

# The Centennial



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## From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Mike Barger



Once, again, I'll start off by acknowledging all those that have stepped up this last month and volunteered their time to the Post. That includes the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders. A big thank you from myself and the executive board goes out to you all. It was a nice turn out for the Flag Disposal ceremony we held on July 4th, but would sure like to see more come to this. The turnout for the potluck that followed was awesome. If you went home hungry, it was your fault, there was a lot of great food brought in. Thanks to all that participated.

Something lately has been eating at me and others, and I feel I need to address it as Commander. I'm not here to preach, but hopefully, what I must say will hit home with us all. We were all recruited by others to come join the ranks of the largest Veterans Service Organization in the world, The American Legion, to help serve Veterans in our community. We're all volunteers and there's no rank among us (we're all equal). We do this for many reasons. For God and Country, the love of helping others, giving back to our community, and it's something to keep us busy, for a lot of us don't like just sitting around. We all have a voice and we can speak what we want, but it needs to be done in a TACTFUL WAY, AS NOT TO OFFEND OTHERS. Each Legionnaire is permitted a free voice, but not a voice so free as to transcend the limits of Decorum and Liberty. Enough said on this matter.

I was contacted by Raul Jimenez-Cintron, a Commander from American Legion Post 155 in Long Island, New York, who's a good friend to a member of our Post. This member is a Tuskegee Airman that fell and injured his back, and is unable to walk up the stairs anymore. Raul asked if there was anything we as a Post could do to assist this member. I started off by contacting some local contractors. The first company I had lined up was going to donate the stair lifts and not charge installation or labor, but when they went out to look at his property to get measurements, it turned out there was too much customization that needed to be done for them to assist. So, off to the second business I went. It turned out that the second business was unable to assist, and they forwarded his information to another company, which never bothered contacting him. Our next approach was to contact our congressman in each of these states, to see what they could do for us. I did get a call back from one of the assistants from each state, and let them know what was happening, and they would try to see what they could do, even though they didn't think there was anything they could do. Turns out, I never heard back from them either. This was getting very frustrating, so as a last resort I decided to contact Acorn Stairlifts directly via email, and about a week later, I get a call from a spokesperson from them, wanting to get all the information about this member and they would take it up to the VP of Acorn and see what they could do, not promising anything. I received a phone call and email back from this person, and they've stated they would like to take this on, and are working on getting "The Greatest Generation Foundation" out of Denver involved, and would like to bring down a film crew to document this member's life story, and once everything has been validated, Acorn will come in, do all the measurements in the house, and then work on getting it installed. Keep our fingers crossed and say some prayers that this will get done for this Veteran.

As was communicated in our July general membership meeting, it takes \$20K or more to keep this Post running. We have a fundraising committee created, and we're soliciting ideas from all members. All ideas will be looked at. If we can find one or two big ideas that will bring in some big dollars on a yearly basis, we can keep this Post solvent.

*Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) [jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com](mailto:jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com)*



## From the Unit 209 President

Cathy Barger

Wow! What a great time with the American Legion Family at the 4th of July picnic and Flag Disposal Ceremony. It was an honor being a part of the ceremony, what a great way to honor our country and its most prized symbol of freedom.

Just a reminder to turn in your volunteer hours each month, keep track of your monthly volunteer hours, and mileage. Turn them into Pat Weaver or me. We want to show Department and National what our Unit is doing to help our Veterans and their family. As I mentioned in our last meeting, we are going to work harder on getting all the reports sent to Department on a timely basis and that means we need your hours each month. Don't forget that we will be working with the Blue Star Mothers to conduct "Suits for Troops" on August 6<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. here at the Post.

Please join us on August 12<sup>th</sup> for the breakfast/membership meeting and then if at all possible for the Ice Cream Social at McCandless Veterans' Nursing home in Florence. That starts at 2:00 p.m.

ALR will be hosting their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Poker Run on August 27<sup>th</sup>. ALR has asked the Auxiliary to do the breakfast for this event and we will be asking for Auxiliary members to help with setting up and serving breakfast. Breakfast is from 8:00 am to 10:00 am. We could also use volunteers to help sell raffle tickets and set up the raffle item tables.

We will be going to the Pueblo Veterans' Nursing home for an "All Patients' Day in September. We'll have a tent set up and will host a carnival atmosphere game for our Nation's heroes who are residents at the Nursing home. All Patients are guaranteed winners. We provide clothes, pens and paper, cards, and other items recommended to us by the folks who take care of the Veteran residents. Let me know if you are available to attend. If this event doesn't work for you, then keep us in mind for the next one.

