

The Centennial



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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander



As I sit drinking the first coffee of the day, I look out at the Peak and understand why many of us are here in this community-to enjoy the beauty and share with others this great land. As a Post, we are continuing to help Veterans and their families each and every day. The new year brings opportunity to make this mission even greater. We are bringing together Veterans to help Veterans. Please get involved or show your reassurance by supporting the Post.

This past week, the Department Commander, Department Sr. Vice, Post Adjutant, and myself got to recognize several folks in the community who helped with our mission. As you may recall, last November the Post and Great Clips got together to raise money for military children in the community. The stylists who participated were visited and personally recognized for their support and great work in this endeavor. Colorado Springs was one of several cities across the country that was chosen to work with Great Clips in the "Buzz Cut Challenge." This endeavor at the Post yielded the largest amount of funds than any other city in the country. What a super job and achievement. With sadness, we lost one of the stylists who participated. During the recognition day, the team was able to meet his mother and present her with his certificate posthumously. Thank you all for your support and participation.

As you read this newsletter, the Mid-year Conference will have happened in Longmont. Talk to those that attended and see what we are doing in the coming year. Some of the topics were membership, Veteran benefits, and program development. These things are the future of The American Legion. It is necessary and of importance to talk to others about The American Legion. It is a time to reach out to the younger Veterans and see what they need to get involved. We are trying to dispel myths about The American Legion and encourage younger Veterans and their families to come visit.

The 4th Saturday of the month, beginning in February, our Department Service Officers will be back at Post 209 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. They are here to help all Veterans who have questions or need assistance with benefits. Please share this information with all Veterans in the community. This is a community service to all Veterans and not just to members of The American Legion. We would like to offer information about The American Legion and show what The American Legion Family can do for them.

There are going to be folks from National coming to Colorado Springs, so please look at the calendar. It is an opportunity for you to meet them and see what they are offering for the future. The National President of the Women's Auxiliary will be at Post 209 on April 17, 2016. The National Commander will be in Colorado Springs on May 24, 2016. This will be a chance for him to continue with his "Walk for Veterans" campaign. Please watch for each of these events and plan to attend. It is a chance to ask your questions and meet those who have led us over the last year.

The Super Bowl party is coming on February 7th at the Post. Please tell everybody that likes football. It is a chance to have comradeship and yell for your team. Details in this Newsletter edition.

Over the next several months, the Executive Committee will continue to work on reducing expenses at the Post and help achieve our goal of maintaining positive funds for the year. We will be starting a Brick fundraiser this coming month. Details and orders will begin soon. Please be on the lookout.

Our membership is coming along. I need your help in the next month with our membership. Please get out and talk to Veterans and tell them about Post 209. We have the Direct Mail Solicitation (DMS) coming up February 26-28. The group will start at Post 209 on February 26 and finish at Post 209 on February 28. On February 27, the group(s) will be at Post 38 in Security. Please ask us how you can help. We need volunteers to make calls and tell folks about The American Legion. These folks are current members, but are not assigned to a Home Post. Our duty for these days is to get them to a Home Post so they can enjoy The American Legion Family and understand the available benefits.

For God and Country, in God We Trust

Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com or Kariann Smith (520)-784-3193 kariannsmith@me.com



From the Unit 209 President - February

Jackie Bowen

Join me in welcoming our newest member Donna Rae Smith. Donna transferred from IL.

Help me wish Erica Billiard, Joann Bramble, Shirley Chapman, Bonnie Lloyd, Patricia Martinez, Luella Nell, & Dawn Schubert HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

I want to thank Joyce Taylor for getting the paperwork sent through for our Auxiliary Unit to obtain our raffle license. Now we can hold raffles without going through the Legion.

Our Auxiliary Unit is collecting toiletry items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, etc. for the annual Homeless Veterans Stand Down in Oct. I know this seems a little early to begin collecting items for Oct. but we had to make a trip to the store to pick up more items during the Stand Down last year. Another popular item was decks of cards. When buying the toiletries please don't forget the personal female items. We are also helping the Vet Center with coffee each month. If you would like to donate your spare change to offset the cost, it would be greatly appreciated. If you like you could even supply some coffee, creamer, or sugar for this worthwhile cause. At our meeting in November Brian Murphy spoke to us about the Vet Center. Thank you in advance for your help with these donations.

