



The Centennial

November 2022

AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209



Photo credit: Royce Hopper - Cathy Barger, Mary Bramer, Mary Wilke at American Legion Auxiliary craft table

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<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionCentennialPost209/>



The American Legion Post 209 Officers 2022-2023

Commander:	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	(719) 244-3535
Adjutant:	Doug Millison	(719) 599-8624
Sr. Vice Commander:	Steve Hayes	(719) 494-7166
Jr. Vice Commander:	Jerry Hopper	(918) 953-9980
Honor Guard:	Joel Haas	(719) 482-4496
Finance Officer:	Sarah Tobin	(719) 439-7724
Service Officer:	Brian Murphy	(719) 930-4147
Judge Advocate:	Marvin Weaver	(719) 638-4763
Historian:	Kurt Skinner	(719) 963-3517
Exec. Cmte/Club Mgr:	Art Kimbrel	(719) 339-4610
Chaplain:	Brad Henderson	(830) 660-4072
Immediate Past CDR:	Lino Calica	(719) 963-0956
Sgt.-at-Arms:	Bobby Senter	(719) 660-3775



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers 2022-2023

President:	Royce Hopper	(918) 953-9993
Vice President:	Cathy Barger	(719) 290-3163
Secretary:	Pat Weaver	(719) 638-4763
Treasurer:	Kellie Hayes	(719) 494-7167
Chaplain:	Mary Bramer	(719) 633-8612
Exec.-at-Large:	Jackie Bowen	(901) 481-0673
Historian:	Sarah Tobin	(719) 439-7724
Sgt-at-Arms:	Michelle Bresee	



Sons of The American Legion Squadron 2022-2023

Commander:	Rob Barry	(719) 930-5725
Adjutant & Finance Officer:	Ken Taylor	(719) 461-4047
Sr. Vice Commander:	Brad Henderson	(830) 660-4072
Chaplain:	Brad Henderson	(830) 660-4072
Jr. Vice Commander:	Chris Hollingsworth	(910) 364-1677
Sgt-at-Arms:	Bob Ingram	(480) 353-8234



American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers 2022-2023

President:	Ed Santos	(719) 329-4357
Vice President:	Jerry "Rico" Shay	(719) 244-3901
Secretary:	Royce Hopper	(918) 953-9993
Treasurer:	Scott Laudan	(719) 238-2679
Sgt-at-Arms:	Bobby Senter	(719) 660-3775
Road Captain:	Sean Cope	(719) 246-4820
Historian:	Tina Cope	
Communications:	Gary Asp	(719) 822-3270



American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) Officers

President:	George Johnson	(910) 494-9768	KE0ALQ
Vice President:	Jim Johnson	(719) 201-5829	W0GTA
Trustee & Secretary:	Harvey LeCato		W1JU
Treasurer:	Henry Russell J		KC0NAJ



From the desk and mind of the Commander

This year seems to be flying by; it is already November. Two things that stand out for me in November are Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. Another thing about this month is that Christmas is right around the corner, and I am not even remotely ready for that. Way too many presents to get.

Once I joined the Navy, Thanksgiving took on a different form, as I am sure it did for most of you. Gone were the family gatherings with grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins, but a new family was found. The first Thanksgiving after I joined, I was stationed on the USS John F. Kennedy CV-67. We were in Marseille, France. My buddy Woody and I had the day off from duty, but we decided to have Thanksgiving dinner before going out to have a few drinks. So we went to the mess decks, and the line was ridiculously long, which is when we decided we didn't need any turkey, so we went ahead and went ashore. So we ended up having our Thanksgiving dinner that year at McDonald's and then had a few libations.

During the third year I was in, I found myself again in the Mediterranean onboard the USS Inchon LPH-12 during the first Gulf war. We spent Thanksgiving that year in Izmir, Turkey. Izmir was nice because it had an Air Force base throughout the city. Unlike when I was in France, I did have dinner onboard before going ashore. The galley on the Inchon was awesome, and they made up a good spread for Thanksgiving, along with pumpkin pie. After dinner, we went to the base NCO club, had a few libations, and watched Good Morning America (because that is what they had on the TV). They were in Norfolk broadcasting, and we all marveled at the piers because they were empty except for about 4 or 5 ships.

The following year I was once again in the Mediterranean for Thanksgiving. Our ship was one of the first ships back from the first gulf war, so we redeployed almost six months to the day of returning to the states. We spent Thanksgiving that year in Naples, Italy. I had Thanksgiving dinner onboard again because I had duty that day, so I could not go out into town after dinner. My buddies and I made the best of it because unless we had a watch, we didn't have to be up on deck working, so we spent most of the day playing cards.

Thanksgiving of 1993, I found myself at McMurdo Station Antarctica with Naval Support Force Antarctica. It was weird because growing up, it was always Fall/Winter, which generally meant cold, but the seasons down there are reversed, so it was Spring/Summer that year for Thanksgiving (I know what you're thinking, it was Antarctica. But I can tell you it was about 50 degrees that day). I was working with the Crash/Fire Department, and we had our kitchen, so we did not have to go to the galley for Thanksgiving. We had about 20 people attached to Crash/Fire, so we had our dinner, complete with all the fix-ins. We invited some of our fellow sailors to eat with us. I think we had about 50 people at the firehouse that day. It was our own little family; the Fire Chief carved the turkey. Seeing us make a good day thousands of miles from home was nice.

