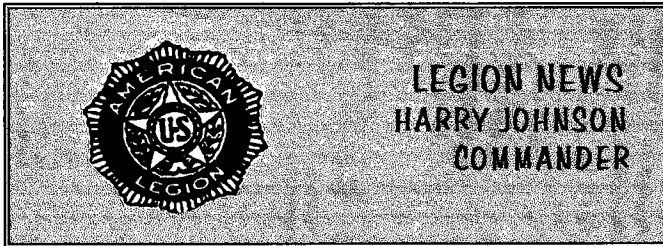


CENTENNIAL POST 209

THE AMERICAN LEGION

OCTOBER 1996



"WHAT PRICE FREEDOM"

Are we too busy to remember the past cost of our Freedom? Freedom which seems to be taken for granted. Freedom which no one seems to appreciate. I guess it is natural for us to become involved in our everyday activities and to take for granted one of humanity's single most important gifts...FREEDOM. I read in the paper and watch on television about people being able to express their views at a meeting, being able to go to the polls and vote for a candidate chosen by the people and not the government, going to the church of their choice, sending your child to a school to learn, not what the government says they will learn, but what a local school board, with the input from parents, says their children will be taught.

Being a member of the American Legion is a privilege, a Freedom if you will.

But with every privilege comes a responsibility. You have the privilege to determine how your Post will be run, what its place in the community will be, what programs it will be involved with. You also have a responsibility to attend its meetings because the only way you can be sure that the Post is following the path you feel it should is to be present and voice your views.

Our next meeting will be October 17th at 7:00 P.M. in the DAV building, corner of Peterson Road and Palmer Park Boulevard, so be at the meeting. Enjoy your Freedom and fulfill your responsibility. We will be happy to see you.

I know it is easy to say "They don't need me; they run it the way they want; those few who control everything." This is a "cop out." All members of Post 209 have the right to speak up and be involved in all activities of Post 209. We need your input to have a successful Post and to carry out the programs we were organized to do. Come see for yourself.

The first few months our renewals came in very well. However, now they have slowed down to a trickle. If you have not sent your renewal in yet, do it now. Your renewal and participation are very important.



OFFICERS

COMMANDER	HARRY JOHNSON
SR VICE COMMANDER	HARRY McFADDEN
JR VICE COMMANDER	JEFF NEW
ADJUTANT	ANN FOSTER
FINANCE OFFICER	LARRY JOHNSON
HISTORIAN	
SCT AT ARMS	ROBERT MYNATT
CHAPLAIN	HOWARD HORNIK
JUDGE ADVOCATE	WALLY LONSINGER
SERVICE OFFICER	
EXEC COMMITTEEMAN	NEAL THOMAS

DUES \$25.00

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

WORLD WAR I
APR 6, 1917 - NOV 11, 1918
WORLD WAR II
DEC 7, 1941 - DEC 31, 1946
KOREAN WAR
JUN 25, 1950 - JAN 31, 1948
VIETNAM WAR
DEC 22, 1961 - MAY 7, 1975
GRENADA & LEBANON
AUG 24, 1982 - JUL 31 1984
PANAMA
DEC 20, 1989 - JAN 31, 1990
PERSIAN GULF
AUG 2, 1990 UNTIL THE
END OF HOSTILITIES

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	BARBARA JOHNSON
1ST VICE PRESIDENT	
2ND VICE PRESIDENT	
SECRETARY/TREASURER	DOT DASSERO
HISTORIAN	
CHAPLAIN	MARCIA SHELLHAMMER
SCT AT ARMS	RUTH HORNIK

DUES \$15.00



AUXILIARY NEWS
BARBARA JOHNSON, PRESIDENT

MEETINGS

3RD THURSDAY 7:00 P.M.
DAV POST #26 PALMER PARK & PETERSON RD.

EDITOR

DOROTHY DASSERO, NALPA

OFFICE

4291 AUSTIN BLUFFS PKY STE 104
COLORADO SPCS CO 80918 2944

I want to thank Dot Dassero for standing in for me at our September meeting. Harry and I attended his 50th high school class reunion in Chattanooga, Tenn. It was fun and we both really enjoyed ourselves.

I was sorry to hear our meeting was so poorly attended. It is very discouraging to plan a meeting only to have so few attend. I personally would like to hear from some of you as to why you do not come. Call me.