Since Easter is the last Sunday in March, we will be selling Butter Braids beginning February 5th and ending March 11th. The delivery date will be March 16th.

If you are available to volunteer for any of our dinners or breakfasts please contact me via email jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com or by phone (719) 574-1223. If you can't carry the trays to the tables maybe you could help with the dishes, sweeping, or washing off the tables. Your support would also be appreciated by attending these events.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly



Yum, Yum, Eat'em up!! Butter Braid Sale



Starting February 5, 2016, we will be doing another Butter Braids sale. Tell your friends, neighbors, and your neighbors' friends about the sale. Please turn in orders no later than March 3, 2016. Delivery date is March 16, 2016 at 1:00pm. Make checks payable to ALA Unit 209. We need the payment before the delivery date. You may call Jackie Bowen, (719) 574-1223, with an order and then mail a check to her or discuss receipt of payment when you call. Thanks in advance for helping us make this a success.

FLAVORS:

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Caramel Rolls (9 rolls) | Cherry |
| Apple | Blueberry |
| Cinnamon | Strawberry & Cream Cheese |



From the Historian - Buy your flag from the American Legion, and help Post 209!

Eric Testorff



If you intend to buy a flag, you can specify that 10% of your purchase price go to American Legion Post 209. The flags are the best quality and a great price! For example, a 4x6 nylon flag with embroidered stars sells at Lowe's for around \$26. At AmericanLegionFlags.com it is \$19.95 AND 10% of your purchase price goes to Post 209! Just be sure to specify "Colorado Post 209." Here's how to do it:

AmericanLegionFlags.com also has state flags, auto flags, casket flags, grave marker flags, service flags, POW/MIA flags, Purple Heart and even Medal of Honor flags. They sell indoor flags and outdoor flags of every size type and quality. And best of all, your Post will receive 10% of the purchase price!

Tell your friends. Tell your company, your school, your church, your organization!



The American Legion Junior Shooting Postal Competition was held on December 9th and 10th at Post 209. Ten shooters participated and some very good scores were recorded. Targets have been sent in to CMP for scoring and official results are now available. Scores are recorded for individuals and for teams of four. The top four scores will be Team 1, the next four will be team 2 etc. Official results can now be viewed at <https://ct.thecmp.org/app/v1/index.php?do=match&task=edit&match=13464>

The next Junior Shooting class at Post 209 will begin on Wednesday February 10th, 2016 at 6:30 PM. As of this writing, the class has just one opening left. If you would like information about classes please contact Ken Taylor at 719-761-4047 or email at adjutantsal209@gmail.com.



2016 Membership Drive - February Senior Vice Commander Lino Calica

The membership count as of January 2016 is 886, for Centennial Post 209, this count includes those who have renewed and newly signed members. As of January 15, we are approximately 114 members short of Commander Gregory Smith's goal of 1000 members. I challenge all members to talk to your friends and family, and recruit just 1 new member. If we all work together, we will be able to meet and beat the Commander's goal. However, if we recruit at least 171 members, it would give our post the opportunity to be the #1 American Legion Post in the state of Colorado for membership.

Who is Eligible to be a member of the American Legion?

Eligibility for American Legion membership is limited to honorably discharged Veterans and current personnel of the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force or Coast Guard who served at least one day of active duty during any of the following periods.

World War II: December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946 (except that for the **U.S. Merchant Marine** eligibility dates are December 7, 1941 to August 16, 1945)

Korean War: June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955

Vietnam War: February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975

Lebanon and Grenada: August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984

Panama: December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990

Persian Gulf War and **Global War on Terrorism**: August 2, 1990 to present

Membership peaked for the Legion right after World War II, when enrollments doubled from 1.7 million to 3.3 million. After the Korean War, there were 2.5 million Legionnaires. As Baby Boomers joined, membership increased to 3.1 million in 1992. However, membership has slowly been declining since then. In 2013, the Legion reported 2.3 million members.

