

The Centennial

VOLUME I EDITION 11

NOVEMBER 2020



AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209

3613 JEANNINE DR. COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80917
719-599-8624 WWW.LEGION209.ORG

MEET YOUR 2020 - 2021 OFFICERS!!

2020-2021 American Legion Post 209 Officers

Commander: Joseph Schmidt 651.328.9029	Finance Officer: Bill Coakley 972.825.7193	Executive Committeeman: Art Kimbrel 719.339.4610
Sr. Vice Commander: Marvin Weaver Jr. 719.244.3535	Chaplain: Glen Thompson 334.717.3746	Judge Advocate: Marvin Weaver Sr. 719.638.4763
Jr. Vice Commander: Sarah Tobin 719.439.7724	Historian: Vacant 603.913.3261	Service Officer: Art Carter 719.306.9170
Honor Guard Captain: Michael Wescott 719.306.9170	Adjutant: Jerry Hopper 918.953.9980	Sgt At Arms: Joel Haas 719.482.4496
		Club Manager: Art Kimbrel 719.339.4610

2020-2021 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers

President: Cathy Barger 719.290.3163	Secretary: Pat Weaver 719.638.4763	Chaplain: Donna Rae Smith 815.973.0073
Vice President: Donna Testorff 719.494.7167	Treasurer: Kellie Hayes 719.494.7167	Historian: Royce Hopper 228.243.1218
		Sgt At Arms: Annette Coakley 228.243.1218

2020-2021 Sons of The American Legion Squadron 209 Officers

Commander: Michael Wescott 719.306.9170	Adjutant: Rick Kettering 813.967.6680	Sgt At Arms: Bob Ingram 480.353.8234	Chaplain: Steve Cox 970.580.8191
Sr. Vice Commander: Brian Wess 719.528.6672	Jr. Vice Commander:	Finance Officer: Ken Taylor 719.461.4047	

2020-2021 American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers

President: Steve Hayes 719.494.7166	Treasurer: Kellie Hayes 719.494.7167	Vice President: Tim McDowell 719.510.9907	Road Captain: Wade Newborn 719.360.4956
Secretary: Mike Sylvester	Sgt At Arms: Mark Griffin		

2020-2021 Amateur Radio Club Officers

President: Jon Davis K0YOV	Vice President: George Johnson KE0ALQ	Director: Jim Harris WOEM
Secretary: Harvey LeCato W1JU	Treasurer: Henry Russell KCONAJ	



Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209 Family,

Great news! Our Post re-opening for meetings in July was a success. We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and restrictions published by our state leadership, and adjust as necessary. As you know, we re-opened for dinners in June and that is going just fine. Thanks to everyone for your understanding on the temporary rules we feel is necessary to enforce for gatherings. They are:

Required:

1. We are limited to 150 people at a time.
2. Families must sit together at one table.
3. Other than families seating is limited to 4 people to a table.
4. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL DINNERS. RSVP to Jackie Bowen at jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com or 719-574-1223. For now, we cannot accept reservations at the door.
5. Drive thru dinners will be offered upon request. When you RSVP, indicate it is a takeout order and what time you will be coming to pick up your order.
6. MASKS will be required to enter the Post.
7. Your temperature will be taken at the door, if you register above 100.4, you will be asked to leave.
8. These questions will be asked at the door:
 - a. Have you been exposed in the last 14 days to someone that has tested positive for COVID-19?
 - b. Do you have any symptoms of COVID-19?
 - c. Have you traveled to one of the pandemic hotspots in the last 14 days?

Please know these temporary changes are to keep everyone safe. We are looking forward to seeing everyone and hope everyone is well.

Because we could not hold elections in April, for the most part our current officers remain at their position until such time we can meet and hold elections during a Post meeting. There have been some adjustments made and you can see that list on the previous page.

Thank you for your understanding during these trying times. As with every crisis in the history of the world, this too shall pass.

For God and Country,
Our Post 209 Leadership



FROM THE DESK & MIND OF THE COMMANDER

As of writing there aren't many new things to report on; the weather is turning, the leaves have fallen, and the holiday season is coming quickly. This means Thanksgiving dinners, Black Friday shopping, and thoughts of how to decorate for the Christmas season. This year is different though, with the COVID-19 pandemic still in the forefront of everyone's minds we must adapt to this ever-changing situation. There are going to be some families who are unable to gather.

