



# AMERICAN LEGION



## Wilmore Richter Post 161

6230 W. 60th Ave. Arvada, CO 80003 - (303) 424-0324 - December 2025 - Volume 62, Issue 12

Website: [www.alp161arvada.org](http://www.alp161arvada.org) - Facebook: [AmericanLegionPost161](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionPost161)

AMERICAN LEGION ADVOCATE

### RON NELSON COMMANDER



#### Merry Christmas Post 161 & Happy New Years 2026

**Without going any further** let's pause a moment for our Nations Troops. The National Guard out of West Virginia are mourning the loss of one of their own. On Federal Deployment to Help local officials fight crime in Our Nations Capital. Some dirt ball terrorist who came to our Country seeking a better life chose in Cold Blood

the day before Thanksgiving to shoot two of our Guardsmen. God, please comfort the Soul of Spc. Sarah Beckstrom age 20 and heal the wounded body of Staff Sgt, Andrew Wolfe age 24. Thank you, Lord. Amen. Our nation will live on but the family's if these American will forever have an empty spot in their lives.

**Thanksgiving Day at the Post was a wonderful turnout!** I'm told about 70 meals were served, half of dozen of which were delivered. 12 total volunteers, 7 from our post & 5 from U.S.V.R.C. a Veteran Motorcycle Group that are coming on board to have monthly meetings, and it sounds if they want to also help around our post and call us home.

**Don't forget the Post is OPEN Christmas Day.**

**Santa is Coming to the Post two times this month!**

**Something New. Winter Fest, Dec. 7th 2 - 5pm!** Looking at the Flyer, it looks downright FUN!!

**Dec. 20th Auxiliary Christmas Party with Santa** from 9 to Noon. As always, this is a great time for the little ones!!

**Dec. 12th Riders Christmas Party, Dinner and entertainment!!**

**Toys 4 Tots! It's that time of year.** The Boxes are in the lobby! You know how it works, NEW UNWRAPPED TOYS. Last day will be December 18th. Any late drops will go to RCI which go to the Fort Carson Christmas for Kids as they did last year!

**See Ron Nelson with any Questions 303-956-3551** NOTE: PLEASE DON'T HELP YOURSELF TO THESE TOYS AS SOMEONE HAS ALREADY DONE! THEY ARE FOR NEEDY KIDS!!!!

**December 7th PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY!** Like, 9-11, that awful day in September 2001, we will never forget these days! God Bless America!

**December 20th Happy Birthday Space Force!** They have a nickname; the "Guardians". I'm sure in time we'll come up with something better for the little Space Jockeys. Also, on the 20th Panama Operation 1989



Continued on next page

## War on Terrorism (Iraq) - U.S. Army PAUL RAY SMITH

### DETAILS

- **RANK: SERGEANT FIRST CLASS**
- **CONFLICT/ERA: WAR ON TERRORISM (IRAQ)**
- **UNIT/COMMAND: COMPANY B, 11TH ENGINEER BATTALION, 3D INFANTRY DIVISION**
- **MILITARY SERVICE BRANCH: U.S. ARMY**
- **MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION DATE: APRIL 4, 2003**
- **MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION PLACE: BAGHDAD AIRPORT, BAGHDAD, IRAQ**

### CITATION

Sergeant First Class Paul R. Smith distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action with an armed enemy near Baghdad International Airport, Baghdad, Iraq on 4 April 2003. On that day, Sergeant First Class Smith was engaged in the construction of a prisoner of war holding area when his Task Force was violently attacked by a company-sized enemy force. Realizing the vulnerability of over 100 fellow soldiers, Sergeant First Class Smith quickly organized a hasty defense consisting of two platoons of soldiers, one Bradley Fighting Vehicle and three armored personnel carriers. As the fight developed, Sergeant First Class Smith braved hostile enemy fire to personally engage the enemy with hand grenades and anti-tank weapons, and organized the evacuation of three wounded soldiers from an armored personnel carrier struck by a rocket propelled grenade and a 60mm mortar round. Fearing the enemy would overrun their defenses, Sergeant First Class Smith moved under withering enemy fire to man a .50 caliber machine gun mounted on a damaged armored personnel carrier. In total disregard for his own life, he maintained his exposed position in order to engage the attacking enemy force. During this action, he was mortally wounded. His courageous actions helped defeat the enemy attack, and resulted in as many as 50 enemy soldiers killed, while allowing the safe withdrawal of numerous wounded soldiers. Sergeant First Class Smith's extraordinary heroism and uncommon valor are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Third Infantry Division "Rock of the Marne," and the United States Army.