The SAL and Auxiliary needs assistance in recruiting for their programs. While talking about the American Legion to family and friends, include the programs offered by them and of course all the other different programs. The key to growth and success at Centennial Post 209 is to lead by example and to serve the needs of our Veterans and their families. Remember the 3R's:

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

Mahalo nui loa,
(Thank you)



From the Jr. Vice Commander - February Mike Barger

With this Post getting ever so close to being the largest in the state, you would think we'd have to turn away folks that want to step up and volunteer, but we aren't. It appears that we have one or two certain groups of people that want to make a difference and will step up and do what is needed to help the Veteran in need. I know we have those that will always help financially, but we don't have enough of those that can help out physically. One way that we can all step up and volunteer is to come forward to this Post with ideas on how we can stay solvent and keep these doors open, to help those that need the help from us. Those certain groups can't do it all, and I'm challenging every one of you to think of and come up with ideas on how we can continue to grow and make this home to all of us and to those that want to become members and join our family. Here's an idea I'd like to throw out. I've heard from many of our current members and from others that aren't members, but would like to become members, why aren't we open more days of the week? Wouldn't it be nice if one day you're driving home from work and you say to yourself? "I think I'm going to stop by and say hello to my fellow brothers and sisters and maybe drink a cold one before going home." We have enough members that I can't see why we couldn't do this.

Check out our newly elected ALR board members on page 11 of this Newsletter. Congratulations to all!

Lastly, due to inflation, we have raised our monthly ALR dinner to \$9. Spaghetti is still \$10 when served.

Remember, we serve God, Family and The Legion, always keeping in mind our fellow Legionaries who are in need of some help along the way...

To Remember, Honor and Teach: A Journey With Wreaths Across America

Chris Kinnard - Auxiliary Unit 209

As a Gold Star Wife, Christmas can often be an emotional time, even so many years after my husband, Jim, was killed in Viet Nam. This past year, I was blessed to spend part of the Christmas season with an amazing group of volunteers from Wreaths Across America. Founded by Morrill and Karen Worcester, Wreaths Across America remembers and honors our fallen heroes each Christmas by placing donated wreaths at more than 1,100 National Cemeteries and Memorials both stateside and overseas. I was in a convoy of 38 vehicles that escorted 11 Semi's full of wreaths from Maine to Arlington National Cemetery. Along the way, we were accompanied by state and local police, Patriot Riders, and firemen.



I was so touched by not only the thousands of volunteers who donated their time and money to transport and place the wreaths, but also by the countless patriots who stood diligently by the road as we passed, waving flags and showing love and support for the convoy and what it represented.

Despite the cold and wind, whether the convoy was early or late, everywhere we went there was a greeting of smiling faces and fluttering red, white and blue flags as people showed up in droves to show support for our fallen heroes.

We stopped at several schools along the way to present special wreaths to the students. Every school had a special ceremony to receive their wreath and show respect for who it represented. It was such a healing experience to be part of a group of people dedicated to all those who have given their lives for our country, and to see the vibrant patriotism that is alive and well in the youth of our nation.



One of the many highlights of my journey came from a little boy named Miles, the six year old grandson of the Worcesters. As I stood at The Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, Miles approached one of our volunteers who had served in Vietnam. This remarkable young boy thanked him for his service. He understood that my husband's name was on The Wall and when I showed him where it was, he reached out, ran his fingers across the marble and spoke Jim's name out loud. When a wreath is placed on a tombstone, it is tradition to read the name out loud. As long as there is someone to place a wreath and say that person's name, they are remembered and they are not forgotten.

I cannot express deeply enough the gratitude and pride I feel, knowing that those who have made the ultimate sacrifice are not forgotten, and that they are being honored and remembered by people like the volunteers of Wreaths Across America. It was one of the most emotional weeks of my life, and I feel so very blessed to have been a part of it. We must all remember and honor our veterans, and teach our children of the sacrifices they have made for our freedom.



DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE FROM THE VA? Help has Arrived

What? Beginning February, our American Legion Department Service Office will be in Colorado Springs the 4th Saturday of Every Month during most of 2016.

Where? Centennial Post 209 at 3613 Jeannine Drive.

