



# The Centennial

Volume XIV  
Edition 1

January 2023

AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL  
POST 209



*The American Legion Post 209 Commander, Marvin Weaver Jr, launched the CH-53 back in the day.*

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3613 Jeannine Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80917  
719.599.8624

[www.legion209.org](http://www.legion209.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionCentennialPost209/>



### The American Legion Post 209 Officers 2022-2023

<b>Commander:</b>	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	(719) 244-3535
<b>Adjutant:</b>	Doug Millison	(719) 599-8624
<b>Sr. Vice Commander:</b>	Steve Hayes	(719) 494-7166
<b>Jr. Vice Commander:</b>	Jerry Hopper	(918) 953-9980
<b>Honor Guard:</b>	Joel Haas	(719) 482-4496
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Sarah Tobin	(719) 439-7724
<b>Service Officer:</b>	Brian Murphy	(719) 930-4147
<b>Judge Advocate:</b>	Marvin Weaver	(719) 638-4763
<b>Historian:</b>	Kurt Skinner	(719) 963-3517
<b>Exec. Cmte man/Club Mgr:</b>	Art Kimbrel	(719) 339-4610
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Brad Henderson	(830) 660-4072
<b>Immediate Past CDR:</b>	Lino Calica	(719) 963-0956
<b>Sgt.-at-Arms:</b>	Bobby Senter	(719) 660-3775



### American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers 2022-2023

<b>President:</b>	Royce Hopper	(918) 953-9993
<b>Vice President:</b>	Cathy Barger	(719) 290-3163
<b>Secretary:</b>	Pat Weaver	(719) 638-4763
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Kellie Hayes	(719) 494-7167
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Mary Bramer	(719) 633-8612
<b>Exec.-at-Large:</b>	Jackie Bowen	(901) 481-0673
<b>Historian:</b>	Sarah Tobin	(719) 439-7724
<b>Sgt-at-Arms:</b>	Michelle Bresee	



### Sons of The American Legion Squadron 2022-2023

<b>Commander:</b>	Rob Barry	(719) 930-5725
<b>Adjutant &amp; Finance Officer:</b>	Ken Taylor	(719) 461-4047
<b>Sr. Vice Commander:</b>	Brad Henderson	(830) 660-4072
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Brad Henderson	(830) 660-4072
<b>Jr. Vice Commander:</b>	Chris Hollingsworth	(910) 364-1677
<b>Sgt-at-Arms:</b>	Bob Ingram	(480) 353-8234



### American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers 2022-2023

<b>President:</b>	Ed Santos	(719) 329-4357
<b>Vice President:</b>	Jerry "Rico" Shay	(719) 244-3901
<b>Secretary:</b>	Royce Hopper	(918) 953-9993
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Scott Laudan	(719) 238-2679
<b>Sgt-at-Arms:</b>	Bobby Senter	(719) 660-3775
<b>Road Captain:</b>	Sean Cope	(719) 246-4820
<b>Historian:</b>	Tina Cope	
<b>Communications:</b>	Gary Asp	(719) 822-3270



### American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) Officers

<b>President:</b>	George Johnson	(910) 494-9768	KE0ALQ
<b>Vice President:</b>	Jim Johnson	(719) 201-5829	W0GTA
<b>Trustee &amp; Secretary:</b>	Harvey LeCato		W1JU
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Henry Russell J		KC0NAJ



## From the desk of the Commander

Let me be one of the first to say Happy New Year!!

January always brings about new beginnings and resolutions. Of course, we all have made them in the past, like I'm going to work out more, lose some weight, quit smoking, save money, or budget my money better in the coming year. But, like most people, I had made some resolutions that had always been broken before January was even over.

I always like waking up on New Year's day prepared to be a vegetable and sitting in front of the TV all day because it is always full of College Bowl games. Yes, the playoff has taken some of the excitement out of the games, but they are still fun to sit and watch. There is always one game that is a blowout, one that comes down to the very end, and one that is an upset. I don't usually have a favorite team to root for because, well, CU, CSU, Air Force, or Navy, if they get into a bowl game, it is not a New Year's day game. I have enjoyed watching Tennessee this year, but they are not in the playoffs, so I don't have them to root for. I will root for good clean games.

