

The Centennial

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AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209

3613 JEANNINE DR. COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80917

719.599.8624 WWW.LEGION209.ORG

MEET YOUR 2021-2022 OFFICERS!!



American Legion Post 209 Officers

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



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers

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



Sons of The American Legion Squadron

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



The American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers

President: Ed Santos	VP: Drew Pearson	Secretary: Mike Sylvester	Treasurer: Kellie Hayes 719.494.7167
Road Captain:	Historian: Scott Laudan	Communications:	



The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) Officers

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

FROM THE DESK & MIND OF THE COMMANDER



Elections will be conducted at our general membership meeting on 9 April. All positions are up for nomination. If you are interested in running or nominating an individual for a position or multiple positions, please contact our election chairperson, Marvin Weaver 719-638-4763 or weavermr@q.com. See the previous page for our current officers. All positions (some are appointed) are open.

The following is a short description for Post Officer positions.

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 role is membership. No Post can survive without a strong membership. You should 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 your Post. The Commander will depend on you to provide programs that spice up the meetings and attract attendance. You should contact other Veteran and civic organizations so that each patriotic holiday and observance receives the attention it deserves. You are concerned with the pageantry of the Legion. You should also be concerned with the welfare of all fellow Veterans as well as 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 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 visitations. 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, and 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 conduct of Post business or 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.

Joseph Schmidt
Post Commander



FROM OUR POST ELECTION NOMINATION CHAIRMAN

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

Marvin Weaver

Post Judge Advocate/Nomination Committee Chairman



FROM THE DESK OF THE POST ADJUTANT

If you have not renewed your membership for 2022 yet the following excerpt is from our Post Constitution. Please take heed.

Section 4 - A member whose dues for the current year have not been paid by January 1st, shall be classed as delinquent. If their dues are paid on or before February 1st, they shall be automatically reinstated. If still delinquent after February 1st, they shall be suspended from all privileges of membership. If still under suspension on June 30th of each year, membership in The American Legion shall be forfeited.

Your payment is vital in assisting veterans. Besides financial assistance needed by many of our brothers and sisters and their families, our numbers are what stands behind our dealings with The U.S. Congress. When The American Legion goes to Congress to discuss the needs of the American Veteran your membership numbers speak volumes. You joined the American Legion for a reason. We are all FAMILY. Please do not allow me to enforce this section of The American Legion Neal Thomas Jr Centennial Post 209 Constitution. It is easy to renew. Go to www.legion209.org or mail the renewal notification you received. Any questions call 719-599-8624 or Email to adjutant@legion209.org.

Jerry Hopper
Post Adjutant



Celebrate

At
American Legion
Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209

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



Rental Features:

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

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



For More Information

www.legion209.org/contact_us

(719) 599-8624

3613 Jeannine Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80917

*Additional cost may apply



FROM THE DESK OF THE SR. VICE COMMANDER

Well, we started a new year and it seems that COVID is sticking around a little bit longer. We did things a little bit differently at our January general membership meeting, and if you were here was pretty obvious. Some of our Post Officers were not able to attend, because they were either exposed to someone testing positive for COVID, or they are living with someone that had tested positive, so we set up a zoom call at the last minute. We will soon get past this but we may have to use this option again. As they say, stay tuned.

Membership is going well. We are only about 220 members away from achieving the target set for us by the Department. A reminder that if your current membership card does not say 2022 on it you are considered delinquent. Please get with Adjutant to renew or go onto our website legion209.org and renew using PayPal. Let's make this month our "Re-New Year" month.

After our General Membership meeting in February, we are going to have a mini-DMS event. DMS stands for Direct Mail Solicitation. When a member joins through DMS or goes to the National website and joins they are put into a holding Post at headquarters. What we will be doing is calling these members and asking them to transfer to our Post. This does two things; it gets the new member a feeling of belonging, and it keeps their dues local instead of staying in Denver or at National. If you would be willing to help with this, bring your cell phone and charger with you and stick around for another hour after the meeting and help us out with the phone calls.

Thanks for all you do to continue helping Veterans and our Post.

Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Sr. Vice Commander



FROM THE DESK OF THE JR. VICE COMMANDER

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the 12 February membership meeting at the Post. Our guest speaker will be McConnell Bristol who will speak on Boys State and Boys Nation. Post 209 sponsored McConnell to attend Boys State and he was elected as one of the two delegates to Boy's Nation out of his session. See you at the meeting!

