

The Centennial

VOLUME I EDITION 10

OCTOBER 2021



AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209

3613 JEANNINE DR. COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80917
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MEET YOUR 2021 - 2022 OFFICERS!!

American Legion Post 209 Officers

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

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers

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

Sons of The American Legion Squadron 209 Officers

Commander: Brian Wess 719.528.6672	Adjutant: Ken Taylor 719.461.4047	Sgt At Arms: Bob Ingram 480.353.8234	Chaplain: Brad Henderson 830.660.4072
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American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers

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

Amateur Radio Club Officers

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



FROM THE DESK & MIND OF THE COMMANDER

I've decided to republish a newsletter I wrote last October with minor updates.

Why do all my friends kill themselves? A question I was asked a couple of weeks ago by a grieving Fort Carson Soldier, who was mourning the loss of his friend who he had just lost to suicide. This question continues to haunt me, because like him I am all too familiar with the pain this sergeant is feeling. Over this last year alone I have experienced the loss of five people who I served with. I sat and listened to a groups of soldiers from his platoon talk and say things like, I just talked to him, he said he was good, he was always the one to help others. I couldn't help but think how many more times will I have to hear these words, how many more times will we wonder what else could we have done?

The American Legion like many organizations understand that military & veteran suicide is a pandemic within our community. Between 2005 and 2017, 78,875 veterans took their own lives, the reasons are not fully understood, but the numbers reflect a burden with heavy wartime demands after almost two decades of post-9/11 wars. In a 2018 white paper published by the American Legion two of the many root causes for Military & Veteran Suicide and contributed to losing a sense of purpose & losing a sense of belonging.

During the First World War, psychiatrists noted that "shell-shocked" soldiers treated closer to the frontlines with the support of their comrades showed a higher level of recovery and mental health improvements vs those who were evacuated from their units. The Veterans ranging from Vietnam to the current Global War on Terrorism, rejoined a civilian populous that was either, against the conflict (think Vietnam) or become disconnected from the war as a whole (think our current 19 year conflict). In a 2011 Pew Research Center study, 84 percent of Post-9/11 veterans said that the public does not understand the problems faced by those in the military or their families. Stereotypes portrayed in the media haven't helped much either, PTSD, unemployed, injured, or unstable are a few of those stereotypes.

There is some good news though, Veterans, although some maybe troubled by their past, still have a willingness to continue to serve even after leaving the military. The skills that were learned in the military make Veterans a top choice for leaders in private and non-profit positions. Groups like the American Legion, VFW, Team Rubicon, and many others continue to provide the outlet and support for active-duty service members and Veterans.

The American Legion is committed to ending Military & Veteran Suicide, by establishing a Suicide Prevention Program. This committee is currently reviewing methods, programs and strategies that can be used to reduce veteran suicide. Since 1981 the American Legion has passed national resolutions to combat suicide, 20 years before it was addressed by the VA as a public health crisis.

Here at the Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 we can rally together to help all persons struggling with thoughts of suicide. We together can give them a place of belonging, a sense of purpose. Together we can all our comrades, be them Legionnaires or not just to see how they are doing. This isn't something that can be assigned to a committee or individual, to help end military & veteran suicide.

In closing I'd like to quote resolution No. 28 passed in 1981, "Many veterans return home and miss the sense of purpose and belonging that they felt from military service." As a Legion family we can return that sense of purpose, regardless of when they returned from theater, Korea to the Global War on Terror, we have an obligation to our sisters and brothers in arms to look out from them as they did us. A simple phone call can save a life. Let fight to end this so no one ever needs to ask "why" again.

If you or someone you know is experiencing thoughts of suicide, please call the Veterans/Military Crisis Line @ 1-800-273-8255 Option 1 or Text to 838255.

The Veterans Crisis Line is a free, confidential resource that's available to anyone, even if you're not registered with VA or enrolled in VA health care. The caring, qualified responders at the Veterans Crisis Line are specially trained and experienced in helping Veterans of all ages and circumstances.



Joseph Schmidt
Post Commander

For many, the biggest battles are
after they come home...



Veterans Crisis Line **Military Crisis Line**



1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

Confidential chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](https://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net) or text to **838255**

Celebrate

At
American Legion
Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209

Host your next event with us! With over 2,500 SQFT of venue space this is the perfect location for your next social event!



Rental Features:

- 6 Hour Rental
- In House Catering Available*
- Fully Stocked Bar*
- Muti-Room Sound System
- Dance Floor with Lighting

If you and your family are looking for an affordable option for a wedding, corporate event, retirement party, or any other event, we here at The American Legion Post 209 are ready to assist you in all your event planning needs.



