



Centennial Post 209

P.O. Box 15461
Colorado Springs, CO 80935

September 1986

Fellow Legionnaires:

I must tell you that if you missed the First Annual Post 209 Picnic -- you really missed a beautiful outing. The weather even cooperated and everyone really enjoyed themselves. A special thanks to a couple of guys who really put forth the efforts to make this picnic a success -- George Wood and Tom Bender. Thanks guys for a job well done.

I am glad that we had the opportunity to enjoy ourselves before we received the bad news that we were being sued. It appears that we have not paid enough for our mistake in attempting to acquire a post home via the Bronco Restaurant Route. The owner saw fit to file a suit contending that we caused him undue hardships and losses due to our failure to accept the offered faulty contract. The matter is currently being handled by a competent attorney that we have retained to represent the post. If you are interested in keeping abreast of this matter, plan now to attend the upcoming post meeting and others that will follow. We will discuss the progress of this matter in post meetings only.

We had a very good turn out at our last post meeting. Several important matters were discussed and voted upon at this meeting. Why not plan now to get involved in matters pertaining to the future of our post and plan to attend the next meeting 18 September 1986. We are usually out by 9:00 p.m. as we strive to start at precisely 7:00 p.m. We are in need of committee members to accomplish some of the things we have planned for this Legion year.

It's now time to renew your membership for 1987. Why not take care of this matter early this year. If you pay your dues before the end of September you will have an "Early Bird" stamp super-imposed across your card which says "You Care."

We have a goal this year within the Department of Colorado to achieve the mark of 23,000 member in 1987. We need help of every legionnaire in the Department of Colorado in achieving this goal. The easiest way to do this is for each member to recruit a new member. I am sure each and everyone of us know at least one person who would join if we asked them -- so ask them.

Don't forget the upcoming "Veterans Appreciation Day" at Fort Lyons on 6 September 1986. I would greatly appreciate it if all who can will plan to attend this function. If you feel that you can possibly make it, get in touch with Big John at 574-0646 and perhaps we can get a car pool to go down to Fort Lyons. I will be in attendance at the National American Legion Convention in Cincinnati until Friday, 5 September 1986. Hopefully, I will be able to attend and I would like to see Post 209 well represented at this function.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

NEAL L. THOMAS JR.
Commander

POW/MIA OBSERVANCE SET FOR MID-SEPTEMBER

Washington (ALNS) -- The national observance of POW/MIA Recognition Day will be September 19, 1986, this year, rather than in Mid-July as in previous years. The change in dates came at the request of individuals and organization to help ensure that more Pow/MIA families could attend ceremonies in their respective home states.

Members of the National League of Families, veterans organizations, and concerned citizens are arranging activities for POW/MIA Recognition Week, September 14 - 19, in each state.

"We hope to increase responsible, Nationwide awareness on the POW/MIA issue," said Ann Mills Griffiths, executive director of the National League of Families, at its office here. "Increased public interest has helped to set the climate for high level negotiations with the Vietnamese and Lao governments."

Griffiths said that joint efforts of veterans organizations, POW/MIA groups, civic associations, family members, and concerned individuals are the most effective signal.

"Further unified efforts show the Indochinese governments that the families, veterans, and the American people fully support the President's efforts to return our missing men - alive and dead - from the Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia."

The National League of families is the coordination point for Recognition Day activities which can include balloon releases, POW/MIA Races for freedom, and special ceremonies to honor missing Americans and return POWs from all wars. The events do not have to be elaborate to be effective, Griffiths emphasized.

VA ESTABLISHES MEANS TEST FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES:

Washington (ALNS) -- Congress and the Veteran's Administration have changed the way medical care is provided to veterans who turn to the VA to take care of their health needs.

Effective 1 July 1986, a Means Test began to be applied to many veterans who go to VA facilities, but who do not have a service-connected disability. Under the Law, which the American Legion vigorously opposed, non-service-connected disabled veterans must verify that their income is below a certain level. The VA will categorize veterans as one of three types.

Category A: Veterans are not subject to an eligibility assessment. That is, either through service-connected disability or through a number of other criteria a veteran will be eligible for care as before the regulations were enacted. Non-service-connected veterans with incomes of \$15,000 or less if single, or \$18,000 or less, if married, plus \$1,000 for each dependent, will also be eligible for care under this category.