Additionally, we are sad to report that we lost two of our Legion family in January. On 6 January, Jesse Black and Colleen Knapp were in a motorcycle accident in Willcox Arizona. Jesse was badly injured and Colleen passed due to her injuries. Jesse and Colleen recently married and moved to Arizona. With assistance from ALR and some Post members, Tom Foster was able to travel to Willcox to assist Jesse for the first week after he was released from the hospital. On the afternoon 8 January, Monk Baylis suffered a heart attack and passed. Monk was a Legion member and the ALR Communications Officer. He leaves his Wife Carrie and daughters Emmy and Callie. Please keep Jesse, Carrie, Emmy and Callie in your prayers as they endure through this terrible time.

Steve Hayes
Jr. Vice Commander



FROM THE DESK OF THE UNIT PRESIDENT



Happy February! As we start rolling into this new year, I would like to ask all of you to think about what you would like to accomplish this year. Is there something that you are passionate about that you would like to incorporate with your participation in the Auxiliary/Legion? We have a couple who mentioned hosting an event for

Victory Service dogs at the Post as this is an amazing program that assists so many Veterans. Maybe there is some type of community service you would like to propose to our Legion family. We should think about how we can do a bit more within our community, not just within our Post, so we can become more involved and offer our community as well as our members, more of what makes us such an amazing group of people.

Happy Birthday to our February Members: Diane Apperson, Michelle Bresee, Karen Cross, Makayla Dreiling, Patricia Martinez, Lisa Sedlak, Lynet Wesley, Tesia Barger, Eleanor Petersen.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly!

Royce Hopper
Unit President



FROM THE DESK OF OUR FINANCE OFFICER

The draft budget presented to the Executive Committee at the January meeting was accepted. This is something I expect to mature as we move forward and help provide a more solid plan for FY 2023. By having a documented and tracked budget, I hope this provides the opportunity to possibly find areas where cost-cutting ideas can be explored to help reduce expenses and strengthen the Post's finances. There will be more to come on this in future newsletter articles.

A couple of recommendations have been provided for a new tax preparer. I am checking out these recommendations to determine the best option for the Post to use for our 2021 (and future?) taxes. I plan to propose the use of the tax preparer who fits the needs of the Post "best" at the February Executive Committee Meeting. Since I have already begun the data gathering part of getting the Post 2021 taxes filed, I hope to have everything dropped off at the chosen preparer before the end of February.

And for my normal closing statement, the Post needs your help in identifying new fundraising ideas. We are still working to get back to pre-COVID status in order to keep supporting OUR Veterans in the community. Any fundraising idea – big, small, unconventional (think about the impact of Kellie's Stick Pony Race) – is worth consideration to help us get there. A little note to add here is that we will need your help with the implementation of your new idea if decided to move forward with it, especially if the idea is something you have done before.

Joel Haas
Finance Officer



FROM OUR AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS PRESIDENT

The start of year 2022 has been very emotional for the American Legion 209 Riders. We lost two riders, Philip "Monk" Baylis and Colleen Knapp, which has been very devastating for our group. We also pray for Jesse Black as he recovers from the motorcycle accident that took Colleen. We wish peace and comfort for Monk's family; Carrie, Emmy, and Callie, and for Jesse as they mourn their departed loved ones. Nevertheless, as both Monk and Colleen would have wanted, these events will not affect our commitment and efforts for the coming year. We are looking to surpass our involvement in support of our local Veteran and community efforts in the coming new year. As the schedule has been coordinated with the Vets for Vets organization, our calendar is again filled with both charitable and worthwhile events. Elections for new officers was held in January, and our hope is that we have more of our membership involved in 2022.

Ed Santos
President





Trivia Night!



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

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

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

How about Roy Rogers real name?

What is the President of the United States' address?

If you know the answers to the above and other questions similar to these, or if you fancy yourself a trivia wizard, join us on **Friday, 18 February, 2022 for our Trivia Night event.**

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

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

Cost to compete is \$5.00 per person.

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

FROM OUR LOUNGE MANAGER-FEB.

I would love to remind everyone that the museum is available daily! Feel free to take a look at the past or at the memorial wall and pay your respects to our gone but never forgotten loved ones.

If you would like to add someone to the memorial wall, please email your favorite digital picture with the name, birth date and the date they passed to be printed on the picture. This is at no cost to anyone.