For More Information

www.legion209.org/contact_us

(719) 599-8624

3613 Jeannine Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80917

*Additional cost may apply



FROM THE DESK OF THE POST ADJUTANT

Having thoughts of suicide or think you know someone who is, call 1-800-273-8255 or visit www.veteranscrisisline.net

We are hosting a Trunk or Treat event on Oct 30th. If you would like to participate, bring your vehicle and treats to the Post parking lot. The fun starts at 3:00pm and will end at 5:00pm. Costumes are encouraged for all.

For Service members and their dependents, Veterans and Gold Star Families, entrance fees for the National Parks Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and standard amenity recreation fees for the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Forest Service, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sites are waived. For information about eligibility and passes, visit " Free Entrance to National Parks for Veterans and Gold Star Families (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)

Don't forget about our drawing for a free PAID UP FOR LIFE membership on November 11th for all new and renewed members for 2022. You must have a 2022 membership by November 10th.

Jerry Hopper
Post Adjutant



FROM THE DESK OF THE SR. VICE COMMANDER

As many of you know, the 2022 Membership Drive has begun. This year the Department membership quota for Post 209 is 1060 members. The 50% target date was September 22nd and congratulations, we made the 50% target date! Let's make this another successful year for our Post Commander and our Department Commander. If you have any questions or ideas that will help the membership drive, please feel free to contact me. Reach out to your friends and neighbors if they are Veterans. Let them know the reason you joined; for most people the reasons are the same.

We have two incentives going right now once you renew your membership. The first incentive to renew early is that all members that renew or join prior to November 10th will be entered into a drawing for a Paid Up for Life (PUFL) membership. The sooner you renew you have the chance to never have a need to renew again. For all members that are already PUFL members, don't worry you will also be entered into the drawing and if you win instead of another PUFL membership you will receive \$500. The other incentive we have will be our annual early bird dinner on October 15th. The dinner is free to those members that have renewed or joined prior to October 13th and RSVP for the dinner prior to October 13th.

Thanks for everything you do to continue helping Veterans and the youth in our community.

Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Sr. Vice Commander



FROM THE DESK OF THE JR. VICE COMMANDER

We had a great and timely presentation at our September meeting from Jim Griffith. Jim is the coordinator for the Homeless Veteran Stand Down and past chairman for the El Paso County Homeless Veteran Coalition (EPCHVC). He provided an overview of EPCHVC programs and volunteer requirements for the 21 September Homeless Veteran's Stand-down. The Post 209 Family provided 14 volunteers for this year's Stand Down. Coming up, at our October 9

Membership meeting, Katie Travis, Director of Veteran and Family Resources at Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center will provide a presentation of Mt Carmel services and resources. At the 13 November meeting we will cover winter safety before the holidays.

On another note – check out the Walk of Honor at the Post! All of the bricks received so far have been placed in the walk and six flag poles have been added to the walk to display service flags during meetings and events. Lino Calica, Jerry Hopper, Scott Laudan, Kellie Hayes and Steve Hayes pitched in on the update project. Have you ordered your bricks yet? You can get them ordered at <https://polarengraving.com/alpost209>

Steve Hayes
Jr. Vice Commander



FROM THE DESK OF THE UNIT PRESIDENT



Happy October! As we move farther into "sweater weather," my thoughts are turning toward soups, cozy nights around the fire pit with friends & family, baking goodies, and doing crafts.

Our Unit will be hosting a Bunco night on October 3rd from 2-4. Everyone is welcome to come! Cost is \$15.00 per person and there will be prizes awarded.

There will be a Jr. Auxiliary kick off in October, date to be announced. We will be having a tea party to meet everyone, gather ideas, & get our young ladies busy!

We will host a Trunk-or-Treat at the Post in place of our usual Halloween party. I feel this is going to be a lot of fun for everyone this year & it will be something a bit different. We can still dress up, decorate your car, or motorcycle, & help make a memorable event for our visitors.

We are taking applications for the Craft Fair in November. If you are interested in a spot or know someone who might be interested, reach out to me for information. We still have spots open.

We are currently working on our membership drive for the new year. Don't forget to get your membership dues paid early so you will be eligible for the Early Bird dinner in October! This is a dinner that is hosted by the Post and is offered to members free of charge. All you have to do is get your membership dues to Kellie and RSVP by the 13th of October!

Unit members with birthdays in October: Karen Beard; Kendra Bock; Jackie Burd; Susan Calica; Jean Chiadek; Regina DeMent; Shantel Harris; Kari Ann Noechel; Kourtney Kimbrel; Dixie Kliewer; Margie Roth; Mavis Spath; Penny Stanton; Olivia Tighe; Beatrice Trujillo; Debra Weger; Theresa Wiederspahn; Kaitlyn Holland; and Savannah Mussmann. Happy Birthday to all of you & hope your day is special.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly!

Royce Hopper
Unit President





Trivia Night!



Do you want a chance for a free dinner? Or maybe a free beverage?

Do you know what is the longest river in the world?

Do you know what is the largest river in North America?

How about Roy Rogers real name?