We as Legionnaires are a part of more than just some Veterans club, we are a part of a family. We are bonded by service to this great nation, and although most of us are no longer in the military we owe it to our comrades to continue to "watch their six".

As we go into the season let us not forget those who maybe don't have enough to give their families the perfect holidays. The American Legion Riders are raising funds for holiday food baskets, so those Veterans and their families can have a great meal this Thanksgiving.

Buddy Checks are more important today than ever before. You have the power to change someone's life. Reach out to those you haven't talked to in a while and see how they are doing; it could be the call that saves a life. Visit those who may be homebound (within CDC COVID-19 guidelines), twenty minutes of your time can make their whole week. It's the little things that makes a big difference.

I want to take a final moment to thank everyone for their service to our country this Veterans Day. I also want wish all of my Post 209 family a happy Thanksgiving and look forward to seeing all of you soon.

Joseph Schmidt
Post Commander



FROM THE DESK OF THE POST ADJUTANT

I hope you all get out and vote. Remember, every vote counts. Since the last newsletter, I have accompanied the Post 209 American Legion Riders on two events. First, I went on the Neal Thomas Jr. Memorial Run to Fort Logan National Cemetery. The second run was a Birthday parade to honor a WWII veteran's 97th birthday.

As I set here in the middle of the night trying to come up with some meaningful words of wisdom to bestow upon each of you, I can only look back on this last year and a half and think about how privileged I am to have this opportunity to serve each of you as Post 209 Adjutant.

Jerry Hopper
Post Adjutant



FROM THE DESK OF THE SR. VICE COMMANDER

Membership is the lifeblood of The American Legion. We all joined for a reason. For some it was to continue the camaraderie we experienced while in the military. For others, it was to help our fellow Veterans. What is your reason for joining?

We are well on our way to reaching our quota for 2021 but still have more to go. We can all help out. If you have not already renewed please consider doing so before the end of the year. Another way you can help out is by recruiting new members. Check with your neighbors and friends and invite them to join if eligible. Last year the membership criteria was changed to include anyone that served honorably on active duty for one day from Dec 7, 1941 to the present day. If you need help in what to say remember this: We Believe in God and Country. We Believe in Americanism. We Believe in Taking Care of our Youth. We believe in Taking Care of Veterans. We Believe in a Strong National Defense. If this is something you also believe in; you should belong to The American Legion.

Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Sr. Vice Commander



FROM OUR JUDGE ADVOCATE

As the Post representative on the Pikes Peak Veterans Council, I want to give you the following updates from our last meeting:

1) Due to COVID-19, all Honor Flights were canceled this year. In addition, there has been a change in the personnel planning the flights. The next flight is scheduled for the April/May 2021 timeframe and it is already a full flight. If you are a WWII, and/or a Korea, and/or Vietnam veteran and haven't been on one and you would like to go, let me know. I will help you get the form filled out and put you in touch with the right person. There is no cost to the veteran and it is an extremely good experience. I have made this trip and it is something you will remember forever.

2) Wreaths across America is scheduled for 19 December. The council announced Pikes Peak National Cemetery and Evergreen are participating at this time. There will be more information in the future.



Marvin Weaver, Sr.
Judge Advocate



FROM THE DESK OF THE UNIT PRESIDENT

Thank you, Ladies, for sending in your membership renewals so promptly. Please remember that if you have not renewed by Dec 31st, National will consider you delinquent.

We are doing our Butter Braid fundraiser from October 16th to November 14th, with the delivery date of November 19th.

We will have the Toys for Tots box out in the lobby. If members would like to donate, they are accepting toys or cash donations.

Wreaths Across America will be held on December 19, 2020 at the Pike Peak National Cemetery and Evergreen Cemetery. To support the Wreaths Across America, you can purchase a wreath for \$15.00.

We still have the Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 Cookbook for \$15.00 and Christmas Ornament for \$15.00; they make great gifts for the holidays.

