

#### September 2EGGON POST 1985



#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

870 1st Street, Firestone, CO Mailing address P.O. BOX 661

Phone: 303-833-3878, www.americanlegion1985.org

Post Hours: Open Daily @ noon

- Post Commander—Bob Williams 303-416-0726
- Adjutant—Joel Ploegstra— 970-396-0405
- Service Officer and Van Coordinator—Ric Payne 720-891-6068
- Chaplain—Chris Woody 970-498-9916
- Auxiliary President— JoAnn Kidd 303-667-8745
- SAL Commander— Kirk Will 970-412-6014
- Legion Rider President— Nathan Brounce 303-591-7141
- Friendly canteen staff: Krystal, Nicole, Carolyn, Jess, Kari and Vanity

#### Planning a special event? Birthday? Retirement?

Consider holding your special event the American Legion We want to provide a safe and enjoyable experience for your event. Rates: \$10.00 per hour, for American Legion Post 1985 members that have been members for a minimum of 6 months and in good standing. This courtesy rate can be applied twice per year. If you are not currently a member but would still like a very affordable place to rent with a kitchen for your next event, please stop by for an information sheet and availability. Non-Member rate: \$50.00 per hour

#### September 2024

#### FRIDAY NIGHT DINNERS

#### Menu

(All dinners served from 6 - 8 PM or until sold out)

September 6th AUX Fried Taco Plate & Ice Cream Sunday\$15.00

September 13th Legion Steak Night R.S.V.P \$20.00

September 20th Riders Smothered burritos \$15.00

September 27th SON's Crispy tacos, authentic rice and beans and a fruit dessert. Gluten free option upon request \$15.

PLEASE COME SUPPORT OUR DINNERS FUNDS GO TO SUPPORTING MANY EVENTS AND OUR VETERANS



Monthly Legion meeting drawing \$12

Last month winner would have been Edward Owens You must be present to win

## American Legion Post 1985 Patriot Day Luncheon



## All First Responders and Veterans Invited

September 11th, 2024

801 1st ST. Firestone, CO. 80520

QUEEN OF HEARTS !!! Every Friday night. Last ticket sold 7:15 Drawing 7:30



Congratulations

Cheryl Rainey

Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteers to help with our Friday Night Dinners as well as our events. (You DO NOT need to be a member of the Post to volunteer)

We are also trying to get our Post Volunteer "Brigade" back together. We are allowing a maximum of 30 volunteers this year. You will receive a Key Card for Entry as well as not having to sign into our guest book. See one of our Friendly bartenders to sign up.

## THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

September 5th Legion, Son's & Auxiliary 7PM

September 22nd Jr Aux General Meeting 2-4 pm

September 12th Legion Riders
Meeting 7pm

September 26th EXECUTIVE BOARD 7PM



Dart tournament season Jan-Aug. Mondays 7pm



### AMERICAN LEGION POST 1985 Merchandise for sale

- Our own post Challenge coin
- Post Coffee Cups in 2 sizes
- American Flags
- Other items available

#### School Supplies needed

Please consider donating back to school supplies for needy kids in the carbon valley area. We have some families that would appreciate your support. Please see Finance Officer if you have any questions or donations. Your kindness goes a long way in supporting our community.

Sally janich

# LEGION NEWS STEAK NIGHT September 13th \*\*\*R.S.V.P \$20.00

Another month is past and another meeting coming soon! This next meeting will be my last meeting as the Post Adjutant, I will be prepared to show anyone elected to replace me how things are now done, please consider the position to help the Post. I drive to Post at least once a week to deal with membership, it doesn't require a lot of work, just a drive to get it done! The most time consuming thing is recording the meetings and transcribing the minutes.

I will say it officially, I am resigning after the September meeting because I am moving out of state. You have a great staff of officers doing their best to keep the Post in good shape, I know I will leave this job in good hands as well!

Additionally, please consider signing up at <u>mylegion.org</u>, the resources on the site are good for anyone, you can correct your own profile, renew online, download your own membership card, etc.