What is the President of the United States' address?

If you know the answers to the above and other questions similar to these, or if you fancy yourself a trivia wizard, join us on **Friday, 8 October for our Trivia Night event.**

The fun will start following dinner that night, around 7:00pm. You must be at the Post for the beginning of the contest; late arrivals will not be allowed to play.

Royce Hopper will again serve as Emcee for the event; giving Jay a little more rest.

This will be a team event; teams can be as small as one person or up to four (4) can play on a team.

Cost to compete is \$5.00 per person.

Even if you don't want to play, come on out and watch the fun! But you should consider competing in the contest. You never know, your dinner that night might be free!

FROM THE DESK OF OUR FINANCE OFFICER

There is not a whole lot to say again this month. The participation at the Friday dinners has continued to increase a bit. There are still a lot of people out there who have not returned (yet). We are seeing more new faces at the dinners, which is always a good thing to see happening.

The utility bill is running pretty stable now. The swamp cooler leak apparently was caught rather quickly, there was no impact to the amount of water used (actually went down just a little). As always, I will be continuing to monitor the statements to identify early any issues that may arise.

There is another update on the Tax Exempt status of the Post. The Post has received the certificate from the State of Colorado giving us an exemption from paying Sales Tax on our purchases. This is great news for the Post since the money saved from not Sales Tax helps reduce our expenditures, leaving more funds for supporting OUR Veterans.

And for my normal closing statement, we need your help in identifying fundraising ideas. We are still working to get back to pre-COVID status in order to keep supporting OUR Veterans in the community. Any fundraising idea (think about Kellie's Stick Pony Race) – is welcome.

Joel Haas
Finance Officer



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

Some have been asking and we aim to please!

Butter Braid Sale starting October 15th – November 12th. Delivery date is November 18th. Tell your friends, neighbors, and your neighbors' friends about the sale. Please turn in orders no later than November 12th. I will call or email you with the delivery time. Make checks payable to ALA Unit 209. The price is \$13.00 per Braid. We need the payment before the delivery date. You may call Jackie Bowen, (901) 481-0673 or email jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com, with an order and then mail a check to her or discuss receipt of payment. Watch for reminder/update blasts to be sent. Thanks in advance for helping us make this a success.

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

FROM OUR LOUNGE MANAGER

Happy Fall Everyone!

The Post Museum is now open daily! Feel free to take a look at the past, or at the memorial wall and pay your respects to our gone but never forgotten loved ones. If you would like to add someone to the memorial wall, please email your favorite digital picture with the name, birth date and the date they passed to be printed on the picture. This is at no cost to anyone.

We are also looking to add and expand the Post Museum! If you have military or Legion related items you think may be a good fit and would like to have displayed, email a picture and description. Both memorial wall pictures and potential museums donations can be emailed to Charyse at cnbe89@gmail.com.

Charyse Schmidt
Lounge Manager



FROM THE HEART & DESK OF THE SAL SQUADRON COMMANDER

“We Honor Our Past & We Forge Our Future”

As we entered fall in September, our Squadron continued its work toward renewing participation & expanding our active membership toward fulfilling our important mission within the Legion Family and for our duties to Community, State & Nation.

YOUNG GUNS PROGRAM NEEDS INSTRUCTORS

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

SAL SQUADRON 209 PARTICIPATION INCENTIVE

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

22 OCTOBER HAWAIIAN NIGHT Lū'AU FUNDRAISER

Current District Commander, Past Post Commander Lino Calica & his wife Susan have very generously offered to hold one of their renowned Hawaiian Nights on Friday, 22 October as a fundraiser for the benefit of SAL Squadron 209. The Menu will consist of: Kalua Pig (Pulled Pork); Teriyaki Chicken; Lumpia; Rice; Green Salad; Mac Salad; Dessert & Drinks (Iced Tea, Lemon-aid, Water). All for only \$15 per adult with Children under 12 admitted Free! This promises to be a Great Event of Great Food, Camaraderie & Fun to assist as Squadron 209 drives toward 2022.

As I mentioned in September's newsletter, I've chosen as one focus of my tenure as Squadron 209 Commander, in keeping with the traditional goals of the SAL, the renewal & restoration of The American's Creed in our collective consciousness. To that end I've compiled from various sources the following brief history of The American's Creed and its Author, William Tyler Page.

William Tyler Page & The American's Creed – Compiled by Brian L. A. Wess

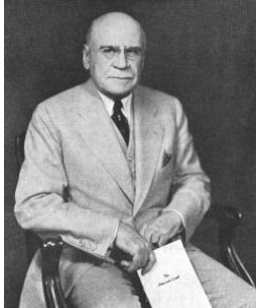
Of the Creed, William Tyler Page once said: "The American's Creed is a summing up, in one hundred words, of the basic principles of American political faith. It is not an expression of individual opinion upon the obligations and duties of American citizenship or with respect to its rights and privileges. It is a summary of the fundamental principles of American political faith as set forth in its greatest documents, its worthiest traditions and by its greatest leaders."

