

The Centennial



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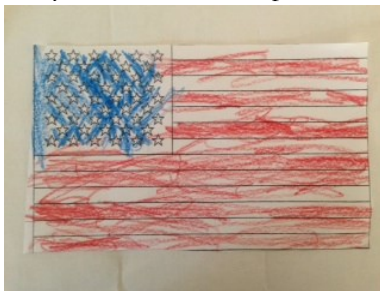
From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Gregory Smith

On this day, September 14th, 200 years ago, a man penned one verse to express his thoughts and view of a battlefield that lasted 25 hours and received some 1800 bombs. His name was Francis Scott Key and his words have become the immortalized patriotism of this country. This one verse has now finished with 314 words and each of them gives us hope, value, and belonging to this great country. It is a covenant of our support to the Veterans who have given so much to include the ultimate sacrifice—their lives.

“From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave,
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave.”

Our schools, around the Colorado Springs area, are continuing to teach patriotism and enable our youth to show their pride for this country. This community is the one that I am proud to reside and empower Veteran and community supports. This was a school project piece, from one of our youth, and a member of our Sons of the American Legion Squadron 209.



by Elliot Smith, age 6

During this past week, I was again humbled by the tragic memories inflicted on our country. On September 11th, 2014, some 13 years after experiencing the greatest loss of human life on this country's soil, I was asked to participate in “The Patriot Day” ceremony to honor those who lost their life on September 11th, 2001 at the World Trade Towers, the Pentagon, and aboard an aircraft that crashed in a Pennsylvania field. It was a time to show respect and acknowledge a moment of silence for those lost. As noted in my speech, from our Department of Colorado American Legion, we must not become complacent and only remember those lost in a single paragraph or occasional reference on television. Those opposed to our way of life are counting on our complacency.

In the coming weeks, we will begin to gather volunteers to help support the “Saluting America” efforts. It is another opportunity for our members and Veterans to share and educate our youth in the community. We did a great job last year in helping two school districts engage with our Veterans and to

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



help teach patriotism to our youth...our future leaders of our community. In talking with those that had the opportunity last year, the youth loved it and had great questions for our Veterans and Legion family members. If you have a chance, get involved and help speak of our experiences and patriotism within the schools. We have a lot of youth and schools that need to hear our words and receive our support.

Another way we are helping our community is by continuing to pass the word; the American Legion Centennial Post 209 has a flag repository in its parking lot. This was an Eagle Scout project completed earlier this year. It is a true representation of the Boy Scouts and their development of our young men of the future. With this said, we will continue to pay honor to those flags that have served through flight over this land. We will be having another flag retirement ceremony on October 19th. There will be more details to come. Please attend and help us render honor.

In the coming months, it will be a time for family and friends. As a Legion family, we must continue to gather strength and demonstrate our friendliness in the community. As we increase our membership, we will be able to learn about more Veterans and their families that need our help from our American Legion Post. As you go through your day, please talk to those in the community about the American Legion. As a mentor once told me, if you believe in the four pillars of the American Legion, you have the strength and knowledge to talk with others about our great organization. Our Post home has an event for everybody. To list just a few upcoming events: Oktoberfest, Halloween party, Christmas party, sporting event parties, and Steak night.

Finally, it is our responsibility, to this country's Veterans, to help those in need. Please get involved. As the second largest Post in Colorado, we will continue to be a model. We have the mid year event coming to Colorado Springs in January, as well as being the host Post for the upcoming Colorado Department Convention in June. We will need your help, generous support, and valued volunteerism. In the coming weeks, there will be many calls / emails going to our members describing the events needs to include committee chairs, committee members, community services, and community resources. Please begin to talk to those that you have networked and take note of how they or their agencies can help us. There is a Veteran or Veteran family in need each and every day.

