toe to toe with any man or woman to protect her intellectual property.

In 1940, having become reclusive and increasingly bitter over the state of her holiday, she resolved to end it. She told a reporter that she was sorry she'd ever started Mother's Day.

Anna had inherited her brother's money after his death in 1926 and used it to finance her legal battles until it was gone. She never profited financially from Mother's Day. The end came because the fight took everything out of her

emotionally, physically, and financially.

In 1943 she stumbled into a Philadelphia hospital. Newsweek magazine reported that she was emaciated and sickly. At age 80 she was placed in a mental asylum called the Marshall Square Sanitarium. The bill for maintaining her residence was paid by people connected

with the floral and greeting card industries. Anna died penniless in 1948 at the age of 84 and was buried in Philadelphia next to her mother, brother, and sister.

Today in Grafton, West Virginia at the Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church, the International Mother's Day Shrine commemorates the first official observance of Mother's Day. In 1992 it was designated a National Historic Landmark.

Data from the National Federation of Retailers shows that, in 2024, Americans spent \$33.5 billion on Mother's Day, including \$7 billion on jewelry and \$3.2 billion on flowers.

Anna Maria Jarvis' position regarding Mother's Day remained unchanged from the second Sunday in May, 1907 when she first passed out white carnations in remembrance of her mother: "Can we just have one day a year when we simply thank our mother and express our love for her?"



Anna Jarvis in her later years.

VETERAN'S LAST PATROL

Serving Veterans By Bringing New
Friends to Veterans in Hospice.



Mission Statement

Last Patrol: Our mission is to BEFRIEND, HONOR, and SUPPORT veterans on their Last Patrol.

Purpose

America's veterans served their country. They protected us and our way of life. We must stand by them.

Our veterans know about patrolling land, sea, and air. Veterans in hospice are on their final fight and on their last patrol. Whether it goes by the name "battle buddy" or "shipmate" or "wingman" --- all veterans understand that tough assignments are best faced together.



HONOR CEREMONY



BOOT CAMP



A DENVER, CO TROOP

Gary has recently completed his last patrol and reassigned to Eternal Patrol.

American Legion Post 178 is looking to build an "Honor Team" to work with Veteran's Last Patrol to support and help our local troops in hospice care stand strong through their last patrol.

Contact: [Chaplain Mary Johnson](#) and/or [Randy Kipp](#) if interested in participating in this mission outreach.

mary.johnson2@dhha.org and/or pushkva@comcast.net

SAL

17th Annual



Tournament

Friday, June 13, 2025

Applewood Golf Course

\$90 per Player / \$360 per Foursome

Proceeds go to SAL Charities

Entry Deadline June 6 (NO EXCEPTIONS)

- 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

**Tournament
Sponsorship
Opportunities**

Contact Brad Hall
720-471-9383
(leave a message)

Sponsors' Deadline June 1

3 Ways to Register

Scan QR Code

**Online at
tinyurl.com/yx7y3tra**

**Complete the Form
on the Reverse Side**