In 1916, the world was embroiled in the Great War (WWI) and many Americans believed that we had become complacent, dwelling on our privileges, having forgotten to be mindful of the duties and obligations of being citizens of the United States of America.

With the entry of the United States into The Great War, Henry Sterling Chapin, New York State Commissioner of Education, conceived the idea to promote a county-wide contest for the writing

of a National Creed. The goal was to achieve a concise but complete as possible statement of American political faith, founded upon fundamentals most distinctive in American history and tradition. **SOMETHING TO REUNITE A TROUBLED COUNTRY.**

The City of Baltimore, birthplace of America's National Anthem, joined in to offer a \$1,000 award for the winning essay and three committees were formed: The Committee of Manuscripts to review all the entries and select the top 50; The Committee on Award to select the winning Creed and the Advisory Committee to endorse the result.



William Tyler Page was born in Frederick, Maryland, in 1868. He was the great-great-grandson of Carter Braxton, member of the House of Burgesses of the Province of Virginia and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Mr. Page was also descended from the tenth President John Tyler (1841-1845). In 1881, at the age of 13, Page traveled to Washington, D.C. to serve as a page in the U.S. Capitol, beginning a 61-year-long career as a national public servant.

In 1917, at the age of 49, Mr. Page wrote the "*American's Creed*" as his submission to Henry Chapin's nationwide patriotic contest. Inspired by the Apostles Creed he recited at church, Page drew on a wide variety of historical documents and speeches, including the Declaration of Independence, the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States of America, The Gettysburg Address and various others. From these inspirations proceeded to craft a simple yet profoundly moving expression of American patriotism described as "brief and simple but remarkably comprehensive of the best in American ideals, history, and tradition, as expressed by the founders of the Republic and its greatest statesmen and writers."

Mr. Page's submission was chosen in March 1918 out of more than 3,000 entries submitted nationwide and on 3 April 1918 it was accepted by the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representative and the U.S. Commissioner of Education. Mr. Page was awarded the winning prize of \$1,000 by the Mayor of the City of Baltimore which he used to purchase Liberty Bonds for the war effort, and then donated them to his church.

In 1919, the year after WWI ended, Mr. Page was elected Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives and in 1931 he was named "Emeritus Minority Clerk", a post created especially for him which he maintained for the remainder of his life. Throughout his entire service he was highly respected by members of both parties as a gentleman whose patriotism was inspirational and whose love of his country was unquestioned.

During the first year of WWII, on 18 October 1942 William Tyler Page gave an address to the women of the Daughters of the American Revolution on the occasion of the Golden (50th) Anniversary of the writing of the "*Pledge of Allegiance*" and recited the Creed, as he had annually for 24 years previous. It was to be his last public appearance. Mr. Page celebrated his 75th Birthday the following day with his family then passed away in quietly his sleep.

The Key Meaning behind each line of The American's Creed as explained by Mr. Page:

I believe in the United States of America: These are the closing words of the Preamble of the Constitution.

As a Government of the People, by the People, for the People: Abraham Lincoln stated this in the Gettysburg Address.

Whose Just Powers are Derived from the Consent of the Governed: Dating back to Jamestown in 1607 & stated by Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence.

A Democracy in a Republic: From James Madison in the Federalist #10.

A Sovereign Nation of Many Sovereign States: From Daniel Webster's speech in the US Senate, Jan. 26, 1830. The Union is 'one and inseparable' because the people have determined that it is best for all the States to remain united and 'governed by their own consent' through their duly-elected representatives.

A Perfect Union, One and Inseparable: From the Preamble to the Constitution encompassing a stronger union resulting from its adoption by all the States. The Supreme Court agreed that 'The Constitution, in all its provisions, looks to an indestructible Union, composed of indestructible States.' The powers of the State Governments are held to be sacred wherever they do not conflict with the good of all as represented in the Federal Government, whose power is granted in the Constitution from the people themselves.

Established upon those Principles of Freedom, Equality, Justice and Humanity for which American Patriots Sacrificed Their Lives and Fortunes: Adapted from the closing lines of the Declaration of Independence. "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our Sacred Honor." American Patriots, from the beginning until now, have offered their lives and fortunes on behalf of the principles to which this Nation has been dedicated.

I Therefore Believe it is My Duty to My Country to Love it: Inspired by a speech from John Hancock "Patriotism is ever united with humanity and compassion. This noble affection which impels us to sacrifice everything dear, even life itself, to our country, involves in it a common sympathy and tenderness for every citizen, and must ever have a particular feeling for one who suffers in a public cause." Nathan Hale said, "I regret I have but one life to give to my country."

To Support its Constitution: From the United States Oath of Allegiance: "I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same...that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion..."

