



The Centennial

Volume XIV
Edition 4

April 2023

**AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL
POST 209**



Walk of Honor bricks! Reserve yours today!

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<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionCentennialPost209/>



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Sr. Vice Commander:	Steve Hayes	(719) 494-7166
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Service Officer:	Brian Murphy	(719) 930-4147
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American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers 2022-2023

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Sons of The American Legion Squadron 2022-2023

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Secretary:	Royce Hopper	(918) 953-9993
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From the desk of the Commander

What does The American Legion do for me? You may have been asked that question when recruiting new members. Most of us know about the four pillars of The American Legion; Americanism, Children & Youth, National Security, & Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation. So how do we accomplish these tasks? One way is from our office in Washington DC with members who advocate on our behalf to Congress.

In late February every year, Legionnaires from all over meet in Washington DC. The conference lasts three days, and they definitely go by quickly because the days are packed with meetings and events. Monday is the day for commission meetings. The commission that I am on is the Veterans Employment & Education Commission. We started the day early at 7 am, for breakfast. After breakfast, I was off to my commission meeting. We had briefings on some of the initiatives available to help veterans transition from active duty to the civilian world to obtain employment—very informative briefings from all presenters. After lunch, we had a town hall meeting discussing the homeless veteran issue and what is being done to help combat this nationwide. I then went to the “Know Before you Go” meeting given by the Washington office to inform us about The American Legion’s legislative agenda this year.

Tuesday again started at 7 am with Commanders Call and then we headed out to “Storm the Hill” (probably not the best name for it now). Colorado split into two groups, and we met with our state's US Representatives and Senators. The group I was in met with Congresswoman Diana DeGette, Congressman Joe Neguse, and Congressman Doug Lamborn. They were all at meetings, so we met with their staff members and discussed the Legion’s agenda for the year. We received positive vibes from them all. After lunch, the group I was with met with the other group and headed over to meet our Senators. We went to Senator Michael Bennet’s office and met with a staff member. Our group was too large to meet in the office, so we went to a room they had in the basement. On our way, we ran into Senator Bennet as he was heading to a meeting. He stopped talking with us for a couple of minutes and took a picture. Our last meeting of the day was with Senator John Hickenlooper. When we arrived at his office, we discovered the Stanley Cup was also in his office that day (perfect timing). We got our picture taken with the Stanley Cup before meeting with Senator Hickenlooper’s office staff member Wednesday I again was up early and moving around. Wednesday is the day of the National Commander’s Testimony to a joint session of Congress. I listened to the Commander’s testimony and the following questions. Jay Bowen was sitting at the table with the National Commander and had a couple of questions referred to him. Jay did us at Post 209 proud with the way he answered the questions referred to him. I look forward to attending the Washington conference again, and it was nice getting to see our government in action. Thanks for all you do to help veterans and our Post.

Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Post 209 Commander





From our Post Adjutant

Post 209 has a hall, a kitchen, and bar, etc, but it is not about that. It is about being of service to others. We are “Veterans Strengthening America” through our community service, with some of the best people doing just that, not just Legionnaires. We are a family.

At a meeting a couple of months ago, I recognized some of our members who were going the extra mile to be of service to our veterans. Our service officer, chaplain, and honor guard team. This month, I would like you to know about those being of service by leading our many programs.

The first shout-out goes to Kurt Skinner, historian extraordinaire. Kurt not only keeps us grounded in our history but has also jumped right into a couple of our most important Americanism programs, Colorado Boys State and the High School Oratorical Contest. Not only is he deeply involved in getting Colorado Boys State ready for this year’s program in June, he stepped up and covered down on the Oratorical Contest which had its challenges this year. When he saw an issue with how the department was planning to run its portion of the contest, he contacted them and got it corrected.

American Legion Baseball has struggled in southern Colorado for the last several years. But when a high school teacher who had played in his youth wanted to get a couple of teams going, and our new member Jim Smith who also has an ALB background and was looking for a way to be involved, got together, it was off to the races. Look for more on the program this summer.

If you had been by the Post on Wednesday or Thursday evenings lately, you would have noticed the full parking lot. The Young Guns program and Junior Shooting Sports are in full swing, teaching youth firearms safety and marksmanship. The Sons of The American Legion own these programs, led by Joel Haas and Ken Taylor, with the support of other volunteers. They are looking for more range safeties, by the way.

Our Legion Family has chartered several scouting units and a Venturing Crew, with leadership from Andy McCreight and Steve Hayes at the Post and leaders from Unit 209 and Squadron 209 guiding them along.

And speaking of the family, a big shout out goes to The American Legion Auxiliary for their many community programs like Colorado Girls State, gift baskets for local police and fire stations, and others; the Sons of The American Legion who have done wonders supporting the Child Welfare Foundation, spearheaded installing an AED at the Post and hosting a blood drive, and others; and the American Legion Riders for all that they do in support of the Legacy Scholarship as well as the Post, and more.

