

The Centennial

VOLUME XIII EDITION 3

MARCH, 2022



AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209

3613 JEANNINE DR. COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80917

719.599.8624 WWW.LEGION209.ORG

MEET YOUR 2021-2022 OFFICERS!!



American Legion Post 209 Officers - 2021

Commander: Joseph Schmidt 651.328.9029	Adjutant: Jerry Hopper 918.953.9980	Sr. Vice Commander: Marvin Weaver, Jr. 719.244.3535
Jr. Vice Commander: Steve Hayes 719.494.7166	Finance Officer: Joel Haas 719.482.4496	Service Officer: Brian Murphy 719.930.4147
Judge Advocate: Marvin Weaver 719.638.4763	Historian: Stacey Ousley 325.704.0510	Executive Committeeman: Art Kimbrel 719.339.4610
Chaplain: Brad Henderson 830.660.4072	Club Manager: Art Kimbrel 719.339.4610	Honor Guard Captain: Joel Haas 719.482.4496



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers - 2021

President: Royce Hopper 918.953.9993	VP: Cathy Barger 719.290.3163	Secretary: Pat Weaver 719.638.4763	Treasurer: Kellie Hayes 719.494.7167
Chaplain: Mary Bramer 719.633.8612	Exec.-at-Large: Jackie Bowen 901.481.0673	Historian: Valerie Stephens 330.510.0411	Sgt-at-Arms: Charyse Schmidt 651.558.6968



Sons of The American Legion Squadron - 2021

Commander: Brian Wess 719.528.6672	Adjutant: Ken Taylor 719.461.4047	Sr. Vice Commander: Rob Barry	Chaplain: Brad Henderson 830.660.4072
Jr. Vice Commander: Daxton Attarian	Finance Officer: Ken Taylor 719.461.4047	Sgt-at-Arms: Bob Ingram 480.353.8234	



The American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers - 2022

President: Ed Santos 719.329.4357	VP: Sarah Tobin 719.439.7724	Secretary: Royce Hopper 918.953.9993	Treasurer: Scott Laudan 719.238.2679	Sgt-at-Arms: Bobby Senter 719.660.3775
Road Captain: Sean Cope 719.246.4820	Historian:	Communications: Gary Asp 719.822.3270		



The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) Officers

President: George Johnson KE0ALQ 910.494.9768	Vice President: Vacant	Trustee: Harvey LeCato W1JU
Secretary: Harvey LeCato W1JU	Treasurer: Henry Russell KC0NAJ	

FROM THE DESK & MIND OF THE COMMANDER



Volunteers are the backbone of the American Legion; without them we would not be able to support the thousands of Veterans we do each year. From Post Commander to donating time or a pair of socks every volunteer plays their part in continuing the mission of the American Legion. There are a multitude of reasons to get involved, but the number one reason is happiness.

A study published recently in the Journal of Happiness Studies, researchers examined data from nearly 70,000 participants in the United Kingdom, who took surveys about their volunteering habits and mental health, including their distress and functioning in everyday life, every two years from 1996 to 2014. Compared to people who did not volunteer, people who had volunteered in the past year were more satisfied with their lives and rated their overall health as better. Additionally, researchers found that people who volunteered more often experienced greater benefits: Those who volunteered at least once a month reported better mental health than participants who volunteered infrequently or not at all.

According to Ricky Lawton, associate director at Simetrica Research Consultancy, lead author of the paper, a combination of factors is likely at play. First, volunteering appears to be intrinsically rewarding when we help others. Second, volunteering is likely to help boost our sense of social connection. For older adults, volunteering can be a way to stay connected to others after retirement.

Finally, volunteering can be a way to build professional skills and try out leadership opportunities, which is especially relevant to younger Veterans. In the study, researchers found that participants ages 16-24 and 55-74 were especially likely to benefit from volunteering, perhaps because of the opportunity to build social connections and new skills.

So, volunteering can do more than just help others; it can help your own wellbeing. There are many opportunities in the Post, finding one is as simple as reaching out or coming to a Friday night dinner. Together we can continue to serve the Veterans and their families in this community.

- "How Volunteering Can Help Your Mental Health." Greater Good. Accessed 23 Feb. 2021.