To Obey its Laws: From George Washington's Farewell Address: 'Respect for its authority, compliance with its Laws, acquiescence in its measures, are duties enjoined by the fundamental maxims of true Liberty. The basis of our political system is the right of the people to make and alter their Constitutions of Government. But the Constitution which at any time exists, 'til changed by an explicit and authentic actor of the whole People, is sacredly obligatory upon all. The very idea of the power and the right of the People to establish Government, presupposed the duty of every individual to obey the established Government.'

To Respect its Flag: The Army and Navy Regulations and Flag Etiquette published one year earlier in a War Department Circular, 14 April 1917.

and to Defend it Against All Enemies: Emphasized in the United States Oath of Allegiance.

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

Brian Wess
SAL Commander





NINTH ANNUAL TURKEY SHOOT FUNDRAISER

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

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



THE AMERICAN LEGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (TALARC)

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

First Annual Post 209 Radio Road Rally

Being an avid car-club rallyer I decided to combine the best of both worlds, and have a radio-directed car rally. Directions were given OTA via VHF radio. Participants drove the directed course and answered questions along the route. Aside from my SUV's dead battery, it was a fun day, culminated with a Fish Fry hosted by the local Shriners, thanks to Jim Johnson, W0GTA. First Place winners were rewarded with a 2-meter walkie.

We're planning another licensing test session this month. Check your email for more info in case you'd like to upgrade, or know someone who'd like to get their "ticket!"

Want more information?

Call, email or text me.

73 (Best regards) – Harvey W 1 J U 331-1212 mbca@comcast.net



ORDWAY, COLORADO VETERAN APPOINTED NATIONAL CHAPLAIN OF AMERICAN LEGION

On September 2, 2021 in Phoenix, Arizona, a Coast Guard Veteran from Ordway and a member of Post 209 was appointed National Chaplain of the American Legion during the organization's National Convention. He is the first Chaplain from the state of Colorado in the past 100 years to become a National Chaplain.

Born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii Stanley K. (Pastor Stan) Hamamoto has served as the Chaplain for the American Legion Department of Colorado for the past 7 years. He served in the United Coast Guard from 1952 to 1960.

Before becoming a minister for more than 20 years, Pastor Stan was an accountant for 40 plus years. He is appointed to a one-year term as Chaplain of the largest Veterans' Service organization in the country by American Legion National Commander Paul Dillard of Lake Kiowa, Texas.

He is one of twelve national officers in the American Legion.

FROM OUR AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

Colorado is still full of warm days but the cooler temperatures can't keep the American Legion Post 209 Riders down for one minute. We participated in the Annual ALR ROMP in Buena Vista. Our members came home with a booty of prizes and awards from the Rodeo. We gained a lot of experience as event sponsors for next year's ROMP. Members participated in the M&C Bug Run to Bishop's Castle and an opportune ride locally. Our Color Guard participated in the Fountain Fall Festival Parade and Mountain Falls Parade in conjunction CVMA 3-2 Mission to Zero Pikes Peak Run. Of note, we fielded 9 riders with flags for that event. So proud of 4 riders that accomplished the ride up to Pikes Peak for the very first time. Upcoming events are the Northern Colorado Ride & Roast, Vets for Vets End of Summer Party and Post 5 End of Summer Party. Of note, a major upcoming event is the Neal Thomas Jr. Memorial Ride. Our ALR schedule is coming to end swing and our riders are happy to support these worthwhile events. Ride Safe!

Ed Santos
ALR President



FROM OUR HONOR GUARD CAPTAIN

As expected, the number of events the Honor Guard has supported continues to grow. Unfortunately, so does the number of events that we have to deny the request and the number of events cancelled that the Honor Guard has committed to supporting. We are also seeing more requests for supporting events with the Presentation of Colors. The Presentation of Colors events are usually either during the evening or on the weekends, which makes them a perfect event for those who work during the week to be able to support.

The Honor Guard had the privilege of participating in the Post's 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony. Huge kudos to Jeraud, Marvin Sr, and Stacey (her 1st time doing this type of event) who practiced over and over (and over) to make it so the Presentation of Colors went perfectly. We had a minor hiccup with the rifles, but we worked through it and made things happen. The team is gearing up to represent American Legion Post 209 in the Veteran's Day Parade (COVID permitting). We can always use more assistance with this event since we have multiple members who have physical limitations keeping them from being able to support.

Unfortunately, at this time the Honor Guard is not planning to support school events during the Veteran's Day Week as we have in the past. Schools are setting up their events and schedules now for that week, and we do not have enough personnel with enough availability to commit to events this far out. We will, of course, support an event if a school contacts us closer to that week and we can get enough personnel able to support. While we will do everything we can to support OUR Community, supporting OUR Veteran's Final Honors will obviously always take priority.