I have done my best to name many of our program leaders and to let you know some of what we do for the community through our programs. For all those involved in these and many more that I haven’t mentioned, I thank you for your service to the Legion Family, our community, and our nation. “Always Forward”

Doug Millison
Adjutant





From our Post Historian

April is the month in which America's deadliest conflict, The Civil War, began in 1861 and ended in 1865. Following the secession of eleven Southern states from the American Union, hostilities began when rebel forces attacked and captured Fort Sumter on 12 April 1861. Four years and 620,000 battle fatalities later, Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered his Army to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Courthouse on 9 April 1865.

On 1 April 1954, President Eisenhower signed a bill authorizing the U.S. Air Force Academy. The first class of cadets was sworn in at Lowry AFB in July 1955 as construction began at the future permanent USAFA site in Colorado Springs.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was established on 4 April 1949, linking the United States and Western Europe in a collective defense pact to defend against the authoritarian Communist military threat of the Soviet Union.

On 11 April 1951, in perhaps the most notable dismissal in American military history, President Harry Truman relieved General of the Army Douglas MacArthur of command of U.S. forces in Korea. MacArthur had ignored Truman's plan for a negotiated truce in Korea and advocated extending the war by the invasion of the Chinese mainland and, Truman feared, the potential use of atomic weapons in the Asian theater. Truman believed MacArthur's failure to respect Presidential authority left him with no choice. Hailed as a national hero upon his return to the United States and invited to speak before a joint session of Congress, MacArthur observed that as "an old soldier that had tried to do his duty," he would now "just fade away." Consequently, so did Truman's public approval rating.



Over four months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the 18 April 1942 "Doolittle Raid" represented America's first retaliatory strike back at Japan. Led by Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle, sixteen B-25 bombers launched from the deck of the USS *Hornet* on a one-way daylight bombing raid over Tokyo. The plan called for aircrews to crash land their aircraft over the Chinese mainland and hopefully receive assistance from the Chinese population. Remarkably, only seven U.S. crewmembers died in the unprecedented operation. Although

limited in military value, the daring raid greatly boosted American war morale.

American "patriots" demonstrated their rebellious nature on 19 April 1775 in the "Battle" of Lexington and Concord, when Massachusetts militias and townsfolk fired on 700 British troops on a mission to seize the Concord arsenal held by rebels. Representing the first exchange of fire in an undeclared war between the British Empire and American colonials, the clash resulted in over 300 British casualties. It became known as "the shot heard 'round the world."



"Remembering the Maine," the United States declared war on Spain on 25 April 1898. An extensive naval investigation of the explosion of the USS *Maine*, which killed 266 American Sailors and Marines, determined that a suspected submerged mine was to blame. American victory in the brief Spanish-American War ceded possession of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippine Islands to the United States.

In the first recorded land battle fought overseas by U.S. forces, a detachment of Marines marched hundreds of miles through the North African desert "to the shores of Tripoli" to capture the Ottoman port city of Derna on 27 April 1805 during the First Barbary War.

On 30 April 1789, America inaugurated a military veteran as its first President. General George Washington was sworn in at Federal Hall on Wall Street in New York City as the unanimous selection of electors. "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen," Washington led a life of honorable service. Since Washington, nearly two-thirds of U.S. Presidents have served in this nation's military forces.

Kurt Skinner
Historian





From our Honor Guard Captain

In addition to training for the support of Final Honors, the Post 209 Honor Guard is also preparing for upcoming community events. Some pretty big events are coming up this year that provide the Honor Guard to support our community. The Honor Guard will be doing the Presentation and Posting of Colors for this year's CWF Banquet, held at Post 209 on April 1, attended by the Sons of The American Legion members from across the state. The team has also been requested to support Pikes Peak National Cemetery's Memorial Day event again this year. The cannons from the Colorado Military History Group will follow the rifle volleys, so start planning now to come out for a great event. If nothing else, you will see the cannons fired (which is pretty cool). The Honor Guard has also been asked to support The American Legion Post 9-11 carrying flags in Monument this year's 4th of July Parade. A special honor for the team is being requested to do the Presentation of Colors at the annual Veterans Rally in Woodland Park this August. Then there is the Veterans Day Parade and a Veterans Day program at The Classical Academy in November, followed by Wreaths Across America in December.

As you can see, it's only March, and the Post 209 Honor Guard is already being scheduled out through the end of the year for many events. It is expected to have more added as the year progresses. This is, of course, in addition to our primary mission, the support of Final Honors for our veterans.

Are you looking for a way to become involved with one (or more) of the activities at the Post? The Honor Guard team holds weekly meetings/practices at 6:00 pm on the 1st Monday, 2nd Tuesday, 3rd Wednesday, and 4th Thursday of each month (please check the Newsletter calendar for any changes in dates). Come to the Post and check out one of the meetings, and see if the Honor Guard is something you would want to help support.