Time? 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Why? To assist our local Veterans with Claims and to Provide Information Related to Their Medical Benefits.

FAQ:

Do I have to be a member of The American Legion?

No. We Will Offer Assistance to Any Qualified Veteran.

Do I need an Appointment?

No, but it is Recommended. Call 303-914-5585 to Make an Appointment, but Walk-ins are Welcome.

What Do I Bring?

DD214, as well as the following that pertains to your situation: Marriage Certificate; Divorce Decree; Death Certificate; and any Civilian Medical Records.



Tell your Veteran Friends and Neighbors!





From The Commander Squadron 209 - February

Rick Kettering

While trying to come up with a topic for this article I was drawing a blank. Then something as simple as going to the store to pick up sauerkraut for New Year's Day dinner changed everything.

I met a fellow Air Force Veteran outside the store collecting donations for the group he works with providing dogs to help Veterans with PTSD. As I was blindly walking into the store he called out to me as I was wearing my hat that said Air Force Veteran. I walked over to him and we exchanged New Year wishes. He proceeded to give me a small flat pin with two flags on it saying "from one Veteran one to another". He then told me his name was Bubba, and said "you know like Forest Gump." To most people it would look like an inexpensive little thing.



He then proceeded to tell me some of his story. He served multiple tours in Vietnam as an aircraft mechanic. One day while working on a plane on the flight line the base came under attack from a tree line along the edge of the flight line. He couldn't get behind his toolbox fast enough and was hit in the leg. There were 4 Marines nearby and they raced to his position to assist him. They took turns popping up and returning fire from behind the tool box until all the ammo that was there was expended. The only thing that got them out was a C130 gunship called "Puff the Magic Dragon." It leveled the entire area. After it was over they found 26 bodies. They had come in through tunnels to make their attack. He was told after the fact that his toolbox took 60 hits during the fire fight. After his leg was repaired with steel pins and a new knee he returned to duty.

He then proceeded to tell me how he came into the military at a time when it was not a popular thing to do during the 1960's. He and 13 of his friends that he grew up with all joined the military on the same day. They all went into the Marines and the Army. He was the only one to choose the Air Force. I then found out the real cost of this little pin. He told me that he lost every one of his friends all on the same day, and that living with that was still hard to deal with all these years later. So when people see this little flag pin they will think that I am just being patriotic, but to me it is a reminder of 13 boyhood friends that went to war to give me the freedoms that I have but never returned to enjoy those freedoms themselves. I will never look at this pin without thinking of the lives that it now represents to me.

So in closing I want to say to all my Brothers and Sisters in Arms both living and gone, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you gave to this great country we call home.

For God and Country,



From the Adjutant - February

Marvin Weaver, Jr.

The Annual Report is submitted each year to tell our story and let Department and National know what we have done for the past year. This report is important because National uses the information to compile from all the Posts within the American legion to report to Congress what we have done to help out Veterans and Children. What I need is for you to please list all the hours, mileage and money you have volunteered for the past year. If you are not sure where it may fall still let me know and I will report your hours in the proper area.

Don't forget that Department has membership drive contest ongoing. They will be giving away \$500 three more times this year. Both the new member and the recruiter will be entered into the drawing. The next drawing will be at Department Mid-Year Conference with two more drawings to be held on The American legion Birthday, and Department Convention. The sooner that you recruit a new member the more drawings and chances you have at the \$500.



American Legion Riders *Motorcycle Minute* - February Andy Gilbert, ALR President

Let me start with Happy Valentines Day. January has come and gone and hopefully the bone chilling cold.

Yes, it is time to get our motor buggies up and running. Some of us did not mind riding in December and January. Hmmm Hard core or Crazy. You decide. Biker's ball is now on our radar screen. This fundraiser brings joy to Vets in the McCandless Veterans home in Florence. As you know, we will raise the money at the Bikers Ball and present a check when we drop by in the summer at the BBQ. Our retired Veterans always enjoy hearing the bikes roaring up the drive. As we melt into the crowd, folks repeat their war and bike episodes with us. It's a time of great joy for us all. It's a great time for us to never forget those who served.

