

The Centennial



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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Gregory Smith

As the end of the fiscal year comes to an end, I have to say this has been a fabulous year for the Centennial Post 209. We have been able to help Veterans, meet the needs of Veterans, interact with new Veterans and their families, and spread the mission of the American Legion. As part of the team, I am proud to see the Post grow and exceed the Department of Colorado's goal of 965 members. We have 993 members. What a feat for the members of the Centennial Post. We have the ability to surpass being the second largest American Legion Post next year. With my continuation in the position of Commander, I want us, as a Post, to again take on this task: to become the largest American Legion Post in Colorado.

If I break down the Post programs, you can also see a pattern of growth to include the American Legion Riders, Sons of the American Legion, Young Guns' instructors, and volunteers within the Centennial Post. When we look at this, we have developed the right steps in building growth and creating a network to help Veterans.

I am hoping that the members who attended the Department Convention shared with other Post members some of the things that we do at the Centennial Post. I think we do many things above and beyond the standard. We model the mission of the American Legion to the communities of Colorado Springs; provide an environment at the Post that is conducive to the families; service some 200 plus Post members at our Friday night dinners; rode over 73,000 miles; share volunteerism with local school districts, community Veteran programs, and Veteran families; and empower Americanism in all that our members do in the community.

I want to thank the leadership team for their service over the past year. I feel that each of them have grown as Veterans and have found ways to help Veterans in the community. Many have chosen to accept their position another year and I am truly thankful for their passion to help within the American Legion.

“True Teams are made when you put aside individual wants for collective good.”

The end of the Department Convention tells us it is time to reach out to more Veterans and their families. We have to take the challenge to share the benefits of the American Legion. It is the organization to help Veterans and their families. Work to continue our loyalty to the Centennial Post, tell your friends, neighbors, and families about the American Legion and get involved.

In the coming year, we need to stay focused to explore how to schedule events and gatherings that will aid the Post in generating revenue. With the increase in membership, we need to take advantage of the new ideas. Our home (Post) needs to have some updates, as the year goes by, so please share your ideas with the leadership. Up to this point, we have been using the \$6.00 a year from you to help Veterans and offer events to you. Please look at how you can get involved and help us. Volunteers are ways that will make this effort continue. As some of you may have read or heard, there is a coming increase in dues from the National American Legion. As your leadership team meets, we will look at how to maintain events, services, and benefits to our members. More information will follow over the coming months.

I want to thank you for a fabulous year and want to lead you into the new fiscal year. There are many things we have planned and truly hope you get involved. If it has been a while since you have attended the Post, please swing by and meet the new members and see what is changing within the Centennial Post. We just had a Flag disposal ceremony and many attended: Thank you. One July 4th, 2015, the Post will have a Post picnic and another Flag disposal ceremony. Our Club manager, Art will provide the ribs. The picnic is a potluck, so bring your tasty food for others to enjoy. The ceremony will be at 12:30 and the picnic will start at 1:00. Please come and see how we pay respect to the flags that have flown over our nation.

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



From the Unit 209 President—July

Jackie Bowen

Uh oh, she's back! First & foremost, I would like to thank Kari Ann for stepping up this past year to lead our Unit. Let's make her proud by continuing to grow and keeping up the good work. I look forward to serving as your President again this year.

For those of you that couldn't attend our April meeting, I was presented with a dozen beautiful red roses and Past President pin. I would like to thank the Unit for honoring me with these gifts.

As always at this time of year, it's time to start renewing memberships for the coming year. You don't need to wait for the renewal form. Just send a check, give us cash when you attend one of the meetings or functions at the Post (hint, hint), or renew online when you visit our web site www.legion209.org. Each year National gives us target dates to hit thresholds or certain percentages of membership. I don't know what those dates are at this writing but I will let you know when I do. We do get recognition for meeting those dates but the important thing is keeping up and growing our membership.

You may or may not know that Kellie Hayes volunteered (thank goodness she retired from Walgreens) to make aprons for a fundraiser during convention. Thank you Kellie and all the ladies that helped on this effort.

