

The Centennial

VOLUME I EDITION 4

APRIL 2020



AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209

3613 JEANNINE DR. COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80917
719-599-8624 WWW.LEGION209.ORG

MEET YOUR 2019 - 2020 OFFICERS!!

2019-2020 American Legion Post 209 Officers

Commander: Lino Calica 719.963.0956	Finance Officer: Mike Barger 719.290.3218	Executive Committeeman: Marvin Weaver Jr. 719.244.3535
Sr. Vice Commander: Joseph Schmidt 651.328.9029	Chaplain: Stan Hamamoto 719.322.6959	Judge Advocate: Marvin Weaver Sr. 719.638.4763
Jr. Vice Commander: Desiree Guerra 719.464.4699	Historian: Mike Wescott	Service Officer: Art Carter 603.913.3261
Adjutant: Jerry Hopper 918-953-9980	Sgt At Arms: Sarah Tobin 719.439.7724	Club Manager: Art Kimbrel 719.339.4610

2019-2020 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers

President: Cathy Barger 719.290.3163	Secretary: Pat Weaver 719.638.4763	Chaplain: Madelyne "Hooty" Newborn
Vice President: Donna Testorff	Treasurer: Kellie Hayes 719.494.7167	Historian: Royce Hopper
		Sgt At Arms: Kris Floyd 719.308.2150

2019-2020 Sons of The American Legion Squadron 209 Officers

Commander: Eric Testorff 719.510.4177	Adjutant: Ken Taylor 719.461.4047	Sgt At Arms: Bob Ingram 480.353.8234	Chaplain: Steve Cox 970.580.8191
Sr. Vice Commander: Michael Wescott	Jr. Vice Commander: Vacant		Historian: Evan Schwartzbart

2020-2021 American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers

President: Steve Hayes 719.494.7166	Treasurer: Kellie Hayes 719.494.7167	Vice President: Tim McDowell 719.510.9907	Road Captain: Wade Newborn 719.360.4956
Secretary: Mike Sylvester	Sgt At Arms: Mark Griffin		

2019-2020 Amateur Radio Club Officers

President: Jon Davis K0YOV	Vice President: George Johnson KE0ALQ	Director: Jim Harris W0EM
Secretary: Harvey LeCato W1JU	Treasurer: Henry Russell KCONAJ	



