

The Centennial

VOLUME XIII EDITION 4

APRIL, 2022



AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209

3613 JEANNINE DR. COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80917

719.599.8624 WWW.LEGION209.ORG

MEET YOUR 2021-2022 OFFICERS!!



American Legion Post 209 Officers - 2021

Commander: Joseph Schmidt 651.328.9029	Adjutant: Jerry Hopper 918.953.9980	Sr. Vice Commander: Marvin Weaver, Jr. 719.244.3535
Jr. Vice Commander: Steve Hayes 719.494.7166	Finance Officer: Joel Haas 719.482.4496	Service Officer: Brian Murphy 719.930.4147
Judge Advocate: Marvin Weaver 719.638.4763	Historian: Stacey Ousley 325.704.0510	Exec. Cmte/Club Manager: Art Kimbrel 719.339.4610
Chaplain: Brad Henderson 830.660.4072	Imed. Past Cmdr: Lino Calica 719.963.0956	Honor Guard Captain: Joel Haas 719.482.4496



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers - 2021

President: Royce Hopper 918.953.9993	VP: Cathy Barger 719.290.3163	Secretary: Pat Weaver 719.638.4763	Treasurer: Kellie Hayes 719.494.7167
Chaplain: Mary Bramer 719.633.8612	Exec.-at-Large: Jackie Bowen 901.481.0673	Historian: Valerie Stephens 330.510.0411	Sgt-at-Arms: Charyse Schmidt 651.558.6968



Sons of The American Legion Squadron - 2021

Commander: Brian Wess 719.528.6672	Adjutant: Ken Taylor 719.461.4047	Sr. Vice Commander: Rob Barry	Chaplain: Brad Henderson 830.660.4072
Jr. Vice Commander: Daxton Attarian	Finance Officer: Ken Taylor 719.461.4047	Sgt-at-Arms: Bob Ingram 480.353.8234	



The American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers - 2022

President: Ed Santos 719.329.4357	VP: Sarah Tobin 719.439.7724	Secretary: Royce Hopper 918.953.9993	Treasurer: Scott Laudan 719.238.2679	Sgt-at-Arms: Bobby Senter 719.660.3775
Road Captain: Sean Cope 719.246.4820	Historian:	Communications: Gary Asp 719.822.3270		



The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) Officers

President: George Johnson KE0ALQ 910.494.9768	Vice President: Vacant	Trustee: Harvey LeCato W1JU
Secretary: Harvey LeCato W1JU	Treasurer: Henry Russell KC0NAJ	

FROM THE DESK & MIND OF THE COMMANDER



Over the last several years I have found my home with the American Legion, it has been a place where I have found a place to continue serving after the Army, a second family. I wanted to formally announce my candidacy for Department of Colorado Jr. Vice Commander, but first I want to share why with you, the reason I continue to serve not only as DA Civilian on Fort Carson, but with the American Legion.

When I was growing up in Minnesota, I would walk past a hat every day. This hat was different than most, it was a diamond-like shape, blue with the word Minnesota embroidered in goldish yellow on one side. There was a patch that said, "For God and Country." Pins; there were three pins on this hat. One, a star, but not like normal stars. This one said something in the middle of it, but time washed the letters away. The second pin was of a pheasant flying, and the last pin read 451. Above the goldish yellow embroidered Minnesota was the logo of the American Legion.

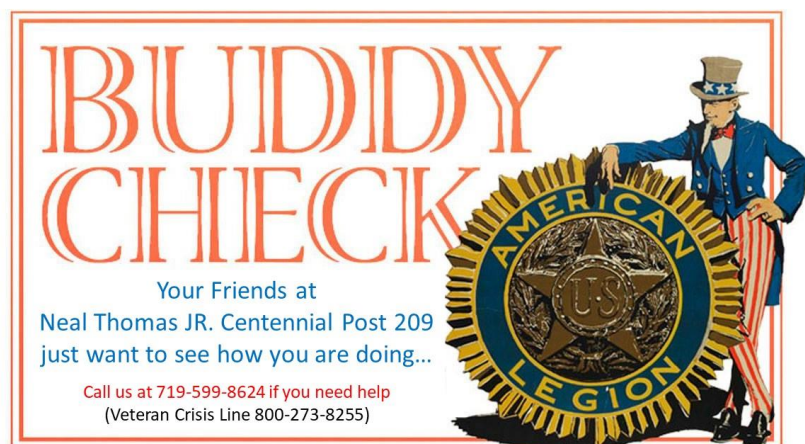
After being medically separated from the Army in 2016 due to injuries I sustained in Afghanistan, I was not quite sure what I was going to do. There was one thing I was sure of though, I needed to join The American Legion. Not because I knew what it stood for, or because I knew they base their values off the four pillars. I joined because I walked past a hat every day.

