



AMERICAN LEGION



Wilmore Richter Post 161

6230 W. 60th Ave. Arvada, CO 80003 - (303) 424-0324 - May 2026 - Volume 63, Issue 5

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

RON NELSON COMMANDER

Mom, Happy Mother's Day!

Lot's going on, VFW Memorial Day Parade meetings every Tuesday this Month- 5th, 12th, & 19th all at 6pm with the Parade Monday the 25th . Parade leaves our post parking lot at 11am. It's the V's turn to host this year. We are all invited to spend the day and enjoy Great food and Drink long with camaraderie and sharing your memories of your loved ones and life experiences at their VFW Post 4331.

Before the Parade we will be celebrating our past loved ones with a Memorial prayer at Arvada cemetery (at the west end) at 9am. I also must plug our BINGO on this same Monday as it is every Monday at noon. There, I said it, now weigh your options!

May 7th National Day of Prayer, also for me, 43 years of marital bliss with Cookie! How she has put up with me this long, I will never know? May 8th VE Day 1945 & Military Spouse Appreciation Day, May 9th the VFW will be having a flag ceremony at 11am, May10 th, Mother's Day (also

Breakfast at the post, hosted by the SAL, May 14th Post meetings, Post elections and Post Everlasting ceremony at 7pm before our Post meeting. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Bring your tissues, this ceremony tends to bring out the tears! May 15 th Peace Officers Memorial Day, May 16th Armed Forces Day, May 22nd National Poppy Day & National Maritime Day and of course the 25th is Memorial Day!

Now that's a lot going on in one month. Participation is the key to what we do and it's the key to our survival. As the largest post in Colorado's District 5 we should be leaps and bounds ahead of most posts in the state. It's your turn to shine. Pick your spot, play the role, do your part as many did before you. The executive board needs you (members) to operate our post within the guidelines of our National By-laws & Constitution. The BOG (Board of Governors) has a legionnaires position open. The BOG oversees the management, employs and post property along with a host of other things.

One more thing while I'm on the roll, Post Activities. This group meets once a month to strategize in post activity. We all have ideas for activities, don't we? There were four members besides me in attendance. I don't get it, we have nearly 900 members in this post. A little discouraging to say the least!!

Thank You to all of you who do what you do!!

Thank this kid for all he did!! We say, some gave some, and some Gave All. He was forever 20.



Korean War - U.S. Army
JOE R BALDONADO

DETAILS

- **RANK: CORPORAL**
- **CONFLICT/ERA: KOREAN WAR**
- **UNIT/COMMAND:** 3rd Squad, 2nd Platoon, Company B, 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 11th Airborne Division
- **MILITARY SERVICE BRANCH: U.S. ARMY**
- **MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION DATE: NOVEMBER 25, 1950**

I MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION PLACE: KANGDONG, KOREA

CITATION: Corporal Joe R. Baldonado distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as an acting machine gunner in 3rd Squad, 2nd Platoon, Company B, 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment during combat operations against an armed enemy in Kangdong, Korea on November 25, 1950. On that morning, the enemy launched a strong attack in an effort to seize the hill occupied by Corporal Baldonado and his company. The platoon had expended most of its ammunition in repelling the enemy attack and the platoon leader decided to commit his 3d Squad, with its supply of ammunition, in the defensive action. Since there was no time to dig in because of the proximity of the enemy, who had advanced to within twenty-five yards of the platoon position, Corporal Baldonado emplaced his weapon in an exposed position and delivered a withering stream of fire on the advancing enemy, causing them to fall back in disorder. The enemy then concentrated all their fire on Corporal Baldonado's gun and attempted to knock it out by rushing the position in small groups and hurling hand grenades. Several times, grenades exploded extremely close to Corporal Baldonado but failed to interrupt his continuous firing. The hostile troops made repeated attempts to storm his position and were driven back each time with appalling casualties. The enemy finally withdrew after making a final assault on Corporal Baldonado's position during which a grenade landed near his gun, killing him instantly. Corporal Baldonado's extraordinary heroism and selflessness at the cost of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.



