

The Centennial



VOLUME 41 EDITION 4

April 2016

Mail: P.O. Box 25334, Colorado Springs, Co 80936-5334

Post: 3613 Jeannine Dr., Colorado Springs, Co 80917-8002

Telephone 719-599-8624

Email: centennialtwozeronline@yahoo.com

Website: www.legion209.org



From the Desk and Mind of the Commander



Elections...an opportunity to voice who you support and a chance for you to support change in the future. Post 209 elections are coming soon. Please take the time to review who is running and help them make decisions for our home Post. This is important for so many reasons to include the Legion family, as a whole is better than any one individual; the support of the Legion family is the key to our success and means to help Veterans in the future; actions speak louder than words; and attending this annual process shows that you care about the American Legion and our Post home.

With the above comments, I challenge all of the members of Post 209 to attend the elections in the coming month. I am proud to have served and will finish this year with vigor and strength. I want all members to have a voice, nominate those who they think will take this Post into the new year, and support all who have developed a passion to help Veterans. As you know, we are striving to become the largest Post in the State of Colorado. Please help us achieve this goal and allow our success to be the model for other Posts and the upcoming young Veterans. It is our mission to make what was available to us even better for those in the future.

Actions that still need to be done include helping the Post continue to reduce expenses and find funds to help Veterans; find a location for all programs, within the Post to display their successes; develop a greater list of folks who can volunteer for events the Post is supporting, sponsoring, or just needing help with each month; and work to increase the Veterans who can volunteer for our honor/color guard. Each of these have so much of an importance to Post 209 and will require members to bond together and discuss as groups, ad hoc committees, and the like. Please take the time to share and support your Post home.

Besides the elections coming to Post 209, there are many other things that are ways you can be heard and show your support. The District 7 convention is coming on May 7th, 2016. It will be at our Post home (Post 209) from 11:00 to 3:00. Lunch will be provided. The District Convention is designed to help attendees learn what is going on in the District and to also participate in the coming District 7 elections. Please attend and watch the process of selecting the upcoming leadership for District 7. There will also be opportunities to learn about changes and tools you can use to get involved at any level that works for you as a member. Again, I am looking forward to seeing you in attendance.

On May 23rd, 2016, there will be a "Walk for Veterans" in Colorado Springs. It is the mission of our National Commander to visit cities throughout the country and share a message to those communities..."Walk for Veterans." The walk is scheduled to be at 3:00 at the Garden of Gods. There will be more details to come. After the walk, the National Commander will come back to Post 209 and enjoy a dinner at our Post. Please mark your calendar. Please come out: walk, ride, push or pull and send the message to our communities. Tell others about the event so others can participate and share the same message in Colorado Springs. "We care about our Veterans"

Our Department of Colorado Convention will be June 16-19, 2016 in Longmont, Colorado. Please make your reservations today. It will be at the Longmont Best Western. They have Sleep Number beds. The Convention is a chance to learn more about the Colorado American Legion; programs and activities throughout the state; ideas from others to help Posts grow; and a true time for Comradeship. Each time a member attends, there is another member who can learn about the American Legion and show others what is required to be successful in a Post, District, or Department position. Many do not get involved because they think the volunteer positions take too much time. I am here to tell you, the position is what you bring to it and it is one that you cannot fail at within the American Legion. Post 209 has over a 1000 members and many of them can and have been mentors. You just have to care about Veterans and have a passion to get involved.

For God and Country, in God We Trust

Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com



From the Unit 209 President

Jackie Bowen

Happy Birthday ladies: Rita Bivens, Marilyn Brinkley Cotter, Kristina Floyd, Celia Hamm, Gloria Hill, Ilse Hoggenmiller, Shirley Martin, Stephanie Moyer, Nikki Noonan, Linda Price, and Lois Wooton.

After a discussion (email really) with the Commander and officers of the Legion and Auxiliary, Kellie Hayes and I met with 2 Blue Star Mother members. We are joining the Blue Star Mothers to do a "Suits for Troops." We will be collecting men's and women's suits and other business attire for the soldiers transitioning out of the military to help dress for interviews and a job fair coming in May. We will be at the Post May 1st from 1 to 4 collecting the items of clothing. Please tell your family, friends and neighbors about this worthwhile cause.