-Lawton, Ricky N., et al. "Does Volunteering Make Us Happier, or Are Happier People More Likely to Volunteer? Addressing the Problem of Reverse Causality When Estimating the Wellbeing Impacts of Volunteering." Journal of Happiness Studies, Mar. 2020. Springer Link, doi:10.1007/s10902-020-00242-8

VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE



As I finished my newsletter Russian forces began to invade Ukraine. The instability on Europe's eastern front is unlike anything we have seen since WWII. The American Legion was founded on the principals of not only supporting veterans and their families, but also to standup against tyranny in all forms.

For a lot of our members of The American Legion, the Cold War was not that long ago. I have spoken with a number of members who served during that time and can talk about the height of the tensions. These same geopolitical tensions appear to be on the rise again, not to the extent of years prior, but there are certainly similarities. This is a time for diplomacy not to aggression, to find the peaceful resolve.

You may have seen on the news the United States Military and NATO allied forces are currently deploying to eastern NATO countries to enhance security and humanitarian relief to those fleeing Ukraine. Although we are not fighting in this war, I would ask you all to pray for the safety of all our servicemembers currently overseas during this period of instability and a peaceful resolution to this conflict.

Joseph Schmidt
Post Commander



FROM OUR POST ELECTION NOMINATION CHAIRMAN

I have been appointed again this year as your Post Election Nomination Committee Chairman. We have a couple of vacancies to fill and all Post positions, elected and appointed, will be open. If you would like to be a part of the Executive Committee that leads and represents the Post, let me know. We will also accept nominations from the floor during our elections at our April monthly membership meeting. See our February "Centennial" for a short explanation for all Post positions.

Marvin Weaver
Post Judge Advocate/Nomination Committee Chairman



FROM THE DESK OF THE POST ADJUTANT

To all of our members who braved the cold and snow to attend the General Membership Meeting on Feb. 12, THANK YOU! We had over 40 members there. I haven't seen that many in quite some time. It would be great if we could make that number, or more, a norm instead of an exception. Please remember the Executive Committee Members are there to represent you, THE MEMBERS of POST 209. We need your input to let us know how you want us to guide and direct our Post. Do you honestly want 4% of the membership controlling this Post's actions and directions?

On April 9th at 10:00 am, officer elections will be held. Come on out and vote! Make Your Voice Heard! Remember, any member in good standing, meaning membership dues up to date, may vote and run for any of the officer positions. We are a FAMILY. Come help steer us.

Gerry Hopper
Post Adjutant



IN MEMORY

It's never easy saying goodbye to close family members and friends. We don't normally put these notices in our newsletter, but felt we needed to share a couple of losses that occurred in February. Sadly, our last remaining Charter member of Post 209, **Bill Weeks** passed away after a short illness. He was a very active member for several years and right up to his passing, Bill served as one of our Jr. Shooting instructors. Over the years, Bill served in many Post leadership positions.

We also lost a Past Post Commander in February, **Phil Larsen**. Phil was our Post Commander from 2008 through 2009 and helped navigate through the purchase of our Post home. He was a great American, Commander, and friend to many.

They will be sorely missed as they transfer to Post Everlasting to be with other friends and family who have gone before them. Please keep their family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

Yum, Yum, Eat'em up!!

Butter Braid Sale Starting March 11th – April 8th. Delivery date will be forthcoming. Tell your friends, neighbors, and your neighbors' friends about the sale. Please turn in orders no later than April 8th. I will call or email you with the delivery time. Make checks payable to ALA Unit 209. The price is \$13.00 per braid & for cookie dough. Coffee pods are \$16. We need the payment before the delivery date. You may call Jackie Bowen, (901) 481-0673 or email jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com, with an order and then mail a check to her or discuss receipt of payment. Watch for reminder/update blasts to be sent. Thanks in advance for helping us make this a success.

FLAVORS: Caramel Rolls (9 rolls), Apple, Cherry, Blueberry & Cream Cheese, Cinnamon, Strawberry & Cream Cheese, and Bavarian Crème Cheese with chocolate icing, gluten-free cookie dough, French Vanilla K-Cup 12 pods & Italian Roast K-Cup 12 pods.



Celebrate

At
American Legion
Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209

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



Rental Features:

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

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



For More Information

www.legion209.org/contact_us

(719) 599-8624

3613 Jeannine Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80917

*Additional cost may apply



FROM THE DESK OF THE SR. VICE COMMANDER

Have you ever sat in the General Membership meeting and thought I can do this better? Have you ever thought what is our Post doing that I could get involved in? If you have thought about either of these things, coming up in April is your opportunity to do just that. We will be having our annual elections of Post Officers and what better way to get involved than to run for a position as a Post leader. All positions will be open at the April meeting and what better way to get involved. Think about what you can do for your Post.

