

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

**November 2004 – NEWSLETTER**

**Parade Parade Parade Parade Parade Parade**

**Veterans Day, November 6, 2004 at 9:30 AM**

**Officers' Comments**

**COMMANDER-Bill Marshall**

**Veterans Day Parade**

The parade is scheduled for Saturday, November 6, 2004, starting at 9:30 a.m. We are in position #47, on Tejon St. just north of Dale St.—this may be right in front of the coffee and donut shop. We need to be assembled by 8:30-8:45 a.m. I will have the Post trailer for those who would like to ride. We need two flag carriers, and the Cub Scouts will carry the Post Banner. Please come and join us for the parade.

**Veterans Day Observance, Memorial Park**

There will be a Veterans Day Service at Memorial Park, Thursday, November 11, 2004, starting at 11:00 a.m. Will Hinkley, Chaplain, Post 5, will give the Invocation, and Harry McFadden, Chaplain, District 7 and Post 38, will give the Benediction. Please come and honor those who have served, and those who are currently serving, this great nation.

**General Membership Meeting/Breakfast**

The meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 13, 2004, at TREA. Breakfast will start at 9:00 a.m., followed by the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Please have your reservation into the office by Tuesday, November 9, so I can give an accurate number to TREA. The speaker will be Mr. Jack Wiepking, MasterBilt Homes. He will bring us up to date on the development plans for the property. This not about the building itself, but rather about how the property will be developed and how our Post Home will be a part of the community.

**JR. VICE COMMANDER – W. W. Bandler**

Christmas Luncheon: if it all possible, we would like to know how many Post Legionnaires and their spouses plan to attend our Post's Christmas Luncheon on December 18th, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. It will be held at the Country Buffet at the Citadel Crossing. This will help us in determining the number of tables we need to set up in the room we have reserved. Please RSVP by calling the Post's telephone and leaving a message. Or, if you plan to attend our November Post meeting at TREA, we will take a head count then, as well.

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**ADJUTANT - Ann Foster**

**Membership**

Thankfully, we are making progress, as we are now only two away from 80% at 226. We only need 59 more for 100%. I am very hopeful that we can keep on going, so we can reach that 100% goal by the end of the year. Again, please remember you do not have to wait for a renewal notice. You may send us your \$30.00 at any time. Also, continue to try to sign up at least one new member to help strengthen The American Legion.

**Cub Pack 24**

Thanks to those who ordered popcorn. We have helped the Pack a whole bunch by ordering \$275.00 worth of popcorn. I have kept a copy of everyone's order for the purpose of aiding in the deliveries. The distribution to the Packs and Troops will be November 13, but not in enough time for our meeting. After the the Pack Chairman has received and checked the overall orders, she will advise me and I will pick up your orders. I will then contact you about a convenient time and place to deliver your popcorn. Soon we will all be able to enjoy our snacks.

**Pocket Flag Project Pins**

I was able to sell the last four pins at the District 7 Fall Conference. We have sent in the money and I would like to thank everyone who purchased the pins. We have made a difference for our military members serving overseas—we know how much they appreciate being able to carry flags in the pockets of their uniforms.

**Post Records**

Many thanks to those who have sent in their DD Form 214, or the form used before that showing your actual periods of service. However, there are still many folders missing this proof required by the IRS. Please contact me if you need my help in obtaining a copy, or in making a copy of your DD 214.

**Scout Request**

We have received a request from an Eagle Scout candidate to support his project to repair the back porch of the veteran's home. The cost for his materials is around \$1,000.00. The project cannot begin until he has acquired the funds. Any contributions to his effort would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to support this effort, please mail your contribution to the Post 209 office. For more information about the project, please contact Ann Foster.

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**Sgt-At-Arms - Robert Rydell**

Your tidbit of the month continues with additional information about the wear of your Legion cap. The Legion cap should be worn by its members only when in attendance at official Legion meetings or ceremonies, as official guests at patriotic or other civil functions, or by individuals when officially representing The American Legion on public occasions.