I finally joined online, got a card and that was it, I was a member of the American Legion. As a year went by, I started to think being a part of the Legion is more than just having a card. I began looking at what my Post does. I learned that they are more than a bar or a place to tell war stories. It was a place for family, not just blood, but a family of Veterans who after getting out are left to face a world where most people will never understand what it means to serve.

That "Hat" belonged to my grandfather, Albert Schmidt who served in the Army during the Korean War. He was a man I never met but his uniform cap would create a bond between us and pave the way for my place in the family of the American Legion.

We all have our reasons for being a member, and I want to know what your journey was to join the American Legion. As your Department Jr. Vice Commander, I will continue to serve every Active Duty Service Member, Veteran, and their Families. Remember this is your American Legion.

Joseph Schmidt
Post Commander



FROM OUR POST ELECTION NOMINATION CHAIRMAN

I have been appointed again this year as your Post Election Nomination Committee Chairman. We have a couple of vacancies to fill and all Post positions, elected and appointed, will be open. If you would like to be a part of the Executive Committee that leads and represents the Post, let me know. We will also accept nominations from the floor during our elections at our April monthly membership meeting. See our February "Centennial" for a short explanation for all Post positions.

Marvin Weaver

Post Judge Advocate/Nomination Committee Chairman



FROM THE DESK OF THE POST ADJUTANT

I hate to continue harping on the same subject but if your American Legion Membership card does not have 2022 on the top, your membership is expired. This prohibits you from participating in the Post elections on April 9, 2022, and if it has already happened, you can expect your Legion magazine subscription to expire. So please renew as soon as possible!

There will be an Easter Party here at the Post on April 16 from 2:00pm until 4:00pm. This will be a pot luck meal and an Easter egg hunt. Also, we are trying to reignite American Legion Baseball in the Colorado Springs area. Donations are needed to help sponsor this great program.

Jerry Hopper
Post Adjutant



Yum, Yum, Eat'em up!!

Butter Braid Sale Starting March 11th – April 8th. Delivery date will be forthcoming. Tell your friends, neighbors, and your neighbors' friends about the sale. Please turn in orders no later than April 8th. I will call or email you with the delivery time. Make checks payable to ALA Unit 209. The price is \$13.00 per braid & for cookie dough. Coffee pods are \$16. We need the payment before the delivery date. You may call Jackie Bowen, (901) 481-0673 or email jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com, with an order and then mail a check to her or discuss receipt of payment. Thanks in advance for helping us make this a success.

FLAVORS: Caramel Rolls (9 rolls), Apple, Cherry, Blueberry & Cream Cheese, Cinnamon, Strawberry & Cream Cheese, and Bavarian Crème Cheese with chocolate icing, gluten-free cookie dough, French Vanilla K-Cup 12 pods & Italian Roast K-Cup 12 pods.

POST/DEPARTMENT/NATIONAL RESOURCES

When was the last time you visited our website, or our Department and/or National site? Here's a few quick links that offer information, training, and other benefits of membership.

<http://www.legion.org> is the web address for The American Legion. From there you can access any information and most publications related to The American Legion.

<https://www.legion.org/alei> is a great site to help you learn the history of The American Legion and our programs.

<https://emblem.legion.org/pdfs/2022-catalog.pdf> offers a free electronic version of our Emblem Sales catalog. This catalog is where you will want to go to purchase Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, Legion Riders, as well as Patriotic items to wear and display on your car and at home.

www.coloradolegion.org Here's our Department site for information related to our Department leadership, and to link to other Posts across our Department.

www.legion209.org This will keep you updated with the latest on our Post events and activities.

Celebrate

At
American Legion
Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209

Host your next event with us! With over 2,500 SQFT of venue space this is the perfect location for your next social event!



