



Charles Donald Elsen (May 22, 1939 — January 18, 2026)



"Chuck" Elsen was born in Ft. Dodge, Iowa and joined the United States Navy after graduating from high school. He became a proud member of the Silent Service aboard diesel-electric submarines as a torpedoman, and later on Polaris nuclear ballistic missile submarines. His career spanned from 1957 to 1976, during which he completed 16 patrols and retired as a Chief Petty Officer.

After retiring from the military he apprenticed under a master cabinet maker and, in 1979, founded Professional Wood Care. For 30 years he repaired and maintained office

furniture using a restoring oil of his own creation.

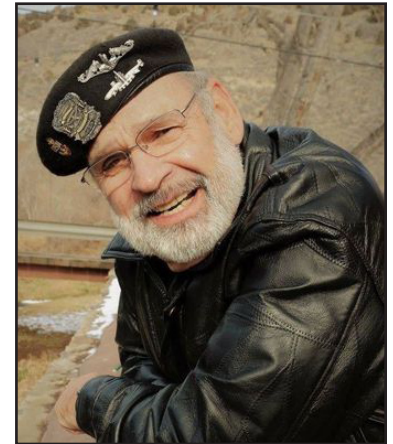
Chuck was also dedicated to Post 178. He served as a Patriot Guard Rider and as a member of the Color Guard honoring service members at funerals. He also

created nearly 100 ceiling panels depicting unit emblems, ship crests, service awards, and other tributes to honor Post 178 Legion members.

Chuck loved his American Legion Post 178 family, and left a mark on all who knew him that will never fade. He somehow mastered the art of being both stubborn and generous. His family and friends all knew that Chuck had strong opinions. If you disagreed, that was fine—you were just wrong.

Chuck is survived by his wife of 56 years, Judy; his oldest son, Todd Elsen (Jennifer) of Hays, Kansas; and his younger son, Trevor Elsen (Susan Bencivenega) of Bulverde, Texas.

A Celebration of Chuck's Life will be held at Post 178, the date to be announced. His family requests donations in Chuck's memory be given to American Legion Post 178, 1655 Simms St, Lakewood, CO 80215.



**Congratulations
Mile-High
Division
Champion
DD-214ers
Pool Team**

LEGION CHAPLAIN
Mary Johnson

Welcome to February, the month that sends an important message about love with the celebration of St. Valentine's Day on the 14th. We also honor past and present Commanders in Chief on President's Day, February 16th. Love should be in the air all month: love of family, love for veterans and active duty, and love of country. Let us all extend love, kindness, and compassion to others this month as expounded in 1 Corinthians 13: 4-6:

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.



COMMANDER'S REPORT
Russ Scott

Overall, the month of January went by smoothly. We lost **Chuck Elsen** on the 18th, but he remains with us through his ceiling tiles and banners. He will be greatly missed.

Looking ahead, volunteers seem to be hard to come by at the post, but I need to keep asking so the same people don't keep doing most of the work. If you want to help out you can email me and I will answer you with a list of opportunities. (commanderpost178lk@gmail.com)

Thanks to the people who have volunteered in the past and continue working so hard to make things happen at Post 178. We are having a General Membership meeting in February on the 3rd. We are losing our Finance Officer for next year and we are in need of an at large member of the Executive Committee to replace Chuck. We are also needing to fill the Historian position.

Hope you all have a great February!!!

Latest installment on the meaning of The American Legion Preamble:

To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation...Always interested in building a better nation, the founders of The American Legion believed that such building must start first with the individual in his own community. So they made it one of the cardinal principles of The American Legion to inculcate that sense of personal obligation to the community, state, and nation into the individual citizen.

That means educating the citizen—young, old, and future—in his and her responsibility to be active in making their hometown a better place in which to live, in discharging the duty of voting in elections, in paying taxes promptly, and in contributing to community chest funds and to blood banks.

The word "inculcate" means "to impress by frequent admonitions" and "to enforce by frequent repetitions." Like the duties themselves, the reminders remain that the duties to be carried forward are never finished.

