

# The Centennial

Volume I Edition 7

July 2021



## AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209

3613 Jeannine Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80917  
719-599-8624 [www.legion209.org](http://www.legion209.org)

**MEET YOUR 2021 - 2022 OFFICERS!!**

### American Legion Post 209 Officers

<b>Commander:</b> Joseph Schmidt 651.328.9029	<b>Finance Officer:</b> Joel Haas 719.482.4496	<b>Executive Committeeman:</b> Art Kimbrel 719.339.4610
<b>Sr. Vice Commander:</b> Marvin Weaver Jr. 719.244.3535	<b>Chaplain:</b> Brad Henderson	<b>Judge Advocate:</b> Marvin Weaver Sr. 719.638.4763
<b>Jr. Vice Commander:</b>	<b>Historian:</b>	<b>Honor Guard Captain:</b> Michael Wescott 719.306.9170
<b>Adjutant:</b> Jerry Hopper 918.953.9980	<b>Service Officer:</b> Brian Murphy 719.526.9675	<b>Club Manager:</b> Art Kimbrel 719.339.4610

### American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers

<b>President:</b> Royce Hopper 918.953.9993	<b>VP:</b> Cathy Barger 719.290.3163	<b>Secretary:</b> Pat Weaver 719.638.4763	<b>Chaplain:</b> Kay Stephens 330.999.0225
<b>Treasurer:</b> Kellie Hayes 719.494.7167	<b>Historian:</b> Valerie Stephens 330.510.0411	<b>Sgt At Arms:</b> Charyse Schmidt 651.558.6968	<b>Exec. at Large:</b> Jackie Bowen 901.481.0673

### Sons of The American Legion Squadron 209 Officers

<b>Commander:</b> Michael Wescott 719.306.9170	<b>Adjutant:</b> Rick Kettering 813.967.6680	<b>Sgt At Arms:</b> Bob Ingram 480.353.8234	<b>Chaplain:</b> Brad Henderson
<b>Sr. Vice Commander:</b> Brian Wess 719.528.6672	<b>Jr. Vice Commander:</b>	<b>Finance Officer:</b> Ken Taylor 719.461.4047	

### American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers

<b>President:</b> Ed Santos	<b>Treasurer:</b> Kellie Hayes 719.494.7167	<b>VP:</b> Drew Pearson 719.329.4357	<b>Road Captain:</b> Tom Foster	<b>Historian:</b> Scott Laudan
<b>Secretary:</b> Mike Sylvester	<b>Sgt At Arms:</b>	<b>Communications:</b> Monk Baylis	<b>Logistics:</b>	

### Amateur Radio Club Officers

<b>President:</b> Jon Davis K0YOV	<b>Vice President:</b> George Johnson KE0ALQ	<b>Director:</b> Jim Harris W0EM
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**Secretary:** Harvey LeCato W1JU

**Treasurer:** Henry Russell KC0NAJ

# 2021 Dinners and Events Re-Opened!

## **GREAT NEWS!!!!**

We are back to normal (whatever that looks like) for all events at the Post. There are no restrictions mandated by the Federal Government nor the State at this time.

If restrictions are re-introduced or changed in any way, we will adjust as appropriate. We recommend you continue to monitor our website and Facebook page for updates.

Masks are no longer required, but please feel free to wear them if it makes you more comfortable.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and continued support.

Post 209 Family Leadership







## From The Desk & Mind Of The Commander

Our Department Convention has come and gone, and I want to take a moment to thank all the members who took time out of their busy schedules to attend. I also want to congratulate District Seven's own Chip Kossow from Post 2008 on being elected the 2021-2022 Department Commander. The Department Convention like many before was filled with information benefiting our Department. Like many Posts across this great state this last year was difficult and like us had to cease operations for a period of time. Like us this did not them from helping Veterans and their families around the state, this is a true testament to the American Legions resiliency.