Rental Features:

- 6 Hour Rental
- In House Catering Available*
- Fully Stocked Bar*
- Muti-Room Sound System
- Dance Floor with Lighting

If you and your family are looking for an affordable option for a wedding, corporate event, retirement party, or any other event, we here at The American Legion Post 209 are ready to assist you in all your event planning needs.



For More Information

www.legion209.org/contact_us

(719) 599-8624

3613 Jeannine Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80917

*Additional cost may apply



FROM THE DESK OF THE SR. VICE COMMANDER

Why did you join The American Legion? I am sure this is a question you've been asked once or twice. My answer always refers to the four pillars of the American Legion. If you don't know, they are Children & Youth, Americanism, Veteran's Affairs & Rehabilitation, and National Security. These are among the main reasons I am a member of The American Legion.

Children & Youth includes three main objectives; to strengthen the family unit, work with organizations that provide services for children, and provide communities with programs to meet the needs of children & youth. One of the biggest and most noticeable ways this is accomplished is with The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) and Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA). The Sons of The American Legion have taken the CWF on as one of their main fundraising objectives. The CWF annually gives money to non-profit organizations to help in research and education to educate the public about the needs of children. The TFA is used to give financial support to veterans in need of assistance with children in the household.

I'd like to share an event that I witnessed the other night that made me think of our Children & Youth pillar. I recently attended the Friends of the NRA Banquet. I was there in support of our Young Guns program. The Friends of the NRA have awarded grants for several years to our Young Guns Program (An Americanism program). Money received from this organization has been used to buy air rifles, targets, and other much needed items for a successful program. The last event of the night was an auction for two kids' bikes. The winners of the auction were able to pick a child under the age of 12 that was in attendance to race around the room. Savannah Mussmann, daughter of Legionnaire Mike Mussmann was selected to ride one of the bikes. She won the race and after the race was over, she was given the bike she had ridden. She told her dad the bike was hard to ride because it was too small for her. She said she was going to take the bike and give it to another little girl instead of keeping it. Mike told her that it was her decision, so she went up to get the bike and told the director she was going to give the bike away and then the entire room watched as she took it to another girl in the audience and gave her the bike. Mike was a very proud dad when he watched her do this. We, at Post 209 should all share in Mike's pride for Savannah's very generous gesture. The next time you see Savannah at a dinner (which is almost every Friday night), please let her know how much you appreciate her unselfish act.

Thanks for your membership and all you do to help Veterans.

Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Sr. Vice Commander



FROM THE DESK OF THE UNIT PRESIDENT



Happy Spring! For me, April is a month of fresh, beginnings. The world is waking from its winter nap, flowers are beginning to grow, & I've started spring cleaning.

Elections are this month. If you want to run for an office or nominate someone, please contact Election Committee Chair, Jackie Bowen at jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com.

This is your chance to step up & be part of your Executive board. All positions are open.

Happy birthday to our members celebrating their special day this month: Elaine Bock, Marilyn Brinkley-Cotter, Cheri Cayemberg, Renee Hedrick, Gloria Hill, Rebecca Kellie, Stephen is Moyer, Elizabeth Seitz, Tiffany Walters, Lois Wooten, and Emily Ruzika.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly!

Royce Hopper
Unit President



FROM THE DESK OF THE JR. VICE COMMANDER

We look forward to seeing everyone at the 9 April membership meeting. Don't forget we are having elections at this meeting! At our March meeting, Karen White provided a great overview of Combat Hero Bike Build and the eight custom built motorcycles they are providing to disabled veterans this year across the nation, including two in Colorado at the Salute to Veteran's Rally in August. See the awesome things they do for Veterans at <https://www.combatherobikebuild.org/>. At our April meeting, Jay Bowen will be facilitating an engaging discussion on the traits required to be a great mentor. As a new facet of our plans for the annual installation dinner on 14 May, McConnel Bristol will be our keynote speaker. McConnel was a Post 209 sponsored delegate to Boys State and one of two Senators elected from his session as a delegate to Boy's Nation. This should be an exciting presentation on his experiences with the program. See you at the Post!

Steve Hayes
Jr. Vice Commander



FROM THE DESK OF OUR FINANCE OFFICER

The recommendation to use Rod Ermel Associates was made at the March Post Executive Committee Meeting so that the tax filing process will be completed on time. Everything for the preparation of the Post's 2021 tax filing has been provided to our POC at Rod Ermel Associates. The completed return should be available by the time you are reading the newsletter.