For our Veterans and their families
Gregory Smith



Auxiliary President Kari Ann Smith

This month was another busy one for the Post 209 family. Despite the fact that no meeting occurred in the month of September, we met at several events as a group. All Patients Day was a huge success. We purchased several items to give out with the help of SAL, ALR, and the Legion family. That same day, there were a few of us that participated in the Vets 4 Vets ride sponsored by the VFW, ALR, Veterans MC, Rough Riders, and Combat Veterans Association. It was wonderful to see all of the support that Veterans give one another, not to mention a beautiful day to ride.

Thank you to Jackie, Linda and Donna for their help in getting the Auxiliary checkbook audited. We appreciate your help. We had several years to audit, but it is all up to date and looking good!

Please remember that we have several meetings involving food throughout the month. Please think about volunteering in the kitchen. We are still working to get groups to rotate these responsibilities, so let Jackie Bowen know when and if you can sign up.

At the last Executive Committee meeting, the most recent Past Post Commander and District Commander, Jay Bowen reminded us that the Department Convention is fast approaching. We will be beginning to plan committees to help us get all of the details for the 2015 Department Convention up and running. Keep your eyes and ears open for that!

Lastly, we have several parties coming up since the holidays are closing in. In October, the ALR will be sponsoring Oktoberfest and we will have our annual Halloween party. In November, we will participate in the Veteran's Day Parade. Finally, in December, we will have the annual Christmas Party. Please also note that we will be having our meeting in October, but not in November or December.

Thank you for all you do for our Veterans!

Serving Proudly,
Kari Ann Smith

Under Construction!

Our Post 209 website is under construction so please bear with us during this time of transition. If you need help, please call the post at (719) 599-8624 or email the adjutant at weaverjrm@comcast.net.

USO breaks Guinness Record Gregory Smith

American Legion Riders Post 209 help support the USO and their mission to support our Veterans and their families. During one of the ALR Post 209 event rides, we and many other Veteran supporters were asked to help the USO and their pledge to gather support through a single signature. The signatures were gathered on an American Flag. On August 30th the USO received word that their goal was achieved and a new Guinness world record was obtained.

Over 82,000 signatures beat the previous record. The single flag received 115,405 signatures obtained digitally and in-person from all 50 states and seven countries. The picture on the right are some of the American Legion riders that were in attendance for this event.





Motorcycle Minute Andrew Gilbert ALR President Post 209

This month's article is about encouragement. We have all had one of those days when things seem to go (let's say not well). Then at the end of the day you happen into one of those people who let you know that another day is coming. Hopefully it starts with family and friends. That new day will hopefully be a better one.

This evening, a family member came by my place to print an email. Just a simple email. I am glad he did. When we were done printing this email, we decided to go to Rocky Mountain Brewery. (In full disclosure, he has sponsored us generously on a few ALR functions.) For this I am extremely thankful, we decided to come down to his place and return sponsorship to him as I have for many years. (We like the place)

This reminded me of the old saying that steel sharpens steel. As with my brothers and sisters in the American Legion family and my own family, I realized that I like to surround myself with encouraging and winning people.

My old friend Duane continually reminds me about how blessed I am without actually saying so and how we need to encourage each other.

He mentioned a conversation we had which helped him get over a painful part of his life and put it behind him. This is why we have good friends and family. We need to hang around friends and family who encourage and support us. During some of my personal most difficult challenges in life, he has helped to provide the same great wisdom. I didn't ask his advice directly, but received exactly what I needed to hear with a positive word.

Again tonight I was reminded that we need to surround ourselves with positive thoughts. We discussed how the news was always discouraging and how he had a great cure for this. He likes to listen to Tom Brokaw and his stories of the greatest generation. This was a time of great giving to the cause of keeping America free. No sacrifice was too small when focusing on the real goals. (Win the War) Tom Brokaw seems to bring these stories of challenge to the forefront.

This is when I realized what a positive family the American Legion was. Saturday, I decided to support Post 209 AL in the morning and the Vet 4 Vet run in the afternoon. Jean approached me about an article she read about motorcycle safety. She mentioned that she read the article and agreed with the safety concepts that I mentioned. She will spread the word to others about the article and others will be encouraged. Thanks Duane and Jean for helping to keep my positive.