Happy Birthday to Nancy Bunker, Amy Clum, Nancy Givan, Toni Hawkins, Pamela Krzeczowski, Deaven Lollar, Judy Moore, Vicki Robinson, Elizabeth Sanchez and Fran Sena. Make sure to wish these ladies Happy Birthday when you see them.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly,

**By they way, the ALR dinner for August is Burritos. Please come down and support the Riders, and make sure to RSVP.**



## From the Adjutant

Marvin Weaver, Jr.

A reminder that the Post has a meal every Friday of the Month. The first Friday is our Hamdogger; the second Friday is provided by the ALR or Auxiliary (the menu changes each month but we try to get it into the newsletter each month); the third Friday is Steak Night; and the fourth Friday is Chef's Surprise. There a few exceptions during the year, the first being if there happens to be 5 Fridays in a month (there is no meal at the Post on the fifth Friday of the Month); the other would be if a conflict arises with the schedule. But we try to get notice out in the newsletter and by email if this happens. Come on down one of these Fridays and see what we have going on

Thank you to those who have already renewed for 2018. If you have not renewed yet, please send in your renewal. The best way to stop receiving the renewal notices is for you to send in your renewal as soon as you receive the notice. I will get them processed as quickly as possible. If you have a friend that is a Veteran and is not a member, talk to them about joining. We already know the benefits of being a member, but your friend may not so let them know what we do. Most people when asked say the only reason they are not a member is because they have never been asked; so ask.



## **From the Judge Advocate**

Marvin Weaver, Sr.

Commander Barger has appointed me to serve as your Judge Advocate for the next year. I will do my best to keep the interest of the American Legion and Post 209 in compliance. This will be a learning experience for me so I asked for your patience.

Let me introduce myself. I was born in Leadville, CO but spent the majority of my childhood in Florence, CO. I graduated from Florence High School. As I drove each morning to the Broadmoor, I passed Fort Carson and saw the soldiers in tents. Not wanting to get drafted, I joined the US Air Force in 1964. I retired in 1986 after serving at FE Warren AFB, Vietnam, Charleston AFB, Sembach AFB, Germany, Holloman AFB, and Bolling AFB. I started serving with Veteran organizations in 1991 with the Non Commissioned Officer Association (NCOA). We worked Air Force football, hockey and basketball games as security, ticket takers, ushers, and sold programs and seat backs. I've held offices as Chapter Vice Chairman, Chapter Chairman, and permanent trustee of the Air Academy Chapter. The leadership cadre is The Knights of the Square Table. I was privileged to be the Grand Knight 2012-2013. I currently serve the NCOA as a Past Grand Knight (PGK) and Advisor to the Air Academy Chapter and the Mountain Post Chapter. Also, I am a member of The Enlisted Association (TREA), Chapter 1. I am a life member and currently serve as Sgt-at-Arms for Chapter 1. I volunteer at the Colorado Springs airport as an Ambassador twice a month at the Information booth. I started this in 2005.

I welcome the opportunity to now serve Legionnaires and the Post 209 family as Judge Advocate. Let me know how I can help.

## **From Legionnaire Bernard M. Harris, Special Agent-Retired, USAF**

Fellow Veterans and military family members, good day! At our July general membership meeting, Rusty provided a detailed written summary regarding the "health" of our Post financial status. We have an annual deficit of \$21,000. Our June, 2017, net income was \$20.11! On an annual basis we have six (6) major operating expenditures totaling \$20,875.00.

There are two old sayings! First, "charity begins at home" and second, "God takes care of those who take care of themselves"! How about we "invest" in ourselves! We can accomplish this goal by keeping our funds in house, and everyone, repeat, everyone benefits.

Here's how we accomplish this goal! As the largest American Legion Post in the State of Colorado, with a membership, I believe, exceeds 1000, let's set a goal of obtaining 225 members that sign for "our" AmeriPlan Deluxe-Plus Discount Healthcare Plan. This plan cost \$39.95 per household and translates to \$15.98 a month in commission for each membership. Based on a mere goal of 225 members signing up, Rusty will receive a check, mailed on the 18<sup>th</sup> of each month, totaling \$3595.50, minus \$39.95, leaving a net income of \$3555.55. This equates to a yearly absolute profit of \$42,666.60, which totally wipes out the current deficit and the total current yearly operating expenditures of the Post.

Ladies and gentlemen, again, everybody wins; there are no losses and we, Post 209, set an example for the other 160 American Legion Posts across the State to emulate! When they ask how do we participate in this program, they do so as a separate entity, but under Post 209, which increases the funding that Rusty receives. By the way, American Legion National Headquarters has been using this business profile for many years. If members know local businesses that want to provide "our" benefits to their employees, please let me know and I will do the presentation on behalf of the Post 209.