As with any great organization, we must set our goals for next year. Let's all focus on bringing one additional new rider each to the organization. Again, people we would like to spend time with. Remember to welcome spouses into AL, SAL, and Aux at the same time. As our family grows, we have the capability to serve more Veterans and to have a great time.

With this further growth, we should see what we can do to improve the Post. There is a vision for the future to build an outdoor patio where we can enjoy the outdoors on pretty days and maybe have a place for smokers. We will need to tear out the old concrete, pour a new pad and move the storage shed. We then will have room for outside tables. A new enclosed fence will keep our outdoor activities private. Once this is complete, we would like to change out those old single pane windows with more efficient type. We sure could use a smaller utility bill. A few people have expressed an interest in helping in this venture. Let's do it. The fun part is figuring out how to pay for it. If you have time talent or treasures that can help this project come together, please call me. We need a list of talents that can be used not only for the Post but also to further business in the Post families.

As an example, Marty fixed an old truck bed for me. The new bed on my truck looks like brand new and I can carry heavy loads again without fear of things falling out. Use small businesses like him to get your work done. Who else has talents out there.

As our flash crews came together, they proved that many hands make light work. We need a lot of people doing small things to make a big project come together. Let's make our home Post a proud place to be.

Andrew Gilbert, President
ALR Post 209



Fundraiser! - February



Centennial Post 209 in Colorado Springs, CO is having a GREAT fundraiser. We will be landscaping the front of our Post home and laying engraved bricks around our flagpole as part of the landscaping effort. You can have a permanent place at our home by purchasing a brick and having it engraved with your name or the name of a loved one who served, the Veterans' Service Branch, and years of Service to our great Nation.

The cost of the 4" X 8" bricks ranges from \$75 to \$150 depending on the style and lettering.

Corporation bricks ranges from \$250 to \$500 depending on the style and lettering.

An artist rendition of the landscape project will be published soon. Order your bricks now! We will only sell the number needed to complement our landscape.

Website and order forms coming soon.

Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com or Kariann Smith (520)-784-3193 kariannsmith@me.com



FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S DESK - February Pastor Stan

On the evening of February 2, 1943, USAT Dorchester was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 US troops, merchant seamen and civilian workers. Once a luxury coastal liner, the 5,649 ton vessel had been converted into an Army transport ship. The Dorchester was one of three ships in the SG-19 convoy moving steadily across the icy waters from Newfoundland toward a US base in Greenland. Coast Guard Cutters Tampa, Escanaba, and Comanche escorted the convoy. The Captain was concerned and cautious. Earlier, Tampa had detected a submarine. The Captain knew he was in dangerous waters. German U-boats were constantly prowling these vital sea lanes, and several ships had already been sunk.

The Dorchester was only 150 miles from its destination, but the Captain ordered the men to sleep in their clothing and their life jackets. Many soldiers deep in the ships hold disregarded the order because of the engine's heat. Others ignored it because the life jackets were uncomfortable. On February 3rd at 12:55 am, a periscope broke the chilly Atlantic waters. Through the cross-hair an officer aboard U-223 spotted the Dorchester. Because she was close to her destination the convey had left her. After identifying her, the Captain of the U boat gave the order to fan three torpedoes at the Dorchester. The one that hit was decisive and deadly, striking the starboard side, amid-ship, far below the water line. Alerted that she was sinking rapidly, the Captain gave the order to abandon ship. In fewer than 20 minutes, the Dorchester would slip beneath the icy water. Tragically, the hit had knocked out power and radio contact with the escort ships. Tampa however, saw a flash of the explosion, responded and rescued 97 survivors. The Escanaba circled the Dorchester rescuing an additional 133 survivors; one died later. The Comanche continued on escorting the remaining two ships.