As seen in previous articles (and can expect to see in each article in the future), while not everyone has a lot of time to participate in the Honor Guard, all someone needs is the time to participate a night or two for training meetings (2nd & 3rd Tuesday of every month) and even just one event a month. A meeting or two and one event a month is only 3-5 hours. Those 3-5 hours makes a difference for a Veteran and their family. Those 3-5 hours a month can also make a difference for you! **If 10 to 15 members of the Legion, Sons, or Auxiliary gave back with 3-5 hours a month, the Honor Guard could possibly double the number of Final Honors we participate in – and more importantly not have to turn down requests.** If you do not remember/know how to march or fold the flag, we will teach you. We have a member each from both the Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary that have learned to march, use the rifle (AR-15/M4 & M1 Garand), fold the American Flag, and carry/present the Colors. The only two items that a new Honor Guard member needs to get on their own is a Legion cap (or SAL/ALA as applicable) and shoes. All other uniforms items that you need are provided by the Honor Guard. You do not have 3-5 hours a month? That is okay, you can still help the Honor Guard by telling others in the Legion, Sons, or Auxiliary (Post 209 or other Posts in the area) about what the Honor Guard does and the importance of growing in order to meet the increase of requests to support OUR Veterans. Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary members are able to perform every activity that an American Legion Member does *except* during a Final Honors event the presentation of the flag or presentation of the expended rounds to the family. If you or anyone you know might be interested in supporting the Honor Guard, please reach out to me at: (719) 482-4496 or honor.guard@legion209.org

Joel Haas
Honor Guard Captain



FROM OUR POST CHAPLAIN

“UNITY DAY”

“Unity: a quality or state of not being multiple. Oneness. A condition of harmony: Accord.” (Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

October 3rd is “Unity Day.” What – you’ve never heard of it? Our brothers and sisters in Germany know it well.

From the beginning, the city of Berlin was the center stage of the ‘Cold War.’ The Allies had agreed to divide Germany into 4 zones of occupation even before the Nazi surrender. Berlin, 100 miles inside the Soviet zone, was also subject to the Four Powers occupation. In 1949, West Germany was founded. The Soviets created an “East Germany.” By 1961, 3 million East Germans (1/6 of the population) had left through West Berlin. The massive “brain drain” was bleeding the country dry. At midnight on August 13, 1961, Berlin subway trains were halted at the border. Tanks, trucks, and troops rolled into the city. Barbed wire fencing was put up and crews constructed a 28-mile concrete wall dividing the city. On the East side, a 200-yard “No Man’s Land” bordered the wall. Over the years, 5,000 people figured a way to escape. Eighty died trying. It was the *Schandmauer* – the “Wall of Shame.” President Kennedy visited the wall in 1963 and proclaimed, “*Ich bin ein Berliner!*” (“I am a Berliner!”).

Twenty years passed; and then something extraordinary happened. In 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev assumed the head of the Soviet Union. He introduced *Glasnost* – an openness to bring democratic reform, and *Perestroika*; a reorganization of basic economic and political institutions in Soviet society. The entire European system of communism began to crack. On June 12, 1987, President Reagan stood in front of the Brandenburg Gate and said, “*Mr. Gorbachev, ...open this Gate! Tear down this wall!*”

Two years later in 1989, Stalinism collapsed. The people spoke, with massive demonstrations for freedom of assembly, freedom of the press, and free elections. They spoke in Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland. By July of that year, the communist party began to splinter. On November 9, at the end of a press briefing, the East German government announced it would open the border and allow citizens to travel freely including *through the Berlin Wall*. At the stroke of midnight, a panel of the wall was lifted away. Strangers embraced; tears flowed; champagne corks popped. The people began singing their national anthem – as one. On October 3, 1990, the Western Allies ceded their post-war occupation powers when formerly communist East Germany joined West Germany to become the Federal Republic of Germany.

Today, America faces threats from all sides, and discord from within. Our situation may also seem hopeless, but it is not. We have faced depressions, wars, and diseases before. We faced them *united*, calling on our faith. “...*fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord; of one mind.*” (Philippians 2:2, NKJV) As long as we remain “One nation under God...”, we will be “INDIVISIBLE.” That is the message of “Unity Day”.

Brad Henderson
Chaplain



CHECK OUT OUR WALK OF HONOR!

Purpose: To remember and honor those Veterans and family members who served and supported their loved one to make this country free!

If you haven't visited the Post in the last few weeks, I recommend you stop by and take a look. Thanks to Past Post Commander Lino Calica's leadership in spearheading the continuing landscaping project in front of our Post Home. Along with the assistance of some key volunteers like Steve and Kellie Hayes, Jerry Hopper, Hilary and Fred Nanpei, Jack Seitz, Mike Barger, Andy Gilbert, Eric Testorff, Joe Schmidt, and Kelvin Calica, our Walk of Honor is starting to take shape.

