



American Legion Post 1985 2025 Year-End Review

In 2025, our Post continued to grow, strengthen, and serve with unwavering dedication. The year was marked by major improvements to our Post home, successful fundraisers, expanded veteran support, and outstanding involvement from all Legion Family groups. We proudly exceeded our membership goals and deepened our impact throughout the Carbon Valley community.

The Legionnaires had an exceptionally active and productive year, celebrating milestones, hosting fundraisers, and continuing essential building improvements. We celebrated the Post's 40th birthday with a Hawaiian Luau and hosted a successful brisket sandwich fundraiser. New initiatives included the launch of Veteran of the Month to honor Post members and their service, as well as a six-month UFC Gamers Tournament that provided entertainment and community engagement. The Post also held the annual Memorial Day Luncheon, Flea Market Days, the annual Mahjong Tournament, and a Singing with the Band benefit in support of the building fund.

Throughout the year, we conducted food drives and expanded our Post Food Pantry, welcomed special guests from the Military Women's Memorial, and exceeded all membership goals. Critical building upgrades were completed, including HVAC repairs, new furniture and coolers, a revamped kitchen, an updated medical cabinet, improved outdoor seating, replacement of ceiling tiles in the back room, and the addition of credit card acceptance for member convenience. Through these efforts, the Post provided more than \$6,000 in direct financial assistance to 20 veterans in need.

The Sons of the American Legion continued their strong commitment to service and community support in 2025. The SAL achieved 100 percent membership and raised \$1,500 through Friday night dinners, donating the proceeds to the Child Welfare Foundation at the CWF Banquet, and the Detachment Meeting. They also organized the annual Fourth of July barbecue benefiting the Child Welfare Foundation, hosted the annual Oktoberfest celebration, and donated funds to help cover shipping costs for Junior Auxiliary military care packages.

The Auxiliary remained deeply engaged in fundraising, community involvement, and support for local youth. Throughout the year, they hosted the St. Patrick's Day Dinner fundraiser, a benefit dinner to support Post members in need, and the annual Easter Egg Hunt for children with disabilities. The Auxiliary also organized the annual Car Show and Craft Fair scholarship fundraiser, hosted the Fourth of July Pancake Breakfast in support of scholarships, and awarded scholarships to students at Frederick High School and Mead High School. Additional events included the annual Halloween Party and Costume Contest and the continued tradition of the Navy/Army Day Chili Cook-Off.

The American Legion Auxiliary Juniors demonstrated exceptional leadership, dedication, and community spirit throughout the year. They raised funds for Paws for Purple Hearts, assisted with multiple Friday night dinners, and hosted Breakfast with a Veteran to support Hero Puppy for Life. The Juniors completed their "Adopt-a-Place" initiative by cleaning Miners Park, Gateway Park, and sections of the Firestone Trail four times during the year. They collected 365



pounds of food for the Carbon Valley Helping Hands Program, made 500 paper poppies for local Memorial Day ceremonies, and conducted a Fourth of July fundraiser benefiting Hero Puppy for Life. Additional accomplishments included the Flag My Yard fundraiser, during which over 500 flags were placed at 50 homes; provided veterans with thank you gifts for both Memorial Day and Veterans Day events; hosting CPR and First Aid classes; purchasing and wrapping more than 120 blankets for veterans in nursing homes; sending 11 care packages to recent high school graduates now serving on active duty; assembling over 500 hot cocoa packets; mailing holiday cards to deployed military members; and coordinating donations to fulfill local children's Amazon wish lists. Junior Hayden Will was honored as the ALA Northwest Division Junior Member of the Year, and the Juniors also participated in Wreaths Across America by placing wreaths at Mizpah Cemetery.

The American Legion Riders continued their mission of honoring the fallen and supporting veterans through a variety of events and charitable efforts. During 2025, the Riders held the annual Blessing of the Bikes, hosted a memorial ride for Rodney, organized the annual Run for the Wall fuel stop, and held the annual Poker Run honoring fallen brothers and sisters. They also hosted the annual Motorcycle Rodeo, participated in the Veterans Day Parade in Longmont, and donated funds to the Junior Auxiliary to support military care packages.

Together, as a united Legion Family, all five groups collaborated on major Post events and community service initiatives throughout the year. Highlights included hosting the first annual VetsGiving celebration, during which more than 150 meals were served, continuing the tradition of the annual First Responders and Veterans Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner, and partnering with Santa Cops to support local children and families. The Color Guard proudly represented Post 1985 at the Frederick Christmas Parade, three veteran funerals, and the Empty Bowls Ceremony.

With deep respect and gratitude, we honored our comrades who passed during the year with the draping of the charter: Ray Lantta, Bill Deiat, Maude Eskew, Jim Matthews, Kent Rhodes, Robert Frederick, and Laurie Nelson. Their service and legacy will never be forgotten.

We extend our deepest gratitude to every member of our Legion Family and to the community we are honored to serve. Your generosity, commitment, and support made every achievement possible—from improving our Post home, to supporting veterans in need, to enriching the lives of families throughout the Carbon Valley area. Whether you volunteered your time, donated resources, attended events, or simply stood beside us, you played an essential role in our success. Together, we continue to uphold the values of service, patriotism, and community that define the American Legion. Thank you for helping make 2025 a year of growth, compassion, and unity. We look forward to serving, supporting, and celebrating with you in the year ahead.