I remember one New Year's Day while stationed in Fallon, NV, that stands out to me. We had gotten much snow early in the season up around Lake Tahoe, but on New Year's Eve, we had a warm front move-in, along with much rain. So much rain that it melted the snow and sent it along with all the rain down the Truckee River. It started flooding Reno. I was supposed to pick up a buddy and his family returning from Christmas vacation at the airport, but the airport had been flooded, and his flight had been canceled. So we ended up on the 2<sup>nd</sup> filling sandbags to help Reno and had our base helicopters rescue people from the flood waters. Lucky for us, by the time the water reached Fallon, it was not nearly as high, so all the work we had done with the sandbags around Fallon wasn't needed. We received a Meritorious Unit Citation for what we had done to help Reno and the surrounding community.

We have an exciting year ahead of us. Check out our website, Facebook, and newsletter for more information. Thanks for all that you do for veterans and for supporting our post.

### **Speacial Thank You:**

As we reach the 2023 membership year, I want to take a moment to recognize those who have reached a membership milestone. While we appreciate ALL our members, the following will remain current into 2023 and have arrived at a continuous membership anniversary, as identified below. Congratulations to you all, and we hope to see you here again for your next one!

### **5 YEAR Milestone:**

- William Bennight
- Michael Bowen
- Kenneth Gingrich
- Joel Haas
- Barry Mawson
- Franklin McCulley
- Kenneth Peterson
- Louis Pisano
- Michael Tennermann
- Sarah Tobin

**5 YEAR Milestone (continued):**

- Lloyd Burton
- Robert Canfield
- Edward Cates
- Jack Caverly
- Anthony Fields
- Daniel Gibson
- Richard Hambly
- James Hamer
- Kenneth Harvell
- George Johnson
- John Langjahr
- Karen Lehman
- Megan McDougall
- Frederick Morgan
- Carl Moser
- Dennis Murray
- Patricia Murray
- Donald Nelson
- Michael Quinlan
- Ed Ralston
- Ronald Reddy
- Gorden Ronholm
- David Sagunsky
- Jimmie Shaver
- James Tomassini
- Eric Veed
- Wayne Victor
- Joseph Vu
- Leonard Weaver

**10 YEAR Milestone:**

- David Bartelt
- Phillip Bragg
- Cheryl Cayemberg
- Michael Eayrs
- John Fischer
- Ian Freeberg
- Robert Garlington
- Jeffrey Harley
- Doug Hurley
- Beth Jaynes
- Alan Johnson
- Carl Kisner
- Randall Kitchens
- John Ivie
- Bruce Leeson
- Willis Magee
- Scott Miller
- Donald Nelson
- Warren Nelson
- Robert Nevers
- Roger Peterson
- Rex Prickett
- Dennis Proenneke
- Jay Santee
- Steven Schoolfield
- Jeffrey Stanke
- Patrick Strahan
- Michael Urback
- Noble Wildman

**15 YEAR Milestone:**

- Andrew Gilbert
- Kent Lambert
- Kevin Mitchell
- David Nuss
- James Peaslee
- Lewis Sharpless
- Nancy Sharpless
- Ronald Wayne

**20 YEAR Milestone:**

- Jeff Bassett
- Alfred Cordova
- Benjamin Huebschman
- Donald Johnson
- Garrett Harencak
- Kelly Leaverton
- David Neyland
- Dean Noechel
- Pierre St. Arnault
- Stacey Underwood
- Robert Webb
- Robert Wherley

**25 YEAR Milestone:**

- Christine Kaufman
- Joyce Moyer
- Leroy Kuehl
- Noland Nobel

**30 YEAR Milestone:**

- Frank Blanchard
- Michael Henebry
- Leroy Cool
- Steven Leaming
- Brian Edwards
- Allen Simpson
- Jeffrey Kaczmarczyk
- John Snider
- Robert King
- Charles Ulmer

**35 YEAR Milestone:**

- Thomas Bock
- Manuel Pedraza
- Kenneth Boyer
- Jerry Ralston
- John Dowds
- Frank Rodeffer
- Ronald Marshall
- David Steinhauer
- Norman Moyer

**45 YEAR Milestone:**

- Richard Lee
- Lynn Porter

**50 YEAR Milestone:**

Kenneth Taylor

If you believe you were left out or added by mistake, please contact the Adjutant to get it updated. Any that arrived after the Newsletter went to print but before 1 January will be recognized in the next newsletter.

