

VA&R Mid-Year Report
Department of Colorado
Chairman: Theresa Brandt
buffalogal3@g.com
2018-2019

Colorado hosted a Christmas Gift Shop at the Rocky Mountain VA Medical Center in Denver on December 16, 2018. 180 veterans were served and \$800 was donated for the gift shop. About 20 members were in attendance. All of the VA centers were visited during December in Colorado, each facility had donations that were delivered. 97 veterans were given Christmas goodie-bags and a \$700 donation was made to Bruce Colorado Veterans Community Living Center.

July 21, 2018 ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the new Rocky Mountain VA Medical Center in Denver

September 16, 2018 an All Women's VA&R Summit was held in Colorado Springs. This was a workshop on what the needs are for women getting out of the military and what resources are available to help them.

Veterans VA Health Care monthly meetings are held in Alamosa every 3rd Wednesday of every month. It is a question and answer session for veterans.

An All Women's VA&R Summit is being planned to take place in northern Colorado

Unit 50 decorated the Christmas tree at the VA Medical Center in Grand Junction

Unit 50 hosted a Christmas party at the VA Medical Center in Grand Junction

Unit 189 visited the Denver VA Medical Center to deliver lap robes

Unit 189 visited the Rifle VA Community Living Center

Unit 5 went in June and October to Bruce McCandless Colorado Veterans Community Living Center to host birthday parties for the residents. They took ice cream, cake and made a money donation to the canteen books. They also donated lap robes and zippered hoodies.

Unit 5 donated Village Inn pies to the Crawford House for Memorial Day and Veteran's Day

Unit 5 attended Memorial Day and Veteran's Day ceremonies and parades.

Unit 5 has a member who holds positions in the Pike Peak Veterans Council.

Unit 5 helped Post 5 place flags on Veteran's graves on Memorial Day and attended the dedication of the Medal of Honor monument at Memorial Park in Colorado Springs.

Unit 5 helped employees of Starbucks Military Family Support pack about 800 pounds of Starbucks coffee, tea and snacks which were sent to Iraq and Afghanistan

Unit 5 fundraiser activities include monetary donations, donated food for parties and dinners, bake sales, and an ongoing piggy bank (funds go to Home Front Cares)

Eight members of Unit 5 attended a fundraiser potluck to raise funds to restore the flag presented to the Post 5 in 1920.

Unit 209 supplies \$50 worth of coffee to the Colorado Springs VA clinic each month. They also supply cream and sugar when it is needed.

Unit 209 members attended the dedication of the Pikes Peak National Cemetery on May 25th. One member was part of the Color Guard for the first burials at the National Cemetery.

Unit 209 attended Memorial Day and Veteran's Day ceremonies and parades. They place roses on the Vietnam Memorial and Forward Responders Memorial at Memorial Park on both of these days.

Unit 209 participated in the All Patients Day at the Pueblo VA Community Living Center. Fleece blankets were given to each resident who visited their booth.

Six Unit 209 members attended the Colorado Springs Veterans Stand Down. Fleece blankets were made and given out along with shampoos, lotion, dog food, hand sanitizer, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, socks, gloves, hats, scarves, and other items to 183 homeless veterans in October. Ten families were selected to enter the Veteran Transition Housing Program for 45 days. Unit 209 prepared four evening meals, delivered the meals to the hotel, and served the people in this program. Fleece blankets were given to the children.

Unit 209 provides 7 cakes each month to the Gold Star Mothers who in turn takes the cakes to the Wounded Warriors Transition Unit at Fort Carson for birthday celebrations. The Gold Star Mothers hold a Suits for Troops event at Post 209 several times a year. Unit 209 helps with this event. Donations provide business clothing to military members transitioning to civilian life.

Unit 209 attended an ice cream social at Bruce McCandless Colorado Veterans Community Living Center. They provided ice cream toppings and cookies.

Unit 13 one member is the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Colorado representative to Bruce McCandless Colorado Veterans Community Living Center.

Unit 13 one member attended the Flag Day Ceremony at Bruce McCandless. It was also a dedication of a new fountain in memory of one of the former residents.

Unit 13 made the ice cream for an Ice Cream Social at Bruce McCandless and also attended the Ice Cream Social.

Unit 13 helped replace the old red, white and blue stakes that the flags go in at Lakeside Cemetery with new ones.