Membership is going well. We are only about 200 members away from achieving the target set for us by the Department. A reminder that if your current membership card does not say 2022 on it you are considered delinquent. Please get with Adjutant to renew or go onto our website legion209.org and renew using PayPal. We are so close to making out quota for 2022. Let's give our outgoing Commander a great gift by becoming a 100% membership Post.

Thanks for all you do to continue helping Veterans and our Post.

Marvin Weaver, Jr.

Sr. Vice Commander



FROM THE DESK OF THE JR. VICE COMMANDER

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the 12 March membership meeting at the Post. At our February meeting, McConnell Bristol was scheduled to provide his delegate perspective on Boys State and Boys Nation. Unfortunately, he was snowed in at his residence. Thanks to PNC Tom Bock for stepping up to provide a great program overview on Boys State at the last minute. In the coming months we are juggling the schedule a bit, but we are looking to reschedule McConnell, have Karen White provide a presentation on Combat Hero Bike Build and hold a session on Mentoring in the coming months. See you at the meeting!

Steve Hayes

Jr. Vice Commander



FROM THE DESK OF THE UNIT PRESIDENT



March is a special month. The first day of Spring is in March, which signals we are leaving winter behind and preparing for a fresh, new start. March is also my daughter's birthday. She is my best friend and someone who can make me laugh more than anyone else. She makes me a better person and better able to handle life.

As we move through March, I encourage all of our members to think about running for an office in the upcoming elections. Jackie Bowen has accepted the task of Election Committee Chair for our Unit Elections. If you are interested in running for an office, please email Jackie with your intention. Our elections will be held at our April General Membership meeting with Installation of new officers in May. If you would like more information about any of the officer position, there is information on our National Auxiliary site or you can always reach out to any of our current Unit officers or Jackie.

Applications for the ALA Colorado Girls State Counselor, Jr. Counselor, and Delegates are now being accepted. Information can be located on the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Colorado web site. If you are interested, please go to the web page for additional information or to apply. At the Unit level, we will begin preparing for Delegate interviews, plan our Ice Cream Social, and start making plans for our Sponsor Dinner. If you are interested in helping with any of these events, please let us know!

Happy Birthday to our Members celebrating their special day in March this year: Terry Albert, Christel Barnett, Jackie Bowen, Elfriede Cranage, Kellie Hayes, Rebecca Jordan, Robin Pehle, Tracey Ruzicka, Charyse Schmidt, Ruth Smith, Nancy Wade, Pat Weaver, Kacey Velie

Serving Our Veterans Proudly!

Royce Hopper
Unit President



FROM THE DESK OF OUR FINANCE OFFICER

I am continuing to make adjustments with the Annual Budget based on actuals as they become available. I believe this will be of great assistance with future planning and maintaining a healthy financial status. Items are being added, modified, and removed as changes are identified. The Post Executive Committee is providing updates as well when a line-item change is needed.

Everything is ready for the preparation of the Post's 2021 tax filing. Different companies have been identified and reached out to in order to find someone for the tax filing. Currently, only one company has asked for a sit-down meeting to gather information to determine if they are what the Post requires. We are still hoping to find at least one more company to get information from in order to be able to form a comparison. This will allow the ability to have a choice between companies. The recommendation for which tax preparer to use will be made at the March Post Executive Committee Meeting so that the tax filing process can be completed on time.

A little change in my normal closing statement about the Post needing your help in identifying new fundraising ideas. We are getting back to our pre-COVID status supporting OUR Veterans in the community. Fundraising ideas are starting to get some seeds planted based on input from Post members. Hopefully, we will have some of those seeds sprouting soon and solid ideas put into action. Remember, any fundraising idea – big, small, unconventional (think about the impact of Kellie's Stick Pony Race) – is worth consideration to help us get there. A little note to add here is that we will need your help with the implementation of your new idea if it is decided to move forward with it, especially if the idea is something you have done before.

Joel Haas
Finance Officer



FROM OUR POST HISTORIAN

I'm working on something special for our Post that you might be seeing in the coming months. After talking with the Executive Committee about my idea and receiving their support, I'm looking forward to interviewing our Past Post Commanders and sharing with you the recorded interviews.