*Marvin Weaver, Jr.*  
Post 209 Commander





## From the desk of the Sr. Vice Commander

Happy New Year! I hope you had a good Holiday with friends and family throughout the season. Our post family had a few events in December, including an awesome Christmas party on December 10. The post Honor Guard provided rifle honors, and several post members helped lay wreaths for Wreaths Across America; the family came together and presented 500 "goodie bags" to several CSPD substations and CSFD fire stations.

We are doing well with membership for 2023 but still need about 300 more members to meet our quota for the year. If you do not have a 2023 card, you are now classified as lapsed and need to get renewed ASAP. All you need is to pay your dues to become current. Please, if you have not renewed yet, contact Doug to set up a meeting time so you can give him your dues. You can also send a check through the Post Office if you would like. If you know of a veteran (family, friend, neighbor) who is not a member, invite them to join. It is easier than you might think to recruit a new member. Just let them know why you joined and are a member; for many people, the reasons are the same.

The post website at <https://legion209.org> has been upgraded and updated. The updated interface will help make the site easier to maintain and much more secure. The content was moved on 21 December, and we are working to restore the PayPal functionality for online payments as soon as possible.

Thanks for all you do to help our post, and I hope to see you at the post more this year!

*Steve Hayes*

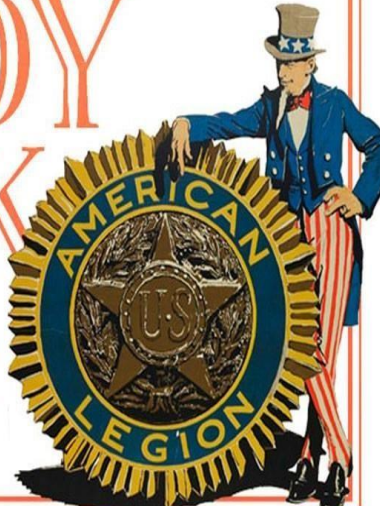
Senior Vice Commander



**BUDDY  
CHECK**

Your Friends at  
Neal Thomas JR. Centennial Post 209  
just want to see how you are doing...

Call us at 719-599-8624 if you need help  
(Veteran Crisis Line 800-273-8255)





## From our Post Adjutant

Why do we go to such lengths to protect The American Legion emblem? You must get permission to reproduce it on anything you sell; it must meet design specifications; it cannot be overlaid on other objects without the "no touchy" border or a solid surface. Because it is a licensed Trademark and must be used as specified in the license and failure to protect your Trademark by enforcing rules on its use and design can result in losing said Trademark, letting anyone use it for anything. We certainly do not want that.

But it's more than that. It has a history of its own that goes back over 100 years. In the early days of The American Legion, committees were formed that bound members to imperative tasks to accomplish to bring this idea, this organization, to life. Constitution, by-laws, name, mission, conventions and conferences, a symbol, and many more. Veterans just out of service, many still in, took on these tasks and completed them with astonishing speed.

The emblem they turned out, our emblem, was met with pride. "There shines the Emblem of The American Legion; it is your badge of distinction, honor, and service. It stands for God and country and the highest rights of man. Of its several parts, each has a meaning." We may see the emblem as a whole but take it apart, examine it, and think of the work a committee did to put this together.



The sun's rays form the background of our proud emblem and suggest The American Legion's principles will dispel the darkness of violence and evil. The wreath forms the center in the loving memory of those brave comrades who gave their lives in the service of the United States so that liberty might endure. The star, the victory symbol of World War I, symbolizes honor, glory, and constancy. The letters "U.S." leave no doubt as to the brightest star in The American Legion's constellation. The larger of the two outer rings stands for rehabilitating our sick and disabled comrades. The smaller inside ring denotes the welfare of America's children. The smaller of two inner rings set upon the star represents service to our communities, states, and the nation. The larger outer ring pledges loyalty to Americanism. The words American Legion tie the whole together for truth, remembrance, constancy, honor, service, veterans' affairs and rehabilitation, children and youth, loyalty, and Americanism. The symbol must not be taken for granted. It is our history and future together in grand style. Be as proud of it today as our founders were over a hundred years ago.

*Doug Millison*  
Adjutant





## From our Post Historian

We begin the new year's look at notable January milestones in American military history on a solemn note. On 4 January 2002, six weeks after U.S. ground forces arrived in Afghanistan, SFC Ross Chapman (USA) became the first of 2461 American heroes killed in Afghanistan, the longest war in U.S. history.



A government contract, dated 4 January 1847, saved Samuel Colt's struggling gun company when the United States ordered one thousand .44 caliber revolvers. Colt has remained a key supplier to the U.S. military ever after.