Medal of Honor Recipient Joe R. Baldonado

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- **ACCREDITED TO: SANTA CLARA, SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**
- **AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY: YES**
- **PRESENTATION DATE & DETAILS:** March 18, 2014 -the White House presented to his brother Charles Baldonado by president Barack Obama
- **BORN: AUGUST 28, 1930, COLORADO, UNITED STATES**
- **DIED: NOVEMBER 25, 1950, KANGDONG, KOREA**
- **BURIED:** Remains never recovered; Honolulu Memorial Cemetery (IMO), Honolulu, Hawaii; Arlington National Cemetery (IMO), Arlington, Virginia, United States

Thank You

Ron Nelson Post 161 Commander

God Bless Our troops, don't be Afraid and That's All

ROBERT TINSLEY - SAL 1ST VICE



Happy May to all post 161 members from the S.A.L. We at the S.A.L. hope your upcoming summer has lots of happy events to attend.

Speaking of events, the S.A.L. 22nd annual Golf Tournament is coming up Saturday, August 29th, 2026. That is our big day. We are raising funds to support our four organizations for veterans and kids.

Here is a list of our organizations this year:

- 1. Children's Welfare Foundation:** This foundation provides non-profit organizations with grants to educate the public about the care and welfare of children nationally.
- 2. Ginny's Kids:** An Arvada-based non-profit group which sends terminally ill children and their families to Disneyland or tries to fulfill any other special wish they may have..
- 3. 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 obstacles, strengthen their families, and provide well-deserved rest and relaxation.
- 4. 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.

Please consider a small donation to the S.A.L. to help us help the helpers. Please call or email one of our volunteers, **Robert Tinsley: broncorobert@gmail.com - 720-810-4933; Mike Blimling: mblimling@comcast.net - 303-915-1485; Brian Froid: bfroid@yahoo.com 303-710-3500**

We want to thank you in advance.

The S.A.L. reported three new members for April 2026. Please always welcome our new members

The S.A.L. membership for 2027 will be \$40 per year, only a \$5 increase a year. The S.A.L. dues have not been raised in over six years, and being a member for a year at \$40 is not a bad deal. 365 days to enjoy the fun and events.

Troops stay safe and hurry home.

New Members

James Black - Air Force, Vietnam

Beau Lontine - Active Navy

Michael Meaders Army Gwt

Linda Balzer Air Force Lebanon

Scott Cleveland Army Lebanon

Richard Gonzales Army Lebanon


Wayne USCG GWT





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Cooper's Troopers celebrated Al Jennings' 100th birthday at the April meeting - pictured with Tom Ramm, also 100!

Mothers Day

BREAKFAST!

MAY 10 8 TILL 11 AM



LEGION BINGO



Every Monday at Noon
64th and Wadsworth
NE corner next to DMV

LEGION BINGO IS BACK!

MAY 2026

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



<p>3 8-11am BREAKFAST!</p> <p>BINGO!</p> <p>1PM-POTLUCK</p>	<p>4</p> <p>BINGO</p> <p>NE CORNER OF 64TH & WADS</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Retired Peace Officers 12 pm</p> <p>TACO TUESDAY!</p>	<p>6</p> <p>BEER BOTTLE</p> <p>VISIT THE POST!</p>	<p>7</p> <p>RED WHITE & WINGS!</p> <p>Rocky Flats Breakfast 9 am</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Bingo Volunteer Luncheon 11:30 a.m</p>	<p>9</p> <p>KITCHEN OPEN 4-8</p>
<p>10 Mothers Day BREAKFAST!</p> <p>BINGO!</p> <p>1PM-POTLUCK</p>	<p>11</p> <p>BINGO</p> <p>NE CORNER OF 64TH & WADS</p>	<p>12</p> <p>TACO TUESDAY!</p> <p>BOG 6:00 pm</p>	<p>13</p> <p>BEER BOTTLE</p>	<p>14 RED WHITE & WINGS!</p> <p>Friendship Lunch 11:00 am</p> <p>Membership Meeting 7:00 pm</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Music & Food!</p> <p>7PM</p>	<p>16</p> <p>KITCHEN OPEN 4-8</p>
<p>17</p> <p>BINGO!</p> <p>1PM-POTLUCK</p>	<p>18</p> <p>BINGO</p> <p>NE CORNER OF 64TH & WADS</p>	<p>19</p> <p>TACO TUESDAY!</p> <p>Marine Corps League 6:30 pm</p>	<p>20</p> <p>BEER!</p> <p>Purple Heart Vets 6:15</p>	<p>21</p> <p>RED WHITE & WINGS!</p> <p>Coopers Troopers 11 am</p>	<p>22</p> <p>HORSE COLLAR SATURDAYS AT 6:30PM</p>	<p>23</p> <p>KITCHEN OPEN 4-8</p>
<p>24 8-11am BREAKFAST!</p> <p>BINGO!</p> <p>1PM-POTLUCK</p>	<p>25 Memorial Day</p> <p>BINGO</p> <p>64TH & WADS</p>	<p>26</p> <p>TACO TUESDAY!</p> <p>Legion Riders 6pm</p>	<p>27</p> <p>REMEMBER TO SIGN IN!</p>	<p>28</p> <p>RED WHITE & WINGS!</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>KITCHEN OPEN 4-8</p>