I look forward to working with you ladies again.



From The Commander Centennial Squadron 209—July

Rick Kettering

As we start a new membership year we now have the 2016 membership cards. The Dues are \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for members who are under 18 years of age. Please help to get our renewals as well as new members. Please remember to make sure you have your name as recruiter on the new member's application form for credit towards recruitment awards.

Our Squadron is doing well with the Five Star Program and as we get younger members I hope to get the Ten Ideals program up and running. With the successes of all groups of Post 209 our new CWF goal will probably be around \$1,500.00 this year. We will keep everyone updated on the growth of the funds for the CWF. We are still collecting money for the Josh Dog Project and will be presenting more to Children's Hospital at Memorial Hospital again soon.

I want to thank everyone that stepped up to fill all the officer slots. This is the first time we have had all positions filled. We are growing as a Squadron and are still looking for people to join. The Legion membership is now at a point that Post 209 is the second largest Post in the Department of Colorado; Squadron 209 should be the second largest in the Detachment. I will be looking to all to help our Squadron grow and accomplish great things this year.

For God and Country,

Rick



POST 209 YOUNG GUNS-July

Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Adjutant Ken Taylor



The Young Guns completed spring NRA Marksmanship qualifications on May 20th 2015. We will be taking a summer break until August 5th 2015, when we will resume marksmanship practice. Several shooters have signed up to earn their badge for Pro Marksman, Marksman, Marksman 1st Class, Sharpshooter and Expert. So far, five new shooters have qualified for Pro Marksman and Marksman. Two shooters have achieved Marksman 1st class and one shooter has reached Sharpshooter Level 1. The Sharpshooter badge has nine levels of increasing difficulty that must be completed before a shooter can compete for the Expert Badge. All shooters are doing very well!

The Young Guns have been invited to the Olympic Training Center on July 15th to shoot on the range, get a taste of International Air Rifle competition, and see the OTC's electronic scoring system. This is a great opportunity for our shooters and any graduate of our shooting program is invited. Please contact Ken Taylor to receive a waiver which must be signed to participate.

The items for the 2015 NRA Grant have been received. The Grant amount was \$4283.89 which consisted of 4 Offhand Stands, 4 Spotting Scopes, 4 Scope Stands, and a Creedmoor 6 point Air Rifle range. We would like to thank the Colorado Springs Friends of NRA for helping us to receive this generous award. It will really enhance the shooting experience for both marksmanship qualification and for new students.

The next class will begin on September 9th, 2015. If you would like information on junior shooting classes



FROM THE ADJUTANT-July

Marvin Weaver, Jr.

The 2016 renewal cards have gone out and I have the 2016 cards now. We have not received our goal yet for the 2016 membership year but it will most likely be around 990. There are a couple ways to prevent yourself from getting multiple renewal notices. The first would be to send in your renewal as soon as you get it. I will be working hard to get your card out as soon as I get your renewal. You can pay by sending in a check, using our website and paying through PayPal, or as always "Cash is King!" You can also give your renewal directly to me at the Post during any event where we may be.

The other two ways to prevent getting multiple renewal notices is to become Paid Up For Life (PUFL) member or through the Department of Colorado's program called CAMPP (Colorado Advanced Membership Payment Plan) where you can pay for multiple years at a time. If you would like more information on either of these programs please get in touch with me.

Rusty Bower's new column to bring a little "salt" to the post.

Origin of NAVY Terminology-July

Rusty Bower



Landlubber



Lubber is an old word (dating from the 14th century) meaning *a clumsy or stupid person*. This is its sense in the sailing term *landlubber*, which refers to an unseasoned Sailor. The word alludes to what veteran Sailors regard as new Sailors' distinctive ineptitude at sea.



The American Legion Centennial Celebration

Help us celebrate 100 years of serving America



The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic Veterans organization. Focusing on service to Veterans, service members and communities, the Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States. Today, membership stands at over 2.4 million in 14,000 Posts worldwide. Over the years, the Legion has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for Veterans and produced many important programs for children and youth.