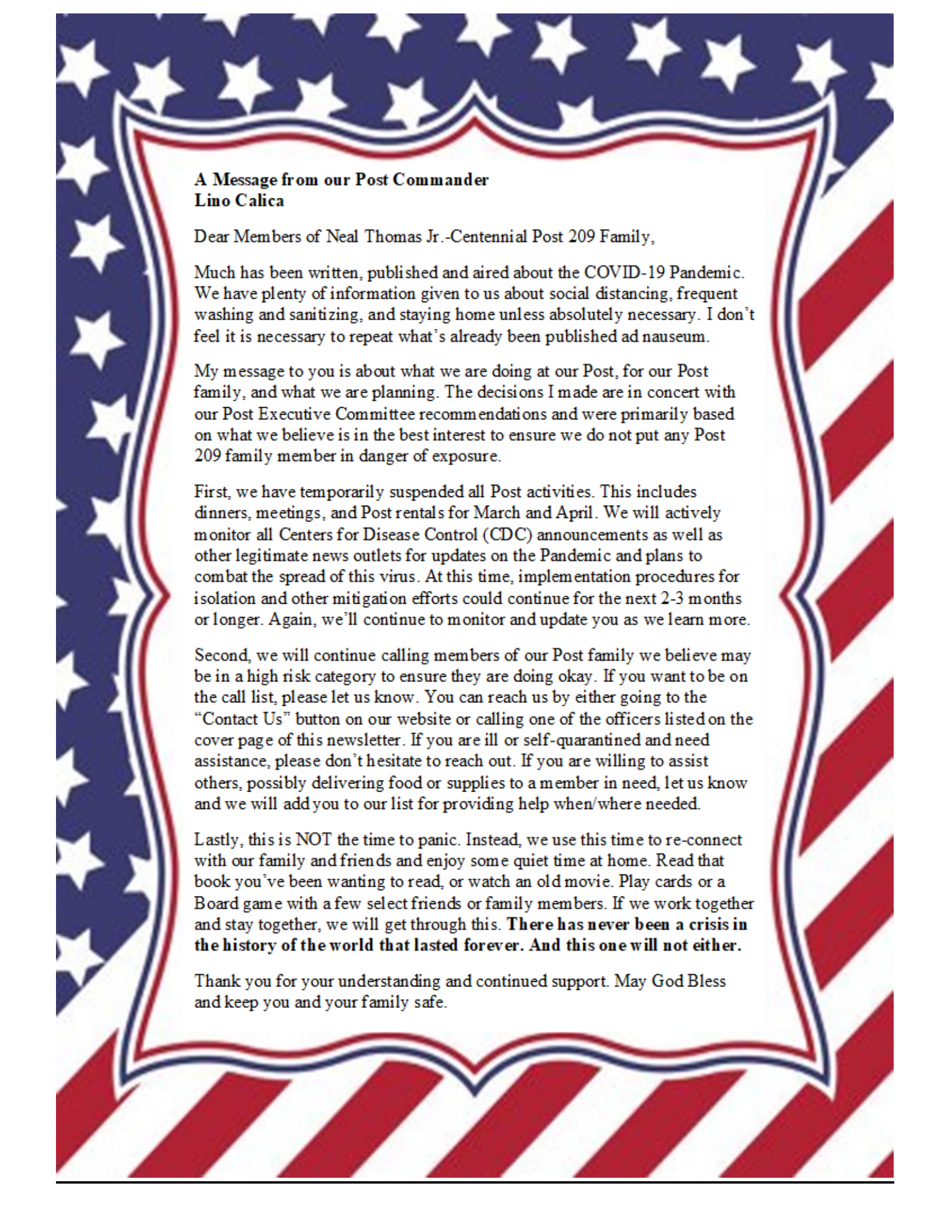
Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209
Family,

As you are aware, all meetings and events scheduled for April have been cancelled. We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and make a determination on May events around Mid-April.

Because we cannot hold elections in April, our current officers will remain at their position until such time we can meet and hold elections during a Post meeting. We don't believe this will create a major issue because the newly elected officers don't assume their role until after our Department Convention in June.

Thank you for your understanding during these trying times. As with every crisis in the history of the world, this too shall pass.

For God and Country,
Our Post 209 Leadership



**A Message from our Post Commander
Lino Calica**

Dear Members of Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209 Family,

Much has been written, published and aired about the COVID-19 Pandemic. We have plenty of information given to us about social distancing, frequent washing and sanitizing, and staying home unless absolutely necessary. I don't feel it is necessary to repeat what's already been published ad nauseum.

My message to you is about what we are doing at our Post, for our Post family, and what we are planning. The decisions I made are in concert with our Post Executive Committee recommendations and were primarily based on what we believe is in the best interest to ensure we do not put any Post 209 family member in danger of exposure.

First, we have temporarily suspended all Post activities. This includes dinners, meetings, and Post rentals for March and April. We will actively monitor all Centers for Disease Control (CDC) announcements as well as other legitimate news outlets for updates on the Pandemic and plans to combat the spread of this virus. At this time, implementation procedures for isolation and other mitigation efforts could continue for the next 2-3 months or longer. Again, we'll continue to monitor and update you as we learn more.

Second, we will continue calling members of our Post family we believe may be in a high risk category to ensure they are doing okay. If you want to be on the call list, please let us know. You can reach us by either going to the "Contact Us" button on our website or calling one of the officers listed on the cover page of this newsletter. If you are ill or self-quarantined and need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out. If you are willing to assist others, possibly delivering food or supplies to a member in need, let us know and we will add you to our list for providing help when/where needed.