I am still new and I know we are surrounded by people with big hearts, willing to give their time and efforts to help Veterans and their families. From a historical perspective, I am looking forward to learning about our Past Commanders and what they think about their tenure now that someone else has filled the Commander seat. I have a list of questions, some serious and some not so serious, and I'm looking forward to sharing these interviews with you.

In this same vein, I'm looking to pay homage somehow to the Past Commanders of Post 209. My idea is to gather the names along with the years they served, and provide a summary as well as their service to our Post. I know we have the photos of our Past Commanders in the dining area of our Post. I will put names to faces and context behind how they made our Post what it is today. I hope to see that these two endeavors of mine will be "value added" to our Post by reflecting back on those that have come before us, honoring their service and to our cause/mission.

Looking forward to seeing each of you at the upcoming General Membership meeting! If you have pictures or stories you would like to share, please let me know. You can email me at: historianstacey_post209@yahoo.com.

Stacey Ousley
Post Historian



FROM OUR SAL COMMANDER

SAL SQUADRON 209 GENERAL REPORT

We continue to drive forward to renew & rejuvenate participation & expand our membership toward fulfilling our key missions in supporting our Legion Family and our duties to Community, State & Nation. Our Senior Vice Commander, Robert Barry, has settled into his duties and has begun contacting expired members to remind them that 2021 memberships are expired as of 31 December 2021 and 2022 dues are now considered delinquent/past due. With our Membership currently hovering around 85% of 2021 and with the influx of several new members in past months, once currently delinquent members renew for 2022 Squadron 209 may be in a position to increase our membership for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic.

Congratulations to the Members who have already accumulated the 10 designated SAL & Post Family Participation Activities needed to complete the SAL Participation Incentive Reward Program instituted in mid 2021 and receive their SAL Allegiance Polo purchased by the Squadron: Joel Haas; Sr. Vice CDR Robert Barry; Steve Hayes; Chris Hollingsworth and Brian Wess.

Eligible activities to achieve this great reward are detailed on the Post SAL 209 webpage in a downloadable participation checklist which may also be requested from any Squadron Officer. Additionally, the January 2022 Membership meeting voted to initiate an attendance DOOR PRIZE for a \$50 Gift Card as an incentive thank you for attending and participating in SAL Squadron 209 Monthly Member Meetings. Members will receive an entry ticket for each Squadron 209 Monthly Member Meeting they attend and a winner will be drawn from eligible entries each quarter.

Nominations for Officer positions will be taken at our March meeting with elections at the 26 April Meeting. ALL positions are open, including: Commander; Sr. Vice Commander; Jr. Vice Commander; Adjutant; Finance Officer; Chaplain; Sgt.-at-Arms; Historian and Squadron Advisor. Interested Members may consult position descriptions and expectations by reading the Constitution, By-Laws & SAL Handbook available on the SAL 209 page on the Legion209.org Post website or by contacting your current Squadron Officers. While these are volunteer positions, interested members are asked to carefully consider and take seriously the commitment to the success of Squadron and their fellow members that serving in these positions entail.

YOUNG GUNS PROGRAM

Overcoming the challenges from the loss of key volunteers who have moved out of the area and most recently the loss of Jeraud Stewart as he moves to Florida, the Young Guns Junior Shooting Sports and Marksmanship Program has begun their February through April program with a FULL class supported by SAL Squadron 209, the Scouting Venture Crew, also sponsored by SAL Squadron 209, and generous sponsorship assistance from the Friends of the NRA. The Program has a full component of junior shooting students and the Venture Crew is filling out the Marksmanship Program with several volunteers who have made the commitment to taking NRA Instructor Certification in February & March in order to serve and assist the program as necessary.

Brian Wess
SAL Commander





Trivia Night!



Do you want a chance to earn some money for knowing useless information? Or maybe a free beverage?

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

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

How about Roy Rogers real name?

What is the President of the United States' address?

If you know the answers to the above and other questions similar to these, or if you fancy yourself a trivia wizard, join us on **Friday, 18 March, 2022 for our Trivia Night event.**

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

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

Cost to compete is \$5.00 per person.

Even if you don't want to play, come on out and watch the fun! But you should consider competing. You never know, you may discover you know more about those trivial little things than you realize!