In the spring of 2011, the National Executive Committee of the American Legion put forth Resolution No. 31:

*“The American Legion wishes to call to the attention of the American people the record of achievements that have been accomplished by The American Legion during the 100 years since its founding, to emphasize the impact the organization has had upon the American society, and the extent of its contributions to the national security and the welfare of military veterans, their families and their communities ...
The American Legion wishes to set forth the objectives and the aims that will motivate its programs and activities during the years ahead and to illustrate the contribution made to the future of our country as intended by these programs and activities”*

In other words, yes, the Legion will celebrate our 100th anniversary over the next few years, beginning with 2018 and culminating on Veterans Day, 2019. But more importantly, the Legion wishes to emphasize the great contributions made over the past century, and to plan for even greater work in the years ahead.

As you may already know, the National Executive committee has set up centennial.legion.org for each Post to record their Post's history. However, another component of the Centennial Celebration is for Posts to hold events in their local communities, not only to celebrate the anniversary, but to raise awareness of the contributions of the American Legion. Public awareness and public involvement in the great work of the American Legion is key.

I write this in order to put a “bee in everyone's bonnet.” As we go forward towards the Centennial Celebration, let us be ever aware of opportunities for Celebration activities, which will emphasize our value to the community. Hopefully, some of these activities may establish new community traditions or partnerships. Besides looking back to 1919, it is now time to start looking forward, beyond 2019, and plan for the second century of The American Legion.



National Commander's “Stay on Course” Award

Mike Helm, the National Commander of The American Legion is offering a very nice award to contributors to the programs of The American Legion. Individual donors who contribute \$100 or more to American Legion Charities will receive Commander Mike Helm's "Stay On Course" fundraising pin. Three pins will be awarded to any Legion post, Auxiliary unit, Sons of The American Legion squadron or Legion Riders chapter that donates \$500 or more.

If you are interested in donating and/or need more information, contact our Marvin Weaver, Jr., our Post Adjutant at 719-244-3535, or you can contact the Post and leave a message. You can also go to www.legion.org and search for “Stay on Course.” There is a link that will allow you to fill out a donation form online or download the form to mail to National HQ. Let's keep The American Legion strong and vital. Donate today!

**Words of Wisdom -
offered by Jay Bowen**

I recently came across a website that had humorous Sayings and Words of Wisdom and thought you would

Someone who thinks logically provides a nice contrast to the real world. - *unknown*

Tact is the act of making a point without making an enemy. - *Clarence Darrow*

Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it. - *Moses Hadad, a gentle needle*

I've had a perfectly wonderful evening, but this wasn't it. - *Groucho Marx, a gentle needle*

The difference between the Pope and your boss.... The Pope only expects you to kiss his ring. - *unknown, courtesy of Jack Shea*

The difficult is done at once, the impossible takes a little longer. - *Anthony Trollope (1815-1882)*

The early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese. - *unknown*

Instead of getting married again, I'm going to find a woman I don't like and just give her a house. - *Louis Grizzard*

The older I get, the righter my parents were. - *Jeanne Warner*

The other line always moves faster until you get in it. - *unknown*

The trouble with being in a rat race is that even when you win you're still a rat. - *Lily Tomlin*

There are more old drunkards than old doctors. - *Ben Franklin (1706-1790)*

There are no grades of vanity; there are only grades of ability in concealing it. - *Mark Twain*

There is nothing more stupid as an educated man if you get him off the thing he was educated in. - *Will Rogers (1879-1935)*

I feel so miserable without you, its almost like having you here. - *Stephan Bishop, a gentle needle*

Things come to those who wait, but only the things left by those who hustle. - *Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)*

Those who in quarrels interpose, must often wipe a bloody nose. - *Ben Franklin (1706-1790)*

Three may keep a secret if two are dead. - *Ben Franklin (1706-1790)*

'Tis against some men's principle to pay interest and seems against others' interest to pay principal. - *Ben Franklin (1706-1790)*

He can compress the most words into the smallest idea of any man I know. - *Abraham Lincoln, a gentle needle*



July's Motorcycle Minute



The Run for the Wall (RFTW) was quite an experience. I can only give you a snapshot of what went on. Remember it was an enormous event that went on for over a week and supporters working all year to make this event happen.

