



# AMERICAN LEGION



## Wilmore Richter Post 161

6230 W. 60th Ave. Arvada, CO 80003 - (303) 424-0324 - October 2025 - Volume 62, Issue 10

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

### AMERICAN LEGION ADVOCATE

#### RON NELSON COMMANDER



According to Google AI, the United States have 1.3 million active-duty troops with about another 900 thousand made up of reserve and National guard. Out of a population of 340.1 million. That's a small ratio! I call them kids! When you look at the average age of them and the average age of us at the post you'll agree!

I'll almost bet most of us didn't hear about this. With all the Crazy National News these kinds of things get overlooked. I didn't hear much, and it took some digging to find this information.

These are our young ones!

**The U.S. Army has released the names of the four soldiers killed last week** when their military helicopter crashed in Washington state. In a news release Sept. 22, the Army identified the victims as chief warrant officers **Andrew Cully, 35**, of Sparta, Missouri; **Andrew Kraus, 39**, of Sanibel, Florida, and **Sgts. Donavon Scott** of Tacoma, Washington, and **Jadalyn Good, 23**, of Mount Vernon, Washington.

The crash happened in a rural area near Joint Base Lewis-McChord about 9 p.m. local time on the night of Sept. 17. Officials said the helicopter was on a routine flight training west of the base, about 20 miles south of Tacoma, Washington.

This is why you and I ask for Gods Blessing every day for our Troops!

Autumn sounds so nice and colorful, doesn't it? Then it is soon to be snowing, cold, wet and colder and it just won't quit until next year. I want Spring Back! Ok, I need to cheer up, Halloween is coming. This year it's been six hundred years since it fell on Friday the 13th.

7 October: Start of Operation Enduring Freedom 2001, 13 Oct: US Navy Birthday #250, also on the 13th Columbus Day 1492, 23 Oct: Beirut Bombing 1983 (Took 241 US Souls to Heaven) RIP Jarheads, 25 Oct: Grenada Invasion 1983, 28 Oct: First Responder Day and then the 31st Halloween. 31 backwards is 13th. With a smile on my face, I wonder how many of you all checked your calendar. That 13th thingie was on the internet, and we all know it must be true! 14th, in the Hall: Free Seminar about Veteran Burial Benefits. It just happens to be Taco Tuesday, so sit through this 45-minute Seminar and Jeff will buy you dinner. RSVP by 10/13 Jeff Hunter 303-304-1995

**Legionnaires, I have a Question:** Do your family or friends know what a DD214 is, and do they know where you keep it? It's that time of year for some of us (Flu Season.) I spotted a flyer at the **Golden VA clinic**. I'm sure this only applies to Veterans that are in the medical system! Saturday **Oct 18 th: 2025 "DRIVE THROUGH FLU CLINIC" GOLDEN CLINIC, 1020 Johnson Road, from 0700-1200**

**Post Level Training "Back to the Basics"** A couple of our Super Special members and I attended one of these sessions; some of us have gone twice. These classes are primarily meant for Legion & SAL. NOT SAYING AUXILIARY CAN'T ATTEND!!! I have the link of the power point that I would like to share with you. I found it highly informative. Read the information and I'm sure you'll pick up on something you didn't know about the Legion!!



Continued on next page

**Call, text or email me and I'll be happy to send the power point link. 303-956-3551**

**ron1228nelson@gmail.com** I also have a list of meeting places around the state. These training sessions are being hosted by different districts statewide. Yes, you can attend if you're not in hosting districts. (just so you know we are in district 5)

**Department Executive Committee (DEC) meeting is November 15th 10am** Zoom or in person. I will get more details soon. **Mid-Year Conference will be in Colorado Springs** split between **Post 38 & Post 209**. Dates Jan. 23rd , 24 th & 25th. I will get more information soon.