The District officers will make their visitation at our October 17th meeting. There will be a potluck at 6:00 P.M., meeting at 7:00 P.M. We will have coffee and cookies after the meeting.

There will be an Early Bird dinner in November. You may eat free if your dues are paid by November 1. Place and date to be decided later.

Don't forget to vote November 5th.

ADJUTANT'S ANNOTATIONS - ANN FOSTER

Our membership for 1997 is now 187. As the Commander said, this is not good. We are a little over 35% of our goal of 501. We need 200 for 40%. If this Post is to continue its mission of veterans helping veterans, we are going to have to do better in our membership.

Convention in Salt Lake City was very interesting, my first trip to that location. Our quarters were two blocks over and two up to the Convention Center. Sounds good but their blocks are big. Between that and the huge space inside the Center, I more than met any aerobic goals for walking.

I attended the Legislation Committee meeting. It had no resolutions to submit to the Convention body but urged all to continue to let your representatives know how you feel about veterans issues and reminded everyone to vote. The main speaker for this meeting was Mrs. Melanie Bowen, State Director of Senator Orrin Hatch's office. She gave an excellent presentation on how to get involved in the legislative process.

I also attended the POW/MIA update. There were three speakers - Carl Ford, formerly of the CIA, who thanked The American Legion for standing firm on POW/MIA issues. Ford said that he has been angry and frustrated for the last three years about what the government has been saying. He specifically stated, "It is shameful. At worst they may have made it possible for the families to lose out on finding out anything more. They seem to be willing to say whatever will justify the end means." Ford also thanked John Sommers, Executive Director of the Legion's Washington, D.C. office and all the young people on the Task Force looking for remains.

Dino L. Carluccio, Legislative Assistant for Senator Bob Smith (R-NH), was the next speaker. He stated that no other veterans group has shown more concern for this issue. He also praised the work of the Task Force. Carluccio pointed out no one has said what happened to Americans captured in northern Laos. Pressure needs to be maintained. Vietnam still thinks it can get away with not providing us what we want.

Brig Gen James L. Campbell, head of the Task Force spoke next, presenting a most impressive slide briefing on how they accomplish their mission. There have been 370 remains repatriated and 121 U. S. identifications completed. They have good reason to believe 582 remains are not recoverable.

The main convention started with Tony Orlando entertaining us. He also did a show the night of the Commander's Banquet. Several major figures gave presentations throughout the Convention, such as Senator John McCain, Jesse Brown, Rep James B. Langley Jr of Maine (he introduced the GI Bill of Health in Congress), Rep Steve Buyer of Indiana (member of House Veterans' Affairs Committee), Bob Dole and Ross Perot. There were many reports given and awards presented.

All of the above means The American Legion is alive and continuing to "Still Serve America." However, this excellent work can only go forward if we do as Commander Johnson has suggested. We need to accept our responsibility to being active participants at whatever level we are able to perform.



**ACTIVITIES
AND OTHER SIMILAR STUFF**

**EARLY BIRD DINNER AND
NEW MEMBER INITIATION**

October 2 - Executive Meeting at the Post's Office.

October 15 - Regular Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- Potluck 6:00 P.M. District Officers yearly visitation. Coffee and cookies following meeting. Please let's show them a good turn-out.

November - Early Bird Dinner - Get your dues in.

December 15 - The Christmas Party is scheduled for December 15 at the V.F.W. Post 4051. Mark your Calendar

The annual Early Bird Recognition Dinner and new member Initiation will be held in November. The exact date and place will be announced in the November Newsletter. The dinner is to reward those who have renewed their membership by 31 October and is free to these members. This includes the members of the Auxiliary. There will be a slight charge for those who have not renewed or are not members.

The Initiation is a formal ceremony which provides information about The American Legion.

MAIL PLEDGE TO: The American Legion Post 209/4291 Austin Bluffs Pky Ste 104/Colorado Spgs CO 80918-2944, so we can help if needed!



"I pledge to support the Flag Protection Amendment by voting for the Red, White and Blue on Election Day."

Mail your pledge to: CFA Inc., P.O. Box 7197, Indianapolis, IN 46207-7197

First Name	M.I.	Last Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Street Address	City	State
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Telephone Number	Are you a veteran? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<input type="text"/>	Are you registered to vote? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Organization	Do you need an absentee ballot? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<input type="text"/>	Do you need a ride to the polls? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
	ZIP	
	<input type="text"/>	