The Honor Guard continues to gain new team members; however, there is no such thing as having too many members. Understandably, not everyone has much time to participate in the Honor Guard. In reality, all someone needs is a few available hours: about an hour to participate a night (or even two) for a training meeting (a meeting is scheduled for

every week, check the newsletter calendar) and up to a couple of hours for an event. So around three hours a month for a meeting and just **ONE** event is all you need to make a difference in helping support our veterans and our community. Members of The American Legion, the Sons of The American Legion, and The American Legion Auxiliary are all eligible to be members of the Honor Guard. If you or anyone you know might be interested in supporting the Honor Guard or the Competition Color Guard, please reach out to me at (719) 482-4496 or honor.guard@legion209.org.

Joel W. Haas
Honor Guard Captain





From the desk of the Unit President

We are planning a baby shower for active-duty military and/or spouses. We are reaching out to businesses in our community requesting assistance. If you are interested in helping or getting more information about this project, please contact one of our Auxiliary officers.

We met with several young ladies who will be delegates at Girls State this year. Once again, our unit will sponsor several junior high school girls for this program. We will host an Ice Cream Social on May 7th for all Unit 209 delegates and their parents, as well as some sponsors and Legion family members. Watch your email for more information. RSVP will be required for this event.

Happy birthday to all of our members who are celebrating their birthdays in April.

Royce Hopper

**Unit President
American Legion Auxiliary**



From our American Legion Riders

Allow me to introduce myself. I am Jerry "RICO" Shay the new President of the American Legion Riders of Post 209. I have been in The American Legion and American Legion Riders (ALR) since 2015, starting at American Legion Post 2008 in Falcon, Colorado. I have been with ALR 209 for about six years, holding positions as Senior Road LT, Road Captain, and Vice President. I have been riding motorcycles since 1972 with my cousins racing dirt bikes on their family farm in New Jersey. I graduated up to sport bikes in the 1980s until my mother said motorcycles are too dangerous and I could not ride while living at home. I joined the Army in 1987 and lost interest in riding motorcycles as it was outside the budget and not a priority. I got back into riding after I retired from the Army and discovered how boring retired life was with no hobbies. Motorcycling and ALR are now a family activity with my wife Tara, a Road LT, who rides a 3-wheel bike, and son Jonathon, who is only 16 years old, the ALR 209 Historian, and rides an Indian Scout. I retired from the Army in 2012 with 24 years of enlisted and officer service. Before military service, I was a police officer for the City of North Wildwood, New Jersey. And that's where I got the Road Name RICO (RICO Shay).

We have many ALR events this year, and we always welcome support from the other components of Post 209, including the Auxiliary and Sons. Some high-interest events sponsored by the ALR 209 are; The Annual Fun Run (Motorcycles, not actual running!!) on Saturday, 1 April, The Monk High Country Run on Saturday, 17 June, The Pony Express Run on Saturday, 8 July, The Centennial Poker Run on Saturday 22 July, and the Neal Thomas Jr. Memorial Run on Sunday 24 September. We will also have 4 ALR sponsored Friday dinners starting on 14 April (BBQ), then 9 June (Taco Bar), 25 August (Philly Cheesesteaks), and 13 October (The famous German

Oktoberfest – Jager Schnitzel). Even if you don't ride, we could help to man poker run stops, help with the ALR dinners, or spread the word about our Riders Program and these ALR events to raise money for veteran programs. Remember, we can't do this without the support from volunteers as we have here in American Legion Post 209!!

Jerry "RACO" Shay
President of the American Legion Riders



From our Sons of The American Legion Commander

You have heard the statement, “membership matters.” It holds for all family members. Ask yourself why if you are a Legion member and not a SAL member. Like The American Legion, the SAL depends on a strong membership to support the programs vital to our veterans and community. And as a multi-family member, you can use your volunteer hours and miles in every family report you generate. For example: if you report 100 hours for the Legion, you can also report those hours for SAL.

This volunteer information is reported to National Commander. The information is taken to Washington lawmakers when The American Legion speaks to them about issues related to our veterans and their families. When we come with a collective voice, they see a very strong family and take notice. This is what we are all about looking out for our veterans.

If you qualify to belong to another Legion family other than just The American Legion, please sign up. To join the SAL, it is a \$25 annual fee. CHEAP! But that \$25 carries an additional voice for you and our veterans. If you have the time to attend our meetings and events, fantastic! If not, your membership helps us speak louder for veterans, which is more than enough.

To put this into perspective, your SAL membership dues are about equal to a family night at McDonalds. Probably less now. Think of the help you give our veterans by giving up a cheeseburger. Thank you for reading, and hope to see you in our family.

