



American Legion | Memorial Luncheons

Auxiliary

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES

American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) memorial luncheons, by the Funeral Luncheon Committee, handle the details of a bereavement meal. A memorial luncheon provides a nice low-key time to visit with close family members sharing memories together while “breaking bread.” Friends and acquaintances have an opportunity to offer their condolences as well. It can be very healing.

This is a complimentary, honorary service the Auxiliary provides for paid members of the Fort Hill American Legion Post 376 family. The all-volunteer Committee will shop and prepare foods, set the tables, set-up the food- buffet style, serve coffee/tea and clean-up afterwards. The ALA understands the nuances of short notice and proper decorum.

Here are some helpful hints to assure that your luncheon runs smoothly, so you can focus on your family and friends. Our hearts are with you as you prepare to celebrate your loved one's life.

❖ Who do I speak with at the venue to make arrangements?

If you would like, your funeral director, Steve Behe can convey your wishes to the ALA's Funeral Luncheon Committee. Or, if you'd



Half the dining hall set to seat 50 people.

prefer, you can arrange your funeral luncheon directly with the ALA Committee's **Funeral Banquet Manager, Julie Blanford**. Contact Julie at: 843-2275 (H) or 316-4352 (C); email: nanamb@frontiernet.net When possible, try to deal with one individual (Julie) from the Auxiliary regarding your event to prevent any confusion.

There are two conditions that Julie will look into before confirming your luncheon: 1) the Post 376 dining hall is available [not already reserved] and 2) that volunteers are available to help on that day.

❖ How do I let the Auxiliary know how many people will be attending the luncheon?

Guest count is often a concern that is not always concrete. Steve Behe is very good at determining your probable guest

count and can communicate that with the ALA. The dining hall seats 136 people.

❖ May I ask for specific foods?

Yes, you may. The ALA will shop and prepare an after funeral service luncheon of hot dishes or, more typically, cold platters. Another option can be dessert and coffee, with plenty of time for mingling and conversation, if it is more fitting. The ALA volunteers are not chefs, but (time permitting) they have made: a “snack plate” of cheeses/crackers/pepperoni, (hot) baked ziti, (hot) scalloped corn, (hot) macaroni & cheese, cold macaroni salad, Italian tri-colored pasta salad, tossed green salad, potato salad, fruit ambrosia, sheet cakes, etc. from soup to nuts (literally). All food is served buffet style.





Buffet table set up with sandwich makings, salads, and chips.

Most often, people want casual, uncomplicated cold deli platters of turkey, ham, roast beef, American and Swiss cheese. The meats are arranged ~ rolled attractively like a caterer would. Kaiser rolls are placed on an adjacent platter, with condiments available so people can prepare their own sandwiches on paper plates. (China plates are used for hot foods, which also require a dishwasher.) Assorted cookies on a platter offer a simple sweet for after lunch.

❖ **What if my family wants to bring their own food (“covered dishes”)?**

They can bring any food they'd like to the Post. It can all be made by family and friends or maybe just some family favorite hot dishes or desserts in addition to the ALA's cold cut platters. You could opt to have the luncheon catered by a nearby restaurant too if that's preferred.



Please do not bring alcohol. The Legion bar downstairs will be open.



Flowers and display provided by family members.

❖ **Does the venue have audio/visual equipment?**

Unfortunately no, but feel welcome to bring your own. You can also set-up a memorial table with pictures and flowers.

❖ **What does this cost?**

While no fee is necessary, families often choose to make a donation as a sign of their appreciation for the luncheon

services rendered by the Auxiliary. Donations (made payable to: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 376) are put in a special fund that is only used for future funeral luncheons (unless otherwise specified). That way, no Post 376 “Legion Family” member will ever be refused a memorial luncheon for lack of funds.

❖ **What if we want to use Post 376 for our after service luncheon, but the departed was not a paid member of the Post?**

That falls under regular Hall Rental and can be arranged with the Bar Manager by calling 843-8166. It's a \$150 space rental fee plus \$25 clean up fee. The ALA has been hired to cater, but the cost would depend on the type of food requested and the number of people.



Picture frames and easels on loan from the Behe Funeral Home.

“Thank you for all you did for our family. The luncheon was most appreciated.” --S. Sykora