**Vietnam War - U.S. Marine Corps  
JAMES ANDERSON JR**

**DETAILS**

- **RANK: PRIVATE FIRST CLASS**
- **CONFLICT/ERA: VIETNAM WAR**
- **UNIT/COMMAND:**  
2D PLATOON, COMPANY F, 2D BATTALION, 3D MARINES,  
3D MARINE DIVISION (REIN) FMF
- **MILITARY SERVICE BRANCH: U.S. MARINE CORPS**
- **MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 1967**
- **MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION PLACE: NORTHWEST OF CAM LO, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**

**CITATION**

**For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life** above and beyond the call of duty. Company F was advancing in dense jungle northwest of Cam Lo in an effort to extract a heavily besieged reconnaissance patrol. Pfc. Anderson's platoon was the lead element and had advanced only about 200 meters when they were brought under extremely intense enemy small-arms and automatic-weapons fire.

The platoon reacted swiftly, getting on line as best they could in the thick terrain, and began returning fire. Pfc. Anderson found himself tightly bunched together with the other members of the platoon only 20 meters from the enemy positions. As the firefight continued several of the men were wounded by the deadly enemy assault.

Suddenly, an enemy grenade landed in the midst of the marines and rolled alongside Pfc. Anderson's head. Unhesitatingly and with complete disregard for his personal safety, he reached out, grasped the grenade, pulled it to his chest and curled around it as it went off. Although several marines received shrapnel from the grenade, his body absorbed the major force of the explosion. In this singularly heroic act, Pfc. Anderson saved his comrades from serious injury and possible death. His personal heroism, extraordinary valor, and inspirational supreme self-sacrifice reflected great credit upon himself and the Marine Corps and upheld the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.



**Medal of Honor Recipient James Anderson Jr.**

**ADDITIONAL DETAILS**

- **ACCREDITED TO: LOS ANGELES, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**
- **AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY: YES**
- **PRESENTATION DATE & DETAILS: AUGUST 21, 1968**  
MARINE BARRACKS, WASHINGTON, D.C., PRESENTED BY SEC. OF THE NAVY PAUL R. IGNATIUS TO HIS FAMILY
- **BORN: JANUARY 22, 1947, LOS ANGELES, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**
- **DIED: FEBRUARY 28, 1967, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**
- **BURIED: LINCOLN MEMORIAL PARK (M-06-23), COMPTON, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

God Bless our Troops, ICE Agents, First Responders, Police officers or anyone else who might walk into an ambush for you and me each day!!!!!!  
Don't be Afraid -That's All



## Departed Members

Calvin Hamblin  
Dennis Robinson  
Rodney Johnson  
Clifford Frye

## New Members

Philip Nazareus - Navy Vietnam  
Michael Lloyd - Army Vietnam  
Beau Segelke - USMC GWT  
Christopher Hanson - Navy GWT

## Transfer

Duane Corts - Air Force - Vietnam (from 178)

## Donations

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

## Total Membership

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

## Post 161 Officers 2024 - 2025

### Legionnaires

Commander - Ron Nelson  
Sr. Vice - Fred Muskopf  
Jr. Vice - Dale Crow  
Chaplain - John Aitland  
Finance Officer - Vacant  
Adjutant - Rick Cody  
Exec Com Member - Brian Messer  
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: Judy 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 - Brian Froid  
1st Vice - Robert Tinsley  
2nd Vice - Dale Crow  
Finance Officer - Neil Walker  
Sgt at Arms - Mike Blimling  
Chaplain - Rich Liberato  
Adjutant - Don Rodlin  
Historian - Jim Clark

### Post 161 Legion Riders

Director - Fred Muskopf  
Vice Director - Brian Messer  
Secretary - Helen Muskopf  
Treasurer - Mike Bobb  
Color Guard Cpt - Ray Maathuis  
Sgt at Arms - Ray Maathuis  
Chaplain - Jan Bobb  
Road Captain- Harry Ritchie  
Road Lt- Keven Fredrich  
Historian - Regina Montgomery

## JOKER'S AI FUNNIES



Walker, your 'branch of the service' joke wasn't funny the first time!



## Volunteer of the Month

Jan Bobb is always there to pitch in and help, whether it's for the Auxiliary, S.A.L. or the Board of Governors. Thank you Jan for all that you do for Post 161.



## ROBERT TINSLEY - SAL 1ST VICE COMMANDER



Happy October to all members of Post 161 from the S.A.L. We at the S.A.L. would like to thank all the volunteers, golfers, helpers and donors who made our 2025 tournament a blast. **The S.A.L. broke our record for donations to our four organizations that we donate to.** Wow, what a great time everybody had. Once again, Thank You to everybody. The new members that joined in September. If you see a new face, always say hi and welcome all of our new members.

