

# The Centennial

VOLUME I EDITION 11

NOVEMBER 2021



## AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209

3613 JEANNINE DR. COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80917  
719-599-8624 [WWW.LEGION209.ORG](http://WWW.LEGION209.ORG)

### MEET YOUR 2021 - 2022 OFFICERS!!

#### American Legion Post 209 Officers

<b>Commander:</b> Joseph Schmidt 651.328.9029	<b>Finance Officer:</b> Joel Haas 719.482.4496	<b>Executive Committeeman:</b> Art Kimbrel 719.339.4610
<b>Sr. Vice Commander:</b> Marvin Weaver Jr. 719.244.3535	<b>Chaplain:</b> Brad Henderson 830.660.4072	<b>Judge Advocate:</b> Marvin Weaver Sr. 719.638.4763
<b>Jr. Vice Commander:</b> Steve Hayes 719.494.7166	<b>Historian:</b> Stacey Ousley 325-704-0510	<b>Finance Officer/Honor Guard Captain:</b> Joel Haas 719.482.4496
<b>Adjutant:</b> Jerry Hopper 918.953.9980	<b>Service Officer:</b> Brian Murphy 719.526.9675	<b>Club Manager:</b> Art Kimbrel 719.339.4610

#### American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers

<b>President:</b> Royce Hopper 918.953.9993	<b>VP:</b> Cathy Barger 719.290.3163	<b>Secretary:</b> Pat Weaver 719.638.4763	<b>Chaplain:</b> Kay Stephens 330.999.0225
<b>Treasurer:</b> Kellie Hayes 719.494.7167	<b>Historian:</b> Valerie Stephens 330.510.0411	<b>Sgt At Arms:</b> Charyse Schmidt 651.558.6968	<b>Exec. at Large:</b> Jackie Bowen 901.481.0673

#### Sons of The American Legion Squadron 209 Officers

<b>Commander:</b> Brian Wess 719.528.6672	<b>Adjutant:</b> Ken Taylor 719.461.4047	<b>Sgt At Arms:</b> Bob Ingram 480.353.8234	<b>Chaplain:</b> Brad Henderson 830.660.4072
<b>Sr. Vice Commander:</b> Brian Wess 719.528.6672	<b>Jr. Vice Commander:</b>	<b>Finance Officer:</b> Ken Taylor 719.461.4047	

#### American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers

<b>President:</b> Ed Santos	<b>Treasurer:</b> Kellie Hayes 719.494.7167	<b>VP:</b> Drew Pearson 719.329.4357	<b>Road Captain:</b> Tom Foster	<b>Historian:</b> Scott Laudan
<b>Secretary:</b> Mike Sylvester	<b>Sgt At Arms:</b>	<b>Communications:</b> Monk Baylis	<b>Logistics:</b>	

#### Amateur Radio Club Officers

<b>President:</b> Jon Davis K0YOV	<b>Vice President:</b> George Johnson KE0ALQ	<b>Director:</b> Jim Harris W0EM
<b>Secretary:</b> Harvey LeCato W1JU	<b>Treasurer:</b> Henry Russell KC0NAJ	



## FROM THE DESK & MIND OF THE COMMANDER

The Holiday season is fast approaching, Thanksgiving is right around the corner and soon after Christmas. The Thanksgiving season is a time when it has us thinking about the many things in our lives we are grateful for and finding new ways to express that gratitude. This year I am thankful for the success of and rejuvenation of our Post following us moving into a post COVID-19 world. From multiple Eagle Scout projects, rising money for the Legacy Scholarship found, and even starting a trivia night, the Post is alive and vibrant awaiting it's next challenge.

Our Membership is the key to our Posts success, your dedication to supporting the Active Duty Service Members, Veterans, and all their families is the reason we are the best in the state. We cant do this alone though, all too often there are many of the same volunteers stepping up support the programs of this Post, we need you, our members to help with the growth of our many programs. As your Commander I have many dreams of being the cornerstone of Veteran support in El Paso County, but I need your help.

The programs our Post is currently involved in and others I hope to see us start. Our post programs and future programs include:

- 1) Jr. Shooting Sports
- 2) Boys State
- 3) Oratorical Contest
- 4) Police/Firefighter of the Year
- 5) Employer of Veterans Award
- 6) Youth Cadet Law Enforcement
- 7) Operation Comfort Warriors

There is an opportunity for all to come and serve the community and their fellow Veteran, if you are interested, don't wait just come down to the Post, or call us for more info.

