



# The Centennial

Volume XIII

Edition 6

June 2022

AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR.  
CENTENNIAL POST 209

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Hear from your post officers on the latest news and information

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[www.legion209.org](http://www.legion209.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionCentennialPost209/>



### The American Legion Post 209 Officers 2021-2022

<b>Commander:</b>	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	(719) 244-3535
<b>Adjutant:</b>	Jerry Hopper	(918) 953-9980
<b>Sr. Vice Commander:</b>	Steve Hayes	(719) 494-7166
<b>Jr. Vice Commander:</b>		
<b>Honor Guard/Fin Officer:</b>	Joel Haas	(719) 482-4496
<b>Service Officer:</b>	Brian Murphy	(719) 930-4147
<b>Judge Advocate:</b>	Marvin Weaver	(719) 638-4763
<b>Historian:</b>	Vacant	
<b>Exec. Cmtman/Club Mgr:</b>	Art Kimbrel	(719) 339-4610
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Brad Henderson	(830) 660-4072
<b>Immediate Past CDR:</b>	Lino Calica	(719) 963-0956
<b>Sgt.-at-Arms:</b>	Bobby Senter	(719) 660-3775



### American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers 2021-2022

<b>President:</b>	Royce Hopper	(918) 953-9993
<b>Vice President:</b>	Cathy Barger	(719) 290-3163
<b>Secretary:</b>	Pat Weaver	(719) 638-4763
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Kellie Hayes	(719) 494-7167
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Mary Bramer	(719) 633-8612
<b>Exec.-at-Large:</b>	Jackie Bowen	(901) 481-0673
<b>Historian:</b>	Valerie Stephens	(330) 510-0411
<b>Sgt-at-Arms:</b>	Charyse Schmidt	(651) 558-6968



### Sons of The American Legion Squadron 2021-2022

<b>Commander:</b>	Brian Wess	(719) 528-6672
<b>Adjutant &amp; Finance Officer:</b>	Ken Taylor	(719) 461-4047
<b>Sr. Vice Commander:</b>	Rob Barry	(719) 930-5725
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Brad Henderson	(830) 660-4072
<b>Jr. Vice Commander:</b>	Daxton Attarian	
<b>Sgt-at-Arms:</b>	Bob Ingram	(480) 353-8234



### American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers 2022-2023

<b>President:</b>	Ed Santos	(719) 329-4357
<b>Vice President:</b>	Sarah Tobin	(719) 439-7724
<b>Secretary:</b>	Royce Hopper	(918) 953-9993
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Scott Laudan	(719) 238-2679
<b>Sgt-at-Arms:</b>	Bobby Senter	(719) 660-3775
<b>Road Captain:</b>	Sean Cope	(719) 246-4820
<b>Historian:</b>	Vacant	
<b>Communications:</b>	Gary Asp	(719) 822-3270



### American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) Officers

<b>President:</b>	George Johnson	(910) 494-9768	KE0ALQ
<b>Vice President:</b>	Vacant		
<b>Trustee &amp; Secretary:</b>	Harvey LeCato		W1JU
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Henry Russell J		KCONAJ



## From the desk and mind of the Commander

I want to start this month's article by thanking you for the trust you have given me to be the Commander of our post for the coming year. I do not take this responsibility lightly. I talked with the new Commander for the Sons of The American Legion and the presidents of the American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Riders. We have developed some ideas and plans that you will see in the next few months.

For those of you that may not know, I served in the Navy from 1988 to 1997. On April 25, 1988, I enlisted and went to Recruit Training Command Orlando, Florida, for boot camp. This was definitely not the right time of the year to be in Orlando with the heat and humidity they get down there. I reported to the USS John F. Kennedy CV-67 in August of 1988, meeting them in the Mediterranean where they had just started their deployment. I spent almost two years on the Kennedy and then cross-decked over to the USS Inchon LPH-12, reporting on board in August of 1990. We deployed to the Med in September 1990 with a stop off the coast of Liberia for Operation Sharp Edge, where we evacuated the U.S. Embassy due to an ongoing civil war in the country. Orders then sent us into the Mediterranean for Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm buildup in early October. We were one of the first ships back to Norfolk after Operation Desert Storm, so we were sent back to the Mediterranean for a routine deployment six months later.