Joel Ploegstra

Please help us keep your Legion is good repair and presentable by not intentionally damaging the building or property, cleaning up after yourself and your visitors, and returning items you use or borrow (especially chairs and table) to their rightful place or storage location. Thank you for your cooperation in helping maintain your Legion

#### From Behind the scenes at Post 1985

Big deserving salute to the following individuals, businesses and families that keep our American Legion running, save us money, or make our post a more enjoyable place for all of us.

Thank you to our Asst. Canteen Manager, Kari Kebach.

She has done a F-A-N-T-A-S-T-I-C job taking care of our customers while Krystal is out. Our Deepest condolences to Krystal and her family on the recent loss of her mother.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her and her family.

September 11<sup>th</sup> marks the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the bombings of the world trade center, the pentagon, and a field in Pennsylvania. That day has become known as 9/11. On that day foreign terrorist living in the United States spilt American blood on American soil. How many of you remember what you were doing when you heard the news? For me I was driving my 1998 Chevy S-10 down to Ft. Carson when it came over the radio. I pushed the pickup to the limit till I got to Carson. My mind was already set to leave from there back over to the sandbox. I got to my company and the second thing that I did was call Rosie, she had heard it also, and she knew my job, so she was preparing herself for me leaving. Not much of a story here, just a memory that we will never forget. Here are a few of the stats from that day.

Flight 11- 76 passengers plus 11 crew time 8:46:40 Twin Towers 1600 persons died. Flight 175- 56 passengers plus 9 crew time 9:03:02 Twin Towers 1000 persons died. Flight 77- 58 passengers plus 6 crew time 9:37:46 Pentagon 125 persons died.

Flight 93- 37 passengers plus 7 crew hijack time 9:57, Crash time 10:03:11 Pennsylvania Field 37 persons died.

All numbers are excluding the terrorist.

On September 11<sup>th</sup> please take a few moments to remember all that lost their lives on that day and also all the military personnel that paid the ultimate sacrifice because of that horrific event. - Bob Williams

#### AUXILIARY

## **Auxiliary General Meeting September 5<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm**

Friday night dinner September 6th
Fried Taco Plate, Ice Cream Sundays \$15.00

DON'T FORGET TO PURCHASE YOUR MILITARY BALL HUGE THANK YOU

Tony & Hayden for the efforts you have put into the JR Auxiliary such a success.

A heartful thank you to all our new and renewing members of American Legion Post 1985. We deeply appreciate your support and welcome you another year.

Unfortunately, we are currently experiencing prolonged delays in the processing of member registrations.

Please allow up to 60 days.

Our Bartenders cannot provide status on membership cards, if you pay at the Post, I will leave your card there for you to pick up. If you I will mail your card to you

Thank You for your understanding.

THANK YOU JOANN KIDD

303-667-8745 JOKIDD1959@GMAIL.COM

FYI SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> CARSHOW

THE UPPER PARKING LOT WILL BE CLOSED

ALL DAY CRAFT VENDORS PLEASE CALL

AND RESERVE A SPACE FOR INSIDE OR OUT

SIDE COST \$25.00

LEGION RIDER NEWS

Friday Night Dinner September 20th Smothered burritos \$15

We ride for those who can't

#### JUNIOR AUXILIARY

#### Junior's update

August 18th was our monthly meeting with several new kids and their families in attendance. We enjoyed snow cones while we set up more than 10 stations of projects that needed to be completed. The stations included making signs for upcoming events, rolling silverware, making pretzel necklaces, and tasks to help get ready for Oktoberfest.

The kids have also been helping with quite a few of the Friday night dinners also and we are starting to have kids come back to help more than once. This has been a great way for the volunteers to get their civic service hours and help our Legion groups. Keep in mind, they are still kids though and voluntarily coming to help. They tell me that they really enjoy the shirly temples, the leftover food and desserts, and getting to work with their friends. I have had legion members tell me they appreciate the fun and youthful atmosphere when the kids are there. Win-Win!