In Colorado Springs, there were fundraisers going on in order to support the event. Post 38 organized Jersey Mike Subs fundraisers to pay for food and gas as well as quite a few other events. Additional support came from Posts 209, 5 and 2008. Teamwork made this portion of the trip incredibly successful.

People came to support Riders by cheering them on all along the way. Thanks to all who fed these bikers, cheered them on and prayed for them.

Grady Mitchell, Rich Jaterka, and I were among them. Rich rode all the way to California and turned around. Must compliment this tough guy for doing the entire ride. Grady and I rode to Goodland, Kansas and waited for everyone to catch up to us. We all united in Goodland at an Armory. Hundreds of flags lined the streets to honor us as we rode in for dinner. The awesome people of Goodland honored us well with greetings of joy and stories of their own POWs/ MIAs. You know that this meeting of people who have a common background made it better. For a minute in each person's life, everyone there was on the same sheet of music. Everyone was thinking of those friends, family and townspeople who gave all so that we can live free.

This RFTW was no casual ride. Anyone thinking that this ride was a quick run to Washington DC was wrong. This ride ran in any weather with no stops except when stopping at a planned stop. Those planned stops would be to VA Centers to visit patients, memorial services, parades and schools. Respectfully, Riders spent time with Gold Star Wives, Mothers and families. Many of these members were present in every State. They revealed stories about their loved ones not from the aspect of war but how incredible they were at home. These stories spoke volumes about a families camping trip, baseball games or some other family outing. It brought you back to remembering you own family growing up. Although their pain never truly goes away, we were able to share experiences for a small time in each town along the way.

As my brothers, my son, Grady, Rich and I were honored to act as taxi drivers for Gold Star Wives from every war, we realized the ultimate sacrifice they gave to our country. They shared their stories of losses and realizations that it was for their country. If you ever see someone wearing a gold star, ask them about it. Perhaps they will share their story with you.

Anyway, we taxi drivers escorted our Gold Star Wives to the Lincoln Memorial and Reflecting Pool by way of the protest route. (Remember, this is a protest about bringing home all of our POWs/MIAs). We escorted these treasured family members of our country's heroes to a place they were only allowed. We wished them well and moved on. As some of you know, they were invited to have breakfast with the President, to be honored as



4th of July Picnic!



Please join us on Saturday, 4 July for an Independence Day picnic and celebration. We will start the festivities with a Flag Disposal ceremony at 12:30pm, then we will fire up the grill and have a Legion family picnic. The meat and condiments will be provided by the Post. We're asking you to bring your favorite picnic Pot Luck side dish. Bring enough to feed your party, plus a little extra to share with 2 or 3 others. No RSVP is necessary. If you have questions, contact Jackie Bowen. See you on the 4th!

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

**Senior Vice-Commander
Marsilino (Lino) Calica**

4 Pillars of the American Legion (Americanism – Youth – Veterans – National Defense)

I sincerely want to thank the Legion Family for assisting me as I transitioned into the Senior Vice-Commander duties. With your assistance I have grown tremendously and have a better understanding of all the programs within the Legion Family (Auxiliary, SAL, Legion Riders and Young Guns). There is so much more I need to learn about Legion; so I may better serve you as Senior Vice-Commander within the Legion and Community. You all have made journey with the Legion exciting, fun and enjoyable. I am deeply humbled and honored to being given the opportunity to serve a second term as Senior Vice-Commander at American Legion Centennial Post 209. I will continue to do my best to serve the Legion Family and Community to the best of my abilities and with your help I will succeed.