I can't forget my brothers and sisters who encourage us every day. Let's make it a habit to find one positive thing and share it with a friend.

13 September we had a great retirement event at the USAFA and Vet 4 Vet run. 20 September we had an incredible time at Bishop's Castle.

Andrew Gilbert, President
ALR Post 209

Newsletter Folding

Every month, 6 to 8 Legion Family members get together for a couple of hours for the purpose of folding and tabbing the newsletter in preparation for mailing. As stated, it usually takes just a couple of hours once a month. We are constantly looking for members of The American Legion Family to come and help fold and tab the newsletter in order to mail it to you. Do you have a couple of hours a month that you could donate to folding the newsletter? Maybe folding and tabbing the newsletter does not appeal to you, but, maybe you would consider working on one of the other committees and activities that we must fill and keep going. If so, how about coming down to a meeting and letting us know. With over 1,000 American Legion Family members and growing we need to start getting more of you involved with the operation of the Post and American Legion programs.



Centennial Squadron 209 SAL Commander

Rick Kettering

As we work at increasing our membership we should also increase our knowledge of the organization as well. This is what the parts of our Sons of The American Legion emblem mean.

The design of our emblem was taken from the emblem of our parent organization, but is oval in shape to be easily distinguished.

The star in the center represents our country, and the five points of the star represent the Five-Point Program of the Sons of the American Legion.

The sun in the background represents the Sons of The American Legion and the rays represent the loyalty of its membership.

The blue of the emblem, like the blue of our flag, stands for justice.

The two stars in the blue border stand for freedom and democracy.

The wreath below the star is in memory of our comrades, and those of our fathers who willingly gave their lives for their country.

The 10 points of the emblem represent the Ten Ideals of every Legion son.

CHAPLAIN REPORT

October 2014

During the month of August I sent three sympathy cards. I need all of your help to keep me informed about anyone who has passed away or if their service is pending. I would rather hear from many of you than none at all. If there is anyone who you know needs to have consultation, please let me know. I will need their name, phone number and what is wrong with them. It would be nice if you contact them before hand and tell them that I plan to call them. From the Chaplain part there really is not much to report on. My main goal is to make sure that you all go to church. It only takes one hour to do this. If anyone of you needs help, please call me. My last three words are: GO TO CHURCH!

Shalom,
Pastor Stan Hamamoto
Post Chaplain

FROM THE ADJUTANT:

Marvin Weaver, Jr.

Department is running two different membership drives this year. The first is for each new member you recruit; you and the new member are entered into a drawing to be held at Department Convention for \$1,500. For each new member you recruit you get an entry into the drawing. The other membership drive is for the Legion's Centennial pistol that National is having made. If we as a Department recruit 4,000 new members, this pistol will be raffled off at Department Convention. The 2015 membership renewals are going well but we still have more to do. The Early Bird dinner will be held on October 17th. All you have to do to be able to get this free dinner is to have paid your 2015 membership dues and make an RSVP for the meal. I look forward to seeing you at the Post.

We are planning to have a member of Congressman Doug Lamborn's office at the October meeting to discuss Veteran issues that are before Congress and give an update on the El Paso County Veterans' Cemetery at the October General Membership Meeting. If you want to be informed on what is going on in Washington make plans to attend.

American Legion Post 209

Judge Advocate

Chuck Zeitvogel

Vote – Get Out The Vote!

Get out the vote and the power of one, along with comments about wearing Legion apparel at political events were themes in my September comments for this newsletter.

This month is a bit of a follow-up to those themes to illustrate the Power of One Vote taken from a letter to the editor printed in *The Gazette* several years ago, and I quote:

- In 1645, one vote gave Oliver Cromwell control of England.
- In 1649, one vote caused Charles I of England to be executed.
- In 1776, one vote gave America the English language instead of German.
- In 1845, one vote brought Texas into the Union.
- In 1868, one vote saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment.
- In 1876, one vote gave Rutherford B. Hayes the presidency of the U.S.
- In 1876, one vote changed France from a monarchy to a Republic.
- In 1923, one vote gave Adolph Hitler leadership of the Nazi Party.