#### **Upcoming events:**

- Car show/Craft fair. The juniors will be setting up a canopy to sell soda pop & bottled water as well as facepainting.
- Next meeting: Sunday September 22nd. 2-4pm. Root beer floats and Oktoberfest tasks
- Oktoberfest: Juniors to sell non-alcoholic drinks including root beer in little mugs, hot apple cider, soda, water. Bavarian bake sale, pretzel necklaces, facepainting, and helping to keep kids entertained with games and fun!
- October meeting: October 20th. 2-4pm. Flag etiquette with guest speaker. Award ceremony. Purple Party for Paws for Purple Hearts

#### Needs:

- Legion members to volunteer to become mentors for the Junior's program. In order
  to have a youth volunteer come help, there must be an adult, legion member who
  has completed the mentor program also present at that event. We need more
  adults to help if we are going to have more youth volunteers.
- A bucket of sand,
- Corn stalks, hay bales, burlap, pumpkins, etc. for Oktoberfest booth

THANK YOU for supporting the Junior Auxiliary!

Junior President: Hayden Will

Junior Auxiliary Chairman: Toni Wi

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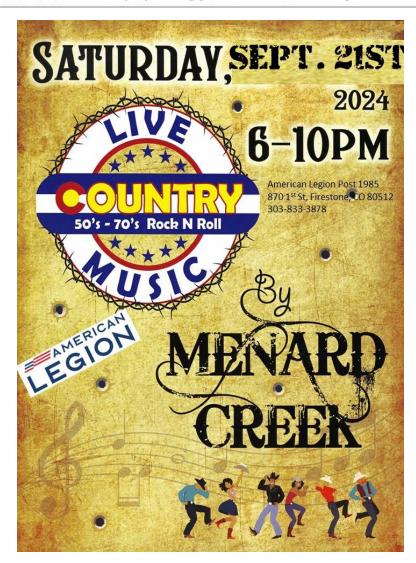
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#### SAL NEWS

#### SAL Update

Long overdue note of appreciation to our great SAL guys. There have been a lot of people who have stepped up to help during the busy summer season! Special thanks to Steve Kidd, Joel Long, Duane Roller, Carlos Martinez, Kurk Erickson and everyone else who helped with the 4th of July and with the last few Friday night dinners. I'm sure there are many others that I have missed. Thank you all for the time and energy you have put into helping our organization. Your hard work, dedication and commitment is greatly appreciated!!

Reminder to all SAL members: new 2025 cards are here. SAL members need to pay their dues (\$25) to get a new card and then must present new card to bartender for a new door key card.

We are currently unable to store any more flags. In the past, we have been able to burn at the Town of Frederick public works facility, however they are currently in the process of moving that facility. While we still have a good arrangement with the city and anticipate we will be able to burn in the new pit after it's constructed, it does mean we have accumulated quite a few flags. Due to lack of space, we are currently not able to accommodate the storage of any more flags. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding with this matter until we can come up with a better solution and will let you know when we are able to burn again.

#### Needs:

- Oktoberfest help. This is going to be big fundraiser event for our SAL so we're going to need everyone's help! If you don't ever really come, please come to this! We are blocking off the parking lot and will be running the outdoor biergarten while the other groups have their own booths. There will be outdoor seating, music, dancing, games and lots of fun! Costumes are highly encouraged with costume contests. We are going to need TIPS certified bartenders, security guards, ID checkers, set-up and clean-up crews. It's an all day event, so even if you can only help for a few hours, it will be greatly appreciated! There will be sign up sheets at the next meeting or send Kirk Will a text with what you think you can do.
- Donations for prize packages.

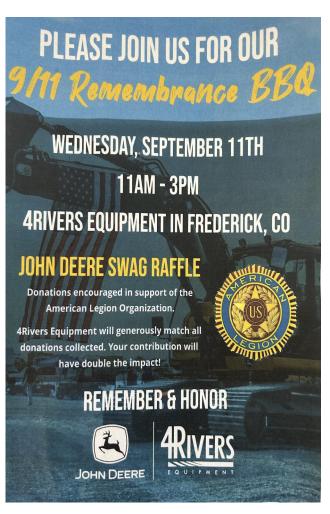
Friday Night Dinner September 27th. Carlos Martinez is making crispy tacos, authentic rice and beans and a fruit dessert. Gluten free option upon request.

