

The Centennial



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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Jay Bowen

I love this time of year, but also get pretty upset by the commercialism and our move from tradition in favor of Politically Correctness (PC). Our mailbox (snail mail) is overflowing with companies wanting us to buy their brand of Christmas cards. I'll admit some of them are very cool, but more and more I see our society (and the card companies) moving away from "Merry Christmas" to "Happy Holidays" or "Seasons Greetings."

What has happened to us? When I was a kid, everyone in the country knew it was Christmas season, and the wishes for a Very Merry Christmas came from all you met on the street and in the stores. TV news anchors ended their newscast on 24 December by wishing the viewers a Merry Christmas. There were mentions of God and Jesus publically. Manger scenes of baby Jesus' birth were displayed on lawns at schools and Fire Stations.

Now, we are asked to stay away from the mention of our Christ in favor of saying "Seasons Greetings." Or we can say "Merry Christmas," but the mention of our Lord is frowned upon. Hello! Do they know what the first 6 letters in Christmas spells?

We are told by the PC cops not to mention Christmas. We are told that is because other faiths, such as those that practice Judaism or Islam may not celebrate Christmas or we could possibly upset a non-believer. I'm not buying that. I'm not offended when



I am sick and tired of watching our society migrate to what they believe is a middle ground while at the same time steering us away from the very foundation of our great Nation. There are references to God in all of our original freedom documents. There are statues and references to God in our courts and Capitols. We still put our hand on the Bible and swear to tell the truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God!

I am a firm believer that we won't ever get back to the days when we can let our kids Trick or Treat without parental escorts, and leave our bedroom windows open at night, say the pledge of allegiance to our Flag, and not have metal detectors in our schools until we return to our basic foundation; a God-fearing country that is not ashamed to put God where He belongs; in our daily life. We are the silent majority, and we should speak up! We need to stop being silent or we'll see all the things near and dear to our heart taken away from us.

So folks, from my house to yours, I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. We will always keep God in our heart, our house, and our mind. I will pray that you will also, but won't be offended if you don't. And if you want to wish me a Happy Hanukkah, or Happy Kwanza, I will smile and say thank you. And if you merely wish me Seasons Greetings, I'll try to smile, but don't count on it.

For God and Country,
Jay



Auxiliary President Jackie Bowen

Welcome to our two newest members Renee & Hope Johnson. Renee joined us shortly after her husband joined the Legion. Hope is a junior member and the daughter of Robert and Renee.

Even though the weather teased us with rain, we had a wonderful turn out for the Veterans Day parade. Thank you to all who participated. I would like to personally thank Lyle Hagelberg, Richard Ausmus, Linda O'Riley, Chuck Ford, Nick and Mavis Spath, and Julie Woods for helping decorate the trailer for our members to ride on. A special "Thank You" to Richard Ausmus for donating his truck for the ride.

While looking through some paperwork I came across a poem, "LOVING A SOLDIER" author unknown. I would like to dedicate this to all spouses of our wonderful soldiers; past, present, and Future.

Merry Christmas!



Annual Christmas Party And Silent Auction

The annual Post Christmas will be held on Saturday, 15 December at 6:00 PM.

It will be a Potluck Dinner. I, for one, look forward to the great food and hope you will also bring the recipe so we can include the dish in the Cookbook our Auxiliary is putting together.

There will be a silent auction. If you would like to donate items for this fund raising event, please bring them to the Post. Regardless, come and buy something for Christmas.

Santa Claus will be visiting the Christmas Party. If you are bringing a child, grandchild please bring a wrapped gift with their name on it so Santa can give them a present.

Please RSVP and let us know how many children will be attending and their ages.

Loving A Soldier Author Unknown

Loving a soldier is not always gay,
and loving him is a high price to pay
It's mostly loving with nothing to hold
It's being young, yet feeling old.

It's having him whisper his love to you,
it's whispering back that you love him too.
Then comes a kiss, a promise of love
Knowing you're watched, approved from above.

Reluctantly, painfully, letting him go,
while you're dying inside from wanting him so.
Watching him leave with eyes full of tears
Standing alone with hopes, dreams, and fears.

It's going to church to kneel and pray,
And really meaning the things you say.
And though you know that he's far away,
you keep on loving him more each day.

Being in love will merit your dreams
With thoughts of Heaven, where love's light gleams.
Days go by and no mail for a spell,
you wait for some word to hear that he's well.

Then the letter arrives and you're given to joy.
You're like a small child with a shining new toy.
With fingers a tremble and heart beating fast,
You tear open his letter and read it at last.

