

CENTENNIAL POST 209

THE AMERICAN LEGION

MAY 2000



This year has passed so quickly many of us wonder where all that time went. It seems like yesterday that the job of being your Commander was placed on my shoulders. It has been an eye opener with a pitfall here and there and high points other places. Many good things have happened over the course of the year. We have close to a full slate of officers for this next year. A few new faces are on the Board, which is a very encouraging sign.

Many Veteran programs are coming into focus over the next couple of months, beginning with Memorial Day on May 29th. Flag Day, June 14th, and then the 4th of July celebration. On May 27th the Post will hold the installation of Officers for the year 2000-2001. Plan to attend and have an enjoyable time. While there, talk with these officers about your interests, hobbies, or about your concerns with the post. Communication is the missing link

in many organizations like ours. We can ask the questions pertinent to the operation of the post, but when we get no replies from members it is a one lane of traffic going nowhere. So, please open the doors or lines of communications and talk to US. So much more can be accomplished when two or more people trade information.

Boys State is coming up fast; we don't know how many young men we will be able to send yet. The rifle team being coached at Widefield High School has made some progress this year but is expected to do much better next year. The five new rifles the Post purchased to help with training have been very well received. Their appreciation of the post's activities at Widefield is at an all time high.

GENERAL ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER

GET OUT AND VOTE VOTE VOTE

OFFICERS

COMMANDER	FRANCIS REDINGTON
SR VICE COMMANDER	
JR VICE COMMANDER	HARRY JOHNSON
ADJUTANT	ANN FOSTER
FINANCE OFFICER	AL CYRIACUE
HISTORIAN	NORM MOYER
SGT-AT-ARMS	NORM HARPOLE
CHAPLAIN	HOWARD HORNIK
JUDGE ADVOCATE	WALLY LONSINGER
SERVICE OFFICER	TOM MORANT

DUES \$25.00

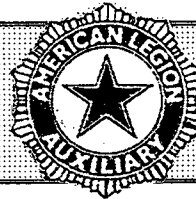
MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

WORLD WAR I
APR 6, 1917 - NOV 11, 1918
WORLD WAR II
DEC 7, 1941 - DEC 31, 1946
KOREAN WAR
JUN 25, 1950 - JAN 31, 1956
VIETNAM WAR
DEC 22, 1961 - MAY 7, 1975
GRENADA & LEBANON
AUG 24, 1982 - JUL 31, 1984
PANAMA
DEC 20, 1989 - JAN 31, 1990
PERSIAN GULF
AUG 2, 1990 UNTIL THE
END OF HOSTILITIES

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	DOROTHY DASSERO
SECRETARY	ANITA MCFADDEN
TREASURER	BARBARA JOHNSON
CHAPLAIN	JUDITH MCFADDEN
SGT-AT-ARM	RUTH HORNIK

DUES \$15.00



DOT DASSERO
AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

MEETINGS

3RD THURSDAY - 7:00 P.M.
VFW POST #4051, 430 E PIKES PEAK AVE.
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

EDITOR

DOROTHY DASSERO, NALPA

OFFICE

4291 AUSTIN BLUFFS PKY STE 104
COLORADO SPGS CO 80918-2944
719-599-8624

Officers elected for the ensuing year for your Auxiliary are: Dorothy Dassero President, Secretary, Pat Andries, Treasurer, Barbara Johnson, Chaplain, Marcia Shellhammer and Sgt at Arms, Ruth Hornik. The offices of First Vice President, Second Vice President and Historian remain unfilled unless you would like to volunteer to fill one of them.

Members present have voted to meet during the afternoon, at 1:30 on the third Thursday of each month at the office of the Post, 4291 Austin Bluffs Pkwy, Ste 104. Those of you who do not drive at night will have no excuse not to attend. We must have more member participation at our meetings. The officers who accepted election this year have done so because YOU are not participating. Some of us would like to sit back and become members-at-large while some of YOU assume leadership.

LARRY JOHNSON

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS YEAR 2000-2001

We reported that the Installation of Officers was going to be at the Chops Wood Grill. Since then we have received a letter from the restaurant stating they will not be able to serve as they have closed their doors.

We will host the installation of officers at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 4051, 430 East Pikes Peak Avenue, on Saturday May 27.