**Chaplain – Mario Taracena**

**Veterans Day – A Day of Reflection**

When WWII broke out in Europe, President Woodrow Wilson struggled politically to remain neutral to the problems of other nations. Despite his efforts to keep the USA out of the conflict, he finally declared war on Germany to protect the country's rights on international waters. The allies emerged victorious on Nov. 11, 1918. President Wilson declared this day of cessations of hostilities "Armistice Day." In 1938, Congress officially declared the same day a national holiday that also became known as Remembrance Day. Then, 20 years later, the axis powers armies quickly overran Europe, China and the Pacific. The USA saw this with great consternation, but our foreign policy was to stay out of foreign conflicts, in isolation. However, the treacherous attack on Pearl Harbor compelled President Roosevelt to declare war. WWII ended Sept. 8, 1945.

For years many veteran groups, including the American Legion, felt Armistice Day should pay tribute to soldiers of both wars. At their urging, and shortly after the truce of the Korean War of July 2, 1953, the name was changed. Congress passed the Veterans Day Act in May 1954. President Eisenhower called it a day to honor our servicemen and service women of all wars. The Korean War, often called the Forgotten War, was the result of international communist aggression against peace-loving people and independent nations. The Soviet moves to expand communism, and the US efforts to halt it became know as the Cold War. In the 1960's, what began as a program of aid to the French in Vietnam, became a major commitment after 1965. A cease-fire accord was finally reached in 1973.

We celebrate and observe Veterans Day with traditional parades, speeches, religious services, and military ceremonies, floral tributes at graves, memorials and special events. Our reflections on the thousands of Americans killed in action include gratitude for their honor, heroism, sacrifice, dedication, courage, valor, love, and patriotism. We are shocked at the destructiveness of war, yet we cannot remain in isolation or neutrality. We must have the resolve to undertake whatever measures or steps are necessary to defend our national interest, halt foreign aggression and terrorism at home and abroad.

Thanks so much to all war and peace veterans. You have defended America superbly. You have fought to maintain our freedoms, protect our form of government, ensure peace and justice, and to build a more cohesive nation.

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Thanks so much to those mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters who wore the uniform so proudly. You have given the best years of your lives defending our way of life. Some of you returned home wounded, maimed, sick, afflicted, devastated for what you saw and suffered at the hands of the enemy. Some of you are now wearing prostheses, or have undergone and continue to receive serious medical treatment. Many of you did not have the opportunity to say good-bye to loved ones who departed while you served miles away. Some of you Vietnam veterans were shamefully vilified by hate groups. Some of your former comrades-in-arms never returned home and are still missing in action. Some of you veterans never fired a shot, but kept your commitment in training getting ready for any contingencies. Some of you were stationed in foreign lands keeping the peace or in reconstruction, never knowing when trouble would develop or when a bullet would strike. All of you veterans nonetheless kept the faith. Now as you reminisce about your service days you may look back and sigh in peace or sadness. You will smile at the good times, jokes and friendships. Others will cry in silence or shed tears for reasons only known deep in your hearts.

Thank you veterans. You will never be forgotten. We are eternally grateful. We salute you in gratitude. May the Lord bless you.

**A Time of Rest**

We are in a school, fitting, qualifying and preparing ourselves that we may be worthy and capable of going back and dwelling in the presence of our Creator. We are here for a purpose: to be the representative of the Heavenly Father upon the Earth. But while we occupy a special position in His kingdom, we are mortal beings. We are subjected to weakness, infirmity, disease and death.

Two of our Heavenly Father's children, Judith Davis and Carl Hammer preceded us recently in the final call, "come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."  
(Matthew 11:28)

**Carl Hammer**

Carl Hammer passed away September 11, 2004. He was born in Oklahoma, the second of 10 brothers and sisters. After he moved to California, he joined the Army. He spent four years at Camp Carson (now Ft. Carson), Colorado, where he met Lorraine. He was transferred to Germany with the 71<sup>st</sup> Artillery Division in the middle of WWII. He came back to Colorado to marry his honey in November of 1946. They had two children, David and Joy. Carl was a craftsman. He worked for Montgomery Wards, building passenger elevators. His coworkers frequently said: "If somebody took machinery apart, Carl could put it back together with no problems." He loved the outdoors and spent a lot of time with his family at their cabin in Lake George, Colorado. He used to say: "Once you've lived in Colorado, you never want to leave."

