

THE AMERICAN LEGION – CENTENNIAL POST 209
P.O.Box 25334, Colorado Springs, CO 80936-5334
719-599-8624 al209@pcisys.net

MAY 2006 – NEWSLETTER

HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2006

***TREA, Breakfast 9 AM, Membership Meeting 10 AM**

Program—INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Officers' Comments

COMMANDER – Bill Marshall

MEMORIAL DAY OBSEVANCE “ FREEDOM IS NOT FREE”

**Monday May 29, 2006, 11 AM, Memorial Park Veterans Memorial, Union Boulevard,
Colorado Springs, Colorado. Inclement weather site: The Retired Enlisted Association,
Emery Circle.**

Guest Speaker: MG Robert Mixon, Commanding General, Fort Carson

Congratulations to the newly elected Officers of Post 209.

Officers Elected For 2006-2007

Commander-W.W. Bandler

SR. Vice Commander-Phillip Larson

JR. Vice Commander-Richard Brandt

Adjutant-Ann Foster

Post Executive Committeeman-Neal Thomas

Finance Officer-Norm Moyer

Sgt-at-Arms-Robert Rydell

Chaplain-Mario Taracena

Historian-Curtis Wash

Board of Trustees-3 Yr. Term-Bill Marshall

Membership

It is not too late to renew your 2006 membership. Although you do not attend meetings, for whatever reason, you are a vital part of The American Legion and the programs we support: Boys State, Oratorical Contest, baseball and Scouts, just to name a few. You may not realize it, but you were a contributor to The American Legion being able to lobby congress against the doubling and tripling of premiums for TriCare, as well as the co-pay for prescription drugs. There is no change for those over 65 with TriCare For Life. The 2.7 million memberships form a loud voice and we were heard. You and your family are very important to us and we will always be there for you. Thank you for all your support in the past, and I know you will help us in the future.

Member Alert

We have been advised by the VA of an organization calling itself Veterans Affairs Services (VSA). This organization is gathering personal information on Veterans under a VA services website. This organization is not affiliated with the VA in any way and in reality is a private company based in California. It describes itself as a nonprofit Veteran's service organization, but they are actually affiliated with the Military Financial Planning Association. They may be gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal. VA's legal counsel has requested we inform our installations, particularly mobilization sites of this group and their lack of affiliation or endorsement by VA to provide any services.

In addition, if you have any examples of VAS acts such as VAS employees assisting Veterans in the preparation and presentation of claims for benefits, please pass these on to Michael.Daugherty2@va.gov, (202) 273-8636. Mr. Daugherty is a Staff Attorney with the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington D.C. **Submitted by Jay Bowen, Post 209.**

For Your Safety and Security, Recent Car-Jacking Scheme Advisory

You walk across the parking lot, unlock your car and get inside. You lock your door's, start the engine and shift into reverse. You look into the rearview mirror to back out of your parking space and notice a piece of paper stuck to the middle of the rear window.

You shift into PARK, unlock your doors, get out of the car and walk to the rear to remove the paper (or whatever it is) that is obstructing your view. When you reach the back of your car, car-jackers appear out of nowhere, jumps into your car and take off! Your engine was running and they practically mow you down as they speed off.

Guess what ladies and gents? I'll bet your purse and other valuables were still in the car!

THIS IS A NEW CAR-JACK SCHEME THAT IS NOW BEING USED...VERY SUCCESSFULLY.

What to do: Just drive away and remove the object that's stuck to your window - later, saving you the risk of injury and the headache of a stolen automobile and valuables. Brought to you as a courtesy from the MDA Counterintelligence Division and Safety, Quality and Mission Assurance. **Submitted by Penny Marshall, Post 209.**

***TREA-is located on Emory Circle one block East of Murray off Galley RD.**

SR. VICE COMMANDER – W.W. Bandler

During our March 2006 Post general meeting I mentioned about volunteering. Most of us were instilled in our basic military training that "never volunteer for anything". Well now in civilian life all our Post Legionnaires have in a sense become volunteers. We volunteered to become Legionnaires in The American Legion and to support those programs of The American Legion and those of Centennial Post 209. I congratulate you all for this support. As an example, two of our Post members volunteered to become our Post Senior Vice Commander and Junior Vice

Commander, Phillip Larson and Richard Brandt respectively. **Now comes the pitch.** The Post needs volunteers to help our Officers who administer our Post supported programs, examples; Boy's State, Scouting, Oratorical Contest, etc. The officers who administer these programs and our other programs would welcome some help. One of our time consuming monthly activities is our Post Newsletter. Kudos to our Post Commander Bill Marshall and Legionnaire Penny Marshall who edit, format and print the newsletter, and to our Post Adjutant Ann Foster who assembles, addresses and ensures that the newsletter gets to the post office on time. **Legionnaires, the Post needs your help!**

ADJUTANT – Ann Foster

Membership

Membership is now at 305. We need five more for 95% and 21 more for 100%. If anyone is holding any memberships or has said they need to get one from somebody now is the time to do that. It would really be a shame to not reach goal when we are so close. Think about your fellow veterans and do the right thing!

