

# The Centennial



VOLUME 36 EDITION 11

November 2015

Mail: P.O. Box 25334, Colorado Springs, Co 80936-5334

Post: 3613 Jeannine Dr., Colorado Springs, Co 80917-8002

Telephone 719-599-8624

Email: [centennialtwozeronine@yahoo.com](mailto:centennialtwozeronine@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.legion209.org](http://www.legion209.org)



## From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

The season is upon us to give thanks to all that we have and what can be given to others. The holiday season is the time to demonstrate our compassion and to help others.

### **“You don’t need a reason to help people”**

When this letter hits the printer, the Veterans’ Homeless Stand Down will have happened and we as Veterans were there to help. We will have also watched kids and adults enjoy a night of goblins and ghouls. What a great time to be helpful. The Riders had their end of season event. I hope all were able to attend and enjoy the Bouncy Castle. Please continue this caring through out the rest of the year. There are many in need.

Programs within the Post are making plans for events and activities to help families in the community. The Riders are beginning to gather items to help create some 20 baskets to help families through out the holiday season. The SAL continue to help those in the hospital to receive Josh Dogs and comforts of visits. The Auxiliary members continue to support all these events and activities through volunteerism and caring hearts.

Another event we are getting ready for is the Veterans Day Parade. What a great time to gather and show the comradeship of our Post. Our actions are noted in the community on each of the programs we support. Please take the time to get involved - walk, ride, drive, or march. It is an experience and a heart-warming time to pay respect to our Veterans from all communities. Give to a Veteran and feel the warm of pride and freedom.

The general membership meeting is on November 14, 2015. Please talk to others in the community and invite them to breakfast. Find a Veteran and their family who can also become members and enjoy the benefits of our Post. It is a great place to call “home.” The events and family environment continues to bring smiles to those that attend. Also during this meeting, we as a membership will discuss the per capita increase. We will have information about this process and how it will influence the activities and events in the coming years. We will open for a structured discussion and conduct a vote on this per capita increase start date.

A request I put out to all Legion members who have not renewed for the 2016 year, please renew today or prior to the end of the year. If your membership renewal is in by December 31, 2015, we will be unaffected by the per capita increase until 2017 renewal. This action will save the Department of Colorado from paying the per capita increase on all Colorado members who renew after January 1, 2016. Please help save the funding resources of the Department today...Renew today...or by December 31, 2015.

### **“Do what is right (for the Veterans), not what is easy or convenient (for us as individuals).”**

In October I will be attending the National American Legion College. I am thankful and grateful for this opportunity to represent the Department of Colorado. I will develop relationships with other leaders within the American Legion, and will gain knowledge about the American Legion and experience the comradeship of those in attendance. Prior to going, I have to think through what is leadership and what is needed to lead in the future. I am up for this challenge and look forward to keeping my promise to my mentor. Thank you.

### **“If it doesn’t challenge you, it won’t change you.”**



## From the Unit 209 President

Jackie Bowen

Woo Hoo, we had four new members join us the weekend of Oct 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>. Jen Manriquez was the first to join during our monthly meeting, and the other three new members signed up at the chili cook off and bake sale Sunday; Charlene (Char) Lucht, Valerie Martinez and Reylicia Martinez. Welcome to all and hope to see a lot more of you soon.

For all the Facebookers out there you probably saw the pictures of the chili cook off and bake sale. As I stated on Facebook, there weren't many people there but we had a good time kibitzing and especially eating. :)

Christmas is just around the corner. There will be a blast sent out when it is time to decorate our Post home, so please join us. This is not just for the Auxiliary to do. We usually have Legionnaires, SAL, and ALR there to help. We typically receive many compliments from people that have rented our facilities about how nice the decorations look and that's thanks to our members that help with this project.

Richard Ausmusand has graciously offered his truck for the Veterans Day parade. Come on down and help us fill it with riders.

