



A NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR AMERICAN LEGION

CENTENNIAL POST 209

JUNE THOMAS, COMMANDER

"A LITTLE POST GOING PLACES AND DOING BIG THINGS"

PLEASE DIRECT ALL QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS TO THE POST HOME
1337 N ACAD BLVD, CO SPGS, CO 80909 TEL 591-2272

FEBRUARY 1992

OFFICERS

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SR VICE CDR LOUIS MIKULECKY
JR VICE CDR QUINN MCNEIL
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FINANCE OFFICER HARRY JOHNSON
SGT AT ARMS ALTON CYRIAQUE
CHAPLAIN TOM HABAN
HISTORIAN GLENN HART
SERVICE OFFICER HOWARD HORNIK
JUDGE ADVOCATE FLOYD BUFKIN
POST EXEC COMMITTEEMAN
NEAL THOMAS

FROM THE COMMANDER

I am elated at the progress of our "little" Post. Truly, we are "going places" and "doing big things!" We have surpassed our membership goals and I mean "our entire Legion Family!"

Yes, the Sons led the way in reaching goal, followed by the Legion and completed by the Auxiliary. Congratulations to each of you for making this possible.

Now, Commander June, you should be satisfied..but I cannot be until every member reinstates his/her membership for the 1991-1992 year. As I said, we are a family; each member is important to the well being of this Post/Auxiliary and S.A.L. Squadron. We need to know that you are well informed through "The Colorado Legionnaire" and "The American Legion Magazine" on the progress or regression regarding "us" as veterans. When we are uninformed on what is taking place at home and nationally, we could easily lose the privileges and benefits we have today as veterans.

For those who were not at the last general meeting, I announced that we have 23 months before we must be in our new Post Home. That does not give us much time to raise the necessary funding. We paid cash for our land and could start a second Bingo (our biggest money maker) if we had enough workers. Please make yourself available. WE NEED YOU!!!

We have taken the requests you sent in (Thank You) and are presenting them to architects who will be meeting with us in February.

I would like to thank those of you who went with us to present the American and Colorado Flags to the city of Victor in January. It was a beautiful ceremony and our District Officers and Honor Guard were were in full support.

My thanks to Bessie Franks, an Auxiliary member with a long list of credentials in music and choreography, for proposing "A Salute to Veterans" planned for early May, '92. All proceeds will go to the Legion's Temporary Family Assistance Program (TFA).

Don't forget to put the March 7, 1992 American Legion Birthday Dinner on your calendar.

Thank you for your support. We know there is strength in unity...and together, we are winners!

JUNE THOMAS
COMMANDER

FROM THE SENIOR VICE CDR

We have surpassed all of our goals in regards to membership for 1992 and have not stopped yet. I would like to thank all of those Legionnaires who have either renewed their membership or joined Centennial Post 209.

In the last Department bulletin, we were informed that because the permanent membership plan went to a year round program, the cutoff for the drawing of permanent membership award has been extended to 31 May 1992. This means that the name of anyone signing up a new member by that cutoff date will be included in the drawing at Department Convention in June at Fort Collins.

LOUIS MIKULECKY
SR VICE CDR

FROM THE AGITATOR

In one of my last articles, I wrote concerning a proposal from the VA to allow non-veterans on Medicare and Medicaid the right to utilize the VA Hospital. Well, it has happened. I think it was in last Friday's Gazette Telegraph that the article told of two test sites which have been selected.

I cannot tell you what this will do to Veterans' care. We continue to hear and read stories concerning the unhealthy environment which veterans have to put up with in some VA Hospitals.

As you will see when reading further into this month's newsletter, some of the stories are true. I cannot see how the VA can even think of treating non-veterans on medicare and medicaid when it cannot even treat veterans as it is mandated to do.

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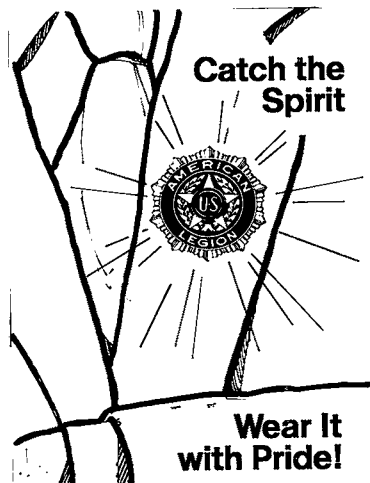
If some of the information in the articles provided make you upset, you should also read this month's Legionnaire Magazine in which are articles concerning homeless veterans and their plight.

All I can say at this point is if you are upset with what is happening, just think how upset you will be when they start attacking your pensions and disability payments which are at this minute being considered for the budget axe.

We have interesting activities coming up within the state of Colorado for the month of February and March.

