



"For God and Country"



"United We Stand"

Newsletter

George C. Evans

Post #103

"The Leader Post"

The American Legion
P.O. Box 281
Littleton, CO 80160

January 2022



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS:

Steve Valdez

I hope everyone had a great holiday season. I would like to thank our former Commander, Al Rodriguez for all of the work and duties he performed during his time as leader of American Legion Post 103. I would like to wish him well in his future endeavors. Mr. Rodriguez helped me with getting the proper membership list for Posts 123, 211, and DMS (virtual posts) in order to improve the membership for Post 103.

I would like to take this opportunity to say "Happy Retirement" to former Department Service Officer of Colorado, Dean Casey. Over Dean's tenure, he has helped several veterans with their needs. I wish Dean well in his future American Legion activities. And, now Department Service Officer of Colorado, Will Davis has taken over these duties and wish him luck with his job. I know he will do an excellent job.

As we leave 2021 and jump into 2022, I would like to thank all of the volunteers who help with Bingo. The time and effort these volunteers have put into this activity has help our American Legion Post immensely over the years. If anyone has the opportunity to attend Bingo anytime this year, please do so and give your support to the many volunteers who work this activity.

Another big shout out goes to Allie Bess. The duties Allie does as Post Adjutant are never ending. Without Allie's help in her Adjutant position, no one would ever know the necessary statistics that are needed to help boost memberships for Post 103.

To former Commander Bud Goodwin. Thank you, Bud, for all the times you and I sat down and discussed the historical moments of your life. Your many stories have allowed me to bring history to life to many of my students. You have been an inspiration to me during my time with the American Legion Post 103. I hope I can fill your shoes as well as all of the other past commanders who have led this number one post. Please stay well my friend.

To American Legion Post 103, I will try my best to fulfill the duties of Commander. Please note that I can be reached at 720-364-0490 or steve.valdez52@gmail.com should you have concerns, questions or suggestions about the Post. I thank you for your support.

Meeting Dates (2021/2022)

Dec 19	Executive Board Meeting	6:30p	
Jan 5	General Assembly	6:30p	Canceled
Jan 22	Legion Breakfast	9a-11a	Golden Corral
Jan 31	Executive Board Meeting	6:30p	Zoom
Feb 2	General Assembly	6:30p	Buck Center
Feb 28	Executive Board Meeting	6:30p	Zoom
Mar 2	General Assembly	6:30p	Buck Center
Mar 12	Legion Breakfast	9a-11a	Golden Corral

Adjutant – Allie Bess

The next batch of paid 2022 membership cards will be processed and sent out during the third week of Jan 2022. **Dues for 2022 are \$45.00.** Please let me know if you have paid, but not received your 2022 membership cards.

If you are looking for your current membership card, you can go to mylegion.org and sign into your account. Located on the left side of your account is a MEMBERSHIP section, just click on “Membership Card.” If you lose your card, this is how you can get a copy of your card and Identification number. The 2022 memberships have been taking approximately 1-2 months to update in Mylegion.org.

For any questions or concerns, please contact me at abess30@gmail.com.

1st Vice Commander – Steve Valdez

A **BIG THANK YOU** to all who have renewed their 2022 American Legion Membership. Post 103 is working on renewing memberships for 2022. The Post 103 goals for the 2022 year is 386 renewals to make a 100%. The state goal is 390.

Currently Post 103 is at 321 members (renewed or new members). We are at approximately 82%. The Post is working hard to reach its projected goal and needs more renewals.

If you have not renewed or know of someone who like to become a member of Post 103, there are two ways you can accomplish this objective.

You can mail your **\$45.00** renewal by the United States Post Office. Please address your envelope to American Legion Post 103, Attention Adjutant, and P.O. Box 281, Littleton, Colorado 80160.

Or

You may go to WWW.legion.org/members

Please use the – go to the **Renewal Feature**:

Submit payment of your annual membership dues.

May I also take this opportunity to please ask everyone to get his or her updated information (if you need to) to our Post Adjutant Ms. Allie Bess. That will include **updated addresses, telephone numbers and new email addresses**.