Yes, he is well, and misses you so,
And it's filled with love you wanted to know.
Weeks are a month and months are a year,
You're awaiting the day you'll have no more fear.

Time passes slowly yet it's gone very fast.
You're barely aware it is here till it's past.
Yes, loving a soldier brings bitterness and tears.
Loneliness, sadness and despondent years,

Loving a soldier really isn't much fun.
But well worth the price when the battle is won.
Remember he's thinking of you every day,
he's sad and he's lonely for being away.

So love him, miss him and try to be bolder,
And always be proud of "Loving A Soldier"



Post Officers 2012-2013

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Jay Bowen	719-574-1223
Sr. Vice Cdr	Mark Krzeczowski	719-282-1380
Jr. Vice Cdr	Lyle Hagelberg	719-594-4039
Adjutant	Larry Johnson	719-622-0344
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	682-478-9122
Chaplain	Chet Dean	719-244-2442
Sergeant-at-Arms	Don Shuck	719-575-0539
Historian	Gary Baumann	
Post Executive Commit- teeman	Neal Thomas	719-392-1510
Service Officer	C. "Gunny" Raines	719-597-4766
Judge Advocate	Chuck Zeitvogel	719-531-0546
Past Commander	Bill Marshall	719-495-0088
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610

Post Email: centennialtwozeronine@yahoo.com
 Web Site: www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org



Auxiliary Officers 2012-2013

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Jackie Bowen	719-574-1223
Vice President	Linda O'Riley	719-597-5673
Secretary	Lynn Thomas	719-392-1510
Treasurer	Mary Grier	719-536-0438
Chaplain	Marion Daugherty	719-637-9555
Sergeant-At-Arms	Lois Wooton	719-599-8683
Historian	Joan Ciani	719-579-9194



Board of Trustees

Term (Years)	Name	Telephone
President (3 yr)	Neal Thomas	719-392-1510
Commander (1 yr)	Jay Bowen	719-574-1223
Finance Officer (1 yr)	Rusty Bower	682-478-9122
Member 3 Yr	Norman Moyer	719-392-3725
Member 3 Yr	Alton Cyriaque	719-495-4732
Member 1 yr	Chuck Zeitvogel	719-531-0546
Member 1 yr	Bill Marshall	719-495-0088



Sons of The American Legion 2012-2013

Commander	Chet Dean	719-244-2442
1st Vice Commander	Rick Kettering	813-967-6680
Adjutant	Ken Taylor	719-495-8190
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	682-478-9122
Sgt-At-Arms	Don Shuck	719-575-0539
Chaplain	John-Paul Hersberg	719-651-1053
Historian	Vacant	



Centennial 209 Family Calendar of Events

3 Jan 13	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 PM
4 Jan	Hamdogger Dinner 6:30 PM
8 Jan	Cub Pack Mtg
15 Jan	Cub Pack Mtg
12 Jan	Breakfast 9:00 AM Legion/Auxiliary Meetings 10:00 AM SAL Meeting 11:30 AM
18 Jan	Steak Night 6:30 PM RSVP Required
25 Jan	Fish Fry 6:30 PM RSVP Required
25-27 Jan	Department Mid-Year Conference Many activities at the Post.
3 Feb	Super Bowl Party 4:00 PM
7 Feb	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 PM
8 Feb	Hamdogger Dinner 6:30 PM
9 Feb	Breakfast 9:00 AM Legion/Auxiliary Meetings 10:00 AM SAL Meeting 11:30 AM
14 Feb	Valentines Day dinner
15 Feb	Steak Fry 6:30 PM RSVP Required
22 Feb	Fish Fry 6:30 PM RSVP Required
7 Mar	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 PM
8 Mar	Hamdogger Dinner 6:30 PM
9 Mar	Breakfast 9:00 AM Legion/Auxiliary Meetings 10:00 AM SAL Meeting 11:30 AM
15 Mar	Steak Fry 6:30 PM RSVP Required
22 Mar	Fish Fry 6:30 PM RSVP Required
4 Apr	Post Exec 6:30 PM
5 Apr	Hamdogger Dinner 6:30 PM
13 Apr	Breakfast 9:00 AM Legion/Auxiliary Meetings 10:00 AM SAL Meeting 11:30 AM
19 Apr	Steak Night RSVP Required
26 Apr	Fish Fry RSVP Required



**Fundraising and Games Manager
Norm Moyer**

The Secretary of State for Colorado has unveiled initiatives that will be beneficial to the Post in regards to games operations.