Aboard the Dorchester, panic and chaos has set in. The blast had killed scores of men, and many more were seriously wounded. Others, stunned by the explosion, were groping in the darkness. Those sleeping without clothing rushed topside where they were confronted first by a blast of icy arctic air and then the knowledge that death awaited. Men jumped from the ship into lifeboats, overcrowding them to the point of capsizing according to eyewitnesses. Other rafts tossed into the Atlantic, drifted away before soldiers could get into them. In the midst of the pandemonium, according to those present, four Army Chaplains brought hope and light in the darkness. Lt. George L. Fox, a Methodist minister; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, a Jewish rabbi; Lt. John P. Washington, a Roman Catholic priest; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister quickly and quietly spread out among the soldiers. They tried to calm the frightened, tend to the wounded and guide the disoriented toward safety. "Witnesses of that terrible night remember hearing the four men offer prayers for the dying and encouragement for those who would live," said Wyatt, son of Reverend Fox. One witness, PVT. William Bednar, found himself floating in oil-smeared water surrounded by dead bodies and debris. "I could hear crying, pleading and praying," he recalled. "I could also hear the Chaplains preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going." A sailor, Petty Officer John Mahoney, tried to re-enter his cabin but was stopped by rabbi Goode. Concerned about the arctic air, Mahoney explained he'd forgotten his gloves. "Never mind," Goode responded. "I have two pairs." He gave the petty officer his gloves. Later, Mahoney realized that Goode hadn't been carrying two pairs of gloves. By this time most of the men were topside, and the Chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. Later, engineer Grady Clark witnessed an astounding sight. When there were no more life jackets to hand out, the Chaplains removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men. Rabbi Goode did not call for a Jew, and Father Washington did not call of a Catholic. Nor did Fox and Rev. Poling call out for a Protestant. They simply gave their jackets to those next in line. "It was the finest thing I have ever seen or hope to see this side of Heaven" said John Ladd, a survivor who saw the Chaplains' selfless act. As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four Chaplains, braced against the slanting deck, arm in arm. They were heard praying and singing hymns. Of the 902 men aboard the Dorchester, 672 died. When the news reached the US, the nation was stunned by the magnitude of the tragedy and the heroic conduct of the four Chaplains.

"Valor is a gift," Carl Sandburg once said. "Those having it never know for sure whether they have it until the test comes." That night the four Chaplains passed life's ultimate test. In doing so, they became an enduring example of extraordinary faith, courage and selflessness. In 1944, the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were awarded posthumously to the Chaplain's next of kin and in 1961, President Eisenhower awarded a special Medal of Heroism, a one-time award authorized by Congress and intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor. Chaplain Daniel A. Poling, distinguished American clergyman and father of Chaplain Clark V. Poling, was in England when he learned of the heroic death of his son and his three fellow Chaplains. In his mind was born the idea of a chapel in the memory of this noble sacrifice, a chapel where people of all faiths could worship God in a spirit of unity without the need of uniformity. President Harry S. Truman dedicated The Chapel of Four Chaplains in February 3, 1952, as the fulfillment of that dream. The Chapel opens its doors to people of all race and religious faith. At every service the altars of the three major faiths are displayed and the story of "The Four Chaplains" is retold.

My last three words to all of you are: **GO TO CHURCH!!!!!!**



From our Judge Advocate - Patriotism & Taxes - February
Chuck Zeitvogel

Many of us may define “Patriotism” in different ways. Dictionaries give definitions that we can give but in the common ordinary everyday one or two word definition how would you define patriotism?

Service to your country? Dying for your country? Faithful to country and family? No – forget the dictionary – let’s have a discussion of what constitutes patriotism.

Years ago there was a radio program “Can You Top This” and for the most part as I recall it consisted of “slap-stick comedy” but title is what sticks with me at this time. “Can You Top This” and in that context talk about patriotism sometimes with those you know and hear how they define patriotism.

We hear it all the time: “To Defend the Constitution of the United States of America against all Enemies Foreign and Domestic...” in the oath office that leaders and we take at various times in our careers. Patriotism = defending our country to just that – defending our country against all enemies foreign and domestic. And then the voices you might hear ask the question “who are our enemies foreign and domestic?” And that will open up a whole new bag of questions be they philosophical or otherwise. Let’s keep it simple – at our next general membership meeting ask the person next to you their definition of patriotism and hear what they might say.

Bet you won’t hear, “Pay Your Taxes honestly and on time.” No, seriously, as I’m writing this I’m thinking about those Sailors who were captured when their small boats drifted into Iranian waters and had to apologize for the benefit of Iranian television viewers and shown on American TV. How did that make you feel? Now you might be thinking, there’s no continuity here from what this started out to be - a simple discussion / definition for patriotism. Well, you may be right; let’s talk about it at our next meeting.