Lastly, I want to wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving, I hope everyone can spend it with those the are most thankful for.



*Joseph Schmidt*  
**Post Commander**

# 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](http://www.legion209.org/contact_us)

(719) 599-8624

3613 Jeannine Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80917

\*Additional cost may apply



## **FROM THE DESK OF THE POST ADJUTANT**

Let me start off with Happy Thanksgiving. I know it is a little early but I probably won't remember to say it later.

In case you don't know your VA benefits, the VA puts out a Federal Benefits Handbook for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors. You may view/download this handbook on line @ [va.gov/getstarted/](http://va.gov/getstarted/).

For all us gun nuts, The American Legion Department of Colorado is holding a gun raffle. There are two guns to be raffled off on December 11, 2021. First Prize is a Veterans Day 2021 Commemorative American Legion 1911 45 ACP pistol. This is #38, for Colorado as the 38th state, out of only 100 produced. Retail value over \$3,000. Second prize is a standard Henry Big Boy .44 Magnum rifle with a retail value of \$650.00. Simply go to [raffle.coloradolegion.org](http://raffle.coloradolegion.org) for tickets.

And lastly, there is a box in the Post entry for "TOYS FOR TOTS" donations. Please help us make a few needy kids enjoy a happy Christmas this year.

*Jerry Hopper*  
Post Adjutant



## **FROM THE DESK OF THE SR. VICE COMMANDER**

### **RENEW NOW...DON'T WAIT!**

First and foremost, I want to thank you for your support of our Veterans, their families and our youth. It is only through your continued membership we can do what we do in our communities and across our great Nation. It has been said many times that "Membership is the lifeblood of The American Legion!" This statement is as true today as it was more than 100 years ago when our forefathers met in Paris and the largest and greatest Veterans Service Organization was born.

So, have you renewed your membership for 2022? If so, thank you again for your continued support. If not, why not? We need your commitment to continue supporting our Veterans and our other programs now!

Here are a few of the advantages to renewing your membership now:

- No more renewal notices will be sent reminding you to renew.
- The money saved by not sending renewal notices can be used to help a Veteran in need and continue to support our great programs.
- Your membership is NOT cut short by renewing now. Your membership will still be active through the end of December, 2022.
- Your magazine subscription will not lapse.
- Continued eligibility for the National Emergency Fund.

There are several other advantages to renewing now, but I think you get the message. Now, here are the disadvantages to renewing now:

- NONE!

Please send in your renewal right away. Plan to get this done prior to Veterans' Day on November, 11. We've made it VERY easy for you to do. Just send your most recent renewal notice to our

Post with a check, money order, or cash for your renewal, or you can go online at legion209.org and click on the “Renew” at the top right side of the page and follow the directions for renewal. You can’t find your renewal notice? Or, you can’t find your renewal notice nor your membership card so you don’t know your membership number? No problem! Just contact our Post Adjutant and he can look it up for you. You can mail in your renewal without the notice. Just give us your full name and your membership ID number. We’ll take care of the rest. If you need or want to contact our Post, just call 719-599-8624 and leave a message. We’ll help you.

See, I told you it was simple. Now, the rest is up to you. Please help us continue our work so we can ensure there is “No Veteran Left Behind!” Renew now and let’s show Commander Joseph Schmidt we are going to reach our Retention goal of 90% before Veterans’ Day!

Thanks in advance for taking care of this, and thanks again to all who have already renewed. Your support proves you want to **Be Part Of The Solution!**

*Marvin Weaver, Jr.*  
Sr. Vice Commander



## **FROM THE DESK OF THE JR. VICE COMMANDER**

We had Awesome presentation at our October meeting from representatives of Mt Carmel. Andrea Singleton, Madison Bell and Lucia Rojas went over the wide range of services available from Mt Carmel, to include Behavioral Health & Wellness, Veteran and Family Services as well as Transition & Employment services. There are also ample opportunities to volunteer at Mt Carmel in support of Veterans. For more information on programs, visit <https://www.veteranscenter.org/>. To volunteer and get assistance, contact Mt Carmel at [info@mtcarmelcenter.org](mailto:info@mtcarmelcenter.org) or call 719-772-7000. Coming up at our November 13 membership meeting, we will be discussing cold weather safety ahead of the holidays and winter season while at home and while traveling. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Now let’s talk about Eagle Scout Service Projects.