Also though like many posts membership took a hit, and that is understandable, incomes and jobs alike were affected and when the choice came to pay dues or feed their family, they did the right thing and fed their family. This is the start of a new membership year and with that, new opportunities to show Veterans why being a member of our great Post is so important. Over the coming weeks with the assistance of the Executive Committee, we plan on rolling out new membership incentives that are going to really surprise you, so please keep a lookout for that.

Membership, is the foundation of our organization, it does everything from help feed and clothe the homeless to provide the voice in Washington D.C. when we are fighting for your rights as Veterans. Your Membership matters and we appreciate you supporting this community.

Our goal this year is 100% Membership by renewed or new members by November 11th, 2021. Together we can make this goal a reality!

Before I close, I want to share some awards our Post received because of YOUR hard work this last year.

1. Americanism Award Category's 4/5/6
2. Children & Youth Award
3. Community Service Award
4. 10 Year All Time High Membership

*Joseph Schmidt*  
Post Commander



# Celebrate

At  
American Legion  
Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209

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



## Rental Features:

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

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



For More Information

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

(719) 599-8624

3613 Jeannine Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80917

\*Additional cost may apply

From the Desk of the Post Adjutant



Happy 4th of July, the day we celebrate our Nation's independence. Don't forget the Post celebration on the 4th. The Post will provide the hamburgers and hotdogs. You provide a side dish. I hope to see you all here.

Things To Ponder:

July is one of seven months with 31 days; July is National Hotdog Month; July is National Ice Cream Month; July's birthstone is the ruby; July 10th is Collector Car Appreciation Day; Last but not least, on or after July 1st you may renew your American Legion Membership and it will be good until December 31, 2022. Plus, I will stamp your card with my dandy little Early Bird stamp which allows you to enjoy our Early Bird Dinner, in October, for free.

We will be restarting the "Queen of Hearts" game on July 16, 2022.

It has been a long and arduous year and a half in which many things have happened but, for those of us who are still here at the Post, we look forward to the rest of you coming out and enjoying the comradery of others.

Don't forget The American Legion membership year begins on 1 July, 2021. This means if you renew, or if someone new signs up 1 July or after, your membership is good through 31 December, 2022. If that is not incentive enough, the Post has a free member's dinner coming in October for all who have an "early bird" stamped on their member card. Hope to see you there.

REMEMBER, THE PROCEEDS GAINED BY THE POST ARE USED TO AID AND ASSIST VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILY THAT ARE LESS FORTUNATE. STAY SAFE.

*Jerry Hopper*  
Post Adjutant



## From the Desk of the Sr. Vice Commander

The new membership year has started and the Adjutant has the new membership cards in his possession. Please take a moment and send in your dues for renewal. The cost is \$45 and we have several ways to accomplish this. You can mail them to the Post, you can go to our website and renew using PayPal, you can go to the National website to renew, or just come out for one of the dinners this month and give your renewal to Jerry directly.

Membership is the lifeblood of The American Legion. We all joined for a reason. For some it was to continue the camaraderie we experienced while in the military. For others, it was to help our fellow Veterans. What is your reason for joining? Reach out to your friends and neighbors if they are Veterans. Let them know the reason you joined; for most people the reasons are the same. If you need help in what to say remember this: We Believe in God and Country. We Believe in Americanism. We Believe in Taking Care of our Youth. We believe in Taking Care of Veterans. We Believe in a Strong National Defense. If this is something you also believe in; you should belong to The American Legion.

*Marvin Weaver, Jr.*  
Sr. Vice Commander





# Trivia Night!



**Do you want a chance for a free dinner? Or maybe a free beverage?**

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

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

**How about Roy Rogers real name?**

**What is the President of the United States' address?**

**If you know the answers to the above and other questions similar to these, or if you fancy yourself a trivia wizard, join us on Friday, 23 July for our Trivia Night event. Come on out and unseat last month's team of Joe Schmidt and Marvin Weaver, JR.**

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

**Jay Bowen will serve as Emcee for the event; he claims it would not be fair for him to play because he is the self-proclaimed **Trivia Champion of the World!****