Lastly, this is NOT the time to panic. Instead, we use this time to re-connect with our family and friends and enjoy some quiet time at home. Read that book you've been wanting to read, or watch an old movie. Play cards or a Board game with a few select friends or family members. If we work together and stay together, we will get through this. **There has never been a crisis in the history of the world that lasted forever. And this one will not either.**

Thank you for your understanding and continued support. May God Bless and keep you and your family safe.



FROM THE DESK & MIND OF THE COMMANDER

Greetings everyone. As you all are aware, there is a coronavirus pandemic in the Us and around the world. This virus has also reached Colorado and Colorado Springs. Our main priority is for the health, welfare and safety of our members, volunteers and guests. The executive board and I have decided to suspend all Post programs, events and dinner activities for the month of March. We will monitor the progress of the COVID-19 locally and with the CDC and reconvene on March 26 for the next steps to be taken. It is critical that we take preventive measures everyday to help prevent the virus from spreading. I want to thank Joe Schmidt, Public Relations Chairman for drafting the letter, Eric Testorff for updating our Post websites and Jerry Hopper for blasting the letter to members.

In 2019, we completed many projects to reduce costs. We replaced windows, upgraded the lighting to LED bulbs, Art Kimbrel and Mike Barger upgraded our thermostat controls, and ALR donated a barn shed. We have also started working to beautify the front of the Post. As we approach 2020 spring and summer, there will be 3 projects conducted; Eagle Scout Service project, Walk of Honor wall and the Parking Lot. The first project will be done by an Eagle Scout candidate; Jaden Thompson from Troop 79. Jaden's project is to beautify the front area by landscaping the west wall from the front door to the Kitchen, along the front and ramp walkway. As project manager, Jaden will provide the plans, workers and lunch.

Just a reminder, elections are coming up in April. All positions to include Commander are up for nomination. If you have prior experience or not, please consider serving. "WE WILL NOT LET YOU FAIL" is the leadership's famous quote for Post 209 new and upcoming leaders. Marvin Weaver Jr. is chairman for the nominating committee. If you are interested in a position, contact Marvin at (719) 244-3535 or his email: weaverjrm@comcast.net. or you may self-nominate or nominate others on the day of the elections.

To learn more about The American Legion, go to <https://www.legion.org/alei> and take the basic training course. At the end, there's a 40 question test you can take. All you need to do is get 31/40 correct. Once completed, you will receive a certificate plus an opportunity to purchase a pin for only \$5.00. You will have a better understanding of The American Legion.

If you have any questions or would like to get involved with the programs or part of the leadership team, please contact any of the Post officers.

S.A.L.T. – Serving and Learning Together

Lino Calica
Post Commander





FROM THE SR. VICE COMMANDER

As of the time of writing this there have been no confirmed/reported cases of SARS-COV-2 (COVID-19) among our Post members.

The American Legion Post 209 have taken steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and will continue to reassess the situation based on guidance from local, state, and national government. We recognize that this a very dynamic situation and conditions continue to rapidly change. We have committed ourselves as your executive board to continue making risk-evaluated decisions with information gained from local, state, and federal health officials. We will also maximize the use of our Social Media platforms to flatten communication and ensure timely information is provided to all of our members.

What can we do as members during this time of spending more time at home? Call an old friend and check in on them and see how they are doing, maybe facetime them and play a game of cards over the phone. During times of long-term isolation and social distancing, a phone call can make all the difference in someone's day. Our veterans and their families are the most important asset in combating COVID-19; you are the ones making the difference.

As always the health and safety of our members and your families are our primary concern. Please continue to monitor the COVID-19 updates from post leadership and stay plugged in to local and national news for updates on actions being taken by governments of all levels. I will ask that for those who use Social Media for their news, please verify the source. There is a lot of misinformation being spread around at this time and continuing to share it does not help in calming an already tense situation.