According to an article in the Gazette's Saturday paper, 07/15/2017, healthcare insurance rates are going up double digits for 2018. The Deluxe-Plus \$39.95 fee will get each household incredible discounts on: dental, vision, prescriptions, chiropractic, Lasik, hearing aids, ancillary services, and help with current and old medical bills. Probably the very best benefit is the immediate availability of Telemedicine for your household. This service will allow 24-hour, 7-day a week access to a licensed physician. If the physician only provides advice the call is free, all other calls are \$25.00. We also encourage members to use the service as often as needed. Traditional insurance charges a minimum of \$40.00 once the call is opened, period!

Help us help each other! Thanks

## Chair Lift

by Eric Testorff, Senior Vice Commander, Post 209

How many chairs can you fit into one pickup truck? As it turns out, almost sixty!

Memorial Gardens Funeral Home and Cemetery and Mountain View Funeral Home, both of Colorado Springs, are members of the Dignity Memorial network of funeral homes and services. Both facilities recently replaced a number of chairs for guest seating, and quickly realized that the chairs being replaced were still good, sturdy leather and steel chairs. What to do with them?

For Dignity, one of the great things about being active members of your community is that you form relationships with other organizations. One such organization is American Legion Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209. Members of Post 209 participate in a number of events at Memorial Gardens, including flag placement at Veterans' graves for Memorial Day, and the laying of wreaths for Veterans in December. It was to Post 209 that the Dignity Memorial staff turned to find a way to get these chairs to a worthy Veterans organization.

Past American Legion Commander for the state of Colorado, Jay Bowen, had just the answer. Jay is himself a member of Post 209, and has worked extensively on behalf of the Colorado Veterans Resource Coalition, also known as The Crawford House. The Crawford House program provides safe emergency housing for Veterans in the Colorado Springs area who are homeless and receiving VA-provided mental health care, and it provides a temporary structured living environment for Veterans in VA-provided substance abuse rehabilitation. Veterans are also accepted from neighboring states for the rehab program. The Crawford House program is the only program of its kind in Colorado; a private, non-profit Veterans' residential treatment facility.



Left to Right; Jerome, Vicky, and Charles loaded up the Chairs!

Executive Director of The Crawford House, Vicky Pettis, immediately had places in mind for the sturdy, surplus chairs being offered. Some would go to the Crawford House, and some would actually go to Veterans getting back on their feet and into their own place.

Vicky and her crew headed for Mountain View in the organization's pickup truck. At first it looked doubtful, but Jerome and Charles from the Crawford House knew their pickup truck well. They ultimately fit and tied off nearly sixty chairs in the truck bed. As they pulled away, one thing became clear: It's a great day when three Colorado Springs organizations come together for our Veterans and for the betterment of our community.

If you, or someone you know, would like to be a part of helping Veterans in the Colorado Springs area, check out American Legion Post 209 at [legion209.org](http://legion209.org) or the Crawford House at [cvrcforvets.org](http://cvrcforvets.org).



\*\*Rusty Bower's column to bring a little "salt" to the post.\*\*

### Origin of NAVY Terminology Rusty Bower



#### Why a Ship is Called a "She!"

A ship is called a she because there is always a great deal of bustle around her; there is usually a gang of men about; she has a waist and stays; it takes a lot of paint to keep her good-looking; it is not the initial expense that breaks you, it is the upkeep; she can be all decked out; it takes an experienced man to handle her correctly; and without a man at the helm, she is absolutely uncontrollable. She shows her topsides, hides her bottom and, when coming into port, always heads for the buoys.

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



## From the Sergeant-at-Arms

Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasinski

Good day my Legion Family.

First off I would like to congratulate all the new officers of our Post. Also, thanks to those whom have been selected to serve in other capacities. You are all outstanding examples of selfless service and volunteerism. In the US Air Force/Air National Guard we have a motto of Integrity first, Service before self and Excellence in all we do... Integrity-Service-Excellence. You all are, whether past Airmen or not, shining testaments to these personal qualities. The Post and I thank you for your continued service!

On the subject of personal qualities, I offer the following.

As many of you know, I have twin Super Dudes, Stanten and Shelten. 12 year old sons that are fully charged and involved in life. They have been straight "A" students pretty much as long as they have been in school. They play every sport, excelling in some and not so much in others. They are both new officers in the Squadron 209 SAL, have completed the SAL/NRA Young Guns Course, are now entering the toughest levels, i.e. bars, in the NRA Marksmanship Shooting Course and are one step away from being First Class Scouts in the Boy Scouts of America. Heck, they received their Black Belt in ATA Taekwondo three days before they turned eight. As you can surmise, I am very proud of them and to be their father. I am very blessed!