If you’ve been to the Post in late October, you’ve likely seen the results of two new Eagle Scout projects! On October 2nd, a young lady from Troop 77 led an Eagle Scout project to install a paver walkway around the Walk of Honor, decorative rock and a reflection bench in front of the Post. On October 16th, a young man from Troop 79 led a project to install 160 feet of privacy fence around the area on the North side of the Post where we would eventually like to develop a kids play and family hangout area. Both of these projects were proposed, planned, resourced and led by teenage youth as part of their service project requirement for earning their Eagle Scout – truly impressive feats! Check them out the next time you visit the Post!



*Steve Hayes*  
Jr. Vice Commander



## FROM THE DESK OF THE UNIT PRESIDENT



Happy November. As we remember all we have to be Thankful for this month, I wish you all health, happiness, & best wishes. I am thankful for all of our Legion Family & appreciate everything we do together for our Veterans & our community.

We have a “Toys For Tots” box at the Post. If you are able to drop a new, unwrapped toy into the box it will be greatly appreciated! This is a wonderful opportunity to give Christmas to a needy child who might not have anything.

The Auxiliary Craft Fair has been cancelled this year but we will plan to have it next year. This will give us a whole year to line up vendors, plan what our own booth will have, & make it even more spectacular.

November birthdays: Mary Bramer, Rick Cayemberg, Kristin Christy, Suzanne Cranage, Cheryl Ehrke, Audrey Evans, Helen Hunter, Margery Johnson, Rose Loewe, Kay Stephens, Charley Bock, Parker Jane “PJ” Bowen. Have a very happy birthday all of you!

*Serving Our Veterans Proudly!*

*Royce Hepper*  
Unit President



### **Yum, Yum, Eat'em up!! Butter Braid Sale Coming This Month!**

Some have been asking and we aim to please!

Butter Braid Sale starting October 15th – November 12th. Delivery date is November 18<sup>th</sup>. Tell your friends, neighbors, and your neighbors' friends about the sale. Please turn in orders no later than November 12th. 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, (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), Cherry, Bavarian Crème Cheese, Blueberry & Cream Cheese, Cinnamon, Strawberry & Cream Cheese, and cookie dough in the flavors of Chocolate Chip and Double Chocolate.



# Trivia Night!



**Do you want a chance for a free dinner? 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, 12 November** 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 in the contest. You never know, your dinner that night might be free!**

## **FROM THE DESK OF OUR FINANCE OFFICER**

Again, there is not a whole lot to say. The participation at the Friday dinners has continued to improve, it is nice to get to meet a lot of new people. There are still a lot of people out there who have not returned (yet).

Since the Post has received the certificate from the State of Colorado giving us an exemption from paying Sales Tax on our purchases, we are working to get the exemption on file with the places we use frequently. This will help save the Post quite a bit of money over the long term, allowing us to continue the mission of assisting Veterans.

Now that the audit is complete and there is an Approved Vendors list, I am going to take the last year's worth of data to start building an annual budget. If we are able to plan for certain expenses, that makes surprises easier to handle as we will always have a reserve budgeted in for *emergencies*. The budget will also add the Executive Committee in determining what new initiatives the Post can explore based on available funding.

And for my normal closing statement, the Post needs your help in identifying new fundraising ideas. We are still working to get back to pre-COVID status in order to keep supporting OUR Veterans in the community. Any fundraising idea – big, small, unconventional (think about the impact of Kellie's Stick Pony Race) – is worth consideration to help us get there.

*Joel Haas*  
Finance Officer



## **FROM OUR LOUNGE MANAGER**

Happy Holiday season everyone!

As we come up to the closing of the year with the most community, family and friend centric holidays upon us soon everyone will be together to give thanks for everything they have. What most people do not realize or may have simply forgotten is the importance of kindness. While I am thankful for my home, job, husband and wonderful friends what I most appreciate is the simple act of being kind to one another.