- **ACCREDITED TO: TAMPA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**
- **AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY: YES**
- **PRESENTATION DATE & DETAILS: APRIL 4, 2005**  
**THE WHITE HOUSE (EAST BALLROOM) BY PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH TO HIS SON DAVID SMITH**
- **BORN: SEPTEMBER 24, 1969, EL PASO, EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS, UNITED STATES**
- **DIED: APRIL 4, 2003, BAGHDAD, IRAQ**
- **BURIED: ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, SECTION MD-67, ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA, UNITED STATES**

We may be the INFIDEL in the eyes of some nut ball and extremists; BUT WE WON'T BE SWAYED!!  
God Bless our Troops  
Don't be Afraid

# ROBERT TINSLEY - SAL 1ST VICE COMMANDER



**Happy December to all members of Post 161.** The S.A.L. hopes all Thanksgiving events went smoothly for everybody. This year is going faster than last year.

**The S.A.L. is asking for \$10 donations for our goal to thank veterans with a Christmas dinner.** We have raised funds to help ten veterans so far. We want to thank all the donors who have helped us to help Veterans of our post to enjoy a Christmas dinner. Drop a \$10 bill in the S.A.L. box if you want to participate in the great event we are doing.

**A shout out thank you to Rich** for volunteering to make the green chili for our last breakfast. Rich also did the dishes as he always does. **Thanks Rich.**

**Our S.A.L. Mom says hello to everybody (Terry Peterson.)** She is still feisty and helps the S.A.L. out many times with the events we do.

**We have three new members from November** so welcome new members to our Post.

**The S.A.L. golf committee has turned in the final numbers of our 21st Annual Golf Tournament.** Thanks to everybody who participated donated and volunteered their time to our great event on September 13th 2025 at Lake Arbor Golf Course.

**The S.A.L. was able to donate to our four Charities:** Child Welfare Foundation, Ginny's Kids International, Dave's Locker and the Romito Foundation. The S.A.L. was able to raise 3,000 for each of our Charities. That's a total of \$12,000. Great job and Thank You for your generosity. (Wow)

**Merry Christmas** to all post members. Troops stay safe and hurry home.

## FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT



**As the Holidays start may we remember to share all our good wishes to everyone near and far.**

I would like to Thank everyone that has stepped up and helped with funeral events, dinners, cleaning up the Post Home, working a 50/50 when asked and much more. All the officers Thank You for your hard work and keeping this Post going. May 2026 be a better year for all of us,

As we say goodbye to 2025. Please check your fire alarms to be safe this holiday season. I hope you are keeping track of all the hours that you donated over the year. The year starts April 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Please turn them in so we can report them to Department, National and Congress. You can send them to the Post Attn: Auxiliary or email them to Helen or put them in the Auxiliary box in the lobby at the Post. Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.

**Dear Santa, All I want for Christmas is to Save our Post Home. The old Post needs a lot of repairs and new equipment. She has given us many good years and needs our help now to get the help she needs from all her members. Please donate what you can to help. From our Elves. PS: Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and a Very Happy New Year.**



## Post 161 Officers 2025 - 2026

### Legionnaires

Commander - Ron Nelson  
Sr. Vice - Vacant  
Jr. Vice - Dale Crow  
Chaplain - John Aitland  
Finance Officer - Dwight Scott  
Adjutant - Rick Cody  
Exec Com Member - Vacant  
Sgt-At-Arms - Ray Rocho  
Historian - Vacant  
Service Officer - Cary Kern  
Veteran Svc Officer - Vern Benjamin  
Reserve Officer - Vern Benjamin  
Past Commander - Ed Shreeve