Thank you for being members our great Post. We appreciate your patience during this time. We understand difficulties you and our families are facing and we will continue to be here to support you in anything you may need. Please take care of yourself and your family, and thank you for what you do for the American Legion Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209.

Joseph A. Schmidt
Post Sr. Vice Commander



FROM THE DESK OF THE JR. VICE COMMANDER

Happy Spring Legion Family! I wish I could say it has been a smooth start, but as you can see, we are off to a pretty rocky one. I understand that with these uncertain times it is hard to look on the bright side, but if we can take a moment and step back and look, I am positive we can find many things to be thankful for. I know most of you are stuck at home, and your family is getting on your nerves, but take this time to bond with them. Get some projects done that you have been putting off. Cook your spouse a nice dinner. Write that book you have been wanting to write. Spend some time in the garden. Go for a hike. Take some online classes. The possibilities are endless! Also, I encourage you to check in with one another. Now more than ever is it important to pick up the phone and let your family and friends know you are thinking of them. Isolation can be a very trying time from most of us so make sure not only are you checking in on others, but that you are also reaching out if you yourself are feeling the blues. We are all in this together! Now more than ever we need to show each other and our community that The American Legion is here, and we care. Even if it is just with a simple phone call or message. You never know how important it is to those who are feeling isolated. We will weather the storm together and pick up where we left off when the all clear sign is given! I pray you are all safe and healthy. See you all soon!



Desiree Noechel
Post Jr. Vice Commander

FROM THE DESK OF THE POST ADJUTANT

I hope this newsletter reaches all Post 209 family members SAFE and in good health. I know I am not alone in my concerns of this deadly virus. If any of you find the need for assistance during this time of crisis, please call the Post and leave a message or call me directly. My number is on the officers' page of this newsletter.

On a lighter note, congratulations to my grandson for winning third place in the Department Oratorical Contest.

Don't forget the elections will be during our April General Meeting. Y'all come!

Jerry Hopper
Post Adjutant



It's What We Do!!

TALARC NEWSLETTER INPUT



Post 209 Continues to support Scouting – On a chilly but sunny day, George Johnson KE0ALQ and Harvey LeCato W1JU helped over 10 Scouts achieve their Radio Merit Badge. On Saturday, March 7th we operated from Camp Alexander in Lake George. We put up a 20-meter “ebay” dipole and operated on 20 meter sideband. Unfortunately this planned weekend coincided with the CQ Worldwide DX contest, and rag chewing contacts were not to be had. Very sad, as we had hoped for the Scouts to see real “ham” radio, talking with stations across the country. So, we fell back to 146.52 and had the Scouts talking across the “vastness” of the camp using call signs and the phonetics alphabet.

!!!!!!! By the way --- what kind of events would you like to see take place? What will spark your interest to come out and do something fun? Your input will be greatly appreciated. Contact: Club Secretary, Harvey LeCato 331-1212 mbca@comcast.net.

FROM THE DESK OF THE POST FINANCE OFFICER

The month of February has come and gone and the final numbers for the month were good. We ended up in the black, \$3,991.92. A big part of that was due to membership coming from Department. A lot of our members renewed through National, and then National sends Department their share, and then Department cuts us a check for our share. For the month of March, we are looking to be in the red, as the Post cancels events for the month due to the COVID-19 virus. Please make sure to follow the guidelines provided by CDC and Red Cross, to keep yourself and others around you from catching this. It's our hope that we will be back to normal operations in April.

Our insurance policy for the building is coming up for renewal, and the cost to renew will run around \$4700, but that's before we add the policy change for covering us for serving alcohol and for the food services we provide. I will have the final numbers hopefully by the next newsletter article at the earliest. Remember, we are always looking for folks that are willing to make donations to the Post, to keep us solvent and allow us to continue to do what we do, and that is helping our veterans in our local community when the need arises.

Mike Barger
Post Finance Officer



Proud possessors of...



a priceless heritage...