Thanks to all of you that supported our Butter Braid fundraiser.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly!  
Jackie Bowen



## From The Commander Squadron 209

Rick Kettering

Squadron and Unit 209 hosted a Chili Cook-off on 11 Oct. We had just five entries but they all were good. Recipes included a Red Bean/Beef, 2 different Pork Green Chili, a White Bean Chicken, and a South-west Chicken. Unit 209 had a bake sale going on as the tasting and campaigning for votes was happening for the Chili. Everyone there seemed to have a good time. Members also watched the Bronco's game in the lounge and in the game room.

A reminder the Detachment of Colorado is having the annual Squadron Awards banquet at American Legion Post 38 on 21 November. The social hour starts at 1700. Dinner will be at 1800 and the cost is a donation to Operation Comfort Warrior. After dinner, awards will be presented followed up with live music.

Our Squadron is growing by leaps and bounds. We now have 65 members to date. Our goal is 73. Thanks to everyone who have paid their dues.

For God and Country,





# DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE FROM THE VA? Help has Arrived

**What?** Our American Legion Department Service Office will be in Colorado Springs the 4th Saturday of Every Month (except November/December) for the Next Year.

**Where?** Centennial Post 209 at 3613 Jeannine Drive.

**Time?** 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

**Why?** To assist our local Veterans with Claims and to Provide Information Related to Their Medical Benefits.

## FAQ:

**Do I have to be a member of The American Legion?**

No. We Will Offer Assistance to Any Qualified Veteran.

**Do I need an Appointment?**

No, but it is Recommended. Call 303-914-5585 to Make an Appointment, but Walk-ins are Welcome.

**What Do I Bring?**

DD214, as well as the following that pertains to your situation: Marriage Certificate; Divorce Decree; Death Certificate; and any Civilian Medical Records.

**Tell your Veteran Friends and Neighbors!**





**POST 209 YOUNG GUNS**  
Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Adjutant Ken Taylor



The first annual Junior Shooting Sports Conference was held in Indianapolis on September 18, 19 and 20. I was privileged to attend in place of Mr. John Centa, the Department of Colorado Junior Shooting Sports Chairman. Discussions covered several related topics including starting and sustaining a JSSP club, coaching credentials, background checks, insurance coverage and the 2015 National Championship. It was announced that the 2015 Postal will start on 11/01/2015 and the next National Championship will be held at the Olympic Training Center on July 19 to 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016. National would like to replace the JSSP postal contest with a Department shoulder to shoulder contest sometime in the future.

The following recommendations were decided upon at the conference: Each Department should name a JSSP Chairman and JSSP club lists should be checked for accuracy. Colorado has 34 clubs listed and it isn't known how many are active. JSSP Clubs should be required to renew every year as this will automatically keep the club lists up to date.

Next year's conference will cover the 2016 Postal, grant writing, and the Orion scoring system. Representatives will be present from Crossman and Daisy to discuss the use and care of their air rifles. A representative will be there from the CMP to discuss what they do and the benefits of affiliation.

This was a very good conference and well worth the time to attend. John Centa attended our Junior Shooting class on Wednesday September 30<sup>th</sup> and had high praise for our program here at Post 209. We thank him for his attendance and plan to work together to start JSSP programs at other Posts here in Colorado.

Our current Jr. Shooting class ends November 4th. The NRA marksmanship continues November 11th & 18th. There are no classes scheduled November 25th. Practice for the Legion Postal Competition will be December 4th and the Postal Contest will be December 9th. No Young Guns classes after December 9th through the end of the calendar year. We will start again with the next class on February 10th 2016. This class still has openings but will fill up fast. If you would like information about classes please contact Ken Taylor at 719-761-4047 or email at [adjutantsal209@gmail.com](mailto:adjutantsal209@gmail.com).



**FROM THE ADJUTANT**  
Marvin Weaver, Jr.

November is a busy month for the American Legion. We have the Veterans Day Parade on November 7<sup>th</sup> which leads up to the Saluting America program with the local schools during Veterans Day week. If you are able to help out with visiting one of the schools please contact Eric Testorff.

Something new that your Post is doing this year. Our National American Legion organization is teaming up with Great Clips on November 9<sup>th</sup> Post 209 is one of the host sites for the challenge. Great clips will be at the Post on the 9<sup>th</sup> from 4 – 8 offering the "Buzz Cut Challenge." This challenge is in connection with their Veterans Day special. The "Buzz Cut Challenge" is for the community to show their support for the military. They will be giving Buzz Cuts to anyone for a \$10 donation. We plan to have media coverage for the event. Come on down to the Post and show your support to our Active Duty.

