



Ranya Kelly Receives 7 Everyday Hero Award

Ranya Kelly was looking for an empty cardboard box in 1986 to package a gift when she opened a large dumpster and discovered 500 pairs of brand new shoes that had been discarded. She retrieved them and gave them to Father Woody's Samaritan House.

Later, when she returned looking for more shoes, she was almost arrested. So she established relationships



with several businesses willing to donate unsold food and merchandise, and in 1991 founded **Redistribution Center Incorporated**.

Under Ranya's guidance as Executive Director, RCI has gathered and redistributed over \$100 million worth of in-kind donations. Last year alone, her organization distributed more than 155,000 meals.

Ranya's commitment to military families is personal. Her son was accepted to West



Point in 2002, then served in Iraq and later suffered serious health issues.

In 2012 Ranya opened **Warriors Warehouse** at Ft. Carson where volunteers now serve over 1,000 soldiers every month providing free household goods, clothing, baby items, and, of course, shoes to junior enlisted personnel and their families.

Watch the Channel 7 video taken at Post 178:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GxfySU0g20>

Post Pool Team Racks Up 2nd Championship



Armando Jiron, Lloyd Wilcox, and Karen Ziείς.

The members have changed a few times during the three years the Post has generously supported the team, and they represent Post 178 with dignity and respect. Over the years, they have made many friends on opposing teams and always enjoy the friendly banter with them, while trying to "knock their socks off".

The team members will be competing in the City Championships in June, with their sights set on a trip to Las Vegas for the next round of competition.

—Judy Myers

The DD-214ers, the 9-Ball team, sponsored by Post 178, brought home its second divisional championship in a row this Spring. **Team Captain, Joe Rivera**, often calls the team together to make tactical decisions about matching opponents to maximize the opportunity for a WIN. Other team members include **Legion Commander, Russ Scott, Legion Sergeant-at-Arms, Chris (CJ) James, Auxiliary Treasurer Judy Myers,**

We have a **Gun Raffle** going on right now. The proceeds will pay for pool table refelting. The gun is a Kimber STG 9mm. It comes with two clips two different front sight color inserts. It is new, never been fired. We pay for the winners transfer fee and the mandatory background check. One sweet gun.



—Russ Scott, Commander

LEGION CHAPLAIN
Mary Johnson

June is the month when we welcome summer weather and activities. It also has significant meaning for the military. June 14th stands out as we celebrate **Flag Day** and the birthday of the U.S. Army. This month also gives us **Fathers Day** on June 21st and a chance to honor all Dads out there. In honor of them, I offer the following:

“Children’s children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.”
—Proverbs 17:6

COMMANDER’S REPORT
Russ Scott

Memorial Day at Post 178 was a great success and I believe everyone had a good time.

Many thanks to all the people who helped with everything that needed to be done. From the preparation of the food, bringing the sides and desserts, to those who helped clean up and tear down the tables in the hall. Thank you to all who participated in the ceremony. I received many compliments on the ceremony.

The **Executive Committee** will meet June 30th at 6:00 p.m., the last Tuesday of the month.

**Last installment on the meaning of
The American Legion Preamble:**

To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy.

On this ideal of safeguarding and transmitting to posterity the principals of justice, freedom and democracy, all of the youth-training programs of The American Legion are built.

All Americans can be proud that in our international relations we have tried to live by the golden rule, the mark of justice. We have granted to others, as we prize it ourselves, the great boon of freedom

Through the Monroe Doctrine, we call a halt to foreign imperialism in the Western Hemisphere. We gave freedom to the Philippines.

These principles are part of the American heritage that Legionnaires are pledged to protect and preserve.

managing the buns and plates, condiments, sides, salads, desserts, beverages, extra grocery store runs. I’m sure I will be leaving someone out so please know you are so appreciated: **Jan and Charlie Casper, Shari Davis, Mark Ward, Kathy Schwab, Ranya Kelly, Beth and Brad Hall, Wayne McClimans, Leslie Hughes, Julie and Shawn Bloomer, Russ Scott, Jim Hutton, Dee Yurko, Denny Bendt, Nancy Carter, and Kim Gabinine.**

Due to many of us helping serve the meal for **Chuck Elsen’s Celebration of Life** on May 22nd, we did not have the Poppy tables at the local grocery. Instead, **Shari Davis** and **Dee Yurko** did a marvelous job of taking donations for paper Poppies to adorn the Bar. Thank you **Chris Harvey** for conducting the 50/50 raffle during the picnic! **Jennifer Braniff** won and the other half went to Poppy donations which go to help care for our Veteran assistance programs.