### Board of Governors

Bill Jackson  
Brian Messer  
Roger Divis  
Mike Bobb  
Phil Saba  
Automatic BOG: Ron Nelson  
Automatic BOG: Dwight Scott  
New: Dione Segelke

### Post 161 Legion Riders

Director - Fred Muskopf  
Vice Director - Brian Messer  
Secretary - Helen Muskopf  
Treasurer - Mike Bobb  
Color Guard Cpt - Ray Maathuis

### American Legion Auxiliary

President- Casey Rigerman  
Sr Vice - Helen Muskopf  
Treasurer- Jeannette Scott  
Secretary- Lynn Cody  
Chaplain- Jan Bobb  
Historian- OPEN  
Membership - Helen Muskopf  
Sgt-at-Arms- Ray Maathuis  
Members at Large:  
Robin Reposa & Crystal Messer

### Sons of the American Legion

Commander - Dale Crow  
1st Vice - Robert Tinsley  
2nd Vice -  
Finance Officer - Brian Froid  
Sgt at Arms - Mike Blimling  
Chaplain - Rich Liberato  
Adjutant - Don Rodlin  
Historian - Jim Clark

## Departed Members

Charles Moll  
Clifford Rohlf  
Ronald Stacey  
William Baldaccini  
John Young

## New Member

Jeffrey Addington

## Transfers

William Reidy from 1111  
Michael Mischler from 17

## Donations

\$150 - VA  
\$100 - Community Table  
\$250 - RCI

## Total Membership

Quota: 640 - 2025: 350 - % of Goal 54.69%



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MC# 1479902



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Wheat Ridge, Colorado 80033



**Rheinlander Bakery**  
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Arvada, CO 80002  
303-467-1810

# DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1  Lunch served every weekday	2 	3  <b>REMEMBER TO SIGN IN!</b>	4 	5 	6 <b>KITCHEN OPEN 4-8</b>  <b>QUEEN OF HEARTS PM</b>
7 <b>8-11 am AUXILIARY BREAKFAST</b> 	8  Lunch served every weekday	9  <b>TACO TUESDAY!</b> BOG 6:00 pm	10  <b>VISIT THE POST!</b>	11  	12 	13 <b>ARMY NAVY FOOTBALL KITCHEN OPEN 4-8</b> <b>QUEEN OF HEARTS 7PM</b>
14 <b>8-11am BREAKFAST!</b>  <b>1PM-KITCHEN OPEN</b>	15  <b>BLOOD DRIVE</b> 11 am - 3:30 pm	16  <b>TACO TUESDAY!</b> Marine Corps League 6:30 pm	17  <b>Purple Heart Vets 6:15</b>	18  <b>75c WINGS EVERY THURSDAY!</b> Coopers Troopers 11 am	19  <b>HOT PIZZA SERVED ALL HOURS</b>	20  <b>SANTA PARTY</b>
21  <b>1PM-KITCHEN OPEN</b>	22  <b>ROLL THE DICE!</b>	23  <b>TACO TUESDAY!</b>	24  <b>Post Open until 5 pm</b>	25 <b>CHRISTMAS</b>  <b>Post open 11-4</b>	26 <b>HORSE COLLAR SATURDAYS AT 6:30</b>  	27 <b>KITCHEN OPEN 4-8</b>  <b>QUEEN OF HEARTS 7PM</b>
28  <b>1PM-KITCHEN OPEN</b>	29  Lunch served every weekday	30 <b>ACTIVITY MEETING 6 pm</b>  <b>TACO TUESDAY!</b>	31  <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>			