February 14-16 is the Department Mid-Year Conference being held at the Hilton Inn South, Chambers and I-25 in Denver. It promises to be something unique and informative. If you can get away from your other activities, come on up and join us. We will be more than happy to introduce you to other Legionnaires, Auxiliary members and SAL members from all over the state.

March 15 is the official birthday of the American Legion; however, on March 7, we will celebrate the American Legion Birthday with a dinner and speaker.



If you would like to attend, please notify either myself at work, 579-5798/5672 or home 590-1369, or call the Post and let the bartender know how many are coming. The cutoff for reservations for this function will be 29 of February.

It is time to start thinking about the election of officers for the upcoming year. If you would like to become an officer of this Post, please contact me and I will be more than happy to provide you with a job descriptions of whichever office you might seek.

LARRY L. JOHNSON
ADJUTANT

CLUB MENU

This month is going to be something different. Each week will be a surprise as it is going to be COOK'S choice and BARTENDER'S CHOICE.

In order to find out what the specials are, you will have to either call the Post or come in and see for yourself.

LOUIS MIKULECKY
CLUB MANAGER

ADDRESS CHANGED?

A reminder that saving postage is important. Please send us a change of address and phone number as soon as you have one.

FROM THE UNIT

A new secretary was elected at our last meeting. She is Dorothy Dassero. Dot is not new to the unit or the Auxiliary. She is Past President of Dickey-Springer Unit in Alamosa and has held other unit and district offices in Alamosa and Orange County, California. Dot will be an asset to our unit. Welcome, Dot.

We have several new members this year and I would like to have more of them attending the meetings and participating in our projects.

There are still some of you who have not renewed your membership for 1992. Please send your dues to the Post or come down for lunch and pay them in person.

BETTY MIKULECKY
PRESIDENT

VETS GET UNHEALTHY CARE AT SOME VA SITES. GAO SAYS

Several allegations raised before the House Subcommittee on Human Resources and Intergovernmental Relations in recent testimony by Mary Ann Curran, a registered nurse with the General Accounting Office who headed up a study of VA health care quality.

At one medical center, post-operative notes were not signed by supervisory physicians in 75 percent of the cases.

Curran said, "We discovered several cases of patients who had died because of errors made by unsupervised interns or residents.

The purpose of the investigation was to evaluate the quality of health care at VA hospitals. Curran said an examination of records showed several hospitals with large numbers of patient complications and other indicators of substandard health care.

Each year, VA hospitals provide inpatient and outpatient care to more than 22 million veterans. "Our system gives quality care to our veterans and this fact is widely recognized," said Dr James W. Holsinger, Jr., VA's chief medical director, testifying before the subcommittee.

Holsinger outlined to the subcommittee various programs and policies his office established to ensure veterans are receiving quality health care.

"Our patients are older, sicker, and more complex than the average patient. This makes it even more important that we constantly improve our system."

Curran also visited six VA hospitals to determine if computer analysis of problems actually reflected the quality of care given to veterans.

In many cases, attending physicians did not examine patients. In one case, a patient lost a leg because he was not checked regularly.

"In another case", Curran said, "a patient's body was cold upon examination by a doctor, indicating that the patient had been dead for several hours before anyone discovered him."

Curran said one of the worst cases she witnessed was at the Cheyenne VA Medical Center where a patient with bladder cancer was forced to wait for treatment because the staff urologist had resigned over a contract dispute. After 454 days, a surgical officer asked the hospital's intensive care unit director to examine the patient. He found the patient restrained in his bed, suffering with an untreated infection. The veteran was transferred to Denver VAMC where he later died.

American Legion officials said the report reflected the consequences of under budgeting VA medical programs.

"Spending for these programs has been dismal over the last decade," said John Hanson, director of the Legion's VA & R Division in Washington.

VA inspector, General Stephen A. Trodden, whose office is responsible for constant monitoring of health care and its delivery, said that improvements have been made since Holsinger took over as chief medical director in 1990.

ACTIONS SPEAK
LOUDER THAN WORDS
WITH TFA
AND FAMILY SUPPORT
NETWORK SERVICES

Thanks to the American Legion's Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA). It's a marvelous program which has been around since 1925, helping veterans, their spouses and more importantly, their children.

By design, TFA is geared to provide temporary cash aid to ensure that families, despite whatever obstacles they face, are not split apart. The Legion always maintained the strength of the family is its unity.

The Family Support Network of the American Legion was launched in October 1990 to help families grapple with a variety of problems caused by military mobilization.

Although the winds of Desert Storm have long since passed, the Family Support Network continues to help military families and has become the newest permanent program of the American Legion.

Indeed, thanks to your compassion and dedication, the success of TFA and the Family Support Network are not mere "paper" programs, they're people programs which lend a hand when it's needed the most.

SIGNED: DOMINIC D. DiFRANCESCO
NATIONAL COMMANDER
THE AMERICAN LEGION

TEMPORARY
FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM

Administered through the National Americanism and Children and Youth Division, TFA has assisted the children of thousands of needy veterans.

