



# AMERICAN LEGION



## Wilmore Richter Post 161

6230 W. 60th Ave. Arvada, CO 80003 - (303) 424-0324 - September 2024 - Volume 61, Issue 9

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

AMERICAN LEGION ADVOCATE

### RON NELSON COMMANDER



Summer is quickly fading away. Dang, I say, DANG!! I don't look forward to snow and Ice! Again, this year I must be psychic because this newsletter needs to be at the printer/editor before the picnic even happens! Here goes:

The picnic was FABULOUS! Thanks to all the all the volunteers that made it happen. I so much enjoyed the Ice Cream truck; it was the bomb!

The 2nd is Labor Day and like Sgt. Schultz, I know nothing at this point about what's happening in the post this day. Trust me something will!

Hopefully by the middle of this month we should have our new lounge chairs! Also, I've been talking to a secret Santa and something else may be in the works! Keep your eyes crossed! We do have some wonderful members!

September 2 nd is Japan signing their Surrender, 1945 – September 11 th is Patriot Day (NEVER FORGET) – 17 TH Citizenship Day – 18 th 1947 Air Force Birthday (77 years old) – 20 th POW-MIA Recognition Day. The Empty chair is forever in place! – 22nd First Day of Autumn! Next comes Winter, Dang!!

### MEDAL OF HONOR BENNIE G ADKINS

#### DETAILS

- RANK: SERGEANT FIRST CLASS (HIGHEST RANK: COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR)
- CONFLICT/ERA: VIETNAM WAR
- UNIT/COMMAND:  
DETACHMENT A-102, 5TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP, 1ST SPECIAL
- MILITARY SERVICE BRANCH: U.S. ARMY
- MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION DATE: MARCH 9 - 12, 1966
- MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION PLACE: CAMP A SHAU, VIETNAM

#### CITATION

Sergeant First Class Bennie G. Adkins distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as an intelligence Sergeant with Detachment A-102, 5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces, during combat operations against an armed enemy at Camp A Shau, Republic of Vietnam, from March 9 to 12, 1966. When the camp was attacked by a large North Vietnamese and Viet Cong force in the early morning hours, Sergeant First Class Adkins rushed through intense enemy fire and manned a mortar position continually adjusting fire for the camp, despite incurring wounds as the mortar pit received several direct hits from enemy mortars.

Continued on Page 2



Upon learning that several soldiers were wounded near the center of camp, he temporarily turned the mortar over to another soldier, ran through exploding mortar rounds, and dragged several comrades to safety. As the hostile fire subsided, Sergeant First Class Adkins exposed himself to sporadic sniper fire while carrying his wounded comrades to the camp dispensary. When Sergeant First Class Adkins and his group of defenders came under heavy small arms fire from members of the Civilian Irregular Defense Group that had defected to fight with the North Vietnamese, he maneuvered outside the camp to evacuate a seriously wounded American and draw fire, all the while successfully covering the rescue. When a resupply air drop landed outside of the camp perimeter, Sergeant First Class Adkins, again, moved outside of the camp walls to retrieve the much-needed supplies.

During the early morning hours of March 10, 1966, enemy forces launched their main attack and within two hours, Sergeant First Class Adkins was the only man firing a mortar weapon. When all mortar rounds were expended, Sergeant First Class Adkins began placing effective recoilless rifle fire upon enemy positions. Despite receiving additional wounds from enemy rounds exploding on his position, Sergeant First Class Adkins fought off intense waves of attacking Viet Cong. Sergeant First Class Adkins eliminated numerous insurgents with small arms fire after withdrawing to a communications bunker with several soldiers. Running extremely low on ammunition, he returned to the mortar pit, gathered vital ammunition and ran through intense fire back to the bunker.



After being ordered to evacuate the camp, Sergeant First Class Adkins and a small group of soldiers destroyed all signal equipment and classified documents, dug their way out of the rear of the bunker and fought their way out of the camp. While carrying a wounded soldier to the extraction point, he learned that the last helicopter had already departed. Sergeant First Class Adkins led the group while evading the enemy until they were rescued by helicopter on March 12, 1966.

During the 38-hour battle and 48 hours of escape and evasion, fighting with mortars, machine guns, recoilless rifles, small arms, and hand grenades, it was estimated that Sergeant First Class Adkins had killed between 135 and 175 of the enemy while sustaining 18 different wounds to his body. Sergeant First Class Adkins' extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, Detachment A-102, 5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces and the United States Army.

### **ADDITIONAL DETAILS**

- ACCREDITED TO: WAURIKA, JEFFERSON COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY: NO
- PRESENTATION DATE DETAILS: SEPTEMBER 15, 2014  
THE WHITE HOUSE BY PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA
- BORN: FEBRUARY 1, 1934, WAURIKA, JEFFERSON COUNTY, OK, UNITED STATES
- DIED: APRIL 17, 2020, AL, UNITED STATES
- BURIED: ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, ARLINGTON, VA

God Bless our Troops. Do not be afraid! That's All

## HELEN MUSKOPF - AUXILIARY PRESIDENT



Another month has gone by. Time is flying by way too fast. The cooler weather has been nice, if even for a few days.