More work is going into the annual budget in order to start planning for future expenses. Some of the bigger expenses, such as insurance, will be easier to manage by setting aside a monthly amount into a budgeted line item in the account ledgers. This will help the Post avoid large surprise bills and better manage the Post funds when new ideas are explored for implementation.

Improved budgeting will help with preparing for things like increased costs for the Post utilities. As many are aware from their own utility bills, costs have gone up quite a bit lately. Different scheduling options for the thermostats are being explored to better optimize the heating/cooling and hopefully reduce the impact to the future bills. Additional ideas on how to reduce utility costs are also always welcome.

We are really seeing the Post returning to our pre-COVID status supporting OUR Veterans in the community. Dinners are busier with many more members coming out every week, which helps with providing funding for the Post to continue the different programs. As always, remember that any fundraising idea – big, small, unconventional (think about the impact of Kellie's Stick Pony Race) – is worth consideration to help us get there. A little note to add here is that we will need your help with the implementation of your new idea if it is decided to move forward with it, especially if the idea is something you have done before.

Joel Haas
Finance Officer



FROM OUR SAL COMMANDER

SAL SQUADRON 209 GENERAL REPORT

The Members of Squadron 209 are reminded that 2021 memberships are now expired as of 31 December 2021. With our current Squadron Membership at 97% of 2021 and with the influx of several new members in past months, Squadron 209 has the opportunity to increase our membership for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic.

At the recent 12 March Post General Membership meeting, I made a plea requesting the Legion members assist us in meeting our 2022 Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) goal of \$1,500, which represents about \$1.25 for every Post family member. CWF is an important American Legion Program that provides grants to nonprofit organizations for projects that contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children. Grants are only given to entities that help U.S. children over a large geographic area and are not awarded for day-to-day operating expenses or special operating expenses. It is heavily focused on and supported by the SAL and I'm very gratified to report after passing around the Pink & Blue Piggies for donations to the approximately 40 members present at the meeting we collected \$97 in the Pink Piggie and \$94 in the Blue Piggie which will bring us close to meeting our CWF Goal for 2022. My Thanks to All those Legion members present at the Meeting who generously donated.

About 6 Squadron Members have accumulated the 10 designated SAL & Post Family Participation activities necessary to complete the Squadron 209 Participation Incentive Reward Program approved by membership in mid 2021 and have received their SAL Allegiance Polo purchased for them by the Squadron. Eligible activities to achieve this award are detailed on the Post SAL 209 webpage in a downloadable participation checklist which may also be requested from any Squadron Officer.

Additionally, the January 2022 Membership meeting voted to initiate an attendance DOOR PRIZE for a \$50 Gift Card as an incentive thank you for attending and participating in SAL Squadron 209 Monthly Meetings. Members will receive an entry ticket for each SAL Squadron 209 Monthly Member Meeting they attend and a winner will be drawn from eligible entries each quarter.

Nominations for 2022-2023 Squadron Officer positions are being taken at the March 2022 meeting with Officer Elections to be held at the 26 April, 2022 meeting where nominations from the floor may also be entertained. All Squadron Officer positions are open and available to any member willing to make the commitment to serve and they include: Squadron Commander; Sr. Vice Commander; Jr. Vice Commander; Adjutant; Finance Officer; Chaplain; Sergeant-at-Arms; Historian; and Executive Committeeman/Squadron Advisor. Interested members may consult position descriptions and expectations by reading the Constitution, By-Laws & SAL Handbook available on the SAL 209 page on the Legion209.org Post website or by contacting your current Squadron Officers. While these are volunteer positions, interested members are asked to carefully consider and take seriously the time & commitment to the success of Squadron and their fellow members that serving in these positions entail.

Brian Wess
SAL Commander



THE AMERICAN LEGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (TALARC)

Devoted to the Hobby and Art of Amateur Radio and Promoting the American Legion
What is Ham Radio? Amateur Radio (ham radio) is a popular **hobby and service that brings people, electronics and communication together.** People use ham radio to **talk across town, around the world,** or even into space, all without the Internet or cell phones. It's a great hobby that's **fun, social, educational, and can be a lifeline during times of need.**

If you are interested in learning about this intriguing hobby or participating in Legion 209 radio club events -- call, email or text Harvey LeCato.