Department has started a membership drive contest again this year. They will be giving away \$500 split between the new member and the recruiter. The difference this year is that they will be having a drawing four times instead of just once, each one will be for \$500. They will have a drawing on Veterans Day, Department Mid-Year Conference, The American legion Birthday, and Department Convention. The sooner that you recruit a new member the more drawings and chances you have at the \$500.



## From the Jr. Vice Commander Mike Barger

Last of the clauses of the Preamble:

**TO CONSECRATE AND SANCTIFY OUR COMRADESHIP BY OUR DEVOTION TO MUTUAL HELPFULNESS...**The last or 10th clause of our Preamble is the most important ideal expressed in our Preamble. It marked a new concept in America—a concept that made The American Legion the greatest force for social betterment in all the history of the United States. Let us be factual and examine this.

At the close of World War I, America was just emerging from its lusty era of rugged individualism. It was an era when the individual hammered out his own destiny and progress with little or no help from the government. An honest facing of the facts brings out that American society was then a cold society insofar as any organized public hands of helpfulness were concerned.

When the Veterans of World War I came marching home, they found the nation utterly unprepared to care for the combat casualties of the war. The wounded, the shell-shocked and the sick were lodged in poor houses, jails, and asylums or what-have-you.

The American Legion wrote such laws, had them introduced in the Congress, went out over the land to arouse the conscience of the people of America and mobilize support for its legislative aims. It did both with a sacrificial fervor that overcame all obstacles. The Congress enacted the laws, it provided the administrative machinery, it appropriated the funds, it built hospitals. Then to bring about a single responsibility for the carrying out of all Veteran laws and to achieve a unification of these government services, The American Legion put through Congress the legislation to create the Veterans Bureau which has become the Veterans Administration of today.

This is how we can hail The American Legion today as an unparalleled force in these United States for social betterment. American Legion concepts and its ideal of devotion to mutual helpfulness warmed up the whole social climate of America. Today, America is extending its helpful hands all over the world through our assistance programs of foreign aid. It all came about because the veterans of World War I came home enriched with wonderful ties of friendship and gave those ties a meaning by consecrating them to the ideal of mutual helpfulness.

The American Legion Preamble has been the beacon light of The American Legion for more than 90 years. It has been amended only once in all that time. That amendment consisted of adding the letter "S" to the word "war." It makes the Preamble read today "Great Wars," so as to embrace all wars.

### **FOOD DRIVE BEING SPONSORED BY THE ALR RIDERS**

The American Legion Riders will be sponsoring a food drive during the months of October and November, so each time you come to the Post, please bring in a non perishable food item. Also, if you can bring in a turkey, it would be greatly appreciated. The riders were able to provide Thanksgiving meals for 22 families last year. The riders would like to match that or exceed that goal this year. A box will be available when you first walk into the Post to drop off your bounty. If you are going to provide a turkey, we will store it in the freezer in the kitchen or one of the Rider's freezers till we are ready to hand them out.

### **Again, I leave you with this:**

Remember, we serve God, Family and The Legion, always keeping in mind our fellow Legionaries who are in need of some help along the way...

*\*\*Rusty Bower's new column to bring a little "salt" to the post.\*\**



## Origin of NAVY Terminology Rusty Bower



### **Snipe**

The term used to describe sailors that work below decks, usually those that are assigned to engineering rates, such as Machinists Mates, Boiler Tech, Enginemen, Hull Technicians, and more.



**FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S DESK**  
**Pastor Stan**

I had the good fortune of being able to attend the Department Chaplain's conference in Indianapolis on September 25<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>. It was great to be among 35 other Chaplains from other Departments and States. Had a great time and enjoyed the conversations that we had. Made new friends and contacts for the future.

November is upon us and all of the tree colors are mostly gone. This is the one time of the year that we can offer our thanks to God for all that he has given to us. Look at your family and be grateful that it is because of Him that we have what we have. Think about all of those that do not have a warm home to have a Thanksgiving dinner. Please pray for them and make it a point to pray that they will be able to find someplace where it is warm and that they will be able to get a good hot meal.