Happy Birthday to Candy Ballew, Charley Bock, Parker Bock, Mary Bramer, Richard Cayemberg, Kristen Christy, Emilie Cunnington, Cheryle Ehrke, Helen Hunter, Margery Johnson, Jazmine Kozowski, Hazel Kula, Rose Loewe, Dean Noechel, Wendy Wood. Make sure to wish these ladies Happy Birthday when you see them. Happy Thanksgiving!

Serving Our Veterans Proudly!

Cathy Barger
Unit President



YUM, YUM, EAT'EM UP!!

Butter Braid Sale Starting October 16th – November 13th. Delivery date is November 19th. Tell your friends, neighbors, and your neighbors' friends about the sale. Please turn in orders no later than November 13th. I will call or email you with the delivery time. Make checks payable to ALA Unit 209. The price is \$13.00 per braid. We need the payment before the delivery date. You may call Jackie Bowen, (719) 574-1223 or email jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com with your order and then mail a check to her or discuss receipt of payment. Thanks in advance for helping us make this a success.

FLAVORS: Caramel Rolls (9 rolls), Cherry, Blueberry & Cream Cheese, Raspberry, Cinnamon, Strawberry & Cream Cheese, and Chocolate Chip and Double Chocolate cookie dough.

FROM THE DESK OF OUR SAL COMMANDER

2020 Commander Eric Testorff resigned as SAL Squadron 209 Commander. He asked that the current Sr. Vice Commander be appointed Commander and the Jr. Vice Commander be appointed as Sr. Vice Commander. The Squadron Executive Board asked both Sr. Vice and Jr. Vice if they would take on the roles of Commander and Sr. Vice Commander and both have said yes. The new SAL Squadron 209 Commander is Michael Wescott and the new Sr. Vice Commander is Brian Wess.

Eric has done an outstanding job as the Squadron Commander and we thank him for his service as the SAL Squadron 209 Commander. We also wish him fair winds and following seas as he starts a new chapter in his life.

Michael Wescott
SAL Commander



FROM OUR GAMES MANAGER

We have restarted the Queen of Hearts progressive raffle after a long delay due to COVID-19. Just to recap, this one is for current paid up members of the Post 209 family (Legionnaires, Auxiliary, SAL and Riders). The prize can reach as high as \$15,000! Tickets are sold for \$1 each and drawings are held on Friday evenings when the Post is open for a dinner or other events.

One half (50%) of weekly sales goes to increase the jackpot. The weekly winner gets to pick a card from the board and is awarded a prize according to the card they pick. The person who picks the Queen of Hearts wins the Jackpot Prize! Complete details and the current jackpot amount can be found on our web page at legion209.org. Just click on the Queen of Hearts Icon.

Currently, the prize is \$888 and will continue to grow until the Queen of Hearts is found.

!!YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!! !!YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!!

Ken Taylor
Games Manager



FROM OUR POST HONOR GUARD CAPTAIN



The Honor Guard has been doing a lot of Final Honors in the month of September and October we have had Three new Members join the Honor Guard Team and they are Ed Santos, Tom Foster and Wade Newborn, all three of them are also ALR Members I would like to welcome them the Honor Guard Team.

If anyone is interested in joining the Honor Guard please feel to contact me or come to one of our meeting's. We meet every Monday night at the Post meeting

time is at 6pm, here is how to contact me go to Legion209.org website and click on the Honor Guard tab my contact inf is there.

Michael Wescott
Honor Guard Captain



FROM OUR YOUNG GUNS TEAM

Like so many others, 2020 has been an eventful year for the Young Guns of Post 209. We started our 14th Class in February and had to stop in March due to COVID-19 concerns. Our 15th class, which included some class 14 members, started on September 10th, and will end on November 12th, with our Awards & Pizza night. The current class is observing COVID-19 guidelines such as temperature taking, mask wearing and only allowing 4 shooters on the line to maintain social distancing. With the conclusion of this class, we will have instructed 145 youth in Gun Safety and Basic marksmanship.

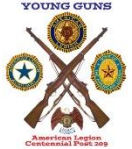
We have partnered with the Doherty High School Navy JROTC to train some of their Rifle team members. The students have received the Gun Safety and Basic Marksmanship Training in an accelerated class, which meets on Wednesdays and Thursdays before the Marksmanship Class.