We are still collecting toiletry items for the Stand Down. Items needed include shampoo, soap (smaller bottles are preferred), toothpaste & toothbrushes, deodorant, feminine products, combs, brushes, and socks. There is a box decorated red, white, and blue between the display case and ATM for you to drop off your donations.

I want to thank everyone for making our Butter Braid fundraiser a GREAT success. This is a steady fundraiser for us and helps make it possible for us to continue helping our Veterans.

If you would like to help sponsor a girl or know someone who might want to sponsor a girl to attend Girls State please let me or Kellie Hayes know. The total sponsorship is \$200 per girl but any amount will be helpful. We have full sponsorship for 4 girls and about 20 that are interested.

Don't forget we hold elections in April. If you want to run for a position please let Donna Rae Smith know. You can contact her at donna.shippersonthego@outlook.com or (815) 973-0073.



2016 Membership Drive

Senior Vice Commander Lino Calica

Our membership count as of March 2016 is 963. This count includes those who have renewed and newly signed members. We are approximately 37 members short of Commander Greg's Smith goal of 1000 members. I challenge all members to talk to your friends and family, and recruit just 1 new member. If we all work together, we will be able to meet and beat the Commander's goal. However, if we recruit at least 37 members, we would not only beat the Commander's goal, it would also give our Post the opportunity to be the #1 Post in the State. Currently, we are at 96% in March, ahead of the Department Goal of 95% by April.

I want to thank all the volunteers who assisted in the DMS (Direct Mail Solicitation) event. Our mission was to call and ask the members in holding at Post 211, to transfer to a local Post in Colorado Springs, Fountain, Palmer Lake, Woodland Park, Manitou and Falcon. We had a successful DMS, due to your dedication and giving of your time. We transferred 70+ members, to Post 209; these members were in holding at Post 211.

RECRUIT- New members, **RETAIN** - Existing Members, **REBUILD** - For the Future.

Mahalo nui loa,

(Thank you)



From the Adjutant

Marvin Weaver, Jr.

We have quite a few upcoming events. Our April Executive Committee meeting will be Wednesday instead of Thursday. We have Post Elections at the April General Membership Meeting along with a visit from the Auxiliary National President on Apr 17th at 11:30am. In May we will be installing officers for the next year. We also have District 7 Convention on May 7th starting at 11am and the National Commander will be at the Post on May 23rd. We will have a Walk for Veterans with the National Commander on the 23rd at the Garden of the Gods. More information on the National Commander's visit will be forth coming. Just when you thought everything was completed we will be having Department Convention June 16 – 19 in Longmont. Told you we were going to be busy.

I have begun to receive data for this year's Annual Report. Please send me any volunteer hours you have done in support of Veterans, your Community, and Children & Youth. Your volunteer hours do not just have to be with the Legion or Legion activities. If you have any questions on what can be reported please contact me.



We have a new Junior Shooting class starting on September 14th 2016. The class is limited to 12 students and is completely open at this time. We meet on Wednesdays, 6:30 to 8:30 PM for the 9 week course. The class is held at American Legion post 209, 3613 Jeannine Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80917-8002. The cost of the course is \$25 and that is the only cost students will incur. We provide Air Rifles, Safety glasses, books and all related equipment. We have NRA Certified Instructors and NRA certified Range Safety officers. All Instructors have passed background checks per the American Legion for those working with youth. The class is open to boys and girls age 10 through 18.

We also do NRA Marksmanship for those who have passed our course or can demonstrate gun safety and handling skills. There will be an additional cost for the Marksmanship qualification. This is voluntary and completely separate from the new shooters class. Please call Ken Taylor for details.

You can check us out on Facebook where there are pictures and a video. Just go to www.legion209.org and click on the Young Guns Icon that is on the lower left side of the Home Page. I invite you to come to the Post on a Wednesday evening and check out the class that is going on now. Either myself or one of our Instructors will be glad to discuss the class with you. The current class ends on April 6th, 2016 with a pizza party and awards.

Please call if you have questions.

Ken Taylor; 719-761-4047 or email adjutantsal209@gmail.com.



FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S DESK - GOD'S FORGIVENESS **Pastor Stan**

As we approach April, I'm reminded of jokes I played on others, and those played on me. I guess when you are young this makes for an enjoyable time, but as you get older, it just doesn't make it fun anymore; well, for me anyway. This month our Post will be voting on leaders for the new year. I will not be running for Chaplain this year. My wife has health issues and I really need to stay home to take care of her. My place is by her side.