I don't remember ever making it home for Thanksgiving while I was in the Navy, but I do remember that I never was alone that day either. If not deployed, I was at one of my shipmates'

houses because we all were a family, just not by blood. So the married guys would always make sure the single guys had a place to go and not be alone on that day.

Happy Thanksgiving, and thanks for all you do to help the post and to help veterans.

Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Post 209 Commander



From the desk of the Senior Vice Commander

As many of you know, the 2022 Membership Drive has begun. We met the 50% target date for the year and are doing well, but we need to close on our membership goals. So, let's make this another successful year for our post! If you have any questions or ideas to help the membership drive, don't hesitate to get in touch with me. Also, reach out to your friends and neighbors if they are veterans. Tell them why you joined; for most people, the reasons are the same.

On another note, swing by the post and check out the cool Eagle Scout projects that have been completed. Tate from Crew 762 removed several tons of earth berm forming a dam at the base of the parking lot, putting in a new French drain and 14 tons of rock around the honor trees we planted last year. It looks awesome! Olivia from Troop 77 is building a dozen benches that can be configured into six picnic tables, significantly improving the functionality of our back area.

Hats off to our post family for their outstanding support of the annual Homeless Veterans stand down. This yearly event, coordinated by the El Paso county Homeless Veterans Coalition, served 123 veterans on Tuesday, 18 October. American Legion Auxiliary again provided knit caps, T-shirts, socks, and several other items this year. American Legion Riders members provided security. Several families were accepted into the follow-on Transitional Housing Initiative (THI), which will provide 30 days of housing, housing transition assistance, VA claim assistance, and employment assistance. American Legion Auxiliary is preparing four meals in the coming weeks for the THI with serving assistance from American Legion Riders, and we have several volunteers supporting the night supervisor role for the program.

Keep up the great work! Thanks for everything you do to continue helping veterans and the youth in our community!

Steve Hayes
Senior Vice Commander





From our Post Adjutant

This month I will expound upon other leaders' thoughts on members and membership. **Value.** During one of our "Take a Hike" walks last summer, National Membership & Post Activities Chairman Jay Bowen joined us (some of you may know him...), and one of the trail conversations turned to **Value.**

Some of the definitions of **Value** in Merriam-Webster include:

- The monetary worth of something,
- a fair return or equivalent in goods, services, or money for something exchanged,
- relative worth, utility, or importance, a good *value* at a price, and
- something (such as a principle or quality) intrinsically valuable or desirable

So how does one equate **Value** in The American Legion membership? Is their membership important to them? Let's use the definition as a base and look at things we might all find necessary.

Is there a monetary worth? Membership does give someone discounts at various establishments. If a member is a business owner, it offers networking opportunities and possibly some work sent their way as a veteran-owned business. The Post could also work with a member in a fundraiser for their charity or special project. So, there is some but not necessarily the "coin in pocket" type of **Value.** But let's face it, we are not here for monetary gain for ourselves, are we?

Are we getting a fair return on our membership dues? We get representation at the highest levels of government that works to recognize the veterans' service and fights to protect the health and benefits of those veterans. Nationally, please think of the recent PACT Act or the formation of the VA itself. At a more local level, there is a paid service officer in Denver who can file claims and one volunteering in our post who is a fountain of information with a deep desire to help. So even if members are not affected by the PACT Act, don't need a service officer, and never have and will never use the VA, isn't it worth our dues to know that we are helping others who do?

Is The American Legion important to the member enough to make the annual dues worth it? All one has to do is look at history and what The American Legion accomplished in the last century. Combining several agencies that were not caring for the veteran efficiently into the Veterans Administration; creating an infrastructure to support veteran issues in Congress; supporting the children of the fallen and injured with scholarship opportunities; supporting the youth of today and leaders of tomorrow with Americanism programs like Boys State, Constitutional Oratorical contest, Cadet Patrol, junior shooting sports and many more; standing by to support members with financial assistance because times got hard or a national disaster struck. I'd donate \$45 to any organization that did that much (and we do WAY more). Are The American Legion and its activities important to the members, and is it worth the cost of membership?

Is what The American Legion stands for important enough to the membership, and does it do good enough of a job for the membership? This is where we look inside as members and try to answer that question. First, look at The American Legion, its **Values**, and its principles. Its longevity and accomplishments.

Value. I value The American Legion and Post 209 very highly indeed. My membership counts whether I am active or passively supporting the mission. They are there for me, and I, them. I genuinely believe that even though there are many other veteran service organizations, we are unique, important, and valuable to the veterans and the country. After all, we are "Veterans Strengthening America."

Remember, it's not about the cost of being a member; it's the price you paid for eligibility and what comes next.

Doug Millison
Adjutant
Always forward

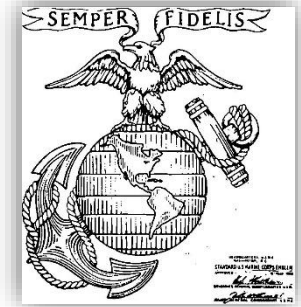


Photo credit: Bobby Senter Kellie Hayes, Wendy Senter, Jerry Hopper, Royce Hopper, Ed Santos, Lorenzo Trotter, Tammy Trotter at the 2022 Toy Run..



