



A NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR AMERICAN LEGION

## CENTENNIAL POST 209

"A LITTLE POST GOING PLACES AND DOING BIG THINGS"

JULY 1992

FROM THE COMMANDER (Excerpts from the American Legion Dispatch, a twice-monthly national publication)

Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Edward J. Derwinski is a hard man to read. Three months ago, he was shuttling around the country, touting the Rural Health Care Initiative, a plan that would allow rural VA medical centers to receive Medicare reimbursement for treating non-veterans. Veterans, however, who had been turned down for care at the same facilities would not be allowed to use their Medicare benefits.

Today, the secretary opposes a plan to treat veterans at VA centers and use Medicare funds to reimburse VA for any care given to veterans. National Commander, Dominic D. DiFrancesco asks why Secretary Derwinski is opposed to giving veterans the same opportunity for care that he seems so willing to extend to non-veterans under the rural health-care plan. Secretary Derwinski clearly misunderstands his role as advocate for America's veterans.

The Commander's remarks hinge on a May 28 letter sent by Derwinski to Rep. G. V. Montgomery, D-Miss, chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, who recently helped usher through his committee H.R.5263, which authorizes VA to conduct a test project which would require VA to provide care to Medicare-eligible veterans. The plan also would extend care to certain military beneficiaries.

The American Legion supports the Medicare reimbursement proposal which would extend care to countless veterans who have been denied care because of VA funding shortages and stringent eligibility criteria adopted in recent years.

In his letter, Derwinski wrote: "Furthermore, it is not readily apparent which group of veterans this bill is designed to benefit. We currently care for virtually all service-connected and lower income veterans who seek care at our facilities. Nonservice-connected higher income veterans can, for the most part, afford the deductibles and copayments under the Medicare program.

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CENTENNIAL POST 209  
1337 NORTH ACADEMY BLVD  
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80909  
719-591-2272

**OFFICERS**

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| COMMANDER         | FLOYD BUFKIN  |
| SR VICE COMMANDER | BILL WEEKS    |
| JR VICE COMMANDER | AL CYRIAQUE   |
| ADJUTANT          | ANN FOSTER    |
| FINANCE OFFICER   | HARRY JOHNSON |
| SGT-AT-ARMS       | AL LENDER     |
| CHAPLAIN          | TOM HABAN     |
| HISTORIAN         |               |
| JUDGE ADVOCATE    | LARRY JOHNSON |
| SERVICE OFFICER   | TED RIDDLE    |
| EXEC COMMITTEEMAN | NEAL THOMAS   |

DUES \$20.00

**AUXILIARY OFFICERS**

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| PRESIDENT          | BARBARA JOHNSON    |
| 1ST VICE PRESIDENT | DOROTHY DASSERO    |
| 2ND VICE PRESIDENT | LOIS EGNOR         |
| SECRETARY          | NANCY HART         |
| CORR SECRETARY     | ALICE HART         |
| TREASURER          | IREANA CAMPBELL    |
| HISTORIAN          | NEDRA MARKETTO     |
| CHAPLAIN           | MARCIA SHELLHAMMER |
| SGT-AT-ARMS        | COLLETTE PRICE     |

DUES \$12.00

**MEETINGS**

3RD THURSDAY 7:00 P.M.  
POTLUCK DINNER 6:00 P.M.

**MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY**

World War I  
Apr 6, 1917 - Nov 11, 1918  
World War II  
Dec 7, 1941 - Dec 31, 1946  
Korean War  
June 25, 1950 - Jan 31, 1955  
Vietnam War  
Dec 22, 1961 - May 7, 1975  
Granada & Lebanon  
Aug 24, 1982 - July 31, 1984  
Panama  
Dec 20, 1989 - Jan 31, 1990  
Persian Gulf  
Aug 2, 1990 till end of hostilities

**Editors**

Dorothy Dassero  
Larry Johnson

Therefore, they already have access to a wide range of health care providers.

That statement has caused many eyebrows to raise throughout the veterans' community. "The reality is that veterans whose incomes are barely above the threshold for means testing, are being turned away for care at many VA medical centers," DiFrancesco says. "And I'm sure many veterans wouldn't agree with the secretary's fantasy that they have enough disposable income to cover medicare copayments and deductible."