October came fast, so it's time to get some winterizing done. Make sure everybody checks the calendar for upcoming events.

**The S.A.L. is always looking for volunteers to help us with our events.**

Drop your name, cell and email in our S.A.L. box by the front door. We could use four more volunteers on our list. We have 168 S.A.L. members and just need to bump up our list. Please donate 4 or 5 hours a month to help us out.

**The S.A.L. had a great breakfast and we were able to raise enough to help a veteran in need.** Thank you for supporting the S.A.L.

One more time, thank you to all who stepped up and made our Golf Tournament a very successful fundraiser.

Troops stay safe and hurry home.

# CRAFT & BAKE

## Post 161 Auxiliary SALE



## NOVEMBER 22 9AM TO 3PM



# OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

|                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                            |                                                                                                                                    | 1<br><br><b>REMEMBER TO SIGN IN!</b>                                   | 2<br><br><b>Rocky Flats Breakfast 9am</b>                                                                                      | 3<br><br><b>ROLL THE DICE!</b><br>      | 4<br><b>KITCHEN OPEN 4-8</b><br><br><b>QUEEN OF HEARTS 7PM</b>                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                      |
| 5<br><b>8-11am BREAKFAST!</b><br><br><b>BINGO! 1 pm</b>    | 6<br><br><b>Retired Peace Officers 12 pm</b>                                                                                       | 7<br><br><b>TACO TUESDAY!</b>                                          | 8<br><br><b>VISIT THE POST!</b>               | 9<br><br><b>Friendship Lunch 11:00 am</b>                                                                                  | 10<br><br><b>Bingo Volunteers Luncheon 11:30 a.m.</b>                                                                                                                                                                        | 11<br><br><b>KITCHEN OPEN 4-8</b>                                 |
| 12<br><b>8-11am BREAKFAST!</b><br><br><b>BINGO! 1 pm</b>  | 13<br><br><b>Lunch served every weekday</b>       | 14<br><b>BURIAL SEMINAR</b><br>Dinner provided<br><b>TACO TUESDAY!</b><br><b>BOG 6:00 pm</b>                                                            | 15<br><br><b>Purple Heart Vets 6:15</b>       | 16<br><br><b>Coopers Troopers 11 am</b><br><br><b>Membership Meeting 7:00 pm</b>                                           | 17<br><b>HORSE COLLAR SATURDAYS AT 6PM</b><br><br>  | 18<br><b>KITCHEN OPEN 4-8</b><br><br><b>QUEEN OF HEARTS 7PM</b>   |
| 19<br><br><b>BINGO! 1PM-KITCHEN OPEN</b>                 | 20<br><b>BLOOD DRIVE</b><br><br>11 am - 3:30 pm | 21<br><br><b>TACO TUESDAY!</b><br><b>Marine Corps League 6:30 pm</b> | 22<br>                                      | 23<br><br><b>REMEMBER TO SIGN IN!</b> | 24<br><b>HORSE COLLAR SATURDAYS AT 6PM</b><br><br> | 25<br><b>KITCHEN OPEN 4-8</b><br><br><b>QUEEN OF HEARTS 7PM</b> |
| 26<br><b>8-11am BREAKFAST!</b><br><br><b>BINGO! 1 pm</b> | 27<br><br><b>Lunch served every weekday</b>     | 28<br><br><b>TACO TUESDAY!</b><br><b>Legion Riders 6pm</b>           | 29<br><br><b>Lunch served every weekday</b> | 30<br>                                 | 31<br>                                                                                                                                  |                                                                 |

**FREE SEMINAR  
AND DINNER**

**VETERAN BURIAL BENEFITS**

**OCTOBER 14  
4-4:40 PM  
RSVP by Oct 13  
Jeff Hunter  
303-304-1995**

**SEE FULL PAGE AD**



# ORDER YOUR COMMEMORATIVE BRICK!



*We just need twelve more bricks to place the first order.  
The first order of bricks will be placed in front near the walkway.  
Please order your custom brick today while there's still time*

**DETAILS AND ORDER FORM: [POLARENGRAVING.COM/ALP161](http://POLARENGRAVING.COM/ALP161)**

# Oktoberfest

**OCT 18**

**4:30-7**



**CHEF CINDY**

**\$15**





# 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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# Forever on Duty: Spirits in Uniform

Every veteran knows the commitment: the oath, the uniform and the unspoken bond that extends many years beyond your DD-214. But for some, that commitment is truly forever.