I would like to talk to you about something that I keep preaching about and I know we are all guilty of, and that is forgiveness. YES! Forgiveness is a hard thing to do. Especially when that someone did it to you or your family. It becomes personal. But if we cannot forgive, we are just as guilty as the person that did us wrong. And many times we may be guiltier than they. It's like forgiving your neighbor; many times we cannot find it in our hearts to do that simple thing. GOD forgives us of our sins, if this is the case, why can't we forgive?

1 John, chapter 1 verse 9 says, "If we confess our sins, HE will forgive our sins, because we can trust GOD to do what is right. HE will cleanse us from all the wrong we have done." "When Jesus Christ told us to pray for forgiveness of our debts, as we forgive our own debtors, he knew who would be the one to pay the debt. As we would hang on the cross, HE would say, "it is finished"---the debt is paid! There are some facts that will never change, one fact is that you are in Christ, when HE sees you, your sins are covered---he doesn't see them. HE sees you better than you see yourself. And that is a glorious fact of your life. *Quote from Max Lucado.*

Here is a prayer that may help you: "Sometimes we're afraid that we've done something unforgivable, afraid that we've made you angry, Father. And we wonder how you can forgive us. But Father, YOUR word teaches us that you will forgive us and that there is no sin too deep for your hand of forgiveness to reach. AMEN!"

My last three words are: GO TO CHURCH!

Shalom!



From the Jr. Vice Commander
Mike Barger

Well, it's that time of year again where we'll be electing new officers for the coming year. When I came to this Post, all I heard was we need to get more people involved in this Post, to include the officer level. Last year I took that step, and I feel that I've done a pretty good job, so I know if I can step up, others can too. I hope to see some of your names on the lists for positions in April.

The American Legion Riders will be doing two dinners in the month of April. On April 8th, it will be pasta night, with salad, garlic bread and dessert. Cost is \$9.00. On April 29th, the Riders will be doing a fundraiser dinner again for one of our riders. This rider had multiple surgeries at the end of last year, and we're looking to help this family out with some of their medical bills. Art will be doing Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and dessert for \$10. The Riders will be auctioning off a 2 person – 10 bird hunt out at Steel Fork Pheasants, so if you're into hunting, this is a great hunt.

Also, if anyone would be willing to volunteer to help with the upkeep of the Post this spring and summer, please let one of the officers know. We could use someone this year to cut the grass and trim it. Don't forget the brick fundraiser. If you need some assistance with the website or ordering, find an officer and they will help you.

Remember, there's Veterans out there that may need a little help, so when we're called on, let's continue to step up and show them why we're called family.



Let's Go On A Nature Walk With the National Commander

Dale Barnett, The American Legion National Commander will visit Colorado in May, and he wants to include Colorado Springs in his visit to the Rocky Mountain State. Every State he visits, Commander Barnett wants the community to turn out and "Walk For Veterans." He encourages Departments to schedule a Nature Walk somewhere in their community and invite anyone interested in showing their support to our Nation's Heroes to come out and walk with him. The "Walk" is for everyone and anyone to show support for Veterans. You don't have to be a Veteran to participate. The more people we can get to walk, the better.

To commemorate the event, he has designed a T-Shirt. Our District Officers will be selling the T-Shirts prior to and at the event for \$10 and we are encouraging all who plan to attend to buy one and wear it that day. All proceeds from the sale of the T-Shirts will go to support the National Commander's project; the National Emergency Fund.

According to his tentative schedule, Commander Barnett will be in Colorado Springs the afternoon of Monday, 23 May. If his schedule doesn't change, we will conduct the walk at the Garden of the Gods, starting at the North Main Parking Lot and will walk for about 1/2 mile around the Kissing Camels rock formation area. We are scheduling the walk to begin at 3:00pm. Later that evening, we plan to host the National Commander for dinner at Post 209, and all are encouraged to attend the dinner, even if you can't make the walk. More details will be announced as the Commander's plans are solidified. Keep watching the Newsletter, our website, and our Facebook page for updates.



Elections Are Coming!