**Judith Davis**

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Judith A Davis passed away October 20<sup>th</sup> after a long battle with cancer. She had two children: Kevin, who preceded her in death, and Christine. Judy, as most of us remembered her by, was the beloved companion for 20 years of our former Post Commander, Chuck Zeitvogel.

Judy was dearly loved by Chuck, her sister, her grandchildren, and her large, extended family. She touched many lives, as she freely gave of herself serving at the Peterson SFB Thrift Shop and at her Church. She will be memorialized and honored at St Mary's Cathedral, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.

**Judge Advocate – Larry Johnson**

Release No. 10-13-04  
Oct 19, 2004

**New Law Sinks 'Check Floating' Practice**

Capt. Charles Warren  
12th Flying Training Wing Legal

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) -- The practice of "floating" a check until payday will become a thing of the past Oct. 28 when the new federal Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act, also known as Check 21, goes into effect.

"Check floating" occurs when people write checks a few days before payday, figuring that by the time their checks hit the bank, there will be money in the accounts to cover them.

With Check 21, money will be withdrawn immediately from a person's account when he or she writes a check.

The new federal law is designed to help banks efficiently process more checks electronically. This means that debits to a person's checking account will occur in minutes, not days.

Paper checks as record-keeping devices will also become a thing of the past. Instead, banks will replace canceled checks with substitute checks -- paper copies of electronic images of a person's original check. Consumers must have a substitute check to exercise all of their rights under Check 21 for the recrediting of their account in the event of a transactional error.

The potential effect on consumers is simple. Unwary consumers will be more likely to bounce checks because of the enhanced speed and efficiency of check processing.

Consumers probably will not be able to access funds from checks deposited in their accounts any sooner because the new law does not shorten check hold times for banks. This means people may not be able to withdraw money from their accounts the same day a deposit is made.

Here are a few tips to help people adjust their banking habits in response to Check 21:

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- Check your balance. Ensure you have sufficient funds in the checking account to cover any purchases made by check.
- Request substitute checks. Although banks are not required by law to issue them, be persistent in requesting that substitute checks accompany bank statements.
- Ask for a re-credit in writing. If a loss is related to a substitute check received, notify the bank in writing within 40 days of the bank statement and request a re-credit to the account. Do not forget to include the substitute check.

For more information about Check 21, visit the Consumers Union or the Federal Reserve Web sites. (Courtesy of Air Education and Training Command News Service)

**Programs Supported by Post 209**

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

**Coming Events**

- 6 November—Veterans Day Parade 9:30 AM
- 9 November—Breakfast reservation due
- 11 November—Veterans Day Observance, Memorial Park 11:00 AM
- 13 November—General Membership Meeting 9:00 AM Breakfast

**2004-2005 Ad Hoc Committees**

- Constitution and Bylaws – Neal Thomas, 719-392-1510
- Property Inventory
  - Office – Ann Foster, 719-599-8624
  - Storage Unit – Larry Johnson, 719-622-0344
- Auxiliary Liaison – Bill Marshall, 719-495-0088
- Sons of the American Legion – Larry Johnson, 719-622-0344

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**2004-2005 Board of Trustees**

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

**2004-2005 Meetings**

Post Executive Committee meets 1<sup>st</sup>  
 Thursday of the month at 4291 Austin  
 Bluffs Pkwy., Ste. 104, at 6:00 p.m.