Many times we think that all we have is what we have because we worked so hard to acquire them. NO! God allowed us to have them. It is not of our own doing. Our creator gives us all that we have and we should never forget that. Here is a prayer that I have for all of you: "Great and loving God, what are we to do when it is time to give thanks and not all is well? Deliver us God, from a chauvinistic gratitude that says, "We are thankful that we are so much better off than other people." Spare us the thanksgiving of cynicism that says, "That is probably as good as things can ever be, so we are thankful." Mute that thankful impulse in our hearts that have been stirred by pessimism that says there is nothing we can do but give thanks; it doesn't matter much anyway." O God, nurture within us sensitivity to your love and the resources of your presence that even in the worst of situations, we may know how to give thanks for your gifts. It is the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ we pray, Amen."

As you sit down at the Thanksgiving table this year, please think about all of the service men and women who are not at home because our country has called them to be elsewhere. Think of the families and loved ones they have left behind. Let's all pray for them. Let us not forget those who are close to home but still do not have a warm meal to eat or a warm place to be. And don't forget all of our service men and women who are homeless and those who are in need. Let us not forget all of those who are sick, homeless, have mental problems, and the many who really can use our help.

Give thanks as you look at your family sitting around the table and laughing and talking. Be grateful that God has blessed you this day and for the days ahead. Hug your loved ones and give God the credit he deserves. Count your blessings one by one and tell the Creator thanks for a great year that is coming to an end. He loves us all, no matter what we have done, sins that are big or small, it really doesn't matter; He still forgives us for our sins. Isn't it great we have a loving Father who sent us his only Son to die on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins? And many times we don't even thank Him for that. Would you give your son to do what He did?

To each and everyone of you and your family, from my home to yours, **HAPPY THANKSGIVING AND MAY GOD'S BLESSINGS BE WITH YOU.** Have a great time with them all and always give thanks.

My last three words to all of you are: **GO TO CHURCH!!!!!!**

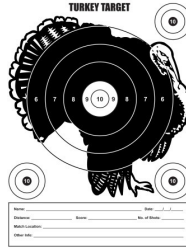
Shalom,



**From the Post Service Officer**  
**Lyle Hagelberg**

**VETERANS ADMINISTRATION ID CARDS**

A Congressional law was passed that allows all Veterans to get a VA identification card even if they are not using the VA system for medical care. The good thing about the cards is they can be used for Veteran discounts at various stores and restaurants. You can contact the VA clinic at 719-327-5660 for additional information. If you just walk in don't forget your DD Form 214.



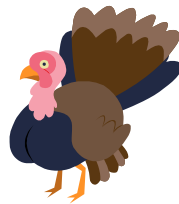
## **THIRD ANNUAL TURKEY SHOOT**

## **FUNDRAISER**

**ARE YOU ABLE TO PUT THE TURKEY ON THE TABLE?**

**COME GIVE IT A TRY AND SUPPORT OUR YOUNG GUNS JUNIOR SHOOTING PROGRAM**

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 20th starting at 1900. 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 and supervised by our NRA Certified Instructors. Be sure to RSVP for that great steak and support our Junior Shooters by participating in our 3rd annual Turkey Shoot!



Please RSVP for the Turkey Shoot by calling Ken Taylor at 719-761-4047 or email [adjutantsal209@gmail.com](mailto:adjutantsal209@gmail.com). You can also sign up at Steak Night on November 20<sup>th</sup>.



### **Post 209 Commanders**

Judge Advocate Chuck Zeitvogel

Who were Post 209 Commanders? It is easy to forget who they were as the years roll by and so the following list is offered as a reminder. You can see their pictures hanging on the wall in the Post's Dining Room. Take a look at them next time you are there. Some have passed on to the Post Everlasting, others continue to be active in Post, District, Department and National level offices. Here are the names and year(s) of service. If you notice inconsistencies let me know. (Terms of office normally run from 1 July thru 30 June).