It has been a very long and difficult two years, for some more than others and we truly do not know what others are going through. It is so easy to assume and jump to conclusions in our heads and not communicate with one another. We tend to think that just because we can do more for others that maybe others should as well. Maybe someone is struggling and doesn't want to show it and isn't able to show up in the way you think they ought to. They smile and pretend and try their best, but those pesky assumptions take away from what's really happening.

My hope for this holiday season is to take a step back, make no assumptions of anyone and simply be kind. Wave to your neighbor, say hello to someone on the street and bring back the kindness in humanity. You never know what a smile or a genuine kind word can do for someone.

As always, the memorial wall is open to all members, if you would like to have your loved one added please email your favorite picture along with what you would like printed on it to [cnbe89@gmail.com](mailto:cnbe89@gmail.com) and I would love to add it to the wall for you.

I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

*Charlyse Schmidt*  
Lounge Manager





# **FROM THE HEART & DESK OF THE SAL SQUADRON COMMANDER**

“We Honor Our Past & We Forge Our Future”

## **THE AMERICANS CREED by William Tyler Page**

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.



## **SAL SQUADRON 209 INSTALLS NEW HONORARY JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER**

I'm happy to announce that our Squadron had a young volunteer step forward to fill one of the vacant Officer positions in our Squadron Leadership. 4-Month old Daxon Atarian Hensley, Grandson of Past National Commander Tom Bock and our Squadron's youngest member, was installed during our September Squadron Membership meeting as our Honorary (Jr.) Junior Vice Commander. While as yet unconfirmed,

Daxon may be the youngest SAL Member ever to serve as an Officer.

## **YOUNG GUNS PROGRAM SEEKS INSTRUCTORS**

The Young Guns Junior Shooting Sports and Marksmanship Program began their fall semester supported by Squadron 209 with generous sponsorship assistance from the NRA. The Program has experienced some relocation of key instructors over past months that has stretched the Young Guns Instructor Staff very thin and they are actively seeking volunteers who wish to contribute by becoming trained NRA Instructors to assist in the months and spring semester to come.

## **SAL SQUADRON 209 PARTICIPATION INCENTIVE**

I'm pleased to report that after less than 2 full months we already have several Squadron Members who are close to or have already accumulated the 10 designated SAL & Post Family Activities needed to complete the SAL Participation Incentive Reward Program and receive their SAL Allegiance Polo purchased for them by the Squadron. As a reminder, the SAL Participation Incentive Reward is a program where the Squadron will purchase a SAL Allegiance Polo at a cost of \$45.00ea from Emblem Sales for any SAL Member who participates in 10 designated SAL & Post Legion Family Activities within a 6 Month time period as verified & signed off by a Squadron Officer. The eligible activities are detailed on the Post SAL webpage in a downloadable participation checklist which may also be requested from any Squadron Officer.

*Brian Wess*  
SAL Commander





## **NINTH ANNUAL TURKEY SHOOT FUNDRAISER**

### **ARE YOU ABLE TO PUT THE TURKEY ON THE TABLE? COME GIVE IT A TRY AND SUPPORT OUR YOUNG GUNS JUNIOR SHOOTING PROGRAM**

Win your Thanksgiving turkey! You are invited to a Turkey Shoot sponsored by the Young Guns of American Legion Post 209. This event will be held at the Post on Steak Night, November 19<sup>th</sup> starting promptly at 1900'ish. There will be three categories; one for youth ages 7 through 12, one for youth ages 13 through 18 and one for adults over age 18. For a \$5 donation, you will get 5 shots from the unsupported standing position from a distance of 25ft. The highest score in each category will win a turkey! Scoring will be governed by the rules spelled out in the American Legion Junior Shooting Guide and any tie will be resolved with a shoot off. You will shoot an air rifle used by the Junior Shooters and the event will be judged by our NRA Certified Instructors. Be sure to RSVP for that great steak and support our Junior Shooters by participating in our 9<sup>th</sup> annual Turkey Shoot!



# THE AMERICAN LEGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (TALARC)

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

We had a RADIO CAR RALLY in September. Aside from some technical issues – a dead car battery in the “direction giver’s vehicle – which changed the whole rally progression – all had a great time. During the course, we had a great tour of the El Paso County Emergency Operations Center. Gave away a new 2-meter radio to the first-place winners. Thanks to the courtesy of one of our members – Jim Johnson, W0GTA, we wound up at the Shriners Mule Train for their annual fish fry fund-raiser. Met lots of great people! More of a wonderful day.

