



AMERICAN LEGION



Wilmore Richter Post 161

6230 W. 60th Ave. Arvada, CO 80003 - (303) 424-0324 - June 2026 - Volume 63, Issue 6

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

RON NELSON COMMANDER

Good day everyone. The election results are in and I'm officially calling for a recount. No, seriously I'm honored to lead post 161 now going into my fourth year. Thank you very much. I'm thrilled to have the support that I have.

From events around the post to bingo at Bingo Co we are accomplishing a lot. The American Legion mission is my top priority. I'm doing my darndest to bring the post in line with our constitution and by-laws along with District, Department and National. My number one gripe though is still not having a full executive board. I could use the help please. This could very well be the end of my enlistment, and I would like to leave with a well-oiled executive board and a full BOG (board of governors). We really do need this to comply with our commitment to our charter and by-laws. The American legion is governed (in a way and overseen) by congress. This means we need to live up to their expectations. Truth is this is a little time consuming, but it doesn't require one to be a rocket scientist. A little dedication and some of your veteran ego is what you'll find works. Semper Fidelis.

June 6th: D-Day 1944, 14th: Flag Day, 21st Father's Day & First Day of Summer; 25th Korean War Begins 1950

Medal of Honor Korean War - U.S. Army Charles F Pendleton

Details:

- Rank: Corporal
- Conflict/Era: Korean War
- Unit/Command: Company D, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division
- Military Service Branch: U.S. Army
- Medal of Honor Action Date: July 16, 1953
- Medal of Honor Action Place: near Choo Gung-Dong, Korea

Citation:

Cpl. Pendleton, a machine gunner with Company D, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and indomitable courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. After consolidating and establishing a defensive perimeter on a key terrain feature, friendly elements were attacked by a large hostile force. Cpl. Pendleton delivered deadly accurate fire into the approaching troops, killing approximately 15 and disorganizing the remainder with grenades. Unable to protect the flanks because of the narrow confines of the trench, he removed the machine gun from the tripod and, exposed to enemy observation, positioned it on his knee to improve his firing vantage. Observing a hostile infantryman jumping into the position, intent on throwing a grenade at his comrades, he whirled about and killed the attacker, then inflicted such heavy casualties on the enemy force that they retreated to regroup. After reorganizing, a second wave of hostile soldiers moved forward in an attempt to overrun the position and, later, when a hostile

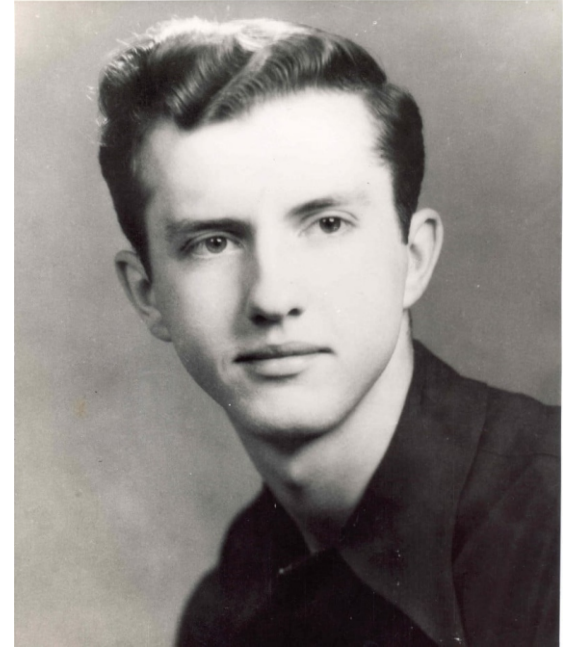
grenade landed nearby, Cpl. Pendleton quickly retrieved and hurled it back at the foe. Although he was burned by the hot shells ejecting from his weapon, and he was wounded by a grenade, he refused evacuation and continued to fire on the assaulting force. As enemy action increased in tempo, his machine gun was destroyed by a grenade but, undaunted, he grabbed a carbine and continued his heroic defense until mortally wounded by a mortar burst. Cpl. Pendleton's unflinching courage, gallant self-sacrifice, and consummate devotion to duty reflect lasting glory upon himself and uphold the finest traditions of the military service.

Medal of Honor Recipient Charles F. Pendleton

Additional Details

- Accredited to: Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas
 - Awarded Posthumously: Yes
 - Presentation Date & Details: January 18, 1954, Ft. Worth, Texas, presented to his Widow Mrs. Mary W. Pendleton
 - Born: September 26, 1931, Camden, Benton County, Tennessee, United States
 - Died: July 17, 1953, Korea
 - Buried: Laurel Land Memorial Cemetery (PM) (C-31-11), Fort Worth, Texas, United States
- Please get involved in your Post!!

Thank You
Commander Ron
God Bless our Troops
Don't be Afraid
That's All



FATHER'S DAY

JUNE 21 - 8-11 AM - PREPARED BY POST 161 AUXILIARY



BREAKFAST!





22nd ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Sons of the American Legion Post 161 will be holding the 22nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament on Saturday August 29th 2026 at Lake Arbor Golf Course in Arvada, Co. The proceeds will go to four organizations this year.

Children's Welfare Foundation- - This foundation provides nonprofit organizations with grants to educate the public about the care and welfare of children nationally.

Ginny's Kids- An Arvada based non profit group which sends terminally ill children and their families to Disneyland or try to fulfill any other special wish they may have.

The Travis Mills Foundation - Provides an environment for post 9/11 recalibrated veterans and their families through various programs that help these heroic veterans overcome physical and emotional obsticals, strengthen their families and provide well- deserved rest and relaxation.

Dave's Locker - An Arvada based community medical equipment service which loans crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, knee scooters, shower stools, grab bars, canes, bathroom aids, and much more to anyone in need.

The Sons of the American Legion is a nonprofit organization who's main purpose is to raise money and donate it to worthy causes like the above mentioned children's organizations. We count on support from outside sources to help us generate these funds.

We are asking businesses and individuals for donations of any item we can raffle or use as a door prize for this event or cash or to sponsor a hole at the tournament. Any help you can provide would be greatly appreciated. Please contact one of the members listed below regarding your donations.

Squadron 161 distributes our donations to national, state and local charitable organizations. We would be most grateful for your donation for this event. It will mean a lot to these children's organizations, to our squadron, and to the American Legion post 161.

Many of you have helped us in previous years with donations and we would again like to thank you for your support.



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Robert Tinsley
broncorobert@gmail.com
720-810-4933

Mike Blimling
mblimling@comcast.net
303-915-1485

Brian Froid
bfroid@yahoo.com
303-710-3500

American Legion Post 161 - 6230 West 60th Ave. Arvada, Colorado 80003



Travis Mills Foundation



ROBERT TINSLEY - SAL 1ST VICE



Happy June to all Post members!

The parade was a hit, and thank you to all that worked hard to prepare and make it a successful day of fun.

The S.A.L.'s annual Mother's Day breakfast was a hit! We will see all of you next year!

Election of officers for 2026 to 2027 was a success. Please welcome the officers:

Commander: Dale Crow
First Vice: Robert Tinsley
Second Vice: Roger Divis
Finance Officer: Brian Froid
Sergeant at Arms: Mike Blimling
Chaplain: Rich Liberato
Adjutant: Don Rodlin
Historian: Robert Seitz

All of us at the SAL will be working hard for Post 161 for the next year.

The SAL's golf tournament is coming soon. We are in need of any type of donations, prizes, or gifts to help in our great event. Please call Brian at 303-710-3500 or Robert at 720-810-4933 if you can help us out in any way. Thank you in advance.

The SAL had six new members for the month of May. Welcome new members to our Post 161.

Watch out for the upcoming breakfast for golf. All proceeds from the breakfast will help us get started on our golf tournament. If you would like to volunteer to help on this event, please call Roger Divis at 720-666-8333. He would be very grateful to get a few helpers to make this event a fun and positive fundraiser.

Members, don't forget to try to volunteer a few hours a month to help our S.A.L. and our Post 161. The SAL wishes all members to have a fun and enjoyable summer that is coming up. Troops, stay safe and hurry home.