Looks like things are beginning to open up a little. I am happy to say that Post 103 can set up a recruiting table to get a conformation date of either January 16th or 23rd from Littleton Ace Hardware located on Belleview and Kipling. On either of those dates (once confirmed) Post 103 will be setting up Veterans Information Tables and ask for the times of 0900 to 1200 hours. The objective for this event is reach out and give veterans information about Post 103 as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs information. Once a date is confirmed I will send an email blast out to ask for volunteers to help. Please remember when these events are held – it is only a three-to-four-hour time window.

Post 123 and 211 transfers request have been sent out by postcard. We have been getting new membership through that system. Hopefully, the Post membership will continue to grow using these two lists.

Post 103 is fortunate to have received a Veterans Direct Membership Solicitation (DMS) list. Thanks to former Commander Rodriguez, who obtained this information, Post 103 has been able to contact veterans for Post membership. I would like to take the opportunity to thank those who helped in reaching out to veterans on those lists.

Please continue to stay safe and healthy.

Thank you.

2nd Vice Commander – Steve Valdez

Please get ready for a new event year. American Legion Post 103 will be having the annual picnic on June 11, 2022 at Stern Park from noon to 1600 hours. Then on July will be held on Saturday July 9, 2022 at 1300 at the Golden Corral on South Santa Fe Drive. Then in August, the American Legion Post will hopefully be marching in the Littleton annual Western Welcome Week, more information to come.

Stay well.

Service Officer – Joe Cordova

No report for Dec 2021.

Chaplain – Mike Romero

Psalms 32:8

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eyes upon you.

Past Commander, Charles “Bud” Goodwin, is now living at: Meadow Vista Assisted living, 7243 W. Walden Dr., Littleton, CO 80128 Phone: 303-904-6000.

He wishes all of the Members, Best Wishes and a Happy, Healthy New Year. Please call if you would like to visit.

Please keep this Member and all Members in your, Thoughts and Prayers.

If you know of anyone needing a visit or call, contact me at: 303-973-2493 or, email me at: mjromero44@gmail.com

NOTE 1: We currently have these medical items available for loan to our Post Members.

Crutches: 3 sets, **Canes:** 2 adjustable, 3 non-adjustable. **Walkers:** 9 non-wheeled. 2 sit-down Walkers **Wheel Chairs:** 2 with foot-rests, 1 without. **Shower Chairs:** 2 Adjustable. **Bedside Commode:** 1 adjustable. **Raised Toilet Seat:** w/Lock, and Adjustable Arms.

NOTE 2: As Post Chaplain, I am charged with preparing Post Everlasting Resolutions, and Post Initiation Certificates. If you members know of anyone needing this service, call me, or email me at the information I have provided above.

Finance Officer - Ed Pietsch

Post Finances

Post income in December was approximately \$2,400 and included membership renewals; several generous donations to the All Veterans Honor Guard (AVHG); and proceeds from our 50/50 raffle.

Post expenses for December totaled about \$1,000 and included payment to the Department/National for the membership renewals, AVHG expenses and office supplies and stamps.

Bingo

Bingo income for December was outstanding having one of our best months ever. The “Must Go” brought in a profit of \$7,100 and the total for the five sessions in the month was over \$9,300. The Post paid out \$100 of bingo funds to pay for the electronic submission of our 2020 taxes.

2022 Budget

Since we have not had a normal year of programs and activities the last two years because of the Covid virus restrictions, the Post Executive Committee decided to carry over the same budget we used in 2020 and 2021 for 2022. This 2022 budget will be submitted to the membership at the February Membership Meeting. In July we will do our mid-year budget review and will make adjustment at that time. We know we will be making some necessary adjustment as the year progresses including an increase to the AVHG expense budget for some anticipated needs in 2022.

Hopefully we will have a much more normal year of operations this year.

Tax Help

A big thank you to those individuals who responded to my call for tax assistance in last month's newsletter. We were able to locate someone who helped with the electronic filing of our 2020 taxes. We have that individual and a few other options we are exploring for electronically filing our IRS form 990-T, Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return for 2021 and as well as our Form 990 (information return). It was gratifying to see the number of you who responded with suggestions. Thanks to all.