A social time has been scheduled from 6:00 P.M., with dinner to be served at 7:00 P.M. with Installation following the dinner. Installation will begin with the American Legion Auxiliary followed by the officers of the Post.

New York strip steak, baked potato, veggies, salad and desert is the menu and cost of the meal has been set at \$10.00 per person.

Please call Harry Johnson at 596-9261 and let him know how many will be in your party. We need to know this by May 8.

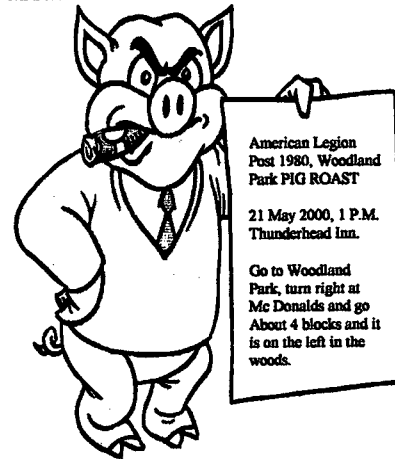
Come on out and show your support for the new officers.

The American Legion Department of Colorado Year 2000 Convention

This year the Department convention will be held from the

22nd of June to the 25th of June at Longmont, CO.

There are details contained in the Department Publication and they are also available at the Post. If you would like, I can answer questions on where we are going and what will happen at the convention. Just give me a call at 590-1369.



The American Legion Post in Woodland Park is seeking all those Legionnaires who like to partake of a well-cooked and very tasteful Roast Pig, with dishes prepared by the ladies.

I can tell you from past experience that the pig is mouth-watering and the dishes prepared are just as good.

There is a charge of \$5.00 per person but the meal is well worth it and you can't beat the camaraderie of those in attendance.

If you need additional information, please feel free to give me a call at 590-1369. I will be more than happy to give you directions and answer any questions you might have.

HONORING VIETNAM VETERANS

14 APRIL 2000

(Taken from email received from the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.)

Congressman Steve Kuykendall today paid tribute to those men and women, military and civilians, who bravely served in the Vietnam War. Congressman Kuykendall made his reports in support on House Continuous Resolution 228, a measure that was unanimously approved by the House of Representatives this evening. The bill recognizes and honors the members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees who served this nation during the Vietnam era, and the families of those individuals who lost their lives, remain unaccounted for, or were injured during the Vietnam War.

Congressman Kuykendall made the following remarks on the floor of the House during the debate of H.Con. Res 228. 'Twenty-five years ago, we ended our involvement in the Vietnam War. And unlike World War II or Korea, our objectives for being in the conflicts in Southeast Asia were not very clear. Why were we there? What forces of evil or wrongdoing compelled the potential sacrifice of American lives? What national security or economic interests of the United States were at stake?

"Our involvement in Vietnam sparked tremendous domestic controversy, largely because we could not answer these questions. Our soldiers came home without fanfare or ticker tape parades, or

their hero's welcome we have historically showered upon returning veterans. Our veterans became a easy target for those who questioned our participation in Vietnam, and as a country, we turned our backs on them.

"As a nation, we struggle to find solutions to world issues that do not require military force. However, when needed, the young men and women of this nation answer our call to service. We must never again let the popularity of any war effort be the measure of when we honor our veterans' service. I will say it again. We must never again let the popularity of any way be the measure of when we honor our veterans' service. We cannot rewrite our past, but we can correct those mistakes by acknowledging the service of our Vietnam veterans, military and civilians.

"Let me quote Dan Mauro, a Vietnam Veteran, to reintroduce my colleagues to our Vietnam patriots. In Dan's words, our veterans are men and women. We are dead or alive, whole or maimed, sane or haunted. We grew from our experiences, or we were destroyed by them, or we struggle to find some place in between. We lived through hell or we had a pleasant, if scary, adventure. We were Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Red Cross and civilians of all sorts. Some of enlisted to fight for God and Country, and some were drafted. Some were gung-ho and some went kicking and screaming.

Like veterans of all wars, we lived a tad bit, or a great bit, but closer to death than most

people like to think about. If Vietnam vets differ from others perhaps it is primarily in the fact that many of us never saw the enemy or recognized him or her. We heard gunfire and mortar fire but rarely looked into enemy eyes. Those who did, like folks who encounter close combat anywhere and anytime, are often haunted for life by those eyes. Those sounds, those electric fears that ran between ourselves, our enemies, and the likelihood of death for one of us. Or we get hard, callused, tough. All in a day's work.