Rob Barry
Commander
Sons of The American Legion 209





From your Veterans Service Officer

Hello my fellow Veterans! See attached notice regarding good news at the VA! The VA is investing in our future! President Biden has made supporting Veterans a key pillar of his [Unity Agenda](#), and his budget request demonstrates the Biden-Harris administration's focus on ensuring Veterans have timely access to world-class care and benefits. At the Department of Veterans Affairs, the budget will:

- **Expand health care and benefits for toxic-exposed Veterans:** The [PACT Act](#), landmark legislation that President Biden signed into law last year, expanded VA health care and benefits to millions of Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxins. The budget requests \$20.3 billion in 2024 for the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund — \$15.3 billion above 2023 — for health care, research, and benefits delivery associated with exposure to environmental hazards for Veterans and their survivors.
- **Invest in preventing Veteran suicide:** Suicide prevention is the VA's top clinical priority and a top priority of the Biden-Harris administration. This budget provides \$16.6 billion in 2024 for mental health efforts, including suicide prevention — up from \$15.0 billion in 2023. As a part of that, the budget includes \$559 million for Veteran suicide prevention outreach programs and an estimated \$2.5 billion in suicide-specific medical treatment. Among other efforts, these funds will support VA's initiatives [to provide free emergency health care to Veterans in suicidal crisis at VA or non-VA facilities](#) and [help fund local organizations that provide or coordinate suicide prevention services for Veterans and other eligible individuals and their families](#).
- **Bolster efforts to end Veteran homelessness:** Veteran homelessness has [decreased by 11% since 2020](#), and [VA permanently housed more than 40,000 homeless Veterans in 2022](#), but VA and the Biden administration will not rest until every Veteran in America has a good, safe home. The budget invests \$3.1 billion in providing homeless Veterans — and Veterans at risk of homelessness — with permanent housing, access to health care, and other supportive services.
- **Support women Veterans' health care:** More women Veterans are choosing VA health care than ever before, with the number of women Veterans using VA services tripling over the last 20 years — growing from 160,000 in 2002 to more than 627,000 today. The budget invests \$257 million in women's health and childcare programs to increase access to infertility counseling and assisted reproductive technology, eliminate copayments for contraceptive coverage, and support full-time women veteran program managers at all 172 VA medical centers. In addition, these investments support and provide comprehensive specialty medical and surgical services for women Veterans, including \$1.0 billion for women's gender-specific care.

- **Invest in Veteran medical facilities:** Veterans deserve world-class healthcare facilities, but the median VA's hospital was built nearly 60 years ago – compared to just 13 years ago in the private sector. The budget makes a historic investment of \$4.1 billion (discretionary and mandatory) for construction to begin restoring VA's aging infrastructure and providing Veterans with state-of-the-art healthcare facilities, as well as a \$5 billion investment in medical care funding (discretionary) for non-recurring maintenance to improve medical facility infrastructure.