Persons who would like to become a Games Manager can now receive training and certification online. It costs \$1.00 to do this. Please go to the following website if you are interested in helping the Post as a Games Manager for raffles and other gaming events.

<http://cosos.learnercommunity.com>

If we had a number of people interested we could set up a class from the Inspectors in Denver at our Post.

We are in need of persons to help conduct pull-tabs at the Post, when we have scheduled events.

If you think you would be interested please contact



**From Our Chef
Art Kimbrel**

We, at The American Legion Post 209, are losing money on our scheduled meal functions.

The reasons for loss are increased prices of food items at our retailers and improper planning resulting in waste.

The increase in prices we can do nothing about, but you all can help me plan more accurately by letting us know in advance if you plan to attend a dinner. I have continued to ask for RSVPs two days prior to each event so that I know how much food to buy. As you are aware I have never turned anyone away even if you show up at the last minute without having made a Reservation. So I must buy extra for those folks who do not tell us in advance or those who wait until the day of the event and then call.

As a result, we are forced to increase some food prices, beginning in January. We still hope that you will continue to come down and support the dinner.

Meal Prices Effective 1 January, 2013

Hamdogger, Wingding Night:

Combo (includes fries and soft drink)	
Hamburger Combo	\$6.00
Hotdog Combo	\$4.00
Buffalo wings Combo (8 ea)	\$5.00
Pork Tenderloin Combo	\$10.00

Ala Carte Items	
Hamburgers	\$4.00
Hotdog	\$2.00
Buffalo Wings (each)	\$0.50
Pork Tenderloin Sandwich	\$9.00
Cost for Sides Dishes have not changed	

Steak Night: All Steak Dinners will be \$14.00. Diners include sides and a soft drink. We will discontinue coupons for the Steak Night beginning in January.

Fish Fry Dinners: All Fish Fry Dinners will be \$11.00. Dinners Include sides and a soft drink.

Breakfast: There will be no change to the Breakfast.

Special Events Dinners: (Service Birthdays, Valentines Day, etc.) will be priced according to the menu and we will publish the prices when the announcement of the dinners are made.



It seems like every other month, I publish an article about needing volunteers for something or another. I

hope everyone knows the American Legion and especially Post 209 rely on volunteers for everything and that we do not have paid employees.

I don't know if you realize Centennial 209 family is growing every year. With that comes more needs for volunteers, to help with preparation for dinner, cooking for dinners, cleanup after the dinners and events that we host for your pleasure. We need volunteers for the various activities, committees, etc. in order to continue offering these great events we all enjoy.



If you still have a membership card for 2012, it will expire at the end of December.

Your voice is just as important as your membership within the American Legion.

As a member of a local Post such as Centennial Post 209, your membership can shape the way things are done in the Post, the District, the Department as well as the National Organization of The American Legion. You have a say as to who will lead us as Officers of the Post, and the programs that we support. You can make a difference, by participating and learning what goes on in the Post, the National Level and all places in between.

At the present time we have over 200 Legionnaires who have not renewed their membership for 2013. I hope that you aren't one of them.

If you have not renewed, I would ask you to please take a moment right now and make out a check or money order to American Legion Post 209 in the amount of \$35.00. Mail it to American Legion PO 25334, Colorado Spgs, Co 80936.

As a reminder, you also have the option of going to www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org and renewing online utilizing PayPal.



Women Veterans Health Services

In 1988, the Women Veterans Health Program was created to streamline services for women Veterans to provide more cost-effective medical and psychosocial care. In March of 2011, Women's healthcare became part of the Office of Patient Care Services (PCS).

Women Veterans Healthcare addresses the health care needs of women Veterans and works to ensure that timely, equitable, high-quality, comprehensive health care services are provided in a sensitive and safe environment at VA facilities nationwide. To fulfill this mission, Women Veterans Health Care works to make certain that all eligible women Veterans requesting VA care are assured of:

- Comprehensive primary care by a proficient and interested primary care provider.
- Privacy, safety, dignity and sensitivity to gender-specific needs.

- The right care in the right place and time.

- State-of-The-Art health care equipment and technology.

- High-quality preventive and clinical care, equal to that provided to male Veterans.

The six pillars of this program are:

1. Comprehensive Primary care
2. Women's health education
3. Reproductive health
4. Communication and Partnerships
5. Women's health research
6. Special populations.

How can you learn about eligibility and enroll for VA health care?

Women Veterans can apply for VA health care enrollment and other veterans benefits by completing VA Form 10-10EZ, (This can be done online) or call or write to any VA Health care facility. You can also call the VA Health Benefits Call Center toll free at 1-887-222-8367.