This two-year project has indeed been a work of passion for our members. It was started in October 2019 with the assistance of Jack Seitz, a former homeless Veteran. This 74 year-old Veteran and former Masonry expert was given a "hand up" by our Post, to include a part-time job from Andy Gilbert. He wanted to "pay it forward" and volunteered his time to build our stone wall where you now see our Post Home sign.

From that beginning we laid out the landscaping plans, which included how to display the bricks we started as a fundraiser. Fighting the ever-evolving changes to the landscaping plan and weather, our project saw delays until recently.

Now, all the bricks that have been purchased and received as of this writing have been laid in front of our rock wall sign, and six flag poles have been erected to support our Nation's Service Branches. But we're not done! We have two Eagle Scout projects, one completed and one in the works designed to beautify our Post Home. Jaden, a Scout in Troop 79 completed his Walk of Honor landscaping Eagle Scout project last year, and Isabel from Troop 77 will be working her project for our Walk of Honor this month. Her project involves creating wheelchair access to the Walk of Honor area and benches around the Memorial area. It is expected to finish this month.

We want to thank all our volunteers for their support and hard work so far. Other than those already mentioned, we want to thank Rich Jakarta for donating 1,200 bricks, Lowe's for donating four pallets of Windsor Blocks and landscaping material, and Andy Gilbert for donating eight tons of red breeze gravel.

So come on out and see the work that's been done. And if you are feeling energetic, we could also use more volunteer help as we continue to make this a showcase for our Post. And it's not too late to buy a brick! See the details on the following page.





AMERICAN LEGION POST 209

THE PREEMINENT VOICE FOR VETERANS • COLORADO SPRINGS, CO



WALK OF HONOR

Buy A Brick Fundraiser!

We are re-introducing an exciting fundraiser for our Post. We are partnering with Polar Engraving to offer our members, family, friends, and our corporate Veteran-friendly supporters an opportunity to purchase an engraved brick to adorn our landscaping project we are working. The engraving uses the same technology as used on tombstones so it's extremely durable. Here are some FAQs:



- **What Are We Having?** A Brick Fundraising Event
- **Why?** To Further Funding of our American Legion Programs
- **What Size Are the Bricks?** 4"x 8" or 8"x 8" bricks for individuals, and 8"x 8" or 12"x 12" bricks for our corporate supporters.
- **What are the Costs for the Individual Bricks?** Prices vary depending on size, style and lettering desired, but typically range from \$90 to \$200. For the 8x8 or 12x12 bricks, you can add a second emblem. Contact the Adjutant for ordering details. There is **NO** additional cost for the second emblem on the larger bricks.
- **What are the Costs for the Corporate/Veteran Supporter Bricks?** Again, prices vary depending on size, style, and lettering but typically range from \$250 to \$500.
- **What is the Difference between Individual and Corporate Bricks?** Individual bricks are identified for Veterans, and family members of Veterans wishing to purchase a brick to honor their Veteran. The corporate bricks are for our Veteran-friendly supporters and businesses who wish to show their continued support to our Nation's heroes by purchasing a brick.
- **Is the Brick Purchase Restricted to Members of the Post 209 Family?** No. We encourage members to buy a brick for themselves as a lasting memory of their association with Post 209. We also welcome anyone to purchase a brick for their Veteran loved one, or to show their support to our Veterans.
- **Can I Buy a 12"x 12" Brick for Myself/Loved One?** Absolutely!
- **Where Do I Go to Buy a Brick?** We have a link on our website. Just visit legion209.org and click on "Walk of Honor." Or, you can visit <http://polarengraving.com/ALPost209> to buy your brick. The site is very user-friendly and will walk you through the design and purchase. You will be able to see a preview of your brick before finalizing the purchase.
- **How Do I Pay For the Brick?** We have the site setup to accept payment via PayPal or by check. PayPal is an extremely safe way to purchase a brick and you don't need a PayPal account to use it.
- **Where Will the Brick Be Shipped?** All bricks will be shipped to the Post. We will notify you when it arrives and you are welcome to stop by and see the brick you have purchased.
- **What Will Become of My Brick?** It will be placed near the Flagpole at the Post and will be part of the landscaping design we are working. If you are a landscaper or know a good one (preferably a Veteran), have them contact our Adjutant.
- **How Long Will this Fundraiser Effort Last?** We plan to only sell as many bricks as needed for the first phase of the landscaping project. Currently, that is anticipated to be 600 bricks, but that number may change depending on brick sizes purchased and the final design approved by the Post.
- **Will I Have an Opportunity to Buy a Brick Later?** Quite possibly. It depends on what is decided/approved for the next phase of our project.

Order your brick(s) now to ensure you get one in Phase One of our project. If you buy multiple bricks, let our Adjutant know and we will make certain they are all placed together.