New Members

Kim Cooper, Army - Gulf
Jo Sandoval, USMC - Vietnam
Jo Lynn Tessean, USAF - Gulf

Transfers

Ronald King
Jon Swedensky
Daniel Price

New Donations

\$100 Community Table
\$100 VA Comfort Fund

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SATURDAYS



JUNE 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FIRST DAY OF SUMMER!  JUNE 21	1	2 ACTIVITY MEETING 6 pm Retired Peace Officers 12 pm	3  Lunch served every weekday	4 RED WHITE & WINGS! Rocky Flats Breakfast 9am	5  Lunch served every weekday	6  BELMONT KITCHEN OPEN 4-8
7 8-11am BREAKFAST!  BINGO! 1PM-POTLUCK	8  FUN AT THE POST!	9  TACO TUESDAY! BOG 6:00 pm	10  VISIT THE POST!	11 Friendship Lunch 11:00 am Membership Meeting 7:00 pm	12 Bingo Volunteers Luncheon 11:30 a.m.	13  KITCHEN OPEN 4-8
14 8-11am BREAKFAST!  BINGO! 1PM-POTLUCK	15 BLOOD DRIVE 11 am - 3:30 pm	16  TACO TUESDAY! Marine Corps League 6:30 pm	17  Purple Heart Vets 6:15	18 RED WHITE & WINGS! Coopers Troopers 11 am	19  REMEMBER TO SIGN IN!	20  KITCHEN OPEN 4-8
21  FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST BAR BINGO POTLUCK 1PM	22  Lunch served every weekday	23  TACO TUESDAY! Legion Riders 6pm	24  Lunch served every weekday	25 RED WHITE & WINGS! 	26 ROLL THE DICE! 	27  KITCHEN OPEN 4-8
28 8-11am BREAKFAST!  BINGO! 1PM-POTLUCK	29  Lunch served every weekday	30  FRESH HOT PIZZA ALWAYS AVAILABLE!	Destroyer USS Cole 			



FATHERS DAY BREAKFAST
 Prepared and served by Auxiliary

JUNE BREAKFASTS
 7th: Post Volunteers
 14th: Post Volunteers
 21st: Aux. Father's Day
 28th: Legion Riders



A Father's Day Supplement by Joker

This adventure tale was told to me about ten years ago by Post 161 Legionnaire, World War 2 Army Veteran, and family man **Ray Bollig** so that I could write and publish the following article. I was happy that Ray got to read it, and since it's never been published anywhere but on my own website, I thought that Father's Day was an appropriate time to share it with all of you. - J.

Change One Thing, Change Everything

The snack that saved a soldier's life

On a chilly Christmas Eve in 1944, the men of the 262nd and 264th Regiments of the United States Army 66th Infantry Division waited on the dock in Southampton, England to board the **SS Leopoldville** for the 85-mile journey across the English Channel to Cherbourg, France.

Just eight days earlier, Germany had launched a surprise *blitzkrieg* attack into Belgium in an attempt to split the Allied forces in two. The men of the 66th Infantry were on the way to reinforce the American divisions already desperately engaged in a fierce battle against the German attack.

The Battle of the Bulge, as it would later come to be known, was the costliest engagement ever for the U.S. Army, which eventually lost over 100,000 soldiers.

The **SS Leopoldville** was a 478-foot Belgian passenger ship converted to a troop carrier during the war. It was used mainly for transporting allied troops across the English Channel and did not have sufficient life jackets or accommodations for the 2,000 troops it was able to carry on the short voyage. Nonetheless it had already made 24 channel crossings and transported over 120,000 allied troops to France.



SS Leopoldville 1929-1944

One of the men waiting to board the SS

Leopoldville on that Christmas Eve was my friend **Ray Bollig**, whom I know well from the American Legion Post 161 in Arvada, Colorado. While they waited to board the ship, each of the men had been given a candy bar. They were told not to eat the candy right away, but instead to save it until they were hungry, because there would be no more food available until some time after the ship reached port in Cherbourg.

Ray laughed as he recalled the story of the candy bars. When he told me the story, he said, "Well I was hungry right then so I unwrapped my candy bar and ate it right away while we were still waiting to board the ship."

According to Ray, some of the higher-ranking NCOs of the regiment were somewhat annoyed to observe that some of the men had immediately eaten their candy bars. An announcement was made that the men who had done so would stay on the deck of the ship while those who had responsibly saved their candy bars for later would be assigned to the preferable space below the deck where it was considerably warmer and more comfortable. Since Ray had eaten his candy, he was among those who were stationed on deck, and he told me that he was able to find a bench where he could sleep for a little while.

When the SS Leopoldville had nearly reached her destination port in Cherbourg, she was struck on the starboard side by one of two torpedoes launched from a German U-boat. Since the torpedo struck the hull below the waterline, the men below deck were much more vulnerable than those above. Nearly 300 men in the compartments that were hit were killed immediately. The few who survived the torpedo strike were those who managed to make their way aboveboard to the deck.