AUXILIARY REPORT
Kay Scott

I hope this finds all of you keeping warm through the most recent cold and snow. Although our beloved Broncos won't be in the Super Bowl, we can have confidence knowing the next football season will be another exciting one!

Our next member meeting will be on Tuesday February 3rd at 6:00 p.m. We will be planning events for the coming months including **St. Patrick's Day Dinner** in March, potential **Easter** activities, **Community Service Challenge in District 5**, and **Month of the Military Child** all happening in April.

Every Wednesday Dinner Night in February (4th, 11th, 18th, 25th), we will be serving a great meal at a great value. Refer to the monthly calendar for the menus. We are always looking for more members to volunteer to cook and/or serve. Please let me know if you are interested!

Also, we need members to submit their volunteer hours. This is so important for our Unit as the "End of the Year" Reports deadline is April 15th. There are forms located on the Auxiliary Board in the hallway from the Game Room and also on the bulletin board in the Auxiliary Room.

Have a great February everyone!



Former Junior Shooter now Navy ETN3 Benjamin Larimer (r.) stopped by Post 178 to have a beer with (l. to r.) Dave McBrien, Brad Hall, Army PFC Jedidiah Reed, Shawn Bloomer, and Robert Chartier.

BUSINESS REPORT

Bob Heer

I have just received notice that effective February 1st there will be an increase in the cost of our bottle and keg beer. Since we have absorbed the past two price increases, I anticipate we will have no choice but to increase our beer sales prices to cover this increased cost. The cost of Saturday Breakfast will also be going up to \$11.

We are hosting **Life Line Screening** on April 1st. Flyers will be posted in the lounge advertising the event along with pre-registration information.

This past month a great friend and Post volunteer, **Chuck Elsen**, passed away. Chuck came up with the idea to create and display panels in the lounge ceiling depicting the units in which members of our Post served while on active duty. Chuck was also responsible for placement of the many flags in the lounge as well as in our front yard. His goal was to make 178 the most patriotic Post. The many flags Chuck displayed over time were all purchased and donated by him. Chuck will be missed, but his impact on the Post will live on. Rest in peace my friend.

SAL REPORT

Brad Hall

The SAL will be having a smoked baby back rib dinner on Friday, February 13th. We are calling it a **Hillbilly Valentine's Dinner**. (Bob Black's idea)

There will be a costume contest for best Hillbilly costume with a \$50.00 prize.

Come out and enjoy the ribs and good company.

Members, please make certain we have contact information for you. This year seems like the worst ever for membership cards that we mail getting returned from the Postal Service. When we don't have a phone number or an email for you it's impossible to start tracking you down to get your door card and membership card to you.

You can write your phone number and email address with your name on an envelope and drop it in our safe in the game room. At the very least, please give us your phone number.

The **18th Annual SAL Golf Tournament** will be June 19th this year. Look for info coming out on that next month.

Thank a Veteran when you see one.

RIDERS REPORT

Steve Peterson

Not a lot of news from the Riders. One apology is due for our burrito/taco dinner on February 16th. I understand some meals were served cold. We solved the problem and will do better next time.

Our annual **Chili Cook-Off** is the 21st of February. Both red and green chili will be judged and awarded. Entries are due at the post by 11:00 a.m. to set up. Tasting to ensue at 12:00 p.m. Entry fee is \$10. Tasting donation is \$10. The winner will be announced before the bingo black-out. There will be a sign-up sheet at the pickle cage.

Thank you for supporting the Riders. We are training several new Riders as volunteers and hope your interactions with all of us, whether at dinner or otherwise, is positive.

Thanks "Just Like Dad's Beef Jerky" From Deployed Troops



379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron



Thank you so much for the Beef Jerky - I handed it out and got a few of our 68 Airman to take a picture with the Jerky. It is wonderful and we really appreciate the support. I am the one on the far left and I am a member of the American Legion Post 178. Thank you again it's really nice to know we have support from back home!