Two Unit 13 members attended 13 Memorial Day and Veteran's Day Ceremonies. The ceremonies included 3 school ceremonies, 5 cemetery ceremonies, Golden Age Center, Bruce McCandless, 10th Mountain Infantry Memorial Ceremony, assisted living center ceremony, and a Free Breakfast for Veterans hosted by Unit 13.

Unit 13 hosted a free breakfast for veterans on Veteran's Day. 67 veterans were served breakfast

Unit 13 made 110 goodie-bags and gave a \$200 donation to Bruce McCandless for Christmas a check for \$350 from the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Colorado was also presented.

Unit 137 makes quilt blocks and assists with construction of quilts for veterans

Unit 137 one member provided free housing for a veteran family, she volunteers at the local nursing home where veterans live.

Unit 68 supplied professional clothes to a VA center of help veterans find jobs.

Unit 68 provided funds to the VFW to buy a new air conditioner for their building which is used every day by veterans.

Unit 68 provided lunch for a workshop teaching about veteran PTSD/suicide

Unit 1187 signed 188 Christmas cards to be given to veterans at the facility for retired veterans.

Unit 1187 donated \$25 to the Female Veterans Baby Shower.

Unit 1187 donated \$25 to Healing Waters Fly Fishing. This program takes disabled veterans for a no cost time in nature with other veterans.

Unit 20 donated 2 boxes of toys and a box of books to the Santa's of Sterling who provide toys at the Community Lighting Ceremony. They also sponsor "Cocoa with Santa" where children can meet with

Santa, pick out a gift. Enjoy cocoa and cookies, get their pictures taken with a reindeer, and enjoy a concert put on by the Children's Choir and Sterling High School.

Unit 20 provided coupons for a haircut to 30 veterans living in a Sterling nursing home and an assisted living facility, they also gave them blankets for Christmas.

Unit 20 donated \$100 to the Cheyenne Veterans Medical Center and \$100 to the Rocky Mountain VA Medical Center in Denver.

Unit 22 hold dinners every month. Half of the dinner profits go to help a veteran or a veteran family in need.

Unit 22 helped 22 members who are in need of help and also helped veterans at their state nursing home.

Unit 32 participated in fundraisers, veteran's programs, and outreach to homeless veterans.

Unit 32 laid 3 wreaths in different locations and distributed card and flags to veteran nursing homes on Memorial Day

Unit 32 sold red shirts for Red Friday, blue poppy shirts, and military bracelet for fundraisers. A Mother's Day and Bronco Basket were raffled off.

Unit 32 marched in a Veteran's Day parade. They served 470 hot dogs at Post 32 after the parade. They hosted a dinner at their post for Veteran's Day.

Unit 32 participated in a Veteran's Day Ceremony at Longs Peak Middle School and at Northridge Elementary School.

Unit 32 had 8 members participate in a homeless Stand Down. Free haircuts were given, gift cards, clothing and supplies, and winter boots were given out. Breakfast and lunch were provided for the homeless. 46 veterans were helped.

Unit 32 donated \$50 to Women's Baby , \$100 to VA community living centers, \$500 to Denver VA Gift Shop, \$500 to Fisher House, \$250 to two local military families in need

Unit 32 collect lap robes from a local church and donates them to a VA Hospital

Unit 2008 had 4 members who volunteered as Guardians on Honor Flights

Unit 23 made donations : \$50 Fisher House, \$50 to HBOLT, \$75 Wreaths Across America, \$147 for gifts for veterans, \$1,896.36 Rocky Mountain Dawgs Project, \$100 to Denver VA Gift Shop, and \$100 Women's Baby Shower

Unit 23 volunteers help with bingo every month at Fitzsimmons Veterans Community Living Center

Unit 23 delivered Christmas gifts to veterans at Fitzsimmons Community Living Center, Heritage Wings, and Holly Heights. Along with the gifts for Holly Height, they were given unfinished bird houses for craft projects.

Unit 23 attended the ribbon cutting for Rocky Mountain VA Medical Center in Denver

Unit 23 attended the Operation Bear Hugs obstacle course fundraiser

Unit 23 participated in the Memorial Day POW Memorial Wall

Unit 23 worked a food booth to raise money for the Christmas gifts.