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

**Cost to compete is \$5.00 per person.**

**Even if you don't want to play, come on out and watch the fun! But you should consider competing in the contest. You never know, your dinner that night might be free!**

## From The Desk Of our Finance Officer

The last couple of months the Post has experienced a bit of a challenge with our Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) bill. It turns out there was a leak in a condenser pipe that went unnoticed for several months, largely due to the Post being shut down from COVID. This leak caused the Post water usage to slowly creep up until January when the pipe broke. Because of being on budget billing, the impact was not known until April/May billing cycle when the large bill was sent that adjusted the monthly amount. With this adjustment, there was a large payment required to bring the account current. While it was not an ideal situation, we had no problem covering the amount due (though I am pretty sure the checking account did cry a little). As a result of this situation, I implemented a process to track the actual usage amounts on the CSU bill statements. This process will provide the ability to see anomalies in usage much quicker so that we can resolve any problems right away. I expect to see the monthly budget billing amount to go back down once we have enough billing cycles to show the usage has gone down and is staying down.

There will be an audit conducted soon for the period of March 2021 through June 2021. Once the audit is complete, the Executive Committee has approved restructuring the accounts, which will allow for a more streamlined approach to maintaining the Post finances and reduce the number of accounts to track. The goal is to reduce the number of account-to-account transfers, simplify account and expenditure tracking, and reduce the amount of time/effort necessary to maintain/reconcile the accounts.

The number of people coming out to the Post for Friday night dinners and the General Membership meetings is growing. I hope to see that trend increase since the Friday dinners and breakfast before the General Membership meetings help fund the Post; which in turn allows the Post to continue helping Veterans and their families. It is great to keep meeting more of the Post members at the door on Friday nights for dinner and at breakfast before the General Membership meeting, I would like to meet even more of you so please come out to the Post so that not only can we meet, but so you can meet and get to know the other members from your Post.

I want to thank all of the Post 209 members that have provided feedback regarding the ease of understanding the Monthly Finance Report. It is great to know I am conveying information about the Post finances in a manner than you are able to easily understand. I am always open to feedback about what information is contained in the report and recommendations on what additional information could be added to it. If you should have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me any time at: [finance@legion209.org](mailto:finance@legion209.org)

As I stated in previous newsletters (and will keep stating), the Post needs your help in identifying new fundraising ideas. Any fundraising idea – big, small, unconventional – is worth consideration. We need to do everything possible to help the Post get back to pre-COVID and keep supporting our Veterans in the community.

*Joel Haas*  
Finance Officer





Hello ALA Unit 209! I hope you are all enjoying your summer so far and I hope you are all ready for a fun, busy year ahead.

I would like to take a moment to thank you for putting your trust in me to represent you as your President for this new year. I am excited to get back to what our Unit does best after such a difficult last year full of restrictions. I hope we can continue to support our Veterans & community in all of the ways we have always done, and I would also like to do more things within our community. This is an important part of what our Auxiliary does & it will help with our footprint as leaders in our community. The American Legion & The American Legion Auxiliary have so much to offer & as Ambassadors of our organization, we can help it grow & continue to provide assistance to Veterans. Your participation, no matter how or what you choose to do, helps us. You are all important. You are all valuable.

We are trying to get our Junior Auxiliary active this year. We have a member who has agreed to take on the task of mentor to these young ladies, Tracey Ruzicka. Tracey has worked with her daughter's Girl Scout Troop and her knowledge of youth organizations will be valuable in helping us to get our Juniors more active. I believe this is something we need to accomplish as it gives our youth a sense of community involvement as well as a better understanding of what our Veterans have sacrificed & done for our country. It will help them become more active, productive adults and will help keep our organization growing. The future of our organization is most definitely in the hands of our youth, so we need to help guide them and help their growth as we move forward.