From our Post Historian

In the early days of our War for Independence, the Continental Congress passed a resolution on 10 November 1775 that raised two battalions of Continental Marines for service as landing forces with the recently formed Continental Navy. This is observed as the birth date of the U.S. Marine Corps – happy birthday and "Semper Fidelis!"



On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918, the Great War, regarded as the "war to end all wars," formally ended with an armistice. One year following the end of hostilities, the tradition of Armistice Day remembrance began as a day to observe the service and sacrifice of America's veterans of that conflict and "to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations." Not until 1954, after America had mobilized the greatest military force in history to fight the Second World War, followed by another bloody war on the Korean peninsula, did Congress formally authorize 11 November as "Veterans Day" to recognize the military service of ALL American veterans.



On 11 November 1921, President Harding placed the Medal of Honor on the casket of an unidentified American soldier of the Great War, who was given a state funeral and interred at Arlington National Cemetery in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Inscribed on the sarcophagus are the words: "Here Rests in Honored Glory an American Soldier Known but to God."

President Abraham Lincoln delivered a brief address on 19 November 1863, dedicating a military cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. In honoring "those who gave their lives that this nation may live," he said, Americans must resolve that "these dead shall not have died in vain." When the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in Washington, D.C., on 13 November 1982, we acknowledged that same resolve.

On 12 November 1919, the first convention of The American Legion, meeting in Minneapolis, adopted a constitution and preamble, declaring, "For God and Country we associate ourselves together...." They also passed a resolution in support of Boys Scouts of America, a kindred organization that recognized the value of promoting Americanism. Scouts are trained to "leave your campsite better than you found it." As veterans, our shared military service in support of the U.S. Constitution has provided us with a vested interest in America beyond the experience of average citizens. May we as veterans continue to act together in that same spirit of our founders, determined to leave this nation better than we found it.

Kurt Skinner
Historian





From our Honor Guard Captain

The Veterans Day parade is approaching fast. The Honor Guard will be participating again this year. We would like to have a full complement of flags this year, and we need your help to do it. The Honor Guard is looking for volunteers to have all 13 flags (American, Colorado, POW/MIA, Post Family, and Military Services) going down Tejon this year. It is about a mile long, and at a decent pace, so you have to be physically able to carry a flag (using a harness) for the mile. I will say that seeing everyone's faces, especially the veterans, as we go down Tejon makes the mile go quickly.

The Honor Guard will support the Wreaths Across America event at Pikes Peak National Cemetery (PPNC) on December 17, 2022. The team will coordinate a rifle volley with a cannon volley, like what was done for the Memorial Day event at PPNC. Due to the weather conditions generally present at PPNC, the event starts one (1) hour earlier than normal. The event will begin at 9:00 am and is open to the public.

The Honor Guard team continues to hold weekly practices at 6:00 pm on the 1st Monday, 2nd Tuesday, 3rd Wednesday, and 4th Thursday. Come out and check out one of the meetings. Our training during the meetings can give you an idea of what we do and how we provide the support everyone expects. Practices will be scheduled soon for the Competition Color Guard to start preparing for future competition(s). If you are interested in checking out what the Color Guard will do, please get in touch with me for more information.

Even though the Honor Guard has continued to gain new members; however, there is no such thing as having too many members. While not everyone has a lot of time to participate in the Honor Guard, all someone needs are the time to participate a night or two for training meetings (a meeting is scheduled for every week, check the newsletter calendar) and even just **ONE** event a month. Members of The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion, and American Legion Auxiliary are all eligible members. If you or anyone you know might be interested in supporting the Honor Guard or Competition Color Guard, please reach out to me at (719) 482-4496 or honor.guard@legion209.org.

Joel W. Haas
Honor Guard Captain



To request for Honor Guard to support: Cell Phone: (330) 510-0411
Personal Email: valerie.al209honorguard@gmail.com
Legion209 Email: honor.guard@legion209.org

Honor Flight #15 Welcome Home



Photo credit: VFW Post 6461

American Legion Post 209 Honor Guard members Brad Henderson, Joel Haas, Steve White, and Valerie Stephens were joined by five members of VFW Post 6461 and a member of VFW Post 4051 to provide the Presentation and Posting of Colors. American Legion Riders 209 members were part of the motorcycle escort from Colorado Springs Airport to Sierra High School, where the Welcome Home event was held. The Honor Guard has worked with the Young Marines in previous events and supported the Welcome Home event. In addition, post 209 had our own Post member Bill Worthington as a participant of Honor Flight #15 and our Post Service Officer Brian Murphy supporting as a Guardian (for a second time). Honor Flight #15 even had a veteran who fought in three wars: WWII, Korea, and Vietnam!



Photo credit: VFW Post 6461



From the Chaplain: "Where's the Beef?"

It was a cold, rainy January day at the Rifle Range for our Army basic trainees at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

I laid down in two inches of water and assumed a good, prone unsupported firing position. I could not WAIT for lunch! I was grateful for a simple meal of meat and potatoes served in the metallic "china" of our mess kits. As I stepped out of the mess tent into the weather, a torrent of water came down the tent's roof with a force that splashed my long-awaited lunch\out of the kit into the mud. Welcome to the Army!