Reminder to all SAL members: New 2025 cards are coming out starting in August after our meeting. SAL members need to get their dues (\$25) in before they get a new card

Thank you for your support!

Kirk Will - SAL Commander







#### Fiddlers Green, Harbor Lights or Chaplains Cornerstone

In the 1970's I served in the Armored Calvary, on the Czechoslovakian Border at Camp Gates. During that time period, it was common to see things across the border, that the Russians would do, simply to try to shock us, and to prove their superiority to the human race.

I served with several individuals, that proved to be some of the best of the best, one such individual was Colonel David Bird. One particular day was troubling, and it was a day that I will never forget, and I will never forget the advice that Colonel Bird gave me. As we debriefed the patrol that returned, and accounted for all the troops they had seen, and equipment and vehicles, they mentioned that one of the civilians that frequently came to the border, had been there asking if we had any bread for her.

The Troops there had gotten to know her, at that location, as it was an open area, that the Russian Border guards had not seemed to care if the locals approached, they knew we would not let anyone cross, and we knew they would not allow anyone from our side in. We often stood within feet of each other and were separated only by a simple pipe fence barrier about 3 feet high. There were times when the mood was light between us as we stared each other down. Sometimes we exchanged items like cigarettes for vodka, or even swapped Military patches. These activities of course were not sanctioned, and were discouraged, but not really enforced.

As we debriefed the patrol, they stated that she had been there twice that day with this request, this was not an unusual request as the populations were not allowed to have items like that, and sales of such items were restricted to the elite. The soldiers all referred to her as "Grams".

I went to the Mess Hall, and "requisitioned", a loaf of bread that our baker had cooked. At first, he protested, but when he found out who it was for, he wrapped it up in brown butcher paper and handed it over.

I returned to the briefing room to instruct the next patrol as to the mission facts for the day and gave them instructions to deliver the bread to her, if they saw her at that location. I briefed Colonel Bird, and he gave his blessing, saying, just make sure that it was not a huge production, because there was word of a new Russian Commander that was over that area of the Border, and he was going to start enforcing strict regulations. I passed that information onto the Patrols and advised them to keep a close watch of what was happening, and when in the watch guard towers, and to note any changes that they saw, in troop movements or numbers. I went about Filling out the troop reports, and equipment and vehicles spotted, that came from the debriefing and went about the daily normal duties. About 2 hrs. into that shift, I received a frantic message, that a Staff NCO was needed at the check point, and that an incident had occurred. I put in a call to Colonel Birds phone, and his driver took the message, and I got Staff Sargent Bell to accompany me to the check point.

The checkpoint was a road crossing that was open view through the 200 meters on the other side back to the guard tower opposite us. As we pulled up, I could see the patrol was clearly shaken and upset, Specialist Gibbs was pointing to the other side, and my heart sank within me, as I recognized Grams, lying in a heap about 230 meters from us. The wrapped loaf appeared to be next to her, I grabbed the field binoculars from Gibbs, and was shocked to see, yes she had been shot, and the Russian guards were just standing outside the tower at the base laughing and pointing at her and us.

About this time Colonel Bird arrived in his transport and asked what had happened. The guards relayed that Grams had been waiting, and when they arrived, they did as instructed and gave her the bread. The Russian Guard that was at the gate had no issue with it and allowed her to go back towards the other sides clear area. This sort of activity had not been uncommon at times with different exchanges going on, locals had relatives living in the town that was just on the other side, and while it was technically not permitted, it had been happening for years. I could see the anger in Colonel Birds face, and his reaction was immediate. He got the comphone from our guard shack, and called back to Squadron Headquarters and we heard the Alert sirens going off. Alot happened after that, but the point was made that you do not execute 85 year old people in front of us, as we assembled Armored Units at that crossing. I was debriefed by Colonel Bird directly, and we both