We plan to add and expand the Post Museum! If you have military or Legion related items you think may be a good fit and would like to it have displayed, email with a picture and description.

Both memorial wall pictures and potential museums donations can be emailed to Charyse at cnbe89@gmail.com. Please feel free to reach out with any questions you have about the lounge, game room or museum.

Charyse Schmidt
Lounge Manager



FROM OUR POST HISTORIAN

Happy New Year everyone! I trust you have started off your year doing things that make you happy, fulfilled, and hopeful for what this year will bring you. I'm looking forward to seeing how our Post will go about Strengthening America, in our special corner of America. Among American Legion members, there is no rank or prejudice, only purpose. A veteran is a veteran. And the purpose of veterans in The American Legion is to strengthen the United States of America through programs, services, compassion and actions that have proven vital, timeless and life-changing for over a century. Our Post has contributed a lot as a Veteran Service Organization over the years since its inception, and I'm sure will continue to do so. With a new year comes the ability to start again, to renew yourself to your internal principles and morals, and to a cause of helping your fellow veterans if you so choose. The American Legion has a noble cause, mission, if you will. I fervently hope to see each of you receiving this newsletter either at a Post General Membership Meeting, a Post dinner, or at a Post event sometime this year. I hope to get more and more of you in photos doing great things For the Good of the Legion. Even during these trying times of a global pandemic, our Post has found a way to support the programs and services we have, and have overcome difficulties in order to make that happen. We are a resilient bunch, and I'm happy to count myself among your number to further the goals of our Post. I am ever proud of what our Post accomplishes, how we do it, and grateful to each of you that make it happen.

I hope you have been catching the photos and stories I've been sharing on the Post 209 Facebook page. I invite each of you to invite a veteran friend of yours on Facebook to "Like" our Page. If you have pictures or stories you would like to share, please email me at: historianstacey_post209@yahoo.com.

Stacey Ousley
Post Historian



THE AMERICAN LEGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (TALARC)

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

Spring Event – Fox Hunt April/May Timeframe. Transmitter hunting (also known as fox hunting, is an activity wherein participants use radio direction finding techniques to locate one or more radio transmitters hidden within a designated search area. If you are interested in participating in this intriguing and fun event--Call, email or text Harvey.



FROM OUR HONOR GUARD CAPTAIN

January has seen things starting to pick back up again (halfway through the month with three times as many requests as January 2021), so the team expects to be even busier this year. The Honor Guard members will be focusing on training for the different positions and activities the Honor Guard supports.

The Colorado Military Funeral Stipend Program has started with our Honor Guard participating in the pilot program (one of only two VSO Honor Guards chosen) to help the program manager identify issues to be resolved before the program opens to all VSO Honor Guards in Colorado. The Stipend Program pays VSO Honor Guards for providing Final Honors support for Veterans funerals, \$75 for the first funeral and possible expense reimbursement up to \$25 for each of the second through fourth funeral EACH day. These funds will provide the ability for the Honor Guard to do a lot more to grow and prepare for more events. In 2021, there were 77 Final Honors that would have counted if the program were in place. As stated above, we have been requested for three more Final Honors in January 2022 than last January (so far), showing that we should expect to have an even higher number of requests this year. With this increase, it is even more important for the Honor Guard to find additional members. So, keep an eye out in the next couple of newsletter articles for new incentives we are exploring to implement being an Honor Guard member and supporting Final Honors events.

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

Cell Phone: (330) 510-0411

Personal Email: valerie.al209honorguard@gmail.com

Legion209 Email: honor.guard@legion209.org

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

Joel Haas
Honor Guard Captain



FROM OUR POST CHAPLAIN

What's a "Chaplain"?

The term chaplain originates from the fourth century legend of Martin of Tours. Martin was born to a pagan family about 316 A.D. in Pannonia, a Roman Province that included modern Hungary. When he grew up, he became a Roman soldier. At approximately age 21, on a very cold, winter day, Martin passed by the gates of Amiens in Gaul (what is today France). He saw a man who was freezing by the side of the road. Martin was moved with compassion after seeing and hearing the pleas of the beggar being ignored by several others who had ridden by on their horses. He decided to help, though he had little himself. He took the one valuable possession he owned – his cape – and cut it in half with his sword. He kept half for himself and gave the other half to the beggar. That night, as the story goes, Martin had a vision in which he came to understand that the beggar was Christ Himself. The vision shook Martin to his core. After that experience, he decided to follow the Christian faith and was baptized by Bishop St. Hillary. Ultimately, Martin left the army to devote himself to the church.