Speaking of youth, our 2021 ALA CO Girls State was a huge success! Our Unit sponsored 12 young ladies who shined during the 4-day event. Matter of fact, one of the young ladies sponsored by our Unit was selected to attend Girls Nation. Congratulations Shreya Krishnan! And another Unit 209 delegate, Alayna Schoepp was chosen as an alternate to Girls Nation. She will attend in the event one of the two Senators are not able to go. Congratulations also to Alayna! Both you ladies make us very proud! This is a Program our Unit is very active with each year. If you would like to help with Girls State, please reach out to me or Jackie Bowen. New ideas & helping hands are always appreciated!

Birthdays for Auxiliary members for July: Marion Daugherty, Liliane Hagelberg, Kristi Hensley, Sharon Troelsch, Barbara Westerhouse, Fran Worthington, Kaitlyn Holland, & Emma Smith. Happy Birthday and best wishes.

If there is anything I can assist you with, I would love to hear from you. My cell phone is 918-953-9993 and my email is [royceannh@yahoo.com](mailto:royceannh@yahoo.com).

*Serving Our Veterans Proudly!*

*Royce Hopper*  
Unit President





## From Our American Legion Riders

Summer is in full swing for American Legion Riders Post 209! The Riders have been really busy this past month with numerous ride events every weekend. Runs since the last newsletter included the Blessing of Bikes, ALR 2008 Poker Run, ALR 38 Fallen Brothers & Sisters Run, ALR 5, Lindstrom Run, and ALR 209 Dan Jean High Country Remembrance Run. The rest of June will continue to be busy with Veteran's Motorcycle Club Independence Run, ALR 172 Independence Day Parade in support of the Fairplay ALR, ALR 38 Poker Run and our ALR 209 Poker Run. We will also be running our annual Pony Express Run that will benefit the American Legion Legacy Fund. This is continuing to be a really great year – Ride safe!

*Ed Santos*  
ALR President



### **ASSIST A VET!!!**

#### **ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL &**

#### **OUR LOCAL VETS THAT ARE HOMEBOUND OR DISABLED**

The "Post 209 Membership Team and the Post Officers" wishes to THANK "EACH AND EVERY MEMBER OF POST 209's AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY" (American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, and Legion Riders) that have allowed the Post to assist our deserving members in continuing their membership with the "WORLD'S GREATEST AND LARGEST VETERAN'S ORGANIZATION."

THE "2022 Membership Year" IS THE 6TH ANNIVERSARY year we have ask for your financial help and many of you have been most generous with your assistance.

With your continued support we will be able to keep this program alive. (Each year you have donated generously and we THANK YOU).

The annual portion of the Post's "American Legion dues" that must be forwarded to the state headquarters for the "State" and "National" American Legion dues is \$36.00 per member.

WITH YOUR HELP WE CAN CONTINUE TO SEE TO IT THAT OUR SERVICE PERSONNEL ON ACTIVE DUTY, AS WELL AS OUR POST MEMBERS IN NURSING HOMES OR ARE HOMEBOUND, AND ARE ON A REDUCED INCOME, CONTINUE TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE A MEMBER OF "THE AMERICAN LEGION."

If you would like to assist for the 2022 Membership Year, just mail your check, payable to "Post 209", in whatever amount you would care to give (be it only \$1.00 or \$5.00 or any other amount, it all adds up to a \$36 per-capita amount), put "ASSIST-A-VET" on the memo line. You can also make the donation on our website at [www.legion209.org](http://www.legion209.org)

MAIL YOUR ASSISTANCE TO "AMERICAN LEGION POST 209, ATTENTION: MEMBERSHIP, 3613 JEANNINE DRIVE, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80917.

Your donation is tax deductible up the amount allowed by law.

**OUR ACTIVE DUTY AND ASSISTED MEMBERS THANK YOU IN ADVANCE, FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATION!**

POST 209, MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

## From Our Post Chaplain

### WHERE WAS GOD?

Think you have troubles? I just finished reading the Book of Job. You know the story: Job was a *righteous* man with wealth and a large family, living the *good* life. Then it happened. Job lost everything: his property, his family, his friends, even his health. Why do bad things happen to good people? Job didn't understand.

