

The Centennial



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July 2017

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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Mike Barger

Once, again, I'd like to start off by acknowledging all those that have stepped up this last month and volunteered their time to the Post. That includes people from the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders. A big thank you from myself and the executive board goes out to you all.

Don't forget we'll be holding a flag disposal ceremony here at the Post on July 4th, beginning at 10 am. If you have any flags that need to be disposed of, please bring them by. A BBQ/potluck will follow, with the Post providing the meat, and we're asking that everyone that comes, to please bring a dish that can feed your family and 3 to 4 others. I believe the meat will be hamburgers, hotdogs and ribs.

Well, another Department Convention has come and gone. Congratulations goes out to the new Department Commander, Terri Clinton. May she have a very successful year. And congratulations to Stan Hamamoto for another year as your Department Chaplain. I'd like to thank Jay Bowen for his successful year that he had as our Department Commander. Jay exemplified leadership like no other, and we as the largest Post in the state, were very honored to call him our Commander. Also, thanks to Evelyn Espinola, for her successful year as the Department Auxiliary President. May the new incoming President be as successful as you were during your year. Lastly, congratulations and thanks goes out to the following folks for being elected/reelected at the District level; Mike Barger - Senior Vice Commander, Marvin Weaver Jr - District Adjutant, Jerry Lollar - District Historian and Stan Hamamoto - District Chaplain. Post 209 is well represented again.

Another year is upon us, and it's time to renew your Legion membership. Make sure to get this done before October 15th, and you'll receive a free dinner on the Post at the end of October. We have our work cut out for us this year, since we beat our numbers from last year, but I know with a little hard work and dedication from you all, we will meet our new goal. I'd like to challenge you all to bring in one new member to this Post. If you do that, we can be at our goal a whole lot faster. Bring me a new member, and I will pay for one dinner of your choosing. How can you pass on this? Also, if you know someone that can't afford their membership, let's not let them fall off our overall membership. Sponsor them, so we can keep our membership steady and growing.

Like I previously stated, we need to find a way to plug the holes in our overhead deficit. Our Post Executive Committeeman, Bill Burd is heading up a fund-raising committee to begin looking at ideas on what we can do as a Post to bring in major dollars to help us out. The committee so far has 7 to 8 members sitting on it, and we could use more. The more ideas we can get from you the membership, the more we work from when it comes to making plans on what we need to do. You'll continue to hear me ask for members to step up, for we are one family supporting one cause; the Veterans in our community. As you all know, the few fund-raising things we are doing are the dinners on Friday night. I know there's some Friday nights where we must cancel them because the Auxiliary is busy doing other things, and there's no one to help in the kitchen. Remember folks, it doesn't have to be Auxiliary ladies helping. I'm sure everyone has done a little bit in their own kitchen, to be able to come down and assist us. We're only talking an hour or two. Every time we cancel a dinner, that's money that this Post is losing. It takes close to \$2100 a month to keep this Post running, and every little bit helps when it comes to the money we make off the dinners. Art is willing to adjust his menu to bring in more people to the dinners, so if you have an idea on what you'd like to see served on Friday night, let us know.

Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com



From the Unit 209 President

Cathy Barger

I am excited to start another year as your Auxiliary President. It's with great honor and pride that I have the opportunity to serve you. Our next meeting, is July 8th at 10am. Plan on coming down and enjoy a warm breakfast before the meeting starts. Breakfast begins at 9am.

“Shred the feds” Kellie and I had the pleasure to attend the 2017 Girl State in Greeley on June 10th through June 17th. We were amazed at all of the young women that attended Girls State, being a first time counselors attending Girl State. We were able to send a total of 52 girls from our Unit, and a total of 61 girls from our District to participate in this year's program. One of the girls Unit 209 sponsored was elected Governor and is an alternate for Girls Nation, two of the girls were elected to the Party Chairman position, we also sponsored a foreign student from Lithuania, and she was elected to the Clerk & Recorder position. We had two of our girls write Bills and have them pass through both the Senate & House. Paige Langum received the Samsung Scholarship and is a finalist for the \$20,000 Samsung Scholarship.

I know we're all busy away from the Post, but we could always use a hand in the kitchen so please think about volunteering. If you can help, just let Jackie, Kellie or I know when you would be available to help in any way.