Thomas Knutson, 1976-1977  
Wallace Lonsinger, 1977-1978  
John Gaillard, 1978 1979  
Max Hoyer, 1979-1980, 1980-1981, 1982-1983, 1987-1988  
Neal Thomas, 1984-1985, 1985-1986  
John Kovar, 1988-1989  
June Thomas Swearengin, 1990-1999  
Floyd Bufkin, 1992-1993, 1993-1994  
Al Cyriaque, 1994-1995  
Harry Johnson, 1995-1996, 1996-1997  
Harry McFadden, 1997-1998

Larry Johnson, 1989-1990, 1998-1999  
Francis Redington, 1999-2000, 2000-2001  
Chuck Zeitvogel, 2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004  
Bill Marshall, 2004-2005, 2005-2006  
W.W. Bandler, 2006-2007, 2007-2008  
Phil Larsen, 2008-2009, 2009-2010 (Second term not completed due to job transfer)  
Jay Bowen, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014 (Completed Phil Larsen's second term)  
Greg Smith, 2014-2015, 2015-Present



## From the Historian; Remembrance of Tom Eric Testorff

Some at Post 209 know that I lost my brother, Sp4 Thomas E. Testorff, US Army, Killed in Action, Quang Tri Province, Vietnam. Tom might be the principal reason I joined the American Legion. It was to honor his memory, and maybe get to know others like him that I first considered Post 209. As a "Gold Star," I was asked to write a little about Tom - who he was, and my remembrances of him.

Tommy has always been a hero to me. There was his training, his letters home, and Vietnam. But there was also a Tom that existed before the Army. Much like our brother Lee, Tom was musical, played in a band, and had a sense of humor. He was an older brother that you could look up to, and know that he was earnest and meant what he said.

My big brothers knew about things like science, and football, and how to tie a tie, and life, and fishing, and the world beyond our neighborhood. Both had been Scouts. Both cared about the planet and the people on it. They both cared about Vietnam, and each in his own way wanted greatly for our country to be a force for good in the world.

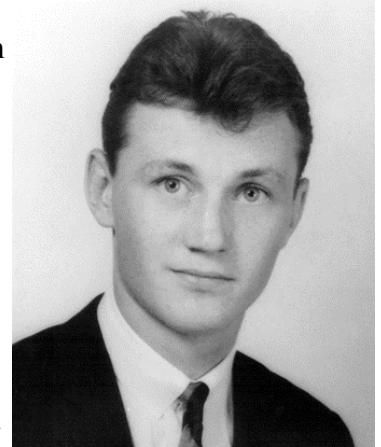
One year they put together a bicycle for my birthday out of parts they had cobbled together. They painted it blue - my favorite color - and it was the greatest bike in the world.

Tom had an old car that was much the same way. He put it together from parts of other cars, and it was loud, rusty and smelly. It had been hit, so it was a little lop-sided when it drove down the street. To a kid like me, it was the greatest car in the world. Likewise, Tom had rescued Moose, who had been a mangy, kind of smelly dog. Moose was crippled and was a bit lop-sided when he walked, and for some reason, when Tom drove off in that car, Moose always had to follow as far as he could: car and dog, both leaning the same way. Moose would usually keep watch until Tommy got home.

When I was small, one of my fondest memories of Tom was a game he used to play with me where I would stand on top of a brick wall. The wall was about 3 feet high, but seemed a lot higher to me then. Tom would be standing on the ground below the wall, and I would turn with my back to him and just let myself fall...He always caught me. I never doubted it.

Tommy was big-hearted, he would rescue a sickly little dog one minute, then throw himself into the middle of a fight the next, just to lend a hand to a friend. His headstone reads, "Greater love hath no man..." The rest of the verse is: "...than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." He did just that in faraway Vietnam.

I have been without him now most of my life, but I know he's saying to me, "Don't sweat it, little bro. Things will be ok." Tom was that kind of person.



## Welcome Home Ft. Carson Soldiers!

On Saturday, 7 November, at 5:00pm we will welcome home a few of our Nation's heroes from their recent deployment in Afghanistan. Our former Department Junior Auxiliary President, Ms. Ayanna Espinola "adopted" a Ft. Carson Soldier and maintained constant communication with him throughout his deployment. She sent "Care Packages" filled with comfort items, letters and cards while he served our country in this War Theater. He and his buddies have recently returned and Post 209 plans to welcome them home at our Post with some cuisine they missed more than any other food; Hamburgers and Hot Dogs.

