



Issue #7

The American Legion Post 2000, Loveland, CO. Newsletter August 2021

www.post2000.coamlegion.org



Happy Birthday

The American Legion Commanders Award

Newly elected Commander Cody Smith awarded a Don Gooding, a Vietnam veteran, the Commanders award at the 14th annual All-American car show. At 10am when the show officially opened there are already well over 300 cars at the ready and on display. Everything from home made cars, military vehicles, hot rods, classics, & antiques of many makes and models. Cody looked for those details that separate that one vehicle from others starting with it had to be a veteran owned vehicle. Commander Cody was looking for what touched him in a way that only he knew what made it a little more special and honorable. He toured the parking lot looking over the details and the vehicle's character. He could only choose one, and that he said was the hardest part, seeing there were so many very cool veterans owned vehicles. That one vehicle that makes it different than all others enough. But when time came it was right in front of him the whole time.

Parked about 40 feet from the American Legion booth. It was a metallic green custom 1951 Ford Victoria, with images painted in the mural to support the troops. The owner Don Gooding was in



shock when he was called to receive his trophy. The appreciation for his service and winning received multiple applauses from those in attendance.

Know your American Legion

1. What one is Not a program of the American Legion

- A. Boys State
- B. Girls State
- C. Baseball
- D. Riders

2. What one is Not a youth program

- A. Boy Scouts
- B. Girls Scouts
- C. National 4H
- D. Street Law

3. What is Not a benefit as a member of the American Legion?

- A. Travel
- B. Rental
- B. Medical
- D. Landscape



Melanie Fink, the wife of Desert Storm Veteran Gary Fink USN, has been reaching out to find a way to present her husband with a special gift. She wanted it to be presented in the presence of other veterans who know Gary. After reaching out to The American Legion Post 2000, things began move into motion. Gary was told by his family he would be going to dinner but instead found himself at Rez church thinking maybe a pit stop to see his kids church project. Gary still unaware, walked into a room filled with several Loveland veterans. It wasn't long before he and his entire family was called to the front for introductions, Gary is now beginning to figure out something very different is going on. Gary's aunt Shirley Soeliner who made the quilt and Melanie stepped forward and started to speak about how they have such appreciation for Gary's service, all the while they were unfolding a handmade quilt. Once the quilt was fully opened Shirley concluded

informing everyone the title of the quilt "Wings of Freedom". Gary was brought to tears and heartfelt appreciation all the while still in shock. The Fink family is ever grateful to all veterans and a special thank you to the members of American Legion Post 2000 of Loveland.

Members of Post 2000 had a full day of fun

Saturday July 10th was a busy day for Post 2000. Starting out for some at 6am setting up a Legion awareness booth, then to start directing some 320 cars for the All-American Car show. Some of the cars were worth as much as \$120,000.00 while others were military vehicles. The variety of vehicles came from a time not so long ago we call classics today, others were just pure antiques. At 10am the colors were posted thanks to the American Legion Post 2000 to officially open the start of the car show. Most of the vehicles were parked by 10am, and those who are veterans had a card stating, "Veteran Owned Vehicle". The day was perfect and went on with food vendors, raffles, Grimm brother's beer garden and more. Members of Post 2000 standing at their American Legion awareness booth were recognized as key persons making this event such a success and parking the largest number of vehicles in 14 years and without a scratch to a car. They were also recognized as Veterans by veterans and appreciated by others for their service. Seen in the photo L-R: Darrell Stilwell, Woody, Cody Smith, Harold Gosse, Robb Smith. Shout out to other members of Post 2000 who were present to support this event are: Dave Smith, Harold Wagner, Joe Centeno, Tony DuMosch, Ed Hart, & Kevin Dudak.



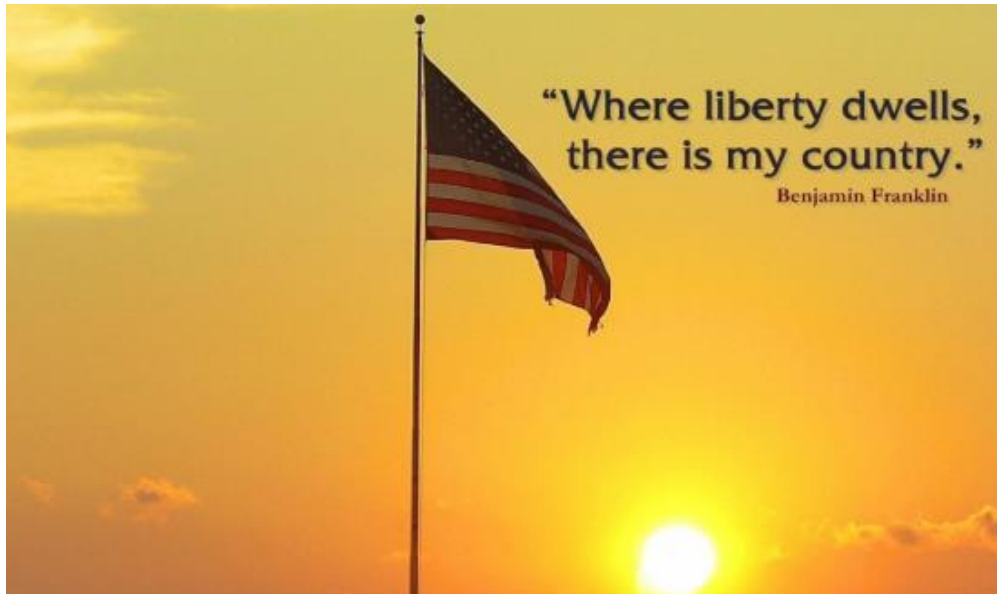
**Know your American Legion
Answers: 1= B, 2 = D, 3 = D**

Current Events and Information:

- Aug 14th – Ace Hardware Membership Drive
- Sep 11th – Patriot Day Remembrance at Ft Lagoon Amphitheater, 500 E. Third St. Loveland
- Oct. 2nd – Barbarian Fest by Grimm Brothers. Donations are given to Post 2000's Loveland Veterans Assistance Fund

Message from Post 2000 Public Relations (PR) staff

The future of the Post is in the hands of the membership. Without it, there is no Post 2000. We all can contribute in some form or fashion. If you like to get out and about participate in at least one or two events a year. Please share with us any



comments or suggestions you have regarding this newsletter. Additionally, if you have a story to tell, or have an interest you would like to read about here, let us know.

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