Brian J. Murphy, LCSW, MSW

VA/DoD Liaison Program

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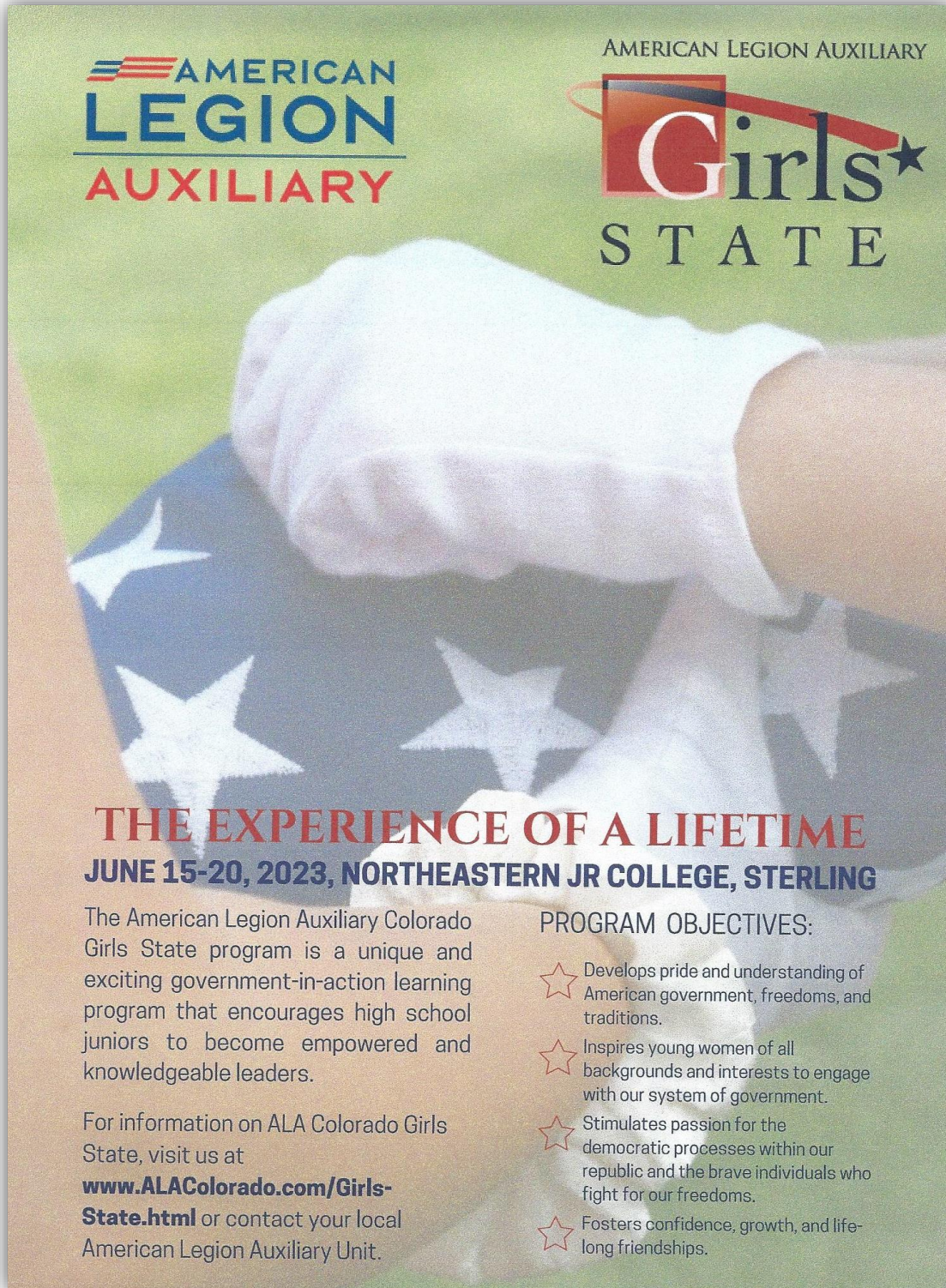
**BUDDY
CHECK**

Your Friends at
Neal Thomas JR. Centennial Post 209
just want to see how you are doing...

Call us at 719-599-8624 if you need help
(Veteran Crisis Line 800-273-8255)



UPCOMING EVENTS



The poster features a central image of a hand in a white glove holding a blue fabric with white stars, set against a green background. The American Legion Auxiliary logo is in the top left, and the Girls State logo is in the top right. The main text is in red and blue, and the program objectives are listed in the bottom right.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Girls★
STATE

THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME
JUNE 15-20, 2023, NORTHEASTERN JR COLLEGE, STERLING

The American Legion Auxiliary Colorado Girls State program is a unique and exciting government-in-action learning program that encourages high school juniors to become empowered and knowledgeable leaders.

For information on ALA Colorado Girls State, visit us at www.ALAColorado.com/Girls-State.html or contact your local American Legion Auxiliary Unit.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

- ★ Develops pride and understanding of American government, freedoms, and traditions.
- ★ Inspires young women of all backgrounds and interests to engage with our system of government.
- ★ Stimulates passion for the democratic processes within our republic and the brave individuals who fight for our freedoms.
- ★ Fosters confidence, growth, and life-long friendships.



The American Legion

Colorado Boys State

A Week that will shape a Lifetime



FINISHING YOUR JUNIOR YEAR?

***YOU can join the nation's premier civics program
developing future leaders since 1949***

- You learn to govern Your State!
- Earn scholarships and college credits
- Military Academy application credit
 - Support our American heritage
 - No cost to attend

4-10 June 2023

To apply online, visit us at

www.CoLegionBoysState.org

Buddy Time

Haven't talked to another veteran in a while and are looking for like-minded conversation? Then, come on down to YOUR post and talk with your buddies.

Starting in January, the post will be open solely for **social time** on the **third Saturday of every month from 0900 to 1100 Hrs.** No meals, no fundraising, or meetings. Come to see your post or introduce family and friends to it. Grab a cup of coffee (or tea) and hang out with other members.



April's Buddy Time is **April 15th, 0900 – 1100.** We are looking forward to seeing you there.