2015 Membership Drive

As you have known, the Department Membership Goal for Centennial Post 209 was set at 965; the target date was by the end of May 31, 2015. I am very excited and pleased to announce that we did not just meet the Department of Colorado Goal, but we met it 1 month before the target date, we also exceeded the goal, and added another 29 members. We could not have made it without the assistance of each and every one of you in American Legion Centennial Post 209 family.

A buddy recently forwarded the following to me via email. I looked up the author and found her blog and wanted to share this with everyone. It is VERY cool, even for you non-golfers. Jay Bowen

On The Back Nine

Laura Berman Fortgang

I don't play golf. Much to my husband's chagrin, I refuse to go out and play a game that takes over five hours to complete. That doesn't mean I'm clueless about the game. (Tiger Woods gets credit for that. I even met him briefly once.) With that said, I'll borrow a golf term to describe what it feels like to be halfway through my 50th year: I'm on the back nine of my life.

I never thought it would happen to me. Age, that is. I still thought I was 25 until I was 42, and now 50 looms large in its significance. It's highly likely that my time left on earth is shorter than what I have behind me. That changes everything.

My soul begs me with greater urgency to live full out. Any dark, dusty corner of my reptilian brain deserves no time despite how much it tries to dominate the minutes. Things seem to be more about letting go and reducing spiritual clutter than acquiring the new. There is more room to make room.

I have more room for good people because I have let go of the hope that those relationships I've let linger would get better. I have more room to love my family well because I say no to activities that don't match what truly matters to me. I have room for my possessions because the garbage is being given away or thrown out. I don't want much anyway. I don't really want "stuff." I now understand why my parents always say they don't need anything for their birthdays every year.

The back nine does cause some anxiety. It's the time to make up for anything that the front nine was missing to bring the game home. It makes the bucket list move from fun "somedays" to more difficult "hows?" It brings the awareness that health or circumstances could change in a nano-second to get in the way. On the front nine, we just think we have time to spare. Twenty years seems so short now!

The back nine could use some ZEN. A combination of urgency with respect for flow has to happen. If it's all anxiety and "push" we could likely throw the game and choke. So ZEN is important in the mix. Maturity does bring that. Hopefully, we can let go of petty things more easily and diffuse the "juice" of drama more readily.

Dancing with what is, requires breaking old habits but the pay off just may be peace AND getting results at the same time.

The question becomes: Will the back nine be fun or intense? Will it bring happiness or despair? There are choices, but no certainty. You can pick the right club and still not make the hole. And guess what? The game goes on... until it's over. Or maybe you can extend and go for 36 holes.



FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S DESK JULY 2015

As this Fiscal Year comes to an end, I would like to thank all of you for voting for me to be your Chaplain again for another year (2015-2016). I truly feel honored to be your Chaplain this last Fiscal Year and to have you elect me to do it again for another year makes me feel that GOD truly wanted me to be here at this time. I have been doubly blessed as I was also elected on May 3rd to be your District 7 Chaplain for another year (2015-2016). I feel that I have been put here for a reason and I still have not figured it out yet. GOD does HIS own thing and many times we do not fully understand what HE is doing and why, but we all must have faith in HIM and what HE is doing. I just pray that I am doing what HE wants me to do for HIM.

July is a month where we have Independence Day July 4, and on July 27 the end of the Korean War in 1953. As summer approaches, please be very careful if you plan to do any traveling. Have fun but be safe just enjoy the summer and the warm weather, (if it doesn't rain). Again thank you all again for your confidence in me. And in closing I have three words for all of you:

GO TO CHURH!!! AMEN!!!

Pastor Stan



Post 209 Judge Advocate-July

Resolutions and Reports

The American Legion, Department of Colorado held its annual convention here in Colorado Springs this past month, June 26, 27 & 28th. It was a good opportunity for those who attended to witness how The American Legion operates in a formal manner. What I am referring to is how the business sessions consider Resolutions and voting on them.

There is an established procedure that concerns how ideas normally follow a process before being brought to the floor of the Convention. There may be a "fast track" to bring items up for consideration and voting on but it is not the norm.