We would love to have a big turnout from the Post to say "Thank You" for a job well done and welcome back to the USA. We need your RSVP for this event, so RSVP no later than Thursday, 5 November. Come on out and have a Burger, and meet these heroes along with Ayanna and her grandmother, Department Auxiliary President-elect, Evelyn Espinola.





## From the Judge Advocate Chuck Zeitvogel

**Thanksgiving** – What’s it all about? Okay here we are in month of November, the month set aside for our nation to giving thanks and a time of commercialism as retail stores and buying on line is urged upon us. Yes, it’s a time of abandonment for many to get out and offer themselves to sales pitches of the markets. You hear it in one form or another “Buy, Buy, Buy.” But wait! There is another reason for this Thanksgiving season. Stop! Consider what we as a nation have to be thankful for. Our nation has endured many trials from our founding days to where we are today.

What about it? Have all the hard times been worth it? My answer is - Yes! My grandparents were not here during the founding days and early history, I take no credit or fault for what happened then, they were late comers arriving in the late 1800s. Regardless, let us scratch the surface of our nation’s founding to now and recall some of the challenges: the early colonies, remember many did not survive the harshness of the times, and their conflicts between colonies and other settlers including Indian tribes; there was the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, Revolutionary War, adoption of the Constitution and Bill of Rights, the Civil War, Industrial Revolution, WWI, WWII, Korean Conflict (War), Viet Nam, Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Iraqi, Afghanistan wars. All this and much more in the early days along with a constant movement to the west, conquering and settlements which in time became states. Recall the term “Manifest Destiny” often used when referring to our national growth and involvement in world affairs. All this in addition to unionism and civil unrest to this point in our nation’s history.

Few individuals can capture in one paragraph our national history and I am not trying to do so now as this is just a reminder - a scratch on the surface of our bit of history. Suffice to say for all of our national faults and frailties, we have in this country freedoms and opportunities other peoples dream and yearn for. We give thanks. Yes - we give thanks for our nation, it may not be the utopia some would like it to be, however it offers freedoms and opportunities that others do not have and to preserve it requires our personal involvement. Involvement may mean service in the military, local, state or national government should we be called upon, and at the very least to be informed citizens as our ability allows, and to vote on these issues when at all possible. There is much to be thankful for during this Thanksgiving Season - family, health, and our nation. Let us pledge ourselves to stay involved, working in whatever capacity we can as Legionaries to keep our nation strong and independent.



### 2016 Membership Drive

Lino Calica - Senior Vice Commander

It is great to see that our 2016 membership drive doing exceptionally well. The District set our membership goal for Post 209 for 1000 members. As of October 18, 2015, we have reached 70% of our goal. The 700 members we have now includes new members and members who have renewed their membership. At the Department and National Conventions, it was voted and approved to increase the per capita dues per member. In Colorado, this per capita dues change will not take effect until the 2017 membership year, starting July 2016. We at Post 209 continue to strive and reach our 100 % goal by December 31, 2015. I ask for your support in recruiting, and reaching out to our Veterans and families in the community. Post 209 cannot achieve or succeed in reaching this goal without you. As you recruit, briefly address the different programs within the American Legion. The *American Legion Auxiliary* for spouses and daughters, The *Sons of American Legion* for Veterans sons, grandsons and great grandsons, The *American Legion Riders*, if they have an interest in motorcycles, and *The Young Guns*, for students ages 10 to 18 who are interested in gun safety and shooting guns. The key to growth and success at Centennial Post 209 is to lead by example and to serve the needs of our Veterans and families.