The election of Post Officers is coming soon and all members are encouraged to participate. Please contact the nominating chairman, Ken Taylor, if you are interested in running for any position. He can be contacted at 719-761-4047 or email adjutantsal209@gmail.com. IAW with Article III of our Post By-Laws, elections will be held during our April membership meeting. All Post positions are open for nominations, with the exception of the Service Officer and Judge Advocate, which is appointed by the Commander-elect. We will also vote on a couple of members for the Board of Trustees during the April meeting.

Roles and Responsibilities of Officers

Commander: You are entrusted with the supervision of the duties of all other Officers of the Post. You are the presiding Officer at all meetings and you must familiarize yourself with the policies and traditions of your Post and The American Legion.

Adjutant: Also known as the "First Sergeant." You are the Secretary of the Post. Post activities will revolve around you. The Adjutant is the Post personnel officer; maintains membership records, minutes of meetings, checks up and assists with the work of the other Officers and Committees. You publish official orders; announcements and instructions.

Senior Vice Commander: Your primary concern is membership. No Post can survive with out good membership. You should also be familiar with ceremonial protocols for regular meetings. A Vice Commander must be ready to fill in for the Commander upon a moment's notice.

Junior Vice Commander: You must be ready to promote our Post. The Commander will depend on you to provide programs that spice up the meetings and attract attendance. You should contact other Veteran and organizations so that each patriotic holiday and observance receives the deserved attention. You are concerned with the pageantry of the Legion. You must also be concerned with the welfare of Veterans and with Veteran's affairs and rehabilitation committees.

Finance Officer: You will serve as chair of the Finance Committee and will be in charge of all receiving and disbursing of Post funds. You will work closely with the Post Adjutant in all matters relating to the finances of your Post.

Service Officer: You should be a dedicated person and should have a deep interest in fellow Veterans, the Post and the community. You are responsible for bringing to the attention of all Veterans and their dependents the rights and benefits granted to them by law. You must know how to utilize the expert services available through Legion channels as well as through local agencies. You should be ready to visit dependents upon a death of a service member. You may be called upon to serve as chair of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee as well as working with children and youth committees or making hospital visits. Appointed by the Commander-elect.

Chaplain: You must be a person capable of moral and intellectual leadership. You work closely with all other Officers of the Post. You should attend all meetings of the Post and Executive Committee. You should be ready to officiate when requested, at funerals of members. The Chaplain must also be ready to provide service to bereaved families of Post members.

Sergeant-at-Arms: You should know how to arrange the meeting hall, assist the Post Commander and Adjutant. You are the custodian of the Colors and in charge of Colors details during the presentation and retirement ceremonies. You should know how to display flags and their proper presentation. You are also responsible for maintaining order at all meetings.

Historian: You have the responsibility of preserving and compiling the records/photos (specifically through our Scrapbook and website) of our Post. You should try to attend Department Conventions and keep in touch with other Post Historians. [You are only encouraged to attend, not required.]

Post Executive Committeeman: You are a voting member of the Post Executive Committee, which is entrusted with the government and management of the Post. You shall be responsible to represent the interests of the general membership to the Executive Committee.

Judge Advocate: You will supply professional advice in the conducting of the Post business or to procure proper counsel. You are the interpreter of the Constitution and By-Laws of our Post. You may be asked to assist in auditing Post financial accounts. Appointed by the Commander-elect.



From The Commander Squadron 209

Rick Kettering

I believe all Americans should know why we use certain rituals to honor our fallen. This is an explanation about what it means to us and what an Honor Guard does during a military funeral. First, they render the 21-gun salute. Then they start with the flag draped coffin and when it's time, the Honor Guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the US Flag 13 times. You might have thought it was to symbolize the original 13 colonies, but that's not necessarily the reason. This is what we and many others believe it means when the flag that is laid upon the casket, is then folded and surrendered to so many widows and widowers.

The 1st fold of the flag is a symbol of life. The 2nd fold is a symbol of the belief in eternal life. The 3rd fold is made in honor and remembrance of the Veterans departing the ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of the country to attain peace throughout the world. The 4th fold represents the weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance. The 5th fold is a tribute to the country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, 'Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong.' The 6th fold is for where people's hearts lie. It is with their heart that they pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all. The 7th fold is a tribute to its Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that they protect their country and their flag against all her enemies, whether they are found within or without the boundaries of their republic. The 8th fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day. The 9th fold is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded. The 10th fold is a tribute to the father, for he, also has given his sons and daughters for the defense of their country since they were first born. The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit. The 13th fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding them of their Nations motto, 'In God We Trust.'