New Braunfels, Texas (1998). In October, a hurricane stalled off the coast of Mexico, sending heavy rains over South Texas. New Braunfels received 22 inches of rain in a 24-hour period, causing the Guadalupe and Comal rivers to rise 19 feet above flood level. I saw a house floating down the river. I volunteered at a Red Cross shelter at a local church.

I arrived for my first full day and discovered one box of eight stale donuts. I surveyed the 80 people sleeping on Army cots. The rich and the poor had lost everything. The flood had made equals of us all. "Wurstfest", an annual "salute to sausage" that brings in over 100,000 people and millions of dollars to the community, was two weeks away. The festival buildings and grounds were filled with uprooted trees, branches, and debris. Some wondered, "*God, why?*"

I had a different question. I was a shepherd. I stepped out on the front porch of the shelter in the morning light. "*Lord*", I asked, "*how will I feed them?*"

Moore, Oklahoma (2013) An EF-5 tornado hit Moore, Oklahoma with a power 8 times greater than the atomic bomb that hit Hiroshima. Three hundred homes were demolished, and an elementary school was hit. Twenty-four townspeople were killed, including 6 children.

Do you know what it is like to lose your only son? God knows. It is normal for one in a traumatic event to express shock, anger and hurt. God knows.

Televangelist Robert Schuller used to say, "Tough times never last; tough people DO!"

Job, ever faithful, would get everything back he lost, and more.

Moments after my front porch question to the Lord, a kitchen truck drove up to the church. "Hi!", the driver said, "We're the Salvation Army, and we're looking for a mission!"

They fed men, women, and children three hot meals a day. Meanwhile, the people of New Braunfels rallied. We weren't "citizens" anymore – we were *neighbors*. Survivors worked to move debris and restore the festival grounds. "Wurstfest" opened on schedule; two weeks after the Great (500 year) Flood. The city healed.

Volunteers helped the people of Moore, Oklahoma to rebuild homes, churches, and the elementary school. A local artist created a sculpture from debris to honor those perished, and to remember the spirit of the survivors. Where was God? He was right there, all along.

Remember Job and "keep the faith." There may come a time in life when God is all you have – that's when you find that God is all you need. (Proverbs 3:5)

*Brad Henderson*  
Chaplain





## The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC)

**Devoted to the Hobby and Art of Amateur Radio and Promoting the Legion**

As we are a new and hopefully contributing part of Post 209 – we wish all of Post 209's members a happy AND SAFE Independence Day.

### **Upcoming Events:**

**Fox Hunt** – July 17<sup>th</sup> – Come out and find the *fox*. Details forthcoming.

**Progressive Radio Rally** – August 28<sup>th</sup> Details forthcoming.

Questions /Comments?

**73 (Best regards)** – Harvey W 1 J U 331-1212 [mbca@comcast.net](mailto:mbca@comcast.net)



# Happy Independence Day!

**Join us at the Post for our annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic. We will provide the hamburgers, hot dogs, and condiments.**

**We ask you to bring a side dish large enough to feed your family and friends, plus a couple more people.**

**No RSVP is required and there is no cost for the picnic. See you on the 4<sup>th</sup>!!!!**



# **Neal Thomas, Jr.-Centennial Post 209 Golf Tournament**



**Where?** King's Deer Golf Club, Monument, CO

**When?** Sunday, 22 August, 2021

**Time?** Player Check-in 7:00 am  
Shotgun Start 8:00 am

Scramble Tournament (Rules Announced Prior to Start  
of Play)

**Cost?** \$100/Person

Entry Fee includes: Green Fees, Range Balls, Golf Cart,  
and Awards' Luncheon.

Donations and Sponsorships Appreciated and  
Encouraged.

Event Coordinator, Joseph Schmidt – 651 328-9029

Email: [josephschmidt@ymail.com](mailto:josephschmidt@ymail.com)





# GAME NIGHT

START AT

♠ 6 PM ♠

★ EVERY SECOND WEDNESDAY ★

AMERICAN LEGION POST 209

GAME NIGHT IS A MONTHLY FUNDRAISER FOR AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209. POST MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS ONLY. GAME(S) TO BE PLAYED TBD.