NRA Marksmanship was also started in September and has been following the COVID-19 guidelines as well. Currently, there are 6 shooters participating in the program. These shooters will be recognized along with all other participants at the Awards night on November 12th.

We will be having our annual Turkey Shoot at 7:00 PM on November 20th, along with the SAL Silent Auction. There will be three categories, Ladies, Gentlemen, and Youth. Entry Fee is just \$5, and you can win that turkey for Thanksgiving dinner!

Ken Taylor

JSSP Chairman Southern Colorado



FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (TALARC)

Come Celebrate Veterans Day at the Legion

We are planning on a Veterans' Day radio operation on Wednesday November 11th to mark this special day, and promote the American Legion. We will be conducting a SPECIAL EVENT operation from 1500 to 2100, in 2-hour blocks, and are seeking licensed operators to help operate. Come on out and participate with us. If you are unfamiliar with AMATEUR RADIO, come on out and see what we are all about.

If you'd like to help with OUR event, please contact me!

Contact: Club Secretary, Harvey LeCato 331-1212 mbca@comcast.net.

WIN A TURKEY FOR THANKSGIVING!



The Annual Turkey Shoot will be held on Friday November 20th at 7:00pm. Come show off your skills and win a turkey for your Thanksgiving table! We will have different categories for youth, ladies, and gentlemen. For a donation of \$5, you will have 5 shots from the standing position. Any ties will result in a shoot off, which will also be from the standing position. Come on out, support your Young Guns program and win that turkey!





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 \$75 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 \$125 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.

FROM OUR POST SERVICE OFFICER

Pikes Peak National Cemetery (PPNC)

PPNC is a 374-acre Department of Veterans Affairs national cemetery located in southeast Colorado Springs. The cemetery will reportedly serve burial needs for more than 95,000 Veterans, their spouses, and eligible family members for the next 100 years.

COLORADO SPRINGS – The National Cemetery Scheduling Office has begun accepting burial applications for eligible deceased veterans and their spouses for the Pikes Peak National Cemetery in Colorado Springs. For more information on burial eligibility or any additional questions, please call (719) 216-1025. The staff in Colorado Springs cannot accept burial applications in-person or by phone.

Next of kin or a funeral home acting on the eligible family's behalf can request burial at the Pikes Peak National Cemetery by contracting the St. Louis office at 1-866-900-6417 or by email at: NCA.scheduling@va.gov. You will be asked to call the toll-free number 1-800-535-1117 to complete the process. Those applying are asked to send a copy of the military discharge document/DD214 and Death Certificate (if applicable) to the National Cemetery Service Office.

What are the requirements for burial in National Cemetery?

The in-ground requirements are very stringent and some of the hardest to meet out of all national cemeteries. To be eligible for in-ground burial service, members must be one of the following: Retired from the military, a recipient of a high status medal or killed in action.

Get Veterans burial benefits. Eligibility. Find out if you qualify for burial in a VA national cemetery and for other burial honors.

Apply for a pre-need eligibility decision letter. This can help you pre-plan for burial. Learn how to apply for a Burial Allowance, to help pay for a Veteran's Funeral Services, Burial, and Transportation Costs.

Memorial items. Find out how to apply for Grave Markers, Headstones, Presidential Memorial Certificates, and other memorial items.

Burial in a VA national cemetery is open to all members of the armed forces and Veterans who have met minimum active duty service requirements, as applicable, and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Members of the reserve components of the armed forces who die while on active duty or who die while on training duty under certain circumstances are also eligible for burial, as are service members and former service members who were eligible for retired pay at the time of their death.

A Veteran's spouse, widow or widower, minor children, and, under certain conditions, unmarried adult children with disabilities, may also be eligible for burial. Eligible spouses and children may be buried even if they predecease the Veteran.

VA provides the gravesite, grave liner, opening and closing of the grave, government headstone or marker, U.S. burial flag, Presidential Memorial Certificate and perpetual care of the gravesite at no cost to the family.