In August, the Riders will be having their 2nd annual Poker Run on Sunday, August 27th. They've asked for the Auxiliary to assist them with this, so please keep an eye out for more details in the August newsletter. Also, the Riders are looking for raffle and door prizes for their Poker Run, so if you have anything you'd like to donate, get with Bob Caddell or Steve Hayes and they will gladly take it off your hands.

Happy Birthday to Katrina Baltodano, Kristi Hensley, Fran Worthington, Lillian Hagelberg, Marion Daugherty, Antoinette (Kriquet) Meade, Sydney Moneno, Emma Smith, Sharon Groesch, Sue Duckarmenn. Make sure to wish these ladies Happy Birthday when you see them.

Post 209 will be doing a flag disposal ceremony on July 4th at 10:00 am, followed by a potluck at 12 noon, so bring a side dish. The Picnic is side dish potluck, so bring a dish large enough to provide food for you and your guest(s) and we ask that you add a little extra for others who may want to sample your offering. The Post will provide the meat. It will be hamburgers, hot dogs and I believe Art will be doing ribs, with all the “fixings “. It's a time to see friends, and meet new friends. I hope to see all of you there.

No RSVP is required, but it may be advisable to let me know what you intend to bring so we don't wind up with 15 bowls of baked beans.



From the Adjutant

Marvin Weaver, Jr.

The 2018 renewal cards are out. There best way to prevent getting multiple renewal notices is to send your renewal in 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 check, use our website through PayPal, or pay online through the national website. You can also give your renewal directly to me at the Post during any event we may be having.

We will be having our annual picnic on July 4th starting at 12:00 pm. The Post will provide the meat; we just ask that you bring a side dish. We will also have a flag disposal ceremony before the picnic starting at 10:00 am. If you have a flag in need of disposal, bring it along.

July 29th the riders will be going out to McCandless Veterans Home for their annual picnic. If you haven't been out make plans to attend. It is always a great time and the food is always good. If you didn't know Post 1919 is made up of Veterans at the home and all that anyone that is a resident has to do is say they want to be a member of the American Legion and we sign them up; it doesn't cost them anything. The District pays for the membership and the District Officers are the Post 1919 officers.



Motorcycle Minute; Motorcycle Safety

Bob "Einstein" Caddell; President

I want to say that so far we, the Riders at Post 209, have been lucky in our travels this year. We have made many trips either with the group or out on our own and have come home safe. Not so for one of our VFW Warriors. He was just going to get gas in Fountain and was killed by an older driver that ran a red light.

We have ridden to La Junta, to Bents Fort, to the mountains, and most recently just around town to qualify our Road LT to Senior Road LT. That is a level down from Road Captain. It shows that this person can set up and guide/control an organized ride without the supervision of our Road Captain. This is a great step forward in taking ownership of our Riders.

Without our road Captain and LT's I feel our safety is in question. They provide the security for us to participate in our group rides without constantly thinking of each intersection or lane merge. I functioned as a LT this month during the qualification ride and it was a eye opening experience.

To park your bike in a blind intersection to block on coming traffic is an adrenalin rush. Not knowing if that car or truck coming over the hill will see your lights or your bike is something else. Fortunately, nothing happened and most of the cars were understanding of our group.

We can't always block intersections and stop traffic for our group rides so the safety of our Riders is in their hands. They have to have a functioning machine that they can count on. We perform inspections and do not allow any unsafe bike to participate in group rides because if something happens it can have a Domino affect the riders behind.

We have two major rides coming up that will involve most of our Riders, that is the McCandless Veterans BBQ and our 2nd annual Neil Thomas Jr. Memorial Ride. Our safety is of paramount concern of mine whether we are in a group or individual riding.

I say a prayer every day for the safety of all of our Legion family whether they ride, drive, or walk...



American Legion Family Cookbook



The Auxiliary is putting together an American Legion Family Cookbook. All proceeds will be going to support the Post. What do we need you ask?

Recipes! Recipes! Recipes! All categories including appetizers, beverages, main dishes, side dishes, salads, desserts, snacks, etc.

We would like recipes from all the family members, Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and Riders. You can submit them to hayeskelliej@yahoo.com or bring them to any dinner or function at the Post and give them to Kellie Hayes. We will accept them photocopied, scanned and emailed, handwritten or any other way you can think of. Samples are always welcome, haha. Our goal is to have this completed and ready to sell by the end of the summer.