THE AMERICAN LEGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (TALARC)

Devoted to the Hobby and Art of Amateur Radio and Promoting the American Legion
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, around the world,** or even into space, all without the Internet or cell phones. It's a great hobby that's **fun, social, educational, and can be a lifeline during times of need.**

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



FROM OUR HONOR GUARD CAPTAIN

Honor Guard events are picking up quickly, with a total of 17 Final Honors and 1 Flag Presentation expected this year through the end of February (at the time this article was written halfway into February). In comparison, there were 14 Final Honors total at the end of February 2021. There is plenty of time for more events to be requested, we will provide support for all which there are personnel available. Unfortunately, there have now been two Final Honors requests that have been denied due to not having personnel available to support. Denying requests to support Final Honors for a Veteran who earned those Honors is the hardest thing we have to do. This is where the Honor Guard needs the most help – providing the Final Honors earned by Veterans, like we hope someone will be there to support the Final Honors we earned when OUR time comes.

The Colorado Military Funeral Stipend Program is going strong, with our Honor Guard submitting multiple qualifying events while helping the program identify issues to be addressed. As seen in last month's newsletter article, the Stipend Program pays VSO Honor Guards for providing Final Honors support for Veterans funerals. The Honor Guard received \$450 in Stipend funds for January Final Honors completed, another \$150 pending so far for February, and another \$200 possible for events currently scheduled in February. The Honor Guard has developed incentive options to be presented at the March Post Executive Committee Meeting. So, keep an eye out in the next couple of newsletter articles for new incentives we are expecting to implement for being an Honor Guard member supporting Final Honors events (in addition to the sense of pride you get by helping provide Final Honors for OUR Veterans).

If you, or someone you know, has a request for the Honor Guard to support an event, please contact the Honor Guard Coordinator. The Honor Guard Coordinator, Valerie Stephens, can be reached through any one of the following:

Cell Phone: (330) 510-0411

Personal Email: valerie.al209honorguard@gmail.com Legion: honor.guard@legion209.org

As seen in previous articles (and can expect to see in each article in the future), while not everyone has a lot of time to participate in the Honor Guard, all someone needs is the time to participate a night or two for training meetings (2nd & 3rd Tuesday of every month) and even just **ONE** event a month. A meeting or two and one event a month is only 3-5 hours. Those 3-5 hours makes a difference for a Veteran and their family. Those 3-5 hours a month can also make a difference for you! If another 10 to 15 members of the Legion, Sons, or Auxiliary *gave back* with 3-5 hours a month, the Honor Guard could possibly not have to keep turning down requests. If you do not remember/know how to march or fold the flag, we will teach you. The only two items that a new Honor Guard member needs to get on their own is a Legion cap (or SAL/ALA as applicable) and shoes (multiple options available). All other uniforms items that you need are provided by the Honor Guard. You do not have 3-5 hours a month? That is okay, you can still help the Honor

Guard by telling others in the Legion, Sons, or Auxiliary (Post 209 or other posts in the area) about what the Honor Guard does and the importance of growing in order to meet the increase of requests to support OUR Veterans. 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.

Joel Haas
Honor Guard Captain



FROM OUR POST CHAPLAIN

“A Family Affair”

I’ve been reading about ancient history. Fossil evidence indicates that 300,000 years ago, early hunter-gatherers banded together loosely for survival, in search of food. More permanent settlements emerged as recently as 9,500 B.C., but it was the Egyptians whose drawings and writings showed us what it was like to have a “family.” The family was the cornerstone of Egyptian life. Multiple generations lived in the same house, and just about everyone (man, woman, and child) had a specific function that contributed to the family’s success. Those of us whose relatives speak about growing up in the Great Depression, those of us with farm families, or large urban families can probably relate in some way.