# AMERICAN LEGION POST 209

THE PREEMINENT VOICE FOR VETERANS • COLORADO SPRINGS, CO



## WALK OF HONOR

### Buy A Brick Fundraiser!

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



- **What Are We Having?** A Brick Fundraising Event
- **Why?** To Further Funding of our American Legion Programs
- **What Size Are the Bricks?** 4"x 8" or 8"x 8" bricks for individuals, and 8"x 8" or 12"x 12" bricks for our corporate supporters.
- **What are the Costs for the Individual Bricks?** Prices vary depending on size, style and lettering desired, but typically range from \$75 to \$200. For the 8x8 or 12x12 bricks, you can add a second emblem. Contact the Adjutant for ordering details. There is **NO** additional cost for the second emblem on the larger bricks.
- **What are the Costs for the Corporate/Veteran Supporter Bricks?** Again, prices vary depending on size, style, and lettering but typically range from \$125 to \$500.
- **What is the Difference between Individual and Corporate Bricks?** Individual bricks are identified for Veterans, and family members of Veterans wishing to purchase a brick to honor their Veteran. The corporate bricks are for our Veteran-friendly supporters and businesses who wish to show their continued support to our Nation's heroes by purchasing a brick.
- **Is the Brick Purchase Restricted to Members of the Post 209 Family?** No. We encourage members to buy a brick for themselves as a lasting memory of their association with Post 209. We also welcome anyone to purchase a brick for their Veteran loved one, or to show their support to our Veterans.
- **Can I Buy a 12"x 12" Brick for Myself/Loved One?** Absolutely!
- **Where Do I Go to Buy a Brick?** We have a link on our website. Just visit [legion209.org](http://legion209.org) and click on "Walk of Honor." Or, you can visit <http://polarengraving.com/ALPost209> to buy your brick. The site is very user-friendly and will walk you through the design and purchase. You will be able to see a preview of your brick before finalizing the purchase.
- **How Do I Pay For the Brick?** We have the site setup to accept payment via PayPal or by check. PayPal is an extremely safe way to purchase a brick and you don't need a PayPal account to use it.
- **Where Will the Brick Be Shipped?** All bricks will be shipped to the Post. We will notify you when it arrives and you are welcome to stop by and see the brick you have purchased.
- **What Will Become of My Brick?** It will be placed near the Flagpole at the Post and will be part of the landscaping design we are working. If you are a landscaper or know a good one (preferably a Veteran), have them contact our Adjutant.
- **How Long Will this Fundraiser Effort Last?** We plan to only sell as many bricks as needed for the first phase of the landscaping project. Currently, that is anticipated to be 600 bricks, but that number may change depending on brick sizes purchased and the final design approved by the Post.
- **Will I Have an Opportunity to Buy a Brick Later?** Quite possibly. It depends on what is decided/approved for the next phase of our project.

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





## Bringing A Little South to the West

Unless you lived on a farm where your nearest neighbor was 5 miles away and you were home-schooled, you probably grew up having to deal with neighborhood bullies. It didn't matter where you grew up, whether it was in an urban environment, a suburb, or out in the rural countryside, bullies abound.

The interesting thing I learned about bullies was that regardless where they lived and operated, they seemed to be bullies only when surrounded by their buds. You get with them alone and by and large they were just normal, everyday people. But apparently, there is something about getting a bully together with others like them; that's when they transform from Dr. Jekyll into Mr. Hyde.

We had a few in my neighborhood growing up. Matter of fact, one of the more notorious bullies lived right next door. He was a year older than me and had a brother my age. He, his brother, my brother (Bubba), and I were pretty good friends until the next-door neighbors got together with their "gang." Then it was as if they were completely different persons.