VA operates 150 national cemeteries and 34 soldiers' lots and monument sites in 42 states and Puerto Rico. More than 4 million Americans, including Veterans of every war and conflict, are

buried in national cemeteries. VA provides funding to establish, expand, improve and maintain 117 Veterans cemeteries in 48 states and territories including tribal trust lands, Guam, and Saipan. For Veterans not buried in a VA national cemetery, VA provides headstones, markers or medallions to commemorate their service. In 2017, VA honored more than 361,892 Veterans and their loved ones with memorial benefits in national, state, tribal and private cemeteries.

Information on VA burial benefits is available from local VA national cemetery offices, from the Internet at www.cem.va.gov, or by calling VA regional offices toll-free at 800-827-1000. To make burial arrangements at any open VA national cemetery at the time of need, call the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 800-535-1117.

Source: Pikes Peak National Cemetery Web Page

<https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/PikesPeak.asp>

AJ Carter



Post Service Officer



We all have talents and gifts, and as Legionnaires you have the opportunity to share them with not only the Post but our community as a whole. These committees are the foundation of how we work the many programs of The American Legion and their success depends on our membership. Even if you have never served on a committee please come out and give it a try, or for those who have chaired one before all are invited to come

and share their talents! Below are some of the committees and positions we are looking to fill. If you are interested, please reach out to the Chairperson or anyone on the executive committee. Don't waste your talents! Make a Difference! Get Involved!

Membership Committee:

Chaired by the Sr. Vice Commander, the Membership Committee is responsible for creating and spearheading projects/ideas to maintain and increase membership of the Post. This includes, but is not limited to, conducting a vigorous recruiting effort, such as actively supporting the Direct Mail Solicitation (DMS) campaign to obtain new members and ensuring retention.

Currently seeking the following members:

Vice Chair, 2-3 committee members

Program and Planning Committee:

Chaired by the Jr. Vice Commander, the Program and Planning Committee is responsible for planning programs for the Legion year, and preparing and submitting to the Executive Committee both short- and long-range plans for the conduct of Post activities. This includes, but is not limited to, fundraising, securing speakers for Post meetings, and for planning Post observances of national holidays and other significant community events.

Currently seeking the following members:

Vice Chair, 2-3 committee members

Public Relations Committee:

The Public Relations Committee is responsible for promoting public interest and support of Post programs and activities through local news and social media, and assisting the publication of the Post newsletter.

Currently seeking the following members:

Chair, Vice Chair, 2-3 committee members

Welcoming Committee:

Chaired by the SGT-At-ARMS, the Welcoming Committee takes on the job at all Post-sponsored events to welcome new members, guests, or even older members who are not well acquainted, making them feel at home, and introducing them to other members.

Currently seeking the following members:

Vice Chair, 2-3 committee members

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee:

Chaired by the Service Officer, the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee shall be responsible for assisting Post members and other veterans and their families in obtaining veterans' benefits to which they are entitled; for visiting comrades who are sick or disabled; and for keeping the membership informed on veterans' benefits available.

Currently seeking the following members:

Vice Chair, 2-3 committee members

Americanism and Youth Committee:

The Americanism and Youth Committee is responsible for inspiring patriotism and good citizenship through patriotic observances, patriotic and civic instruction in schools, and similar activities. This committee shall also be responsible for Post participation in such Legion programs as Boy's State, Oratorical contests, and other Americanism.

Currently seeking the following members:

Chair, Vice Chair, 2-3 committee members

Fundraising Committee:

The Fundraising Committee is responsible for all the major fundraising activities of the Post to include corporate sponsors, in-kind gifts, fundraising events, and any other ways to raise fund to support the programs and operations of the Post.

Currently seeking the following members:

Chair, Vice Chair, 2-3 committee members

Fundraiser

Tuesday, November 17, 2020- All Day!

At Chick-fil-A on Garden of the Gods!



Come support our Post Sponsored Scout Troop 77! Just tell your order taker "I'm here to support Troop 77!"

**Garden of the Gods
575 Garden of the Gods Rd**

FACT SHEETS

President Donald J. Trump Provides Resources For Veterans To Get The Care They Deserve From The Doctors They Want

VETERANS

Issued on: June 6, 2018

QUOTE

My pledge to you, our noble warriors, is that my Administration will support you, and your loved ones, and your amazing families every single day, now and always.