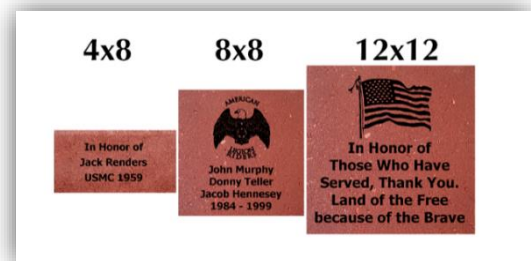


FUNDRAISER INFORMATION

Walk of Honor



- **What are the costs for the individual bricks?** Prices vary depending on size, style, and lettering desired but typically range from \$90 to \$200, depending on size.
- **What are the costs for the corporate/veteran supporter bricks?** Again, prices vary depending on size, style, and lettering but typically range from \$250 to \$500.
- **What is the difference between individual and corporate bricks?** Individual bricks are for veterans and family members wishing to purchase a brick to honor their veterans. The corporate bricks are for our veteran-friendly supporters and businesses who want to show their continued support for our nation's heroes by purchasing a brick.
- **Is the brick purchase restricted to members of the Post 209 families?** No. We encourage members to buy a brick for themselves for their veteran loved ones or to show their support for our veterans.
- **Where do I go to buy a brick?** We have a link on our website. Just visit legion209.org and click on "Walk of Honor." Or, you can visit <http://polarengraving.com/ALPost209> to buy your brick. The site is user-friendly and will walk you through the design and purchase. In addition, you will see a preview of your brick before finalizing the purchase.
- **How do I pay for the brick?** We have the site set up to accept payment via PayPal or check. PayPal is an extremely safe way to purchase a brick, and you don't need a PayPal account to use it.
- **Where will the brick be shipped?** All bricks will be sent to the post. We will notify you when it arrives, and you are welcome to stop by and see the brick you have purchased.
- **What will become of my brick?** It will be placed near the flagpole at the post. If you are a landscaper or know a good one (preferably a veteran), have them contact our Adjutant.
- **How long will this fundraiser effort last?** We plan only to sell as many bricks as needed for the first phase of the landscaping project.
- **Will I have an opportunity to buy a brick later?** Quite possibly, depending on what is decided/approved for the next phase of our project.



Order your brick(s) now to ensure you get one in Phase One of our projects. If you buy multiple bricks, let our Adjutant know, and we will ensure they are all placed together.

Celebrate

At
American Legion
Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209

Host your next event with us! With over 2,500 SQFT of venue space this is the perfect location for your next social event!



Rental Features:

- 6 Hour Rental
- In House Catering Available*
- Fully Stocked Bar*
- Muti-Room Sound System
- Dance Floor with Lighting

If you and your family are looking for an affordable option for a wedding, corporate event, retirement party, or any other event, we here at The American Legion Post 209 are ready to assist you in all your event planning needs.

Starting at

\$350!



For More Information

www.legion209.org/contact_us

(719) 599-8624

3613 Jeannine Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80917

*Additional cost may apply

GUEST COMMENTARY



Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

We honor the Prisoners of War and those still missing in action at each meeting and special event by placing the POW/MIA flag on an empty chair. More than 81,500 Americans remain missing from WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Gulf Wars/other conflicts. Out of the more than 81,500 missing, 75% of the losses are located in the Indo-Pacific, and over 41,000 are presumed lost at sea (i.e., ship losses, known aircraft water losses, etc.).

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's (DPAA) mission is to provide the fullest accounting for our missing personnel from past conflicts to their families and the nation. They search for missing personnel from all wars and conflicts since WWII in coordination with hundreds of countries and municipalities worldwide. This month, four personnel were recovered:

- Sailor, Mitts, W. accounted for from WWII;
- Soldier, Hartmann, H. accounted for from Korean War;
- Pilot, Montgomery, W., accounted for from WWII, and
- USS Oklahoma Sailor Derrington, R., accounted for from WWII.

Since January, the DPAA has identified and repatriated 36 servicemembers. The DPAA is always looking for research volunteers. To learn more about volunteer opportunities or to search the POW/MIA database, go to <https://www.dpaa.mil/>.

Sarah Tebin



Why RSVP?

Some members recently asked why we canceled our annual Easter egg party before the RSVP date. Great question and this event is a prime example of why RSVPs are so important. So let's explore what happens when we put together an event like this one.

First, you need to understand that all staff and support at Post 209 are VOLUNTEERS! No one at our post is a paid employee. Not the Commander, the Adjutant, our lounge bartenders, or even Art. We do what we do because we are passionate about serving.

The prep work begins about a month out when we have an event such as the Easter egg hunt. Plans are put together to identify the 20 or so volunteers needed to help with things like post decorations, games to be played, security for our kids as they hunt for the eggs outside, provide parking support to ensure no one is moving in and out during the hunt, pack the Easter baskets, identify who will be the Easter bunny, his/her helpers, etc. This doesn't happen without planning,

coordination, and, most importantly, getting volunteer support committed to the event. That means these folks give up the time they may have wanted to set aside for something else.

As the event gets closer, it is time to go shopping. Baskets or “goodie bags” must be bought for ALL the kids attending, as gift cards, candy, plastic eggs, costumes, and anything/everything needed to make the day fun and successful for our kids. This takes 3-4 people to spend half a day going to multiple stores and making those purchases.