In the last major engagement of the War of 1812, General Andrew Jackson's troops defeated a British force twice its size at the Battle of New Orleans. An embedded military correspondent captured the action: "We fired our guns, and the British 'kept-a-comin,' There wasn't as many as there was a while ago. So we fired once more, and they begin to runnin' on down the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico." At least, that's how I heard it.

Amid WWII, America's growing military bureaucracy acquired some new office space with the Pentagon's 15 January 1943 dedication in Washington, DC.

On 16 January 1991, a 32-nation coalition commanded by American General Norman Schwarzkopf commenced the devastating air campaign of Operation Desert Storm to eject Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

Theodore Roosevelt became the only President to earn the Medal of Honor when on 16 January 2001, he was posthumously awarded the honor (which coincidentally was presented in his old White House office). "Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt distinguished himself by acts of bravery on 1 July 1898, near Santiago de Cuba, Republic of Cuba, while leading a daring charge up San Juan Hill. Lieutenant Colonel Roosevelt, in total disregard for his safety and accompanied by only four or five men, led a desperate and gallant charge up San Juan Hill, encouraging his troops to continue the assault through withering enemy fire over open countryside. Facing the enemy's heavy fire, he displayed extraordinary bravery throughout the charge. He was the first to reach the enemy trenches, where he quickly killed one of the enemies with his pistol, allowing





his men to continue the assault. His leadership and valor turned the tide in the Battle for San Juan Hill."

The world's first nuclear submarine, USS Nautilus, began its first U.S. Navy mission on 17 January 1955.

In what became known as the "Pueblo Incident," on 23 January 1968, North Korean forces captured the U.S. Navy intelligence-gathering vessel, USS Pueblo, in international waters near Korea. One sailor was killed in its capture, and the remaining crew of 82 were "detained" for the next eleven months. To this day, USS Pueblo remains in North Korean custody.

Only days after the "Pueblo Incident," Communist North Vietnamese forces launched the weeks-long deadly Tet Offensive throughout South Vietnam on 28 January 1968. The offensive led to a weakening of American public support for U.S. military efforts in Vietnam.

On 27 January 1973, Paris Peace Accords officially ended America's war in Vietnam, eleven years after Defense Secretary McNamara had forwarded President Kennedy the Joint Chiefs' recommendation to deploy U.S. combat troops to Vietnam. President Nixon announced that America had achieved "peace with honor" in the war in which 58,220 American military heroes gave their lives, and 1582 remain unaccounted.

Although 4 August 1790 is celebrated as its "official" birthdate with the founding of the Revenue Cutter Service, the U.S. Coast Guard was formally created by law on 28 January 1915, combining the missions of multiple federal maritime agencies.



Before Captain Alan Shepard (USN) became the first American man in space, there was...Ham, the "Astrochimp." On 31 January 1961, Ham was successfully launched into space in a Mercury capsule atop a Redstone rocket; the results from his test flight led directly to the Mercury mission Alan Shepard made on 5 May 1961 aboard Freedom 7.

Happy New Year, The American Legion Post 209!

*Kurt Skinner*  
**Historian**





## From our Honor Guard Captain

As 2022 ends and 2023 kicks off another year for the Honor Guard, I wish everyone a Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

The Honor Guard is looking forward to the 2023 year of events as it continues to grow and become even more visible to our veterans and community. The Honor Guard has already received requests from organizations to support events in May, August, and November. One of the requests is for the Honor Guard to do the Presentation of Colors, a Rifle Volley, and the playing of Taps at the Salute to American Veterans Rally before the start of the motorcycle parade from Woodland Park to Cripple Creek.

Post 209 is extremely fortunate to have an Honor Guard comprised of highly motivated, dedicated, and professional team members. While representing The American Legion and Neal Thomas, Jr. Centennial Post 209, the Honor Guard team members excellently support our veterans and community. When you see a member of the team wearing the Honor Guard uniform, an Honor Guard pin on their Legion/Auxiliary/SAL cap, a black Honor Guard ballcap, or a red Honor Guard shirt, please thank them for representing and supporting YOUR post.

With the beginning of 2023, the Honor Guard team will resume holding weekly meetings/practices at 6:00 pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month (please check the Newsletter calendar for any changes in dates). Due to the Observed New Year's Day holiday on Monday, January 2, the first meeting of the year will be on Tuesday, January 10. Come to the post and check out one of the meetings, see if the Honor Guard is something

you would want to help support.