I departed the Inchon in December 1992 to report to Naval Support Force Antarctica in January 1993 as summer support. When I arrived in California for Naval Supply Systems Command Antarctica, I found out that the summer season of 1993 would be the last since the Navy was turning the Firehouse and Crash Firehouse over to civilians in October 1994. I volunteered to winter over in 1994 and was accepted, so I spent the whole year in Antarctica instead of just five months. This was one of my favorite duty assignments. I left Antarctica in October 1994 and reported to Naval Air Station Fallon, NV, in December 1994 and served there until I separated in December 1997. I did enjoy my time in the Navy, and as their slogan at the time went, it was not just a job but an adventure. I always tell people I would not have seen the countries I have without the Navy.

A little about my legion career: I have been our Post Adjutant, Post Executive Committeemen, and Post Sr. Vice Commander. I have also been District 7 Adjutant, District 7 Senior Vice Commander, and District 7 Commander for two years. I currently serve as the Department Finance Officer for the past 3.5 years.

I am excited for the year to come, and thank you for all you do to help veterans and Post 209.

*Marvin Weaver, Jr.*  
**Post 209 Commander**





## From the desk of the Post Adjutant

Well, It's official. On May 14, 2022, we installed the new American Legion Neal Thomas Jr Centennial Post 209, Executive Committee officers. We will take our positions as of the closing of the Department Convention on July 2, 2022. This article will be my last as the Adjutant. I am stepping up to Jr Vice Commander. The gentleman replacing me is Doug Millison. Doug is highly qualified to fill this position and is enthusiastic about getting started. Please welcome him as our new Adjutant. He has some great ideas to help our Post continue its growth. I wish to take this opportunity to thank every member for your support in our efforts to aid and assist our brothers and sisters.

I have enjoyed serving as Adjutant of the biggest and best American Legion Post in Colorado, and I will do my best to keep us there. All of you can help with this goal. Each year, we have a few fundraising events to support the veterans and their families in need, but we need more ideas and participation from you. So come to the Post and join in the festivities. If you have an idea to help raise money, bring it to us. We don't bite. We do need help. We are the best family-orientated Service Organization, and we can get even better with your help. So I hope to meet each one of you. That is my ultimate goal.

Goodbye from Adjutant Jerry Hopper and Hello from Jr. Vice Commander Jerry Hopper. Y'all Come Back Now, Ya Hear.

*Jerry Hopper*  
Post Adjutant



### SIX "P'S" FOR IMMEDIATE EVACUATION

KEEP READY

1. People and Pets
2. Papers, Phone Numbers, Important Documents
3. Prescriptions, Vitamins, Glasses
4. Pictures and irreplaceable memorabilia
5. Plastics like Credit Cards and Cash
6. Personal Hard Drives



## From the desk of the Sr. Vice Commander

Congratulations to all the newly installed officers in the Post 209 family. Our guest speaker, McConnell Bristol, did an excellent job discussing his experience with Boy's State and Boy's Nation in 2020. For all those present, it was truly inspiring to hear such a wonderful presentation from a very accomplished and articulate young man. We wish him all the best as he departs on his next adventure to attend Brown University.

I would also like to congratulate everyone who has worked our programs and membership so hard over the last year. Vital programs that deliver on the four pillars of The American Legion bring visibility and interest to our community. That has resulted in Post 209 meeting – and exceeding - our annual membership goal for the year. Great job by all!

Continuing discussions that Marvin has been running in the last few newsletters on the four pillars, this month's message is on National Defense. The American Legion believes in maintaining strong national security to fulfill a strong national defense mandate. As stated in the Preamble, "FOR GOD AND COUNTRY, WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America... To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy." Succeeding in this pillar ensures our people are safe at home and abroad, preserving our constitutional principles for generations to come. This is the legacy that so many have sacrificed selflessly since our nation's founding.

Thanks for all you do and all you have done to help keep this nation strong! The 2022-2023 year is going to be awesome!!!

*Steve Hayes*  
Senior Vice Commander





## From the desk of the Unit President

Happy June. As we start making plans for the new year ahead with our new leadership team, I introduce you to the new Auxiliary Executive Board, representing you after the Department Convention (June 30-July 3): President Royce Hopper; Vice President Cathy Barger; Secretary, Pat Weaver; Treasurer/Membership, Kellie Hayes; Chaplain, Mary Bramer; Historian, Sarah Tobin-Barry; Sgt-at-Arms, Michelle Bresee; Member-at-Large, Jackie Bowen. Thank you to all of our 2021-2022 officers, and congratulations to our 2022-2023 officers.