Health Care Update - July
Legionnaire Bernard Harris

Good day fellow veterans and family members! As of 06/15/2017, the subject of healthcare coverage is still one of the top concerns for the entire country. While the other issues concerning our great nation are truly significant, healthcare is the single topic that permeates the entire population, no matter your age, race, gender or branch of service.

Just to bring everyone up to speed, Post 209 has a program that can literally help any member save money, not conflict with their current insurance plan, but totally replace their dental and vision plan and provide services that follow your household members as they travel across the nation. The Post has their own portal to sign up for either the Dental-Plus Plan or the Deluxe-Plus Plan that benefits the member **AND** the Post. Our company, the Pikes Peak Strategic Group (PPSG) donated a business franchise to the Post with the purpose being to help save members funds and at the same time help the Post reach a financial goal of never, ever being in the red again. Essentially, both sides win, the member has the best of both worlds with regard to healthcare coverage and the Post eventually reaches a point where funds, pure profits are realized each month.

What is required! Essentially, each member needs to invest in our Post by accepting a membership that best supports his/her families healthcare needs. I personally recommend the Deluxe-Plus plan, not because it is the most expensive (\$39.95), but rather it allows the most benefits for the cost, \$1.33 a day, which includes our Telemedicine program. Each member of your household will have immediate access to a licensed physician on a 24-hour, 7 day a week access. We strongly encourage this program be used as often as necessary. Further, if a member lives in a rural area, this program really becomes beneficial as better than 90% of "ER" visits are not true life threatening issues. Also, being in a rural area means a simple phone call can result in significant savings at \$25.00 for a call versus an "ER" bill that might cost almost \$2500.00 just to find out you have the flu or a virus and only need antibiotics or chicken soup! If needed, the physician will subsequently forward a prescription to the pharmacy nearest your location.

Questions for the membership:

Did you know the Post has its own business website to obtain discount healthcare benefits?

<https://alp209.savewithdiscounthealthcare.com/>

This website also allows members to search out providers across the nation and is totally secure

Did you know members can sign their kids and grandkids under them?

Did you know the VA has been using the Telemedicine program for years?

Did you know that many traditional insurance companies charge a minimum of \$40.00 just to have a physician answer the phone with their Telemedicine plan?

Did you know that as an AmeriPlan member the most you will pay is \$25.00 per call?

Did you know that if your call is only a consultation, the call is free?

Did you know members under 65 are eligible to utilize a Health Savings Account (HSA) plan that allows you to save funding for medical use and gain a tax deduction (***Please consult your tax Representative on this Plan***)?

The above benefits are just the tip of the iceberg for what's available! Visit "your" website, study your website, encourage others to visit and sign up. Please sign up to benefit your Post and your household. Ask questions of us. We have pledged to keep funding this program until we collectively reach solvency. This only amounts to 10 members, period. While 10 Deluxe-Plus membership's results in the Post totally owning the business, it also means no funding will ever, ever come out of the Post's account, it also means that the Post will receive a profit check mailed on the 18th of each month for \$119.85. This meeker check or profit is only the beginning.

Our goal from the beginning has been to assist the Post in having a membership of at least 1000, which can and should include members from across the nation.

1000 Deluxe-Plus membership's equates to a monthly profit of \$15,940.05

1000 Dental-Plus membership's equates to a monthly profit of \$9,840.05

Medical insurance premiums are going up in 2018, how much no one knows, but on average, possibly 22.9 percent. Therefore, if you have Tricare coverage and access to Medicare, please don't let it lapse. Conversely, if you have Tricare or Delta Dental coverage you are simply paying too much to get a little bit of coverage that still includes caps and waiting periods.

If you or someone you know has little or no health care coverage, our plans will truly help them!

In closing, if you are young, enjoy life and get periodic checkups! If, like me, you dream about being young again, use our programs because everything hurts. I believe it's called "***preexisting conditions***"!

The first 20 folks that sign up will receive a gift certificate for Colorado Smokehouse BBQ on North Academy!

Please help us help our Post, American Legion Post 209, the Best and most Proactive in the State! Thanks.



From the Post Executive Committeeman
Bill Burd

As your newly elected Post Executive Committeeman whose responsibility it is to represent the Membership at Large may I introduce myself. I was a member of the “Old Guard” Third Infantry Division, Ft Meyer, Va. After I left the Military, I worked in the Milling Industry making sure you had good flour to have bread and make baked goods. I worked my way up in industry to be Senior VP of a Food Ingredient Company. Having been associated with several Organizations where I helped grow them 200% and 400% and working on many projects in Industry, I feel competent to be an Officer in American Legion Post 209.