Years later, I would have a better reception in Germany, where a stroll past the village bakery would assault the senses with the most wonderful aroma of bread, cakes, cookies, and other treats. Not to mention the beer. I would return home twenty pounds later. Unfortunately, not everyone is so fortunate.

There are 842 million hungry people (12% of the world's population) on any given day. Here in the USA, 32 million people (10% of our population) face hunger each day. Soon, Americans will gather around the family table or in facilities on land and sea to celebrate Thanksgiving.

I remember one such feast in Saigon, Vietnam. I had thoroughly enjoyed my meal and put a couple of oranges in my cargo pocket for a later snack. As I left the dining facility, I saw a young boy who, by his appearance, hadn't had a meal recently. I tossed the lad an orange and felt good about it. Suddenly, a crowd of a dozen starving boys seemed to come from nowhere. I threw my remaining orange into the ravenous crowd. They were not the only ones. As many American families gather around loaded tables each Thanksgiving, they will see a bounty of traditional delicacies. I will see faces...

Sometimes, dinner comes with a message. Those of the Christian faith may remember the Bible story of Jesus speaking to a crowd of 5,000. Then, when it came time to eat, Jesus told his disciples to feed them.

They replied, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish..." The disciple Luke records, "Then He took the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the multitude. So they all ate and were filled, taking up twelve baskets of the leftover fragments." (Luke 9: 16-17) The supply of bread and fish satisfied the people's physical hunger, but they neglected to understand the deeper meaning of the miracle. Jesus told the people not to labor for the food which perishes but for the food which endures for everlasting life.

"And Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst." (John 6:35) Perhaps the most famous dinner of all is known to those of the Christian faith as "The Last Supper," sometimes called "The Lord's Supper"; the final meal that Jesus shared with his disciples in an upper room in Jerusalem., depicted in the artwork of Leonardo da Vinci. Jesus often spoke in parables; sometimes, the disciples didn't understand what he was saying. During the meal, Jesus wanted the disciples to know that He would leave them soon. "A little while and you will not see Me, and again a little while, and you will see

Me because I go to the Father." (John 16:16). It was during that meal that Jesus revealed that one of His disciples would betray Him. His communion with the disciples included Jesus blessing the bread and wine and giving it to them to eat and drink. Jesus told them that the bread represented His body, and the wine represented His blood of the Covenant. The disciples remained confused, but Jesus assured them that one day, they would understand.

Christians symbolically celebrate the Last Supper by taking communion (often small wafers and little cups of grape juice) regularly in their worship services. Our congregation celebrated World Communion Sunday one year and held the first Sunday in October. The traditional little wafers representing the bread were replaced by little samples of bread (flour, unleavened, etc.) from around the world. It was one of the most meaningful communion services I have ever attended. As we enter this holiday season, I hope we remain hungry – hungry for giving service to others.

Brad Henderson
Chaplain



From the desk of the Unit President

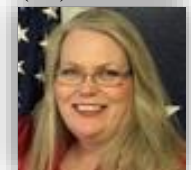
November is a beautiful time of year. It is the month of Veteran's Day, which is very special to all of us. It is a time to look back and reflect on your year, as well as start planning for your year ahead. We come together with our family and friends to break bread, enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner, give thanks for all we have, and share with those who may not be so fortunate.

This year, our unit will again put 400 goody bags at 4 Police sub stations here in Colorado Springs. We will also be adding 100 additional bags to go to Fire Departments in our city. This is a chance for our post family to unite as an investment within our communities. Even though this is a program American Legion Auxiliary Unit started in 2020, we have encouraged and welcomed anyone who would like to participate to join us in assembling and delivering the bags. I am very proud of how well this annual event has grown and become something we put on our calendars.

Once the date for assembling bags has been selected, an email with information on the date and time will be sent to everyone. Last year, we put the bags together at the November American Legion Riders meeting, then assisted American Legion Riders with putting the Thanksgiving baskets together on the same night. We will ask American Legion Riders if it will be possible to partner with them to make this happen again this year.

Happy birthday to our members who will celebrate their special day in November: Helen Hunter, Kay Stephens, Mary Bramer, Cheryl Ehrke, Margery Johnson, Rose Lowe, Kerry Ferguson, Rick Cayemberg, Suzanne Cranage, George Warner, Julie Petersen, Charley Bock, Parker (PJ) Bowen.

Royce Hopper
Unit President





From our SAL Commander

As a member of the Sons of The American Legion, we are here as descendants of veterans in our family. I am honored to be associated with such a great group of people. This month has a special day to recognize veterans of our military forces. It is a special day for most of us for either serving or a family member. Thank you to each and every one of you. We are grateful for your service and sacrifice.

This month is the start of the holiday season. It is an excellent time of the year that brings families together. This is also a time when our brave service members are away from their homes, and families celebrate without them. On this Veteran's Day, remember the veterans not only on that day but every day as they protect us and our great country.

Let's also not forget the many homeless veterans who need our assistance. It is an excellent time of the year to donate a small amount of time to give to these individuals to let them know they are remembered. Give a few hours of yourself, or donate to a worthy cause.

Your Sons of The American Legion has the honor of hosting the Colorado Detachment awards banquet on the 19th starting at 1700. All are welcome to attend. The Sons of The American Legion will run a silent auction along with the turkey shoot at the holiday dinner. Win a turkey and find a holiday gift! We will also remember our fallen veterans on the 8-9th by placing flags at Memorial Gardens. Come out and support your Sons of The American Legion!