When, as with this year’s event, we only have 3 RSVPs less than a week away, a decision has to be made on whether the event should go on. Knowing we will typically get 3-4 more very late, that only makes it possible, not a probable six to 7 kids in attendance. It’s unfair to the approximately 20 volunteers to work this hard and long for a possible, not probable, six kids.

We REALLY like doing these things, but we also REALLY respect our volunteers’ time. So if you see an event scheduled, whether it’s a Hamdogger night or a post party requiring RSVPs, please, please, please don’t wait until the last day to let us know you plan to attend. The RSVP date is the final date and should not be used as a “let’s wait and see what else we may have going on before we commit” date.

Thanks for your understanding. We look forward to seeing you at future events and dinners.

Jay Bowen
Past Post Commander



Salty Dog

Many of us have heard the saying or been told to "mind your Ps and Qs," or in other words, to behave your best. I bet you didn’t know "mind your Ps and Qs" had nautical beginnings as a method of keeping books on the waterfront.

In the days of sail, when sailors were not paid much, seamen drank their ale in taverns whose barkeepers were willing to extend credit until payday. Since many sailors at the time were illiterate, barkeepers kept a tally of pints and quarts consumed by each sailor on a chalkboard behind the bar. Next to each person's name, a mark was made under "P" for a pint or "Q" for a quart whenever a seaman ordered another draught.

On payday, each seaman was liable for each mark next to his name, so he was forced to "mind his Ps and Qs," or he could get into financial trouble. To ensure an accurate count by unscrupulous barkeepers, sailors had to keep their wits and remain somewhat sober. Sobriety usually ensured good behavior, hence the meaning of "mind your Ps and Qs."

Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Post 209 Commander





Bringing A Little South to the West

Last month, I introduced you to my baby sister Debbie. To round it out so you will better understand who I am and where I came from, I want to dedicate this month's article to my big sister and the last of my siblings, Dee.

Frances Delores (a.k.a. Dee) was the firstborn by a few years. Bubba, Debbie, and I are separated by about a year, with Bubba being older than me. Dee, however, was born five years before Bubba. I often told her she was the "OOPS!" baby, and we were well-planned. I sometimes suggested it took Mom and Dad five years to get over her before they were willing to try again.

Because of her advanced age, she was also our babysitter. Naturally, this arrangement didn't make her very happy, but in the Bowen household, you didn't get a vote until you were 18, and even then, Dad had veto power over any ballot. So not only was Dee subjected to babysitting the three of us, it would sometimes include us going with her on a "day date."

I remember Dee and her boyfriend at the time went to the Zoo on one such occasion. Bubba, Debbie, and I tagged along. And being a typical nine or 10-year-old, I indulged in ice cream and any junk food I could either pay for on my own or coerce Dee or her boyfriend into splurging for me.

On the trip home, I left some of the eaten but not completely digested candy on the floorboard of her date's car and the upholstery. I think that was the last time they dated. Too bad, he was a pretty good guy and didn't get too upset with me for decorating the back seat of his convertible. For a short time, I thought their breakup may have had something to do with me, but I quickly dismissed that crazy notion.

I also remember the day Dee announced she was getting married. We were cutting tall Johnson grass from the cotton field at my grandfather's farm (Dad's father). For those unfamiliar with Johnson grass, it is a weed that grows very tall (over my 12-year-old head) with roots spread pretty wide. It was to a point where we had to use a shovel as much as we did a garden hoe.

Dad and Granddad were with us in the field when Dee and her fiancé showed up and gave us the big news. I was ecstatic! Not so much that she was heading out to a Justice of the Peace, although she did, and not because she was marrying Terry, which she did; I was giddy that I would be able to stop hoeing the Johnson grass and join my big sister on her big day, which I didn't. However, Dad left the cotton field to accompany Dee, which, in retrospect, was okay. But it didn't seem OK at the time.

Dee and Terry moved to the Atlanta, GA, area after he returned from Vietnam, and they stayed married for several years, then divorced. It was a very mature and amicable separation, and Dee moved back to Memphis after it was over. By that time, we had all grown up and matured. The years of picturing Dee as nothing more than a babysitter were quickly replaced by a very loving and funny friend. I could not do this when she lived 400 miles away.

We stayed very close, and when Jackie and I decided to move to Colorado, Dee was very supportive, although it was easy to see that she didn't want us to go. But even with the 1,000 miles

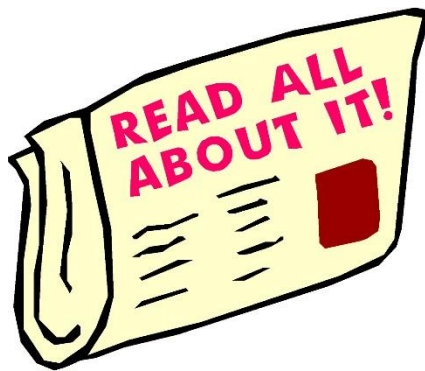
apart, Dee and I talked at least every weekend. Sometimes the calls lasted 3 or 4 minutes, but if there was news to share, the calls could take about an hour. Those calls helped me stay in close contact with the family as we adjusted to the Colorado landscape and environment.