Legionnaires who have ideas they believe The American Legion should back first bring them to their "Post" for consideration as a Resolution. Normally the Post will assist in formatting an idea as a Resolution, and then it is voted upon at the Post level and if the Resolution is passed, it is forwarded to the District for consideration and if passed by the District, on up to the Department (State) level for consideration. With the approval of these various levels a Resolution is offered to the Convention for consideration and voted upon for approval, disapproval or returned to a committee for refinement.

From the Department Resolutions if approved are forwarded to The American Legion at National for consideration at National Conventions. It may seem a slow process for getting an idea to the National organization and for the National organization to take a stand. And, so it is from the viewpoint of many, however, this slow and deliberate process of offering Resolutions at the Post level, District, and so on has safeguards that protect from impulsive and rash judgments of the moment.

This has been just a thumbnail sketch of the procedure and not meant to discourage Legionnaires from offering ideas for The American Legion to take a position on. Contact your Post Executive Committee members for assistance in developing your ideas into Resolutions that will be favorably approved.



From the Historian—July

Eric Testorff

As June 6th has just come and gone, it once again reminded me of a great American, and one of the four recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor for actions on D-Day: Theodore Roosevelt, III - “Teddy, Jr.” to many. Americans today really only know about the life of his famous father, President Theodore Roosevelt, and his charge up San Juan hill. But Teddy Jr. was a hero in his own right, and one of the founders of the American Legion.

During WWI, when the United States declared war on Germany, Ted volunteered to be one of the first soldiers to go to France. There, he was recognized as the best Battalion Commander in his Division, according to the Division Commander. So concerned was he for his men's welfare that he purchased combat boots for the entire Battalion with his own money. He eventually commanded the 26th Regiment in the First Division as a Lieutenant Colonel. He fought in several major battles, including America's first victory at Cantigny. He was gassed and wounded at Soissons during the summer of 1918. In July of that year, his youngest brother Quentin was killed in combat. Ted received the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions during the war. France conferred upon him the Chevalier Légion d'honneur on March 16, 1919. Before the troops came home from France, Ted was one of the founders of the soldiers' organization that developed as the American Legion. When the American Legion met in New York City, Roosevelt was nominated as its first national commander, but he declined, not wanting to be thought of as simply using it for political gain.

After the war, Roosevelt was appointed by President Warren G. Harding as Assistant Secretary of the Navy. In 1929, President Hoover appointed him Governor of Puerto Rico, and, impressed by his work there, appointed him Governor-General of the Philippines in 1932.

He returned to active duty in April 1941 and was given command of the 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, the same unit he fought with in World War I. Late in 1941, he was promoted to Brigadier General. Upon his arrival in North Africa, Roosevelt became known as a general who often visited the front lines. He had always preferred the heat of the battle to the comfort of the Command Post.

Roosevelt led his regiment in an attack on Oran, Algeria, on November 8, 1942. In 1943, he was the second-in-command of the 1st Infantry Division in the North African Campaign under Major General Terry Allen. He was cited for the Croix de Guerre by the military commander of French Africa, General Alphonse Juin.

But his greatest day was on D-Day, June 6th, 1944, where he would go on to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions. The only general to land by sea with the first wave of troops, at 56 he was also the oldest man in the assault. But this did not deter him; as his CMH citation would read:

“For gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty on 6 June 1944, in France. After 2 verbal requests to accompany the leading assault elements in the Normandy invasion had been denied, Brig. Gen. Roosevelt's written request for this mission was approved and he landed with the first wave of the forces assaulting the enemy-held beaches. He repeatedly led groups from the beach, over the seawall and established them inland. His valor, courage, and presence in the very front of the attack and his complete unconcern at being under heavy fire inspired the troops to heights of enthusiasm and self-sacrifice. Although the enemy had the beach under constant direct fire, Brig. Gen. Roosevelt moved from one locality to another, rallying men around him, directed and personally led them against the enemy. Under his seasoned, precise, calm, and unfaltering leadership, assault troops reduced beach strong points and rapidly moved inland with minimum casualties. He thus contributed substantially to the successful establishment of the beachhead in France.”