As your recently Elected Post Executive Committeeman I ask for your help. I am your voice at the Executive Committee Meetings for Post 209. If you have concerns both Positive and Negative please call my Cell at 719-330-1279 or email me at Advisor1colo@yahoo.com. I will make sure that your concerns are heard and I will report back to you. Every member’s concerns or Ideas are Important to the Executive Committee. Please let me know, it is only a call or email.

Our Post is in need of more volunteers. Some volunteer positions are one time only for a few hours. Other Opportunities may be a little more involved however as we all know “ Many hands make quick work”. We have some powerhouses who take care of the heavy things so most of the volunteer events are relatively light.

If you have particular skills please let us know so we have you and your skills as a resource for the Post. Any skills that will help us Market and Keep the Post in Good Order. As you know we have a large building and it requires all the help and upkeep of this type of real estate. We can provide the extra hands you need. Areas of expertise range from Marketing/Advertising to Electrical and Plumbing. I hope to hear from you so we can make the Neil Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 bigger and more progressive toward larger goals.

I have also accepted the role of Committee Chair for a Special Fundraising campaign. Our purpose is to uncover Ideas and Opportunities to raise funds to help Post 209 continue to grow our various community projects. If you have Ideas of questions, please contact me.



From the Former Post Historian and New Senior Vice Commander
Eric Testorff

This will be my last Centennial newsletter article as Post 209 Historian. After the Department Convention, I move on to my new office as Senior Vice Commander, and on to the topics of Membership and recruitment.

Over the last few years, my articles in these pages have been meant to be of interest and inspire the reader with historical profiles, including military heroes and Legionnaires from the past. I now hand over the Historian’s pen to Chris Early, and look forward to reading his offerings in the Centennial.

“But what about the history of Post 209?” Well... that history has been written in parallel. It is chronicled by the Post 209 officers in these pages, and by myself through the new mediums of our web site, legion209.org, and its links to our social media sites. These new resources can feature the photos and videos that we cannot possibly publish here. They are an ever-marching timeline of the events and activities of our Post. If you haven’t gone to legion209.org and checked them out, I encourage you to do so.

Of course, not everyone has a computer. With that in mind, I have placed a hardbound book of our “timeline” in the Post library, alongside the binders created by my predecessors. The volume for my final year as Historian will be placed there soon, and I hope you have a chance to check it out.

Thanks for reading, and thanks for supporting the crucial work of The American Legion. You can help us help Veterans, our youth and our community by coming down to Post 209. Spend a little time there. Maybe volunteer for a committee or one of the many events or activities that we sponsor. It will be time well spent, and I hope to see you there soon. Thanks again.



**From the Junior Vice Commander
Jerry Lollar**

Do You Remember?

Do you remember when your unit was under fire? You were scared. You didn't know whether you would ever get home again, see your family, your loved ones. And the only thing that you could count on in that instant was your buddy. And you knew he was counting on you too.

Perhaps you were one of the lucky ones who never saw combat. Do you remember the tediousness of garrison life? Do you remember the interminable hurry up and wait? Do you remember the inane make-work projects you were ordered to do? But your buddy was always there alongside you, making the wise-crack, helping you make it through each day, maybe even covering for you on occasion.

Your buddy still needs you!!!

Maybe your buddy is in one of the VA hospitals; his war wounds and/or time have taken its toll on his body. Maybe he or she is a young veteran, just discharged from service in Iraq, Afghanistan or Vietnam, and is having difficulty finding a civilian job. Maybe your buddy is just an ordinary guy or gal like yourself, wanting to share stories and comradeship with someone who was in a similar situation.

The American Legion is the place for you to help your buddy and for your buddy to help you. Founded in 1919, it is the largest war-time Veterans' Service Organization in the US with over 2 million members.

Like you, we are Veterans. We care about America, our fellow Veterans, our families and our children. As a member of our Post we continue to serve our God, our country and our community. Your Post needs you now.

Our Legionnaires participate in many community activities such as parades, memorials, dedications, etc.

We have an Honor Guard detail ready, willing and able at the family's request. Our funeral detail is available to all Veterans. When requested, we are also available to help other Veteran organizations with their memorials. We can always use more members with the National Cemetery opening soon. Contact our Post Commander for the details and POC information.

We sponsor local students to participate in Boys State, and sponsor scholarships to better educate our children.