An ongoing Legion study of VA hospitals shows that many of the centers have been forced to shut down entire wings because they didn't have sufficient funding and staffing to provide care to veterans.

DiFrancesco says Derwinski's opposition to H.R.5263 is perplexing in other ways. "We expect that a cabinet-level officer, appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate, should at least be a defender of veterans, if not an advocate. We don't know what Mr. Derwinski stands for anymore or who he represents. He certainly doesn't represent veterans. Perhaps as history has shown, the only advocates for veterans are veterans themselves."

WHAT THE HIGH COURT SAYS: The nation's highest court believes veterans are special people and should be treated as such under the law. In a May 1983 decision that overturned a lower court ruling on the tax-exempt status of veterans' groups, then Justice William H. Rehnquist wrote: "...Veterans have been obliged to drop their

own affairs and take up the burdens of the nation, subjecting themselves to the mental and physical hazards as well as the economic and family detriments which are peculiar to military service and which do not exist in normal civil life. Our country has a long standing policy of compensating veterans for their past contributions by providing them with numerous advantages. This policy has always been deemed to be legitimate."

FROM THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

This is the month to really start pushing for membership. We are into our new American Legion year and anyone you can sign up will receive a 1993 membership card. It is also time for us to renew our membership so that we can all be "Early Birds."

Due to our efforts in the past year, we met and exceeded our membership goals. Yet, we must consider our planned goal - A NEW POST HOME - which will require many, many new members to support it. The prime time to recruit new members is NOW. With everyone's assistance, I am sure we can double our membership - ONLY ONE NEW MEMBER from each present member will meet that desired goal. Let's push for that membership goal now. Thank you!

BILL WEEKS  
SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

FROM THE AUXILIARY

We have just returned from Department Convention where I was honored to be a Page representing District 7. It was a fun and interesting learning experience for me. The convention was a good one with much information for the delegates to bring back to you.

The unit was awarded certificates for Membership, Foreign Relations, Music, VA&R, Chaplain's Book and the History Book.

Several of our members were recognized for their hours as a Field Service Volunteer. I am so proud of you all for making our unit outstanding.

Come to the Post and see the Auxiliary items in the showcase. These are items for you members to purchase, such as: ribbons for your pins, sun visors, coin purses, pins, etc.

Hope to see you at our July 16 meeting. It will be a potluck. And don't forget the Post Annual Picnic on August 1. Main course will be furnished by the Post. Please bring a covered dish to share with others.

BARBARA JOHNSON  
PRESIDENT

RAFFLE TICKETS

By this time, you have received your raffle tickets and return envelope in the mail. It is very important for the future Post Home that we raise money. Please complete the stubs and mail them and a check promptly. The drawing will be August 1, 1992 at the Post picnic. If you need additional tickets, call me at 596-9261.

HARRY JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN

PICNIC

The annual picnic will be held at Ironhorse Park on Fort Carson, August 1, 1992. We will start at 11:00 A.M. with food served at 12:30 P.M. The Post will furnish the meat, bread, drinks and condiments just as last year. We plan to serve chicken and ribs for

the adults and hamburgers or hot dogs for the children. We ask that each family attending bring a dish of salad, vegetables or dessert.

For those interested, horseshoes, mini golf, volleyball, tennis, softball or basketball will be available. The rental fee for basketball is .50 a day, tennis racquets .50 an hour, mini golf \$1.50 for adults and .75 for children per round. The batting cage is \$10.00 per hour. The Post will provide a softball kit, basketball and horseshoes. If you plan to attend, please call the post with your reservation by July 27. We have to cut off reservations on the 27th to give us time to buy the food and drinks.

HARRY JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN

**INSURANCE COVERAGE**

Effective 1 July, 1992, the American Legion Department of Colorado will be insured by the Legion Insurance Trust Company.

Very shortly, all Legionnaires will be mailed a NEW application for the free \$1,000.00 Accidental Death and Dismemberment insurance. In addition, this form must be done every year and every year, you must designate your beneficiary, sign and mail to the insurance company. Otherwise, the insurance policy will be no good.

LARRY JOHNSON  
JUDGE ADVOCATE

**DID YOU KNOW:** that through the last year the Posts, Auxiliary units, and Departments, Eight & Forty Salons and Departmentals made total contributions of \$7,245,999 in direct aid to dependent children; made contributions to American Legion Child Welfare Foundation in the amount of \$257,770; to other welfare agencies \$15,196,273; other C&Y expenditures \$10,075,717; that the total amount of children aided was 1,964,626. Be proud!