Okay just imagine - those votes, which change history, could have been either yours or mine had we been there in those times. WOW!

But we are here now in the United States of America and the issues before us as voters in our local, state, and national government need our attention and consideration. It's a challenge considering all the conflicting political advertisements heard and seen on the news media, be it radio, TV, or magazine articles. Regardless, the challenges are ours and how we vote or not vote (our individual Power of One vote) may be what determines how we are governed and taxed in the future.

I am now asking for your help in coming up with new and other examples of where and when one vote made a difference. Send examples you know of to me here at American Legion Post 209. Use the address shown in the letterhead of this newsletter. Your help will be appreciated and the examples used in future articles.

VA Aid and Attendance

Have you provided a plan for yourself or your spouse for your later years? What about money for assisted living, nursing home, or home health care? Did you know that the VA Aid and Attendance program can provide you with up to \$25,020 per year TAX FREE, or up to \$13,560 TAX FREE for your spouse to help pay for these expenses? As a wartime veteran you may qualify.

American Legion Centennial Post 209 will be hosting a presentation of the VA Aid and Attendance program during the general business meeting at 10:00 am, October 11, 2014. Guest speaker Rodney Miller will be on hand to explain the program and answer any questions. The need for assistance does NOT have to be service related.

Veterans who honorably served our country in time of war deserve the opportunity for peace of mind in later years that this program may provide. Come on out to the October meeting at Post 209, 3613 Jeannine Drive, and see if you may qualify for these funds.

For God and Country
Eric Testorff
Junior Vice Commander
American Legion Centennial Post 209



Rodney Miller

Senior Vice Commander Lino Calica

The Forgotten 4th Verse of the Star Spangle Banner

“Oh! Thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand between their loved homes and the war's desolation! Blest with victory and peace, May the heaven-rescued land Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation. Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just, And, this be our motto: ***"In God is our trust."*** And the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph shall wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!”

The words above are the lyrics from our National Anthem, The Star Spangled Banner. It is the forgotten 4th verse, that has more meaning in our world today, than the verse that we always, sing for various celebrations and events. Strife, beheadings, shootings are happening all over the world. **As President Reagan warned, “IF we ever forget that we’re one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under.”** Now more than ever, we need to pray and put our trust in God. Again, our soldiers are called to return to duty overseas, to protect our freedom and our nation. God Bless the American Soldier and God Bless America.

New Phone System

The Post has gotten a new phone system so that we can keep in better contact with our legion family and guests.

The Meaning Of The Preamble To The American Legion Constitution Part 3

You are doing well, only five more lines and definitions to go. Doesn't seem so hard now, does it? Whenever we have the definition of something it seems to be much easier, eh?

TO COMBAT THE AUTOCRACY OF BOTH THE CLASSES AND THE MASSES...

This clause places the Legionnaire on the side of right in opposing autocracy by either class or mass when this threatens. In a democracy such as ours, composed as it is of all nationalities, races, creeds and economic groups, there are bound to be both classes and masses. Indeed, the masses are composed of classes - but all groups within the mass must feel assured that in this nation, reason and fairness will prevail in all human activities and relations.

TO MAKE RIGHT THE MASTER OF MIGHT...

Many wars have been started by dictators who wanted their might to be the right. If human freedom is not to perish from the earth, right must always be master of might. The right of small nations must be protected against the tyranny that powerful neighbors may seek to impose on them, just as the rights of minorities in our society must be protected and respected. Legionnaires are pledged by this clause always to stand with the right, protect the weak and preserve the liberties of the individual. This concept is the basis of The American Legion's continued advocacy of a strong national preparedness so as to achieve the ideal situation that right will be backed by adequate might.

TO PROMOTE PEACE AND GOOD WILL ON EARTH

Until the entire world becomes a good neighborhood, Legionnaires must continue the efforts to promote peace and good will on earth. It is in pursuance of this founding ideal that The American Legion has supported from the beginning and seeks to strengthen the United Nations organization. Obliquely, The American Legion also contributes to this ideal by firmly supporting a strong national defense to discourage breaking of the peace by aggressors.