Across America's oldest posts and historic vessels, there are quiet but persistent stories of the service members who, for reasons known only to them, never quite left their last assignment.

These aren't terrifying tales meant to frighten; they are powerful reminders of unwavering devotion.

Consider the ghostly sentries at **Fort Riley, Kansas**. After the devastating 1918 flu pandemic, the post experienced the loss of many soldiers. To this day, witnesses report seeing a lone soldier in a WWI-era uniform, still carrying his rifle on his patrol route near the site of old **Camp Funston**, only to instantly vanish. He isn't looking for attention; he's simply on duty.

The Navy has its own enduring watch-standers. The **USS Arizona Memorial**, a place of immense historical significance, is also a site of continuous, unexplained activity. Visitors often describe feeling a profound, inexplicable wave of sadness or a strong sense of presence while standing over the wreck. Below them in the deep brackish water of **Pearl Harbor**, over a thousand sailors along with 218 Army soldiers and 109 Marines remain entombed, their duty never ending.

On the decommissioned carrier **USS Hornet**, former crew and museum staff routinely report shadowy figures in vintage uniforms and tools that move on their own, as though a crew is still performing maintenance checks. From the quiet barracks of **Fort Leavenworth**, where **General Custer** is rumored to still appear for inspections, to the isolated jump towers of **Fort Moore**, where a tragic accident left a permanent, shadowy figure, the stories persist.

For veterans who understand military service and the perpetual sense of honor and duty, these lingering shadows feel less like a haunting and more like the ultimate, ongoing commitment - Forever in uniform, forever on duty.



**Jonathan  
Marcantonio**

President & CEO

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# ATTENTION VETERANS



*There is **NO CHARGE** for cemetery expenses.  
You Paid For It With Your Service To Our Nation*



Burial at Ft. Logan National Cemetery includes space, monument, outer burial container and opening and closing for all Qualified Honorable Discharged Veterans and Spouses.

**This is an average savings of \$16,200 compared to burial in a private cemetery.**

## Typical Private Cemetery

|                         |         |        |
|-------------------------|---------|--------|
| Grave                   | You pay | \$3000 |
| Opening/Closing         | You pay | \$1600 |
| Concrete Grave Liner    | You pay | \$1500 |
| Spouse Grave            | You pay | \$3000 |
| Spouse Opening/Closing  | You pay | \$1600 |
| Spouse Concrete Liner   | You pay | \$1500 |
| Double Marker           | You pay | \$4000 |
| <b>You pay \$16,200</b> |         |        |

## FT. LOGAN NATIONAL CEMETERY

|                                |         |     |
|--------------------------------|---------|-----|
| Veteran's Grave                | You pay | \$0 |
| Veteran's Opening/Closing      | You pay | \$0 |
| Veteran's Concrete Grave Liner | You pay | \$0 |
| Spouse Grave                   | You pay | \$0 |
| Spouse Opening/Closing         | You pay | \$0 |
| Spouse Concrete Liner          | You pay | \$0 |
| Double Marker                  | You pay | \$0 |
| <b>You pay \$0</b>             |         |     |

**You honored us with your service ... Now we're honored to help you!**

Attend a Free 40 min.VA Burial Benefits seminar with dinner provided

★ Benefits of Pre-Planning

★ Personalized Help With Pre-Planning

★ Benefits Provided by the Government for your burial or cremation

**American Legion Post#161**

**Tuesday-10/14/2025 at 4:00PM**

**Hosted By:** Malesich & Shirey F.H. **Location:** 6230 W. 60th Ave. Arvada, CO 80003

**Seating is limited. Call 303-304-1995 today to reserve your space!**



**Jeffrey Hunter**

[jeffrey.hunter@mypeaceofmindservices.com](mailto:jeffrey.hunter@mypeaceofmindservices.com)



**Peace of Mind Services, LLC**