BRINGING A LITTLE SOUTH TO THE WEST

Immediate Past Post Commander Jay Bowen—July

For many kids in the South, when you're a teenager on Summer break from school you tend to do a brain dump of everything you learned during that school year. You lose awareness of your surroundings, you can't seem to concentrate on much of anything, and your attention span is pretty much non-existent. For me, it was just like being in school.

But I do remember one Summer when a few of us loaded up the Chevy Station Wagon and the motor boat Dad bought just for these occasions, and we took off to Sardis Lake about 30 miles south of Memphis in Mississippi. It was a pretty big lake with lots of sandy beaches...and girls! It was me, my brother Eddie (a.k.a. Bubba), Dennis Garner (neighbor and instigator), and Billy Phelps (bad boy). For reasons I'll explain in a minute, I must have just turned 16 that year because I had my Driver's License, and it was the year of Summer School. After finishing the 10th grade for the second time in a year, I had about 2 weeks left before the school year was to start once again and I really needed to relax and unwind from trying to get through Sophomore English and Geometry...again. But I digress.

We arrived at the Lake and launched the boat next to one of the beaches. Bubba captained the boat after we put it in, and I moved the car up to the parking area and ran down to meet him as he pulled up to the beach so we could unload the boat. Naturally, the first thing off was the cooler filled with iced down Cokes (yes, Cokes). It was a hot and humid Summer day, in other words, just a normal Summer afternoon in the South. I made it about half way across the beach, then sat the cooler down and opened a cool one. One of the other guys brought the towels so we could dry off from wading out in the water to unload the boat, which is translated to say we were drenched from the shoving and dunking while unloading. We threw the wet towels over a wooden sign on the beach next to the cooler to dry in the hot sun. I remember the sun felt pretty good against my wet body so I just leaned back enjoying the short time of freedom between Summer School and the start of my Junior year, which was coming way too soon. Life just doesn't get any better than this was the only thing on my mind at that time.

After just a few minutes, someone walked up behind me and tapped me on the shoulder. It was a Sheriff's Deputy. What the heck did he want? I wasn't driving, I wasn't drinking (anything other than my bottle of Coke), and I wasn't disturbing anyone's peace. He looked at me through his Ray Bans and said, "Boy, what are you doing with glass on the beach?" It took a few seconds for that to register with me. Oh yeah, my Coke. I said, "Sorry Officer, but I didn't know I couldn't have a bottle of Coke on the beach." He just grinned and pointed to the sign next to me with the towels drying on it. Among other things, the sign read, "No Glass Allowed On The Beach." Crap! So here I am with about 3 6-packs of Bottled Coke in a cooler that I'm sitting on. I tried to explain we had just unloaded the boat and I was taking a break before moving the cooler to our picnic area. I thought he was softening up until he saw the Tennessee registration number on the side of the boat. He said, "You from Memphis?" Yes sir. "Well, you city boys can't just come down here and do anything you want to do here in Mississippi. You boys are coming with me."

We secured the boat, 3 of us got into the Patrol car, and he allowed Bubba to follow in our car. He took us to the county seat in Batesville about 20 miles from Sardis and processed us into a jail cell. He said we could pay the fine and get released if we had the money. The fine was \$50. Between the four of us, we were able to muster together about \$36. So three of our guys sat in the cell while the Officer (bless his heart) graciously allowed one of us to go find another \$14. I was elected to go get the money, which I gladly and quickly accepted the responsibility. This was back in the day before ATMs (not that any of us would have had a Debit card anyway). I drove back to the beach where we were meeting up with some other friends and fortunately we were able to scramble and come up with \$14 to bail Bubba and the other convicts out of jail. By the time I got back to Batesville with the blood money, got the boys processed out of jail, the day was shot. Our day at the beach lasted about 15 minutes. Man, what a lousy Summer that year turned out to be.