Thank you for hanging with me on this Preamble. It would be wild if we could all say it and not need the window shade in the front of the room.

Lyle Hagelberg
Post Service Officer



Gobble Gobble!

SECOND ANNUAL TURKEY SHOOT FUNDRAISER

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

Win your Thanksgiving turkey! You are invited to a Turkey Shoot sponsored by the Young Guns of Post 209. This event will be held at the Post on Steak Night, November 21st 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. The cost will be \$5 for 5 shots at 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 2nd annual Turkey Shoot!

Please RSVP for the Turkey Shoot by calling Ken Taylor at 719-761-4047 or email adjutantsal209@gmail.com

Turkey Shoot Rules

SAFETY! SAFETY! SAFETY!

Always keep the rifle pointed in a safe direction!

Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot!

Always keep your rifle unloaded until ready to shoot!

Shooting will begin at 1900.

Shooting will be 5 shots from the unsupported standing position.

Shooting distance will be 25 feet.

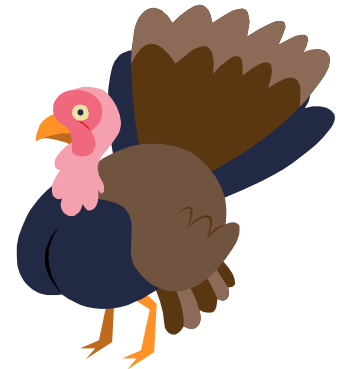
Shooting will be done with one Air Rifle used by the Young Guns.

Scoring will be 10 points for each shot in the bulls eye. Each shot outside the bulls eye will reduce your score according to the number hit.

Any tie will be resolved by a shoot off.

The event will be supervised by our NRA Certified Instructors.

Final decision on scoring will be made by our NRA Certified Instructors.



Rusty Bower's new column to bring a little "salt" to the Post.

Origin of NAVY Terminology Rusty Bower



BOATSWAIN, COCKSWAIN (OR COXSWAIN), SKIFFSWAIN-

As required by 17th century law, British ships-of-war carried three smaller boats -- the boat, the cock boat, and the skiff. The boat -- or gig -- was usually used by the captain to go ashore and was the larger of the three. The cock boat was a very small rowboat used as a ship's tender. The skiff was a lightweight all-purpose vessel. The suffix "swain" means keeper, thus the keepers of the boat, cock and skiff were called boatswain, cockswain and skiffswain respectively. Until 1949, a boatswain's mate 3rd class in the Navy was called a cockswain.

Rusty Bower

Retired Navy Senior Chief

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

It's Over by Jay Bowen

My wife, Jackie and I walked into his private hospital room to find him lying in bed with half of his face covered by an oxygen mask. He looked over at us as we walked into his room and his eyes lit up and a broad smile stretched from one side of the mask to the other. He motioned for us to come over. His first words to me were, "I want you to write my Obituary." I've never had anyone say that to me. Naturally, I was honored by his request, but was initially rendered speechless. I finally gathered my composure and replied, "Absolutely!" He then reached out to the table rolled up to his bed and took a small napkin and turned it over. The words he had written were, "It's Over!!"



Neal Thomas Jr. shed himself of his earthly and sickly shell of a body and departed this world for one of life everlasting on 28 September, never again to suffer disease or sickness. He left this world as he lived it; on his own terms. Many people leave their mark by how they lived. Neal left his not only by how he lived, but also in how he died. He did both with the utmost dignity and always putting the needs of others before himself.