After the flag is folded and tucked, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces, preserving for them the rights, privileges and freedoms they enjoy today. There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning. In the future, you'll see flags folded and we want you to remember this. Share it with the children you love and all others who love what is referred to as the symbol of 'Liberty and Freedom.'

If more people understood why we do what we do, there would be less pictures floating around of ignorant people desecrating our national symbol. I know they have a right to free speech but I hope that they learn that dishonoring our country's flag should not be included in whatever point it is that they are trying to make.

For God and Country,



New Auxiliary Fundraiser - Rada Cutlery!

The Ladies of our Auxiliary Unit are selling Rada Cutlery for a fundraiser to help send girls to Girls State this year. The catalogs, demonstrator kit and sample pairing knives will be at all dinners through the April meeting for you to see. These knives make GREAT Mother's/Father's Day, Anniversary, and/or Christmas gifts, are made in the USA, and have a lifetime guarantee. Orders will be placed on Saturday, April 9th and will arrive within a week. If you have any questions, contact Kellie Hayes, hayeskelliej@yahoo.com.



Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com



American Legion Riders *Motorcycle Minute*

Andy Gilbert, ALR President

March was an incredible month. It started out with the Bikers Ball. This fundraiser was incredible. Enough funds were raised that we got to achieve all the goals. First of all, due to great participation in volunteerism, all positions were filled to make the event a success. Everyone had plenty to eat and a good time was had by all Posts in the area. McCandless Veterans home will have a nice check delivered to them and the barbeque this summer will be a great time to present it. We are slated to host the event next year and Art has expressed a great interest in showing off our Post and talents. Thank you to all who brought and won prizes for this event.

Friday, March 11, Sgt Cory Griffin, a true American hero went to a hearing and then jail. As we see with many of our young soldiers, repeated assignments and constant exposure to the most horrific experiences known to man causes tremendous mental problems with our young men and women. The words (PTSD) Post Traumatic Stress Disorder seems like an excuse to some. If you are living that reality, it isn't. We have seen our young people afraid to go to sleep. You see when most people go to sleep, their world becomes peaceful and calm. When someone with PTSD tries to sleep, their worst nightmares become reality and cause them to not be able to sleep. I have known some who have been up for as long as 3 days at a time only to be able to find sleep with drugs or alcohol.

Sometimes our soldiers are helped, not cured, by having PTSD dogs. Counseling sometimes helps but having someone they can count on like a friend can be the best way. Jail for our young men and women that we sent to war is not the answer. Programs with the VA and other organizations can be very helpful. The American Legion is a place where people can talk about their experiences without freaking out civilians.

Remember that you have two ears and one mouth. Listen twice as much as you speak. These men and women need to be heard to help cope with the stress that comes along with this nightmare. Anyway, we will be there for his family when his sentence is announced around Memorial Day weekend. We will honor the dead and stand up for the living. There will be more to follow.

As many of you know, Ken has been in the hospital recovering from surgery. Our hearts and prayers go out to our fellow brother and sister. It has been a long recovery but Ken says he is doing much better. Sheila has been watching Ken like a hawk which is why he has been healing nicely. Yes, she has kept me away from him. Hmm, maybe I'm a bad influence. We know that this situation has been not only painful but also expensive, we are going to have a Fundraiser Dinner April 29th. 100% of the profit will go to help with their expenses and all are invited to come. We will have a special raffle just for this occasion. I look forward to seeing you there.

God Bless you and keep your motorcycle happy.



From the Historian

Eric Testorff

Post 209 Honor Guard: New Leader, New Time

The American Legion Centennial Post 209 Honor Guard has a new leader. With the retirement of Gunny Raines, the new "Captain of the Guard" is Jeremy Boltjes.

Jeremy is an Army Veteran, and has experience in Honor Guard and Color Guard functions and protocols. He joined the Army Reserves in May of 1995, and did Basic Military Training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, between his junior and senior years of high school. He went on Active Duty in May 1996.

Jeremy attended Advanced Individual Training at Fort Sill, OK as a Fire Direction Control technician for Multiple Launch Rocket Systems. In 1999 he reclassified to Cavalry Scout and was stationed at Ft. Carson until medical discharge in Sept. 2002, as a Sgt.

Jeremy's new position as Guard Captain includes a change in meeting time: **The Honor Guard now meets on Monday evenings at 6:00 pm.** If you know of someone who has thought of joining the Honor Guard, but couldn't meet during the day, please let him or her know about this new time.

Post 209 extends a hearty welcome to Jeremy, and many thanks as he takes on this important leadership role.





From the Sergeant-at-Arms
“Sgt. Ski”

Good day all American patriots and family members,

As your Sergeant-at-Arms, I would like to encourage all to come...and bring others...to enjoy Friday dinners with your Legion family here at Post 209. This is one way we can all support and offset the expenses of our Post and all that our Post does.

You know, the first thing you have to do is to care.

Then come.

Then tell others.

Remember in the words of one past historic figure:

“Try not! Do or do not. There is no try.” – Yoda

I look forward to seeing you to enjoy great food and fellowship every Friday evening at your Post 209!

We can only make a difference if we are involved...participants, not spectators.

Thank you for your service and please have a great day!



From the Judge Advocate
Chuck Zeitvogel

It's Time. My first association with The American Legion was in the early 1950s as a teenager. My two brothers marched in the competitive drum and bugle corps sponsored by the Post in Batavia, NY and I would hang out at the Post while they practiced. Those were happy memories. Time passed and one day in the 70s, while assigned to Subic Naval Base in The Philippines, I happened to visit a Post in the city of Olongopo outside the main gate of Subic and signed on to become a member. Time passed and upon my return to the US with my young family I lost contact with the Legion. So many other things to do at that time including involvement with Scouting from Cubs to Adult Scouting, and pretty much what many military families were doing at the time. And so it goes, here until we are in Colorado Springs, retired from the military, a single parent, and getting a mailing to join the American Legion. Okay, I took the bait, and became a member at large stopping occasionally for a hamburger and drink at Post 209 located in the Rustic Hills Shopping Center.

We were in a state of change having purchased some 7.48 acres at the corner of Austin Bluffs and Old Farm. This is a story best left for another time but one of keen interest to those who were part of it. I attended a few Post meetings changing to a bona fide member. That put me in line to be elected as 1st Vice Commander, when Francis Redington was Commander. Time waits for no one as my article last month mentioned. It wasn't but a year later that I found myself elected Commander for a year and then again, and again. Those three years were times of change and learning. We rewrote the Constitution and By-Laws to identify a quorum for meetings, moved our Membership meetings from the VFW nighttime to The Retired Enlisted Association building Saturday mornings with a buffet breakfast. These may seem like small things now but at the time they were significant to where attendance and membership started to increase. Also during this time there was a lot to maintain to include grass cutting and trash removal. (Neighbors tossed grass clippings and trash over the fence onto our lot). We had picnics and flag burnings – it was a time for all to be involved. Time waits for no one.

Post 209 was land rich but dollar poor. Meaning there were plans for development and a new Post home but dollars were scarcer than hen's teeth. The solution was to sell the lot and buy a building. I'm trying to dig back into my memory for all that we as a Post did over the ensuing years. Many of those who put their hearts and souls into keeping Post 209 going have now passed onto Post Everlasting. There are a few still around so as you come to breakfasts and meetings ask them to share their stories of the early days.

The challenge now is for new leadership to keep programs going. Time for senior members to retire to the cheering sidelines – which I will be doing in the coming months. Y'all go out there and be turtles. :)

Time waits for no one!



AMERICAN LEGION POST 209

THE PREEMINENT VOICE FOR VETERANS • COLORADO SPRINGS, CO



WALK OF HONOR

Buy A Brick Fundraiser!

If you have attended some of our meetings over the past several months, you may have heard us discuss plans for a new fundraising effort. 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 bricks are engraved using a hybrid method that combines both laser engraving and sandblasting. The engraving is then painted using the same paint used on tombstones so it's extremely durable. Here are the details/answers to questions we anticipate:

- **What Are We Having?** A Brick Fundraising Event
- **Why?** To Further Funding of our American Legion Programs and Offset Increasing Costs
- **What Size Are the Bricks?** We are offering 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 range from \$75 to \$200, depending on size, style and lettering desired. 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?** Prices range from \$125 to \$500, again depending on size, style and lettering.
- **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?** 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 – April

By Immediate Past Commander Jay Bowen

The old adage, “Vanity, thy name is Woman!” doesn’t really hold true. As a Southern teenage boy growing up in the ‘60s, most of us were all about our “looks.” Our clothes, shoes, and especially hair topped the list of the most important things in life for many of us.

For me, the money I made from mowing lawns and working part-time in grocery stores and/or department stores such as Woolco, went first to buy clothes from Sears and Roebuck instead of Kent’s Dollar Store. It was nice having a shirt with both sleeves the same length. The Memphis City School I attended had a strictly enforced dress code. The code included hair style for the boys; both facial and on top of your head. It was almost military. Sideburns could not extend beyond the lower opening of your ears, and if you had a mustache, it could not extend below the opening of your mouth. Boys could not wear jeans to school and your shirt-tail had to be tucked inside your pants. Girls had to wear skirts or a dress. Toward the end of my school career, girls were finally allowed to wear pant suits, but the dress for boys stayed pretty much the same.

My Dad was one of the greatest men I ever had the pleasure of knowing. This WWII Veteran who served in the Pacific worked hard most of his life, and grew up a farm boy. He moved to the big city of Memphis about the time my brother was born and went to work at Hunter Fan Company. He stayed there 43 years. He kept the simple, farm boy way of doing things. Today you would call him old-fashioned. As a teenager with all the answers to the world’s questions, I called him strict and unable to really understand what was important in life, like hair. At the time I was rebelling against all things, especially being able to wear my hair as I saw fit (which by the way just happened to be the way everyone else wanted to keep theirs), Dad was becoming more and more follicle challenged. So I guess hair didn’t rise to the same level of importance to him as it did to me. However, he did allow a compromise because he knew I had an image to maintain.

The Barber we used was within walking distance from our house, as was many things in my life until I got my Driver’s License. My Dad, Bubba, and I all went there to get our bi-weekly “trim.” Every time I would go in, Mr. Lee would make the same offer, “If you let me cut it the way I want to, I’ll do it for free.” Mr. Lee was a nice guy, about the same age as Dad. After just a few minutes talking with him it was evident they shared many ideals and standards, including hair style. I could not convince them we were no longer in the 50s and a crewcut was not what popular kids wore. But he would always make the same offer, and I would always reply with a grin and something like, “Thanks, but I think I’ll just get a small trim today.”

From the time I was 14 to 16 years on this earth, I wasn’t worth the powder to blow to “hell and back.” I was rebellious against everything and anything, especially what my parents thought was important. At 15, I was finally fed up with their lack of understanding and strict rules. I decided to leave and never come back. I ran away from home and stayed for a week with a buddy who lived across town. Mom finally convinced me to come back home. Dad was furious. When I got home, I expected the whipping of my life and was mentally prepared for the worse...I thought. But what happened was far worse than any belt-whipping I could have received. Dad made me “get a haircut!” In the context for which he made the demand I knew what was required. I had to get a crewcut. He knew that would hurt me more than anything he could do physically. So, as usual Dad gave me the \$5 to go see Mr. Lee. As I walked in the Barber Shop, Mr. Lee smiled and issued the standard offer. This time, I accepted. He froze and look quizzically and asked, “Are you sure?” I told him I was and he proceeded to give me the “old fogey” standard cut. When he finished, I got up and tipped my imaginary cap to him and said, “thanks” and walked out with Dad’s \$5 still tightly tucked in my pocket.

I’m confident Mr. Lee told Dad he gave me a free haircut, but Dad never asked for his \$5. I guess he knew the sacrifice I made in becoming a laughing stock at school for several weeks and figured that was punishment enough. To him, it was probably worth the \$5, although that was a lot of money for the Bowen family back in those days.

Now, I’m not so particular about my hair. I’m blessed to still have a full body of hair, but the style doesn’t seem to matter to me as it once did. I don’t know if it was growing up with a Dad who believed a gentleman’s hair should be kept short and neat, the 20 years of Army service, or just plain lazy. I don’t even care if you make fun of my hair anymore. Just don’t say anything derogatory about my Tennessee shirt!