FROM THE DESK OF THE SAL COMMANDER

Dear Post 209 Family, and especially Squadron 209 members and volunteers:

We were scheduled for a Sons of the American Legion Sloppy Joe fundraiser on Friday night, March 13th, as well as for our Child Welfare Foundation banquet on April 4th. Alas, these were not to be. As you probably know, the COVID19 coronavirus has put a halt to all Post 209 activities for now.

In addition, Children's Hospital has requested that we not come for our presentation of Josh Dogs and books. It would also be wise to forego any trips to our local nursing homes to visit with our veterans there, as they are definitely a high-risk group.

I would like to thank all those who have donated items to the silent auction, which was planned for the CWF banquet. Rest assured, if the banquet is completely canceled for the remainder of the season, your items will still go to a great cause which also involves young people: Colorado Boys State will be having a silent auction of their own in June, and they have said that they would gratefully accept any of our unsold items. If that's the case, then Boy's State is in for quite a bounty, courtesy of Squadron 209 and all you wonderful donors.

Adjutant Ken Taylor and I will keep you updated on when we will resume operations for our veterans, for our youth, and for God and Country. Thank you once again.

Eric Testorff

SAL Squadron Commander



FROM THE SEAT OF THE LEGION RIDERS' PRESIDENT

Who needs warm sunny weather to get out and RIDE!!! We kicked off the 2020 season in February with the annual SFMC Blue Balls run on 22 February. We followed that with the first Senior Road Lieutenant/Road Lieutenant training run on 7 March. There were a few hardy souls who turned out on each run. Due to COVID-19, we have suspended in person meetings for March and are assessing April. We are also assessing rides and ride venues for how to best get out on the road while minimizing risk for all. As always, we will look for opportunities to continue to serve our Veterans and the Post. For everyone – practice good hygiene and social distancing – Ride and live safe!

Steve Hayes

Riders' President





In the Spirit of Service and Not Self...

FROM THE DESK OF THE UNIT PRESIDENT

Spring has arrived, and April is going to be a busy month.

I would like to invite the spouses of our Legionnaires that aren't already members of our Auxiliary to visit and see what we're all about. We would love to have all the spouses as members of our Auxiliary. We understand you might not be able to make the meetings or help with our events; we still need you as a member to strengthen our voice for our Veterans at the State and National level.

At our April General Membership Meeting on April 11th, we will be doing an Auxiliary Unit 209 Group Photo so we can put it into the scrapbook. Also, if anyone would like to have individual photos taken, we will charge \$5.00 for 2 poses, photos will be emailed to you so that you can take them to Walgreens or Walmart to have them printed. We will also be holding elections at our April meeting. All positions are open. Please consider stepping up and volunteering for a Unit leadership position. You can self-nominate if interested.

Butter Braids will still be sold through April 3rd. Contact jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com or 910-481-0673 for arrangements on sale and delivery.


We are looking for sponsors for our Girls State program. If you know of anyone that would like to sponsor a girl or if you would like to be a sponsor, the full amount is \$200 for each girl. If you can't do the total amount, any amount will help. If you would like to sponsor a girl, please contact Royce Hopper or Jackie Bowen. Girls State will be on June 7th through 12th at UNC Greeley.

I would like to wish the following ladies a HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Elaine Bock, Marilyn Brinkley Cotter, Cheryl Cayemberg, Kristina Floyd, Celia Hamm, Renee Hedrick, Nilsa Heneralau, Gloria Hill, Stephanie Moyer, Nikki Noonan, Elizabeth Seitz, Donna Rea Smith, and Lois Wooton. Wish these ladies Happy Birthday when you see them.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly!

Cathy Barger
Unit President





**Happy Birthday
American Legion
Auxiliary!!!!**

Looking good for 101!

**Thank you for your
Continued Support to
our Veterans and our
Four Pillars!!!**



BRINGING A LITTLE SOUTH TO THE WEST

If you are a regular reader of our Post Newsletter and especially my offerings, you have probably been introduced to my brother Eddie (a.k.a. Bubba). He is almost 13 months older than me, and to say we were competitive growing up would be a serious understatement.