In the near chaos that ensued, many more lives were lost, due partly to the crew giving the emergency orders in Flemish, which the majority of the Americans could not understand. Also contributing to the disaster was the fact that, because it was Christmas Eve, many in England had been given the day off. Hundreds of small craft moored in the harbor could have been utilized for rescue missions, but due to the holiday there were very few crew members available. The four naval escorts to the SS Leopoldville, consisting of two British destroyers and one British and one French frigate, did all they could to transport men from the sinking ship back to safety.

Of the 2,200 men aboard, mostly Americans but also British troops and the civilian Belgian crew, over 800 did not make it back to port alive.

Because he had eaten his candy bar right away, Ray was among the survivors that day, and I had the privilege of hearing the story of the SS Leopoldville firsthand from someone who was aboard and who had witnessed the tragic event from beginning to end.

This is a classic example of a phenomenon that weather scientists refer to as the *Chaos Theory* and also the *Butterfly Effect*, in which tiny, seemingly insignificant changes in circumstances all contribute in an unmeasurable manner to large global weather patterns. As it has been said, the flutter of a butterfly's wings in Brazil can ultimately cause a hurricane half way around the world. It could as well be said that a hastily eaten candy bar over 70 years ago resulted in a young soldier returning home safely from disaster and going on to get married, raise a family, and begin a long and lucrative career. 72 years later I am happy to see Ray almost every weekend at the American Legion. Eating that candy bar all those years ago affected not only Ray's life but eventually my own life and the lives of countless others as well.



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4-22	James McDonald	\$7.00	\$312.00*	5-10	Chester Masdin	\$9.00	\$146.25
4-23	Jerry Goto	\$9.00	\$9.00	5-11	Lyle Thompson	\$8.50	\$154.75
4-24	Marlene Liberato	\$6.25	\$15.25	5-12	Robert Tabares	\$9.00	\$163.75
4-25	Christian Fredrich	\$9.25	\$24.50	5-13	Lisza Echelberger	\$6.00	\$169.75
4-26	Andrea Walke	\$7.50	\$32.00	5-14	Luwanda Ford	\$11.50	\$181.25
4-27	Raymond Maathius	\$8.00	\$40.00	5-15	James Adams	\$10.00	\$191.25
4-28	Layman Martin	\$9.00	\$49.00	5-16	Sally Butler	\$11.00	\$202.25
4-29	Janis Vondra	\$7.00	\$56.00	5-17	Christopher Pace	\$5.50	\$207.75
4-30	Dana Mamchego	\$9.00	\$65.00	5-18	Anthone Dittilo	\$6.75	\$214.50
5-01	Caleb Bobb	\$6.75	\$71.75	5-19	Edward Thompson	\$8.75	\$223.25
5-02	Jimmie Gill	\$9.25	\$81.00	5-20	George Platter	\$6.75	\$230.00
5-03	Robert Tinsley	\$9.25	\$90.25	5-21	James Ahlberg	\$7.75	\$237.75
5-04	Marlene Liberato	\$8.00	\$98.25	5-22	Larry Holloway	\$7.75	\$245.50
5-05	Dorothy Sillman	\$6.25	\$104.50	5-23	Virginia Lucero	\$9.25	\$254.75
5-06	Eldon Abitz	\$6.75	\$111.25	5-24	Kelly Everding	\$7.75	\$262.50
5-07	Jim Kucera	\$8.50	\$119.75	5-25	Debra Schell	\$8.75	\$271.25
5-08	Wayne Humphery	\$10.50	\$130.25	5-26	Denise Froid	\$9.50	\$280.75
				5-27	Elizabeth Stewart	\$5.75	\$286.50



Queen of Hearts

SATURDAYS AT 7PM-BUY TICKETS BY 6PM



✦ **Breaking News**

Special Birthday Edition ✦

HOT OFF THE PRESS

POST 161 TURNS 40!

**A MILESTONE
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HEADLINES**

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**QUOTE OF
THE EDITION**

**Cheers to 40 years! –
the best is yet to come!**

MEMORY LANE FEATURE

A walk through the years — Stories, Snapshots, Trivia and more!

✦ **COME CHECK OUT OUR POST!** ✦
THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

The City of Arvada
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Presents

The Annual Arvada Kids Fishing Tournament

Saturday, June 13, 2026

**Arvada Reservoir
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Gates open at **6:45 a.m.**

Fishing starts at **7:00 a.m.**

Fishing ends at **11:00 a.m.**

Reservoir will be open to kids and their family
for the tournament.



Please see reverse side of this flyer
for additional event information and rules.