The Department of Colorado American Legion formed a Committee and Terri Shelenfontiuk was named chairperson. This is the first year and she really cares about women Veterans healthcare and benefits. Terri wants to put together an email list of Women Veterans who would like to hear more about Women Veterans healthcare, benefits, activities and information and is asking all women Veterans send an email to terri.shelenfontiuk@mercercor.com.

In addition, she has asked to be invited to talk about Women Veterans healthcare and benefits at the Posts or District within Colorado.

In the near future the Post will have Terri down to speak to all Women Veterans. Look to further issues of *The Centennial* for more information.

Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com, or Lynn Thomas at 439-6268



From the Adjutant Larry Johnson

During the week of 4 to 8 November, we had a representative from National Headquarters visiting District 7 and our Post. The purpose of this visit was to pilot an idea conceived by the Department Membership Committee.

The primary goal was to transfer members from the Direct Mail Solicitation (DMS) Program and the Headquarters Post located in Denver to local Posts within District 7. As always, Post 209 stepped up with a couple of Legionnaires and with the help of representatives from the various Posts and Department Headquarters, we transferred 420 Legionnaires into the various Posts of District 7 and Post 209.

We had a list of Legionnaires, telephone numbers and called them and asked if they would transfer to a local Post. We weren't able to contact all of them and left messages asking them to call back. At the Department Mid-Year Conference (January 25 to 27 held at the Crown Plaza hotel located on the corner of circle and I-25), we are going to once again set up a phone calling team. We are only asking for 1 or 2 hours or whatever you can give towards this endeavor. I believe that with your help we could easily surpass the 420 Legionnaires that we transferred.

I would like to welcome the 125 Legionnaires that were transferred into Post 209. I invite you to attend our Christmas Party on 15 December and the other activities we have scheduled. I would like to meet everyone of you and your families, show you around the Post, and show you what we have to offer.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a wonderful and safe Merry Christmas. I hope that everyone will exercise extreme caution and return from the holidays safe and sound.



Sons of The American Legion Squadron 209

The SAL Squadron continues to grow. We have exceeded and nearly doubled our 100% goal of 23 members and now have a total of 41 members. If you have not renewed for 2013, please make a check or money order out to SAL Squadron 209 for \$20.00 and mail it to Sons of The American Legion Squadron 209, PO Box 25334, Colorado Springs, CO 80936. If you prefer, you can pay online through PayPal at www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org. Please remember, your 2012 membership expires on December 31st.

The *Child Welfare Foundation*, which is our main project continues to be on track for a very successful year. Our goal is \$800 by April of 2013. So far, we have collected \$684.79, which exceeds our total for all of last year. You can help with this worthy project by saving your change and putting it in the piggy banks on our dining room tables. Every coin and every dollar helps!

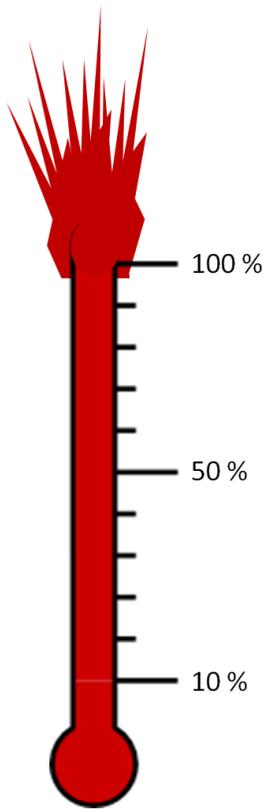


Merry Christmas!



**From Senior Vice Commander
Mark Krzczowski**

Post 209, you have already shattered this years membership goal. Last year it took us until January to surpass our goal, this year we did it prior to Thanksgiving. What a great achievement. A special thanks goes out to our Adjutant, Larry Johnson for his outstanding work with processing and transferring all those applications. As we continue to grow our advocacy for our Veterans continues to strengthen. With the last 12 years of war we have more and more young Veterans that will continue to need our help. Lets not stop now but continue to actively recruit more Veterans to join the American Legion and Post 209. Congratulations again to a job well done.