Category B: Are veterans who are non-service-connected disabled and whose incomes are above \$15,000 but less than \$20,000 if single, or between \$18,000 and \$25,000 if married, plus \$1,000 for each dependent. In this category, the VA may provide care if space is available.

Category C: Are non-service connected veterans whose income is between \$20,000 (if single) and \$25,000 plus \$1,000 for each dependent. Veterans in this category must agree to pay a deductible equal to what is paid under Medicare, currently \$492.00. The VA may provide care if space is available.

Veterans in Category C who receive care will pay the cost of the care of the \$492.00 deductible, whichever is less for the first 90 days of care during any 365 day period. For each additional 90 days, veterans in this category will pay half of the Medicare deductible, with a limit of \$1,476.00 for hospital visits.

For nursing home care the entire deductible is paid for each 90 days of treatment, and outpatient care will cost 20 percent of the VA outpatient billing rate, which comes to \$16.00 per visit.

Total income under the eligibility guidelines includes Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), U.S. Civil Service retirement, railroad retirement, military retirement, unemployment compensation, total wages from all employers, interest and dividend income, workmen's compensation, Black lung benefits, any other gross income for the calendar year prior to an application for VA care.

The income of spouses and other dependents is also counted. According to the VA, no proof of income will be required, other than completing the requisite forms the VA will provide.

VETERANS NOT SUBJECT TO VA INCOME CRITERIA:

Veterans who are service-connected Disabled.
Former Prisoners of War

Veterans who were exposed to herbicides while serving in Vietnam or to ionizing radiation during the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki or during atmospheric tests, and who are receiving treatments related to that exposure.

Veterans receiving VA pensions

Veterans of the Spanish-American War, The Mexican Border Period, or World War I.

Veterans eligible for medicaid.

The income limits apply to all other non-service-connected disabled veterans, regardless of age.

NOTE: I have received a mountain of paperwork on this subject, much too much to put in this small newsletter. If you would like more information or need questions answered concerning the Means Test, just give me a call, if I don't have the answers I'll get them for you. (George Wood 574-0339).

VA HOME LOANS AIMED AT RECORD YEAR:

The Veterans Administrations Home Loan program spurred by favorable market conditions and low interest rates, is poised for a record-setting year.

VA Administrator Thomas K. Turnage said the popular mortgage guaranty program is running at a pace that will probably exceed \$35 Billion in loan commitments by the end of fiscal year 1986, two months from now. That level, Turnage said, would be the largest dollar volume of loan guaranteed in the program's 42-year history.

With VA guaranteed fixed rate mortgages now at 9½ percent, the lowest in seven years, the agency has experienced extraordinary demands for both new and refinanced loans. Qualified veterans can use their entitlement to purchase, construct, alter, improve, repair or refinance conventional homes, condominiums, and manufactured housing. Loans are made by private lenders, and VA-backing frequently allows veterans to obtain mortgages with little or no down payment.

VA loan guaranty officials said the current level of market activity is being felt throughout the mortgage and housing industry. Processing backlogs are not unique to VA, the officials noted.

Turnage urged veterans to apply early and plan accordingly. "These favorable conditions have boosted home-buying and financing activity all across America," Turnage said. The VA is a significant part of this truly positive economic news," he added.

COMBATTING ILLITERACY A "PLUS" FOR POSTS:

American Legion Posts have a vital part in a national program to combat adult illiteracy in America. Project Literacy U.S. (PLUS) is an unprecedented collaboration between American Broadcasting Companies Inc (ABC) and Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) to address this problem. Studies indicate there are 58 million Americans who are either functionally illiterate or semi-illiterate.

The purpose of Project PLUS is to heighten the awareness of the problem and to seek remedies in the local community.

At present there are 311 local PLUS task forces across the nation in various stages of organization.

At its meeting in May, the National Executive Committee gave the American Legions support for this program through the adoption of a resolution to encourage post to provide program information to their members and the community as National and local programming is developed and announced by ABC and PBS. The following describes the programs currently scheduled by ABC and PBS:

Sept 3 - 10:00 p.m. (EDT) - ABC News documentary -- At a loss for Words: Illiterate in America.

Sept 7 - "This Week with David Brinkley" will address the problem of adult illiteracy.

Sept 8-12 - "ABC World News Tonight" will air a multi-part series as a special assignment.