Auxiliary – Shauna Townsend (President)

Hello Everyone,

Cheers to the New Year! I'm hoping this year brings good fortune and happiness to all.

I want to thank Sherry Pietsch for everything she has done regarding the organization of our wreath laying project at Ft Logan and helping with Nick's project. She made the process so easy for our volunteers and it doesn't go unnoticed or unappreciated. I also want to thank our members that volunteered to help lay the wreaths; without you this project can be a handful. People really appreciate seeing that wreath laid for their loved ones. I think it was a great idea when Sherry started it and hope we can continue. That being said, Sherry is handing over the reins to another member(s) to take over the wreath organization, so if anyone would like to step up and help out with that, please let me know!

I think we have all the renewals that we are going to get. I will be getting with Darlene and Jean to solidify our roster. We may have a couple members that have dropped out. If you have not paid dues and would like to continue supporting the **Auxiliary**, you can send in your **\$35.00** checks to: Jean Jesser 150 W. Sterne Pkwy. Littleton, CO 80120. You can also bring dues to the meeting or pay online. If anyone knows of anyone that would like to join, please have them contact me at 1shaunatownsend@gmail.com.

Thank you. Be safe and healthy and I'll see you at February's meeting!

Sons of American Legion (SAL) – Harry Ciruli

To renew or become a member, please contact me at:

Harry P. Ciruli Jr.
872 Thames St. Highlands Ranch, CO 80126 hciruli@comcast.net
303-791-6184

Historian – Gene Foyle

Review our Facebook page on American Legion George C Evans Post 103. This site is being updated daily. Also, visit the Post 103 website at <http://www.legionpost103.org>.

Article to read: The Battle of the Bulge

Judge Advocate – Richard Callan

SAVE THE DATE:

11 Jun 22	12-4p	Post Summer Picnic	Sterne Park
9 Jul 22	1-3p	Post Banquet	Golden Corral

Sgt of Arms – Danny Danforth

Executive Board Meeting was held 19 Dec 2021 with 9 officers present via Zoom. Jan 2022 meeting was canceled due to weather.

Flags – Jack Pansini

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We need volunteers to help maintain the flags at the WW2 Memorial (Ketring Park) and at the Bucks Recreation Center, please call Jack Pansini at 303-794-5288 or e-mail at jackpansini5@gmail.com for more details.

All Veterans Honor Guard – Harry Giglio

The All Veterans Honor Guard had a total of 16 services for the month of Dec 2021.

WWII	3
Korea	4
Vietnam	7
Gulf War	2

The breakdown by branch of service:

Army	7
Navy	4
Air Force	5

Honor Guard: Total services provided for 2021 are 224.

WWII	33
Korea	61
Vietnam	116
Gulf War	14
Army	103
Navy	52
Air Force	44
Marines	23
Merchant Marines	1
Coast Guard	1

Our All Veterans Honor Guard Team is available for services at Ft Logan on Mondays and some Fridays.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the All Veterans Honor Guard, you can contact me at the below number and I will review the responsibilities of the Guard.

If you have any questions you can contact me at **303-246-7648**

Harry Giglio

RESOURCES



Post Officers 2021-2022	
Steve Valdez, Commander	steve.valdez52@gmail.com
Allie Bess, Adjutant	abess30@gmail.com
1st Vice	Vacant/duties covered by Steve Valdez
2nd Vice	Vacant/duties covered by Steve Valdez
Mike Romero, Chaplain	mjromero44@gmail.com
Ed Pietsch, Finance Officer	E_Pietsch@msn.com
Joe Cordova, Service Officer	joedcordova@yahoo.com
Danny Danforth, Sgt-at-Arms	dvdanforth@comcast.net
Gene Foyle, Historian	breezly_g@man.com
Richard Callan, Judge Advocate	richardcallan@hotmail.com
Harry Giglio, Cmdr. AVHG	harrygiglio@comcast.net
Harry Ciruli, Squadron Cmdr.	hciruli@comcast.net
Shauna Townsend, Aux. President	1shaunatownsend@gmail.com