"We recognized the heroism of those who lost their lives in Vietnam with the creation of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in 1982. Today, with 2.5 million visitors annually, this memorial is the most visited place in the nation's capital. This memorial is a fitting tribute to the men and women who served in Vietnam. The wall has helped family members and friends say a final farewell. It has helped others come to terms with their Vietnam service. It has taught a generation about the heroism of those who lost their lives in Vietnam.

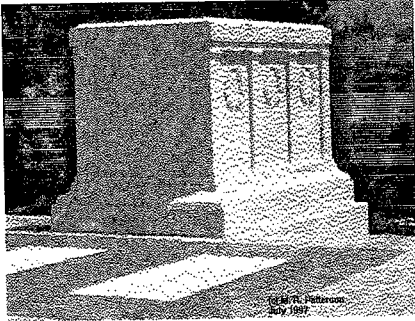
"It is time now to embrace the service of all of our Vietnam veterans: those who lived, those who died, those still missing, and all of us whose lives were unalterably changed by the experience. It is for this reason that House Concurrent Resolution 228 is so important.

"May 7, 2000 marks the anniversary of the end of the Vietnam era. House Concurrent Resolution 228 marks this historic anniversary by honoring the duty, courage,

service and love of family and country demonstrated by the 2.8 million Americans who served in Vietnam. Let this resolution also stand as notice to those who serve us now, in places like the Balkans, Korea, and the Persian Gulf, and for the next generation of patriots: America will stand by you and will praise your service, bravery, and commitment.

"I am proud to have served my country in Vietnam and am honored to be recognized as a veteran of that war. Today, I am deeply privileged to salute all who served as a veteran of that war. Today, I am deeply privileged to salute all who served, lost their lives, were injured or are still missing in Southeast Asia by supporting this resolution. I thank my colleague, the gentleman from California, for his service in Vietnam and his efforts to acknowledge the contributions of Vietnam veterans and their families. I urge my colleagues in Congress and people across the nation to recognize the contributions of these heroes.

Congress Kuykendall is a veteran of the Vietnam War. Commissioned as a Marine Corp Second Lieutenant in 1968, he served two tours of duty in Vietnam, participating in the effort to stop the North Vietnamese Easter Offensive in 1972. He rose to the rank of Captain and retired in 1973 after a permanent shoulder injury.



In Memory Of

We all have memories of places, events, people and family. Some of these memories are painful and some are very good. But whatever these memories are, we have them and we tend to share them with family and friends and, at times, strangers.

Memories that are made at all points of our lives and the strongest, of course, are the family, followed by school memories. Some of the strongest are the memories of our time in the military from the time we entered and we separated from our families and friends and thrown into a totally new world and environment. We were forced to live, eat, train, sleep with people from all nationalities, religious, and cultures we had never heard of. The diverse backgrounds of these people were something we were not prepared to handle but we did, and the things we learned and shared with these people, who in effect, had become our roommates. We shared in their triumphs and sometimes shared in their sorrow, and we learned more than we thought we did.

During the periods of conflict, the memories we have are again

many and varied. We lost friends we thought would be there for life, and friends we had just met and were beginning to know.

Whatever the memories are, Memorial Day is the day set aside for bringing these memories back into our lives and remembering the places, activities, friends and family who are so important to us.

I ask all to attend the Memorial Day ceremonies and reflect on those memories.

Ceremonies begin at 11:00 A.M., at the Rock, in Memorial Park, on May 29.

This year marks the 50th year commemorating the start of the Korean War from June 1950 to July 27, 1953.

The 25th anniversary of the ending of the Vietnam War will be marked on the 7th of May, 2000.

There are ceremonies scheduled in various communities and within the American Legion. These ceremonies and activities will be published as they are known.

YOU ARE IMPORTANT

YOU are a member of a very special organization, established by qualification(s) of a veteran and/or a spouse of a veteran as well as your choice to belong to The American Legion.

We are requesting that you complete and return the following/comments/interest letter to The American Legion Post 209/PO Box 25334/Colorado Spgs CO 80936-5334 by 31 May 2000.

NAME(S): _____ **TELEPHONE:** _____

Special Interests/Hobbies:

Days, I am available to help – please list in order of preference (example 1st and 3rd Friday evening, 3rd Tuesday evening, anytime or 2nd and 4th Monday, etc.)