The Honor Guard continues to gain new team members; however, there is no such thing as having too many members. Understandably, not everyone has much time to participate in the Honor Guard. In reality, all someone needs is a few available hours: an hour to participate, a night (or even two) for a training meeting (a meeting is scheduled for every week, check the newsletter calendar), and up to a couple of hours for an event. Around three hours a month for a meeting and just ONE event is all you need to make a difference in helping support our veterans and community. Members of The American Legion, the Sons of The American Legion, and The American Legion Auxiliary are all eligible to be members of the Honor Guard. If you or anyone you know might be interested in supporting the Honor Guard or the Competition Color Guard, please reach out to me at (719) 482-4496 or [honor.guard@legion209.org](mailto:honor.guard@legion209.org).

*Joel W. Haas*  
Honor Guard Captain





## From the Chaplain: New Beginnings

There's nothing like the magic of a new beginning. Numerous symbols represent it: the sunrise of a new dawn, a baby's smile, a butterfly, or the bud of a beautiful flower. A new beginning can come from a promotion, career change, a new relationship, or moving to a new city.

Sometimes, change can make us anxious, especially when it takes us out of our comfort zone. We fear the unknown; we are afraid of failure. I pondered the unknown when Pam and I married, when we bought our first house, and when I transitioned from an enlisted soldier to an Army officer. I remember first venturing into the Officer's Club for lunch. I was a Warrant Officer One (WO1 - known by more senior Warrant Officers as a "Wobbly One"). I was so nervous that I almost couldn't eat. Everybody there was more senior than me. They had come for a leisurely lunch. At that moment, I felt like I was the main course. Was I holding my fork correctly?

Change is everywhere: the world, seasons, history, and people change. In my belief system, when the good Lord gives you a new beginning, it sometimes starts with an ending. Some endings are worth celebrating. Others can be especially difficult. Change can be a reminder that our strength isn't enough. We're reminded to exercise our faith and leave the burden to His shoulders.

Jeremiah wrote a letter to the exiles driven from Jerusalem to Babylon. Their leaders had brought the nation to the brink of disaster, and the people had been exiled. They were on the verge of giving up – but in a test of faith, God guided the people that He had disciplined to be patient and accept their situation. For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11-13) "...He who scattered Israel will gather them and watch over his flock like a shepherd." (Jeremiah 31:10, NIV)

In my religious teaching, the greatest new beginning of all time occurred in a stable in Bethlehem. When Christ came to earth as a man, His goal was to change the hearts, minds, and lives of every single human being to walk this world then and now. With His sacrifice on the cross and His victory over death, all who believe can have a new beginning in this life and the future. "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

We live in a changing world, in a changing life, but He does not change. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." (Hebrews 13:8). As you encounter difficult endings and new beginnings, dare to move forward, even when it feels challenging. Even if you love the path behind you, the path ahead is filled with opportunity. "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." (Isaiah 41:10)

Whatever your new beginning, may it bring you strength, guidance, grace, and fulfillment because you are worthy of these things. Happy New Year!

*Brad Henderson*  
**Chaplain**  
Serving God and Country





## From the desk of the Unit President

Happy New Year! I hope this New Year is amazing, productive, & everything you hope it to be. We are gearing up for more events and activities as we start the New Year. January is our mid-year point for the Auxiliary. This is when we start preparing for our Department Mid-Year Conference this month and our Department Convention in June. Our Chaplain, Mary Bramer will be working on a Chaplains book to submit to Department for the convention. If you have a favorite prayer, poem, picture, or anything that inspires you, please get it to Mary so we can put it in the book. Happy birthday to our members, born in January!

*Royce Hopper*  
Unit President



## From our Sons of The American Legion Commander

Happy New Year!! This time of the year is the infamous time for resolutions. This year I am asking everyone who takes the time to read this to resolve others. If you have not been to the post in the past six months, make a resolution to get to at least one meeting. If not a meeting, make a point to come to a dinner or function. If you are a member with a particular skill, think of a way you could help out in your special way. I know I started this by saying to think of others, but looking back at the last year, I get a heartwarming feeling each time I have helped others in the community. Giving yourself is a gift *to* yourself.