TO POST EVERLASTING: Carl Smith and H.E. "Gym" Reese.

**The American Legion Membership Application**


\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) \_\_\_\_\_ (Phone) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Mailing Address) \_\_\_\_\_ (Date) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip) \_\_\_\_\_ (Post #) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check appropriate eligibility dates and branch of service below** \_\_\_\_\_ (Dues)

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 20, 1989-Jan. 31, 1990 | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 24, 1982-July 31, 1984 | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 22, 1961-May 7, 1975   | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> June 25, 1950-Jan. 31, 1955 | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 7, 1941-Dec. 31, 1946  | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 6, 1917-Nov. 11, 1918 |   |



I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Name of recruiter \_\_\_\_\_

**Receipt of Dues**  
(Please Print)

From \_\_\_\_\_ Post # \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiter's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiter's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiter's Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

1992

# June 28 - August 8

1992

## CENTENNIAL POST 209 EVENTS

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY  | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY                                    |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| <b>June 28</b><br>DEPT<br>CONVENTION<br>FT COLLINS                    | <b>June 29</b>  | <b>June 30</b>                                 | <b>July 1</b><br>7:00 AM EXEC<br>MTG<br>5:45 PM<br>CIVITANS<br>MEETING | <b>July 2</b>   | <b>July 3</b><br>6:00 PM BINGO<br>REA #1 834<br>EMORY<br>CIRCLE  | <b>July 4</b><br>4TH OF JULY                |
| <b>July 5</b>   | <b>July 6</b>   | <b>July 7</b><br>7:00 PM MOMS<br>MEETING       | <b>July 8</b><br>7:00 PM GUN<br>GUN                                    | <b>July 9</b>   | <b>July 10</b><br>6:00 PM BINGO<br>REA #1 834<br>EMORY<br>CIRCLE | <b>July 11</b>                              |
| <b>July 12</b><br>CO BFW FOUN-<br>DATION<br>TRUSTEE MTG               | <b>July 13</b><br>8:00 PM 40/8<br>PROMENADE<br>POST 5 | <b>July 14</b>                                 | <b>July 15</b><br>5:45 PM<br>CIVITANS<br>MEETING                       | <b>July 16</b><br>7:00 PM GEN<br>MBRS<br>MEETING              | <b>July 17</b><br>6:00 PM BINGO<br>REA #1 834<br>EMORY<br>CIRCLE | <b>July 18</b><br>9:00 AM WACS<br>MEETING   |
| <b>July 19</b>  | <b>July 20</b>  | <b>July 21</b><br>7:00 PM MOMS<br>MEETING      | <b>July 22</b>   | <b>July 23</b><br>7:00 PM GUN<br>CLUB<br>8 & 40 NO<br>MEETING | <b>July 24</b><br>6:00 PM BINGO<br>REA #1 834<br>EMORY<br>CIRCLE | <b>July 25</b>                              |
| <b>July 26</b>  | <b>July 27</b>  | <b>July 28</b><br>7:30 PM<br>AMVETS<br>MEETING | <b>July 29</b>   | <b>July 30</b>  | <b>July 31</b><br>6:00 PM BINGO<br>REA #1 834<br>EMORY<br>CIRCLE | <b>Aug 1</b><br>1:00 PM<br>ANNUAL<br>PICNIC |
| <b>Aug 2</b><br>1:00 PM DIST<br>SEVEN MTG,<br>POST 25<br>FLORENCE, CO | <b>Aug 3</b>  | <b>Aug 4</b><br>7:00 PM MOMS<br>MEETING        | <b>Aug 5</b><br>7:00 AM EXEC<br>MTG<br>5:45 PM<br>CIVITANS<br>MEETING  | <b>Aug 6</b>  | <b>Aug 7</b><br>6:00 PM BINGO<br>REA #1 834<br>EMORY<br>CIRCLE   | <b>Aug 8</b>                                |

POST OPENS 11:00 AM

7/5/1992

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
CENTENNIAL POST 209  
1337 N. ACADEMY BLVD.  
COLO SPRGS, CO 80909  
TEL: 591-2272

NON PROFIT  
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FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