Unit 193 held an annual craft fair-the proceeds to the Rocky Mountain VA Medical Center

Unit 193 donated to the Denver Gift Shop

Unit 193 collects clothing and toiletries for the Clothes Closet

Unit 110 made afghans and blankets for Home Lake Veterans Center

Unit 110 cook meals, do laundry, and drive veterans to medical appointments

Unit 1 one member volunteers at the infusion center in the new VA Medical Center in Denver
Unit 1 donated \$250 to buy a cup holder and condiment holder for the infusion center
Unit 1 donated \$500 to supply the infusion center with cookies, treats, and other food item for the veterans-as their treatment may take up to 4 to 8 hours.
\$215 was taken from the Department of Colorado VA&R regular funds to get air tight jars to store cookies in order to keep them fresh.
Unit 1 donated \$500 to support a Women's Veterans Baby Shower

Unit 134 hosted a Christmas Legion Family Night Pot Luck and the children got to visit with Santa. The unit gave each child a gift.
Unit 134 donated baby items for the Baby Shower project.
Unit 134 donated money to Fitzsimmons Community Living Center and Home Lake Veterans Community Living Centers
Unit 75 donated money to some veterans
Unit 75 hosted a breakfast and served 150 community members and veterans.

Unit 1879 one member attended "Songwriting for Soldiers" held at Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch-she witnessed firsthand the strengths and talents of our veterans
Unit 1879 held two fundraisers to raise money to treat the Colorado State University student veterans to lunch at the Aspen Grille. The luncheon coincided with Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. One of the student guest for the luncheon was a Medal of Honor recipient.
Unit 1879 one member collected goodies and shipped them to deployed military in their area, along with notes from children who wrote thanks for their service.
Unit 1879 one member arranged for her church to host a breakfast to honor their veterans- 125 veterans were served breakfast.
Unit 1879 one member arranged for a local author to speak about a book he wrote on his experiences dealing with Post-traumatic stress after being the lone when his helicopter was shot down in Vietnam.
Unit 1879 had one member on hand to greet National President Kathy Dungan during her visitation. The group toured the Denver VA Hospital, stopping to interact with veterans during the day.
Unit 1879 has several members who have pet veterans who they cook for or visit on a regular basis--- some are at home and some are in facilities.

VA&R Unit 2

VAVS Activities – VA Community Living Center – Pueblo (VA CLC):

Coordinated and underwrote memorial receptions for veterans who were living at the VA CLC (cookies and punch)

Coordinated the Annual Christmas Handmade Calendar Program (A year-round program). Calendars are made for the veterans living at the facility and staff members who are veterans.

Underwrote all the art supplies for the Dementia & Alzheimer's Art therapy Program. Dementia & Alzheimer's Art Therapy is held on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month and is taught by a Unit #2 member.

Donated dress shirts, suits, and winter items throughout the year for the veterans living at the VA CLC.

Attended the VAVS Quarterly Meetings (May, August, November and February).

Sock Hop and Refreshments at the VA CLC. A dual project with the Air force Association. (April)

Participated in the VA Blood Drive held at the VA Clinic – Pueblo (April)

Arranged for American Legion, department of Colorado VA&R Chair, tom Flores, to visit the veterans Care Facility – Walsenburg with Unit #16 to address on-going issues regarding the care of veterans at that facility (April)

Coordinated a Cripple Creek Fun bus – proceeds to underwrite spring and Summer activities at the CLC (May)

VAVS Annual Awards Lunch at Post #2. Unit #2 hosted the event. Members of Unit #2 were honored and Unit #2 VA&R chair, Beverly Trujillo, received VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System Female Volunteer of the Year (May)

Participated in the annual VA 2K Walk held at the VA Clinic (May)

Sponsored a movie and snacks for the Memorial Day activity at the VA CLC (May)

Contributed to the Annual Luau for the veterans receiving care at the VA CLC, VA Clinic, Colorado State Nursing Home – Walsenburg and Florence. Joint Project with the Air Force Association. (June)

Sponsored the Annual Flag Day Ice Cream Social (June)

Attended the Annual Meet and Greet at Runyon Field (June)

Attended the Annual Baseball Game at Runyon Field (June)

Underwrote the Annual 4th of July BBQ at the VA CLC (July)

Attended the Grand Opening ceremonies at the VA Medical Center – Denver (July)