If you are interested in attending the Department Convention later this month, please visit the state website at <https://www.alacolorado.com/>.

As we move forward, I would like to ask everyone to remember to show compassion and kindness and continue assisting each other whenever needed. We are always stronger together.

Happy birthday to our June members: Dominique Attarian, Nancy Dandino, Amber Farquhar, Sharon Groothof, Becky Ingram, Carol Jean, Jaye Larsen, Stephanie Moore, Evelyn Muckelrath, Donna Testorff, and Sydney Weaver.

*Royce Hopper*  
Unit President



### Come join us for a Group Walk!

Everyone is welcome to join us, whether you are participating in the 100 Miles for Hope Challenge or not. Bring the spouse, kids, grandkids, It's time spent outdoors together.

Members of the Post 209 American Legion Family will be conducting walks from the Post into Palmer Park twice a month through the summer with an option to gather at a local restaurant afterwards for an "on your own" lunch. We will start with short distances and work up. Watch the calendar, this newsletter and our Facebook page for details. We may try other open spaces or parks in the future.



## From our Incoming Post Adjutant

TAKE A HIKE...or, a more polite way to say that is let's go for a walk. Michelle Bresee (Unit 209) and I would be delighted if you could join us for a walk once or twice a month. This would be an excellent way to knock out a few miles for the 100 Miles for Hope Challenge, but it would also be a lovely couple of hours for everyone else. Join us, challenge or not. And please bring family and friends.

The plan is to meet in the Post parking lot on the second Sunday and fourth Saturday at 1000 Hrs. There is access to Palmer Park trails right around the corner. We will start easy at 3 miles round trip, but if you plan and preposition an escape vehicle, there is an extraction point at the halfway point (Lazy Land picnic area off of Austin Bluffs and Brenner Pl.). But of course, you can turn around at any point.

We have walked the trail before and find it easy and mostly flat, packed earth with some spots with loose sand. There is a small hill just before Lazy Land that does have the 3 Rs. Roots, Ruts, Rocks. But it is a small area and a short hill. This is not the ranger selection course or a forced march; it's at our leisurely group pace. But if you want to ruck it, bring it along!

Eventually, we can make the northern loop taking the Grandview and Palmer Point trails. That is a little more challenging at around 5.5 miles and more 3R obstacles. After that, maybe we move on to other parks and open areas around C.S. if you wish. So I'll start scouting, and if you know of any for me to check out, let me know.

This is a group walk, not an event. YOU are responsible for your level of fitness. But this is a park in the city with pretty close road access, so we won't roll you under a bush if something does happen. Good walking shoes are required, as is anything else you feel you might need (water, power bar, etc.).

Our first walk will be the second Sunday in June, the 12<sup>th</sup>, at 1000 Hrs., followed by June 25<sup>th</sup>. When we have returned from the walk, we can replace those lost calories at a local eatery like Doug's if you wish. I will cause y'know, ...Doug's.

*Doug Millison*

**Adjutant-Elect**  
"Always Forward"





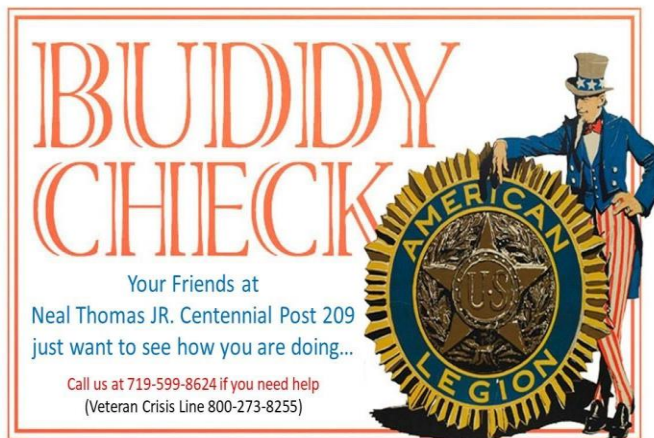
## From the desk of our Finance Officer

The budgeting work is progressing well. Getting the repetitive items documented will significantly help plan for future expenses. Setting aside a monthly amount into a budgeted line item in the account ledgers for the more significant annual expenditures, such as insurance payments, will help reduce the "sticker shock" experienced each year when the bill arrives. Part of what needs to go into the budgeting is reducing expenses. While some things just cannot be reduced, such as support to programs, ideas for reductions are always welcome (and needed). If anyone has additional items to add, please let me know so that we can look at working them into the budget.