Sept 17 - 8:00 p.m. (EDT) - PBS will air its documentary on adult illiteracy.

"ABC News Nightline" and "20/20" will cover this topic during their September programming on dates to be announced later.

In addition, public service announcements are being developed for broadcast from September through next May. Featuring experiences of adult learners. Other programming, including those geared for children, are being developed for broadcast.

Naturally, any of these mentioned broadcasts may be delayed by world events that require coverage.

NOTE: As mentioned this is of national interest and is supported by the American Legion. As schedules are released and information is received I will publish it in this newsletter.

BITS AND PIECES:

We are still in need of information requested in the August newsletter.

Help is still needed on Tuesday nites. If you can spare a couple of hours a week or month please contact Dave Thomas at 392-1036 or stop by the Retired Enlisted Association on Tuesday not at 6:30 P.M.

To answer the many phone calls received, here is a list of Committee chairman for Post 209.

Americanism: Thomas H. Bender
2120 Eddington Way
Colorado Springs, Co 80916
574-4322

Boy Scouts: Vacant

Boy's State: Max J. Hoyer
4135 Hollow Rd
Colorado Springs, Co 80917
597-3498

Children & Youth: Rachel Prater
5220 Alteza Dr
Colorado Springs, Co. 80917
598-9432

Community Service: Michael Silk
1130 S. Chelton #516
Colorado Springs, Co 80910
630-0510

Jr. Base Ball: Vacant

Legislation: Neal Thomas
P.O. Box 15161
Colorado Springs, Co. 80935
392-1510

Membership: Joe A. Rodriques
2250 Cather
Colorado Springs, Co. 80916
574-3054

Oratorical: Vacant (Need Volunteer)

Public Relations: Clare Packard
2059 S. Corona
Colorado Springs, Co 80906
471-1354

Don't forget your 1987 Dues. Early Bird program ends 30 September 1986.

Our September post meeting will be 18 Septmeber 1986, Rustic Hills Mall, community Room, Across hall from hardware at 7 P.M.

AUXILIARY CORNER

Ladies:

We got off to a good start for the 1986-87 Auxiliary year. Our first raffle was held August 5th, at the REA Bingo Hall. A beautiful afghan, donated by Connie Wood was raffled off. We have acquired two items for the next raffle on September 2nd: a first prize and second prize offer.

Our first Post-Auxiliary Picnic was a great success! We got to meet several wives that had not come out to other functions. Among some new faces wer the Hudson's who print our newsletter; Tom Bender's lovely wife from Italy and General Jack Forrest and his most gracious wife, Pat. The food was great and the pop and beer were cold! Many thanks to all who participated in the working end of this picnic. Those who missed this treat, try for next year.

The Unit has been having very productive meetings and welcome your input which will enable us to meet our goals. We are preparing our Unit to have a "Garage Sale." We are collecting items and storing them at the home of Connie Wood. We will appreciate any donations and when we have a sufficient amount we will set a date for this project. Call Connie at 574-0339 or Flossie Reese at 591-8960 and we will also pick-up items if necessary. Please help us in this effort, we are including all Legionnaires, their spouses and children. This is a joint effort to help us reach the much needed goals for all veterans and veterans benefits. So dig into your basements, closets, etc. and get rid of those things you really don't want anyway. Right! While we are on the subject, don't forget donations of crafts for Mid-Winter Conference, which will be held in Colorado Springs this year at the Clarion Hotel, November 1st and 2nd. We already have one donation from Connie Wood and another from Virginia Bradford. Contact our Vice President, Ruth Hornik at 596-6345.

Another reminder, on September 6, we will be gojng to Fort Lyons Hospital for the All Patients-All Veterans Day. A wonderful celebration with time to spend and encourage the patients who are veterans like us. We had such a good time last year that my husband and I are cutting our vacation short and coming home on Friday so we can attend this function. Won't you join us? Contact Vice Commander Larry Johnson for any questions or instructions. Let's show our Comrades we care about them.

Thanks from all of the Ladies in the Unit for your support in our behalf. We again invie you to join us on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Rustic Hills Mall. We need you to join our crusade to fight for the veterans rights. Help us do what MUST be done.