We conducted an FCC licensing test session on October 16<sup>th</sup>, and licensed SIX new HAMS!!

**Want more information?**

**Call, email or text me.**

**73 (Best regards) – Harvey W 1 J U 331-1212 [mbca@comcast.net](mailto:mbca@comcast.net)**



## FROM OUR POST HISTORIAN

Hello everyone! My name is Stacey Ousley and I wanted to take some time and introduce myself as your new Post Historian! In a recent Post general meeting it was suggested that I might be a good fit for this position and during the Executive Meeting held the week of 4 October I was nominated and voted in. I'm looking forward to fulfilling my role for our Post, and making sure all the good works we do are documented for posterity.

I joined the Post this past July after moving here in December 2020. I'm still Active Duty and I'm in the Air Force. I just hit 19 years of military service. I wanted to get involved in the local community and give back some of my time and efforts to a bigger cause, so in July I attended the general meeting and transferred my membership from San Antonio. I think it was a shock to everyone that a strange woman just showed up at a general meeting without notice, especially for Jerry- but a good surprise, I think. I became a member of the Post 209 Honor Guard that day.

Since July, I've been going to meetings and attending training as a team member. I've volunteered to be on the team for rifle volley events and more. The camaraderie is top notch, and I especially enjoy the older guys joking with me about having a chicken wing when my elbow sticks out, or pointing out when I'm too slow as a younger team member and I get a movement wrong. I enjoy learning new things, trading war stories, and being a part of a team who love to help out when they can. The more we train the more I feel like a valued part of the Honor Guard team.

I'm originally from Pennsylvania, but I joke that I got to Colorado as fast as I could. I am part of what some call the 9/11 generation; I enlisted into the Air National Guard in March, 2002. My unit was Presidentially Activated in early 2003 for the Invasion of Iraq, and I was on orders all summer. I enjoyed my time so much I decided to transfer to active-duty USAF. I've had 3 different jobs, first as a Supply troop, next as an F-16 Crew Chief, and lastly as a Paralegal. I've served overseas, and been on multiple TDYs to European countries. Some of you met my son Jaxon this summer. He keeps me busy when he's with me, and when he's not I'm helping out with Post 209.

Everyone I've met at Post functions have been wonderful and welcoming. It's my honor to fill this position and contribute in a meaningful way through preserving our Post history. If you have anything you want me to add to the historical record, please reach out to me! As I mentioned to Art this past week, I'm the New Girl on the Block - I'm open to your thoughts and suggestions!

*Stacey Ousley*  
Post Historian



## FROM OUR HONOR GUARD CAPTAIN

The Honor Guard has been busy as usual continuing to support Final Honors for OUR Veterans and community events. We are getting known for being there when the military is not able to be there, to include surprise Flag and Bugle support. We are happy to have two new members join the team. Remember, that one time may make the difference between a Veteran receiving their Final Honors and having nobody there to fold and present their Flag to the family.

The Honor Guard had the opportunity to provide Posting/Retiring of Colors support to the United States Army Brotherhood Of Tankers (USABOT) annual banquet on Saturday October 16 and Presentation of Colors support for their wreath laying ceremony at the 11<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment Tank Memorial at the Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday October 17. The banquet resulted in MANY thanks and comments praising the team and how well we did, which says a lot given how many retired Sergeant Majors were in attendance. The most humbling comment came from a Legionnaire (Iowa Post 49), who used to be a Color Guard member, when he said we did an “outstanding job” and we should be very proud of ourselves. Each member of the team received the outgoing USABOT Commander’s “Manhole Cover” Coin – seriously, this is the largest Commander’s Coin that I have ever seen. Some of the team members got to experience, in my opinion, a very tame (though very strong) Grog making it a good time for all.

The team is still preparing to represent American Legion Post 209 in the Veteran’s Day Parade (COVID permitting) on Saturday November 6 by carrying the Legion Family Flags. We are working with the situation the best that we can given the multiple members who have physical limitations keeping them from being able to support. Training will continue after the parade to get all of the team fully trained for the multiple roles that they could be asked to perform (e.g., fold the Flag, Post/Retire the Colors). The next major Community event on the horizon is the Wreaths Across America on Saturday December 18. Typically, we support Memorial Gardens with this event every year. We are also expecting to be requested by Pikes Peak National Cemetery to support their event due to our good working relationship with their staff. We will be busy with either (or both?) doing the best that we can to provide the appropriate Honor Guard support.

