

# Post 11-11 Newsletter December, 2007

## *Commander's Corner*

Here we are going into December. Just think, shopping, presents, parties (yep). The fun only starts. After Christmas there is New Years. Then we have more parties, no presents damn it! But we are having fun, no funds to cover it but it only happens once a year.

So much for the bad news. What did everyone think of the Pig Roast? Could any other organization put together something like this?

We not only had the Army's Blackhawk helicopter put on a special show. (The pilots son and wife were in attendance). We also had the Mayor of Westminster, Nancy McNally, and Jefferson County Commissioner Kathy Hartman at our event. How could we ask for more? Hopefully this event will be bigger and better next year.

Thanks again to all who helped with the Thanksgiving baskets!

Remember the Legion on Thanksgiving, it's open, bring a dish if you wish to share with your fellow members and family.

Tom Wartella  
Commander

## *Kathie's Campsite*

Hi all!

It's me again. Can you believe Christmas is upon us? Then we have New Years. It'll be a busy season for all of us. I sincerely hope you will be able to enjoy the holidays with your family and, if like myself, they are away, I hope we keep the phone lines busy talking and sharing memories of both the past and the present.

The Post will close Christmas Eve at 6:00 and Gene will be here noon to 6:00 on Christmas Day for our enjoyment! New Years Eve, Stephanie and Mike will be here to bring in the New Year with Karaoke and dance tunes. Come on in and share those memories of years past. We'll have snacks and party favors!

Thank you to all that helped make our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Active Military Appreciation go off so well. Thank you to all who contributed to the Thanksgiving baskets. They were so appreciated. Don't forget the Merchandise Pickle is November 30<sup>th</sup>: great food and lots of prizes to be won. Again, thanks to all who contributed time, prizes and the help to make it a success.

I thanked our volunteers for their time cooking in last month's letter and want to especially thank all our bartenders this month. As you know, they are all volunteers and in the time I have been here I am so amazed at their diligence and reliability. I am so impressed by some of their years of loyalty. Austin had a

chance to move on to a position with great advancement possibilities. Håll do great there and I thank you from all of us for the time you were here. We added Danny, who has become such an asset working front bar shifts as well as a majority of the parties, and he has a full time job! Gene has been here forever and took a little break, but still pleasures us with his company to fill in, so we can't miss him so much. Marki jumped in to cover for a short time, but the lady got so attached to ~~ya~~ all that she is still here. She is a great asset to our team. Okay, Rosie, Annie and Shirley have been here ~~forever~~. They are our base. Without them and the rest, I could never survived as a new manager here. They taught me the particulars of the Post, they helped me through the learning process, they backed me and were honest with me. Who could ask for more? We have the very best team of all the Posts anywhere!! From my heart, I thank them all and also all you members who gave me a chance.

I wish us all a season we can enjoy and be thankful for. May the New Year be good to us all.

Till the next campfire,

Kathie

## *Auxiliary*

Merrrrrrry Christmas!!!!!! Its hard to believe the holiday season is here. The year has just flown by. As usual, there are all kinds of things going on at the Post. Let me take a little time to update you on what the Auxiliary's been up to and what is still in the works.

First of all, thank you all so much for your donations to our Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive. We were able to help 20 families enjoy a wonderful holiday dinner and provide a little extra food to get them through December. Thanks also to everyone who helped put the baskets together and deliver them.

On top of that, we also donated \$500 to Hometown Heroes, an organization that provides food and support to active duty military families. The radio station KOOL 105 holds a Thanksgiving food and money drive along with Hometown Heroes every year at this time. We brought our donation down to the event and even got to be on the air!! It was so fun, and so rewarding. To everyone who helped with our Thanksgiving charity event: YOU DONE GOOD!!!!

Our merchandise pickle was, as always, a huge success. There really aren't enough thanks to go around. Thank you if you donated items, thank you if you played the pickles and won prizes, thank you even more if you played the pickles and didn't win. Many thanks to Annie for her usual wonderful dinner. Thank you to everyone who made our main fundraising event such a great time!!

Have you been good little boys and girls this year?? If so, its time to get your stockings hung in the club room!! See Annie to make sure Santa knows where to put your goodies. Its only \$1 donation and really adds such a beautiful decorative touch to the room.

If you haven't already paid your 2008 dues, please get them in as soon as possible. Our December Auxiliary meeting is December 6 at 7:00 p.m. We'll be discussing and organizing our Christmas charity events. Please join us. It really does make your own Christmas a little happier when you are able to help others with theirs.

I know I say this a lot, but I have to say it one more time - our Auxiliary ladies are the most amazing,

giving, hard-working people I have ever met. I am so lucky to be a part of it. Thanks to all of you for reminding us over and over again why we are a part of the American Legion in the first place.

