



# Centennial Post 209

P.O. Box 15461  
Colorado Springs, CO 80935

## NEWSLETTER

January 17, 1985

TO: Members of Centennial Post 209

Happy New Year Fellow Legionnaires!!

We had a rather prosperous year last year and I hope and pray that this year will bring many more successes. For the first time in the history of Centennial Post 209 we met our membership goal-plus and we initiated our own Bingo game. Nevertheless, we cannot rest on our laurels and say that everything is progressing normally or that we have finally arrived.

I wish that I could say that we have made giant strides with the help of the entire membership, but unfortunately I can only say thanks to a dedicated few who have worked faithfully and diligently to make these successes possible. Thank you, those few who have made this possible - they know who they are and I will publicly acknowledge them later this year.

This is a new and exciting year that has already presented more challenges. With the advent of the re-election of President Reagan we are already faced with some very difficult legislative decisions. To enumerate a few - threatened closure of V.A. hospitals and nursing homes, curtailment of services to those veterans who need medical attention in their twilight years, reduced social security benefits, taxes on social security and disability compensations, etc., etc.

Needless to say, we need a strong, growing membership to combat these autocracies. Only through a strong vocal veteran group can we expect to weather the storm of divergent opinions of those who would change the laws enacted by our forefathers to ensure a decent life to those who gave their full measure of devotion in the defense of the democratic principles that we cherish so dearly. We have taken too lightly these inherent rights over the years and now we see the eroding process before our very eyes. Now is the time to stand up and be counted. We can only do this by virtue of a strong dedicated membership in our organization.

The name of the game is membership and all that we must do is "ask them" to be a part of our fight for right. Membership! Membership! Membership! That's the answer. We are among the highest veteran population states, yet we are among the lowest number of Legion member states. Only you can correct this disparity. Invite a friend or neighbor to join us today.

At the upcoming National American Legion Convention in August, in New Orleans, Louisiana, we will install the first Vietnam Veteran and the first Colorado Legionnaire as National Commander. We should be justifiably proud of this honor and I know of no other way to show our pride than through increased membership.

Our post membership attendance is pathetic. We currently have 74 members on our roll and we are lucky to get 12 members out to a once a month meeting. Even more demoralizing, we have a post Bingo on each Thursday night at the new DAV facility on Palmer Park Blvd and Peterson Road and we only have the same 7 or 8 members present. I cannot believe that the remaining membership is so unconcerned as to not care if we succeed at this venture to become a viable entity within the community. If you care enough to belong; care enough to participate!!

Last month Dave Thomas lost his spouse, Lois. We shared his grief in this great loss. Dave would like to respond to the show of sympathy by the post with his acknowledgement of appreciation for your kind expressions of sympathy.

" The family of David Thomas extends their appreciation to the members of American Legion Post 209 for their expressions of sympathy and encouragement upon Lois' death. The caring and friendship expressed by the post members and their wives was very comforting in our time of sorrow. Your beautiful floral tribute was very fitting for such a beautiful woman."

David H. Thomas and Family

We also had two other members of this post who lost loved ones over the past couple of months that we would like to share our sympathies. Christie Pappas lost his wife and a new member Homer D. Rogers recently lost his mother. Our prayers and sympathies go out to these Legionnaires in their moments of bereavement. Any post member knowing of a Legionnaire in need of our aid or sympathies please so inform me at work 473-6220 or home 392-1510, so that I can respond on behalf of the post. I spoke with one of our members who had recently been released from the hospital following surgery, Yvette Thorne. She is recovering nicely at home.

I feel the time has come for our post to make two important moves in a positive direction. The moves I have in mind are leasing of a post home to give us income, increased membership and another method of raising funds. Also, the formulation of an American Legion Auxiliary in Post 209. I would like feedback concerning both of these matters at our upcoming meeting. It will require full participation on the part of the entire membership to make these formidable moves a success. Think about them, then come out and voice your opinions.

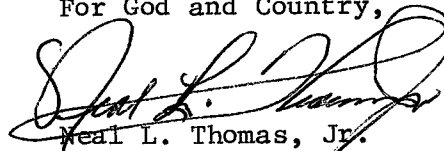
I trust that many of you are planning now to attend the department convention in Breckenridge, in June. It is planned as a family outing and the rates for accommodations are extremely generous. Also, I would like to encourage every Legionnaire from this post to plan to attend the upcoming Leadership College that will convene at Peterson AFB in May. The cost is minimal because there is no housing or travel expense involved and the benefits derived are monumental. Consider attending - you will not regret it!!

I tried to contact everyone regarding the postponement of our January meeting. Unfortunately, I could not reach some of you, but it was impossible to meet at our regularly scheduled date of the 3rd Tuesday due to renovations underway at the Retired Enlisted Association Club facility. Therefore the next meeting will be on this coming Tuesday evening, 22 January 1985, at the Retired Enlisted Association Club. Please note the new starting hour of 7:00 p.m. We are moving the time up 1 / 2 hour in hopes of getting more members out and to be able to conduct business and get out by 9 p.m. I trust that this meets with your approval and that I will see all of you at the meeting on Tuesday.

One more very important item: If you have not paid your dues for 1985 -- you became delinquent as of 1 January 1985. I am sure it's an oversight if you have not renewed and this reminder will jog your memory. After all, at this time we need all the members we can possibly get. Enough said!! Our current membership, paid to date, is 60 members which is 115% of Department assigned goal and 45% of our Post goal for this year.

Programs where we need help are: Oratorical Contests, Boys State, Children and Youth, Boy Scouts, Rehabilitation, Nursing Home and Hospital Visitations, Bingo & Fund Raising and Benevolent Community Involvement. WILL YOU HELP??

For God and Country,

  
Neal L. Thomas, Jr.  
Commander