## Kids Santa Party December 20







# BLOOD DRIVE

**EVERY OTHER MONTH  
(EVEN NUMBERED MONTHS)**

**Blood Drive for the  
Arvada Community  
Blood Drive - every other  
month 3rd Monday  
11 a.m - 3:30 p.m**

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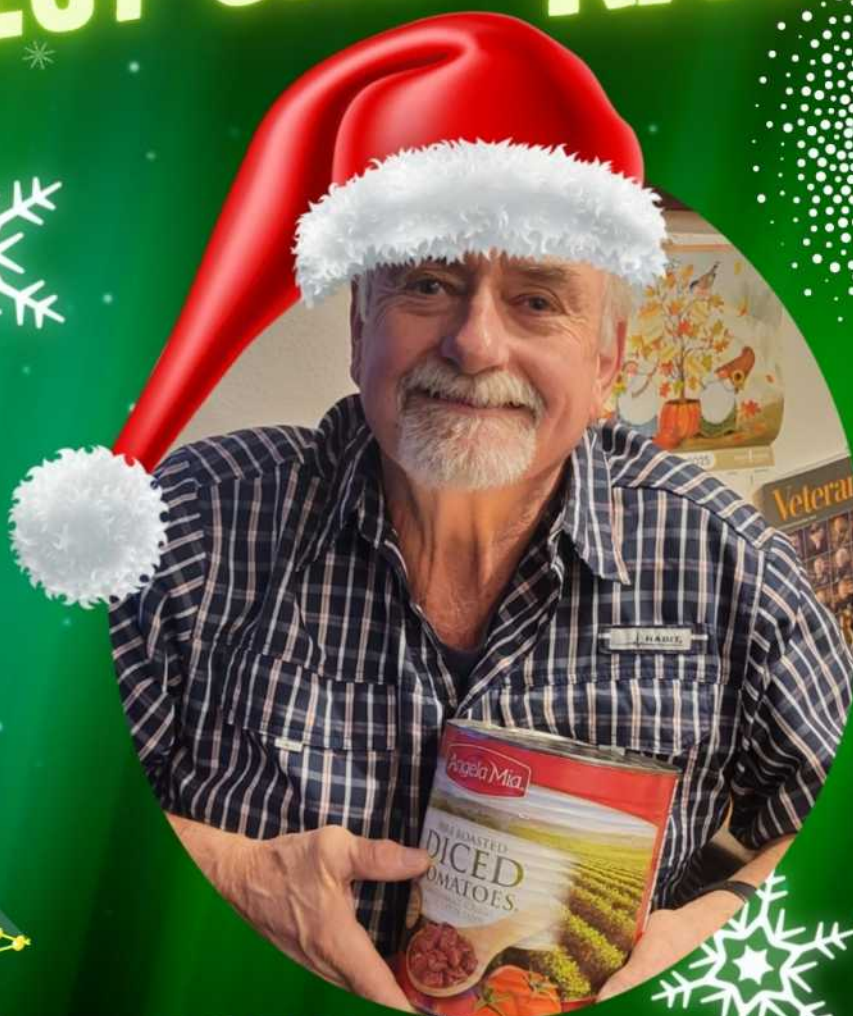




AMERICAN LEGION 161 PRESENTS

# GUEST CHEF RAY!

JOIN US FOR A  
HOMEMADE  
SPAGHETTI  
DINNER!



**19TH** **FRIDAY**  
**DEC** **4:00-7:00**

SPAGHETTI, MEATBALL, SPICY  
SAUSAGE, SALAD AND GARLIC BREAD!