A UNIT UNDER GOD, FULFILLING A COMMITMENT

JUNE THOMAS
President

Record of
Payment of Dues
& Membership Application

The American Legion

\$ _____ Dues

Date _____, 19__

Name _____
Street Address _____ Phone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Dues Received By _____
NEW Member () Reinstatement () Renewal ()
Section at right must be completed for NEW members.
(Date of Enlistment) (Branch of Service) (Service Serial No.)
(Date of Separation) (Character of Separation) (Date of Birth)
Social Security No. (Optional) _____

Occupation _____ Blood Type _____ Can you donate? _____
I do not subscribe to the principles of any group opposed to our form of government. I certify that I did not refuse on conscientious, political, or other grounds to subject myself to military discipline or unqualified service during the period I was in the Armed Forces of the United States.

(Signature of Applicant for Membership)
(This form together with dues should be delivered promptly to Post Adjutant or Post Finance Officer.)
Form 13-009 (1980)



RECEIPT
(Issue on receipt of dues)

DATE _____, 19__

Received of _____

\$ _____ in payment of dues for 19__ in Post No. _____

By _____
Your official American Legion Membership Card will be forwarded to you promptly by your Post Adjutant.
You are eligible for membership if you have an honorable separation showing active military service any time during one of the following periods: Apr. 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918; or Dec. 7, 1941, to Dec. 31, 1946; or June 25, 1950, to Jan. 31, 1958; or Dec. 22, 1961, to May 7, 1976. You are also eligible if you are still on active duty but had honorable service during one of the above periods.

PRINTED IN U.S.A.



American Legion Auxiliary APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Department _____ (Applicant's name, Example: Mary Brown, NOT Mrs. John Brown) _____
Unit Name and Number _____ Street Address _____
Mailing Address (if not the same) _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Number _____
Please fill out ONE of the two categories below:
1. MY ELIGIBILITY is through the military service of _____
Name _____ Date of Service From _____ to _____
who is my _____ (state relationship — Father, Husband, Son, Brother, Grandfather)
and is a member of _____ Post No. _____ The American Legion at _____
OR _____ City and State
If the veteran is deceased: _____ at _____
Date of death _____ City and State _____ If Junior Member, give date of birth. _____
Serial Number _____ Date of Birth _____

2. I AM ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP THROUGH MY OWN SERVICE from _____ Date _____ to _____ Date _____ and my Serial Number was _____

"I DO PLEDGE THAT I AM NOT A MEMBER OF AND DO NOT SUBSCRIBE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF ANY GROUPS OPPOSED TO OUR FORM OF GOVERNMENT."

Signature of Applicant _____

Date of Signature _____

Certification: Post Adjutant: _____

(For Item 1)

Unit Secretary: _____

(For Item 2)

White copy — National Record
Yellow copy — Department Record
Pink copy — Unit record

Department or National Headquarters will not accept application written in pencil

PLEASE USE TYPEWRITER IF POSSIBLE

Reprint 5-85

(Sept: 86 News Letter)

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Below a certain level. The VA will categorize VETERANS AS ONE OF THREE TYPES.

Category A VETERANS ARE NOT SUBJECT TO AN ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT. THAT IS, EITHER THROUGH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY OR THROUGH A NUMBER OF OTHER CRITERIA, A VETERAN WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR CARE AS BEFORE THE REGULATIONS WERE ENACTED. NON-SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS WITH INCOMES OF \$15,000 OR LESS, IF SINGLE, OR \$18,000 OR LESS, IF MARRIED, PLUS \$1,000 FOR EACH DEPENDENT, WILL ALSO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CARE UNDER THIS CATEGORY.

IN CATEGORY B ARE VETERANS WHO ARE NON-SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED AND WHOSE INCOMES ARE ABOVE \$15,000 BUT LESS THAN \$20,000 IF SINGLE, OR BETWEEN \$18,000 AND \$25,000 IF MARRIED, PLUS \$1,000 FOR EACH DEPENDENT. IN THIS CATEGORY, THE VA MAY PROVIDE CARE IF SPACE IS AVAILABLE.

IN THE THIRD CATEGORY, CATEGORY C ARE NON-SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS WHOSE INCOME IS BETWEEN \$20,000 (IF SINGLE) AND \$25,000 PLUS \$1,000 FOR EACH DEPENDENT. VETERANS IN THIS CATEGORY MUST AGREE TO PAY A DEDUCTIBLE EQUAL TO WHAT IS PAID UNDER MEDICARE, CURRENTLY \$492. THE VA MAY PROVIDE CARE IF SPACE IS AVAILABLE.

