



The Centennial

Volume XIV
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May 2023

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



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Immediate Past CDR:	Lino Calica	(719) 963-0956
Sgt.-at-Arms:	Bobby Senter	(719) 660-3775



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Secretary:	Pat Weaver	(719) 638-4763
Treasurer:	Kellie Hayes	(719) 494-7167
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Sons of The American Legion Squadron 2022-2023

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From the desk of the Commander

How did I become the Post 209 Commander? What made me think being the Commander was a good idea? These are questions I receive and get asked from time to time. Of course, the easy answer is I want to continue to serve my country, but that can also be a cop-out since you hear that from many legionnaires.

I started by answering an email request sent by Post Adjutant Larry Johnson. The proposal was for some help in the office with filing paperwork and just assisting the adjutant I learned the job without realizing he was grooming me to take over. I helped out for about a year and a half and then decided to run for the position of Post Adjutant because Larry was moving on to other jobs within the Department. I was the Post Adjutant for five years and enjoyed the career and getting to know more Legionnaires in the Post. I served as Adjutant under Commanders Greg Smith, Mike Barger & Lino Calica. Each had their leadership style, and I learned much from all three.

After my first year as Post Adjutant, Dean Noechel approached me and asked if I would like to be the District 7 Adjutant. With the district, you mainly go around and visit the other Posts within the district and advise them about events at the Department and assist them if they ask for help. I enjoyed visiting the other Posts because you get to see how they work the programs of The American Legion. I was the District Adjutant for four years. I went on to Sr Vice Commander of the District when I left the Adjutant position. The following year I was elected District Commander, a position I served for two years.

I left the adjutant job mainly because I was becoming the District Commander and needed time to devote to that job. So after leaving the district, I became the Post Sr Vice Commander

I started at the Department as a member of the Department Finance Committee. I served on that committee for five years, helping ensure the department's finances were used correctly. After that, I served as the Department Finance Officer for four years. I am currently on the Veterans Employment & Education Commission at National.

This leads me back to the start of this article showing the how. What I thought was more than the cop-out “I want to continue to serve my country” goes deeper than that. I like being able to help fellow veterans when they need the help. I enjoy the Americanism programs we support at our Post: Boys & Girls State, Scouting, The Oratorical Contest, and Young Guns. Every time I am around one of these programs, I realize our country is not in as bad a shape as the media will have you believe with our youth of this country. I also love seeing the kids' looks and excitement in their eyes when they come to our Halloween Party/Trunk or Treat, Christmas Party, and Easter Party. I look forward to the next year and your trust in me by electing me to serve as your Post Commander another year. Thanks for everything you do to help Veterans and our Post.

Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Post 209 Commander





From our Post Adjutant

How do you learn what is going on in The American Legion? And I do not mean the calendar of events, but the organization, programs, and procedures. It is easy, you read, you attend, you listen, your question. We do provide opportunities; it is up to you to take them.

We have roughly 80 to 90% of our member's email addresses, and they receive the 411, the meeting minutes, and this Newsletter. Approximately 30 to 40% of those receiving the publications open them. So, you are already ahead of most of the membership because you read your Newsletter, and I am assuming you also read the 411 and your American Legion magazine if you read this.

I know not all of you reading this attend the meetings for one reason or another. That is a good thing due to the membership vs. building size. But we certainly do encourage members to do so. If not every meeting, you can make it a point to do one yearly. You can pick a time of year when we do certain activities, like the upcoming Installation Dinner, the Initiation Ceremony in March, Elections in April, Christmas Dinner in... well, you know.

If you want to dig into things, there are the Executive Committee meetings on the first Thursday of every month at 1800 Hrs. You are invited to attend. You will not have a vote, but you can get a behind-the-scenes look at your officers' work for the Post. And you can go higher than that. The District 7 meeting is on 20 May at the Florence Senior Center (100 Railroad St, Florence, CO 81226), with lunch from 1130 to 1230 and a meeting at 1300. And 29 June to 2 July is the Department Convention in Ignacio. These meetings are the "listen" part. You will come away with questions you can ask any of us for clarification. You will learn something; the more you attend and listen, the more clear things will be.