**\$13**

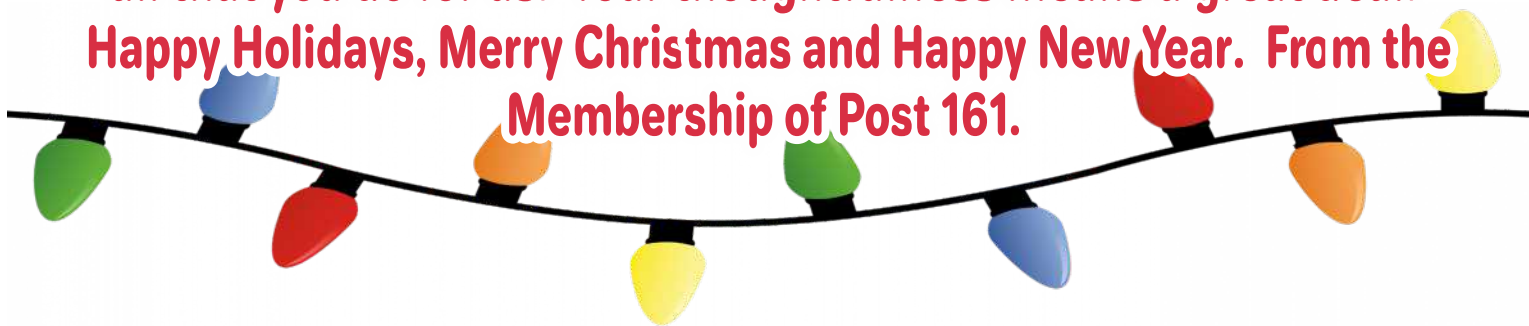


# DAILY DRAWING

7/17	Justin Shreeve	\$450.00	8/26	Misty Sutliff	\$162.25	10/6	Helen Pace	\$464.75
7/18	Brian Teel	\$455.50	8/27	Christime Hixson	\$167.25	10/7	Eldon Abitz	\$475.50
7/19	Carl Calkins	\$462.50	8/28	Michael Merr	\$174.50	10/8	Reno Unger	\$480.50
7/20	Connie Foss	\$467.00	8/29	Louis Tanko	\$182.25	10/9	Gerald Nararjo	\$487.25
7/21	Evaline Girardi	\$474.25	8/30	Shelly Burke	\$188.75	10/10	Allan Scruby	\$495.50
7/22	Greg Salazar	\$482.50	8/31	Jack Maes	\$193.75	10/11	Melvin Flail	\$503.00
7/23	Barbel Cruz	\$488.50	9/1	Martha Kerns	\$200.75	10/12	Connie Rejemza	\$511.75
7/24	Robert Tabares	\$496.25	9/2	Danny Jaramillo	\$211.75	10/13	Robert Cec	\$520.00
7/25	Daria Castigione	\$502.50	9/3	Pamela Heren	\$215.75	10/14	Gail Dins	\$529.00
7/26	Donna Chapman	\$511.50	9/4	Jerry Bonds	\$225.50	10/15	Ramona Richers	\$534.25
7/27	Christopher Pace	\$521.25	9/5	Ronald Ingalls	\$231.75	10/16	Gene Kellar	\$544.25
7/28	Patria Aragon	\$528.25	9/6	Matthew Grego	\$237.00	10/17	Kenneth Kobold	\$552.25
7/29	Mike Bobb	\$528.25*	9/7	Kenneth Atkinson	\$246.25	10/18	Ruth August	\$558.25
7/29	Brought Forward	\$7.25	9/8	Gene Harlow	\$253.50	10/19	Eli Feret	\$563.75
7/30	Jeffrey Blevins	\$13.75	9/9	Ronald Cargile	\$261.00	10/20	Bruce Marsden	\$574.25
7/31	Patti Archer	\$21.00	9/10	Charles Chevez	\$265.50	10/21	Richard Lovas	\$582.00
8/1	Donald Carroll	\$29.50	9/11	Janice Harte	\$276.00	10/22	Terry Briggs	\$589.25
8/2	Dennis Moe	\$35.75	9/12	Eugene Flatin	\$283.75	10/23	Daniel Konicek	\$598.00
8/3	Daniel Moon	\$43.75	9/13	Ronald Triage	\$291.50	10/24	Kentrena Bohm	\$603.75
8/4	Ignacio Fresquez	\$51.25	9/14	Dennis Moe	\$298.75	10/25	Latasha Fernandez	\$611.25
8/5	Maryann Anaya	\$60.50*	9/15	Dan Flaherty	\$307.00	10/26	Luwanda Ford	\$618.00
8/6	Evia Adams	\$5.00	9/16	Rodney Miller	\$315.50	10/27	Lionel Sandoval	\$625.50
8/7	Kimberly Taylor	\$11.50	9/17	Jose Pacheco	\$320.50	10/28	Phil Saba	\$637.00*
8/8	Tom Henning	\$22.00	9/18	Kimberly Taylor	\$327.00	10/29	Kenneth Dix	\$6.75
8/9	James Apedajie	\$29.50	9/19	Tomas Trujillo	\$337.50	10/30	Ann Lyon	\$14.00
8/10	Eloyed Jiminez	\$38.00	9/20	David Brack	\$344.50	10/31	Jose Pacheco	\$24.00
8/11	Ervin Zimmer	\$46.50	9/21	Gail Dins	\$349.50	11/1	Rosemary Tichy	\$31.25
8/12	James Armstrong	\$56.25	9/22	Sandra Trout	\$358.00	11/2	Misty Sutliff	\$40.00
8/13	David Baker	\$61.25	9/23	Ricky Martin	\$365.00	11/3	Peter Armstrong	\$47.50
8/14	Elaine Spero	\$70.75	9/24	Douglas Fessenden	\$370.75	11/4	Judi Karg	\$58.25
8/15	Joann Sweetman	\$79.00	9/25	Paul Savage	\$378.75	11/5	Robin Reposa	\$65.75
8/16	Cindy Sikorsky	\$86.00	9/26	Addylyn Groen	\$385.26	11/6	John Evert	\$73.75
8/17	Angela Vondra-Herring	\$95.50	9/27	Barbara Whitttenburg	\$393.00	11/7	Thomas Canty	\$82.00
8/18	Eugene Rouse	\$105.00	9/28	Michelle Burdis	\$400.00	11/8	Robert Gerle Sr	\$90.00
8/19	Lillian Rotell	\$113.50	9/29	Alene Lind	\$409.00	11/9	Connie Foss	\$99.25
8/20	Dana Johnson	\$120.00	9/30	FredMuskopf	\$418.00	11/10	Howard Arnold	\$107.50
8/21	Lou Monarez	\$127.75	10/1	Tyler Ostrom	\$424.75	11/11	Deena Segelke	\$119.00
8/22	David Johnson	\$133.25	10/2	Diana Grosz	\$432.50	11/12	Eli Feret	\$126.25
8/23	Lorretta Levi-Andosola	\$139.75	10/3	Ernest Kerbs	\$440.00	11/13	Ray Maathuis	\$135.25
8/24	James Warren	\$147.00	10/4	Melvin Mackey	\$448.50	11/14	Melvin Mackey	\$142.00
8/25	Lexea Jones	\$153.25	10/5	Michael Monagle	\$456.00			