VETERANS in Category C who receive care will pay the cost of the care on the \$492 deductible, whichever is less, for the first 90 days of care during any 365-day period. For each additional 90 days, veterans in this category will pay half of the Medicare deductible, with a limit of \$1,476 for hospital visits.

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- * Veterans receiving V.A. pensions
- * VETERANS of the Spanish-American War, the Mexican Border Period, or World War I.
- * VETERANS eligible for medication.

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The Veterans Administration's Home Loan program, spurred by favorable market conditions and low interest rates, is poised for a record-setting year.

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AT A PACE THAT WILL PROBABLY EXCEED \$35 Billion
IN LOAN COMMITMENTS BY THE END OF FISCAL YEAR
1986, TWO MONTHS FROM NOW. THAT LEVEL, TURNAGE SAID,
WOULD BE THE LARGEST DOLLAR VOLUME OF LOANS
GUARANTEED IN THE PROGRAM'S 42-YEAR HISTORY.

WITH VA-GUARANTEED FIXED RATE MORTGAGES NOW AT
9 1/2 PERCENT, THE LOWEST IN SEVEN YEARS, THE AGENCY
HAS EXPERIENCED EXTRAORDINARY DEMANDS FOR BOTH
NEW AND REFINANCED LOANS. QUALIFIED VETERANS
CAN USE THEIR ENTITLEMENT TO PURCHASE, CONSTRUCT,
ALTER, IMPROVE, REPAIR OR REFINANCE CONVENTIONAL
HOMES, CONDOMINIUMS, AND MANUFACTURED HOUSING.
LOANS ARE MADE BY PRIVATE LENDERS, AND VA-BACKING
FREQUENTLY ALLOWS VETERANS TO OBTAIN MORTGAGES
WITH LITTLE OR NO DOWN PAYMENT.

VA LOAN GUARANTY OFFICIALS SAID THE CURRENT LEVEL
OF MARKET ACTIVITY IS BEING FELT THROUGHOUT THE
MORTGAGE AND HOUSING INDUSTRY. PROCESSING BACKLOGS
ARE NOT UNIQUE TO VA, THE OFFICIALS NOTED.

TURNAGE URGED VETERANS TO APPLY EARLY AND PLAN
ACCORDINGLY. "THESE FAVORABLE CONDITIONS HAVE BOOSTED
HOME-BUYING AND FINANCING ACTIVITY ALL ACROSS
AMERICA," TURNAGE SAID. "THE VA IS A SIGNIFICANT
PART OF THIS TRULY POSITIVE ECONOMIC NEWS," HE ADDED.

Combating illiteracy a "PLUS" For Posts

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"ABC News Nightline" AND "20/20" will cover
THIS TOPIC DURING THEIR SEPTEMBER PROGRAMMING
ON DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

IN ADDITION, PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS
ARE BEING DEVELOPED FOR BROADCAST FROM SEPTEMBER
THROUGH NEXT MAY, FEATURING EXPERIENCES OF
ADULT LEARNERS. OTHER PROGRAMMING, INCLUDING
THOSE GEARED FOR CHILDREN, IS BEING DEVELOPED.
FOR BROADCAST

NATURALLY, ANY OF THESE MENTIONED BROADCASTS
MAY BE DELAYED BY WORLD EVENTS THAT REQUIRE
COVERAGE.

Bits AND Pieces:

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4135 Hollow Rd.
COLO SPRINGS CO 80917
597-3498

Children + Youth: Rachel Prater
5220 ALTEZA DR
Colo Springs Co 80917
598-9432

Community Service: Michael S. IK
1130 S. Chelton #516
Colo Springs Co 80910
630-0510

JR Baseball: VACANT

Legislation: Neal Thomas
P.O. Box 15161
Colo Springs Co 80935
392-1510

Mem Bership: Joe A. Rodriguez
2250 CATHER
Colo Springs Co 80916

ORATORICAL: VACANT (Need volunteer)

Public Relations

CLARE PACKARD

9059 S. CORONA

COLO SPRING CO 80901

Don't forget your 1987 Dues. Early Bird
program end this month.

Our September meeting will be
18 September 1986, Rustic Hills mall,
community room, access hall from Hardware
at 7: p. m.