This will allow the officers to ask volunteers to help with project(s) as they become available.

We appreciate your membership, but **Supporting** “The American Legion” with your **Time** and **Energy** is also needed to keep us active in the community. If everyone helps a little, we all benefit.

Please join us at our regular meeting on the **3rd Thursday of every month** at **7:00 P.M.**, VFW Post 4051, 430 East Pikes Peak Avenue. Upcoming events that we need volunteers for are **Property Cleanup, Audit Review Committee, Computer/Data Entry and cleanup, Office Cleanup, and Bingo Workers**. Please call and leave a message at 719-590-1369 to let us know of your interest.

Thank-you for your time to complete and return of the questionnaire and hope to see you at our next meeting.

The American Legion
Centennial 209
P.O. Box 25334
Colorado Springs, Co 80936-5334

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DISTRICT SEVEN CONVENTION REPORT

The District Seven Convention was held on Sunday, April 30, at Post 25 in Florence, CO. Members of The American Legion Auxiliary and The American Legion were present. Department Representatives attending were Senior Vice Commander Jeff Lugenbiel and Junior Vice Commander Danny DuMiller.

The Convention was opened by Commander Davis and President Wieggers. This was followed by the introductions of Department Officers and District Officers present. A very impressive POW/MIA Ceremony performed by the Post 38 POW/MIA Remembrance Team was next on the agenda. The Post Everlasting Ceremony followed. After announcements there was a break for the separate business sessions.

The American Legion District Seven election of officers for the coming year gave us the following: Commander Mike Schneider, Sr Vice Comdr Dennis Kraft, Jr Vice Comdr Paul Portwood, Finance Officer Ed White, Sgt-At-Arms Kevin Manning, and Historian Harry McFadden. The appointed officers are Adjutant Larry Johnson, Judge Advocate Charles Bowles, and Service Officer Neal Thomas.

The American Legion Auxiliary District Seven election of officers gave us the following: President Carol Bracken, Vice-President Rita Portwood, Secretary Irene Miller, Treasurer Mary Jane Miles, Chaplain Dot Dassero, Historian Liz Wieggers, Sgt-At-Arms Dana Kraft and DEC Helen White.

There were several awards handed out by The American Legion. All

Post Commanders and Adjutants were presented with a certificate thanking them for their service. Membership awards were given to those Posts who qualified at this time. The best was saved for last. Commander of the Year was Robert Kemper of our host Post 25 for all of his leadership in the accomplishment of their fine efforts in the community, American Legion program activities, their success with the membership drive and their support of the Florence State Veterans Nursing Home. The Legionnaire of the Year is Harry Andrews from Post 5. Many of us know of the countless hours and years of dedicated service to The American Legion by our fellow veteran Harry. He has held many offices many times at both the Post and District levels. He can always be counted upon whenever there is a Legion event taking place. His selection for this award earned a standing ovation.

After the separate sessions were completed the joint session reconvened to announce the results of the elections and to receive comments by appropriate officers and members. This was followed by announcements and the closing prayer.

A very fine lunch was provided by Post 25 before our return trip home. This was indeed an excellent Convention and a fine opportunity to share the comradeship of Legion and Auxiliary membership.

Next year the Convention will be hosted by Post 38. If you have never attended before, you might want to consider joining in. Details will be forthcoming in the District newsletter.

Centennial 209 Annual Picnic

And an afternoon with the Sky Sox Baseball Team sponsored by and paid for by Centennial 209.

WHEN: 30 July 2000

TIME: 11:00 A.M. 3:00 P.M.

WHERE: Palmer Park (located on the corner of Maizeland and Academy Blvd.)

MENU:

The Post will provide the meat (ribs, hamburgers, brats), bread products, sodas. We ask that everyone bring a favorite side dish or desert and an appetite for a good time.

We will have a covered area next to a playground for the kids and space available to set up a volleyball, badminton and some other type of games for your enjoyment. After the picnic, we will have tickets for those who would like to watch a baseball game with the Sky Sox playing Omaha.

We ask that you call Norm Moyer at 719- 392-3725 or call the Post at 599-8624 and leave a message telling us how many will be attending the picnic, how many kids, and if you would be attending the ball game.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW AND
MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND AND
HAVE FUN**