With the new Fiscal Year beginning July 1, it is time to start thinking about new ideas for fundraisers. The income for Post 209 comes from fundraisers and donations; this is how we keep the Post running and support our programs. We need new and unconventional ideas for fundraisers within the Post and the community. Any idea is worth consideration, so do not feel your idea is not something good enough to try. It is incredible how some of the silliest ideas turn into huge successes. So please forward me your ideas so that I can get them in front of the Executive Committee for consideration (and hopefully implementation). A little note to add here is that we will need your help with implementing your new idea if it moves forward, especially if the idea is something you have done before.

It has been a while since I mentioned it; anyone wanting to understand more about the Post finances has only to ask me. I am willing to sit down with anyone who has questions about the Post finances, or even if someone only wants to understand better how things work. Also, a monthly Finance Report is available at each General Membership Meeting for anyone wanting a copy. If you wish to request time to sit down together or just have a quick question to ask, please send an email to: [finance@legion209.org](mailto:finance@legion209.org).

*Joel W. Haas*  
Post Finance Officer







## From our Honor Guard Captain

By the time the newsletter is released, the Honor Guard will have participated in the Memorial Day ceremony at Pikes Peak National Cemetery (PPNC). We have the honor of performing a 3-volley rifle salute in coordination with the gun (cannon) salute. On Monday, May 30, the meaningful ceremony pays tribute to the fallen after spending way too long being restricted by COVID. We will submit an article about the event and our involvement to National for possible posting on the Honor and Remembrance Honor Guards page.

The schedule for June is starting to pick up, sometimes changing daily or multiple times in a day. We expect to have a busy summer, as this is traditionally when the most requests are received. Some requests come to the team from places outside the Colorado Springs area. We have developed a reputation as "the ones to call for support" for services at PPNC. We also see more requests directly from family members, resulting in the need to provide more support to help them understand what to expect and help navigate the process of getting the military service support requested. As a result, we will update the Honor Guard webpage to help provide additional information for those seeking our support.

The most significant incentive for being an Honor Guard member is the sense of pride you get by helping provide final honors for OUR veterans and supporting OUR community. However, just a reminder, other incentives are being put in place for being an Honor Guard member supporting final honors events. A fuel stipend is available for every two qualifying events an Honor Guard member supports. You can earn \$5 to help defray the fuel costs from supporting the events. The fuel stipend is capped at ten qualifying events (\$25) per month and paid to the Honor Guard members at the end of each month. This does not cover the total costs, though it helps. In addition, a dry cleaning stipend will be rolling out soon.

If you, or someone you know, has a request for the Honor Guard, please contact our Honor Guard Coordinator, Valerie Stephens, at Legion209 Email: [honor.guard@legion209.org](mailto:honor.guard@legion209.org), Personal Email: [valerie.al209honorguard@gmail.com](mailto:valerie.al209honorguard@gmail.com) or Cell Phone: (330) 510-0411.

The Honor Guard continues to gain new members; however, there is no such thing as having too many members. The Honor Guard has a meeting scheduled every week; check the newsletter calendar. Please consider participating a night or two for training, even if just one event a month. Members of The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion, and American Legion Auxiliary are eligible to be members. If you or anyone you know might be interested in supporting the Honor Guard, please reach out to me at (719) 482-4496 or [honor.guard@legion209.org](mailto:honor.guard@legion209.org).

*Joel W. Haas*  
**Honor Guard Captain**

(719) 482-4496 or [honor.guard@legion209.org](mailto:honor.guard@legion209.org)





## From our SAL Commander

We made great strides to renew and rejuvenate participation and growth while moving to support our Legion family, our veterans, and the community, state, and nation. At our elections in April, we unanimously elected Senior Vice Commander Robert Barry to be the 2022-2023 Squadron 209 Commander. The balance of our squadron officers for 2022-2023 will be: Ken Taylor as Finance Officer, Brad Henderson as Senior Vice Commander and Chaplain, Chris Hollingsworth as Junior Vice Commander, Brian Wess as Executive Committeeman, and Bob Ingram continuing as Sergeant At Arms.

The positions of Adjutant and Historian remain unfilled. We ask volunteers willing to serve to contact your squadron leadership or incoming Commander Rob Barry to express your interest. The most important donation any volunteer gives is their willingness to give their time to others.