I have a few resolutions I would like to share. My family experienced some traumatic events last year that have made me appreciate personal safety. I would encourage every member to attend one of the Refuse to Be a Victim courses. I sat through the Collegiate course, and it was very informative. I want to thank Chris Hollingsworth for his outstanding efforts in making this course available to the post and reminding us that no person can ever be safe enough.

On the subject of safety, we should be more prepared for a medical emergency at the post. I have been looking into grants for Automatic External Defibrillators to install at the post. Of course, the cost is always part of the equation, so that we will work on a fundraiser for this effort. Once it arrives, the most important part is training a group of members on its proper use. We will put a course together for any member that would like to attend. We will also look into the possibility of a CPR course at the post. Finally, my biggest hope is that every member has the safest, healthiest, and happiest year possible! Have a wonderful year, and we will see you at the post!

*Rob Barry*  
Commander  
Sons of The American Legion 209



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Buddy Time

Haven't talked to another veteran in a while and are looking for like-minded conversation? Then, come on down to YOUR post and talk with your buddies.

Starting in January, the post will be open solely for **social time** on the **third Saturday of every month from 0900 to 1100 Hrs.** No meals, no fundraising, or meetings. Come to see your post or introduce family and friends to it. Grab a cup of coffee (or tea) and hang out with other members.



January's Buddy Time is **January 21<sup>st</sup>, 0900 – 1100.** We are looking forward to seeing you there.





SAL  
Presents:

# Refuse To Be A Victim<sup>®</sup>

Safety experts agree that the single most important step in ensuring your personal safety is making the conscious decision to Refuse To Be A Victim<sup>®</sup>. You stand a much better chance of preventing criminal confrontations if you develop a safety plan before you need it. That is why the Refuse To Be A Victim<sup>®</sup> seminar was developed by the National Rifle Association.

The Refuse To Be A Victim<sup>®</sup> crime prevention and personal safety seminar will discuss how to create layers of safety in your life to protect yourself and your family from criminal confrontations. You will learn the tools you need to develop your own personal safety strategies, including information on:

The Psychology of Criminal Predators  
Home & Cyber Security  
Automobile & Travel Security

Personal & Technological Security  
Self Defense Devices and Training Options  
And more!

**WHO:** Post 209 Family & Friends

**WHAT:** Refuse To Be A Victim<sup>®</sup> Seminar

**WHEN:** 08 JAN 2023 @ 1300

**WHERE:** Post 209, 3613 Jeannine Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80917

**WHY:** To improve your personal safety strategies

Please RSVP for the seminar NLT 10 DEC 2022 to allow for delivery of training materials.

The Refuse To Be A Victim<sup>®</sup> program is not a firearms or self-defense class. It is a seminar that will help you improve personal safety strategies and will provide you with valuable information that you can apply to every area of your life.

**Cost:** \$15 - price covers training and materials

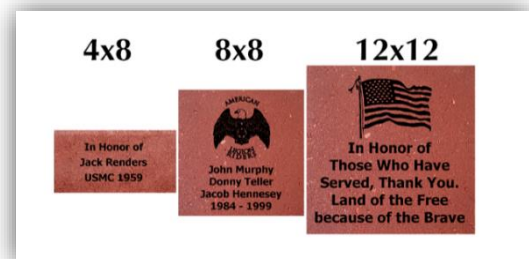
Contact Christopher L. Hollingsworth now  
@ [christopher.hollingsworth@rocketmail.com](mailto:christopher.hollingsworth@rocketmail.com) or 910-364-1677  
to RSVP or obtain more information!

# FUNDRAISER INFORMATION

## Walk of Honor



- **What are the costs for the individual bricks?** Prices vary depending on size, style and lettering desired but typically range from \$90 to \$200 depending on size.
- **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 for veterans and family members wishing to purchase a brick to honor their veterans. The corporate bricks are for our veteran-friendly supporters and businesses who want to show their continued support for our nation's heroes by purchasing a brick.
- **Is the brick purchase restricted to members of the Post 209 families?** No. We encourage members to buy a brick for themselves for their veteran loved ones or to show their support for our veterans.
- **Where do I go to buy a brick?** We have a link on our website. Just visit [legion209.org](http://legion209.org) and click on "Walk of Honor." Or, you can visit <http://polarengraving.com/ALPost209> to buy your brick. The site is user-friendly and will walk you through the design and purchase. In addition, you will see a preview of your brick before finalizing the purchase.
- **How do I pay for the brick?** We have the site set up to accept payment via PayPal or 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 sent 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. 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 only to sell as many bricks as needed for the first phase of the landscaping project.
- **Will I have an opportunity to buy a brick later?** Quite possibly, depending 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 ensure they are all placed together.**