President Donald J. Trump

FUNDING HEALTHCARE FOR OUR VETERANS: Today, the President signed legislation providing our veterans with the funding they have earned through their sacrifices for our country.

- President Trump signed S. 2372, the John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka, and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018, or the VA MISSION Act of 2018.
- America's veterans deserve timely access to the highest quality of care possible and funding for the programs that keep them healthy and well.
 - That is why President Trump and the Department of Veterans Affairs worked closely with Congress and Veterans Service Organizations to create draft legislation to support our veterans.
- The VA MISSION Act provides \$5.2 billion in mandatory funding for the Veterans Choice program until a new consolidated program is implemented, which provides veterans with flexibility to receive care at both Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and private health facilities.
- Since its creation in 2014, more than two million veterans have used the Veterans Choice program and have scheduled more than 41 million appointments in their communities.

STREAMLINING VETERANS CHOICE: The VA MISSION Act consolidates the VA's community care programs, creating a new, single program for veterans care.

- The VA MISSION Act takes the long-overdue step of consolidating the complex, bureaucratic web created by seven different veterans community care programs into one unified program, simplifying and strengthening healthcare opportunities for America's veterans.
 - The new program is projected to take effect one year from enactment.
 - The new consolidated program will increase transparency and accountability, and ensure that veterans receive the right care at the right time with the right provider.
 - The bill also accelerates the processing of claims by community providers so that they are addressed in a prompt and timely manner.
 - The bill authorizes access to walk-in community clinics, so that veterans have immediate, local access to non-emergency convenience care.
 - The new program strengthens the process between the VA and the community healthcare providers who prescribe opioids to veterans.

IMPROVING AND EXPANDING CARE: The VA MISSION Act provides new resources and creates new programs to build on and improve the care our veterans receive.

- The VA MISSION Act expands eligibility for the Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers program, allowing caregivers for all veterans to access.
- The bill removes barriers for telemedicine, provides additional resources for hiring and retaining healthcare professionals, and establishes mobile deployment teams to support underserved facilities, among other important steps to improve veterans' care.
- The bill further allows the VA to modernize its assets and infrastructure to serve our veterans in the best possible way.

On Wednesday, June 6, 2018, the President signed into law:

S. 2372, the “John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka, and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018” or the “VA MISSION Act of 2018,” which contains provisions to: (1) create a new, permanent Veterans Community Care Program to consolidate all of VA’s authorities related to providing care through non-VA providers; (2) amend certain VA health care authorities; (3) expand the Family Caregivers Program to veterans of all service eras; (4) establish an independent commission to oversee VA’s asset and infrastructure review process; (5) establish a Center for Innovation for Care and Payment; and (6) address miscellaneous issues.

For further information about “Dual Care” see our “Centennial News-Letter” for May 2020.

Source: www.whitehouse.gov/issues/veterans



BRINGING A LITTLE SOUTH TO THE WEST

Last month I wrote about the different types of records available to us when I was growing up. I think this month I’d like to share with you some of my favorite artists of the day. I suspect many of you will easily associate with some of my favorites, even if you don’t agree with my picks.

Being a boy from Memphis, I am honor bound to start my pick with Memphis’ favorite son, Elvis Presley. Even though he was born in Tupelo, MS. about an hour and a half away, he claimed Memphis as his home and that’s really where he got his start. He showed up one day at Sun Records in the mid 50’s in downtown Memphis with his guitar to record a song for his mother. Sam Phillips, the owner of the record studio found his style and voice to be very unique and what he was looking for in a new Memphis sound. Elvis had a more than 20 year run as an artist and earned the title of “King of Rock and Roll.” It would be impossible for me to say what my absolute favorite is by him, but some of my favorite songs include *I Can’t Help Falling In Love With You*, *Wooden Heart*, *My Way*, and *The American Trilogy*. He pretty much ruled the Juke Boxes and radio until around 1964.