Post Officers 2015-2016

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Gregory Smith	520-784-3555
Sr. Vice Cdr	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Jr. Vice Cdr	Mike Barger	719-290-3218
Adjutant	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	719-244-3535
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Chaplain	Stan Hamamoto	719-322-6959
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasinski	719-556-8326
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177
Post Exec. Cmtee	Jay Bowen	901-484-7193
Service Officer	Lyle Hagelberg	719-231-2364
Judge Advocate	Chuck Zeitvogel	719-531-0546
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610
Honor Guard Capt.	Jeremy Boltjes	218-831-0475



Auxiliary Officers 2015-2016

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Jackie Bowen	719-574-1223
Vice President	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Secretary	Lynn Thomas	719-392-1510
Treasurer	Kellie Hayes	719-494-7167
Chaplain	Joan Ciani	719-579-9194
Sergeant-At-Arms	Donna Testorff	719-510-4567
Historian	Kari Ann Smith	520-784-3193



Sons of The American Legion 2015-2016

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Rick Kettering	813-967-6680
Sr. Vice Commander	Marv Weaver	719-244-3535
Jr. Vice Commander	Ronny Ross	719-493-2583
Adjutant	Ken Taylor	719-495-8190
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Steve P. Cox	970-580-8191
Chaplain	Christopher Keith	719-382-7845
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177



ALR Officers 2015-2016

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Andy Gilbert	719-231-6696
Vice President	Mike Barger	719-290-3218
Secretary	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Treasurer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Road Captain	Grady Mitchell	

See Back Page for April 2016 Calendar

~ May 2016 ~							~ June 2016 ~							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1	2	3	4	5 Cinco De Mayo Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm	6 Hamdogger 6:00pm Price Varies with order	7 District 7 Convention Post 209; 11:00am	CFS is Chicken Fried Steak Choice of Fish or Chicken Fried Steak on 27 May Steak Night is cancelled in June due to the Annual Convention.							
8 Mother's Day	9	10	11	12	13 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	14 \$10.50 Installation of Officers 5:00pm; CFS Banquet 6:00pm; No AM	5	6	7	8	9	10 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	11 \$8.50 Breakfast Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am ALR Ride Deckers/Hesper	
15	16 ALR Executive Board 6:00pm	17	18	19	20 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	21 Armed Forces Day	12	13	14 Flag Day US Army Birthday!	15	16 Department of Colorado, Annual Convention Longmont, CO	17 Department of Colorado, Annual Convention Longmont, CO	18 Department of Colorado, Annual Convention Longmont, CO	
22	23 National Commander Visit; Walk w/Veterans Garden of the Gods Dinner	24 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm	25	26	27 \$10.50 Meal Fish/CFS - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	28	19 Father's Day Department of Colorado, Annual Convention Longmont, CO	20 Summer Solstice ALR Executive Board 6:00pm	21	22	23	24 \$10.50 Meal Fish/CFS! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	25	
29	30 Memorial Day Memorial Day 1100 hours, TREA 1200: Lay Flowers at Vietnam Memorial, Memorial Park	31	Notes: CFS is Chicken Fried Steak Choice of Fish or Chicken Fried Steak on 27 May National Commander Dale Barnett Visits. Walk With Veterans at Garden of the Gods; 3:00pm Dinner with Commander Barnett at Post 209; 5:00pm							26	27	28 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm	29	30



THE AMERICAN LEGION
CENTENNIAL POST 209
P.O. BOX 25334
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80936-5334

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
COLORADO SPGS, CO
PERMIT NO. 192

Current Resident or,

~ April 2016 ~						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CFS is Chicken Fried Steak Choice of Fish or Chicken Fried Steak on 22 April					1 Hamdogger 6:00pm Price Varies with order.	2
3 Colorado American Legion Baseball Mtg 1:00-5:00	4	5	6 Last Class Pizza Party! 6:30pm Post Exec. Cmtee Mtg 6:45pm 	7 Friends of the NRA Banquet 6:00pm	8 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	9 \$8.50 Breakfast Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am Elections!
10	11	12	13	14	15 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	16 Adult Only! Bag Lady Sue (Comedian) Post 38; 6:00pm Fundraiser
17 Auxiliary National President Visit and Luncheon; 11:30am \$5.00	18 Tax Day (Taxes Due) ALR Executive Board 6:00pm 	19	20	21	22 \$10.50 Meal Fish/CFS! - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	23 ALR Ride; Limon to Franktown
24	25	26 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm 	27	28	29 \$10.00 Meal ALR Fundraiser Dinner RSVP Required! 6:00pm 	30

Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com