We have been involved in Scouts since they were in kindergarten which was a year early. They are not supposed to start as Tigers, the first rank as a Boy Scout, until their first day in first grade. Nevertheless, I received special permission from our council at the time, for them to be Boy Scout Helpers for that early year so we could all three go to Boy Scout School. I had never been in Scouts growing up and knew nothing about it all. Day one, Bear Den Leader! 'We can only make a difference if we are involved...participants not spectators.' If you have ever been involved in Scouting you know we have our Oath, Law, Motto, Slogan and Outdoor Code. In my opinion, all of these are what is rolled up in the USAF/ANG motto of Integrity first, Service before self and Excellence in all we do... Integrity-Service-Excellence. The standard! They are as follows:

**Boy Scout Oath or Promise:** On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

**Boy Scout Law:** A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

**Boy Scout Motto:** Be Prepared!

**Boy Scout Slogan:** Do a good turn daily!

**The Outdoor Code:** As an American, I will do my best to: Be clean in my outdoor manners; Be careful with fire; Be considerate in the outdoors, and Be conservation minded.

All quoted from the BSA website at <http://www.usscouts.org/advance/boyscout/bsoathlaw.asp>

In all this, I believe you could replace Boy Scout, Scout or American with Legionnaire and you would still be absolutely spot-on. These are all also the essence of our Four Pillars: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. I wholeheartedly believe there is a thread that holds this all together, however, and its called "RESPECT". Respect can be a noun or a verb. As a noun respect is a feeling of deep admiration for someone or something brought about by their abilities, qualities or achievements. As a verb it means to deeply admire someone or something as a result of their abilities, qualities, or achievements. How does one show respect to others? [www.wikihow.com/Show-Respect](http://www.wikihow.com/Show-Respect) states it this way:

Show gratitude; Compliment the achievement of others; Be sincere; Do what you say you'll do; Offer assistance; Respect the abilities of others.

Bill Bastian II on his Bastian Solutions web-site suggest for us to Listen, Encourage, Congratulate, Be Helpful and Say Thank You!

**Continued on page 9**



**From the Post Executive Committeeman**  
Bill Burd

I have been attending meetings of American Legion Post 209 for several years and I wanted to share why these meetings are important to me.

The meetings are a refreshing change from other organizational meetings I attend in that they are conducted in a very orderly manner that honors those of us in attendance, and most important Honors our flag and our country and what it stands for.

For example, the first hand information we get from speakers like the Honorable Kent Lambert about Colorado Congress activities that affect all of us, Representatives that share information about the planned VA Hospital, and the National Military Cemetery that is planned is information I find very informative.

There are also a lot of activities in the Post that you may not be aware of and can participate in if even for a few hours. You do not have to be committed every week or month to participate and help out.

If you come and participate in the great Breakfast, you will meet some very interesting folks with similar experiences as well as those with very different experiences. At the breakfast you will also get to see young Cub Scouts from the 2 Packs that we sponsor learning to be of service and learning to communicate with another generation.

By attending the Breakfast and meeting, you will also have the opportunity to speak with our dedicated leadership and discuss issues important to you. These gentlemen put in many hours to keep Post 209 a very successful Post. The Largest in Colorado. My Thanks to all the officers.



**From the Senior Vice Commander**  
Eric Testorff

At Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209, there is a critical period during the year that pertains to membership in the American Legion. That critical period is **NOW THROUGH OCTOBER 15<sup>th</sup>**. Why do I say this? Because from now until the 15<sup>th</sup> of October, anyone who signs up or renews their membership is eligible for our **FREE Early Bird Dinner**, which will be held on October 27<sup>th</sup>.



This year's dinner features Salisbury steak and all the trimmings, drinks and dessert. It's a great incentive to use when signing up new members, or urging current members to pay their dues and renew. After October 15<sup>th</sup>, that recruitment tool is taken away, so I urge all members who are thinking of recruiting friends and neighbors to the American Legion to strike while the iron is hot! Late summer into early fall is the time to **PAY YOUR DUES AND GET A FREE DINNER.**

For you Legion recruiters, there is an additional incentive. Our very own Commander Mike Barger has made an extraordinary pledge: Commander Barger is willing to buy a dinner for any Post 209 member who recruits at least one new member this year.

It's a great feeling to sit down to dinner with our new brothers and sisters in the Legion. So be sure to have a membership sign-up form in your wallet. Talk to your Veteran friends about the Four Pillars, Legion history and legacy, and the great camaraderie that we as Legionnaires share as we serve our community, state and nation. ...and GO BIRDS!