The days get shorter in November, and the clocks get turned back. When you change your clock, please remember to change the batteries in your smoke detector.

Happy Holidays!

Rob Barry
Commander SAL 209





From The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC)



TALARC 209 had a successful Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) on 15 October! In last month's newsletter, we mentioned that JOTA was coming up. JOTA is the largest annual World Scouting event and was first held in 1957 in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of Scouting.

To assist with the 65th Annual JOTA, we went to the United States Air Force Academy Scout Campsite (near the B-52 static display) and set up a remote radio station with field antennas and portable battery power. As a result, we could serve the scouts of Troop 77 (one of the Troops we charter) and Troop 71. Scouts were able to get on the air and talk to remote stations. It was gratifying to see them grow more confident speaking on the air, which should be helpful since their Troop uses handheld radios during activities. Additionally, some Scouts got to work on their Morse code, earning a requirement for their Signs, Signals, and Codes merit badge!

We are already working on planning for JOTA 2023, which will be located at Camp Alexander in the vicinity of Lake George, CO, in conjunction with the Pathway to the Rockies Council Family Camporee 20-22 October 2023. Hopefully, we will be able to reach more Scouts than ever! If you are interested in assisting (and we will likely have admin needs at the event that do not require an Amateur Radio license), please reach out to us!

TALARC is still planning to activate a Parks on the Air (POTA) station at Cheyenne Mountain State Park in the Fall using emergency power and temporary antennae, giving Hams around the nation a shot at 'logging' another park.

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of the Month, at 7 PM, in the Auxiliary room. The roll-top desk in the Aux room is our club station. So come down and see what it is all about. You do not need to be licensed to participate! Our November meeting will be on 10 November, and the December meeting on 8 December.

If you are interested in learning about this intriguing hobby or participating in The American Legion 209 radio club events, call, email, or text me.



Harvey LeCato

TALARC Secretary

719-331-1212

mbca@comcast.net

W 1 J U



VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) NEWS



Meet your Veterans Service Officer

Hello all from your Legion Veterans Service Officer! If you need any assistance with VA claims, disability info, housing, medical access to care, etc., feel free to call or email me. I'm here to help you!

Brian J Murphy, LCSW, MSW

VA/DoD Liaison Program

Office: 719-526-9675 Cell: 719-930-4147

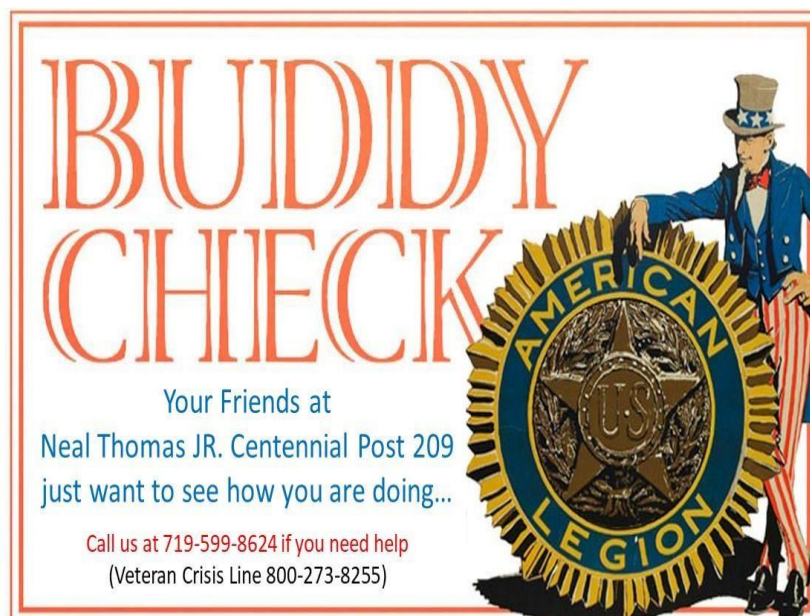
Brian.Murphy3@va.gov or Brian.J.Murphy44.civ@mail.mil



Military and veteran liaisons for Congressman Lamborn:

Doug Fitzgerald or Gabriel Ballejas at 719-520-0055.

They are there to assist you if you need Congressional help for any matter that Brian cannot resolve.



**BUDDY
CHECK**

Your Friends at
Neal Thomas JR. Centennial Post 209
just want to see how you are doing...

Call us at 719-599-8624 if you need help
(Veteran Crisis Line 800-273-8255)

UPCOMING EVENTS



10th ANNUAL TURKEY SHOOT FUNDRAISER

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

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 immediately following our Holiday Dinner on November 18th starting promptly at 1900'ish. There will be three categories; one for youth under 18, one for ladies, and one for gentlemen. For a \$5 donation, you will get five 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 the Junior Shooters use, and our NRA Certified Instructors will judge the event. So be sure to RSVP for that great Holiday Dinner and support our Junior Shooters by participating in our 10th annual Turkey Shoot!

When: 1900hrs November 18th

Categories:

- Youth under 18
- Ladies
- Gentlemen

Cost: \$5 donation



Win your Thanksgiving turkey!