I'm proud to announce our membership exceeded the 100% goal with only two or three members or renewals to meet the aspirational goal of seventy-five members for 2022. This represents the first increase in our squadron since before 2019 and the pandemic.

Special recognition and congratulations to Ken Taylor; he will receive an honorary lifetime membership as our thanks to him for his long, dedicated, influential, and continued leadership and sacrifice to Squadron 209. Steve Hayes was the winner of the quarter one SAL meeting participation door prize, a \$50 Visa gift card. The squadron is running this promotion as an incentive to thank you for your attendance and participation in SAL Squadron 209 monthly member meetings. In addition, members receive an entry ticket for each SAL Squadron 209 monthly member meeting they attend, and a winner is drawn from eligible entries each quarter.

Our squadron also met our goal of a \$1,500 donation to the Child Welfare Fund (CWF) forwarded to the detachment for the CWF banquet at the beginning of April. Congratulations to Squadron 209 and the Post 209 family for meeting the 100% CFW commitment our squadron and post have continued for over a decade. Additionally, the membership voted to donate \$200 each to the Boys State and Girls State programs and the Legacy Scholarship Fund at the April Squadron meeting. To help fund our squadron donation efforts, we organized a Friday post-family dinner on 13 May where lasagna, chicken alfredo, garlic bread, salad, and dessert. Sr. Vice Commander Rob Barry took the lead on getting everyone organized, with Kellie, Jackie, and Royce from the American Legion Auxiliary there to support (a.k.a keeping us all in line) in the kitchen. The dinner was a big success, with many members attending. We will report the fundraising results at the 28 June SAL Meeting.

Finally, thanks for providing advice and assistance. The pandemic caused many challenges; however, we now have a team capable of significant accomplishments.

*Brian Wess*  
Commander





## From The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC)

What is Ham Radio?

Amateur Radio (ham radio) is a popular hobby and service that brings people, electronics, and communication together. People use ham radio to talk across town, worldwide, or even into space, all without the Internet or cell phones.

If you are interested in learning about this intriguing hobby or participating in Legion 209 radio club events, call, email, or text me.

For all you existing Hams out there:

Is there something that the CLUB can do to spark your interest? Some event? Something, anything? If so, call, email, or text me.

Devoted to the Hobby and Art of Amateur Radio and Promoting The American Legion,

*Harvey LeCato*

**TALARC Secretary**

719-331-1212

mbca@comcast.net

W 1 J U



NAVY SEABEE VETERANS of AMERICA, Inc.

**76<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION AND REUNION REGISTRATION FORM**

**AUGUST 24-28, 2022**  
**COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO**

**Last day to Register**

**July 15 2022**



The registration and information can be found here:

<https://nsva.org/pdf/Events/2022%20National%20Convention/22%20conven%20hotel%20Reg%20forms.pdf>

For more information on the Guest Speaker, how to advertise in the Convention Book, and things to do in Colorado Springs, see the Navy Seabee Veterans of America website: <https://nsva.org/>

**Agenda:**

8/24: Pre-Convention, The Academy Hotel, Colorado Springs, CO time TBD

Registration and Hospitality suite open at 2:00 pm

8/25: NSVA and NSVAA Pre-Convention meeting

- Meetings begin at 9:00 am
- Committee meetings to follow
- Registration and Hospitality suite open at 12:00 pm
- Navy Seabee Monument dedication at Pikes Peak National Cemetery at 2:00 pm (Transportation provided)

8/26: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm NSVA and NSVAA Main Body meetings, post-convention meeting, and Memorial service practice Registration and Hospitality suite open at 2:00 pm

8/27: Memorial service 9:00 am to 10:00 am

- Registration and Hospitality suite open at 12:00 pm
- Admiral Reception at 5:30 pm
- Dinner Seating at 6:00 pm

# 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.

Starting at

**\$350!**



For More Information

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

(719) 599-8624

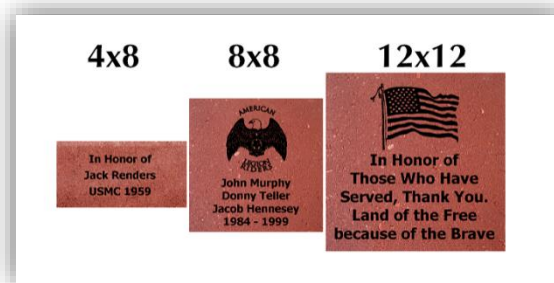
3613 Jeannine Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80917