## From the Historian

Chris Earley

With this being a new year of officers, it is only right that I start off this month in history by introducing myself. I am Chris Earley, your new Historian. Eric left big shoes to fill but I shall do my best! I am a 20-year retired Air Force Non-Comm who served in Europe and the US. Besides serving as Historian, I am also the Communications Officer for the Riders. Over the next year I shall endeavor to bring you interesting insights into our military and national history. I am a bit of a trivia and internet nut, so if there is something you would particularly like to see reached here, just drop me an e-mail at [chris.earley@msn.com](mailto:chris.earley@msn.com).

When writing about August, several events come to mind. On August 7<sup>th</sup>, 1964, two US destroyers were attacked in the Gulf of Tonkin. This event would lead to Congress authorizing President Johnson to order military action in Vietnam in what became known as the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. August 12<sup>th</sup>, 1898 saw the end of the Spanish-American War. The entire duration of the war was 5 months. On August 14<sup>th</sup> of 1814 during the War of 1812, British troops burned several buildings in Washington D.C. including the White House.

But being retired Air Force I can't resist the most significant event of August (IMHO) which took place in the skies over Japan. It was a unique airplane in so many ways. Unlike its fellow B-29s it lacked protective armor and gun turrets. It has special reversible pitch propellers for quick braking power upon landing, and its bomb bay was heavily modified with pneumatic doors and British bomb attachment and release systems. Her pilot, Colonel Paul W. Tibbets (USAAF) selected her on the assembly line and named her after his Grandmother, Enola Gay.

The Enola Gay flew its historic mission on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 1945. Escorted by two other B-29's, "The Great Artist" and the aptly named "Necessary Evil" she arrived over the clear skies of Hiroshima at 8:15AM after 6 hours of flight time. The Atomic Bomb "Little Boy" was dropped and detonated 1968 feet above the city. The resultant blast was the equivalent of 16 tons of TNT.

Three days later on August 9<sup>th</sup>, the Enola Gay would fly again, this time as an escort for Bockscar, another B-29 carrying the "Fat Man" atomic bomb. This time the target was the Japanese city of Kokura. As the Weather Plane for this mission the Enola Gay arrived first and reported clear skies. However by the time Bockscar arrived, the city was obscured by smoke from conventional bombing of Yahata, Japan the previous day. After several attempts, the mission was forced to divert to the secondary target of Nagasaki.

The Japanese would surrender 5 days later on August 14<sup>th</sup>. The last crew member of the Enola Gay, Theodore Van Kirk passed on July 28, 2014. Today the Enola Gay has been restored and is on display at the Smithsonian Air & Space Annex at Dulles Airport, Virginia.

And that's history!



## From the Service Officer

Lyle Hagelberg

A few years ago Neal Thomas Jr. started an emergency Veteran's fund at Post 209. This was to be used by the Service Officer, or any other officer with the approval of the Commander, to aid and assist Veterans in need. This fund was targeted for those who didn't have time to complete paperwork to go to Denver or those who didn't qualify for Temporary Financial Assistance or the Children's Fund. We've helped Veterans with many things, such as: money for a tank of gas; gift card to shop for food; two or three nights' stay in a motel while waiting for a Disability or Social Security check; and storage rent before personal property was auctioned off. Neal was the first member to donate to that fund. Since then the Riders have made generous contributions as well as a few other Legionnaires. The fund is almost a one-way street with most of the money going out to help Veterans or their families. We are in need of a reinvigoration of that fund. The Post members have always risen to the occasion, whether to support the Josh pups, Thanksgiving boxes, and Veteran homes, etc. We'd like this fund to be a continuing legacy, so please feel free to drop your pocket change (or paper money) into one of the jars you see around the Post. There will be a Veteran out there somewhere thanking you.



## **Motorcycle Minute; Motorcycle Safety**

Bob "Einstein" Caddell; President

Good day Legion family,

The Riders have been busy this month getting ready for the McCandless Veterans home BBQ. Once a year the Riders from all ALR areas get together and sponsor a BBQ for the Veterans at McCandless in Florence, Colorado. Those that can, ride their motorcycles down and stage in a convenience store parking lot and then we all ride to the home and it is usually around 100 bikes with supporters. This year the honor has been given to our post Riders to cook for our Veterans to show them how much they mean to us for the sacrifices they have made to our great country.

The next function of the Riders will be hosting our dinner and we are planning on doing smothered Burritos. I personally will be the chef on this so please come out and support the Riders so we can support our Veterans. It will be on the 11th of August.

From there we have the Veterans' run to Cripple Creek and most likely we will be standing guard on the traveling wall once again. Last year, Commander Barger his wife Cathy, myself and Tim McDowell had the honor of the 10pm to 2am shift. I was camping at Mueller State Park and it was a very foggy, rainy and cold ride back to the camp ground. This year I'm hoping the weather is better.