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

**2004-2005 Post 209 Officers/Executive Committee**

Commander	Bill Marshall
Sr. Vice Commander	Greg Andries
Jr. Vice Commander	W.W. Bandler
Adjutant	Ann Foster
Finance Officer	Norm Moyer
Historian	Penny Marshall
Sergeant-at-Arms	Robert Rydell
Chaplain	Mario Taracena
Judge Advocate	Larry Johnson
Service Officer	Tom Morant
Post Ex. Committeeman	Neal Thomas
Past Commander	Chuck Zeitvogel

**2004-2005 Auxiliary Unit**

President	Dot Dassero
Secretary/Treasurer	Barbara Johnson
Chaplain	Open
Sergeant-at-Arms	Open

**Calendar**

November 2004						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Exec. Com/Board Trustees mtg.	5	6 Vet. Day Parade 9:30am
7	8	9 Breakfast reservation deadline	10	11 Vets. Day Obser. Memorial Park, 11 am	12	13 Gen. Mem. Mtg. 9am Breakfast
14	15	16	17	18	19 Newsletter Items Due	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

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**The following was provided by our Post Executive Committeeman Neal Thomas:**

We are getting thousands of new veterans applying for benefits to the Veterans Administration daily, while funding is being cut by the existing Congress. At the present time, the country is operating on a continuing resolution passed by Congress until after the election. During my recent visit to Washington D.C. to attend the National Commander's Testimony before the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, we were assured that we would have a budget before they recessed, and that the Senate would take up S.J. Res. 4, which is the Flag Amendment Resolution. It never came up for a vote before the recess.

Earlier this year, we voted to change the constitution portion pertaining to a quorum for the proper conduct of business at our meetings. There were other areas of the Constitution and Bylaws that needed to be updated, and they have been. Copies of the newly revised and proposed Constitution and Bylaws will be available for your review, and we will vote on them at the next scheduled meeting.

Attached to the newsletter are a press release, "The "Do Nothing" 108<sup>th</sup>," by Thomas P. Cadmus, and an open letter concerning S.J. Res. 4, The Flag Amendment.





*For God and Country*  
**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
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**The "Do Nothing" 108th**  
**By Thomas P. Cadmus**

► **The Flag**

► **Publications**

INDIANAPOLIS, October 13, 2004 - Americans are frustrated by the inept performance of this foundering Congress. Only the "Do Nothing Congress" of 1948 can claim a record of accomplish more miserable than the one that just recessed so its members could hit the campaign trail.

► **Programs & Events**

When this Congress went home, it had enacted only four of 13 budget bills, leaving the top price the American people in limbo and unfunded. What kind of leadership is that? Moreover, they st legislation on health-care, education, immigration, welfare reform and numerous other issues th the lives of all Americans.

► **Suggested Sites**

► **Documents**

They tabled American values. What about the flag amendment? What about religious persecuti allies in Vietnam? What about the Pledge of Allegiance? The American people wanted answer wanted leadership, and all they got was political posturing, partisanship and pandering.

Political gamesmanship has even crept into veterans' issues, once neutral territory.

Bullets and bombs are nonpartisan; they kill and maim without regard to affiliation. Veterans' be once reflected the appreciation of a grateful nation. No longer. Too many in Congress now trea veterans' issues like so many poker chips pushed back and forth, from party to party, in a game chance the veteran rarely wins.

In short, our lawmakers opted to kiss babies and shake hands rather than finish the business o American people. No surprise. That's been the pattern for the entire session: lack of leadership of action.

This is not the government the Founding Fathers had in mind. They wanted a Congress govern national vision, not by personal or party agendas – a government of shared responsibilities unit concern for the nation. Every day, families in America set priorities and make decisions based o good for the entire household. They expect that their Congress should do no less. Unfortunately, this Congress seems to be more intent on scoring political points and looking go SPAN than they are on funding veterans' hospitals, curbing illegal immigration or lowering the p prescription drugs for seniors.

On Sept. 11, 2001, partisan politics came to a halt, if only for a moment; the nation spoke with o voice, and it felt so good to be an American.

Maybe we can get back to that when the election is over.

Maybe we're experiencing an election year phenomenon and not a political trend.