Celebrate USA 250



Saturday, July 4, 2026

**Post 178 Special BBQ Picnic
and Celebratory Activities
Begin at 11:30 a.m.**

Friday, July 3, 2026

**All American Big Band
from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

**Brisket Dinner with Sides
from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.**

AUXILIARY REPORT
Kay Scott

The 2026 Post 178 **Memorial Day Ceremony and Picnic** was

a true inspiration, and I was delighted to see so many members and guests attend. THANK YOU ever so much to **Rob Ostrander, Alan Carter, and Randy Baria** for grilling up burgers, brats, and dogs. THANKS also to so many others for

Kentucky Derby Day at Post 178

Leslie Schomer wore the winning entry in the Derby Day Hat Contest which brought out creative entries from several of the ladies who attended the festivities at Post 178.



Once again, **Leslie Schomer** is the winner of the Derby Day Hat Contest!! Congratulations! We all need to start thinking about what we will create for next year's contest. Leslie's hat took considerable time and creativity!

June is going to be a busy month at the Post! **Legion and Auxiliary Officer Installation** will be on Tuesday, June 2nd at 6:00 p.m. This is a Meet and Greet with an open invitation to ALL Post 178 members to attend, meet your officers, enjoy appetizers after the ceremony, and a free drink of your choice from the Bar.

Sunday June 14th is **Flag Day** with the ceremony at 11:30 a.m. The SAL will be serving breakfast beginning at 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Come for breakfast at a great value and be a part of this annual patriotic activity to honor our Flag!

Sunday, June 21st is **Father's Day!** Post member Dads eat FREE. Others \$11 and \$6 for kids ages 12 and under.

Get ready to celebrate in a big way; our **Fourth of July 250th Anniversary Party** is right around the corner and it's shaping up to be an unforgettable day at the Post. We'll be serving free food, hosting a festive afternoon of fun featuring a special **Independence Day Raffle** packed with themed baskets with surprises you won't want to miss. Bring a guest or family members for \$10 each, and enjoy a community celebration worthy of **America's 250th Birthday**. Let's make this Fourth of July one to remember!

SAL REPORT *Brad Hall*

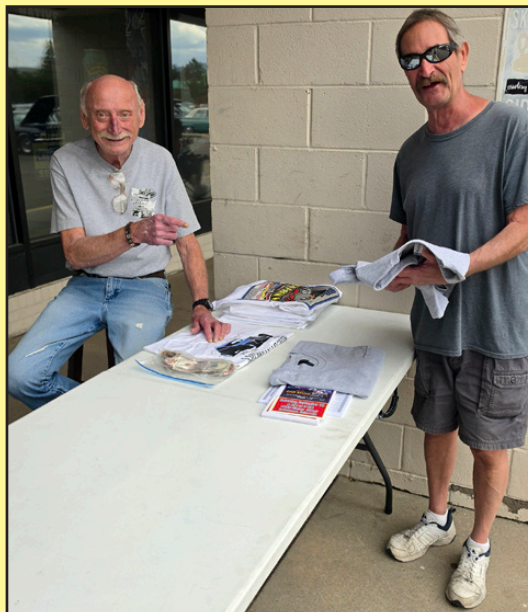
The **Golf Tournament** is sold out.

I would like to thank everyone who signed up and the sponsors who support this event. Funds raised will help SAL to continue to support Veterans, Veterans' charities, and community charities.

Mountain Tap B&G Car Shows Support Post 178

Two recent car shows at Mountain Tap Bar and Grill generously benefitted Post 178. Volunteers **Kathleen O'Riley** and **Keith Sanders** sold t-shirts at both events and raffles were held on behalf of Post 178. The activities raised just over \$1,000 for our Post and the Veterans we serve.

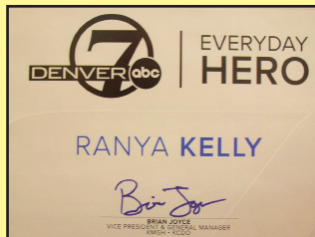
Keith is shown about to collect for one of **Dita Alexander's** America 250 t-shirts and Kathleen accepts raffle proceeds from **Jennica**.



Memorial Day Observed



Ranya's Award Night



American Legion Post 178 – Lakewood

America's 250th Celebration

July 3rd, 2026



FRIDAY, JULY 3RD

Big Band & Dinner

- All American Big Band
- Brisket with sides for \$16
- Dinner 5–7 PM, Music 6–9 PM
- No cover charge for music