Remember the 3R’s:

**RECRUIT**- New members, **RETAIN** - Existing Members, **REBUILD** - For the Future.

Mahalo nui loa, (Thank you)

## **BRINGING A LITTLE SOUTH TO THE WEST**

Immediate Past Post Commander Jay Bowen

In a previous article, I mentioned Mr. Burma Hobbs and promised a follow up on this very unique character from my southern memories. Constable Burma, as he was called in polite company covered DeSoto County, Mississippi just across the state line from Memphis, Tennessee. Now when I say he covered DeSoto County, I mean he COVERED the entire county as if it were his private residence. Many would argue it was. He was the law in that county and his decisions were rarely disputed. Underage drinkers, especially those who dared to cross into DeSoto County from Memphis, were in for a night to remember if they were caught by “Mr. Burma.” He was a short man with an even shorter temper. I will always believe the Jackie Gleason character in *Smokey and the Bandit* was modeled after Burma. That was Burma incarnate and I think most people who had any encounter with him would agree. His reputation was cemented the night he stopped Miss Tennessee Universe and her date for a minor traffic offense and then ended up chasing them around their car, waving his 2-foot-long flashlight. A local cartoonist, Draper Hill once called DeSoto County “the independent state of Hobbs.”

Many of the Memphis Police Officers, especially those patrolling the state-line were not Burma fans. It seems Constable Hobbs would sometimes confuse where his jurisdiction ended and he would follow (read that as chase) suspected speeders and other offenders across the state line into Tennessee and into Memphis city limits. This happened more times that you would imagine. And when it did, the Memphis cops would pull Burma over and remind him he was out of bounds. I think Burma would do that believing he might be able to sneak into town and get back without being spotted. Wrong!

As a teenager growing up in that part of the country, I would often venture into the Hobbs empire. As with everyone else, I was completely aware of Burma’s constant presence and seemingly omniscient eye. But as with everyone else, that didn’t deter me from being a typical teen. I won’t bore you with details of my few encounters with Burma, but suffice to say I was on the receiving end of a couple of his judiciary decisions. One in particular I should have gone to jail, but instead he released me and my brother to our Father (I would have preferred jail). On another occasion, I should never have been arrested, but was. There didn’t appear to me there was any rhyme or reason to how he levied justice. I guess it all depended on how his day had gone previous to our meeting.

Constable Burma Hobbs served the good people of DeSoto County, Mississippi for many years. He was revered by some and reviled by others. Regardless of what anyone thought of Burma, he kept the peace in the county and was not afraid to confront any one person or group (gang). While short in stature, he was tall in commanding respect for his position. Bless his heart. May he rest in peace.

**Note:** The following article is published at the request of our Post Judge Advocate. It does not necessarily reflect the views of the Post Commander or the general Post leadership.



### **VA Cemetery Site - “Beauty is In the Eye of The Beholder”**

Judge Advocate Chuck Zeitvogel

I have heard some people describe the site for the new VA National Cemetery in Colorado Springs as being a beautiful location. A bit of dissension if I may. After viewing the location Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, my conclusion is that it has a long way to go before it would be rated as beautiful location for a cemetery. Just to the East of the site are unsightly power lines, to the West is a housing development, and to the North is Drennan Road, which is currently a rough country road at best. As I viewed the site, my thought was of that cowboy song, “Bury Me Not, On The Lone Prairie.” What was the VA thinking when they picked this sight? I’m wondering if some folks got snookered in this deal. Okay, don’t tar and feather me for my thoughts! Most likely by 2018 or 2020 when the cemetery is open for use; improvements will be made and it will be the beautiful resting place some visionaries say it will be.



## Post Officers

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Gregory Smith	520-784-3555
Sr. Vice Cdr	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Jr. Vice Cdr	Mike Barger	719-290-3218
Adjutant	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	719-244-3535
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Chaplain	Stan Hamamoto	719-322-6959
Sergeant-at-Arms	Don Shuck	719-575-0539
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177
Post Executive Committeeman	Jay Bowen	901-484-7193
Service Officer	Lyle Hagelberg	719-231-2364
Judge Advocate	Chuck Zeitvogel	719-531-0546
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610



## Auxiliary Officers 2014-2015

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Jackie Bowen	719-574-1223
Vice President	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Secretary	Lynn Thomas	719-392-1510
Treasurer	Kellie Hayes	719-494-7167
Chaplain	Joan Ciani	719-579-9194
Sergeant-At-Arms	Donna Testorff	719-510-4567
Historian	Kari Ann Smith	520-784-3193