Held Annual 4th of July Bake Sale at Post #2 – Proceeds to underwrite activities at the CLC (July)

Participated in the Annual Ice Cream Social at the Bruce McCandless Veterans Carte Facility (August)

Participated in the All Activities Day Festival (September)

ReCreation Performance at the VA CLC. Unit #2 helps organize a potluck at the CLC for the performers and staff. (September)

ReCreation Dinner at Post #2 – Unit #2 hosted a potluck for the cast/crew of ReCreation (September)

Coordinated a Cripple Creek Fund Bus to raise funds for the Annual Christmas lunch and to purchase gifts for the veterans living at the VA Community Living center – Pueblo (October)

Organized the Angels Fundraiser – Underwrites the Christmas gifts and dinner at the VA CLC (November and December)

Sponsored the Annual Veterans Day Activities (November)

Sponsored the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner at the VA CLC (November)

Helped decorate the facility for Christmas (December)

Assisted with Christmas shopping for the residents living at the CLC -0 funding from the VA Restricted Christmas Fund (December)

Underwrote the Annual Christmas Dinner and Party at the VA CLC (December)

Assisted at the Christmas Gift Shop[t the VA – Denver (December)

Homelake Community Living Center – Alamosa:

Assisted at Summer Fest (September)

Monthly visitation to the veterans living at the facility (On-going)

Service to Veterans Activities – Pueblo County:

Assisted with weekly Bingo activities. Proceeds from Bingo underwrite programs of Post 32 (Weekly)

Unit #2 also supports the Legionnaires of Post #2 Last Squadron Ceremony

Members of Unit #2 are a part of the Standing Steering Committee of the city-wide Memorial Day Ceremony

Actively promotes participated in city-wide Memorial Day Ceremony and assists with the Memorial Day Lunch at Post #2 (May)

Volunteered at the free day event at the Weisbrod Aircraft Museum (June)

Participated in the Pillars of Unity 2nd Annual Community Summit. Provided information regarding veterans' resources and coffee for the event (June)

Annual Father's Day Breakfast at Post #2 (June)

Participated and supported the Annual Legion Picnic (July)

Participated in Colorado Women Veterans Summit – Fountain (September)

Hosted and coordinated District #8 Fall Conference and Breakfast (October)

Members of Unit #2 are a part of the Standing Steering Committee of the City-wide Veterans Day Ceremony.

Participated in the Annual Veterans Day Parade (November)

Actively promote participation the Veterans Day Ceremony and assist with the Annual Veteran's Day luncheon (November)

Sponsored Veterans' Day Ceremony at East High School. Cecilia Newman narrated the POW/MIA table presentation (November)

Coordinated food drives for pantry and food baskets for veterans in need (Year-Round)

Created handmade calendars for veterans living in private care facilities and veterans who are living alone in their home (Year-Round program)

Attended various Legionnaires funerals and memorial services (Year-Round)

Members of Unit #2 assist home-bound veterans, their care providers and those veterans residing in private care facilities with meals, assistance with paperwork, small gifts and regular visits (Year Round)

Used American Sign Language (ASL) at various events to outreach to veterans who have lost or nearly lost hearing (On-going)

Coordinated Christmas gifts for an outstanding student-veteran and his family (December)

Assisted veterans, who were in immediate need, at the Post office with the following resources: food, assistance with shut-off notices, eviction notices, and provided resources for help with VA benefits and other special needs (on-going)

Assisted Legionnaires with the Post #2 newsletter (Year-round monthly program).

Provided meals and small treats to home-bound veterans and/or veterans who live alone (year-round program)

Assisted veterans at various non-VA care facilities with arts and crafts projects (year-round)

Represented Unit #2 at the Pueblo County Military Affairs meetings (Monthly)

Represented Unit #2 at Pueblo Veteran Council Meetings (Monthly)

Represented Unit #2 at Unity meetings as the veterans' advocate (monthly)

Service to Veterans – Alamosa:

Recited a poem at a veteran's funeral

Performed duties as a pall bearer for a WWII veteran

Arranged a funeral for a female veteran who had no resources to be buried

Marched in the Veterans Day parade and helped serve lunch

Visited with the National Guard

Distributed pocket flags to the National Guard Convoy.

VA&R Chairman

Theresa Brandt