\*Additional cost may apply

## Walk of Honor



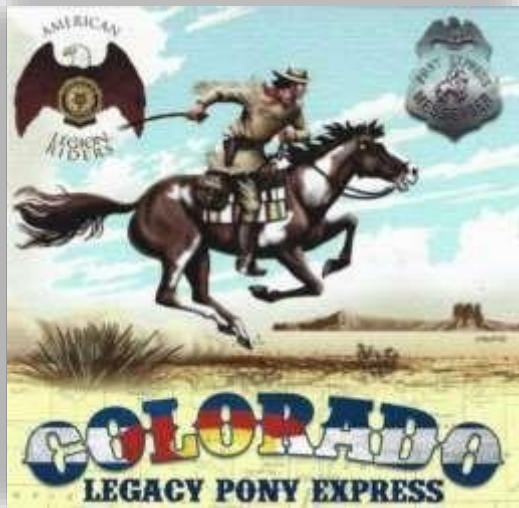
- **What are the costs for the individual bricks?** Prices vary depending on size, style and lettering desired but typically ranged from \$90 to \$200 depending on size.
- **What are the costs for the corporate/veteran supporter bricks?** Again, prices vary depending on size, style, and lettering but typically range from \$250 to \$500.
- **What is the difference between individual and corporate bricks?** Individual bricks are for veterans and family members of veterans wishing to purchase a brick to honor their veterans. The corporate bricks are for our veteran-friendly supporters and businesses who want to show their continued support for our nation's heroes by purchasing a brick.
- **Is the brick purchase restricted to members of the post 209 families?** No. We encourage members to buy a brick for themselves for their veteran loved ones or to show their support for our veterans.
- **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 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 set up to accept payment via PayPal or 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 sent 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. 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 only to sell as many bricks as needed for the first phase of the landscaping project.
- **Will I have an opportunity to buy a brick later?** Quite possibly, depending 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 sure they are all placed together.**

## Legacy Scholarship Pony Express Run

Support the Children of our Disabled and Fallen by contributing to The American Legion Legacy Scholarship. Eligible recipients include the children of U.S. military members who died while on active duty on or after 11 September 2001 and children of post -9/11 veterans having been assigned a combined disability rating of 50 percent or greater by the Department of Veterans Affairs qualify. The American Legion Legacy Scholarship helps ensure higher education is a possibility for children who lost a parent to death on active duty or suffered a service-connected disability rated 50 percent or greater by V.A. since the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001.



Colorado American Legion Post families across the state engage in fundraising efforts or contribute to the 2022 fundraising effort in conjunction with their program during the year. The donations received are consolidated at various relay stations across the state.

On 6 August 2022, Colorado American Legion Riders will conduct the statewide Pony Express run, riding one of the designated routes to collect donations from the relay stations. All routes will reach a central collection point in the afternoon for a campaign celebration and some good old-fashioned fun.

If you're interested in participating or donating, contact:

American Legion Riders  
Department of Colorado  
7465 E 1st Ave D,  
Denver, CO 80230  
Phone: 719 -494 -7166  
Email: [coloradolegionriders@gmail.com](mailto:coloradolegionriders@gmail.com)  
Web: <https://alrco.org>

**August 6th**



## GUEST COMMENTARY



### A Note from the Editor

Thank you, Nancy Reifke, for submitting a humorous account of how military life can be different from civilian life. My husband also grew up on a Marine base. He has mentioned his own military-specific stories on the culture, for example, having to answer the phone with a greeting that included his Dad's name and rank or having his yard routinely inspected to ensure compliance with base housing standards. These are some of the experiences that only military families understand.

If you would like to submit a story, please email me at [letters@legion209.org](mailto:letters@legion209.org).

*Georgianna Shea*

**Editor**

[letters@legion209.org](mailto:letters@legion209.org)



### Growing up Military

I didn't realize the impact living on base had on my children. We were a Marine Corps family stationed at 29 Palms, California. To say it was a remote area would be an understatement. We lived in base housing and had our boys participate at the post library and after-school events on base. We did all our shopping at the commissary and post exchange. The boys had summer swim lessons at the base pool, and the older kids were at the youth center every day. We attended church at the base chapel and had doctor appointments at the base hospital. The only movies we saw were at the theatre on base.