While not everyone has a lot of time to participate in the Honor Guard, all you need is the time to participate a night or two for training meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 double the number of Final Honors we participate in – and more importantly not have to turn down requests.** If you do not remember/know how to march or fold the flag, we will teach you. We have a member each from both the Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary that have learned to march, use the rifle, fold the Flag, and carry/present the Colors. The only items a new member needs to get on their own is a Legion family cap and shoes. All other uniform items are provided. You do not have 3-5 hours a month? That is okay, you can still help the Honor Guard by telling others about what we do and the importance of growing to meet the requests to support. SAL and Auxiliary members are able to perform every activity *except* the presentation of the flag or presentation of the expended rounds to the family. If interested in supporting the Honor Guard, please reach out to me at: (719) 482-4496 or [honor.guard@legion209.org](mailto:honor.guard@legion209.org)

*Joel Haas*  
Honor Guard Captain



# FROM OUR POST CHAPLAIN

## “FACES”

Can you believe it? Another holiday season is upon us. For some, that means heading off to see friends and family. For others, we getting the house prepared for the traditional hosting ahead.

The most familiar faces we encounter at this time of year are “family.” Some members make the usual five or ten-minute trip to the house. Others may travel hundreds or even thousands of miles for the reunion. We cherish those moments when we could greet a uniformed family member with, “Welcome Home!”

There are so many “special days” in the months ahead. Among them is Veterans Day. Each year, I would escort “The World’s Greatest Fifth Grade Class” to the observance at Fort Sam Houston National Ceremony; a celebration that included an official Naturalization Ceremony. The District Judge would convene the court, and the County Clerk would certify that the applicants had completed all the requirements for citizenship. Some in attendance were active duty military; including combat veterans. They had taken an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, while still citizens of their native lands. I could see the pride and gratitude in their faces after taking the oath to become citizens of the United States of America. We in the audience would face a giant American flag and join them in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance as never before.

I always wore my uniform and when we returned to campus, we hosted family and friends who were veterans. Those who wished, could share their experiences over a sandwich lunch. It was always interesting to see the faces of our students after the Naturalization ceremony, and again as they heard the experiences shared by our honored guests.

I will enjoy participating in this year’s Veterans Day Parade. It feels good to be in proud company of the warriors around me, and to see the faces of our citizens young and old, who turn out to celebrate our veterans and this great nation.

Thanksgiving is always a special time; a reminder of our many blessings, and an opportunity to say “Thank You” to loved ones, and to the Commander of us all. I have always marveled at how our country manages to provide a traditional American Thanksgiving meal “with all the trimmings” to our soldiers, sailors, airmen, Coast Guardsmen, Marines, and Space Force Guardians serving around the world.

I remember Thanksgiving 1969 in Vietnam. Saigon was the most densely populated refugee city on earth. Humanity existed however and wherever it could. I remember waddling “quite satisfied” from my American Thanksgiving meal with a couple of oranges in my cargo pockets, a snack for later. That’s when I saw a dirty, haggard young boy. I tossed him an orange and WHAM! I was swarmed with 25 starving children, all crowding around me for the single orange I had left.

This Thanksgiving, friends and family will gather once again around an abundant holiday table. Folks will see a bounty lovingly prepared with snacks, appetizers, fruits, vegetables, breads, meats, goodies of all kind and desserts.

I will see faces...

*Brad Henderson*  
Chaplain





# 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](http://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**

For the few who are regular readers of my offerings, you know this is my absolute favorite time of year and holiday season. We just finished the good times brought on by Halloween (yes, I know it's not really a holiday), Thanksgiving is coming this month and Christmas next month. All of that added by the cool-down of the weather makes it an enjoyable time and brings back many fond memories.

If you are a reader of my articles, you may recall I have often recounted memories of growing up with both sets of grandparents. I feel very blessed to have known and learned from them while growing up and into my young adult life. They both lived outside a rural farming community about 60 miles west of Memphis, not quite an hour and a half drive from their farm to our suburban home in Memphis. That made it easy for them and us to visit frequently, and especially for holidays such as Thanksgiving.

