The Centennial

VOLUME IX EDITION 9

SEPTEMBER 2019



AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209

3613 JEANNINE DR. COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80917 719-599-8624 VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.LEGION209.ORG

MEET YOUR 2019 - 2020 OFFICERS!!

2019-2020 American Legion Post 209 Officers

Commander: Lino Calica Sr. Vice Commander: Joseph Schmidt Jr. Vice Commander: Desiree Guerra Adjutant: Jerry Hopper

Finance Officer: Mike Barger Executive Committeeman: Marvin Weaver Jr. Chaplain: Stan Hamamoto Historian: Mike Wescott Sgt At Arms: Sarah Tobin

Judge Advocate: Marvin Weaver Sr. Service Officer: Art Carter Building Manager: Art Kimbrel

2019-2020 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers

President: Cathy Barger Vice President: Donna Testorff Secretary: Pat Weaver Treasurer: Kellie Hayes Sgt At Arms: Kris Floyd

Chaplain: Madelyne "Hooty" Newborn Historian: Royce Hopper

2019-2020 Sons of The American Legion Squadron 209 Officers

Commander: Eric Testorff Sr. Vice Commander: Michael Wescott Jr. Vice Commander: Richard Pecoraro Adjutant: Ken Taylor Chaplain: Steve Cox Historian: Evan Schwartzbart

Sgt At Arms: Bob Ingram Immediate Past Commander: Stan Krazinski

2019-2020 American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers

President: Steve Hayes Vice President: Tim McDowell Secretary: Cathy Barger

Treasurer: Kellie Hayes Road Captain: John Hanchek Sgt At Arms: Mark Griffin Pastor: John Coppedge

Communications: Wade Newborn Historian: Andrew Pearson Logistics: Mike Sylvester

2019-2020 Amateur Radio Club Officers

President: Jon Davis KOYOV Secretary: Harvey LeCato W1JU Vice President: George Johnson KEOALQ Treasurer: Henry Russell KCONAJ

Director: Jim Harris WOEM



FROM THE DESK & MIND OF THE COMMANDER

The 2019-2020 school year is upon us once again! Please be on the alert for students as you are driving in the school zones and while buses loading and unloading students. These children will run around the buses without looking. Obey the speed limits to prevent accidents. Our children are very precious!

This has been a very exciting and productive few months as we have begun upgrading the Post. We have made a request to Colorado Springs Utilities to analyze the areas we are using the most energy. The results were the windows and the lighting. In June we replaced 13 windows and in July we converted 110 fluorescent 4' lights to LED lights and replaced approximately 60 incandescent light bulbs at 65 watts to LED light bulbs at 13 watts. With the assistance of all the Post programs, Auxiliary, Legion Riders, Gaming & Club managers, these upgrades were possible. I would like to thank all the members from multiple programs who volunteered their time to complete these tasks. I would also like to thank Art Kimbrel for coming out and making lunch for the volunteers.

There were many activities at the Post and community this past month. We participated in Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo, POW/MIA Recognition Ride, posting the Colors for the Pikes Peaks Veterans National Cemetery by Post 209 Honor Guard, ALR Post 209 Annual Poker Run, which was very successful, and the annual Ice Cream Social at McCandless Veterans Nursing Home, just to name a few. The interactions we have in the community continues as we, The American Legion, share and demonstrate the 4 pillars. Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Defense, Americanism and Children and Youth. Let's get involved. Volunteer your time. Attend and support our Post activities such as post dinners, holiday festivities or contribute items or money to assist in helping our Veterans. We have come across many Veterans and families over the last 3 months that were in need for food and shelter. It is imperative that we are prepared to assist in their needs.

It was a great honor and pleasure to be able to welcome our Past Post Commander and his wife, Philip and Jaye Larsen, at our Friday night dinner on August 23. Commander Philip was the was the Post Commander when they bought our Post building in 2009. They are currently living in Texas. Thank you for stopping by and visiting your Post Commander!