WHO: Open to all Family Members and their guests

WHAT: Colorado Sons of The American Legion Detachment Annual Awards Banquet

- Chicken Alfredo
- Garlic Bread
- Salad
- Dessert
- Tea/Lemonade/Water
- Cash Bar available upstairs

WHERE: American Legion Post 209

3613 Jeannine Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80917

WHEN: 19 November 2022

- Social Hour: 5 pm – 6 pm
- Dinner: Starts at 6 pm
- Awards Presentation: 6:45 pm

WHY: To honor the accomplishments of our SAL members

RSVP on or before Nov 16th to Mrs. Jackie Bowen and specify this event to:

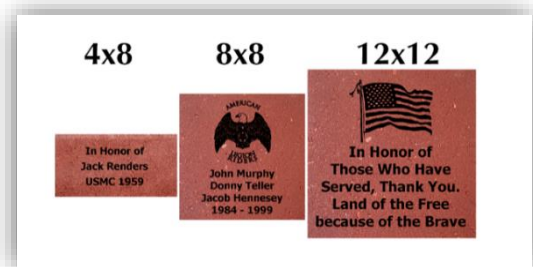
- Email: jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com
- Text: 901-481-0673

FUNDRAISER INFORMATION

Walk of Honor



- **What are the costs for the individual bricks?** Prices vary depending on size, style and lettering desired but typically range from \$90 to \$200 depending on size.
- **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 for veterans and family members wishing to purchase a brick to honor their veterans. The corporate bricks are for our veteran-friendly supporters and businesses who want to show their continued support for our nation's heroes by purchasing a brick.
- **Is the brick purchase restricted to members of the Post 209 families?** No. We encourage members to buy a brick for themselves for their veteran loved ones or to show their support for our veterans.
- **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 user-friendly and will walk you through the design and purchase. In addition, you will see a preview of your brick before finalizing the purchase.
- **How do I pay for the brick?** We have the site set up to accept payment via PayPal or 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 sent 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. 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 only to sell as many bricks as needed for the first phase of the landscaping project.
- **Will I have an opportunity to buy a brick later?** Quite possibly, depending 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 ensure they are all placed together.

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.

Starting at
\$350!



For More Information

www.legion209.org/contact_us

(719) 599-8624

3613 Jeannine Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80917

*Additional cost may apply

Butter Braid Sale!

We will start taking orders from October 14th – November 9th. (delivered on November 16th).

Tell your friends, neighbors, and your neighbors' friends about the sale. This is not restricted to Post 209 family members. Please turn in orders **no later than November 9th**. I will call or email you with the delivery time.

Make checks payable to ALA Unit 209. The price is \$15.00 per braid & GF cookie dough. The Coda coffee pods are \$16. We need the payment before the delivery date. You may call Jackie Bowen (901) 481-0673 or email jackiebowlen2005@yahoo.com with an order and then mail a check to her or discuss the receipt of payment. Watch for reminder/update blasts to be sent. Thanks in advance for helping us make this a success.

FLAVORS:

- Caramel Rolls (9 rolls),
- Apple,
- Cherry,
- Blueberry & Cream Cheese,
- Cinnamon,
- Strawberry & Cream Cheese, and
- Bavarian Crème Cheese with chocolate icing



GUEST COMMENTARY



Salty Dog

*General Quarters! General Quarters!
All hands man your battle stations,
All hands move up and forward on the Starboard side
And down and aft on the Port side,
Set condition zebra throughout the ship,
All hands, man your battle stations.*

This is something that gets ingrained into every sailor's head. You practice this at least once a month underway (typically more).

What does it mean? Last month I explained about port and starboard. It is essential always to know where you are on the ship. Sometimes you may have to go aft to get across the ship to go forward to your battle station or man overboard muster location. You can't have people wanting to go down a ladder at the same time people are going up unless you want to create a great big traffic jam, and mere seconds could mean the difference between disaster and saving the ship.



[General Quarters, Battle Stations \(navy.mil\)](https://www.navy.mil)

Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Post 209 Commander





What is your MOS?

When I was stationed at Al Udeid AB, Qatar, in 2012, I was the Senior Air Defense Officer in charge of protecting the Arabian Gulf and our partner nations along the shores. I spoke for and reported directly to the Area Air Defense Commander, General Goldfein. As his representative, I was blessed to travel with the Judge Advocate General to brief incoming crews on the Rules of Engagement. On this particular trip, we flew from Doha, Qatar, to Athens, Greece, with a brief layover and then on to Crete, landing just before sunset. We had enough time to enjoy a Greek beer on the sandy waters and watch the sun go down before reporting to our dilapidated barracks on the Naval Annex for some shuteye.

Early the following day, we reported to the airfield where a Navy C-2 Carrier Onboard Delivery aircraft would pick us up and take us to the USS Enterprise somewhere in the Mediterranean. This would be her last "float," and we were going through "the Ditch," known to the rest of the world as the Suez Canal.

After arriving, we were shown to our officer quarters. This would seem like a simple task, but for those that have never gotten their sea legs, let me explain. This floating city is a maze of passageways interrupted every ten feet by a heavy watertight door to separate the compartments. You must step up and over and duck through every one of these thresholds. Additionally, there are young Seamen everywhere, scraping and painting something, so you are stepping over these kids hard at work, keeping the ship in tip-top shape.