Trivia Night!



Do you want a chance to earn some money for knowing useless information? Or maybe a free beverage?

Do you know what is the longest river in the world?

Do you know what is the largest river in North America?

How about Roy Rogers real name?

What is the President of the United States' address?

If you know the answers to the above and other questions similar to these, or if you fancy yourself a trivia wizard, join us on **Friday, 15 April, 2022 for our Trivia Night event.**

The fun will start following dinner that night, around 7:00pm. You must be at the Post for the beginning of the contest; late arrivals will not be allowed to play.

This will be a team event; teams can be as small as one person or up to four (4) can play on a team.

Cost to compete is \$5.00 per person.

Even if you don't want to play, come on out and watch the fun! But you should consider competing. You never know, you may discover you know more about those trivial little things than you realize!

FROM OUR HONOR GUARD CAPTAIN

Fortunately, the two Final Honors requests that were denied in February due to not having personnel available to support could be covered (after the last article was written). Unfortunately, we did have to deny a request earlier this month. Denying requests to support Final Honors for a Veteran who earned those Honors is the hardest thing we have to do. This is where the Honor Guard continues to need the most help – providing the Final Honors earned by Veterans, like we hope someone will be there to support the Final Honors we earned when OUR time comes.

The Colorado Military Funeral Stipend Program is still going strong, with our Honor Guard continuing to submit qualifying events regularly. As mentioned last month, the Honor Guard developed incentive options presented at the March Post Executive Committee Meeting. The approved incentives are going to be phased in over the next few months and will be provided based on the Military Stipend Funds received. The first incentive being implemented, effective immediately, for being an Honor Guard member supporting Final Honors events is a Fuel Stipend. For every two (2) qualifying events an Honor Guard supports, a payment of \$5 will be earned to help defray the fuel costs from supporting the events. The Fuel Stipend is capped at ten (10) qualifying events (\$25) per month and will be paid to the Honor Guard members at the end of each month. As always, the biggest incentive for being an Honor Guard member is the sense of pride you get by helping provide Final Honors for OUR Veterans and supporting OUR Community.

If you, or someone you know, have a request for the Honor Guard to support an event, please contact the Honor Guard Coordinator. The Honor Guard Coordinator, Valerie Stephens, can be reached through any one of the following:

Cell Phone: (330) 510-0411

Personal Email: valerie.al209honorguard@gmail.com

Legion209 Email: honor.guard@legion209.org

And for the normal ending part of the article: while not everyone has a lot of time to participate in the Honor Guard, all someone needs is the time to participate a night or two for training meetings (2nd & 3rd Tuesday of every month) and even just **ONE** event a month. A meeting or two and one event a month is only 3-5 hours. Those 3-5 hours makes a difference for a Veteran and their family. Those 3-5 hours a month can also make a difference for you! If another 10 to 15 members of the Legion, Sons, or Auxiliary *gave back* with 3-5 hours a month, the Honor Guard could possibly not have to keep turning down requests. If you do not remember/know how to march or fold the flag, we will teach you. The only two items that a new Honor Guard member needs to get on their own is a Legion cap (or SAL/ALA as applicable) and shoes (multiple options available). All other uniform items that you need are provided by the Honor Guard. You do not have 3-5 hours a month? That is okay, you can still help the Honor Guard by telling others in the Legion, Sons, or Auxiliary (Post 209 or other Posts in the area) about what the Honor Guard does and the importance of growing in order to meet the increase of requests to support OUR Veterans. If you or anyone you know might be interested in supporting the Honor Guard, please reach out to me at: (719) 482-4496 or honor.guard@legion209.org.

Joel Haas
Honor Guard Captain



CTU PATRIOT SCHOLARSHIP

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

For 14 years, Colorado Technical University™ has awarded 50 scholarships annually to positively impact the lives of the extraordinary men and women whose lives have been altered due to injury while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

As of December 31st, 2021, CTU® has awarded 700 scholarships, totaling over \$16 Million.