Sadly, I lost my closest friend to cancer in 2015. I still talk with Debbie and Bubba about once a week; those are always great calls. But I do greatly miss my big sister and think of her daily. I am comforted knowing that one day I will be with her again. And I'll try not to throw up on her heavenly chariot when we see each other.

Jay Bowen
Past Post Commander



Are You an Editor/Publisher?



Legion 209 Family,

We are looking for someone to serve as our Publisher for this newsletter, *The Centennial*. If

you have some experience editing/publishing and have relatively good writing skills, we need you to help with our June, 2023 and future editions.

If interested, please reach out to our Post Adjutant, Doug Millison at adjutant@legion209.org.

Thanks in advance.

PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

Young Guns



NRA-Accredited members of Sons of The American Legion are sponsors and instructors for the Young Guns program. This basic rifle safety and marksmanship course are offered to boys and girls ages 10-18. Shooting is indoors, using air rifles.

<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionCentennialPost209/>

Scouting Programs

The Post 209 family is the charter partner for six Boy Scouts of America (BSA) units:



- Cub Scout Pack 24 (Boys and Girls): p24@legion209.org
- Cub Scout Pack 386 (Boys and Girls): p386@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 77 (Girls): t77@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 79 (Boys): t79@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 187 (Boys): t187@legion209.org
- Venture Crew 762 (Young men and women ages 14-20): c762@legion209.org

Boys and Girls State



Boys State and Girls State are for high school juniors going into their senior year with at least one semester left.

- BOYS STATE www.colegionboysstate.org/.
- GIRLS STATE <http://alacolorado.com/girls-state.html>

Oratorical Contest



This Nationwide contest is designed to develop a more profound knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of high school students.

www.colegionoratorical.org

Eagle Scout of the Year




























The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year nomination window is from **1 November to 1 March**. Nomination packets must be received by each applicant's respective The American Legion department (state) headquarters no later than 1 March.

<https://legion209.org/Scouting/>

APRIL 2023

For the most current version see:
https://www.legion209.org/coming_up/

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 CWF Banquet! 5:00pm 
2	3 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm Post Honor Gd.  Training 6:00pm	4	5 Marksmanship 4:00pm 	6 Young Guns 6:30pm Venture Crew  7:00pm Ex. Cmte  Meeting 6:00pm	7 Good Friday Price \$10 Pork Tenderloin or Wings! 6:00pm  RSVP Required!	8 Price \$10 Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00   POST ELECTIONS!
9 Easter Happy Easter!	10 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	11 Post Honor Gd.  Training 6:00pm	12 Marksmanship 4:00pm 	13 Young Guns 6:30pm   Venture Crew 7:00pm	14 Price TBD ALR Rib Dinner 6:00pm  RSVP Required!	15 Post 209 "Buddy Time" 9:00am - 11:00am 
16	17 Tax Day (Taxes Due) Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	18 ALR Exec. Mtng  ALR 6:30pm.	19 Marksmanship 4:00pm  Post Honor Gd.  Training 6:00pm	20 Young Guns 6:30pm   Venture Crew 7:00pm	21 \$14/Person Steak Night! 6:00pm  RSVP Required!	22 Earth Day Healing Warriors! 9:00am - 1:00pm
23	24 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	25 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:30pm  	26	27 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm   Venture Crew 7:00pm	28 Price TBD Auxiliary Dinner 6:00pm  RSVP Required!	29
30	Notes:					

MAY 2023

For the most current version see:
https://www.legion209.org/coming_up/

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm Post Honor Gd.  Training 6:00pm 	2	3	4 Executive Committee Meeting 6:00pm   Venture Crew 7:00pm	5 Cinco De Mayo \$10/Person Taco Bar! 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	6
7	8 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	9 Post Honor Gd.  Training 6:00pm 	10	11  Venture Crew 7:00pm	12 Price TBD SAL Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	13 \$12/Person Installation & Dinner Swiss Steak, 5:00pm   
14 Mother's Day	15 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	16 ALR Exec. Mtng  ALR 6:30pm.	17 Post Honor Gd.  Training 6:00pm	18  Venture Crew 7:00pm	19 \$14/Person Steak Night! 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	20 Armed Forces Day District 7 Convention Florence, CO 11:30am - 2:00pm 
21	22 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	23 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:30pm  	24	25 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm   Venture Crew 7:00pm	26 Price TBD Auxiliary Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	27 Healing Warriors! 9:00am - 1:00pm
28	29 Memorial Day Memorial Day Holiday!	30	31	Notes: There will not be a monthly meeting in May.		