



Centennial Post 209

P.O. Box 15461
Colorado Springs, CO 80935

DECEMBER NEWS LETTER

FELLOW LEGIONAIRES

A WORD FROM OUR POST COMMANDER

As we approach this joyous Christmas season we have much to be joyful for. This has indeed been a prosperous year for our post 209.

We have naturally had ups and downs, however, the ups have outweighed the downs. Today we are a viable entity in the American Legion Family, not only in this city but the district and department as well.

As I have stated in over the past two years, as your Commander, the name of the game is greater membership. And this is still the lifeblood of our organization. A poll was taken in some of our most recent district and department meetings and it was determined that more than 90% of our current membership consist of persons over the age of 50 years old. What does this all mean? It means simply that we the legionnaires must continue to recruit the younger veteran THE VIETNAM VETERAN. And who are to carry on the tradition of the American Legion once we are gone.

The American Legion has a proud heritage of providing for the disabled veteran, widows and orphan children of the veteran, as well as the needy within our own ranks and within our community. We can only do this with an increased and enlightened membership. The greater the number the greater the voice.

At the present time our congress and the present administration seem to relish the thought of depriving those who have given so much to our country and to our way of life over the years, each year we hear the cry of the need to balance the budget. But with each cry it is at the expense of the veteran. The very same veteran that fought and some who died to maintain our way of life, too include the deserter and those who have never served in any branch of service. And now the new fad in America is to sell our country's secrets to the enemy all of this was fought for and died for .. THE VETERAN.

This areas include closing of nursing homes, cutting of VA staffing, taxing of VA disability compensation, discontinuing of the cost of living increases for the disabled and non disabled veteran, etc etc,. Only thru a strong membership and a stronger voice can we influence the decisions of our elected officials. So therefore the name of the game is membership an more memberships to make our voice heard,

We had a truly enjoyable meeting last month when we initiated seven new and old members, why not come out to the next scheduled meeting in January and start the new year off with a bang. by the way if you have not become involved in a formal initiation it is an enlightening experience. Also at our last meeting it was proposed that we increase our annual dues from the present \$18.00 dollars to \$20.00 per annum. it is felt that we need it to build our funds up again. The post will vote on this proposal in our January meeting. the vote taken will be of the majority of those present. so if you wish for your voice to be heard on this issue please be present it is an issue that involves the entire post.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each one of you a joyous and blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

A benefit that has been offered by one of our local merchants to the members of post 209 is that all active and paid up members of the post can automatically become members of the PACE WARE HOUSE located at South Academy and Chelton . Just show your current legion card and sign up.

Neal L Thomas Jr
Post Commander

A few words from the post 209 Auxiliary Chaplains corner.

We have submitted the paperwork for unit Auxiliary 209 to Department and the Auxiliary Dept. President Nellie McNeal has endorsed our unit. Our charter has gone to National Headquarters and we are looking forward to our installation ceremonies once it returns back to us. Ladies we need your support !!!! Why not come out with your husband on the post next meeting and help our unit to get underway. Our president Ellen Teson has a great project to raise money for unit , we need your help, wouldn't you help our, your unit to grow and expand?

Our Vice president Pat Rodriguez is scheduled to enter the Penrose Hospital to undergo surgery and she needs all of our prayers she should be back home before Xmas. Our Secretary, Flossie Reese has her hands full with Legionnaire Gym's recuperation. Pres McNeal recognized two new units in the state at the midwinter conference, held at the Sheraton Hotel, Lakewood, Colo on November 1985 . The two new units were Idaho Springs and Colo Springs unit: 209. Why not plan now to attend the spring district conference and the Departments Convention which will be held in Arvada Co in June of 1986.

Ladies there are just a few of us and we encourage you to join us and give your support to our new and young unit.

June Reed
Aux Unit Chaplain

Legionnaire

There are 35 members who have not paid their dues for 1986 check out your card if you haven't paid your due please do so now,

VEETS BEWARE

The veteran with delinquent debts to the VA will be hearing from credit collection agencies in the future

We remember the vet
so no one forgets



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THE AMERICAN LEGION
CENTENNIAL POST #209
P.O. BOX 15761
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80935

Wallace E. Lonsinger
1407 Keaton Lane
Colorado Springs, CO 80909



USA 22