Come out and support the upcoming events that are happening at the Post. Friday night dinners, our next general membership meeting will be Saturday September 14, Healing Warriors monthly on the 4th Saturday, Post Whiskey Session Fundraiser on September 28, at 530 pm, given by Brian Wess, and ALR Neal Thomas Jr. memorial run. They will be traveling to Fort Logan Veteran National Cemetery where Commander Neal Thomas Jr. is laid to rest. Also, Young Guns Junior Shooting will be starting up their classes on September 12.

Finally, we have started working on the Wall of Honor. Jack Sietz has gracefully volunteered his time to install the flagstones on the wall. You may purchase a brick and having it engraved with your name or the name of a loved one who served to protect our great Nation and have a permanent home here at our Post Wall of Honor. To Purchase a brick please go to our website at <u>www.legion209.org</u>. Have a great month everyone!!

Lino Calica

Post Commander S.A.L.T. – Serving and Learning Together



FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPARTMENTCOMMANDER

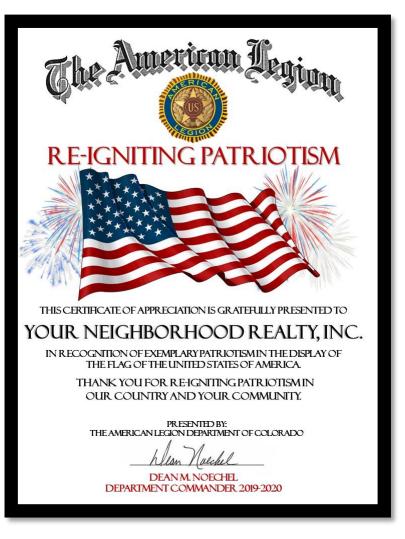
Hello Fellow Post members,

As most of you know my theme this year is RE-IGNITE PATRIOTISM, I would like to ask everyone to recognize our friends, neighbors and our local businesses that are flying our nations colors every day. I have a certificate as you see below to say Thank You. The certificates for the business will be personalized for them. Our flag was first flown on September 3, 1777 and has been the proud symbol of our great Country ever since. I would like to ask all of you to help me say Thank you. Please contact your Post leadership and they can assist you in getting the certificates.

> Dean Noechel 100th Department Commander Department of Colorado 2019-2020 **RE-IGNITE PATRIOTISM**









FROM THE DESK OF THE SR VICE COMMANDER

We are off to amazing start to the new membership year. Only 2 months in and we are almost halfway to our goal of 1,080 members. But we still need you to renew. If you renew by October 14th you will be invited to attend a free dinner at the Post October 18th. This is a way of thanking everyone who have renewed for their continued support of our Post and its programs.

With the passing of the LEGION ACT, every veteran from December 7th, 1941 to today is now eligible for membership in the American Legion. The Legislation signed into law on July 30th, fills in the gaps of war eras and redefines The American Legion's membership eligibility dates. We were happy to welcome Brian Wess to our post as our first member under this act and we hope to continue to see our sisters and brothers not previously eligible come and join our American Legion Family.

I am going to keep it short this month because as I write this, we are only days away from the National Convention in Indianapolis, IN. There will be quite a bit of information to share when we return. Together as a Post I know we are going to make this the best year we have ever had. As always continue to Engage, Involve, Break Barriers, and Work the Programs!

The Absolute Key to Membership Success: WORK THE PROGRAMS!

Joseph A. Schmidt Post Sr. Vice Commander



Never Forget 9/11/2001



FROM THE DESK OF THE FINANCE OFFICER

Another month has gone by and it's time to for the financial report. This report is for the month ending in July 2019. We happen to be in the black at the end of month, \$4036. I know, you're probably thinking. WOW we must be doing good things for this to happen! But let me be the first to tell you that the only reason why we were in the black this month, is because we didn't have 3 checks clear before the end of the month. As of the writing of this newsletter article, those checks have cleared, meaning we are in the red to start the second

week in August. But remember, this will fluctuate with the incoming of membership dues and having to write those checks out to Department.

In the budget I used the quota number we had for membership last year of 1065 members. With that quota, that's a total of \$47925 that it takes to pay for membership. We get \$9 per member as the per capita that stays here at the Post. That means we should show \$9585 coming to us from membership dues. The rest of the money, \$38340, gets split with National and Department (this money isn't even ours, but needs to be counted as money coming in/out).

I'm also finding a few other bills that I was not aware of that will need to be added to our fiscal budget. But that's the reason why when I created the budget, I fudged the numbers by \$3K dollars. When the time comes for the budget in 2020, this will be a more refined budget and we will know any other outstanding bills that need to be paid on a monthly/yearly basis. Also included in the big cost for July was the replacement of the windows. Thanks to Andy Gilbert for getting us a great deal on them and saving us close to \$4K. We are now working on the lighting in the building with the help of Andy Gilbert, we are changing out the old fluorescent bulbs with LED ones. I'd like to thank those that did come in over the weekend on 8/3 to help with this. Hopefully with these changes we've made this year will help with the utilities. Every penny we can save is a penny earned for us to use on our veterans that need some assistance.

Mike Barger Post Finance Officer







FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAPLAIN

FOEGIVENESS, this is something that I can talk about for hours, so do not get me started. But forgiveness is something that many of us and myself included have a very hard time doing. It is not easy to forgive a person when they have hurt you very deeply or have hurt one of your loved ones very deeply. I've been there many times and still have a hard time doing it. Genesis 45: 4 – 5 says: "And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So, they came near. Then he said, "I am Joseph your brother whom you sold into Egypt. But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourself, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life."

As part of the Lord's Prayer, the Lord instructed HIS followers that forgiveness was foundational in our relationship with our heavenly Father. "And forgive us our debts, (sins) (trespass) as we forgive our debtors, (sinners) (trespassers)." Our Lord said it as plainly as can be said. You cannot have a right relationship with God and have a wrong relationship with God's children. Forgiveness is not optional; you must forgive if you're going to live in the favor of God.

Forgiveness is cleansing for the soul, not whitewashing. Forgiveness is a full pardon from pain and the penalty of sin. Forgiveness is a new beginning. Forgiveness is the canceling of a debt. It is the key that unlocks the door of resentment. Forgiveness is born in an act of confession followed by a plunge into the fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel's veins.

Late one night I had a phone call, and I heard sobbing on the other end of the line. It was a dear friend whose wife of many years had just told him she was divorcing him. She had been having an office affair and was in love with another man. He was filled with pain and bitterness. He asked me how he could end the misery. I told him he must forgive his wife completely. "If you don't forgive her, you're going to live your life in an emotional penitentiary. And she will hold the keys until you forgive her." He was in anguish until he came to a place of complete forgiveness and was free. Forgiveness is not for the offending person's benefit. It's for your benefit. If someone has hurt you, for your emotional health and spiritual well-being, forgive them. Be free in the name of our Lord.

I will continue this next month again, I hope that you don't mind for many of need to hear this and sometimes is hard to admit that we cannot forgive someone. As I said at the beginning, I can talk about this forever, but I won't. God Bless you!!!!!

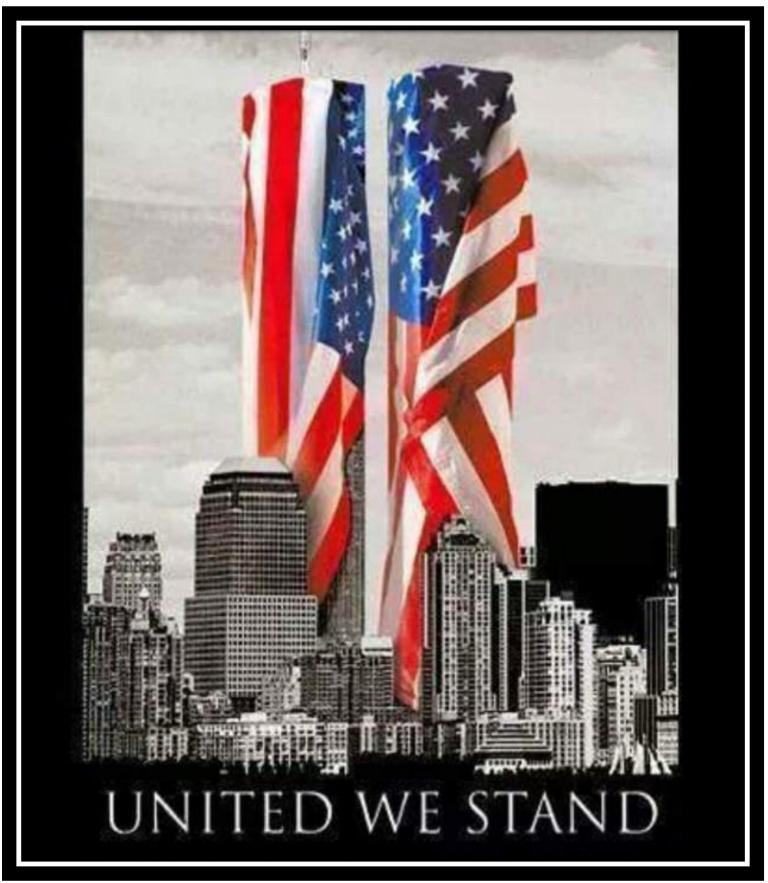
MY LAST THREE WORDS TO ALL OF YOU: GO TO CHURCH!!!

Pastor Stan Hamamoto



Post Chaplain







FROM THE DESK OF THE UNIT PRESIDENT

As we move into September, a new school year has begun, please drive carefully and be alert at school zones and buses dropping off students. As summer will soon be coming to an end and "Old Man Winter" will be here. I want to say thank you to everyone that has volunteered at the Post events and functions throughout the year.

The District 7 Ice Cream Social on August 11 was a hit at the McCandless Veterans' Nursing Home. Everyone that came down had a wonderful time, and I believe that the Veterans really enjoyed the homemade ice cream.

Our monthly membership meeting is September 14th, so come down and join us for breakfast at 9 am, and our meeting at 10:00 am. Just a reminder for Membership, 2020 Membership Drive season has begun, and as an incentive to renew early we are having an Early Bird Dinner. If you renew or join as a new member for 2020 before October 14th, you will get a free dinner on October 18, 2019.

September 21st is "All Activities Day." This day we spend with our Veterans residing in Pueblo at the VA living facilities. If you'd like to join us for this event, the event address is 2600 Oak shire Lane in Pueblo. The actual activities begin at 11:30 pm. There will be a banner reading "American Legion Post 209 Family" across the front of the table. We'll be there around 9:30 am to set up. If you want to come, help get things ready, let me know.

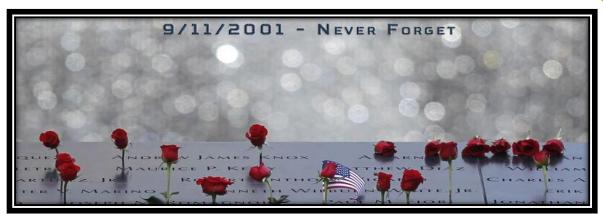
Don't forget that the Healing Warriors are at the Post on the 4th Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; they see the last client at 12:30 p.m., they are here at the post each month.

The homeless Veteran Stand Down on October 15th, we will have a table at the stand down. We've been asked to help provide meals for the Veterans and their family, so keep an eye out for more information on this event.

Happy Birthday to Cleo Allgood, Starr Baines, Lisa (Marie) Brandt, Carmalita Duenas, Barbara Fisher, Vanessa Leiker, Durel Lusher, Amy Mitchell, Linda Mussmann, Judith (Judy) Nelson, Summer Palaroan, Susan Parsons, Katie Kernen, Addy Smith, Joyce Taylor, and Veronica Zeitvogel. Make sure to wish these ladies Happy Birthday when you see them. For more details on what is going on, please look at the calendar at the end of this newsletter.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly!

Cathy Barger



"WE WILL REMEMBER EVERY RESCUER WHO DIED IN HONOR. WE WILL REMEMBER EVERY FAMILY THAT LIVES IN GRIEF. WE WILL REMEMBER..." -GEORGE W. BUSH

H MONROE (SGT/Army) CHARLESTON A ARRY DALE (SGT/Army) TULSA OK (LEE (CPLARMY) NDEPENDENCE, MO SCAR-IR SP414(1) MATTER GA LEROY (PFC/Army) ATESBUES, ME MILTON (PFC/Army) ATESBUES, ME (MILTON (PFC/Arms)) ATESBUESBUES, ME (MILTON (PFC/Arms)) ATESB BANNISTER, RUTTARD WAYNE (PFC/Marine Corps) E BANNISTER, RUSTARD WAYNE (PFC/Marine Corps) E BANNISTER, RUSTARD WAYNE (PFC/Army) LENNO PANNON (PRY CLIFFORD (PFC/Army) LENNO BANNON (PRY CLIFFORD (PFC/Army) MILFOR BANNEL (PFC/Army) MILFOR BANNEL (PFC/Army) MILFOR BANNEL (PFC/Army) PLEASURE VI BANNEL (PFC/Army) PLEASURE VI BANNEL (PFC/Army) PLEASURE VI BANNEL (PFC/Army) CORDOVA BANNEL (PFC/Army) SAN DEC CAPP, RONALT DALE (PFC/Marine Corps) CLINTC BANNEL (PFC/Marine Corps) CLINTC BANNEL (PFC/Marine Corps) MEN BANNISTER MICHAEL BRADFORD (PFC/Marine Corps) MEN BANNISTER MICHAEL BANFOR (PFC/Marine Corps) MEN BANNISTER MICHAEL BANFOR (PFC/Marine Corps) NOT BARAN PHILLIP JOSE (CPL/Army) WOODLAKE BARARE (MES MICHAEL (CPT/Army) GREENVI BARBA PHILLIP JOSE (CPL/Army) MODLAKE BARBAR (DOIS JOSEPH (SGT/Army) NEW YOF BARBAPHIC (PFC/Marine Corps) NOT BARBAPHIC BARBAPHIC (PFC/Marine Corps) NOT BARBAPHIC BARBAPHIC (PFC/Marine Corps) NOT BARBAPHIC BARBAPHIC



BRINGING A LITTLE SOUTH TO THE WEST

When I'm walking down memory lane, I often like to revisit my school days. That's a little strange, because when I was actually in school (except for my senior year), that was the last thing I wanted to think about.

I was never what you would call a "straight A" student. However, I did get an "A" once. I don't remember what subject it was in, but I remember getting the "A" while in the 3rd grade. I think my Dad was so proud he took that Report Card to work and posted it on the bulletin board.

For those who know me pretty well, you've no doubt

heard me say I went to the same school 12,

almost 13 years. While I say that with my tongue firmly implanted in cheek, it was true. I flunked the 10th grade and had to go to Summer School. Not a fun time, and it didn't make my parents very happy. Not only did it spoil my summer fun, it put a damper on their plans as well. But I digress just a little.

It's funny how we remember things. I really don't recall the day-to-day grunge of being at school. But I do have vivid memories of many things that happened. As far back as my grade school days $(1^{st} - 6^{th})$, I occasionally think about Mrs. Steele, the principal. That name fit her well. She would often walk the halls throughout the day and if she caught you loitering, she would pull you off to the side and grill you like a Drill Sergeant. Many a boy or girl being lectured by Mrs. Steele would break down and cry when being questioned. Even if they were innocent, they broke under the stern look and interrogation. She was tall and had an almost Warden-like air in her bearing. I can't watch the movie Grease without thinking about Mrs. Steele. I think they modeled Eve Arden's character after her, in looks and personality.

It's funny the things we remember. I think I remember more about my grade school days than high school. My 3rd grade teacher was Mrs. Beaver (no comments please). She was a very nice lady and looked like a bulldog. Even with her calm and sweet demeanor, she wouldn't hesitate to reach in her desk and break out the paddle. Yes, teachers in my school all the way up to the senior level believed in spankings. Mrs. Beaver would often spank the kids right there in the classroom for all to see. It reminded me of public hangings. When I finally got to Jr. High and High School, we would be taken out into the hallway for a spanking and the teacher would have to get another teacher as a witness. I know this from very personal experience.

My 5th grade teacher was Mrs. Sims. She was my favorite of all grade schoolteachers. She was from Houston, Texas (the reason I remember that so well will be apparent soon). She not only taught us the three "R's" we also learned about the Stock Market (I owned shares of Kodak bought with Monopoly money, and checked it daily), how to do the "Box Waltz" and Square Dance. She made learning fun. But the thing I remember most about Mrs. Sims was the announcement that came over the intercom on 22 November 1963. It was a rainy and dreary day in Memphis when they shared with us that a U.S. President had been assassinated. Mrs. Sims cried like a baby that day and talked about the shame her home state must feel being the site for such a horrific act.

At the risk of digressing one more time, there are certain events that occur in all our lives we never forget, and we can even recall where we were and what we were doing when they happened. For me, those significant events included the Kennedy assassination, our moon landing, and 9/11. Those dates will be forever etched in my memory.

I don't remember the name of my 6th grade teacher, but I remember her well. She was just out of college and the youngest teacher in the school, by what seemed to be many years. She was very pretty but looking back she probably was not memorable as a teacher because the only thing I do remember about her was that she was young and gorgeous. The only thing I remember about that year was my days as a Safety Patrol Co-Captain. That meant I was released from class early and would put on my plastic orange reflective sash and belt. It was orange because I was the Co-Captain. The other Safety Patrol Officers wore a yellow sash and belt. That's what made us stand out. The Safety Patrol officers' job was to stop traffic at the 3 intersections near the school in the mornings and afternoons so the kids could safely cross the street. We'd hold up our Stop Signs and walk out in the middle of the intersection to stop the cars while the kids passed. Back in the day,

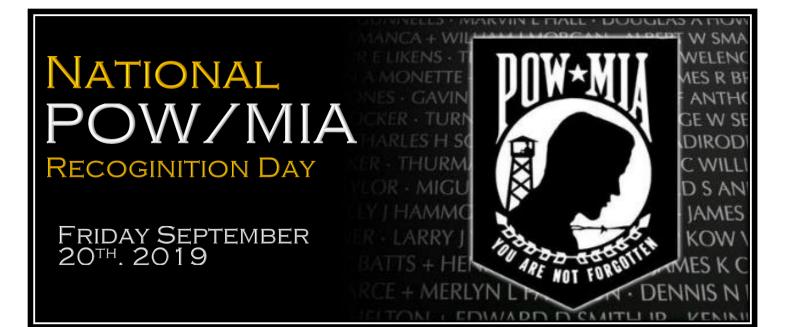
people respected those signs and I don't recall ever having an issue with cars trying to run through the intersection. My primary job was to ensure we had Patrol officers at all the intersections. If one pulled a "no show," I would have to man their station. But most of the time the Safety Patrol officers were there. After all, they were able to leave the classroom early.

I am one of only a handful of Oakhaven School alumni who can say they attended that school for 12 years. Thanks to Facebook, I still stay connected with many of them. We've lost way too many of those kids over the years, but Jackie and I still try to see some of them when we go to Memphis for Christmas. It's not unlike our friends from our military days. You don't have to see them every day to be friends, and we look forward to the dinners when we go back and get together. Although, now most of our conversations are about who just died or who just

had surgery. My how times have changed.







IF WE LEARN NOTHING ELSE From This Tragedy, we Learn that life is short and There is no time for hate.

- Sandy Dahl, the wife of Flight 93 pilot Jason Dahl



American Legion Post 209 Expands Its Reach

The ARC is now fully underway with plans to get our radio station fully operational. We now have our own call sign - KOTAL. We were very fortunate to obtain the call sign suffix 'TAL' for 'The American Legion'. The Legion headquarters call sign is K9TAL.

Two radios have been donated and plans for our station antenna will be submitted to the Executive Committee for their approval. Additionally, October 5th has been set for conducting the Boy Scout Radio Merit Badge

training and certification. Lastly, we were paid a visit by a member of the headquarters staff during which we briefed her about all of our development efforts. This should be published in an upcoming issue of **The American Legion Magazine**.

Our officers of the club's Executive Committee are:

President: Jon Davis KOYOV Vice President: George Johnson KEOALQ Secretary: Harvey LeCato W1JU Treasurer: Henry Russell KCONAJ Director: Jim Harris W0EM

We are proud that there is interest locally to start our own Amateur Radio Club at Post 209 and are seeking interest from Post members who would like to participate in this exciting hobby. Membership meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month at 19:00 at the Post. Please come join us and help us make The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) the best in the American Legion!

For more information contact: Club Secretary, Harvey LeCato Phone: (719) 331-1212 Email: mbca@comcast.net





POST 209 FUNDRAISER - WHISK(E)Y 101 GUIDED SESSION

Saturday, 28 September 2019, 5:30pm to 8:30pm

If you've ever been interested in discovering more about the wide world of whisk(e)y, broadening your knowledge or just figuring out what all the hype is about, this SPECIAL Post Fundraiser is for you. Tied to cultures for centuries, through this fun and information packed 3 hour guided session you will



WHISKY AMBASSADOR



learn about the basics & fundamentals of the historical & resurgent spirit, from how it was invented, produced, crafted and aged to the essential differences between American Bourbon, Irish and Scotch Whiskies, blends and single malts. End up learning the mechanics of how to sensorially evaluate, nose & taste different whiskeys and their different palates through a guided session of a selection of 2 each Irish, Scotch & American whiskies specially selected to exhibit the immensely diverse range of whisk(e)y expressions. With this knowledge you can enjoy a greater appreciation and become a more informed consumer of this historic spirit.

In addition to being a Colorado Springs Real Estate Agent for almost 20 years, Post 209 SAL member Brian L. A. Wess is Colorado's First Executive Bourbon Steward, a Whisky Ambassador and a whiskey aficionado having received multiple certifications for proficiency in Irish, Scotch & Bourbon whiskies. Brian has been actively training with and being guided by Master Distillers, Master Blenders, Ambassadors and Whisk(e)y Experts in the trade for over 20 years through private sessions, classes, tours and visits to over 60 distilleries in Ireland, Scotland and the United States where the world's finest whiskies are crafted. He

has also received specialized training to be able to help guide others and expand the appreciation of this wonderful spirit, its heritage and the dedicated, detailed craftsmanship it takes to produce it.

Brian is volunteering his time to guide and teach this special private session to raise funds for the support of Post 209 with all proceeds after expenses being donated to the Post. This session is limited to a maximum of 30 people and pre-paid reservations are \$35 per person through the Pay Pal link at www.WhiskeyHeritage.com by going to the "Guided Sessions" tab.

You may contact Brian with questions at 719-528-6672



In A Changing World, One Thing Stays The Same:

> The Military Experience.



Between Veterans who have served America, from the fields of Europe to the jungles of Asia to the deserts of the Middle East and everywhere in between!

"WE WILL NOT FAIL

those with whom we've served," was the promise by generations of Veterans. Help us continue the Legacy!

JOIN Today's American Legionbonded through service, committed to the future!



THE AMERICAN LEGION

Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 3613 Jeannine Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80917 (719) 599-8624 www.legion209.org

WAR TIME VETERANS-JOIN US TODAY!!

NEVER FORGET. 09.11.2001

| ✓ August September 2019 October ► | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------|---|---|---|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 1 | 2 Labor Day Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm | 7 |
| 8 | 9 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm | 10 | 11 Patriot Day | 12 Executive Meeting 6:30pm Young Guns 6:30pm | 13 \$10.00 Meal Troop 79 Fundraiser RSVP Required! | 14 Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am |
| 15 | 16 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm ALR Exec. Board | 17 Young Guns 6:30pm | 18 | 19 Capital Fund Meeting Young Guns 6:30pm | 20 \$14.50 meal Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required! | 21 |
| 22 | 23 Fall begins Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm | 24 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm | 25 | 26 Young Guns 6:30pm | | 28 Post 209 Whiskey Session Fundraiser 5:30 pm 🍥 |
| 29 | 30 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm | Notes: | | | | |