# 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.

Starting at

**\$350!**



For More Information

[www.legion209.org/contact\\_us](http://www.legion209.org/contact_us)

(719) 599-8624

3613 Jeannine Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80917

\*Additional cost may apply



## GUEST COMMENTARY



### Cyber 101- IRS Fraud Scams

With tax season closing in fast, I wanted to take January's article as a time to warn and advise you of the possible IRS scams you could receive over the next two or three months. The first and probably most crucial detail of this comes straight from IRS's website. "The IRS doesn't initiate contact with taxpayers by email, text messages or social media channels to request personal or financial information." The article describes how the IRS contacts most of its recipients through the United States Postal Service. There are some instances where the IRS may contact you or your business through your phone, but this results from an overdue tax bill or unfiled tax return. Even in these circumstances, you will have received multiple letters from the IRS as a warning before accepting the call.

#### IRS Will Never

- Call and demand immediate payment through a debit or credit card
- Threaten to bring local law enforcement to a house to arrest the guilty party
- Demand payment without the opportunity for the payer to question said amount

#### IRS Will

- First, mail a bill to the taxpayer who owes
- Be open to any questions or concerns regarding the payment

#### What to do if you Receive a Scam or are Unsure

- Record the number and then hang up the phone immediately.
- Report the call to TIGTA using their [IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting form](#) or by calling 800-366-4484.
- Report the number to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov), and put "IRS Phone Scam" in the subject line.

(Information Provided straight from IRS.gov)

Matthew Brockie  
Cybersecurity student, CSU  
[matt.brockie5@gmail.com](mailto:matt.brockie5@gmail.com)

**Looking for an internship summer of 2023**





## Salty Dog

The Navy enlisted ranks have more than just Seamen. There are four different classifications.

- Airmen – Also known as Airedales. They work with Aircraft and are mostly found on Carrier and Naval Air Stations.
- Firemen – Also known as Snipes. They work primarily with the engines and are found below decks.
- Constructionmen – Also known as Seabees. They help set up camps and build stuff.
- Seamen – Also known to some as Deck Apes. They take care of the ship and the ship's company.

*Marvin Weaver, Jr.*  
**Post 209 Commander**



Sleeve insignia	Collar device	Rate title	U.S. DoD Pay grade	Abbreviation	NATO code
No Insignia		Seaman recruit	E-1	SR / HR	OR-1
No Insignia		Fireman recruit	E-1	FR	OR-1
No Insignia		Airman recruit	E-1	AR	OR-1
No Insignia		Constructionman recruit	E-1	CR	OR-1
		Seaman apprentice	E-2	SA / HA	OR-2
		Fireman apprentice	E-2	FA	OR-2
		Airman apprentice	E-2	AA	OR-2
		Constructionman apprentice	E-2	CA	OR-2
		Seaman	E-3	SN / HN	OR-3
		Fireman	E-3	FN	OR-3
		Airman	E-3	AN	OR-3
		Constructionman	E-3	CN	OR-3



## Bringing A Little South to the West

All four kids in the Bowen family learned to drive in a car with a standard transmission. Back in the day, we just called it a stick shift. The first car I remember driving was Mom's and Dad's '58 Chevy Station Wagon. It was a "3 on the tree," which means the shifter was on the right side of the steering column. To find the first gear, you depress the clutch with your left foot, pull the gear shift either up or down to the neutral position, pull it toward you, and then pull down. Then, you'd pull up from first to neutral for second gear, push out, and up. And for the third gear you got, you pull it straight down from the second while pressing the clutch as you change each gear.

Dad also had a GMC pickup, "3 on the tree." He didn't like or trust automobiles with automatic transmissions. He would tell us they were too unreliable and costly to maintain. They also cost quite a bit more than their standard counterpart at the dealership. I can still recall Dad telling us, "I'd rather live next door to someone that has an automatic transmission in their car than to own one." That was his standard reply to any question about why our neighbors had something we didn't. Today, it is right the opposite. You'll pay more for a vehicle with a standard transmission and likely have to wait for the dealer to special order the car.