31

BINGO!

1PM-POTLUCK



Kentucky Derby May 2 2-5:30

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STORY

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**Kimberli Tompkins
Veteran and Founder**



DAILY DRAWING



3/03	Jerry Bow	\$7.00	\$177.25	3/28	Gary Hanavan	\$8.00	\$87.25
3/04	Marvin Kuhlman	\$4.75	\$182.00	3/29	Brian Aubin	\$6.25	\$93.50
3/05	Todd Moehle	\$7.50	\$189.50	3/30	Mary Drobnick	\$9.00	\$102.50
3/06	Fred Poston	\$5.50	\$195.00	3/31	Melvin Brewer	\$9.25	\$111.75
3/07	William Hatch	\$7.50	\$202.50	4/01	Pat Erickson	\$8.75	\$120.50
3/08	Dennis Baus	\$8.75	\$211.25	4/02	John Lemieux	\$11.25	\$131.75
3/09	Reuben McWhirt	\$8.00	\$219.25	4/03	Maggie Eddy	\$8.50	\$140.25
3/10	Kelly Burdis-Beers	\$8.25	\$227.50	4/04	Anthony Stano	\$11.00	\$151.25
3/11	Grady Birdsong	\$5.50	\$233.00	4/05	Scott Cleveland	\$7.50	\$158.75
3/12	Judi Karqk	\$9.75	\$242.75	4/06	Charles Beach	\$10.50	\$169.25
3/13	Jesse Hammer	\$7.75	\$250.50	4/07	Forbie Gorman	\$9.75	\$179.00
3/14	Ricki Anderson	\$8.75	\$259.25	4/08	William Jackson	\$5.25	\$184.25
3/15	Brian Brass	\$7.25	\$266.50	4/09	Daria Castiglione	\$10.50	\$194.75
3/16	Jim Kucera	\$9.25	\$275.75	4/10	Katherine Donald	\$8.00	\$202.75
3/17	Martha Kerns	\$11.00	\$286.00	4/11	Laura Weishaar	\$9.75	\$212.50
3/18	Roland Dike\$	8.50	\$8.50	4/12	Paul Catobius	\$8.75	\$221.25
3/19	Larry Lucina	\$7.50	\$16.00	4/13	Mary Drobnick	\$8.25	\$229.50
3/20	Katie Zapp	\$6.75	\$22.75	4/14	Donald Canfield	\$8.25	\$237.75
3/21	Ritchie Coy	\$8.50	\$31.25	4/15	Filbert Martinez	\$10.25	\$248.00
3/22	David Jackson	\$10.50	\$10.75	4/16	Dorothy Sillman	\$10.50	\$258.50
3/23	Joseph Barbero	\$8.50	\$50.25	4/17	Lori Deakin	\$12.00	\$270.50
3/24	Christopher Berser	\$8.50	\$58.75	4/18	Robert Carbone	\$10.25	\$280.75
3/25	Robert Norris	\$6.50	\$65.25	4/19	Jolora Hatch	\$8.50	\$289.25
3/26	Gerald Dorcas	\$7.00	\$72.25	4/20	Jim Merrill	\$7.50	\$296.75
3/27	Jack Emery	\$7.00	\$79.25				

Tickets Only
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May 15 7-10pm

(Dinner 5-7pm)

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