Post Officers

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Gregory Smith	520-784-3555
Sr. Vice Cdr	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Jr. Vice Cdr	Mike Barger	719-290-3218
Adjutant	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	719-244-3535
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Chaplain	Stan Hamamoto	719-322-6959
Sergeant-at-Arms	Don Shuck	719-575-0539
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177
Post Executive Committeeman	Jay Bowen	901-484-7193
Service Officer	Lyle Hagelberg	719-594-4039
Judge Advocate	Chuck Zeitvogel	719-531-0546
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610



Auxiliary Officers 2014-2015

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



Sons of The American Legion

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Rick Kettering	813-967-6680
Sr. Vice Commander	Marv Weaver	719-244-3535
Jr. Vice Commander	Ronny Ross	719-493-2583
Adjutant	Ken Taylor	719-495-8190
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Don Shuck	719-575-0539
Chaplain	Christopher Keith	719-382-7845
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177



ALR Officers 2014-2015

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Andy Gilbert	719-231-6696
Vice President	Gregory Smith	520-784-3555
Secretary	John Duenas	719-291-9733
Treasurer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Road Captain	Mike Barger	719-290-3218



Centennial 209 Family Calendar of Events



6 Aug	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
7 Aug	Hamdogger Night CANCELLED!
8 Aug	General membership Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary 10:00 am
8 Aug	ALR Scavenger Hunt (ALR Fundraiser)
14 Aug	Cripple Creek POW/MIA Ride
14 Aug	ALR Dinner 6:00 pm
17 Aug	ALR Board Meeting 6:00pm
21 Aug	Steak Night! 6:00 pm - RSVP REQUIRED
25 Aug	ALR General Membership Meeting 5:30 pm Social Hour 6:30 Meeting
25 Aug	SAL Membership Meeting 6:00 pm
28 Aug	Fish Fry 6:00 pm - RSVP REQUIRED
29 Aug	Inaugural ALR Post 209 Poker Run
3 Sep	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
4 Sep	Hamdogger Night 6:00 pm
7 Sep	Labor Day!
11 Sep	ALR Dinner 6:00 pm
12 Sep	General membership Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary 10:00 am
14 Sep	ALR Board Meeting 6:00pm
18 Sep	Steak Night! 6:00 pm - RSVP REQUIRED
19 Sep	ALR Post 209 Monthly Ride: Bishop's Castle
22 Sep	ALR General Membership Meeting 5:30 pm Social Hour 6:30 pm Meeting
22 Sep	SAL Membership Meeting 6:00 pm
25 Sep	Fish Fry! 6:00 pm - RSVP REQUIRED
26 Sep	VFW End of Season Ride
1 Oct	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
2 Oct	Hamdogger Night 6:00 pm
9 Oct	ALR Dinner 6:00 pm
10 Oct	General membership Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary 10:00 am
16 Oct	Steak Night! 6:00 pm - RSVP REQUIRED
19 Oct	ALR Board Meeting 6:00pm
23 Oct	Fish Fry! 6:00 pm - RSVP REQUIRED
27 Oct	ALR General Membership Meeting 5:30 pm Social Hour 6:30 pm Meeting
27 Oct	SAL Membership Meeting 6:00 pm



THE AMERICAN LEGION
CENTENNIAL POST 209
P.O. BOX 25334
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80936-5334

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
COLORADO SPGS, CO
PERMIT NO. 192

~ July 2015 ~						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	3	4  Flag Disposal 12:30pm Picnic 1:00pm
5	6	7	8	9	10 ALR The American Meal 6:00pm RSVP Required 	11 Membership Meeting Breakfast 9:00am Meeting 10:00am  
12	13	14	15	16	17 Steak Night 6:00pm RSVP Required   	18
19	20 ALR Executive Board 6:00pm 	21	22	23	24 Steak Night 6:00pm RSVP Required   	25 McCandless Nursing Home BBQ-Florence 
26	27	28 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm  	29	30	31	Notes:

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