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February 2016 – And, if you have not been thinking ahead to April 18th (the time for most of us pay our income taxes) maybe this is the month to start thinking about them regardless of your possible desire to avoid the subject. So - to help set the mood, the following poem is offered to help get our though process on the subject in motion. The title is: **Death and Taxes**

Tax his cow, tax his goat; Tax his pants, tax his coat; Tax his crops, tax his work,
Tax his tie, tax his shirt, Tax his chew, tax his smoke; Teach him taxes are no joke.
Tax his tractor, tax his mule. Teach him taxes are a rule; Tax his oil, tax his gas,
Tax his notes, tax his cash; Tax him good and let him know – After taxes he has no dough.
If he hollers, tax him more; Tax him ‘til he’s good and sore. Tax his coffin, tax his grave,
Tax the sod in which he lays; Put these words upon his tomb:
“Taxes drove me to my doom.” And after he’s gone he can’t relax;
They’ll still be after Inheritance Tax!

Hopefully this bit of humor will help set the mood, because, if you are like most of us - there is no escaping the inevitable - paying taxes!



**Are You Ready For Some Football?
Post 209 Annual Super Bowl Party!**



Yep, it’s that time of year when the Broncos Jersey’s are donned no matter the temp outside. Will the Stallions show up for the game, or will it be Ponies? Who will be our next Super Bowl Champ?

Come on out to the Post and root for your Broncos to end the season (and possibly Manning’s career) on a very high note. Even if you are a Panther fan (or just want to watch what should be a great game), you should join us. We’ll have fun, food, and maybe a drawing. There will be a \$5.00 cover for everyone over the age of 12, and kids 12 and under can join in the fun for free. The fun starts at 2:00pm. I encourage you to arrive early so you can get in on the fun and get settled in time for Kick-off.

Bringing a Little South to the West – February 2016

By Immediate Past Commander Jay Bowen

As a rule, we don't get much snow in the South. As a kid growing up in Southwest Tennessee, I seem to recall getting a few snow storms, but even way back then they were far, few and in between. What we did get (and they still do) are Tornadoes and ice storms. Yes, Tornadoes in the winter. Not often, but when it happened during the winter months, they are typically pretty ugly.

For a kid, ice storms were pretty cool. It was a guaranteed day off from school and a time to go outside and play ice games. We didn't play hockey or any other perceived "Yankee" game because no one knew how and we didn't have a hockey team within 400 miles, but we had our own ice games, which are still somewhat popular today where I'm from in the South. We'd get into the street (because there were very few people willing to brave the ice driving), and play "Crack the Whip!" For those unfamiliar with the game, the more people you can get the more fun it is. You line up abreast of one another holding hands with the persons next to you, and the pivot person begins turning while flinging the person next to them as you would a whip (hence the name). If the person next to the end of the line knows what they are doing, they will allow some momentum to build up, then he/she will snap or whip the person on the end as you would "crack a whip" as you continue to circle. The person on the end would eventually be pulled away from the whip and off they go on their own. If the momentum has really built up, they will generate quite a bit of speed as they fly off the end of the whip. This is where the fun begins.

If the person is whipped off and headed down the street, normally all is fine. They just skate along the frozen asphalt until they finally slow enough to stop. However, if they their trajectory is toward the curb, it makes for a nasty fall because most of the time they are going too fast to jump and transfer their momentum from the street to the curb. Again, if you are next to last and know how to play the game, most of the time you'll time your "crack" to watch the fun as the end person tries to make the transfer from street to curb/frozen yard. Thinking back, I'm surprised that rarely anyone got seriously hurt. But now the person who was next to the end graduated to the receiving end of the whip and it is their turn to get "cracked." We would play this game for hours or until everyone was bruised to the point they didn't want to play anymore. So we'd move on to the next game.