During the Middle Ages, St. Martin's cloak was carried into battle by the kings as a banner signifying the presence of God. Since it was a relic of the church, a priest went along as custodian. This guardian of the cape, or capellanus (which became chapelein in Old French), tended to the king's religious needs. This is where the word chaplain comes from.

I like to say, "I'm a shepherd. It's what I do." As an American Legion Chaplain, my mission is twofold: to help Legionnaires others grow in their relationships with God and one another, and to minister to people wherever there is a need. Because the Legion embraces all religious faiths and denominations, I am asked to care for those who have a spiritual affiliation, and those who do not. In some cases, I may be the only minister a veteran will ever know. American Legion Chaplains may or may not be clergy. Their main requirements are to have a servant heart, spiritual maturity, and a commitment to the office.

We are in good company. Patrick Brady, MG, USA (Ret.) writes, "Some of our greatest generals, including George Washington and George Patton, believed prayer was a combat multiplier. General Washington founded the Chaplain Corps immediately after he set up his army. More than 400 military chaplains have died in the line of duty. Nine have been awarded the Medal of Honor." (The American Legion Magazine, December 2021) Military chaplains today represent more than 200 separate denominations. The past chaplains of Post 209 probably have a variety of backgrounds as well.

"Four Chaplains Sunday" (the first Sunday in February) recognizes the noble sacrifice of four chaplains in World War II. More than 79 years later, the story of these heroic chaplains – Methodist, Jewish, Roman Catholic, and Dutch Reformed – is still being told. This service is a tribute to those chaplains and to all who have served, whose courage and faith have sustained this great nation.

Chaplains are volunteers. The story goes in Isaiah 6:8 that through a vision from the Lord, Isaiah learns that the Lord is seeking a messenger to Judah. Isaiah had felt unworthy in the presence of God, but God sent an angel to touch Isaiah's lips with burning coal, thus purifying him. When God asked, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" Isaiah replied, "Here am I – send me."

Brad Henderson
Chaplain





AMERICAN LEGION POST 209

THE PREEMINENT VOICE FOR VETERANS • COLORADO SPRINGS, CO



WALK OF HONOR

Buy A Brick Fundraiser!

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



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

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



BRINGING A LITTLE SOUTH TO THE WEST

It's been said "Experience is the Best Teacher." I, for one believe that to be an absolute truth. Don't get me wrong, I believe formal education is important. But as a rule, degrees rarely teach life lessons, rather they teach theory. Life lessons can only be learned through the bumps and bruises we get as we travel down the path of life.

With that said, there have been several "Life Lessons" I have learned over the years I've trod this earth. Some are pretty funny, but all are real. I want to share a few of them with you.

Toilet Paper should always be mounted on the roller with the paper over the top, not fed from underneath. This prevents accidental unrolling of too much paper for the job needed to be done.

When riding in a pickup truck or car with a bench seat in the front, (no console, good luck finding one these days) always sit in the center. You may think this is the most uncomfortable place to sit, but you won't be the one to have to get out and open the gate or get the mail.

Bullies **rarely** act as bullies when alone. They need the support of their "crew" to watch so they can be admired for their stupid actions, and as a backup if they pick on the wrong person. Most bullies actually act somewhat normal and even pleasant when alone. So, if you want to get back at a bully, wait until they are alone. But be careful that you don't become the very person you are taking revenge upon.

Never spit into the wind. 'Nuff' said! If you don't understand the logic to this, you're probably wasting your time reading this article.

Never, Ever ride on a Pickup Running Board! And if you do, don't try to reach out and pull sunflowers as you pass the field. They are deeply rooted and you will be jerked off the running board. This tends to hurt pretty bad. Personal experience taught me this lesson. What can I say?

If you're riding horses, especially on your way back to the stables, hang on tight! They can sense they are going home and are anxious to get there. It is unlikely you can do anything to stop their full-out gallop, so enjoy the ride. And if you have an onery horse (I'm about to think that's the only kind) and are taking a nice relaxing ride down a dirt road through the woods, make certain you "duck" when your steed decides to mosey over toward a low-hanging limb that stretches across the path. Your horse will know to duck, you should also. Rolling off the back of the horse doesn't feel good. Yep, another life lesson learned through personal experience. The horse will think it's funny, you won't.