I was excited when a Walmart opened in a slightly larger town about 25 miles away. I took the boys to do Christmas shopping at the new Walmart. Everyone had their own money for shopping, and I was waiting at the designated meet-up place. After waiting a few minutes, my youngest son approached me, clearly trying to hide his selections. He had returned to me before checking out to ask for his military identification card! He assumed he would have to show it to check out at Walmart :)

- *Nancy Reifke*





## Bringing A Little South to the West

Odd jobs. That's a common term describing jobs I had while growing up. The phrase identifies short-term work as a "Jack of all Trades" and different types of work I did to earn some cash.

If you've been a frequent reader of my offerings, you know my brother Eddie (a.k.a. Bubba), and I spent many summers and falls chopping and picking cotton for our grandparents at their Arkansas farms. But we also had several other jobs in and throughout the Memphis area and suburbs where we grew up.

Like many other kids my age, I was a paperboy at one point. Nowadays, most newspaper carriers drive to deliver the morning edition, but my delivery system was done on my 20" red, big tire bicycle. I did this for a couple of months one summer because I realized getting up before daylight to receive, fold, and deliver newspapers was not for me.

One of the more interesting jobs I did put the "odd" in odd jobs. I worked for a carnival. I helped put together and run the "Tilt-a-Whirl." But it was the people who traveled with the carnival that made it odd, not the rides. These guys reminded me of the characters portrayed in *Easy Rider* with Peter Fonda. While they looked like loners, they were very much a family. One evening a customer felt he had been shorted in his ride. He had been "celebrating" probably affected his disposition and inability to gauge time accurately. He loudly expressed his displeasure and wanted a "pound of flesh" from the ride operator, a 250-pound bearded, long-hair member of this carnival family. The operator shouted a "code word" in less than a minute; the customer was surrounded by other carnival guys with chains, pipe wrenches, and lead pipes. It was a very sobering sight, and fortunately, he decided his ride had ended in a sufficient amount of time. After that incident, I decided it was time to change careers.

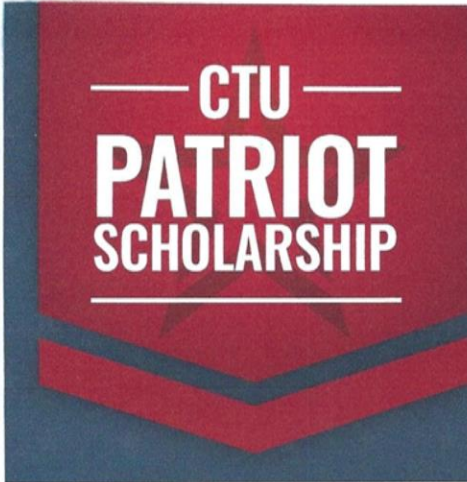
Another odd job was helping a friend re-stock her bar at a Honky-Tonk in Mississippi. For those unfamiliar with the term, a Honky-Tonk is a country bar that plays live country music. Back in the day, this was a popular venue for local musicians like Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Johnny Cash, to name just a few. This job ended the day a six-pack exploded and drenched me in beer. My parents' friend took me home and explained that I had not been drinking even though I smelled like a brewery. My parents said they believed the story, but they also decided I should seek employment elsewhere after that incident.

I worked in grocery stores and retail stores part-time. I also worked briefly for a landscaper mowing and weed-eating residential homes. I HATE doing that type of work now. We drove through farm areas selling watermelons from my Dad's pickup bed. We also drove up to a cousin's sawmill in northwest Arkansas to get a load of hickory hand tool handles that we sold at various local hardware stores.

Well, gotta go. Jackie has a few odd jobs for me. Those never seem to end, and they are not very interesting anyway. It is unlikely you'll hear about them from me in a future article.

*Jay Bowen*  
Past Post Commander





**ABOUT THE PROGRAM**

For 14 years, Colorado Technical University™ has awarded 50 scholarships annually to positively impact the lives of the extraordinary men and women whose lives have been altered due to injury while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, CTU® has awarded 700 scholarships, totaling over \$16 Million.