YOUR EDUCATION, ACCESSIBLE

CTU makes it possible for those serving in the U.S. Armed Forces—along with their families and caregivers—to earn a university degree anywhere, anytime. Scholarship recipients have the option to complete an associate, bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree program online or at one of CTU's campuses in Colorado Springs or Aurora.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Active-duty members or honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces (including Reserves and National Guard) with a service-connected disability
- Spouses and unmarried dependent children of U.S. service members with a service-connected disability
- Caregivers/non-medical attendants of a service member with a service-connected disability

RECIPIENTS RECEIVE

- Full tuition to any CTU degree program
- New laptop computer
- All course books, in hard-copy or electronic format
- Dedicated Student Success Coach and specially trained military education advisors
- 24/7 technical support and tutoring
- Option to study online or at one of CTU's campuses

IMPORTANT DATES

March 1, 2022	Application Window Opens
June 30, 2022	Application Deadline
November 10, 2022	Recipients Announced
January/ February 2023	Recipients Start Class

SUPPORTING PATRIOTS IN COLLABORATION WITH



START YOUR APPLICATION

coloradotech.edu/CTUPatriot



Colorado Technical University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission, www.hlcommission.org. CTU cannot guarantee employment, salary, or career advancement. University grants or scholarships are based on established criteria as published in the University Catalog and are awarded after verification that the conditions of eligibility have been met. REQ1795259 2/22



AMERICAN LEGION POST 209

THE PREEMINENT VOICE FOR VETERANS • COLORADO SPRINGS, CO



WALK OF HONOR

Buy A Brick Fundraiser!

We are re-introducing an exciting fundraiser for our Post. We are partnering with Polar Engraving to offer our members, family, friends, and our corporate Veteran-friendly supporters an opportunity to purchase an engraved brick to adorn our landscaping project we are working. The engraving uses the same technology as used on tombstones so it's extremely durable. Here are some FAQs:



- **What Are We Having?** A Brick Fundraising Event
- **Why?** To Further Funding of our American Legion Programs
- **What Size Are the Bricks?** 4"x 8" or 8"x 8" bricks for individuals, and 8"x 8" or 12"x 12" bricks for our corporate supporters.
- **What are the Costs for the Individual Bricks?** Prices vary depending on size, style and lettering desired, but typically range from \$90 to \$200. For the 8x8 or 12x12 bricks, you can add a second emblem. Contact the Adjutant for ordering details. There is **NO** additional cost for the second emblem on the larger bricks.
- **What are the Costs for the Corporate/Veteran Supporter Bricks?** Again, prices vary depending on size, style, and lettering but typically range from \$250 to \$500.
- **What is the Difference between Individual and Corporate Bricks?** Individual bricks are identified for Veterans, and family members of Veterans wishing to purchase a brick to honor their Veteran. The corporate bricks are for our Veteran-friendly supporters and businesses who wish to show their continued support to our Nation's heroes by purchasing a brick.
- **Is the Brick Purchase Restricted to Members of the Post 209 Family?** No. We encourage members to buy a brick for themselves as a lasting memory of their association with Post 209. We also welcome anyone to purchase a brick for their Veteran loved one, or to show their support to our Veterans.
- **Can I Buy a 12"x 12" Brick for Myself/Loved One?** Absolutely!
- **Where Do I Go to Buy a Brick?** We have a link on our website. Just visit legion209.org and click on "Walk of Honor." Or, you can visit <http://polarengraving.com/ALPost209> to buy your brick. The site is very user-friendly and will walk you through the design and purchase. You will be able to see a preview of your brick before finalizing the purchase.
- **How Do I Pay For the Brick?** We have the site setup to accept payment via PayPal or by check. PayPal is an extremely safe way to purchase a brick and you don't need a PayPal account to use it.
- **Where Will the Brick Be Shipped?** All bricks will be shipped to the Post. We will notify you when it arrives and you are welcome to stop by and see the brick you have purchased.
- **What Will Become of My Brick?** It will be placed near the Flagpole at the Post and will be part of the landscaping design we are working. If you are a landscaper or know a good one (preferably a Veteran), have them contact our Adjutant.
- **How Long Will this Fundraiser Effort Last?** We plan to only sell as many bricks as needed for the first phase of the landscaping project. Currently, that is anticipated to be 600 bricks, but that number may change depending on brick sizes purchased and the final design approved by the Post.
- **Will I Have an Opportunity to Buy a Brick Later?** Quite possibly. It depends on what is decided/approved for the next phase of our project.