Then, on the 27th, we have what has become our annual Poker Run. We have some great prizes so far, but need more. Please feel the love and get your Riders any type of donation you can get. We have a portable grill that is an auction item, pretty neat, if I do say so, along with another great metal art piece from Prairie Metal Works, Please come out and support the Riders in this endeavor.

If you missed the ride to the top of America's mountain you missed something exciting. Some of the Riders and supporters made the breathless trip up Pikes Peak last month. We met Post 2008 up there and we enjoyed top of the world doughnuts, thin air and comradery with our brothers and sisters.

On a recent trip to Canon City, our Road Captain Grady and his lovely wife Amy met up with Post 209 members from Moses Lake in Washington. They toured the Royal Gorge and had dinner. He presented our license plate to them. Thanks, K-bar and Aims.

We also supported our brothers & sisters at Post 38 with participation in their Poker Run. I even won something and so did Brother Terry McDowell. I will state here and now that I'm not a bar hopper because I missed one of the stops and took a wrong turn. Forgot where Elbert is. But we had fun and missed the torrential down pours that hit the city. So if you want to add another road name to me feel free, "Wrong Way" is fine by me.

Well, I'll close for now and make notes of all the new things I'll be reporting on for next month. As always, Ride safe and Promote motorcycle safety.



### **From the Junior Shooting Sports Chairman Ken Taylor**

The September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Young Guns class still has openings. We only accept 12 new shooters and we have 9 signed up at this point. If you want to be in the fall class, don't delay! The age range is 10 through 18 and the cost is still just \$25 for the entire nine week class. If you're interested, contact Ken Taylor at 719-761-4047 or email at [jssp209@gmail.com](mailto:jssp209@gmail.com).

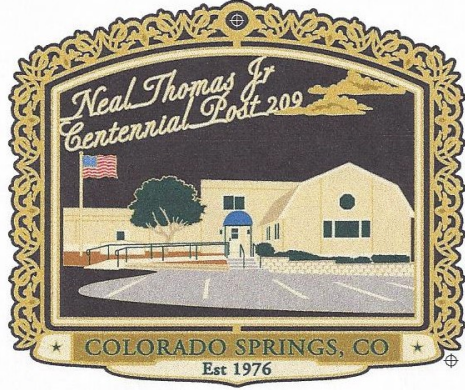
Please note the following changes to our program. We are moving our new shooters class from Wednesday evenings to Thursday evenings beginning with the fall 2017 class. The class will start on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. NRA Marksmanship Will Start on Wednesday, September 13, 2017 from 4:30 to 8:30 PM. Have a great summer!





## Auxiliary Fundraiser; Christmas Ornament Jackie Bowen, Past Unit President

The newly designed and “One-of-a-Kind” Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209 Christmas Ornaments have arrived. As you can imagine, this will almost immediately be a collector’s item as it features our Post home and name. It makes for a beautiful gift for someone special or for yourself and a lasting memory of the best American Legion family Post in Colorado.



This lacquered brass ornament is approximately 2 1/4” high by 2 3/4” wide. We are selling the ornaments for only \$15.00 each.

They will look great on any Christmas Tree or displayed prominently on a shelf in your home. Please consider supporting our Auxiliary fundraiser with a purchase. All proceeds will go to help our local area Veterans and their family. Contact me with questions and to buy one of these great ornaments.

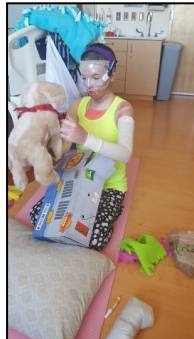
Thanks in advance and Merry Christmas (yes, I know we’re early, but this is a Christmas fundraiser)!



## From Squadron 209 Commander Ken Taylor

A young lady named Trinity was enjoying a bonfire when tragedy struck. The fire flared up, she was severely burned, and spent several months in Children's Hospital Denver. She has had skin grafts and continues to make trips to the hospital while completing her recovery.

Post member Jeremy Boltjes asked about providing a Josh Dog for her and Squadron 209 was very happy to do so. The pictures below confirm that she was happy to receive Josh and he continues to help in her recovery.



Thanks Jeremy for giving us the opportunity to help!

If anyone knows of a child who could benefit from a Josh Dog, please contact the Post at 719-599-8624 or any SAL Squadron 209 Officer. Officers phone numbers are listed toward the end of this Newsletter.

\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*

SAL MEETINGS ARE NOW HELD ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 5:45PM.