By the time I could reach the pedals, I already knew how to shift gears and keep the car in the center of the lane. Dad would sit us on his lap and let us take turns steering when we'd hit the gravel roads in Arkansas to visit our grandparents. Very little traffic and most of the gravel roads were wide enough to allow us to drift occasionally as we learned the nuances of driving. Most of those old bridges had running boards stretching vertically for your wheels to run on, and none of them had barriers to prevent you from running off the bridge. So, you had to watch closely and get the wheels aligned on the running boards. Luckily, the bridges were never very long.

Dad didn't get his first automatic transmission car until after I went into service. By then, he convinced himself they were more reliable than in the past. I taught my two sons and Jackie how to drive a stick shift. All the other cars were either a four on the floor or the column.

As my boys grew, I continued the tradition of letting them sit on my lap and steer. After they got used to doing that, I'd let them shift gears for me while I worked the clutch. Fortunately, most stateside assignments had several dirt roads out in the desert just outside town made for really good driving lessons.

The downside to an automatic is you need jumper cables to crank up a dead battery. With a straight stick, you need a short hill or a couple of buddies to push you a few feet. It's not as easy laying rubber with an automatic transmission, but it saves money on buying new tires. So, I guess I have that going for me. 😊 And I don't have to double-clutch an automatic transmission like I had to do many times in a deuce and a half.

*Jay Bowen*  
Past Post Commander



## PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

### Young Guns



NRA-Accredited members of Sons of The American Legion are sponsors and instructors for the Young Guns program. This basic rifle safety and marksmanship course are offered to boys and girls ages 10-18. Shooting is indoors, using air rifles.

<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionCentennialPost209/>

### Scouting Programs

The Post 209 family is the charter partner for six Boy Scouts of America (BSA) units:



- Cub Scout Pack 24 (Boys and Girls): p24@legion209.org
- Cub Scout Pack 386 (Boys and Girls): p386@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 77 (Girls): t77@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 79 (Boys): t79@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 187 (Boys): t187@legion209.org
- Venture Crew 762 (Young men and women ages 14-20): c762@legion209.org

### Boys and Girls State



Boys State and Girls State are for high school juniors going into their senior year with at least one semester left.

- BOYS STATE [www.colegionboysstate.org/](http://www.colegionboysstate.org/).
- GIRLS STATE <http://alacolorado.com/girls-state.html>

### Oratorical Contest



This Nationwide contest is designed to develop a more profound knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of high school students.

[www.colegionoratorical.org](http://www.colegionoratorical.org)

### Eagle Scout of the Year



The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year nomination window is from **1 November to 1 March**. Nomination packets must be received by each applicant's respective The American Legion department (state) headquarters no later than 1 March.

<https://legion209.org/Scouting/>

# JANUARY 2023

For the most current version see:  
[https://www.legion209.org/coming\\_up/](https://www.legion209.org/coming_up/)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> New Year's Day 	<b>2</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Executive Committee Meeting 6:00pm 	<b>6</b> Price Depends on Menu Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm 	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Refuse to be a Victim Training 2:00pm	<b>9</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>10</b> Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> TALARC Meeting 7:00pm 	<b>13</b> Price TBD Aux. Dinner - 6:00pm <b>RSVP Required!</b> 	<b>14</b> \$8 normal/\$9 omelet Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00  
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Martin Luther King Jr. Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>17</b> ALR Exec. Mtng ALR 6:30pm. 	<b>18</b> Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> \$14/Person Steak Night! 6:00pm <b>RSVP Required!</b> 	<b>21</b> Post 209 "Buddy Time" 9:00am - 11:00am 
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>24</b> ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng ALR 6:30pm - <b>Elections!</b> SAL 5:30pm  	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	<b>27</b> 	<b>28</b> Healing Warriors! 9:00am - 1:00pm
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>31</b>	Notes:			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Groundhog Day	<b>3</b> Price Depends on Menu	<b>4</b>	
				Executive Committee Meeting 6:00pm 	Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm 		
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Marksmanship Trng. 4:00pm 	<b>9</b>  TALARC Meeting 7:00pm Young Guns 6:00pm 	<b>10</b> Price TBD ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	<b>11</b> \$8 normal/\$9 omelet Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00  	
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> \$14/Person Steak Night! 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	<b>18</b> Post 209 "Buddy Time" 9:00am - 11:00am 	
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Presidents Day Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>21</b> ALR Exec. Mtng ALR 6:30pm. 	<b>22</b> Ash Wednesday Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Price TBD Chef's Choice Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	<b>25</b> Healing Warriors! 9:00am - 1:00pm	
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>28</b> ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:30pm  	Notes:				