The American Legion was founded in March, 1919 on four pillars of service and democracy. Each encompasses a variety of programs that benefit our nation’s service men and women, our veterans, their families, our youth, and ordinary citizens. Our Legion Family has become a cornerstone of American life. We are fortunate that most who join us, do so because they enjoy the camaraderie, and because they want to “give back” to the community in some way. Did you know that March is “Community Service Month?” You may be asking, “*How can I contribute?*” Consider:

- a. VA&R – We need volunteers to assist with the Honor Guard, rendering final honors to our departed brothers and sisters. We do not want to turn a family down because we were short by one person to be able to render honors. It has happened.
- b. Americanism – Give of your time and talents to American Legion Baseball, the Junior Shooting Program, the American Legion Oratorical Scholarship Program, or The American Legion Boys State Program. Like “the great outdoors?” Help place flags at the headstones of our warriors on Memorial Day, or in the SAL “Flying Flags for Heroes” program. Support or join the American Legion Riders and the annual Legacy Run. The needs are there.
- c. Children and Youth – Give of your time and talents to the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, or the new Venture Crew 762.
- d. National Security – Let your representatives know that you support a strong national defense, homeland security, and a full accounting of Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action.

“*How can I work within the organization to make the Legion Family even better?*” Officer positions are open in The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, and the SAL. Nominations will take place in March, and elections will be April. The new slate of officers will be installed in May. Not your style? Serve on a committee! For the Legion to succeed in its pillars of service, we need as many family members as possible to serve. “*The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.*” (Matt. 9:37)

Will you help us bring in a good harvest of service? Compare your time and talents carefully with the needs of the Legion Family and think about it.

Brad Henderson
Chaplain





AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL IS COMING TO THE 'SPRINGS!



Please join us on Sunday, 6 March, 2022 at Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209, located at 3613 Jeannine Drive in Colorado Springs, for lunch and an organization/interest meeting to bring American Legion Baseball to Colorado Springs. The lunch/meeting will start at 11:00am. For this Baseball informational lunch/meeting, we will serve hot dogs and chili dogs (duh, this is a Baseball event). There is no cost to attend and no cost for the lunch. Our Department Baseball Committee will have some shirts, etc. for sale as a fundraiser, to include some hoodies advertising American Legion Baseball in the 'Springs! They will also have a donation bucket out for those who want to show their support for one of the oldest Americanism programs in TAL.

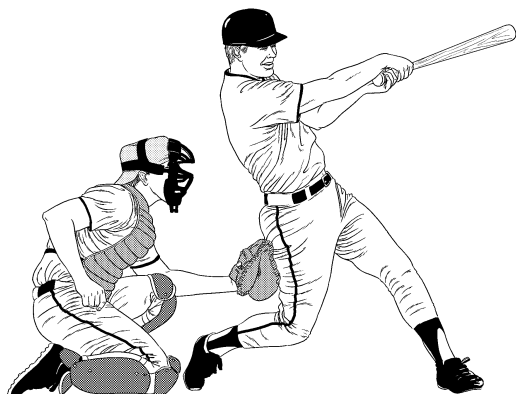
As published at www.legion.org:

“American Legion Baseball is a national institution, having thrived through a world war, several national tragedies, and times of great prosperity as well as great despair.

The league still stands behind the traditional values upon which it was founded in 1925. American Legion Baseball has taught hundreds of thousands of young Americans the importance of sportsmanship, good health and active citizenship. The program is also a promoter of equality, making teammates out of young athletes regardless of their income levels or social standings. American Legion Baseball has been, and continues to be, a stepping stone to manhood for millions of young men who have gone on to serve their country or community, raise families or play the sport at the highest level.”

Please come out and show your support for this great event and premier Americanism program. We want/need to show the local Baseball coaches that Colorado Springs Legionnaires and Legion family want and will support American Legion Baseball in our community.

Our kids need this! Our community needs this! The American Legion can make this happen! Let's bring American Legion Baseball back to Colorado Springs for 2022!



FROM OUR ORATORIAL CHAIRMAN

I am pleased to announce Post 209 is sponsoring Noah Klimek for the 2022 Department Oratorical Scholarship Program - "A Constitutional Speech Contest." It will be held on March 5th in Golden and Noah will be competing against roughly 20 other students for a \$3,000 scholarship. Should he win there, it's on to the national contest in April and a shot at a \$25,000 scholarship!

The Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the US Constitution among high school students. Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship. The program has produced numerous politicians and prominent citizens, including former president candidate Alan Keyes and former CNN anchor Lou Dobbs. Pictured left to right is Chairman Doug Millison, Past Commander Jay Bowen, Noah Klimek, and Commander Joseph Schmidt.



We hosted a practice session on February 15th, giving Noah an opportunity to shake out his presentation in the same type of environment that he will be competing in farther up the chain.