Cont. from page 5. Dia Thabet at [www.selfgrowth.com](http://www.selfgrowth.com) states: “Respect is an attitude that helps you succeed in your life and build harmonious relationships. Learn to respect yourself, peers, friends, family, colleagues, the country you live in, nature, and everything that God has created. Do this through your efforts in: Behavior; Language, Respect the laws; Respect the differences; Respect yourself.”

I could go on and on, however I think you see what I'm saying here. All in all "RESPECT" is what ties everything else above together...it's the thread for the standard. If one cannot accept and practice the basic concepts of what I teach my boys in the Boy Scout Law...come on!... Worldwide there are 28 million members in 216 countries and territories in the Boy Scouts. The Boy Scouts of America contributes about 6 million members. How can they all be wrong?!...

As Legionnaires I feel it is our responsibility to show the utmost respect to ourselves, our fellow Veterans, their families, our Post, our flag, our country. As your Sgt-at-Arms I recommit to you all to ensure and enforce that everyone who is a member and attends our Post abides by these standards.

'Whatever your pattern, those associated with you will tend to imitate what you do. Focus on how you act.'

Thank you all for all that you do to promote the values and efforts of our American Legion!

## Bringing a Little South to the West

By Past Post Commander Jay Bowen

I think I've mentioned in a previous article that while most of my weekends and Summer vacations were spent in Arkansas, we did visit our Aunts and Uncles on their farms just outside the little town of Matthews, MO. Now for those of you who are geographically challenged, Matthews is about 15 miles south of Sikeston in New Madrid County (yep, the county with the largest earthquake fault in the US) off US Hwy 61. And Sikeston is just off I-55 in the southeast part of the state, about 70 miles from the Arkansas state line. Other than visiting my Uncle's farm, none of this has any bearing on this story, but I believe there should always be a lesson in these writings.

Uncle Otis was married to Aunt Rosealee (rose uh lee). They had 2 girls and 3 boys, all older than me. All the kids worked the farm, which was the norm back in those days. Uncle Otis had some crops and a few head of cattle. He also had a prize hog. That last part is important to the story I am about to tell. But first, more about the family. The son closest to me in age was Carl. He was about 3 years older. But that didn't really matter. When we would visit, Carl and his older brother Travis (we called him Dale) would hang out with us and teach us the ways of the world. Matter of fact, it was Carl who first gave me a cigarette. I probably should hate him for that, but at the time I thought it was cool. Later in life, Carl and I became pretty close. We served together for a short time at Ft. Bliss, TX. When I got there for AIT, he only had a few months before he ETS'd, but we hung out quite a bit during that short period. But that's a story for another day.

On one such visit to the farm, I think I was about 6 years old, we were hanging out in the barn. This was our favorite playground. It was a huge barn with a loft on two sides that was kept full of hay, as was most of the other areas inside. There was an opening in the middle of the barn so a tractor could pull in to put up or get hay, depending on the time of year and need. Hanging in the middle of the open space was a thick rope that almost reached the ground and was anchored on a hook on a big rafter. We would often play Tarzan and swing from one loft to the other on the rope. Thinking back, I probably would have broken something if I had fallen. But I don't think anyone ever did.

One of the many cool things we did was shoot BB's at sparrows that frequented the barn. The BB gun was a Daisy pump type as opposed to the lever action we kept at my Grandad's house. It was a much newer model than the lever action. Being only 6, or maybe even 5, I wasn't allowed to shoot the BB gun. That wasn't a hard-fast rule, it was Carl's and Travis' rule. I think they did that more to annoy me than for safety reasons.

But on that particular occasion, I wanted to shoot the gun really bad. I kept begging for an opportunity to show them I was a deadly shot and would not waste their precious BB's. I was confident I could hit a sparrow just as well and often as they. I was relentless with the begging. Finally they gave in, but not without a condition. They told me I could have 5 shots if I would ride their pet pig (it was really a hog). This was a prize winning hog with several ribbons they entered in the local FFA shows every year. He was big, but he was also very docile and accustomed to people pawing all over him.

I never hesitated. I told them, "heck yes, I'll ride the pig for 5 shots. I just knew if I could get my hands on that BB gun, I would show them what a stud I was and they would then let me have my turn along with Bubba who was just a year older than me but was always treated as an equal.

I climbed the fence and walked right up to the hog in the large pen. I jumped on his back, grabbed his ears and held on tight. To put this into perspective, my feet did not touch the ground. Thinking back, I don't know if it was because I was too short or he was just that big.