**\*-WINNER!**

**This message is to all the Employees of Post 161. The entire membership (Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and Riders) wishes to express our appreciation for all that you do for us. Your thoughtfulness means a great deal. Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. From the Membership of Post 161.**





# Pearl Harbor Surprise Attack - December 7, 1941



USS Arizona



USS West Virginia



Honolulu Star Bulletin front page



The girls of Hawaii always stand their ground.



Destroyed Mitsubishi Zero at Fort Kamehameha

On December 7, 1941, the Japanese military launched a surprise attack on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, killing over 2,400 Americans and wounding 1,178. The attack, which involved waves of dive bombers and torpedo planes, sank or damaged battleships and destroyed many aircraft. This event directly led to the United States entering World War II the next day.



Destroyed P-40 at Wheeler Field



AMERICAN LEGION POST 161 INVITES YOU TO

# WINTER FEST!



FREE CRAFTS  
& COOKIE  
DECORATING

MEET THE  
GRINCH  
@ 2:30



SANTA &  
MRS. CLAUS  
@ 3:00



VISIT WITH OUR  
LOCAL  
FIREFIGHTERS  
4:00-5:00



FREE  
HOT COCOA BAR  
APPLE CIDER  
& HOT DOGS  
FOR EVERYONE

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 7TH 2:00-5:00PM!**

WHERE HOLIDAY MAGIC MEETS COMMUNITY SPIRIT! JOIN US FOR  
AN ENCHANTING EVENT FILLED WITH FUN, CRAFTS, HOT COCOA,  
AND MUCH MORE! THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

HOLIDAY CHEER STARTS HERE!  
COME CHECK OUT OUR LEGION!

OPEN TO THE  
PUBLIC

6230 W. 60<sup>TH</sup> AVE ST, ARVADA, 80003

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# Thanksgiving Dinner



Thank you to the volunteers who generously worked to prepare and serve our delicious Thanksgiving Dinner!