



William "Bill" Radunz (June 11, 1941 — October 11, 2025)

William Fred Radunz, Jr., 84, passed away on Saturday, October 11, 2025, at his home in Naples, Florida. He was the husband of the late Judy (Sanders) Radunz.

Bill was born June 11, 1941, in Chicago, Illinois. He graduated from Arlington High School in 1959 and proudly enlisted in the United States Navy in 1963. He served his country with honor and continued that service long after his military days were over.

He joined Post 178 in 1990 and became a dual member by joining the Sons in 1997. Just one week after joining, he was appointed Legion Finance Officer by Commander Norbert Jessen. He was a tireless volunteer at our post in the years that followed. He loved preparing meals in our kitchen, although at times you wouldn't know it judging by his occasional demeanor.

Bill initiated Sunday Breakfast in 1998, Friday Night Dinners with live entertainment in 2000, the SAL Saturday Breakfast Buffet in 2004, and the Annual Early Bird Dinner. Wednesday Burger Nights were begun in 1995 by Bill and his Auxiliary President wife, Judy. He even affixed the numbers on the bar for easier ordering.

Bill typically worked over 108 hours every month at Post 178 ordering food, managing the kitchen staff, prepping, cleaning, and cooking 4 to 6 days each week. When he departed for Florida in 2018 to be with his sons Robert and Richard and their families, the Post 178 kitchen was ceremoniously named Bill Radunz's

Gourmet Galley and a sign was placed above the kitchen door.

As if that wasn't enough, Bill also founded the SAL Golf Tournament which continues to raise thousands of dollars annually for Son's charities. Bill loved golf and was a long-time member of the Foothills Golf Club where he taught his sons to play, and later at Quail Run Golf Club in Naples.

He chaired and served on the committee that organized the annual Duck Races during Buffalo Bill Days in Golden, raising enough money to make Post 178 Colorado's largest contributor to the Legion's Child Welfare Foundation. Thanks mostly to Bill, Colorado led the nation in per-capita giving to CWF in 2013, doubling the second place state.

An avid bowler, he competed in numerous amateur and professional leagues and tournaments throughout his life. At the age of 19, Bill bowled the first 300-game ever recorded in the city of Chicago.



Positions Held

Legion: Commander (2 years), Finance Officer twice (4 years), First Vice Commander (2 years), Executive Board twice (6 years), Corporation Board (9 years), Hardship Committee Chairman (13 years), Boy's State Chairman (2 years), Oratorical Chairman (2 years), Legion Adjutant (10 years).

SAL: Commander (11 years), Adjutant (4 years), Detachment Jr. Vice Commander (2 years), Chairman SAL Golf Tournament (11 years), CWF Duck Race Committee (12 years).

Awards

First recipient of Department of Colorado "Dual Member of the Year Award," Post 178 Legionnaire of the Year Award (2009), SAL Member of the Year Award (9 times), SAL Dual Member of the Year Award (8 times), Jeffco Senior Citizen of the Year Award (2015).

Bill's legacy isn't just in titles or awards. It's in the smell of bacon and coffee on Sunday mornings, and the laughter echoing through the halls of Post 178—his home away from home—where he was not just a member, but a cornerstone of volunteerism.

Though we feel the weight of his absence today, we are also blessed with the strength of his legacy.

Bill's family suggests memorial contributions in his name be made to the Lakewood American Legion, Post 178.

LEGION CHAPLAIN*Mary Johnson*

November is the perfect month to be thankful for family, friends, and loved ones. We celebrate the U.S. Marine Corps Birthday on November 10th and all veterans on Veterans Day (November 11th). The month culminates in Thanksgiving (November 27th) as a way for us to celebrate all those special relationships that we need in our lives. As always, we pray for all the active duty service, veterans, and those POWs/MIAs still lost to us.

As is stated in Psalm 107:

O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endures forever.

COMMANDER'S REPORT*Russ Scott*

The fourth installment of **The American Legion Preamble** states: "To foster and perpetuate a 100% Americanism." Americanism is the gist of the American ideal of freedom, justice, individual rights, and unfenced-in opportunities. It embraces all the freedoms we cherish, and all the rights that are guaranteed to us. It is the very opposite of hatred, bigotry, and intolerance. Americanism is the creed that has blazed the world-wide trail for justice, fair play, decency, belief in God, private enterprise, universal education, and progress in all human endeavors. It puts a premium on the virtues of loyalty, patriotism, hard work, and thrift.

A reminder, that the parking along Simms Street is for compact cars only. If you drive an SUV, it is not a compact car and you will be asked to move to a different parking space.

Remember **Veterans Day** is Tuesday, November 11th. We will play Bingo at 1:00 p.m. with dinner starting at 3:00 p.m. Every Post 178 Veteran will receive one FREE \$5 Bingo card. Volunteers are always needed and welcome to help with any activities around the Post, especially on this very busy day.

Every member and guest of Post 178 are to be treated with dignity and respect. Leave your political and personal beliefs at home. If you can't, and an argument happens, all participants will be told to leave the Post immediately.

Thank you to all the volunteers that make things happen around Post 178!!!