When we were very young, Bubba was quite a bit taller than me, which meant I got his “hand-me-down” clothes. Mom did most of her clothes shopping at Kent Dollar Store in Memphis because we couldn’t afford to shop at ritzy places like Sears. The shirts were slightly irregular, which meant one sleeve was just a little longer than the other, or there was some fading in the fabric or some other blemish that prevented a manufacturer from selling the items to a major retailer. Fortunately, most of the time it was hard to tell from a distance. I was so glad when I finally caught up to him so I could get new clothes.

But even given the size difference as we grew, some things didn’t change. Our Dad was an avid fight fan. So very early on, he bought Bubba and me a pair of boxing gloves. This was how he made us settle many of the arguments we had. If Bubba and I got into an argument that appeared was not going to resolve itself, Dad would strap on our boxing gloves and we’d “take it outside.”

Dad always served as referee to ensure no one got hurt too bad. If blood was let, he’d always stop the fight. But otherwise, we’d keep punching at each other until someone fell down and/or gave up. And normally it was me falling and quitting.

Not only was Bubba taller, he had the reach on me so he could get to me much easier than I could reach him. He was also faster and more athletic. Bubba also was a natural as a boxer. He could move around with ease, block my few punches without much effort, and find the openings on my body (which were many). Knowing all of this, Bubba enjoyed picking on me and did it often, which you guessed it, led to another boxing match.

Normally, after the fight was over, Dad would spend a little extra time with me to try and teach me some boxing basics. As we got older, the beatings were less frequent although I only recall getting the better of him on one or two occasions. I don’t know if he felt sorry for me, or I just got lucky. Probably the latter; he rarely felt sorry for me.

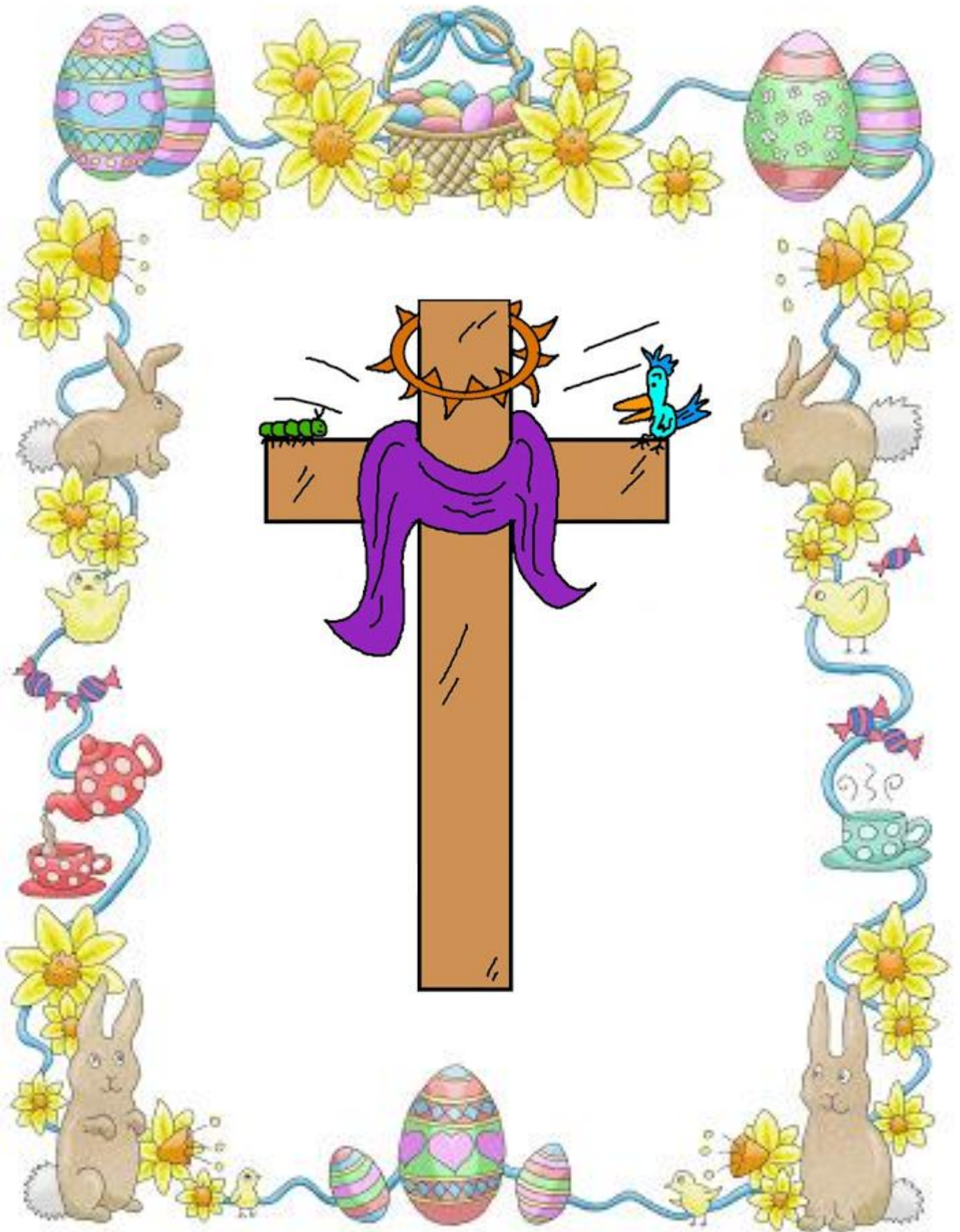
I do take comfort in the fact that although he was more athletic, I got the brains and the looks between us, although the bar wasn’t very high. I got better grades in school, if you can count getting C’s and D’s and a few F’s as better grades. But that made me smarter than him. I was also cooler than he was, or at least that’s how I remember it.