Order your brick(s) now to ensure you get one in Phase One of our project. If you buy multiple bricks, let our Adjutant know and we will make certain they are all placed together.



BRINGING A LITTLE SOUTH TO THE WEST

I have long believed that for those whose birthday falls on a “special day,” they are special people. I have not only known a few of those folks, I too, celebrate my special day on a special day. I won’t tell you what that day is, but if you pay attention to this article, you’ll probably figure it out.

I think God only puts people on this earth with birthdays that fall on special days to help them build character and cope with adversity. For example, I had a buddy several years ago who was born on the 25th of December. His parents would divvy up his Christmas gifts and mark some of them as birthday presents. All in all, he received the same number of gifts on that very special day as his siblings, but he felt he missed out on getting some additional presents because his day was shared on a day when gift giving was the norm. But, as he grew older, his exasperation about being “shorted” birthday gifts was replaced by the realization he shared his special day with someone else very, very special. It’s all about perspective I guess and character building.

By the way, I knew a few people whose birthday fell on either the day before or the day after Christmas. They had the same issue as those born on the 25th, maybe even worse. They weren’t able to console themselves with knowing they shared the day with Christ. But the gift giving mentality was the same.

Then there was the buddy who was born on 1 April. Growing up, he was the butt of many jokes by his friends, siblings, and even some of his school teachers. But he learned to take the jokes in stride and even told people that being born on this special day gave him the “license” to pull practical jokes on people year ‘round. Matter of fact, he told me just about the only day he didn’t try to pull any gags was on 1 April. He considers that the day for rookies to play around. He said he would occasionally pull a prank on someone unsuspecting, but it was rare. I think he finally has the right attitude about how to handle the day and people who would try to make fun.

There was another guy who was born on 4 July. He said it wasn’t until after he started going to school that he realized they weren’t shooting off fireworks in celebration of his birthday. He was pretty disappointed to find out he shared his special day with our country.

One of my favorites was the guy I knew who was born on 31 October. He would have a birthday party and required all guests to come in costume. The only down side to doing this was the strange and sometimes horrific birthday gifts. Most of them had a Halloween theme.

Another favorite was the guy born on 29 February. He would brag he was only 10 years old the day he turned 40. On the down side, he looked pretty bad for someone just hitting their pre-teen years. And he would possibly not live long enough to legally drink alcohol.

One of the girls that grew up in my neighborhood had a birthday on 14 February. She claimed to have the most number of Valentines. The gifts weren’t always chocolates and flowers, but she didn’t mind as long as she got gifts. Thinking about it, I could see how this could result in some pretty embarrassing moments if she got a gift from someone wanting to help her celebrate her birthday and she misread his intentions as a Valentines’ Day gift.

So, have you figured out what day I was born? If you guessed All Hallows Eve, you’re right!

April Fools! 😊

Jay Bowen
Past Post Commander



April 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Price Depends on Menu Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm 	2
3	4 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	5	6 Marksmanship 4:00pm 	7 Exec. Cmttee Mtg. 6:30 Young Guns 6:30pm 	8 Price TBD Aux. Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	9 \$9/\$10 b'fast per person Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00 Elections!!!!  
10	11 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	12 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	13 Marksmanship 4:00pm 	14 Holy Thursday Young Guns 6:30pm Venture Crew 7:00pm 	15 Good Friday \$17/Person Steak Night! 6:00pm RSVP Required! Trivia Nigh! 	16
17 Easter Happy Easter!	18 Tax Day (Taxes Due) Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	19 ALR Exec. Mtg. ALR 6:30pm. 	20	21 Venture Crew 7:00pm	22 Earth Day Price TBD Chef's Choice Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	23 Healing Warriors! 9:00am - 1:00pm
24	25 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	26 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtg. SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:30pm SAL Elections!  	27 Admin Professionals Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm Cub Rangemaster Trng 	28 TALARC EC Meeting 5:00pm Venture Crew 5:30-9:00pm Cub Rangemaster Trng 	29 Arbor Day Venture Crew 762 Dinner. Menu TBD RSVP Required!	30

May 2022 Events of Note:

Mother's Day! – 8 May

Post, SAL, and Auxiliary Installation and Banquet! – 14 May (no Legion/Aux. meeting this month)

Trivia Night! – 20 May

Memorial Day! – 30 May

For schedule updates and more information, visit our website at www.legion209.org