I first met Neal when we moved from Memphis to Colorado Springs in 2005. I transferred my Legion membership to Centennial Post 209, where Neal was serving as the Post Executive Committeeman and I attended a Post meeting. There was something about his demeanor that caught my attention. He reminded me of the EF Hutton commercials; every time he got up to speak, everybody listened. The sidebar conversations that were typical, ceased when he was recognized by the floor. He would speak slowly, measuring every word for impact and to ensure the message was being received in the manner in which he intended. He didn't belabor a point, but he covered each topic thoroughly, often quoting the Post, Department, or National Constitution and By-Laws to support whatever issue he was addressing. He didn't belittle anyone with a differing perspective and he appeared to listen intently to opposing viewpoints, giving me the impression he was ready to debate or acquiesce to another opinion if he felt it made more sense than the stand he took.

Neal served with distinction in the US Air Force in Theater during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He retired in 1976 as a MSGT after more than 26 years of Service to our Nation during a time when it wasn't popular to be on active duty. This didn't matter to him. It wasn't to win a popularity contest that guided Neal to serve, it was to ensure the safety and a way of life for our country and to help protect those less fortunate.

Neal got out of bed every day with the goal to make at least one Veteran's life better. At the end of most days he would lie down not even realizing he had positively impacted lives of many, many Veterans. Neal's contributions and service to The American Legion and the Veteran population are far too many to recount. His American Legion roles included all Post positions, including Commander; he served as Commander of the Department of Colorado from 1988-1989; Alternate National Executive Committeeman, and served on countless Boards at the Post, Department and National levels.



To adequately recount his many contributions to our Veteran population would take a ream of paper, but here are some highlights that had a tremendous impact on thousands. Neal helped start the Transition Assistance Program in the State of Colorado for Service members separating and/or retiring. This program has seen several evolutions since Neal helped start the first class, but the genesis never changed; help our Veterans prepare for the next stage of their life. He worked with local colleges to educate them on special programs for our military and to help position those places of higher learning streamline programs for our active duty personnel and Veterans. He was honored for raising millions of dollars to help improve educational programs for the University of Colorado, Denver. The work he did for those programs benefits our youth and Veterans today and will for years to come. He was a certified mediator and counseled many young active duty and Veteran personnel on everything from finances to marriage issues. He responded to all requests for assistance from Veterans that reached out to our Post, sometimes even reaching into his own pocket to lend temporary help. Neal traveled literally thousands of miles in his car in support of our Veterans.

It's Over!! (cont.)

It is rare indeed that I ever disputed anything Neal said. But this time, I strongly disagree. It is far from being "over." There are generations of family; kids, grandkids, great-grandkids that will keep Neal's memory alive for many years. There are even more Legion family members and Veterans who will do the same. There are Veterans today and for years to come benefitting from his work with the VA and his contributions as a Legionnaire. They may not know it was Neal who was instrumental in getting some of these benefits, but he wouldn't care. No, it's definitely not "over" Mr. Thomas. It is long from being "over." You are the reigning Department of Colorado Legionnaire of the Year; a prestigious recognition celebrating accomplishments honed by a lifetime of service to Veterans and our youth. You were a mentor to many and friend to all.

Most importantly, for those of us such as yourself who know Christ as their Savior, it's not over; it is merely the beginning. Neal moved from temporary life to life everlasting. We'll see him again.



BOGO Blue is underway. Please reach to one of the Post officers to take advantage of the community discount program. 50% of proceeds stay within the post. Buy now, save later.



Young Guns



The Young Guns are continuing to practice for Winchester/NRA marksmanship awards. So far, five shooters have qualified for the first level of the program which is Pro Marksman. These five shooters are now working on the next level which is Marksman. These shooters are all graduates of our Junior Shooting class.

We currently have a Junior Shooting class in session that began their nine week course on September 10th. The class began with a briefing on safety and completion of the 15 point Junior Shooter Safety Pledge. The class will continue with the students learning about the operation of the air rifle and firing their first shots from the bench rest position.



We are always recruiting for our next class which will begin in February or March 2015. The class will be held on Wednesday evenings from 1830 to 2030 and will be limited to 12 students. The class is open to boys and girls ages 10 through 18. All participants and a parent, guardian or other responsible person will be required to attend all classes. Please contact Ken Taylor at 719-761-4047 or email adjutantsal209@gmail.com for more information or to register for the class.