**YOUR EDUCATION, ACCESSIBLE**

CTU makes it possible for those serving in the U.S. Armed Forces—along with their families and caregivers—to earn a university degree anywhere, anytime. Scholarship recipients have the option to complete an associate, bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree program online or at one of CTU's campuses in Colorado Springs or Aurora.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

- Active-duty members or honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces (including Reserves and National Guard) with a service-connected disability
- Spouses and unmarried dependent children of U.S service members with a service-connected disability
- Caregivers/non-medical attendants of a service member with a service-connected disability

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- Full tuition to any CTU degree program
- New laptop computer
- All course books, in hard-copy or electronic format
- Dedicated Student Success Coach and specially trained military education advisors
- 24/7 technical support and tutoring
- Option to study online or at one of CTU's campuses

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- March 1, 2022** Application Window Opens
- June 30, 2022** Application Deadline
- November 10, 2022** Recipients Announced
- January/February 2023** Recipients Start Class

**SUPPORTING PATRIOTS IN COLLABORATION WITH**



**START YOUR APPLICATION**

[coloradotech.edu/CTUPatriot](http://coloradotech.edu/CTUPatriot)



Colorado Technical University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission, [www.hlcommission.org](http://www.hlcommission.org). CTU cannot guarantee employment, salary, or career advancement. University grants or scholarships are based on established criteria as published in the University Catalog and are awarded after verification that the conditions of eligibility have been met. REQ1795259 2/22

## PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

### Young Guns



NRA-Accredited members of the Sons of The American Legion are sponsors and instructors for the Young Guns program. This is a basic rifle safety and marksmanship course offered to boys and girls ages 10-18. Shooting is indoors, using air rifles.

<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionCentennialPost209/>

### Boy (and Girl) Scouts of America

The Post 209 family is the charter partner for five Boy Scouts of America (BSA) units:



- Cub Scout Pack 24 (Boys and Girls): p24@legion209.org
- Cub Scout Pack 386 (Boys and Girls): p386@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 77 (Girls): t77@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 79 (Boys): t79@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 187 (Boys): t187@legion209.org
- Venture Crew 762 (Young men and women ages 14-20): c762@legion209.org

### Boys and Girls State



Boys State and Girls State is for high school juniors going into their senior year with at least one semester left of school.

- BOYS STATE: [www.colegionboysstate.org/](http://www.colegionboysstate.org/).
- GIRLS STATE <http://alacolorado.com/girls-state.html>

### Oratorical Contest



This Nationwide contest is designed to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of high school students.

[www.colegionoratorical.org](http://www.colegionoratorical.org)

### Eagle Scout of the Year



The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year nomination window is from **1 November to 1 March** annually. Nomination packets must be received by each applicant's respective American Legion department (state) headquarters no later than 1 March.

<https://legion209.org/Scouting/>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm  Venture Crew 7:00pm	<b>3</b> <span style="color: red;">Price Depends on Menu</span> Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm 	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Venture Crew 7:00pm	<b>10</b> <span style="color: red;">Price TBD</span> ALR Dinner - 6:00pm <span style="color: red;">RSVP Required!</span> 	<b>11</b> <span style="color: red;">\$9/\$10 b'fast per person</span> Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00  
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>14</b> <span style="color: blue;">Flag Day</span> Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Venture Crew 7:00pm	<b>17</b> <span style="color: red;">\$17/Person</span> Steak Night! 6:00pm <span style="color: red;">RSVP Required!</span>  <span style="color: red;">Trivia Night!</span>	<b>18</b> ALR209 Remembrance Ride for Monk Baylis 9:00am 
<b>19</b> <span style="color: blue;">Father's Day</span>  <span style="color: red;">Happy Father's Day!</span>	<b>20</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>21</b> <span style="color: blue;">Start of Summer</span> ALR Exec. Mtng ALR 6:30pm. 	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  TALARC EC Meeting 5:00pm Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm  Venture Crew 7:00pm	<b>24</b> <span style="color: red;">Price TBD</span> Chef's Choice Dinner 6:00pm <span style="color: red;">RSVP Required!</span> 	<b>25</b> Healing Warriors! 9:00am - 1:00pm
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>28</b> ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:30pm  	<b>29</b> Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	<b>30</b> <span style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px;">Department Convention</span>  Venture Crew 7:00pm	Notes:	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> Price Depends on Menu Department Convention  Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm 	<b>2</b> Department Convention
<b>3</b> Department Convention	<b>4</b> Indep. Day Independence Day Picnic 11:00am   	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm   Venture Crew 7:00pm	<b>8</b> Price TBD Aux. Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	<b>9</b> \$9/\$10 b'fast per person Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00  
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>12</b> Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  Venture Crew 7:00pm	<b>15</b> \$17/Person Steak Night! 6:00pm RSVP Required! Trivia Night! 	<b>16</b>
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<b>31</b>	Notes:					