But in the end, I finally got the better of him in our last fight. I was in basic training at Ft. Campbell, KY. It was toward the end of our cycle and I got an on Post pass one weekend. Ft. Campbell was about 250 miles away, so that weekend Mom, Dad, Bubba, my little sister Debbie, and my fiancé Jackie drove up to spend the day with me. I remember Bubba was horsing around and I guess wanting to show that it didn’t matter that I had learned to be a killer with my 16 hours of hand-to-hand combat. At one point he came at me from behind and grabbed me around the chest. I stomped on his toes and when he let up, I followed it up with a back kick right between his legs. I really didn’t intend to hurt him, it was a reflex. Or at least that’s how I remember it. 😊

That was the last time Bubba and I physically tangled up. Now, it’s more of a verbal contest, and you know what, I’m still smarter than him. And much more clever.

Jay Bowen
Past Post Commander
















April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			1 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	2 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm Young Guns 6:30pm 	3 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm 	4	
5	6 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm	7	8 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	9 Holy Thursday Young Guns 6:30pm 	10 Good Friday \$10.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	11 Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am 	
12 Easter	13 Post Honor Training 6:00pm	All Meetings and Post Activities Have Been Cancelled This Month!					
19	20 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm ALR Exec. Board 6:00pm 	21	22 Earth Day	23	24 \$10.50 Meal Chef's Choice! - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	25	
26	27 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	28 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm 	29	30	Notes:		

May 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm 	2
All Meetings and Events May Be Cancelled. Check our website for Updates!						
3	4 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	5 Cinco De Mayo	6	7	8 \$10.00 Meal Aux. Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	9 \$10.00 Meal Installation of Officers 5:00pm; Dinner 6:00pm No Breakfast Meeting This month! 
10 Mother's Day	11 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	12	13	14 TALARC Mtg 	15 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	16 Armed Forces Day
17	18 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm ALR Exec. Board 6:00pm 	19	20	21	22 \$10.50 Meal Chef's Choice! - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	23
24	25 Memorial Day Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	26 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm 	27	28	29	30
31	Notes:					