The Auxiliary worked hard on the Post Picnic on August 25. Hope everyone had a good time & enjoyed the good food. Our many thanks to our "POST GRILLERS". The food from the grill was great.

Here's hoping you were one of the lucky ones that won a raffle prize or bought a silent auction item. If you won one of the jars with the candy, don't get a

sugar high.

Has anyone noticed the new signs on the outside of the building on the south side above the memorial garden. They are so bright & the Riders sign was added.

The auxiliary is starting a "VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH" program. Someone will be voted on at each meeting & will win a certificate, a small gift & our many thanks.

Congratulations to Bernice Veil for being our Volunteer of the Month for July. Wonder who will win in August? Come to our monthly meeting & see what's next or just say hi.

## ROBERT TINSLEY - SAL 1ST VICE COMMANDER



Happy September to all members of our Post 161. Wow. summer is almost over so try to enjoy it before we start that shoveling snow stuff again.

We only have a few more weeks left until our 20th annual Golf Tournament. It's on September 14, 2024 and if you hurry you can sign up for it, or if you would like to make a donation or sponsor a hole, call Joker at 303-519-8968 or info@nshannon.com OR Robert at 720-810-4933/ broncorobert@gmail.com - We want to break a record for raising funds for the kids in need. Holler at us if you want to do a last minute volunteer to get this show on the road.

The S.A.L. added two new members last month and we welcome them to Post 161.

The S.A.L. dues are \$35.00 and can be mailed or dropped off at the Post. Just a reminder that the S.A.L. needs all updated e-mails, cells, and your mailing address.

The S.A.L. would like to thank everybody who helped us on our 2nd night of Jokers famous Island Style hamburgers. Another great evening of raising funds for our Ginny's Kids of Arvada and also Child Welfare Foundation. Thank you once again.

We hope your September brings fun and enjoyment. Troops hurry home and stay safe.



# BREAKFAST

SEPT 1, 8 & 22  
8-11 am



### Departed

Kenneth Erb                      Ray Bollig  
 Robert Lessar                  Richard Hicks  
 Robert Schaefer                Paul Pulst

### New Members

Richard Ingram - Army, Vietnam  
 Howard Crowe - Air Force Vietnam

### Transfers

Dennis Moe - Air Force, Grenada  
 Rick Martin  
 Robert Losinski

### Donations

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

### Total Membership

Quota: 640 - 2025: 229 - % of Goal 35.78%

## Daily Drawing

7/15	Gregory Ashner	\$370.50
7/16	Stanley Minarskey	\$376.75
7/17	James Ahlberg	\$383.00
7/18	Gilroy Monika	\$391.50
7/19	Latasha Fernandez	\$398.25
7/20	Dennis Doyle	\$407.00
7/21	Laura Root	\$414.75*
7/22	Corina Nelspm	\$7.75
7/23	Donald Spence	\$16.00
7/24	Michael Scanlan	\$24.25
7/25	Fred Hatcher	\$34.75
7/26	Corina Cavaness	\$43.25
7/27	Dennis Noonan	\$53.00
7/28	Douglas Turner	\$62.00
7/29	Henry Hartman	\$72.25
7/30	Howard Tress	\$80.00
7/31	Pamela Gardner	\$87.75
8/1	Teri Zweifel	\$97.50
8/2	John Hohnstein Jr	\$108.50
8/3	Frank Nowakowski	\$116.50
8/4	Jeffrey Hatcliff	\$127.25
8/5	Theodore Simpson	\$134.75
8/6	John Evans	\$144.25
8/7	Timothy McCann	\$150.25
8/8	Charles Nidey Jr	\$161.00
8/9	Brian Teel	\$170.00
8/10	Ron Nelson	\$180.00
8/11	Lorraine Anderson	\$188.00
8/12	Chris Watson	\$198.00
8/13	Ronald Triage	\$204.00
8/14	Mary Clark	\$209.75
8/15	Robert Tinsley	\$214.75
8/16	Teresa Pacheco	\$221.25
8/17	Bill Beckham	\$231.75
8/18	James Kohel	\$237.75
8/19	Patricia Legge	\$248.00

\* WINNER

## Post 161 Officers 2024 - 2025

### Legionnaires

Commander - Ron Nelson  
 Sr. Vice - Fred Muskopf  
 Jr. Vice - Dale Crow  
 Chaplain - Fred Muskopf  
 Finance Officer - Judy Maathuis  
 Adjutant - Rick Cody  
 Exec Com Member - Brian Messer  
 Sgt-At-Arms - Ray Rocho  
 Historian - Vacant  
 Veteran Svc Officer - Vern Benjamin  
 Past Commander - Ed Shreeve

### American Legion Auxiliary

President- Helen Muskopf  
 First Vice - Jan Bobb  
 Treasurer- Jeannette Scott  
 Secretary- Jeannette Scott  
 Chaplain- Char Orr  
 Historian- Regina Montgomery  
 Membership - Christine Mayer  
 Sgt-at-Arms- Char Orr  
 Members at Large:  
 Lynn Cody & Crystal Messer