The Young Guns would like to thank the Friends of NRA and Sportsman's Warehouse for sponsoring our program. Their help is greatly appreciated!

\$8 New to the American Legion Post 209!!!! Pasta Dinner \$8

\$8 American Legion Riders' Pasta dinner at 6:00 pm, the second Friday of the each month. \$8

Bringing a Little South to the West Immediate Past Post Commander Jay Bowen

Believe it or not, one of the fond memories I have of growing up in the South is staying with grandparents in Northeast Arkansas on weekends and summer vacations chopping cotton. I didn't appreciate all the life lessons this would offer me while I was getting dragged out of bed just before sunrise and heading to the fields with the garden hoe slung across my shoulders and my arms hanging onto it as if I was wearing a yoke, but looking back I think it helped shape me into the person I am today.

If you are from Southern Colorado, it is likely you are not at all familiar with growing cotton. This is not really a crop conducive to the dry conditions we have here. But the humid, rainy spring and summer that is normal in the South makes cotton the crop of choice for many farmers. And at one time, cotton was a very lucrative crop, domestically and as an export. Today, farmers are trying to figure out how to plant and grow polyester.

But I digress. I was blessed to have grown up knowing both my maternal and paternal grandparents. In many ways they were very similar, and in other ways they were diametrically opposites. They both farmed similar crops; cotton and soybeans primarily. As we used to say, "They worked for the other fella," meaning they were sharecroppers. They owned the little shack in which they lived, but the approximate 400 acres they worked belonged to someone else. They would get a percentage of the yield from their labors each year.

Working the cotton fields with my grandparents was the interesting part. My Father's Father (Granddad) was easy to please. He just wanted all the grass and weeds cut out of the cotton. Now my Mother's Father (Paw Paw) was not so easy. He also wanted all the grass and weeds chopped down to the root, but he also insisted we leave 3 stalks to a hill. He didn't want 2 and he didn't want 4; it had to be 3. Now, I'm a kid of 8, 9, or 10 years old. None of this made sense to me. How could the same crop in the same part of the country require a different growing strategy? And oh by the way, a cocklebur and a cotton stalk at about 6" to 12" looks almost EXACTLY alike. I could never keep it in my head which was the cotton and which was the weed. Paw Paw, a devout Pentecost, would be on one row and I'd be in the row next to him. Occasionally, he would look over at my poor attempt to weed the cotton, leaving 3 stalks per hill (which in reality would either be two stalks of cotton and one cocklebur or some variance of that). He would stop me and once again try to explain the error and then he, my brother who is a year older and seemed to "get it," and I would get down on our knees while Paw Paw prayed and asked God not to let me be so stupid. During the prayers, I would occasionally peek to see who might be watching this odd scene, although in reality we were in a field miles away from civilization so no one was ever just driving by. It seems we spent more time praying than chopping cotton. I learned more about how to pray than I did how to chop cotton. Interestingly, Granddad never cared much about how I chopped, only that I was there doing it. And then on Saturday I'd get my \$5 (that was the going rate) for the week of 12 hour days, and we'd head to the town so I could buy the latest toy in the Ben Franklin five and dime.

I learned many things growing up and working the cotton fields. I learned you get an honest day's pay for an honest day's work. I discovered the thrill of earning money and being able to spend what I earned. I learned that sometimes God doesn't always answer our prayers and give us what we ask (I'm still pretty stupid about chopping cotton). One of the best lessons was that there is more than one way to succeed. You don't always have to leave 3 stalks per hill.

Umm, Umm, Good! **Butter Braid Sale**

Starting Oct 3, 2014 we will be doing another Butter Braids sale. Please turn in orders by November 2nd. Delivery date is Nov 12th at 12:00pm. Make checks payable to American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209. Ask your neighbors, friends, and relatives to place an order. We need the payment before the delivery date. You may call Jackie Bowen with an order and then mail a check to her or discuss receipt of payment when you call. Thanks in advance for helping us make this a success.