Cub Scouts

Cub Pack 24 had their April Pack meeting on the 19th. Awards earned were presented, the six Webelos crossing over to Boy Scouts were presented gifts from a Post 209 member, John Cress. The Order of the Arrow was presented to those who had earned it. The Post presented Certificates of Appreciation and a small gift to the leaders. Commander Marshall did an excellent job of this. There will be one more Pack meeting this month and then it will be on to the summer day camp and other outdoor activities until school starts again.

Junior Shooting

Jr. Shooting and Citizenship awards were presented to those Cadets of the Widefield NJROTC on the 26th of April. Esther Redington presented the first award recipient for the Francis M. Redington Most Improved Shooter a Certificate and showed his name on the plaque that honors the work that Francis did to get the Rifle team started. Ann Foster assisted and also presented Maj. Davis and Senior Chief Johnson Marine Corps Retired and Navy Retired coins to honor the hard work they do with the Cadets.

CHAPLAIN – Mario Teracena

MEMORIAL DAY

Once again we are in the month of May. This is a very special time of the year because we celebrate "Mother's Day". We also honor those fallen in the service of our nation. It is difficult to find conclusively the origins of this holiday, but it began spontaneously as people gathered in cemeteries to honor the dead during and after the Civil War.

President Johnson called it "Decoration Day" in May 1966. Memorial Day is about coming together to honor those who gave their all for their country. This traditional observation has now been extended to all dead.

Efforts have been underway to establish a Veteran's National Cemetery in the Pikes Peak area for sometime. It was very disheartening to hear that VA officials are still blocking this important project. We urge all Veterans in our area to contact the VA Secretary, Sen. Wayne Allard and Representative Joel Hefley to express our dissatisfaction and encourage them to join the cause. We deserve better.

Past Commander-Chuck Zeitvogel

"Its official, DD-214's are NOW Online"

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/> This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. Military veterans and next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site. Because the requestor will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records center's mailroom processing time.

Programs Supported by Post 209

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| -Service to Veterans | -Pikes Peak Veterans Council |
| -Memorial Day & Veterans Day Parade | -Scouting |
| -Boy's State | -Jr. ROTC |
| -Crawford House for Homeless Veterans | -Jr. Shooting Program |
| - Stand-Down for Homeless Veterans | -Oratorical Contest |

Coming Events

- May 13---Membership Meeting, Installation of Officers
May 14---**Mother's Day**
May 20---Armed Forces Day
May 29---Memorial Day Observance, 11 AM, Memorial Park

2006-2007 Ad Hoc Committees

- Constitution and Bylaws – Neal Thomas, 719-392-1510
Property Inventory
-Office – Ann Foster, 719-599-8624
-Storage Unit – Larry Johnson, 719-622-0344

Auxiliary Liaison – W.W. Bandler
 Sons of the American Legion – Larry Johnson, 719-622-0344

2006-2007 Board of Trustees

Chairman – Neal Thomas
 Secretary – Alton Cyriaque
 Finance Officer – Norm Moyer
 Commander – W.W. Bandler
 Member (3yr) – Bill Marshall
 Member (2yr) Neal Thomas
 Member (2yr) – Larry Johnson
 Member (1yr) – Chuck Zeitvogel
 Member (1yr) – Alton Cyriaque

2006-2007 Meetings

Post Executive Committee meets 1st
 Thursday of the month at 4291 Austin
 Bluffs Pkwy., Ste. 104, at 6:30 p.m.

Board of Trustees meets 1st Thursday of the
 month at 4291 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., Ste.
 104 immediately following Post Executive
 Committee Meeting.

| 2006-2007 Post 209 Officers/Executive Committee | |
|--|-----------------|
| Commander | W. W. Bandler |
| Sr. Vice Commander | Philip Larson |
| Jr. Vice Commander | Richard Brandt |
| Adjutant | Ann Foster |
| Finance Officer | Norm Moyer |
| Historian | Curtis Wash |
| Sergeant-at-Arms | Robert Rydell |
| Chaplain | Mario Taracena |
| Judge Advocate | Larry Johnson |
| Service Officer | Tom Morant |
| Post Ex. Committeeman | Neal Thomas |
| Past Commander | Bill Marshall |
| 2005-2006 Auxiliary Unit | |
| President | Dot Dassero |
| Secretary/Treasurer | Barbara Johnson |
| Chaplain | |
| Sergeant-at-Arms | |

Calendar

| May 2006 | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|--|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 E.C.Mtg. | 5 | 6 |
| 7 District 7 Convention Post 25 Florence | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11. | 12 | 13 Post membership Mtg. Installation of Officers |
| 14 Mother's Day | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Armed Forces Day |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 Memorial Day Observed | 30 | 31 | | | |

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY