

THE AMERICAN LEGION – CENTENNIAL POST 209
P.O.Box 25334, Colorado Springs, CO 80936-5334
719-599-8624

SEPTEMBER 2004 – NEWSLETTER

September 11, 2004

BREAKFAST 0900 at TREA, \$6 per person

General Membership Meeting following at 1000
RESERVATIONS BY September 7, 2004

Guest Speaker is Rear Admiral Steven W. Maas, SC, USN

Rear Admiral Maas is the Director of Logistics and Engineering, Headquarters North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command at Peterson Air Force Base, CO.

Officers Comments

COMMANDER-Bill Marshall

Our Heartfelt Condolences

Post 209 extends its deepest condolences to Legionnaire Gene Loughridge, for the loss of his grandson, PFC Nachez Washalanta, who was killed in Iraq. PFC Washalanta was assigned to the 1st Light Armor Recon Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA. Our thoughts and prayers are with Gene, his wife Donna, and their family.

Guest Speaker

Rear Admiral Maas will bring us up to date on Northern Command's role in Homeland Security and how the command is affected when the threat levels change.

Membership

WOW. "Great Balls of Fire." We are still rockin' and rollin.' As of this newsletter, membership is at 65% with renewals, transfers and new members.

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Clean-up

Thank you Don Stowe, Jim Kobelt, and Chuck Zeitvogel, for your help with the cleanup and mowing. We could have used a few more hands.

National Convention

I will be attending the convention from August 27-September 2, in Nashville, TN. I look forward to reporting on the convention at the General Membership meeting September 11. I have been assigned to the Economic-Employment and Veterans Preference Committee and will also be an observer at the Americanism Committee for the screening of Resolutions, as well as getting updates on Boys State, Oratorical and baseball.

JR. VICE COMMANDER – W. W. Bandler

Fellow Legionnaires: We have a change to make for our Christmas luncheon, not of our choosing. The Country Buffet on the North end of Academy went out of business, so they switched us to the Country Buffet at the Citadel Crossing, next to Best Buy, across from the Citadel Mall. We had to move to a different time slot. It will still be on Saturday the 18th of December, but will be from 1300 to 1500. Same price -- \$6.37, all inclusive. Let the cashier know you are with Post 209 and she will direct you to the room set aside for us.

PAST POST COMMANDER – Chuck Zeitvogel

"Blessed Are The Flexible For They Will Not Be Bent Out Of Shape!"

I noticed this sign on a hallway wall at Penrose - St. Francis Hospital recently and believe it poses an interesting piece of humor and advice. I'm passing it on and believe it's appropriate for those of us who are getting along in years and getting set in our ways.

Many authorities in the mental health field suggest that if we lighten up and relax it will lead to a longer and generally more satisfying life. There are times when some of us have a tendency to take ourselves too seriously and get bent out of shape in difficult situations. Several years ago I used the example of humans being like trees. Trees are for the most part normally seen a strong, stiff and straight, yet when exposed to high winds trees will sway and bend to survive. So, like trees, we too need to bend and sway from time to time in the course of human relations, be those in family or professional life.

Vote in the November General Election.

The American Legion consistently has encouraged members to become knowledgeable on political issues and to vote for those who support our views. This past August, primary elections were held in which it was determined who our candidates will be in the November general election. There are so many local, state and national issues at stake that it behooves all

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of us to study the issues to the best of our abilities and vote for the individuals whom we believe will best serve the needs of ourselves, communities and nation. I encourage our Post 209 members to be active this year in the political process. And by all means, take the time to vote in the November general election.

ADJUTANT - Ann Foster

Membership

The good news is we are now at 181 and only four away from 65% of our goal of 285 for 2005. Of course, that means we still have 104 to go to reach the goal. I really want to urge you to consider renewing now, even though you may not have received a renewal notice. One reason is that the Department of Colorado needs to show that we are behind our National Commander candidate Tom Bock. This will be a first for Colorado. Thus, our support means a lot. Another reason is that at this point last year we began to gradually slow down. We spent the rest of the year trying to reach our goal and never did make it until this June. It would not be nice to follow that path again. The last reason is that we have a lot of work to do if we are going to have a Post home within about a year. It would be a big help not to have to spend so much time on membership while trying to do all that it will take for the home and our other Legion programs, activities, etc. I thank those who have renewed and look forward to doing that for those who will be renewing.

Cub Pack 24

The first committee meeting for the Pack was Monday night, the 23rd. Plans were finalized for starting off the school year. The first Pack Meeting will be September 18th, at Washington Elementary School, 924 W Pikes Peak Ave, at 7:00 p.m. Anyone from the Post is welcome to attend. The Cubmaster, John Godwin, his wife Dianne, our Committee Chair, and others were invited to our General Meeting on September 11th. They will tell you about the Pack and about the Popcorn Drive that will start soon after. The money raised from selling popcorn is as important to the Pack as Girl Scout cookie sales are to them. They will not be able to take orders at that time, but they will explain how it will work when they can. So, come prepared to put some faces and names together of the wonderful people working with the young boys we sponsor in Scouting.

Jr. Shooting

The American Legion National Finals are over for another year. They were extremely successful, as the top shooters in both categories broke previous records. The competition was very keen. Two of the Precision contestants already have full scholarships to the University of Kentucky for shooting. One of the Sporter contestants may get an appointment to the US Military Academy for his fine shooting and other attributes. The program at Widefield is getting started for the school year and we are hopeful that down the road some of these young people will qualify for the Finals.

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Pocket Flag Project Pins

Last month I mentioned this project started by Auxiliary and Legionnaires in Arvada CO. They have Scout groups make little folded pocket flags for our military serving overseas to carry in their uniform pockets as a reminder of our support for them. I managed to sell about half of the pins to support the project at the picnic, but I would like to sell the remainder at the September 11th, meeting. The money raised goes to obtain materials for future flags. They are just \$5.00 a piece, so please come prepared to buy me out. Thanks for your help with this worthwhile endeavor.

CHAPLAIN – Mario Taracena

“WE DESERVED TO BE ATTACKED”

Midmorning on September 11th 2001, I received a call from my wife saying in a panic, “Turn on the TV. We are under attack!!!” I did so immediately and was confronted with an unbelievable scenario of chaos and destruction in New York City. As developments continued, the incomprehensible became a reality. This was a diabolical terrorist attack on the U.S.A., directed at civilians.

The obliteration and carnage of the World Trade Center Towers filled Lower Manhattan with fire, black rubble and ash. It left thousands of people frightened, injured and dead. Terrorists with swiftness and evil designs hijacked four commercial airline flights. Two planes slammed into the World Trade Center Twin Towers. Another plane ripped through the Pentagon and a fourth one, probably heading towards Washington D.C., went down and crashed in eastern Pennsylvania. Due to the courage and heroism of some passengers who took action against the terrorists, the fourth plane was stopped.

Although many people and governments around the world expressed their condolences to the United States, others chanted in the streets. In some Islamic countries people fired weapons into the air and distributed candy to children in celebration. They viewed the attack as punishment or retributions that the U.S. deserved. Even some of our “allies” denounced America as greedy and a threat to the world. In France, the day after the painful atrocity, the National Front Party actually cheered with glasses of champagne the collapse of the towers. In England, a member of Parliament even had the audacity of accusing the U.S. government of welcoming the attack as “an ideal pretext to use force to incur global domination and control of the world’s oil supply.”

WHY US?

After WWII, we rebuilt Europe and Japan. Then, after the demise of the Soviet Union and the Cold War, we emerged as the most powerful, prosperous, wealthiest and influential nation in the world. This growth has created hate and resentment. Some countries and international organizations have long blamed us for their adversities and conditions. They resent strongly our culture, technology, ingenuity, economics, democracy, values and personal freedom and rights.

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Islamic nations hate us because they detest modernization and women's rights. They feel they were left behind and humiliated. Most of these countries actually live under autocratic monarchies, dictatorships and repressive governments. Islam has become the only uniting ideology to vent frustration, conflicts and failures. Jihad or Holy War toward infidels and outsiders is behind their violence and terrorism.

Do we deserve the treacherous attack of 9/11? Hell No!!! We never claimed or desired to be an empire and rulers of the world. On the contrary, we have sent troops to avert genocide and keep peace. For this we are called warmongers. We have sent help around the world when natural disasters strike. We have sent food and clothing to the starving and sent billions of dollars in foreign aid to fight diseases and introduce better technology in industrial production and agriculture. For this we are called imperialists. We have sent help to many nations to shed their chains of despotism. For this we are called trigger-happy cowboys. We have lent, in good faith, money to avert economic disaster. We have invested in foreign enterprises to benefit local economies. For this we are called greedy. We have opened commerce and markets around the globe. For this we are called polluters and expansionists.