"Since 1925, the Temporary Financial Assistance program has been a lifesaver for families in a bind who have tried but couldn't get help from VA, the government or social services agencies," said Eugene V. Linquist, chairman of the Children and Youth Commission.

To be eligible, an applicant must be a war era, honorably discharged veteran. The veteran, however, does not have to be a legionnaire to receive assistance.

Another prime consideration are the needs of minor children in the home.

The Post forwards the application to the Department Adjutant and Children and Youth Chairman for review.

Two types of grants are available, and one or both may be awarded to needy families. Maintenance grants provide money for food, shelter, utilities, household supplies or other specified needs based on the recommendations of a Department's Children & Youth Chairman.

A medical grant can be used for basic medical and dental care, surgery, dietary needs, even hospitalization. Medical grants require a written statement from the care provider specifying the problem, treatment plan and estimated cost. The grants are for existing medical needs and cannot cover previous medical expenses.

Qualify Your Post For The "Court of Honor"

REMEMBER YOUR FIRST AEROBICS CLASS?

It's hard for some people to believe, but there was a time when aerobics classes were *free*. In fact Uncle Sam paid us \$80.00 a month just to show up.

Of course our exercise classes were known as calisthenics ... the only music was a 5 a.m. tune called reveille ... and no one would have dared suggest our instructors wear the latest designer leotards.

But we endured those weather-beaten days on the drill field because we knew personal fitness was not our only goal. National fitness was. The responsibility for keeping the American people safe and free was ours ... and if it meant doing push-ups at 0500 hrs, that's what we did.

A lot of things have changed over the years, but at least two things are still the same ... You will have a hard time getting a veteran to pay to do push-ups, no matter how popular it becomes ... and you can count on the members of The American Legion to speak out for a strong National Defense.

Who will help the nation remember how hard it is to be prepared for war, if we don't.



Renew your membership today
... because doing nothing is not
an option.

VETERAN'S DATA RECORD

(Please Print)

The American Legion has fully accredited Service Officers located in each VA Regional Office. These representatives are at your service to help develop and file claims and assist you and/or your dependents in applying for the various benefits you may be entitled to. Local American Legion Posts generally have a Post Service Officer who can provide guidance necessary in filing your claim. It is recommended that you list numbers and locations of the following noted items so that your family will have the details necessary to file for benefits if you are incapacitated or deceased.

You should file this form in a safe place at home or provide it to your Post for safekeeping.

Full Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Location of Birth Certificate _____

Soc. Sec. No. _____ Military Svc. No. _____

Branch of Service _____ Location of entry into Service _____

Dates of Service _____ Discharge Type _____

Name/Address of Those you Served with _____

_____ Places Served _____

VA Claim No. _____ County/State where Discharge is recorded _____

Spouse's Full Name _____ Date/Place of Marriage _____

Location of Marriage Certificate _____

Names of Children _____

Location of your Children's Birth Certificates _____

Other Information:

Wills _____ Mortgage _____

Insurance _____ Bank Accounts _____

Miscellaneous:

You have earned the right to certain veterans benefits. Use this form to make it easier for your family in case of an emergency. Make sure to retain a copy for your own records.

THIS FORM IS PROVIDED BY THE POST FOR YOUR USE, IF NECESSARY! If you would like a copy kept in your confidential record at the Post, please make arrangements with the office by calling 591-1952, generally during 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

March 1992 CENTENNIAL 209 ACTIVITIES

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| 1 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN | 2 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN | 3 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN 7:00 PM MOM'S MTG | 4 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN 5:45 PM CIVITIAN'S MEETING 7:00 PM POST EXEC MTG | 5 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN | 6 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN 7:00 PM BINGO REA # 1 834 EMORY CIRCLE | 7 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN 6:30 PM AMERICAN LEGION BIRTHDAY DINNER |
| 8 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN 1:00 PM DISTRICT MEETING 2:00 PM 8 AND 40 MTG | 9 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN 8:00 PM 40 & 8 MTG POST 5 | 10 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN | 11 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN | 12 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN | 13 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN 7:00 PM BINGO REA # 1 834 EMORY CIRCLE | 14 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN |
| 15 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN | 16 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN | 17 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN 7:00 PM MOM'S MTG | 18 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN 5:45 PM CIVITIAN'S | 19 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN 7:00 PM GEN MBRSHIP MTG | 20 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN 7:00 PM BINGO REA # 1 834 EMORY CIRCLE | 21 9:00 AM WAC'S MEETING 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN |
| 22 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN | 23 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN | 24 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN 7:00 PM AMVEIS 7:00 PM GUN CLUB | 25 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN | 26 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN | 27 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN 7:00 PM BINGO REA # 1 834 EMORY CIRCLE | 28 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN |
| 29 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN | 30 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN | 31 11:00 AM CLUB OPEN | | | | |

February

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| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |

April

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FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