I remember on one occasion I had just returned from a dentist visit and had a couple of temporary fillings put in some molars that had cavities. The Dentist had given me strict instructions to be very careful over the next few days with my food intake. That afternoon as I was leaving school and making my way through a park near the school, the "gang" approached. One of their members, a guy I had known for several years walked up and began shouting at me about some alleged infraction. I explained I wasn't the guilty party, but it was obvious my opinion didn't count. He started swinging. Fortunately for me he wasn't very good nor strong. He reminded me of the short dude who was the sidekick of the bully in the movie, "A Christmas Story." He was the toad. I was able to easily block most of his blows at my face and didn't try to fight back. I also learned that if you were to get the advantage over one, you wound up having to fight them all.

The next day I confronted the guy in the hallway at school. He was very apologetic and wanted to be friends. He acted as if he was almost frightened of what I was going to do. There were no "gang" members around to give him support or protection.

For those who believe in karma, I got my revenge. A few years later, he and I were on a Golden Gloves team sponsored by the Memphis Police Department. Several evenings we trained and sparred against each other. He and I were in the same weight class so it was inevitable we would spar at some point. When it happened, I beat him to a pulp. It felt pretty good, and it was legal.

There were other bullies in my neighborhood from elementary all the way up through high school. Most of them were friends and when they were not with their "gang," we hung out together. If you had met them when they were alone, you would have probably liked them. And because I hung out with them when they were Dr. Jekyll, I was pretty much ignored most of the time when they morphed into Mr. Hyde.

I thought the days of bullies would end when I became an adult. How naïve I was to think that. There are bullies everywhere today. I'm not talking about gangs like the crips and the bloods. I am talking about people we interact with at work and in our extra-curricular activities such as The American Legion. It's interesting to note the one constant about a bully even today; they act totally different when confronted one-on-one. But get them together with their "gang," and you see a different personality. You can see it in their email messages, their Facebook Posts, and even in conferences and meetings when they are with their support group of other "group think" bullies. But get them to sit down across the table with you individually, and they are as friendly as a puppy.

How very sad the actions of these people for what must be a self-esteem issue to act out this way. We are no longer on a playground or in a park. I would like to think we have outgrown those childish ways. But like Peter Pan, I guess some kids never grow up. To borrow a phrase from someone who was almost killed by some bullies several years ago, "Why Can't We All Just Get Along?"



July 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
We will not be serving breakfast prior to the 10 July meeting!				1 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm	2 <span style="color: red;">Price Varies w/Menu</span> Hamdogger 6:00pm	3 VFW Meets at 8:00am
4 <span style="font-size: small;">Indep. Day</span>  <span style="color: red;">Post 209 Family Picnic 12:00pm</span>	5 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:30pm	6	7	8	9 <span style="color: red;">\$20.00 Meal</span> Trillion Trees Dinner Event - 6:00pm <span style="color: red;">RSVP Required!</span>	10 Membership Meeting Mtg - 10:00 
11	12 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:30pm  Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm	13 <span style="color: red;">\$10.00 Meal</span>  Girls State Sponsor Dinner - 6:00pm <span style="color: red;">RSVP Required!</span>	14  <span style="color: red;">Game Night! 6:00pm</span>	15	16 <span style="color: red;">\$15.00 Meal</span> Steak Night! 6:00pm <span style="color: red;">RSVP Required!</span>	17 <span style="color: red;">\$10.00 Meal</span>  Pony Express - 2 Taco Bar, games, races 2:00pm
18	19 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:30pm	20 ALR Exec. Board 6:00pm	21	22	23 <span style="color: red;">\$10.00 Meal</span> <span style="color: red;">Trivia Night!</span> Chef's Choice Dinner 6:00pm <span style="color: red;">RSVP Required!</span>	24  ALR Poker Run 10:30am
25	26 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:30pm  Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm	27 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm	28	29	30	31  Healing Warriors 9:00am-1:00pm

**August Events of Note:**

- Game Night!** – 11 August
- Trivia Night!** – 13 August
- Post 209 Golf Tournament!** – 22 August
- National Convention!** – 27 August – 2 September