expressed dismay over what had taken place. After about a hour the alert was stood down or called off. The Russians had left her there for a day, and then buried her right in the road where she fell....I asked David, how can they do that? He said to me, they have no humanity, they have no qualms at all, and it's all about controlling others. If you don't follow their orders, they simply shoot you...does not matter if you are 8 or 80, you will be shot. He told me the crazy thing is, they don't even realize that the people they boss around and terrorize, have a similar goal, but the autocrats just make their own job harder...By pedantically dictating how others behave, they will just irritate the people they seek to control, and it works against the outcome they want and desire. He said "The goal of Dictators and bullies, tends to be about the "right way "for others to do things, or how to speak or act, or be. It's all about what THEY want, not what the people want, they want a particular outcome, and will sacrifice everything, to achieve whatever goals they seek, and will simply turn everyone that thinks otherwise, into causalities along the road, to get to their own elevated podium."

Years later, after I left the service, I went back to Germany and returned to that location, I did not see fences any more, no towers, no warning signs, I did see a small white cross alongside the roadway, and a small plaque that bore her name, and date of death. It read "Killed because of Kindness".

As I was standing there, with my wife, thinking of Colonel Bird, who had convinced me to make this trip, to get some closure, a car pulled over, and a man got out and asked my wife what the matter was. She told him of the event, and that it had haunted me all these years, He asked her if he could talk to me, she said "yes, just be mindful, he blames himself".

As he approached me, he called out to me, In German "She was my grandmother, and she spoke of your men often, and said that you all were kind, and always expressed kindness to her," I said "they left her in the road? He said no, after they buried her, the Guard that shot her was instructed to remove her and give her proper burial.

He said, "follow me into town yes"? So, I got back into the car with my wife and followed him to the town that was about 1 km from that location. We stopped at the small church that had a graveyard, He said come see over here. I looked and saw her name and a small statue of a woman with a loaf of bread, she was smiling....He said, "This is how you should remember her; she was your "Grams"!

We stayed in that town that night, in a little Guest house (very small hotel), The next morning when we got up, we went into the sitting area of the hotel, and there was a breakfast, with the local coffee espresso tiny cups of what I had called mud coffee, the local baker had supplied the breakfast bread that I had remembered so well, called Brotchen, and there was a lunch packed for both my wife and I, in German style, and an old photo of "Grams". A note was there also with the Picture that said, Cast all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you.

#### — 1 Peter 5:7

As we left that town and traveled back to Germany, as we passed by the location, I swore I saw her standing on the side of the road waving. My wife said at the same time, "did you see that lady waving at us? "I looked in the rear view mirror, and saw nothing......Do not look behind you, what is past is gone. Amen......

In memory of Olga Nikolaeva "Grams" 1899- 1979.

In Memory of the greatest Commander I ever had the privilege to serve under, Colonel David Owen Bird Ret, March  $11\ 1945$  – July 7,2024 "Scouts Out Sir!"

"Till we meet at the Fiddlers Green"

Chaplain Chris Woody

### Would you like to advertise your business in the American Legion Post 1985 Newsletter? YOUR AD HERE

Business Card  $3.5" \times 2" \$15 \times Month / \$120 \text{ Annual}$  4 Page  $3.75" \times 4.75" \$30 \times Month / \$300 \text{ Annual}$  4 Page  $7.5" \times 4.75" \$50 \times Month / \$500 \text{ Annual}$  Full Page  $7.5" \times 10.5" \$85 \times Month / \$850 \text{ Annual}$  Sizes are estimates only.

Portion of these funds will be used for to pay for printing and mailing.

The Post Newsletter can be found at www.americanlegion1985.org/newsletter If you would like to receive and electronic copy please send your email address to tommy.daw@cajuntiger.com or call 303-746-0164.

#### Post 1985 Volunteer Brigade

For our Supports and Volunteers who would like to join our Post Volunteer Brigade.

We are opening membership again for the 2024-2025 year on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

If you are interested in becoming on of our Volunteers and are unable to join one of our families, please sign up to be a Brigade Member.

The cost is \$25 per year with 40 hours of Service helping the Post during our events.

This will qualify you for our Volunteer of the Year Award.

You will also get a Security Card and a Membership Card showing you are a Volunteer.