We had the traditional Southern Thanksgiving feast every year. It was comprised of Turkey, Ham, all the fixins' such as Mashed Potatoes, Pinto or Baked Beans, Yams, Maw Maw's Yeast Buns, and Sweet Iced Tea. For dessert, we could always count on Karo Pecan Pie, Pumpkin and Chocolate Meringue Pies, and Granny's Chocolate Pudding Cake.

This holiday meal was big enough to feed an Army, and I guess you could say our Thanksgiving get togethers qualified. Typically, there was our family of six (2 boys, 2 girls, Mom, and Dad), both sets of grandparents, and our Aunt and Uncle with their daughter from just across the Mississippi River in West Memphis, AR. The kids would eat at the kitchen table, while the grownups squeezed in around our small dining room table. I enjoyed eating in the kitchen, it was closer to the food and especially the desserts!
















The blessing was always provided by my Mom's father, Paw Paw. He and Maw Maw were devout Pentecost's. Mom and Dad weren't regular Church goers until later in life, but when they did attend, it was normally at a Baptist Church. Later in life, and right up until they both passed, Mom and Dad rarely missed a Church service. I am comforted they both left this life for a far better one knowing our Savior. Dad's parents only attended church for weddings and funerals. Dad's father, Granddad confessed on his death bed. I pray it was okay.

Two other traditions at Thanksgiving in the Bowen household were the Macy's Day Parade and NFL Football. Every year Mom would comment about wishing she could watch the parade in color. She finally got her wish the year I joined the Army. I think it was my older brother, Bubba, who bought it for them. Dad was a BIG football fan, both NFL and NCAA. So, Thanksgiving meant we watched the Detroit Lions host some other team. In the mid-60's, Dad's favorite team, the Dallas Cowboys started playing on Thanksgiving as well. This was a passion Dad and I shared. We would watch football together when I moved back to Memphis, but even before I moved home, we would talk with one another about the weekend football schedule. While I was NEVER a Dallas fan (I normally pulled for whoever played against them), it was always fun talking trash before the games and ribbing the loser afterward. I'm thankful Dad wasn't around to see the embarrassment of the NFL when they started taking a knee. The only thing Dad loved more than his family and football was America. Dad was very Patriotic. I'm certain this WWII Veteran would have joined me in my protest over their protest and stopped watching NFL.

This holiday always makes me think back about all the blessings I have been given (although not deserved). I thank God for giving me a GREAT family and life-style growing up, and an amazing family life with a loving wife, two happily married boys, four grandkids, good health, and an abundance of very good friends. For an old country boy from the South with little money, I am rich beyond imagination! So, what are you thankful for this Thanksgiving season? Regardless what you may be dealing with at this time, I would hope you still have many blessings. Let's concentrate on the good, and carry that thankfulness throughout the coming year.

*Jay Bowen*  
Past Post Commander



November 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:30pm	<b>2</b> Election Day	<b>3</b> Marksmanship 4:00pm 	<b>4</b> Young Guns 6:30pm  Executive Cmtee Meeting 6:30pm 	<b>5</b> Price Varies w/Menu Hamdogger 6:00pm 	<b>6</b> Veterans' Day Parade!
<b>7</b> End Daylight Saving	<b>8</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:30pm	<b>9</b> Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	<b>10</b> Marksmanship 4:00pm 	<b>11</b> Veterans' Day Young Guns 6:30pm 	<b>12</b> \$10.00 Meal Aux. Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! Trivia Night! 	<b>13</b> Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00  
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:30pm	<b>16</b> ALR Exec. Board 6:00pm Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm  	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> \$12.00 Meal Turkey Shoot! Holiday Dinner! 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:30pm	<b>23</b> ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:30pm.  	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Thanksgiving Day Happy Thanksgiving!	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Healing Warriors 9:00am
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:30pm	<b>30</b>	Notes: Chef's Choice is cancelled 26 Nov. to allow our great volunteers to spend time with family!			

## December Events of Note:

Post Christmas Party! – 11 December  
 Wreaths Across America! – 18 December  
 Official Start of Winter! – 21 December  
**Merry Christmas!** – 25 December

All Friday Dinners have been cancelled for December to allow our amazing core of volunteers time to attend holiday events, spend quality time with family, and shop for those ideal Christmas gifts!

For schedule updates and more information, visit our website at [www.legion209.org](http://www.legion209.org)