BRINGING A LITTLE SOUTH TO THE WEST



Do you remember the first concert you attended? No matter how many I go to, I am actually reminded of my first two concerts and for different reasons.

The first one was when I had just started my Freshmen year of High School. Like so many others my age and during this era, to be cool you had to love Rock 'N' Roll and not like Country. Both of those things was very easy for me...or so I thought. And I was cool.

Every year in late summer or early fall, the Mid-South Fair came to Memphis. It was a week-long event we looked forward to all year long. The Fair included rides and a Midway where you could impress your favorite girl and/or friends with your ball throwing abilities, your dart throwing accuracy, and your eagle eye marksmanship with the BB gun. It also included several concerts throughout the week.

My parents were really not big into concerts (an expense we couldn't afford), but there was one that year they felt they just had to attend, and along with them my brother Bubba, my little sister Debbie, and I were forced to go. My older sister, Dee had gotten married and moved off to Atlanta (man, some people will do some pretty desperate things to get out of going to a Country concert).

I tried to convince my parents I didn't need nor want to go. They weren't concerned about my desires or needs, so I finally gave up and very reluctantly found my seat in the Fairground Coliseum, made up my mind I would not enjoy the concert, and was determined to share my displeasure with everyone around me, especially Mom and Dad.

We were in the "nose-bleed" section of the Coliseum and my Mom brought a pair of binoculars so she and anyone else interested could get a good look at the entertainers. I thought it was a pretty silly idea, after all, who in the world cared about seeing Johnny Cash, June Carter Cash and the Carter Family, Carl Perkins, and the Statler Brothers? After all, they were Country, and Country wasn't cool (hey, that could be the subject of a great song!).

The show started off with Carl Perkins. He broke out with *Blue Suede Shoes*, a song I was very familiar with as sung by Elvis, but I didn't know it was written and first recorded by Carl. And apparently, Carl's version actually sold more records than the version sung by "The King" later.

After Carl sang a few of his hits (which I had to admit was pretty good), the Statler Brothers came on stage. I had no idea who they were, but when they started their show with *Countin' Flowers on the Wall*, I immediately recognized them. That was a huge cross-over song that was very popular on both the Rock and Country charts. That was the first time I asked Mom to let me borrow the binoculars. Their show was extremely funny and very entertaining.

Then Johnny took over the stage, along with June and the rest of the Carter family. He sang many of his hits including *Ring of Fire*, *Walk the Line*, and *Folsom Prison Blues*. I didn't connect him with those songs, many of which were also played frequently on the Rock station. Like the Statler's, his show also included some pretty funny moments, thanks to June. By the end of the concert, I think I used the binoculars as much or even more than Mom. That night, I became a life-long Country fan.






















The first concert I attended without my parents was during my senior year. It was Three Dog Night. They put on an amazing show and sang all their hits, including *One (Is the Loneliness Number)* and *Joy to the World*. While I thoroughly enjoyed the concert, I have to admit it ran a pretty distant second to the Johnny Cash show from a few years earlier.

My love for the oldies has not changed, but now it is expanded to include a fondness for Country as well as the old Gospel songs. So now when *I Rock Around the Clock* with my *Friends in Low Places*, *There'll Be Peace in the Valley!*

Jay Bowen

Past Post Commander



October 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Price Varies w/Menu Hamdogger 6:00pm 	2
3 Bunco! Aux. Fundraiser 2:00pm to 4:ish  ALR 33rd High Country Toy Run!	4 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:30pm	5	6 Marksmanship 4:00pm 	7 Young Guns 6:30pm Executive Cmtee Meeting 6:30pm 	8 \$10.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! Trivia Night! 	9 Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00  
10	11 Columbus Day Troop 77 Mtg. 6:30pm	12 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	13 Marksmanship 4:00pm 	14 Young Guns 6:30pm 	15 \$15.00 Meal Early Bird Dinner! 6:00pm RSVP Required! Free to all Early Birds! 	16
17	18 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:30pm	19 ALR Exec. Board 6:00pm Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm  	20 Marksmanship 4:00pm 	21 Young Guns 6:30pm 	22 \$15.00 Meal SAL Fundraising Dinner Hawaiian Night 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	23 Healing Warriors 9:00am
24	25 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:30pm	26 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:30pm  	27 Marksmanship 4:00pm 	28 Young Guns 6:30pm   TALARC EC Meeting 5:00pm	29 \$10.00 Meal 6:00p Aux. Fundraising Dinner for Troop 77 RSVP Required! 	30 Trunk or Treat! 3:00-5:00pm
31 Halloween	Notes:					

November Events of Note:

Veterans' Day Parade! – 6 November
Veterans' Day! – 11 November
Trivia Night! – 12 November
9th Annual Turkey Shoot! – 19 November
Auxiliary Craft Fair! – 20 November
Thanksgiving Day! – 25 November

For schedule updates and more information, visit our website at www.legion209.org