Next, you must learn a new math method to understand where you are going on a ship. The numbering starts from the ship's centerline, even going to port, odd going to starboard, then you have to know what deck you are on, etc. Finally, you wander aimlessly, looking for the galley and head, and pathetically ask someone for help. After dropping off our overnight bag, we quickly got to work. While hopping between the various flying squadrons and delivering our brief, we received an outstanding distinguished visitor tour, thanks to the General's rank.

We saw the massive rudder that steers the ship, the huge anchor with each link as big as my torso. I sat in the Air Boss' chair while the F/A-18s launched and stood at the third wire on the flight deck during recovery. We also had to climb through the smallest hobbit door I have ever seen to get to the helicopter squadron ops room (they must have been an afterthought).

The following day, I woke up expecting a nice hot shower but quickly discovered that we were in water rationing procedures due to our Ditch transit. Their reverse osmosis only works at a



specific forward speed, and since we would be traveling slower than that, water was restricted to drinking only.



Despite a rough start, this day would become one of my favorite memories of my time in the Air Force. We went through the locks sometime in the middle of the night, and now we were in the Suez Canal. With our mission complete, we were now authorized to enjoy the view from the quiet flight deck. I quickly realized that this was an earnest endeavor.

A steely-eyed Seaman operated every gun on the ship. In addition, Russian-made Hind helicopters from the Egyptian military escorted us on either side, and armed guards on land every 50 meters or so with AK-47s. Until then, I had not realized how vulnerable we were in that narrow waterway at slow speeds. It had not even occurred to me that we would need that level of protection, which the U.S. government (i.e., Tax Payers) pay a hefty price.

Once the shock wore off, I looked around the flight deck at the other observers and realized we were not the only visitors to the carrier. I saw two military-aged males of Middle Eastern descent in flight suits. They saw me inquisitively looking at them, and they were looking back at a woman in a flight suit with equal curiosity. I know enough about the culture that, as a female, you do not go up at the start of talking to a man without being addressed first. Luckily for me, they introduced themselves as Egyptian F-16 pilots and were there for a partner nation familiarization tour.

We exchanged patches as aviators always do and introduced ourselves with our callsigns. The higher ranking of the two was a Captain, and his callsign was Maverick. For you movie buffs, this is the ship they used to make the original 1986 Top Gun movie. So I was on the flight deck of the Top Gun ship with an Egyptian fighter pilot named Maverick, going through the Suez Canal on the CVN 65's last trip before she retired! Shortly after this encounter, the team was loaded back on the aircraft, catapulted off the "Big E," and flown across Saudi Arabia to Bahrain and eventually back to the base in Qatar. The whole experience was surreal and highlighted the power projection a U.S. Naval aircraft carrier brings to the fight. For more information on the Big E, check out:

<https://www.history.navy.mil/content/history/museums/nmusn/explore/photography/ships-us/ships-usn-e/uss-enterprise-cvn-65.html>

Sarah Tobin





Cyber 101- Online Shopping

With the holiday season closing in on us and online shopping becoming more prevalent, it is necessary to understand the risks of shopping online. As I'm sure most of you know, online shopping is the most convenient way to get all the gifts for your loved ones. Plus, with the addition of Covid, online shopping has skyrocketed, which has led to better deals and more opportunities to purchase a specific item. Unfortunately, at the same time, this has put more of a target on online shoppers. With identity theft, fake online stores, data breaches, and more, hackers and cybercriminals now have multiple ways to access your data. With that in mind, here are a few tips to keep your data safe this holiday season.

Secure Websites

- One of the most important ways to keep your data safe is only to purchase items from secure websites.
- Websites like Amazon, eBay, and major retailers that you can recognize are usually a safe bet

Emails

- Be EXTREMELY cautious of the emails you are clicking on this season. Please refer back to the august newsletter for more specific items to look for in emails that could give away an email is malicious
- Companies will send weekly emails with deals and promotions for Black Friday and Christmas. This is a major opportunity for cybercriminals to take advantage of people by sending fake emails that could potentially breach the data in your computer
- If a sale or promotion seems too good to be true, it most likely is

Payment

- Be sure to pay close attention to your bank statements to be aware of any fraudulent activity
- If possible, when shopping online, make all purchases with a credit card, as there are more consumer protections for credit cards than debit
- The only information you should be given to a website when you are ready to purchase is your name, credit card number, and shipping/billing address. Any other information could be a sign of fraudulent activity

Matthew Brockie
Cybersecurity student, CSU
matt.brockie5@gmail.com
Looking for an internship summer of 2023





Bringing A Little South to the West

Like most in the suburban area where I grew up, single-speed bikes were the norm. The first one I remember was a small, probably 13" or 14" boys' bike with training wheels. Once I mastered riding in my front yard with training wheels, Dad took one of them off. That was a little more challenging, but I remember adapting quickly to riding with only one training wheel. Then the big test came. Dad removed the last training wheel, and I became a two-wheeler. Falling didn't hurt because the grass helped cushion my fall. I don't think I fell too many times before I learned how to balance on the two wheels.

Then graduation; riding on the street. This was a different feel and a new level of excitement (and pain). My first time on the street was a little frightening. The speed I achieved on the road was much more than I ever rode on my grassy front lawn. And the first few times I tried to ride on the street, I quickly discovered how much harder the asphalt was than the grass.