This one was a little harder to play because it required one of our group to either have a driver's license, or at least access to a car. When we did, we'd tie a rope to the rear bumper, find either a tin trash can lid or some other light somewhat flat metallic object and turn it into a sled. We never got up enough speed to kill anyone, but there was little you could do to steer if you were on the sled. So for most of us, when we needed to get off for whatever reason (the car was slowing to a stop or we couldn't make a turn), we'd just lean to one side, let go of the rope, and roll off the sled. That was pretty fun too until you had to stop. And again, the curb normally offered assistance with that. But unlike "Crack the Whip," you were sitting or lying down as you hit the curb. I lived on a corner lot where one street had curbs in front of the houses and the other street had a ditch about 5' deep and no curb between the road and the shoulder bordering the ditch because there was nothing on that side of the street but open fields. Believe it or not, the ditch was normally a better alternative than the curb. Unless you were going very fast, you'd just glide onto the shoulder and down into the ditch and just sway up and down until the momentum stopped.

Wow, what fun! I wonder today how in the world so many of us that survived our childhood. I know they still do that today in many places in the South and when I hear of it I typically have two thoughts; "How Stupid are these kids?" and "I wonder if they'd let me play?"



Post Officers 2015-2016

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



ALR Officers 2015-2016

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



Auxiliary Officers 2015-2016

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



Sons of The American Legion 2015-2016

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

See Back Page for February 2016 Calendar

| ~ March 2016 ~ | | | | | | | ~ April 2016 ~ | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-----------|---|---|--|--|----------------------------------|---|-----------|---|---|---|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm | 4 Hamdogger 6:00pm Price Varies with order | 5 Biker's Ball Post 38; 6:00pm | CFS is Chicken Fried Steak | | | | | 1 Hamdogger 6:00pm Price Varies with order | 2 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! | 12 \$8.50 Breakfast Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm | 8 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! | 9 \$8.50 Breakfast Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am |
| 13 Daylight Saving Time Begins | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 Saint Patrick's Day | 18 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night - 6:00pm RSVP Required! | 19 | 10 | 11 Tax Day (Taxes Due) | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night - 6:00pm RSVP Required! | 16 Adult Only! Bag Lady Sue (Comedian) Post 38; 6:00pm Fundraiser |
| 20 Spring begins (Northern) | 21 ALR Executive Board 6:00pm | 22 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm | 23 | 24 | 25 Good Friday! Fish/CFSI - 6:00pm RSVP Required! | 26 Easter Egg Hunt! 2:00pm | 17 Auxiliary National President Visit and Luncheon; 11:30am | 18 ALR Executive Board 6:00pm | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 \$10.50 Meal Fish/CFSI - 6:00pm RSVP Required! | 23 |
| 27 Easter! | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 Notes: CFS is Chicken Fried Steak Choice of Fish or CFS on 25 March for \$10.50 | | | 24 | 25 | 26 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm | 27 | 28 | 29 Labor Day | 30 |

Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) jackiebowa2005@yahoo.com or Kariann Smith (520)-784-3193 kariannsmith@me.com



THE AMERICAN LEGION
CENTENNIAL POST 209
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COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80936-5334

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

| ~ February 2016 ~ | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|-----------|--|--|---|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | 1 | 2 Groundhog Day | 3 | 4 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm  | 5 Hamdogger 6:00pm Price Varies with order.  | 6 |
| 7 Super Bowl Sunday  Super Bowl Party 2:00pm \$5.00 Cover For Adults Kids 12 and under Free! | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required!  | 13 \$8.50 Breakfast Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am   |
| 14 Valentine's Day! | 15 President's Day! ALR Executive Board 6:00pm  | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night - 6:00pm RSVP Required!    | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm   | 24 | 25 | 26 \$10.50 Meal Fish/CFS! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!    | 27 DMS Open House Post 38; 10:00am |
| 28 DMS Open House Post 209; 1:00pm | 29 | Notes: CFS on 26 February is Chicken Fried Steak DMS Open House 26-28 February. See the Commander's Cover letter for details. Hours each day: 1:00pm - 5:00pm Friday at Post 209 10:00am - 5:00pm Saturday at Post 38 1:00pm - 5:00pm Sunday at Post 209 | | | | |

Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com or Kariann Smith (520)-784-3193 kariannsmith@me.com