We sponsor two Cub Scout packs and one Boy Scout Troop. They can always use some people to volunteer to help in adult leadership roles. For more information contact John Brown, Steve Hayes or me for all the details about when they meet, where they meet.



From the Junior Shooting Sports Chairman Ken Taylor

The next Young Guns class is nearly full. We only accept 12 new shooters and we have 9 signed up at this point. If you want to be in the fall class, don't delay! The age range is 10 through 18 and the cost is still \$25 for the entire nine week class. If you're interested, contact Ken Taylor at 719-761-4047 or email at jssp209@gmail.com.

Please note the following changes to our program. We are moving our new shooters class from Wednesday evenings to Thursday evenings beginning with the Fall 2017 class. The class will start on Thursday, September 14th at 6:30 PM. NRA Marksmanship will start on Wednesday, September 13, 2017 from 4:30 to 8:30 PM.

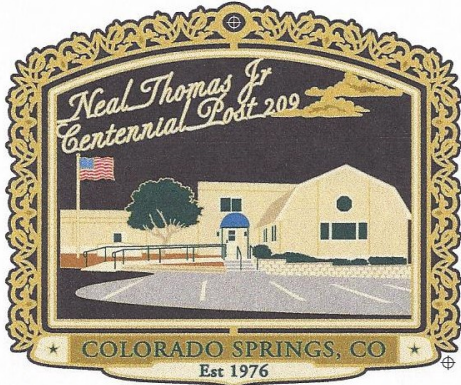
Have a great summer!



Auxiliary Fundraiser; Christmas Ornament Jackie Bowen, Past Unit President

We are accepting orders for the newly designed and “One-of-a-Kind” Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209 Christmas Ornament. The ornaments are on order and are expected to arrive in the August or September time frame.

As you can imagine, this will almost immediately be a collector’s item as it features our Post home and name. It should make for a beautiful gift for someone special or for yourself and a lasting memory of the best American Legion family Post in Colorado.



This lacquered brass ornament is approximately 2 1/4” high by 2 3/4” wide. We will be selling the ornaments for only \$12.00 each.

They will look great on any Christmas Tree or displayed prominently on a shelf in your home.

Please consider supporting our Auxiliary fundraiser with a purchase. All proceeds will go to help our local area Veterans and their family. Contact me with questions and to buy one of these great ornaments.

Thanks in advance and Merry Christmas (yes, I know we’re early, but this is a Christmas fundraiser)!



From Squadron 209 Commander Ken Taylor

The following elected SAL officers were installed at the joint membership meeting on May 13th, 2017:

COMMANDER: Ken Taylor

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: Marvin Weaver, Jr.

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER: Stan (Sgt. Ski) Krasinski

FINANCE OFFICER: Rusty Bower

ADJUTANT: Rick Kettering

CHAPLAIN: Shelten Krasinski

SGT-AT-ARMS: Steve Cox Assistant SGT-AT-Arms Stanten Krasinski

HISTORIAN: Eric Testorff

Our Squadron Advisor is Don Shuck who was approved by the Executive Board at the June 1st meeting. Thanks to everyone who stepped up to support our Squadron. Good things are coming!

On May 25th, 2017, Squadron 209 paid another visit to the Veterans at Laurel Manor Care Center. We visited with all the Veterans and presented Certificates of Appreciation and desk flags with stands to seven new residents. It’s very heartwarming to see the smiles and hear the stories these veterans have to tell. We try to visit at least once each quarter and lift spirits but I think we appreciate these visits as much as the veterans do. On May 26th, 2017, we along with the rest of the Legion Family, helped with the placement of Flags on Veterans graves at Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Colorado Springs. It’s a great honor to do this and very impressive to see all the Flags after the job is complete. A big Thank You to everyone who helped!



****NOTE****

OUR MONTHLY MEETING TIME HAS BEEN MOVED UP FROM 6:pm TO 5:45.



“Suits for Troops” Drive



Save the Date!

What? We are working with the Blue Star Mothers to conduct a “Suits for Troops” Drive

Where? Centennial Post 209 at 3613 Jeannine Drive.

When? 6 August; 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Why? To provide suitable clothing for our active duty military members departing Service that need assistance getting a new “uniform” for the next phase of their career.

FAQ:

Are you only taking suits?

No. We are looking for any nice clothes that men and women can wear to a job interview and/or civilian work.

Can you give me an example of what is needed?