FLAVORS:

Caramel Rolls (9 rolls), Cherry, Apple, Blueberry Cream Cheese, Cinnamon, Strawberry & Cream Cheese

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



Post Officers 2014-2015

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Gregory Smith	520-784-3555
Sr. Vice Cdr	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Jr. Vice Cdr	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177
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	Rob Johnson	719-421-9201
Post Executive Committeeman		
Service Officer	Lyle Hagelberg	719-594-4039
Judge Advocate	Chuck Zeitvogel	719-531-0546
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610



Auxiliary Officers 2014-2015

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Kari Ann Smith	520-784-3193
Vice President	Theresa Wiederspahn	719-360-1064
Secretary	Lynn Thomas	719-392-1510
Treasurer	Donna Testorff	719-510-4567
Chaplain	Joan Ciani	719-579-9194
Sergeant-At-Arms	Becky Hall	719-231-0597
Historian	Pat Weaver	719-638-4763



Sons of The American Legion 2014-2015

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Rick Kettering	813-967-6680
1st Vice Commander		
Adjutant	Ken Taylor	719-495-8190
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Don Shuck	719-575-0539
Chaplain		
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	John Duenas	719-291-9733
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



6 Nov	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
7 Nov	Hamdogger 6:00 pm
8 Nov	Veterans' Parade!! Take time to be involved
14 Nov	ALR Pasta Dinner 6:00 pm Be a supporter of ALR **RSVP REQUIRED
21 Nov	Steak Night! 6:00 pm **RSVP REQUIRED
25 Nov	ALR General Membership Meeting (5:30 social hour) SAL Membership Meeting (6:00)
27 Nov	HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!
4 Dec	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
5 Dec	Hamdogger 6:00 pm
7 Dec	Pearl Harbor Day
12 Dec	ALR Pasta Dinner 6:00 pm
13 Dec	CHRISTMAS PARTY!!!! Special Visitor.....
25 Dec	MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!
2 Jan 2015	Hamdogger CANCELLED
8 Jan	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
9 Jan	ALR Pasta Dinner CANCELLED
10 Jan	General Membership Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary Meetings 10:00 am
16 Jan	Steak Night! 6:00 pm **RSVP REQUIRED
22-25 Jan	Mid-Year Conference; Colorado Springs' Elegante Hotel (Volunteers needed)
23 Jan	Fish Fry 6:00 pm **RSVP REQUIRED
27 Jan	ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30 pm (5:30 social hour) SAL Membership Meeting (6:00)
5 Feb	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
6 Feb	Hamdogger 6:00 pm
13 Feb	ALR Pasta Dinner 6:00 pm
14 Feb	General Membership Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary meetings 10:00 am
14 Feb	Happy Valentines Day!
20 Feb	Steak Night! 6:00 pm **RSVP REQUIRED
24 Feb	ALR General Membership Meeting (5:30 social hour) SAL Membership Meeting (6:00)























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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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~ October 2014 ~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Young Guns 1830 hrs 	2 Executive Committee Meeting 1830 hrs. 	3 Hamdogger, 1800 hrs. 	4 Mountain Shadow Ride for Breast Cancer Awareness; ALR Event Post 209 8:30 KSU 
5 ALR Toy Ride 10:00 a at Post 209 KSU 10:30 	6	7	8 Young Guns 1830 hrs 	9	10 Pasta Dinner !! NEW!! ALR helping Legion Family RSVP 6:00 p 	11 General Membership Breakfast 0900 Meeting 1000  
12	13	14	15 Young Guns 1830 hrs 	16	17 Early Bird Dinner 1800 hrs. RSVP Req'd 	18
19 ALR End Of Season PARTY!!!! 1300 Flag Retirement 1300 	20	21	22 Young Guns 1830 hrs 	23	24 Oktoberfest 1800 hrs. RSVP Req'd   	25
26 Halloween Party Legion Family Event   	27	28 ALR Monthly Meeting 1830 hrs. Social 1730 SAL Squadron 209 1800 hrs 	29 Young Guns 1830 hrs 	30	31	1

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