**STEAK NIGHT
COUPON**

BUY 1 STEAK DINNER AT REGULAR PRICE OF \$12.00 AND GET THE 2ND FOR \$10.00

GOOD ONLY DURING THE MONTH OF December 2012 (Last Steak Night Coupon) **AND WITH A RESERVATION MADE AT LEAST 2 DAYS IN ADVANCE**



**SCOUTING REPORT
JOHN BROWN**

Scouts: Did you enjoy the Veterans Day parade? Over 25 scouts from Pack 24 and 386 joined our Legionnaires in one of the best parades I've marched in. There is something special about walking down the middle of the Main Street without a car around you, being able to look up at the buildings and really looking at the façade and what stores, restaurants, are really in our downtown area. The boys enjoyed handing out thank you cards to the Veterans who lined the sidewalks. Every once in a while you would hear someone call out your name and you would wave and be proud to be a scout, Vet and a member of the American Legion. One leader told me how one of his workmates had seen him and a young tiger scout deliver a note to a couple sitting on the curb. This family had lost two sons in Vietnam and were there supporting the Veterans Day parade. He said they and all their friends around them became misty eyed when the Cub Scout handed them a thank you card.

Pack 24 continues to grow. They sold over \$15,000 in popcorn this year and the committee is planning events for the rest of the year. They are sponsoring a family with 3 boys from West Middle school this year. And plans are underway for their Blue and Gold dinner and of course the Pinewood derby in Feb and Mar 2013.

Pack 386 just completed a great campout at Camp Alexander. Over 90 scouts and family members were present for the weekend campout. Several classes were taught to the cubs from hiking, knot tying, whittling chip, to helping with the cooking and serving food. The pack sold over \$8,000 in popcorn this year and it was delivered to the Post Sat 10 Nov to be distributed to dens that afternoon. The pack is also planning for the Blue and Gold dinner, Pinewood derby and graduation of cubs to the next level. Each year cubs advance from Tigers to Wolves to Bears to Webelos 1 then Webelos 2. For those going to boy scouts there is crossover normally in the spring. This year there were 12 Webelos from the pack that crossed over to Boy Scouts. That is a 100% transition from cubs to scouts.

If you are interested in knowing more about scouts or want to help, give me a call at 331-8160.

A SOLDIER'S NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Major Bruce W. Lovely

Here is something that I picked up in Vietnam from Stars & Stripes.

This really got to me at Christmas time in 1971, lump in the throat, etc.

I realize this has been around for some time, but the message is never more appropriate than now.

Lyle Hagelberg

T'was the night before Christmas
He lived all alone
In a one bedroom house made of
plaster and stone.

I had come down the Chimney
With presents to give.
And to see just who
In this home did live.

I looked all about
A strange sight I did see
No tinsel, No presents,
Not even a tree.

No stocking by the mantle,
Just boots filled with sand
On the wall hung pictures
Of far distant lands.

With medals and badges,
Awards of all kinds,
A sober thought
Came through my mind.

For this house was different,
It was dark and dreary.
I had found the home of a soldier,
Once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping,
Silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor
In this one bedroom house.

The face was so gentle,
The room in such disorder,
Not how I pictured
A United states Soldier.

Was this the hero
Of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho,
The floor a bed?

I realized the families
That I saw this night,
Owed their lives to these soldiers
Who were willing to fight.

Soon 'round the world,
The children would play,
And grownups would celebrate
A bright Christmas Day.

They all enjoyed freedom
Each month of the year.
Because of the soldiers,
Like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder
How many lay alone,
On a cold Christmas Eve
In a land far from home.

That very thought
Brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees
And started to cry.

The soldier awakened
And I heard a rough voice
"Santa don't cry,
This life is my choice."

The soldier rolled over
And drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it,
I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours,
So silent and still
And we both shivered
From the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave
On that cold, dark night,
This guardian of honor
So willing to fight.

The soldier rolled over,
With a voice soft and pure,
Whispered, "Carry on Santa,
It's Christmas day; All is secure."

One look at my watch
And I knew he was right,
"Merry Christmas my friend,
And to all a good night."



From the Legion Officers, the Officers of our Auxiliary Unit, and the Officers of SAL Squadron, we wish all our Centennial Post 209 family a safe and Merry Christmas!



Please remember the reason for the season!

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

NON-PROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 COLORADO SPGS, CO
 PERMIT NO. 192

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

~ December 2012 ~						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 POST RENTED
2	3 POST RENTED	4	5	6 POST EXEC 6:30 PM 	7 HAMDOGGER 6:30 PM 	8 NO BREAKFAST NO MEETINGS
9 GOLD STAR MOTHER	10	11	12	13	14	15  CHRISTMAS PARTY 6:00 pm
16	17	18	19	20	21 STEAK NIGHT 6:30 RSVP REQUIRED 	22
23	24	25 	26	27	28 FISH FRY 6:30 PM RSVP REQUIRED 	29
30	31 	Notes:				

Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com, or Lynn Thomas at 439-6268