Suits, Blazers, Sports Jackets, Dress Shirts, Ties, Ladies Dress Slacks, Ladies Dress Outfits, Shoes (men and women); really any dress article of clothing that is new or slightly worn, etc.

Do I need to have the clothes dry cleaned prior to donating?

It would be very helpful if they were, but it is not required.

Tell your Friends and Neighbors! We will be more than happy to provide a receipt for tax purposes for all donated items.



DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE FROM THE VA?

Help has Arrived

What? Our American Legion Department Service Office will be in Colorado Springs the 4th Saturday of every Month during most of 2017.

Where? Centennial Plaza

Time? 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Why? To provide information and assistance to any qualified veteran.

FAQ:

Do I have to be a member of the American Legion?

No. We Will Offer Assistance to Any Qualified Veteran.

Do I need an Appointment?

No, but it is Recommended. Call 303-914-5585 to Make an Appointment, but Walk-ins are Welcome.

What Do I Bring?

DD214, as well as the following that pertains to your situation: Marriage Certificate; Divorce Decree; Death Certificate; and any Civilian Medical Records.



Tell your Veteran Friends and Neighbors!



CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.
WE WILL TRY TO RE-INSTATE VISITS TO POST 209 IN SEPTEMBER. IN THE MEANTIME, ASSISTANCE IS PROVIDED AT THE SERVICE OFFICER'S LAKEWOOD OFFICE. PLEASE CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT.
 155 Van Gordon St, Rm 364
 Lakewood, CO 80465
 (303)914-5585

Bringing a Little South to the West

By Past Post Commander Jay Bowen

I was very blessed to have grown up knowing and spending a lot of quality time with both sets of grandparents. They were very similar in many ways and complete opposites in other. I loved them both dearly and I think their differences helped me gain some perspective on life. In this article, I want to share with you some memories of my Father's parents, Granny and Granddad.

Granny and Granddad lived and worked a small crop farm by today's standards. They "worked for the other fella" or sharecropped. The house and land on which they lived didn't belong to them, it belonged to a nice guy who owned thousands of acres and parceled off 3 or 4 hundred acres for my Granddad to farm. Like many others in east central Arkansas, his crops were predominantly cotton and soy beans. The other major cash crop in that region was rice, but Granddad never ventured into the rice growing business.

Granddad was quite the character. He was 3 years younger than Granny and always referred to her as "old lady." I don't recall him ever calling her by name, Gladys, just "old lady." Granny took it in stride, as she did with just about everything. But make no mistake, she was also a disciplinarian and kept us 4 kids in line. I vividly recall her keeping a cardboard tube from a roll of paper towels stapled to the back door frame. The bottom of the tube was pinched closed and there was normally 3-5 hickory switches in the tube. I can still remember the first time the supply of switches ran low and we had done something worthy of her needing switches. She made me and Bubba go outside to one of the three hickory trees next to the house and cut some switches. We thought we'd be funny and cut small skinny switches. WOW! We certainly learned a valuable lesson that day. Skinny switches hurt much worse than larger ones.

Granddad, on the other hand was more of a prankster than his spouse. I don't remember a time we got a whipping from him. He found other ways of getting his messages and lessons across. Granddad was a smoker and chewed tobacco from time to time. On one occasion after returning from a short trip to the store, Bubba and I were still sitting in the back of Granddad's pick-up truck listening to him and a neighbor talk. We were probably 8 and 7 years old respectively. Granddad had reached into his coveralls and pulled out a plug of chewing tobacco and cut off a piece. Bubba and I were laughing about it a little loud I guess, because Granddad looked at us and asked if we'd like a chew. What 7 or 8 year old boy is going to turn down an opportunity to chew tobacco like a man? We greedily accepted the small plug he cut off for us and began chewing. Granddad explained that in order to do it right, you had to swallow the first "spit" of tobacco juice generated by the chew. We didn't know better so we swallowed the first spit as instructed. I think we threw up for about an hour. I can't speak for Bubba, but I've never put another plug of chewing tobacco, or dip, or anything similar in my mouth after that day.

I remember another time when that same neighbor Granddad always talked with (Jack Lace) drove up in his pick-up. During his visit with Granddad, Bubba and I just naturally moseyed up to hear what they were talking about. Jack had just returned from running his nets at the L'Anguille (pronounced Lang Ge) river bottom and they were discussing what he had found in one of his nets. A part of the river bordered a large portion of Granddad's farming area, so the ground where the cotton grew was very fertile, and it was along that part of the river where Jack had his nets.