AUXILIARY REPORT*Kay Scott*

Here we are once again in the thick of the Holiday Season!! Although this can be the 'most wonderful time of the year' for many, the holidays for those experiencing loss, regret, or traumatic life-events need all of us to reach out, listen, and include them in our Post family during this time.

Beginning November 1st, the **Angel Tree** will be up and ready to receive monetary donations given to the military families attending the **RCI Christmas Party** right here at the Post on December 20th. An angel ornament, color of your choice, will be hung on the Angel Tree. Thank you so much in advance for your donation,

and let's make the tree merry and bright!

Veterans Day Dinner

is fast approaching on Tuesday, November 11th. Bingo will start the day at 1:00 p.m. The Auxiliary will pay for every Veteran Post member to play ONE \$5 game for FREE!! EVERYONE is invited to play! Once Bingo concludes, the Auxiliary will be serving our traditional Spaghetti Dinner from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. Post Vet members eat free and non-Vets pay \$11 a plate. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Volunteer Board by the Pickle Cage to help with preparation and serving. Preparations for the dinner will begin on

JOIN US FOR A TRADITIONAL

Thanksgiving FEAST

27 NOVEMBER

1 PM - 4PM

AMERICAN LEGION POST 178
LAKEWOOD

FREE TO POST 178 MEMBERS AND SPOUSE. GUESTS PAY \$8

Sign Up By Nov. 20th

Monday, November 10th. Any time you are able to assist us on Monday and/or Tuesday is greatly appreciated.

Veterans Day will also be the last day for **Bizarre Bazaar**, which is a delightful blend of crafts, jams/jellies, and snacks all planned, organized, and mainly put on by **Judy Eberley**. Those helping her have been **Kathy Schwaab, Shari Davis, Sheri Mitchell, Carol Doehler, Sharon Koehley, Bonnie Stocker, Doug Lemons, Donna McKelvy**, and Judy's friend **Genie Lawler**.



The 19th Special Forces Group meets for breakfast at Post 178 every 3rd Saturday.

At 4:00 p.m. on Veterans Day, the drawings for the two patriotic quilts will be raffled (those tickets sold since Bizarre Bazaar started this October) and the 50/50 (during Veteran's Day Bingo) will be called. You do not need to be present to win, but who would want to pass up a Spaghetti Dinner surrounded by friends and Post family?

Wednesday Dinner Nights for the month of November are the 5th, 12th, and the 19th. We will offer Burgers with sides on the 5th, Full Menu of Burgers, Fish, Shrimp with sides on the 12th, and Sloppy Joe Sandwiches with Tater Tots on the 19th. We will not be serving on the 26th, the night before Thanksgiving, to let our cooks prepare feasts being served at home and at the Post.

Thanksgiving Dinner will be served at the Post starting at 1:00 p.m. ALL Post members eat free; guests \$8 each. **Shari Davis** and **Mark Ward** are heading up a crew to provide the traditional meal of turkey and all the fixings. A HUGE thank you to them and our own **Ranya Kelly** making this meal happen. They will need help with preparation, serving, and cleaning up! Monetary donations welcome. Sign-up sheets for volunteers and those wishing to attend will be posted soon.

Have a great month of November everyone!

BUSINESS REPORT *Bob Heer*

A huge thank you to **Andy Orona** for the donation of a new snow blower to the Post. Your generosity is greatly appreciated Andy!

Several members have asked how the funds that have been donated to the **Building and Maintenance Fund** are being spent. A summary of funds spent this fiscal year for maintenance and repairs follows: \$2,500 for tree pruning, \$605 for a new kitchen door, \$770 for repairs to kitchen walk in, \$1,217 for repairs to the keg cooler, and \$355 for a new bathroom door.

Thanks to **Bill and Bob Black** the patio is enclosed again for the winter months. **Wayne McClimans, Kathy Schwab** and **Chuck Washington** have done an excellent job of cleaning up the flower beds in the backyard. You all have been awesome this year!

SAL REPORT *Brad Hall*

November starts the Holiday weeks and I heard there may be a Thanksgiving meal served at the Post this year. One thing they will need to make this meal a success is a not so secret ingredient of volunteers. People go all out when they decide to do things like this for the members. Step up, help out. It does a soul good.

Please keep the dues rolling in. In only two months you will not have your key card to get into the door. That's about it for November. Have a great Thanksgiving.

Backyard Tree Planted in Memory of Dawn Rehbein



Thank you to **Mary Feltes**, owner of *Personal Touch Engraving and Gifts* at 9150 W. Jewell Avenue in Lakewood, for donating the plaque attached to the flowering plum tree planted by the Auxiliary in the backyard at Post 178 in memory of Dawn Rehbein. —**Dee Yurko**



Ssgt. Jo Tessean, who just returned from deployment in Italy, stopped by the Post on Wednesday, October 22 and volunteered to help serve dinner together with **Mike Harris, Mark Ward, and Dee Yurko**. She is a member of the Colorado Air National Guard.

While at Post 178, “Ssgt. Jo” collected some of *Just Like Dad’s* beef Jerky to take to her unit, the 140th Force Support Squadron, at Buckley AFB and arranged for Randy and Lori Kipp to send another allotment of jerky to her friend Bryan stationed in the United Arab Emirates.