But once I mastered riding in the street, the world was my domain! I advanced to a dark red 16" bike with only one gear. The only brake was the rear wheel brake, and it was engaged by pushing counterclockwise on the pedals, locking the rear wheel. We occasionally had contests to see who could skid the farthest in trying to stop. There was no such thing as a front brake on those bikes. And if we wanted to sound cool, we'd get a couple of clothes pins and clamp a baseball card to the wheel frame with the end of the card slapping against the spokes in the wheels. This made our bikes sound like motorcycles. I wonder how many classic (and expensive) baseball cards we tore up doing that.

As I grew older, just before getting my driver's license, Dad found me a used 2-speed bike. I was the envy of my friends. To change gears, I would tap the pedals counterclockwise. It was a gentle tap, not enough to engage the brake, but enough to get the chain to slip from one gear to the other.

Then we discovered the Schwinn Sting-ray. Wow! The handlebars were raised in what we called ape handlebars. The front had a 16" wheel, and the rear wheel was 20". It had a "banana" seat and only had one speed. But it was so cool. With the smaller front wheel and raised handlebars, it was easy to pull it up over a curb or to "pop a wheelie!" Many a kid got a concussion and scratches from letting the "wheelie" get away from them, landing them on the pavement. But that never stopped us from trying it again. I guess we weren't brilliant back in those days. It's a wonder we survived.

Bicycles, like cars back in the day, had style and class. You could quickly tell one type of bike from another. Today, they all look alike (cars and bikes). Even though I've outgrown bikes, I'd still LOVE to have a sting-ray. I'd probably be lying on the street in front of my house this afternoon if I had one, but I'd have a huge smile when the ambulance arrived.

Jay Bowen
Past Post Commander



Victory Service Dogs (<https://www.victorysd.org/our-story/>)

Helping Disabled Veterans, First Responders & Children

"In 2015, Army veteran Steve Corey was moved to action in response to the tragically high suicide rates in the veteran community. He knew the difference a service dog could make in the life of an individual and had seen them recommended to those who were re-entering civilian life following their service. The problem was most service dog organizations had years-long wait lists, extensive requirements, and unaffordable plans for someone on a fixed income.

In an effort to combat these issues, Victory Service Dogs was born.

Steve knew it had to be affordable, which is why the training we offer to our qualified clients is completely free. He also wanted to create a hands-on program that would include our clients in the training process. Through weekly classes with a professional dog trainer, clients, and their service dog candidates learn basic and advanced obedience to prepare the dogs for service work specific to their handler's needs. These veteran-dog teams go through certified training together, increasing their bond while offering access to a safe and encouraging community that fosters camaraderie and friendship."



Photo credit: Royce Hopper - Rufus Senter with Kellie Hayes in the puppy adoption area at the Victory Service Dog's dinner.

PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

Young Guns



NRA-Accredited members of the Sons of The American Legion are sponsors and instructors for the Young Guns program. This basic rifle safety and marksmanship course are offered to boys and girls ages 10-18. Shooting is indoors, using air rifles.

<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionCentennialPost209/>

Scouting Programs

The Post 209 family is the charter partner for six Boy Scouts of America (BSA) units:



- Cub Scout Pack 24 (Boys and Girls): p24@legion209.org
- Cub Scout Pack 386 (Boys and Girls): p386@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 77 (Girls): t77@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 79 (Boys): t79@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 187 (Boys): t187@legion209.org
- Venture Crew 762 (Young men and women ages 14-20): c762@legion209.org

Boys and Girls State



Boys State and Girls State are for high school juniors going into their senior year with at least one semester left.

- BOYS STATE www.colegionboysstate.org/.
- GIRLS STATE <http://alacolorado.com/girls-state.html>

Oratorical Contest



This Nationwide contest is designed to develop a more profound knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of high school students.

www.colegionoratorical.org

Eagle Scout of the Year



The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year nomination window is from **1 November to 1 March**. Nomination packets must be received by each applicant's respective American Legion department (state) headquarters no later than 1 March.

<https://legion209.org/Scouting/>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Marksmanship 4:00pm 	3 Exec. Cmtte 6:00pm   Young Guns 6:30pm	4 Price Depends on Menu Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm 	5 Veterans' Day Parade 9:00am
6 Daylight Saving Ends	7 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm Post Honor Gd.  Training 6:00pm	8 Election Day	9 Marksmanship 4:00pm 	10 Young Guns 6:30pm   TALARC Meeting 7:00pm Venture Crew 7:00pm	11 Veterans Day	12 \$8 normal/\$9 omelet Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00  
13	14 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	15 Post Honor Gd.  Training 6:00pm ALR Exec. Mtng  ALR 6:30pm.	16	17 Venture Crew 7:00pm	18 Turkey Shoot! Holiday Dinner! 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	19 SAL Detachment Awards Dinner 
20	21 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	22 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:30pm  	23	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26
27	28 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	29	30	Notes: There will not be a dinner on Veterans' Day at the Post. It is rented for a private affair. There will not be a dinner on the 25th. We want our volunteers to spend time with family.		

DECEMBER

For the most current version see:
https://www.legion209.org/coming_up/

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	6	7	8  TALARC Meeting 7:00pm	9	10
11	12	13 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	14	15	16	17 Wreaths Across America! 10:00am Pikes Peak Veterans' Cemetery
18	19	20	21 Start of Winter (Winter Solstice)	22	23	24
25 Christmas	26	27	28	29	30	31