Bubba and I didn't listen to the conversation, we just wanted to hang out with the grownups. After a few seconds of just standing around and probably making enough noise to constantly interrupt their conversation, Granddad asked us if we wanted an apple. He said Jack had some in the pick-up bed and we could just reach into the bed and get one. We were too short to see into the bed, but we could reach over. We couldn't feel any apples so we jumped up over the side to get more leverage and get a better look inside the truck bed. When we did, we saw the largest turtle we have ever seen in our life. It was laying on its back and took up about a third of the bed. It was still alive, although somewhat docile looking. Granddad took an old broomstick handle and put it near the mouth of the turtle. It bit it off in a matter of a few seconds. That scared the crap out of us. Imagine, reaching blindly into the bed of the truck near that monster's mouth. We decided to walk away and let the grownups talk privately. Thinking back, we were probably too short to actually reach the turtle's mouth, but back then we thought we were inches away from losing a hand or finger.

Interesting how the lessons we learned as kids stay with us. If those things happened today, my grandparents would be in jail. Back then, it was called child-rearing and helped mold me into the person I am now. They were great life lessons that taught me respect, not to laugh at adults no matter what they are doing, to look before reaching, and to NEVER cut a skinny switch!



Post Officers 2017-2018

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Mike Barger	719-290-3218
Sr. Vice Cdr	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177
Jr. Vice Cdr	Jerry Lollar	719-641-2778
Adjutant	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	719-244-3535
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Chaplain	Paul R. Darrow	719-237-4461
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasin-ski	719-556-8326
Historian	Chris Early	719-338-1398
Post Exec. Cmtee	Bill Burd	719-330-1279
Service Officer	Lyle Hagelberg	719-231-2364
Judge Advocate	Marvin Weaver, Sr.	719-638-4763
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610
Honor Guard Capt.	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177



ALR Officers 2017-2018

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Bob Caddell	719-393-5180
Vice President	Steve Hayes	719-494-7166
Secretary	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Treasurer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Tim McDowell	719-510-9907
Road Captain	Grady Mitchell	719-201-3353



Auxiliary Officers 2017-2018

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Vice President	Donna Rae Smith	815-973-0073
Secretary	Pat Weaver	719-638-4763
Treasurer	Kellie Hayes	719-494-7167
Chaplain	Jackie Burd	719-590-6615
Sergeant-At-Arms	Donna Testorff	719-510-4567
Historian	Donna Rae Smith	815-973-0073



Sons of The American Legion 2017-2018

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Ken Taylor	719-761-4047
Sr. Vice Com-mander	Marv Weaver	719-244-3535
Jr. Vice Com-mander	Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasinski	719-556-8326
Adjutant	Rick Kettering	813-967-6680
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Steve P. Cox	970-580-8191
Assistant S-a-Arms	Stanten Krasinski	719-556-8326
Chaplain	Shelten Krasinski	719-556-8326
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177

July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Canada Day
2	3 Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm	4 Independence Day Flag Disposal Ceremony Post Picnic!	5	6 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm	7 Hamdogger CANCELLED!	8 \$8.50 Breakfast Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am
9	10	11	12	13	14 \$9.00 Meal Aux Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	15
16	17 Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm ALR Executive Board 6:00pm	18	19	20	21 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	22
23	24	25 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm	26	27	28 \$10.50 Meal Chef Surprise! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	29 McCandless VA Retirement Home BBQ
30 Intl. Friendship Day	31	Notes:				

August 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	4 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm 	5
6 Suits for Troops! Post 209; 1-4pm 	7 Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm 	8	9	10	11 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6pm RSVP Required! 6:00pm  	12 \$8.50 Breakfast Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am  
13	14	15	16	17	18 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!    	19
20	21 Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm ALR Executive Board 6:00pm   	22 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm  	23	24	25 \$10.50 Meal Chef Surprise! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!    	26
27 ALR Poker Run 	28	29	30	31	Notes:	

September 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm 	2
3	4 Labor Day Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm 	5	6	7 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	8 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required!  	9 \$8.50 Breakfast Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am  
10	11 Patriot Day	12	13	14	15 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!    	16
17	18 Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm ALR Executive Board 6:00pm  	19	20	21	22 Fall begins Chef Surprise! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!    	23
24 Neal Thomas Jr Memorial Ride 	25	26 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm  	27	28	29	30

Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com