We will also be holding some meetings throughout the year which will get you "Double the Hours" for your time

Paul T Daw Jr Vice Commander American Legion Post 1985





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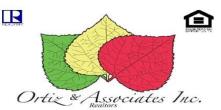


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Owner is a member of American Legion Post 1985



#### News from Finance Officer – Sally Janich Hall Rental at Post 1985

Planning a special event? Birthday? Retirement?

Consider holding your special event at the American Legion We want to provide a safe and enjoyable experience for your event. Rates: \$10.00 per hour, for American Legion Post 1985 members that have been members for a minimum of 6 months and in good standing. This courtesy rate can be applied twice per year. If you are not currently a member but would still like a very affordable place to rent with a kitchen for your next event, please stop by for an information sheet and availability. Non-Member rate: \$50.00 per hour.

Thank you all who support our 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month Trivia.

We have generous sponsors and fun players.

JOIN US ON THURSDAY

SEPT 19<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm

Back to School Trivia Winners!!



Alan - Jon- Cecile

An all-team response to our 1st responders

Post 1985 truly knows how to come through in time of need. Past Commander Ric Payne passed the pickle barrel around the room 2 Fridays ago. He collected \$400.00 cash. With that money, Finance Officer Sally Janich purchased much needed supplies – Water, Gatorade, energy snacks and Hydration power. These supplies along with other items donated by our community were quickly put to good use by our 1st responders battling fires

Sr. Vice Karl and Commander Bob loading 1st batch of supplies





2<sup>nd</sup> batch loaded by bartenders and Jr. Vice Tommy Paul

# More <u>CANTEEN FIX'INS</u> for September Make sure you save your Tuesday Dinners for the Legion 6:00 – 8:00 Rider Night Carlos Martinez joins our chef line up in Sept



More than a friendly place, like family

Monday and it's back to the weekly grind. But come Monday evenings you can find a place to forget about traffic and work. Make your way from the lounge to behind the canteen area to the back hall. A bunch of friendly faces and the Monday potluck is waiting. Always favorite yummies are Safeway fried chicken brought by Tommy Paul or taste one of Rosie's homemade dishes. A good place to unwind, have a refreshing beverage & hang out.

Veterans, family members and civilians from the local area are there enjoying a bit of friendly competition. The common denominator – Darts. Newly elected Commander Bob Williams runs this event. He has the best event ambassador, his wife Rosie. Rosie will greet you with a hug and a smile.



"This is very welcoming place." John, a member of the Sons chapter of Legion, says. He enjoys the relaxed atmosphere.



Even being pregnant I can still enjoy darts." says Jessica. She is all smiles as she gets ready to take a shot.



This group is incredibly special in the Legion, not only for their Monday night camaraderie, but they have also helped our local community in many ways. Last December they adopted 4 Veterans from the Carbon Valley Help Center. These angels provided much needed clothing, pantry basics and other special treats for their pets. Come down Monday night. Bring a dish to share, your darts and get ready to have fun.



CO 80520







#### SEPTEMBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 General Meeting 7pm	6 AUXILIARY FRIED TACO PLATE & ICE CREAM SUNDAY	7 Car Show 12-4 PM
8 Broncos at SEA 2PM	9 Monday Night Darts 7 PM	10 Bike & Car Night 5-9 PM	11 9/11 Remembrance BBQ 11-3 Texas Hold 'M Poker-7 PM	12 Riders Meeting 7PM	13 LEGION \$20.00 STEAK NIGHT RSVP	14
15 Broncos vs PIT 2:25PM	16 Monday Night Darts 7 PM	17 Bike & Car Night 5-9 PM	18 Texas Hold 'M Poker-7 PM	19 TRIVIA 7PM	20 RIDERS Smothered burritos	21
22 Broncos at TB 11AM Junior Aux Meet- ing 2-4PM	23 Monday Night Darts 7 PM	24 Bike & Car Night 5-9 PM	25 Texas Hold 'M Poker-7 PM	26 E Board Meeting 7 PM	27 SAL TACOS W/ RICE AND BEANS	28 Ock- toberfest 12 -7PM
29 Broncos at NYJ 11AM	30 Monday Night Darts 7 PM					31