## Sons of The American Legion

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Rick Kettering	813-967-6680
Sr. Vice Commander	Marv Weaver	719-244-3535
Jr. Vice Commander	Ronny Ross	719-493-2583
Adjutant	Ken Taylor	719-495-8190
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Don Shuck	719-575-0539
Chaplain	Christopher Keith	719-382-7845
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177



## ALR Officers 2014-2015

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Andy Gilbert	719-231-6696
Vice President	Gregory Smith	520-784-3555
Secretary	Cecelia Hamm	720-474-9332
Treasurer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Road Captain	Mike Barger	719-290-3218



## Centennial 209 Family Calendar of Events



3 Dec	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
4 Dec	Hamdogger Night 6:00 pm
7 Dec	<b>Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day!</b>
11 Dec	ALR Dinner 6:00 pm
12 Dec	General membership Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary 10:00 am <b>CANCELLED!</b>
12 Dec	<b>Post Christmas Party! 4:00 pm</b>
18 Dec	<b>Steak Night! 6:00 pm - RSVP REQUIRED</b>
14 Dec	ALR Board Meeting 6:00pm
22 Dec	ALR General Membership Meeting 5:30 pm Social Hour 6:30 pm Meeting
22 Dec	SAL Membership Meeting 6:00 pm
25 Dec	<b>Merry Christmas!</b>
1 Jan 2016	Hamdogger Night 6:00 pm <b>CANCELLED!</b> <b>Happy New Year!</b>
7 Jan	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
8 Jan	ALR Dinner 6:00 pm - <b>RSVP REQUIRED</b>
9 Jan	General membership Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary 10:00 am
15 Jan	<b>Steak Night! 6:00 pm - RSVP REQUIRED</b>
18 Jan	ALR Board Meeting 6:00pm
22 Jan	<b>Chicken Fried Steak! 6:00pm - RSVP REQUIRED</b>
26 Jan	ALR General Membership Meeting 5:30 pm Social Hour 6:30 pm Meeting
26 Jan	SAL Membership Meeting 6:00 pm
4 Feb	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
5 Feb	Hamdogger Night 6:00 pm
12 Feb	ALR Dinner 6:00 pm - <b>RSVP REQUIRED</b>
13 Feb	Membership Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary 10:00 am
15 Feb	ALR Board Meeting 6:00pm
19 Feb	<b>Steak Night! 6:00 pm - RSVP REQUIRED</b>
23 Feb	ALR General Membership Meeting 5:30 pm Social Hour 6:30 pm Meeting
26 Feb	<b>Chicken Fried Steak! 6:00pm - RSVP REQUIRED</b>
3 Mar	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
4 Mar	Hamdogger Night 6:00 pm
11 Mar	ALR Dinner 6:00 pm - <b>RSVP REQUIRED</b>
12 Mar	Membership Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary 10:00 am
21 Mar	ALR Board Meeting 6:00pm
22 Mar	ALR General Membership Meeting 5:30 pm Social Hour 6:30 pm Meeting



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
CENTENNIAL POST 209  
P.O. BOX 25334  
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80936-5334

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
COLORADO SPGS, CO  
PERMIT NO. 192

~ November 2015 ~						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Young Guns 6:30pm-8:30pm 	5 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	6 Hamdogger 6:00pm 	7 Veterans Day Parade 9:00am 
8	9 Buzz Cut Challenge 4:00pm - 8:00pm 	10 Happy Birthday Marine Corps! 	11 Happy Veterans' Day! 	12	13 ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	14 Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am 
15	16 ALR Executive Board 6:00pm 	17	18	19	20 Steak Night - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	21
22	23	24 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm 	25	26 Happy Thanksgiving! 	27	28
29	30	Notes: 7 November, Welcome Home Ft. Carson Soldiers!!!! 5:00pm 28 November, Department of Colorado DEC Meeting 11:00 - 4:30pm <b>No Fish Fry/Chicken Fried Steak in November!</b>				

Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) [jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com](mailto:jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com) or Kariann Smith (520)-784-3193 [kariannsmith@me.com](mailto:kariannsmith@me.com)