### Board of Governors

Phil Saba  
 Ray Mayer  
 Bill Jackson  
 Brian Messer  
 Roger Divis  
 Automatic BOG: Ron Nelson  
 Automatic BOG: Dave Edwards

### 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                      Sgt at Arms Roger Divis  
 Vice Director - Brian Messer              Chaplain Jan Bobb  
 Secretary Helen Muskopf                  Road Captain Al Muniz  
 Treasurer Mike Bobb                          Road Lt - Phil Rome  
 Color Guard Cpt - Crystal Messer        Historian - Regina Montgomery

# September 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> <b>8-11am BREAKFAST!</b>  <b>BINGO!</b> 1 pm Lounge open 8 am	<b>2</b>  Scouts 6:00pm	<b>3</b> <b>ACTIVITY MEETING 12PM</b> Retired Peace Officers 12 pm	<b>4</b>  <b>DAILY DRAWING</b>	<b>5</b> Rocky Flats Breakfast 9am	<b>6</b>  <b>LUNCH EVERY WEEKDAY</b>	<b>7</b>  <b>DINNER 5-6:45</b> <b>QUEEN OF HEARTS 7PM</b>
<b>8</b> <b>8-11am BREAKFAST!</b>  <b>BINGO!</b> 1 pm Lounge open 8 am	<b>9</b>  Scouts 6:00pm	<b>10</b> BOG 6:00 pm	<b>11</b> Sub Vets 7:00 pm	<b>12</b> Friendship Lunch 11:00 am Membership Meeting 7:00 pm	<b>13</b> Bingo Volunteers Luncheon 11:30 a.m.	<b>14</b>  <b>SAL GOLF TOURNAMENT</b> <b>DINNER 5-6:45</b> <b>QUEEN OF HEARTS 7PM</b>
<b>15 POT LUCK SUNDAYS 1 PM</b>  <b>BINGO!</b> 1 pm Lounge open 12 pm	<b>16</b>  Scouts 6:00pm	<b>17</b> Marine Corps League 6:30 pm	<b>18</b> Purple Heart Vets 6:15	<b>19</b> Coopers Troopers 11 am	<b>20</b>  <b>LUNCH EVERY WEEKDAY</b>	<b>21</b>  <b>DINNER 5-6:45</b> <b>QUEEN OF HEARTS 7PM</b>
<b>22</b> <b>8-11am BREAKFAST!</b>  <b>BINGO!</b> 1 pm Lounge open 8 am	<b>23</b>  Scouts 6:00pm	<b>24</b> Legion Riders 6pm	<b>25</b>  <b>SHAKE A DAY</b>	<b>26</b>  <b>Dinner Every Saturday!</b>	<b>27</b>  <b>VISIT THE POST!</b>	<b>28</b>  <b>DINNER 5-6:45</b> <b>QUEEN OF HEARTS 7PM</b>
<b>29 POT LUCK SUNDAYS 1 PM</b>  <b>BINGO!</b> 1 pm Lounge open 12 pm	<b>30</b>  Scouts 6:00pm	<b>31</b>  <b>LUNCH EVERY WEEKDAY</b>				



**WINNER GETS \$25 BAR TAB AND THE COVETED GOLDEN TOILET TROPHY!**

# BOB'S TOILET CHALLENGE!

**SAVE YOUR TOILET PAPER TUBES! JUDGING WILL BE IN OCTOBER ON A DATE TBA. PUT AS MANY TUBES AS POSSIBLE INTO ONE TUBE. MUST BE INTACT (NO CUTTING.) LET'S BREAK THE RECORD!**

**Call Joker - 303-519-8968**



**20th Annual**

# **SAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**Sept 14**

**Prizes! - Raffles! - Auctions!  
Delicious Lunch - 2 free drinks**



# **THE GIVING BOX**

**PLEASE GIVE  
DON'T TAKE!**



**Donations are for our young active-duty troops, E 5 and below at Fort Carson & others deployed around the world!**



**CONTACT: 161 AUXILIARY FOR MORE INFORMATION!**



# BLOOD DRIVE

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

**Blood Drive for the  
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# We need a part time **JANITOR**

Morning shift before lounge opens  
Sunday: 5am until 9am  
Other days: 7am until 11 am  
Contact Kathy Tierney for details.



## JOIN OUR WALK OR DONATE TO OUR TEAM

Susan J. Komen - More Than Pink Walk

October 12 - Denver Civic Center Park

For information e-mail Christine M at

Post161.Aux.Members@gmail.com



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**Marcantonio**

President & CEO

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📍 5960 Jay St ste A.  
Arvada, CO 80003

jonathan@yourneighbors.net

🌐 www.yourneighbors.net

**DOT# 3965077**  
**MC# 1479902**



# AMERICAN LEGION

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# **WE NEED**

**TO RAISE \$3183 MORE FOR OUR  
CHAIR FUND. THE POST IS GRATEFUL  
FOR ANY AND ALL DONATIONS**

# **THANK YOU!**



**SUMMER  
FUN  
AT  
THE  
POST**