Post 103 Members who are now members of Post Everlasting

Paul Abelson
Donald Carroll (Nov 2021)
Richard Coan (Oct 2021)
Thomas Frick (Sep 2021)
John Holtz
William Schulteheinrich
Alan Sheley
Lonnie Staker (Oct 2021)
Robert Sage
Richard Tinsley
George Williams

The Battle of the Bulge

Called “the greatest American battle of the war” by [Winston Churchill](#), the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes region of Belgium was [Adolf Hitler](#)’s last major offensive in [World War II](#) against the Western Front. Hitler’s aim was to split the Allies in their drive toward [Germany](#). The German troops’ failure to divide [Britain](#), [France](#) and America with the Ardennes offensive paved the way to victory for the allies.

Lasting six brutal weeks, from December 16, 1944, to January 25, 1945, the assault, also called the Battle of the Ardennes, took place during frigid weather conditions, with some 30 German divisions attacking battle-fatigued American troops across 85 miles of the densely wooded Ardennes Forces

The **Battle of the Bulge**, also known as the **Ardennes Offensive**, was a major German [offensive campaign](#) on the [Western Front](#) during [World War II](#) which took place from 16 December 1944 to 25 January 1945. It was launched through the densely forested [Ardennes](#) region between [Belgium](#) and [Luxembourg](#) towards the end of the war in Europe. The offensive was intended to stop Allied use of the Belgian [port of Antwerp](#) and to split the Allied lines, allowing the Germans to [encircle and destroy](#) the four Allied forces and cause the Allies to negotiate a [peace treaty](#) in the [Axis powers](#)’ favor. The Battle of the Bulge remains among the most important battles of the war, along with [Stalingrad](#), [D-Day](#), [Monte Cassino](#), and [Midway](#). It marked the last major offensive attempted by the Axis Powers on the Western front. After their defeat, [Germany](#) would retreat for the remainder of the war.

The Germans achieved a total surprise attack on the morning of 16 December 1944, due to a combination of Allied overconfidence, preoccupation with Allied offensive plans, and poor [aerial reconnaissance](#) due to bad weather. American forces bore the brunt of the attack. The Germans had attacked a weakly defended section of the Allied line, taking advantage of heavily overcast weather conditions that grounded the Allies’ superior air forces. Fierce American resistance on the northern shoulder of the offensive, around [Else born Ridge](#), and in the south, around [Bastogne](#), blocked German access to key roads to the northwest and west that they counted on for success. Columns of armor and infantry that were supposed to advance along parallel routes found themselves on the same roads. This congestion, and terrain that favored the defenders, threw the German advance behind schedule and allowed the Allies to reinforce the thinly placed troops. The farthest west the offensive reached was the village of Foy-Notre-Dame, south east of [Dinant](#), being stopped by the [U.S. 2nd Armored Division](#) on 24 December 1944.^[15] Improved weather conditions from around 24 December permitted air attacks on German forces and [supply lines](#), which sealed the failure of the offensive. On 26 December the lead element of Patton’s U.S. Third Army reached Bastogne from the south, ending the siege. Although the offensive was effectively broken by 27 December, when the trapped units of 2nd Panzer Division made two break-out attempts with only partial success, the battle continued for another month before the front line was effectively restored to its position prior to the attack. In the wake of the defeat, many experienced German units were out of men and equipment, and the survivors retreated to the [Siegfried Line](#).

The Germans’ initial attack involved 410,000 men; just over 1,400 tanks, tank destroyers, and assault guns; 2,600 artillery pieces; and over 1,000 combat aircraft, as well as large numbers of other [armored fighting vehicles](#) (AFVs).^[4] These were reinforced a couple of weeks later, bringing the offensive’s total strength to around 450,000 troops, and 1,500 tanks and assault guns. Between 63,222 and 98,000 of these men were [killed](#), [missing](#), [wounded in action](#), or [captured](#). The battle severely depleted Germany’s armored forces.