In any case, Americans everywhere are looking to Washington for leadership and they are exp priorities to be set and decisions to be made. We've had enough slogans and sound bites. We' enough posturing and partisanship. It's time to get back to the priorities of America and leave th behind.

Thomas P. Cadmus is the National Commander of The American Legion, the nation's largest war-time organization with 2.7 million members.

# The American Legion

★ NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS ★ P.O. BOX 1055 ★ INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46206 ★  
(317) 630-1200 ★ FAX (317) 630-1223 ★



OFFICE OF THE  
NATIONAL COMMANDER

## AN OPEN LETTER

October 13, 2004

Majority Leader Bill Frist  
Minority Leader Tom Daschle  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Senators Frist and Daschle:

On behalf of more than 4 million members of The American Legion family, I am bitterly disappointed that the Senate has slipped off to recess without having acted on S.J. Res. 4, the flag amendment.

After H.J. Res. 4 passed overwhelmingly in the House, we believed the Senate would take action on its counterpart S.J. Res. 4 because of promises made to The American Legion and because of the bipartisan support it enjoys in the Senate. I can only conclude by your failure to act that the leadership does not take the flag amendment seriously and no longer considers it a priority.

You have let us all down. You have shown no respect for the millions of Americans who have expressed their steadfast support for passage of this amendment.

We expected a vote and did not even get an explanation. We deserved more from you, and from this Congress.

Your inaction sends a message: The flag you are willing to drape over the caskets of our heroes, military and civilian alike, isn't important enough to protect on our own soil.

Every day, we ask the best of America's young men and women to step into harm's way, pass through a gauntlet of hidden bombs, mortar rounds, rocket-propelled grenades, into the crosshairs of terrorists – under the Flag of the United States of America. Every day, more of our men and women come home dead, wounded or forever changed by the experience.

I have been in the company of these men and women. I have been at their bedsides. I have seen tubes filled with their blood – American blood – draining the stump of a blown-off leg or arm. I know a man whose skull was crushed and will spend the rest of his life horribly disfigured, his brain permanently damaged. I have met Marines blinded by combat and covered in shrapnel wounds.

And yet, these are the proudest, bravest, most patriotic Americans I have ever met. They believe in our country. They believe in our leaders. They believe in the flag under which they fought and gave so much.

You'll find Old Glory hanging over the beds of the wounded and in the windows of those who have returned from harm's way.

Try telling them that they fought on the sands of Iraq so that you, by your inaction, could protect someone's "right" to desecrate their flag on the street corners of America.


Last March, at The American Legion's Washington Conference, Senator Frist, you said: "When it comes to the American flag and all that it represents, we must fight and continue to stand to see that it is never, ever desecrated. With your support, lobbying and advocacy, we must see that that never happens." And we believed you.

Senator Daschle, you know that 80 percent of the American people support passage of this amendment, and all 50 state legislatures, including your own, have asked the Congress to send it back for ratification. Yet you have personally done nothing to bring this issue to the floor or encourage your fellow members to vote on it. Your silence speaks volumes.

Senators, we have lobbied. We have waited. We have trusted. We have abided by the constitutional process every step of the way and it has apparently resulted in a dead end at your doorstep. Won't you heed the voice of "We the people"?

Whether you support the amendment or not, we are asking you to bring S.J. Res. 4 to the floor for a vote, as promised and as expected.

Sincerely,

  
THOMAS P. CADMUS  
National Commander



*For God and Country*

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**Calendars**

<b>September 2004</b>						
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Reservations for Breakfast Due. \$6	8	9 Executive Committee/Board of Trustees Meeting	10	11 Post 209 Gen. Membership Mtg, TREA, 10 a.m., Breakfast, 9 a.m. Special guest speaker.
12	13	14	15	16	17 Newsletter Items Due	18 Pueblo VA Nursing Home, All patients' activity day
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Post 5 meet the candidates 4:00pm
26	27	28	29	30		

<b>October 2004</b>						
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Ex. Comm./Bd of Trustees Mtg.	8	9 Gen. Mbr meeting TREA 1000.
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30