In 1956, a young bespectacled man wearing what we used to call Birth Control Glasses (thick black rimmed glasses) opened for Elvis. This helped launch the career of a Lubbock Texas boy who went on to record standards such as *Peggy Sue*, *True Love Ways*, and *That’ll Be The Day*, among many other great songs. Sadly, a mere three years later, Buddy Holly died in a plane crash in Clear Lake Iowa in February 1959 along with Richie Valens (*La Bamba*, *Oh Donna*), and JP ‘The Big Bopper’ Richardson (*Chantilly Lace*). We lost some great singers/songwriters that day. So much so that 11 years later, Don McClain released his huge hit *American Pie*, declaring that was “the day the music died.” An interesting bit of trivia, Buddy’s Bass Guitar Player, Waylon

Jennings was supposed to be on the plane with Buddy, but he gave up his seat at the last minute to 'The Big Bopper.' It is said by many this decision haunted Waylon for the rest of his life.

While the music didn't die with that plane crash, it makes me wonder what other great songs could have been written and released by these rising stars. And to prove the music didn't die in 1959, a phenomenon occurred in 1964 that changed the face and tone of Rock and Roll, the British Invasion. This was the term given to the British bands who crossed the pond and began singing in the US. The indisputable champion of British groups was The Beatles. I really liked their older songs, but they got weird and I guess the fame and fortune took its toll as suggested by their later songs. I much preferred *Hard Days Night* and *She Loves You* over *Hey Jude*.

There were many other very good music artists that popped up during this same time. Who could forget Diana Ross and The Supremes? I don't anyone who didn't have a crush on Diana Ross, especially when she sang *Baby Love!* Other Motown greats included Otis Redding's (*Sittin' On*) *The Dock Of The Bay*, and Aretha's *R-E-S-P-E-C-T!* And as controversial as it was back in the day with their anti-war leaning, we all sang along with Peter, Paul, and Mary's *If I Had A Hammer*, and *Leaving On A Jet Plane*.

There were so many great songs, songwriters, and musicians during the 50's and 60's, I could devote pages just naming some of my favorites, and would still miss a few. People today still love to listen to the Rock, Folk, and Motown hits from those wonder years, but for us who lived it when they were first released, it is very special. As Jay and the Americans so aptly put it, just living back then provided us with *This Magic Moment!*

So *Take Me Home*, *Country Roads* down memory lane and around *Dead Man's Curve* to *Memphis, TN*.

I guess I should say *I'm Sorry* for all the cliches and metaphors, but *That's Alright Mama*.

Jay Bowen
Past Post Commander



November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Daylight Saving Ends	2 Troop 77 Mtg; 6:30p Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm	3 Election Day	4 Marksmanship 6:30pm	5 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm Young Guns 6:30pm TALARC 5:00	6 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm	7
8	9 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm	10	11 Veterans Day TALARC Gen. Mbrship Mtg; Veterans Day Special 3:00pm Welcoming Cmtee Mtg 6:00pm	12 Young Guns 6:30pm Awards Night!	13 \$10.00 Meal Butter Braid Sale Ends! Aux. Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	14 Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am
15	16 Troop 77 Mtg; 6:30p ALR Exec. Board 6:00pm Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm	17 Troop 77 Chick-fil-A Fundraiser - see Flyer	18 Marksmanship 3:30pm	19 Butter Braids Arrive! Marksmanship 3:30pm	20 \$10.00 Meal Turkey Shoot! 5:30pm Chef's Choice Dinner 6:30pm RSVP Required!	21
22	23 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm	24 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm	25	26 Thanksgiving Day Happy Thanksgiving!	27	28
29	30 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm	Notes: Butter Braids Sale ends 13 November. Delivered to the Post on 19 November. Jackie will email or call as a reminder. TALARC Executive Committee meets Thursday, 5 November at 5:00pm.				

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Marksmanship 3:30pm	3 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm Marksmanship 3:30pm TALARC 5:00	4 Price Varies with order	5
6	7 Troop 77 Mtg; 6:30p	8	9 Marksmanship 3:30pm	10 Marksmanship 3:30pm	11	12 Post Christmas Party! 4:00pm
13	14	15	16 Marksmanship 3:30pm	17 Marksmanship 3:30pm	18	19
20	21 Start of Winter Troop 77 Mtg 6:30p ALR Exec. Board 6:00pm	22	23	24	25 Christmas Merry Christmas!	26
27	28 Troop 77 Mtg; 6:30p	29	30	31	Notes: All Dinners for December are Cancelled to allow our volunteers quality family time during this holiday season!	