Those who thought to see us brought down to size, suffered righteous and just retaliation on December 8th when a resolved President gave the Pentagon the go ahead to strike targets in Afghanistan.

The terrorist attack of 9/11 has changed America forever. But this aggression did not rob us of who we are and the values we hold dear to our hearts. As a free society we will risk the opportunity that enemies, foreign and domestic, will take advantage of the situation. President Bush firmly stated: "These acts shattered steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve". He also said, "America was targeted because we are the brightest beacon for freedom and opportunity."

Over three thousand innocent people were murdered on 9/11. Hundreds of American soldiers have shed their blood in Afghanistan, Iraq and other foreign soils fighting terrorism and bringing democratic ideals to oppressed people. Saddam Hussein is gone, the Taliban is disbanded and we continue hunting Ben Laden, fighting Al-Qaida and the Mullahs who issue orders to their fighters to obtain power and control.

Yes, our sense of tranquility and security was shattered, but our resolve was not, and we will continue fighting for our way of life and continue supporting our troops. We will go to whatever length is necessary in the pursuit of liberty and justice.

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Programs Supported by Post 209

- Service to Veterans
- Veterans Day Parade
- Boy's State
- Crawford House for Homeless Veterans
- Stand-Down for Homeless Veterans
- Pikes Peak Veterans Council
- Scouting
- Jr. ROTC
- Jr. Shooting Program
- Oratorical Contest

Coming Events

- 9 September-Executive Committee/Board of Trustees meeting
- 11 September- Membership/Breakfast meeting TREA
- 18 September-Pueblo VA Nursing Home all patients day
- 25 September-Meet the candidates, Post 5

2004-2005 Ad Hoc Committees

- Constitution and Bylaws – Neal Thomas, 719-392-1510
- Property Inventory
 - Office – Ann Foster, 719-599-8624
 - Storage Unit – Larry Johnson, 719-622-0344
- Auxiliary Liaison – Bill Marshall, 719-495-0088
- Sons of the American Legion – Larry Johnson, 719-622-0344

2004-2005 Board of Trustees

- Chairman – Neal Thomas
- Secretary – Alton Cyriaque
- Finance Officer – Norm Moyer
- Commander – Bill Marshall
- Member (3yr) – Alton Cyriaque
- Member (3yr) – Chuck Zeitvogel
- Member (2yr) – Ann Foster
- Member (1yr) – Neal Thomas
- Member (1yr) – Larry Johnson

2004-2005 Meetings

- Post Executive Committee meets 1st Thursday of the month at 4291 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., Ste. 104, at 6:00 p.m.
- Board of Trustees meets 1st Thursday of the month at 4291 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., Ste. 104 immediately following Post Executive Committee Meeting.

2004-2005 Post 209 Officers/Executive Committee	
Commander	Bill Marshall
Sr. Vice Commander	Greg Andries
Jr. Vice Commander	W.W. Bandler
Adjutant	Ann Foster
Finance Officer	Norm Moyer
Historian	Penny Marshall
Sergeant-at-Arms	Robert Rydell
Chaplain	Mario Taracena
Judge Advocate	Larry Johnson
Service Officer	Tom Morant
Post Ex. Committeeman	Neal Thomas
Past Commander	Chuck Zeitvogel
2004-2005 Auxiliary Unit	
President	Dot Dassero
Secretary/Treasurer	Barbara Johnson
Chaplain	Open
Sergeant-at-Arms	Open

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Calendars

September 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Reservations for Breakfast Due. \$6	8	9 Executive Committee/Board of Trustees Meeting	10	11 Post 209 Gen. Membership Mting, TREA, 10 a.m., Breakfast, 9 a.m. Special guest speaker.
12	13	14	15	16	17 Newsletter Items Due	18 Pueblo VA Nursing Home, All patients' activity day
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Post 5 meet the candidates 4:00pm
26	27	28	29	30		

October 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Ex. Comm./Bd of Trustees Mtg.	8	9 Gen. Mbr meeting TREA 1000
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30