Noah's prepared oration dealt with a citizen's duties and responsibilities toward that end. He calls for the teaching and analyzing of the Constitution in every public classroom. But more than that, he laid it upon the citizens to read it and teach those around us, our families and children. And how best to support the Constitution? By voting of course. "Every single adult American regardless of race, color or gender has been given the express privilege and duty to vote and uphold the values that are important to them."

He followed that with a short oration on the assigned topic of the 25th amendment, section 4, off the top of his head. With this oration he outlined how the Constitution laid out a process to replace a sitting president in case of incapacitation.

Just watching these students compete is a treat. To hear their take on citizenship and the Constitution is always interesting. And to know there are students out there going into every field of life that have taken the deep dive into our founding documents and have applied that knowledge in a meaningful way to them, it's heartening. Americanism. It is one of The American Legion's pillars, to bring that knowledge out in America's students.

A big thank you to all of the volunteers who made this round possible; Jay Bowen, Joe Schmidt, Harvey LeCato, Stacey Ousley, Michael Lux, Calvin and Tom Callahan, Art Kimbrel and Bobby Senter. Two more volunteered to help but due to only having one student I didn't get to use them, Valerie Stephens and Jerry Hopper. I also want to thank everyone who attended the practice round. Just having someone to orate for is a great help to the students. We had an audience of 13 to include a representative out of Senator Bennet's office and Past National Commander Tom Bock.

If this program interests you, reach out to next year's commander and get involved!

Doug Millison
Oratorical Chairman





AMERICAN LEGION POST 209

THE PREEMINENT VOICE FOR VETERANS • COLORADO SPRINGS, CO



WALK OF HONOR

Buy A Brick Fundraiser!

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



- **What Are We Having?** A Brick Fundraising Event
- **Why?** To Further Funding of our American Legion Programs
- **What Size Are the Bricks?** 4"x 8" or 8"x 8" bricks for individuals, and 8"x 8" or 12"x 12" bricks for our corporate supporters.
- **What are the Costs for the Individual Bricks?** Prices vary depending on size, style and lettering desired, but typically range from \$90 to \$200. For the 8x8 or 12x12 bricks, you can add a second emblem. Contact the Adjutant for ordering details. There is **NO** additional cost for the second emblem on the larger bricks.
- **What are the Costs for the Corporate/Veteran Supporter Bricks?** Again, prices vary depending on size, style, and lettering but typically range from \$250 to \$500.
- **What is the Difference between Individual and Corporate Bricks?** Individual bricks are identified for Veterans, and family members of Veterans wishing to purchase a brick to honor their Veteran. The corporate bricks are for our Veteran-friendly supporters and businesses who wish to show their continued support to our Nation's heroes by purchasing a brick.
- **Is the Brick Purchase Restricted to Members of the Post 209 Family?** No. We encourage members to buy a brick for themselves as a lasting memory of their association with Post 209. We also welcome anyone to purchase a brick for their Veteran loved one, or to show their support to our Veterans.
- **Can I Buy a 12"x 12" Brick for Myself/Loved One?** Absolutely!
- **Where Do I Go to Buy a Brick?** We have a link on our website. Just visit legion209.org and click on "Walk of Honor." Or, you can visit <http://polarengraving.com/ALPost209> to buy your brick. The site is very user-friendly and will walk you through the design and purchase. You will be able to see a preview of your brick before finalizing the purchase.
- **How Do I Pay For the Brick?** We have the site setup to accept payment via PayPal or by check. PayPal is an extremely safe way to purchase a brick and you don't need a PayPal account to use it.
- **Where Will the Brick Be Shipped?** All bricks will be shipped to the Post. We will notify you when it arrives and you are welcome to stop by and see the brick you have purchased.
- **What Will Become of My Brick?** It will be placed near the Flagpole at the Post and will be part of the landscaping design we are working. If you are a landscaper or know a good one (preferably a Veteran), have them contact our Adjutant.
- **How Long Will this Fundraiser Effort Last?** We plan to only sell as many bricks as needed for the first phase of the landscaping project. Currently, that is anticipated to be 600 bricks, but that number may change depending on brick sizes purchased and the final design approved by the Post.
- **Will I Have an Opportunity to Buy a Brick Later?** Quite possibly. It depends on what is decided/approved for the next phase of our project.