I rode that hog for about 5 seconds (I think). He squealed and ran and darted left, then right. No matter, I was hanging on until he ran up alongside the barn wall and my pants caught on a nail or something and I was pulled off. I didn't care, I rode it and now I was ready for my reward. And true to their word, they allowed me 5 shots with the BB gun. What I didn't know until just after the 3<sup>rd</sup> shot was there were only 2 BB's left in the gun when I started. There's a very distinct difference in the sound of a BB gun that fires empty and one that shoots a BB out the muzzle. Turns out they never promised the gun would be loaded, just that I could pull the trigger 5 times and it would fire.

That was one of many great lessons I learned from my cousins in Missouri. From that point forward, I would have them "Show Me" (pun intended) the BB's before my turn to shoot. And thank God I never had to ride that pig again. But I got the last laugh on him too. I just love Ham and Eggs.



## Post Officers 2017-2018

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Mike Barger	719-290-3218
Sr. Vice Cdr	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177
Jr. Vice Cdr	Jerry Lollar	719-641-2778
Adjutant	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	719-244-3535
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Chaplain	Paul R. Darrow	719-237-4461
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasinski	719-556-8326
Historian	Chris Early	719-338-1398
Post Exec. Cmtee	Bill Burd	719-330-1279
Service Officer	Lyle Hagelberg	719-231-2364
Judge Advocate	Marvin Weaver, Sr.	719-638-4763
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610
Honor Guard Capt.	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177



## ALR Officers 2017-2018

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Bob Caddell	719-393-5180
Vice President	Steve Hayes	719-494-7166
Secretary	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Treasurer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Tim McDowell	719-510-9907
Road Captain	Grady Mitchell	719-201-3353



## Auxiliary Officers 2017-2018

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Vice President	Donna Rae Smith	815-973-0073
Secretary	Pat Weaver	719-638-4763
Treasurer	Kellie Hayes	719-494-7167
Chaplain	Jackie Burd	719-590-6615
Sergeant-At-Arms	Donna Testorff	719-510-4567
Historian	Donna Rae Smith	815-973-0073



## Sons of The American Legion 2017-2018

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Ken Taylor	719-761-4047
Sr. Vice Commander	Marv Weaver	719-244-3535
Jr. Vice Commander	Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasinski	719-556-8326
Adjutant	Rick Kettering	813-967-6680
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Steve P. Cox	970-580-8191
Assistant S-a-Arms	Stanten Krasinski	719-556-8326
Chaplain	Shelten Krasinski	719-556-8326
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177

## August 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	4 <b>Price Varies with order</b> Hamdogger 6:00pm 	5
6 Suits for Troops! Post 209; 1-4pm 	7 Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm 	8	9	10	11 <b>\$9.00 Meal</b> ALR Dinner - 6pm RSVP Required! 6:00pm 	12 <b>\$8.50 Breakfast</b> Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am 
13	14	15	16	17 Fundraising Committee Meeting 7:00pm 	18 <b>\$14.50 Meal</b> Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	19
20	21 Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm ALR Executive Board 6:00pm 	22 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm 	23	24	25 <b>\$10.50 Meal</b> Chef Surprise! - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	26
27 ALR Poker Run 	28	29	30	31	Notes:	

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

## September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <b>Price Varies with order</b>  Hamdogger 6:00pm 	2
3	4 <b>Labor Day</b>  Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm 	5	6	7  Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	8 <b>\$9.00 Meal</b>  ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	9 <b>\$8.50 Breakfast</b>  Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am  
10	11 <b>Patriot Day</b>	12	13	14  Youna Guns 6:30pm 	15 <b>\$14.50 Meal</b>  Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!   	16
17	18  Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm ALR Executive Board 6:00pm  	19	20	21  Fundraising Committee Meeting 7:00pm Young Guns 6:30pm 	22 <b>Fall begins</b>  Chef Surprise! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!   	23
24  Neal Thomas Jr Memorial Ride 	25	26  ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm  	27	28  Youna Guns 6:30pm 	29	30

## October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2  Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm 	3	4	5  Young Guns 6:30pm Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	6 <b>Price Varies with order</b>  Hamdogger 6:00pm 	7
8	9 <b>Columbus Day</b>	10	11	12  Young Guns 6:30pm 	13 <b>\$9.00 Meal</b>  Aux. Dinner RSVP Required! 6:00pm 	14 <b>\$8.50 Breakfast</b>  Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am  
15	16  Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm ALR Executive Board 6:00pm  	17  Veterans' Stand-Down   	18	19  Fundraising Committee Meeting 7:00pm Young Guns 6:30pm 	20 <b>\$14.50 Meal</b>  Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!   	21
22	23	24  ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm  	25	26  Young Guns 6:30pm 	27 <b>\$10.50 Meal</b>  Chef Surprise! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!   	28  Halloween Party! 2:00pm - 4:00pm    <b>TRICK OR TREAT</b>
29	30	31 <b>Halloween</b>	Notes:			