When volunteering for a task, make certain you fully understand what you have just raised your hand to do. For example, if you have been assigned to KP (Kitchen Patrol) duty and ask a squad member who just completed their KP the day before what job to ask the Mess Sergeant to perform, make certain you can trust the person giving you advice or you may wind up in "Pots and Pans!"

I firmly believe Association Leads to Assimilation. Be careful in whose company you are seen. It can be good for you or it can tag you as "one of them." The worst part is the more you associate, the more likely one of you will begin to take on some of the characteristics of the other, in thoughts and actions. If it's you who needs to alter your behavior and the person with whom you are hanging out with has a stellar reputation and/or fine qualities, great! But, if you are trying to help them change their ways, be very, very careful. It may backfire and then you are "one of them!" And you may not even recognize the change. But, rest assured, others will.

On a small farm, everything and everybody has a job; there are no pets or loafers, even a King Snake works. They are great for keeping other snakes, mice, rats, and unwanted house guests away.

There are many other Life Lessons I could share, and that may be a later article. In the meantime, I'm going to find me a King Snake and stay off Pickup Truck Running Boards!

Jay Bowen
Past Post Commander



FROM THE MIND OF PAST COMMANDER JAY

I've never claimed to be creative or poetic. Although, my two sons possess great creative skills, so I guess it doesn't matter if I have them. But I recently found the below I put together about 13 years ago after seeing something on the news that struck a chord. I don't take to Facebook when I want to vent, but I will occasionally put my thoughts down and save it for later. This is later.

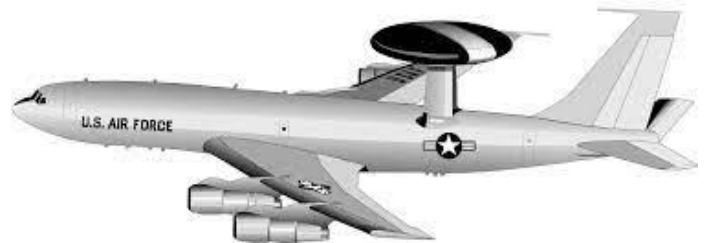
For Now They Stand The Guard Thoughts by Past Commander Jay Bowen


















I heard you on the air tonight,
Spout your words of hate.
You spoke of problems with our land;
Our leaders you tend to denigrate.
There was a time I'd get angry,
When I'd hear such disregard,
For don't you know you slapped the face
Of Those Who Stood The Guard?

Then I remembered,
Why we serve, a Nation we hold so dear.
It's for freedom, and then I thought,
You can only say that here.
So, when you share your views tonight,
It will bring me fond regard,
For I know you are safe because,
I know we stood the Guard.

Now as you lay asleep at night,
And dream of righteousness.
You can start again tomorrow,
To make a holy mess.
You don't even stop to ponder,
How your attacks are often hard,
For you don't even know; you have no idea,
What it took to stand the Guard.

My time has come to step aside,
To a new and willing team.
They will sail the seas or fly the skies,
Or on the ground they'll be.
But I will not worry nor will I pause,
Of security in my own back yard.
Because I know it is in the best of hands,
For Now They Stand The Guard.



February 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Groundhog Day	3 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	4 Price Depends on Menu Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm	5
6	7 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	8 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	9 Marksmanship 4:00pm 	10 Young Guns 6:30pm 	11 Price TBD AUX. Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	12 \$9/\$10 b'fast per person Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00  
13	14 Valentine's Day Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm Happy Valentine's Day!	15 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm ALR Exec. Mtng ALR 6:00pm.  	16 Marksmanship 4:00pm 	17 Young Guns 6:30pm 	18 \$17/Person Steak Night! 6:00pm RSVP Required!  Trivia Night!	19
20	21 Presidents Day Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	22 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:30pm  	23 Marksmanship 4:00pm 	24 Young Guns 6:30pm  TALARC EC Meeting 5:00pm	25 Price TBD Chef's Choice Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	26 Healing Warriors! 9:00am - 1:00pm
27	28 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	Notes:				

March 2022 Events of Note:

Daylight Saving Time Starts – 13 March
American Legion Birthday! – 15 March
Beware The Ides of March! – 15 March
St. Patrick's Day! – 17 March
Trivia Night! – 18 March
First Day of Spring! – 20 March

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