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



BRINGING A LITTLE SOUTH TO THE WEST

Like many of you, I'm both loving and hating technology. On the one hand, it's made life a little easier and opened our network world-wide. But, at the same time it's created more work to learn how to manipulate through the various programs and apps, and it has made us vulnerable for anyone to know where we are at all times and what we are doing. Between social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, TikTok, Life 360, ad nauseam, we, and our children are now locked in to our computer and tablets. We've left little to no time for fun.

Thinking back, I guess you could say we and our parents set the stage for some of the technology we have today. Obviously, growing up in the dark ages (50's and 60's), we didn't have beepers or cell phones for our parents to call us when dinner was ready. Still most parents had the innate ability to effectively communicate by standing out in the front yard and yelling for us when it was time to come home. That form of instant communication today is done via text. And on the rare occasion we were already inside the house at dinner-time, our parents would actually walk to our bedroom or the living room and announce it was time to eat. Nowadays, they just send a text to the kids, no matter where they are, even if they are in the next room.

Early Emoticons were done by using facial expressions when we talked. A smile would mean everything is okay or something comical was said. A frown meant we got caught doing something we should have known better than to do. And so on. And if our parents were really mad, they would call us by our complete given name; "John William Bowen, get in here now!" Today, we do the same thing by texting or emailing in all caps (upper case for you younger folks).

Way back then we also had devices called cameras. These were single units with only one job; taking pictures. If you wanted to spend a lot of money, you could even get a camera that also took videos (we called them movies, or moving pictures back then). Unfortunately, you couldn't text or make phone calls with a camera. If you wanted to make a phone call you had to actually do that from a telephone. And they were connected to a wall via a cord.






















We even had caller ID when I was growing up. When the phone would ring, if Mom thought it was Aunt Edna (not her real name), she would have one of us kids answer the phone. If it was Aunt Edna, we had to make up some excuse why Mom couldn't come to the phone. Unfortunately, it often still took about 30 minutes to get her off the phone. And on the rare occasion Mom got caught answering a call from Aunt Edna, we were instructed to yell she is wanted at the door after about an hour. Today, people screen their calls. If they see an Aunt Edna come up on caller ID, most of the time they don't answer. By the way, if you often get someone's voicemail rather than talking directly to them when you call, guess what? You're Aunt Edna!

It's good to know we were the pioneers that drove today's technology. It's hard to find a house with a telephone connected to the wall. If people do have a "land line," it probably has a wireless handset, or multiple wireless handsets. Even flip phones are antiquated. Already! But for those of us "seasoned citizens" who actually have migrated over to a "smart phone," we still use them for calling someone and talking with them directly. How ancient is that idea?!!!

Gotta go now. Someone is calling me on my cell phone. Never mind, it was Aunt Edna. I'll just let it go to voicemail.

Jay Bowen
Past Post Commander



March 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Ash Wednesday Marksmanship 4:00pm 	3 Young Guns 6:30pm Executive Cmttee 6:30pm Venture Crew 7:00pm 	4 \$12 / \$9 under 11 Troop 79 Dinner Pulled Pork 6:00pm	5
6	7 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	8 Intl. Women's Day Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	9 Marksmanship 4:00pm 	10 Young Guns 6:30pm Venture Crew 7:00pm 	11 Price TBD ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	12 \$9/\$10 b'fast per person Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00  
13 Daylight Saving Begins	14 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	15 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm ALR Exec. Mtng ALR 6:30pm. American Legion B'day!  	16 Marksmanship 4:00pm 	17 Saint Patrick's Day Young Guns 6:30pm Venture Crew 7:00pm 	18 \$17/Person Steak Night! 6:00pm RSVP Required! Trivia Night! 	19
20 Start of Spring	21 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	22 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:30pm  	23 Marksmanship 4:00pm 	24 Young Guns 6:30pm Venture Crew 7:00pm 	25 Price TBD Chef's Choice Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	26 Earth Hour Healing Warriors! 9:00am - 1:00pm
27	28 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	29	30 Marksmanship 4:00pm 	31 Young Guns 6:30pm TALARC EC Mtg 5:00pm Venture Crew 7:00pm  	Notes: Hamdogger is cancelled for March. Troop 79 will be hosting the dinner 4 March.	

April 2022 Events of Note:

Post and Auxiliary Officers' Elections! – 9 April

Good Friday! – 15 April

Trivia Night! – 15 April

Easter! – 17 April

Tax Day! – 18 April

SAL Elections! – 26 April

For schedule updates and more information, visit our website at www.legion209.org