At our January meeting we will be discussing our yearly charity donations. If you know of a special charity you would like us to consider, please plan on being at our meeting on January 3rd.

Guess that's about it for now. Here's hoping your Christmas and New Year celebrations are wonderful, and that 2008 brings you health, happiness, and much love.

Till next year ...

**Stephanie Carriveau**  
**Post 11-11 Auxiliary President**

### ***From the Chaplain***

I wish everyone a safe and joyous holiday/winter season, Seasons Greetings, Happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas to all.

Let us all say a prayer each night for our troops who all must fight and for all military far from home. Ask God to keep them safe and sound. As Pearl Harbor Day (December 7, 1941) approaches, let us also be reminded of the thousands of lives lost in the World Trade Center attack.

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands.  
Protect them as they protect us.  
Bless them and their families for the selfless acts  
they perform for us in our time of need.  
Amen

**Jim Bellew**  
**Chaplain**

### ***Building Committee***

A lot has been accomplished in the last two months and several projects are planned for December. We have installed new fire doors in the hall, rebuilt the east shed, insulated around the outside of the building, fixed & winterized the irrigation system, and signed the snow plow contract. Projects that we expect to complete in December include installing a door handle on a fire door, replacing the faucets & pre-washer in the kitchen, getting a new phone system & internet service and resurfacing the hall floor. If anyone has suggestions to improve our Legion home or wants to help with these projects, please contact John Baker.

### ***Thanksgiving Baskets***

Twenty Thanksgiving baskets were prepared by the Auxiliary on November 17, 2007 and delivered to needy families by Post volunteers. The Auxiliary put all of the baskets together in about 2 hours. In addition, a monetary contribution was given to the KOOL 105.1 "Fill the Mayflower" program for active

military personnel and their families. Over the radio, the Post 11-11 Auxiliary President, Stephanie Carriveau, challenged all of the other Legion Auxiliaries in the Denver area to match their donation.

## ***Pig Roast/Open House November 10, 2007***

Thanks to all of the volunteers, too numerous to mention by name, who made this event a success. Singled out are Fritz, Roger and Ron & Kay for their kind monetary donations to offset the cost of the event. Post 11-11 signed up new members to the Legion, SAL and Auxiliary. President Bush sent a letter and wished us well in our Endeavor. Senator Ted Kennedy's office called and informed us he could not attend. Mayor Nancy McNally of Westminster and Jefferson County Commissioner Kathy Hartman were gracious to attend. Chaplain Jim Bellew recited a very appropriate prayer at the invocation. Thanks to the Colorado National Guard for sending a Blackhawk helicopter to do figure eights over the Post. Unknown to many who attended, the pilot's mother and wife were in the parking lot to greet him. Heather, with help from Mike O'Bryan, submitted the winning name for the event: "Blackhawk Chow Down". There will be an after-action meeting in January to identify what was done correctly and identify opportunities for improvement next year. If you have suggestions for next year's event, please contact John Baker

## ***From the Editor***

The deadline for the January newsletter is Saturday, December 15<sup>h</sup>.

## ***WAY TO GO, TEACHER!***

Back in September, 2005, on the first day of school, Martha Cothren, a social studies school teacher at Robinson High School in Little Rock, did something not to be forgotten. On the first day of school, with the permission of the school superintendent, the principal and the building supervisor, she removed all of the desks out of her classroom. When the first period kids entered the room, they discovered that there were no desks.

Looking around, confused, they asked, "Ms. Cothren, where're our desks?"

She replied, "You can't have a desk until you tell me what you have done to earn the right to sit at a desk."

They thought, "Well, maybe it's our grades."

"No," she said.

"Maybe it's our behavior?" She told them, "No, it's not even your behavior".

And so, they came and went, the first period, second period, third period.

Still no desks in the classroom. By early afternoon television news crews had started gathering in Ms. Cothren's classroom to report about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of her room.

The final period of the day came, and as the puzzled students found seats on the floor of the desk-less room, Martha Cothren said, "Throughout the day, no one has been able to tell me just what he/she has done to earn the right to sit at the desks that are ordinarily found in this classroom. Now I am going to tell

you.”

At this point, Martha Cothren went over to the door of her classroom and opened it. Twenty-seven (27) U.S. Veterans, all in uniforms, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk.

The Vets began placing the school desks in rows, and then they would walk over and stand alongside the wall.

By the time the last soldier had set the final desk in place, those kids started to understand, perhaps for the first time in their lives, just how the right to sit at those desks had been earned.

Martha said, “You didn’t earn the right to sit at these desks. These heroes did it for you. They placed the desks here for you. Now, it’s up to you to sit in them. It is your responsibility to learn, to be good students, to be good citizens. They paid the price so that you could have the freedom to get an education. Don’t ever forget it.”

This is a true story ...

If you can read this, thank a teacher.

If you read it in English, thank a soldier.