And you can avail yourself of the opportunity to attend any training sessions which come your way. I recommend you build on your knowledge base by attending Basic Training. This is, as it sounds, an introductory course in the history and operation of The American Legion. It is well worth your time. There are things about The American Legion that you do not know, and you may have some perceptions which are not valid. It is a self-paced online course where you can do a piece at a time or in one sitting. Once you complete it, you can return for a refresher to keep your knowledge sharp. I have taken it twice, and I need to do it again as time passes. You can get more information on Basic Training and enroll here: <https://www.legion.org/alei>. You will need to have or create a MyLegion account. The Post will award you a Basic Training pin when you complete the course and show me the certificate.

Other training opportunities include:

Training Tuesdays is an internet-based learning opportunity recorded in case you cannot make that particular day or time. It is led by National staff, officers, and Committee personnel, and they cover various topics. <https://www.legion.org/training/training-tuesdays>

E-Newsletters, where the news on a variety of topics comes to you. <https://www.legion.org/newsletters>

National American Legion College is a selective course for those already in leadership positions. There are a limited number of slots per Department, but if you have the opportunity and time, dive. <https://www.legion.org/college/about>

And I will end on an unrelated topic. I need your assistance submitting an accurate report to Congress on the activities of our membership, proving we are “Veterans Strengthening America.” I have written previously on the Consolidated Post Report (CPR), and it is time to get me those numbers. Please refer to the 411 sent out on April 24th for guidance and keep that info to help you track your activities for the 2024 report. Thank you for your time and attention.

“Always Forward”

Doug Millison
Adjutant



From our Chaplain

MAY. Named for the Roman goddess Maia, who oversaw the growth of plants. Also, from the Latin word maiores, “elders” were celebrated this month. Maia was considered a nurturer and an earth goddess, which may explain the connection with this springtime month.

Mothers are the primary caregivers to children, even grown-up children. In May, we celebrate and honor their love, kindness, and patience that is so generously provided without questioning. Mothers can include stepmothers, mothers-in-law, and grandmothers; some will consist of their spiritual mothers. Thank you. It seems very small to say when I think about all the sacrifices Mothers made for us. Happy Mother’s Day to you.

Proverbs 31:25-30 (New International Version):

She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh in the coming days.

She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:

“Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.”

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

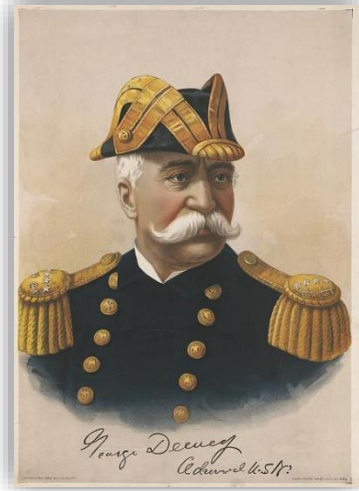
We celebrate in our way, but celebrate together, in thoughts and prayers.

Bob "Odie" O'Donnell
Chaplain Odie



From our Post Historian

MAY Military History



In the opening salvos of the Spanish-American War, Commodore George Dewey's seven-warship U.S. Asiatic Squadron destroyed the Spanish Pacific fleet on 1 May 1898 in the Philippines Battle of Manila Bay without suffering a single American combat fatality. Immediately hailed as the "Hero of Manila," Dewey became the only Naval officer in American history to attain the rank of Admiral of the Navy.

On 1 May 1960, former USAF pilot Francis Gary Powers was shot down by a surface-to-air missile over the Soviet Union while conducting a CIA-sponsored U-2 aerial reconnaissance mission. While the U.S. initially claimed the plane went off course on a meteorological mission, the Russians embarrassingly exhibited the captured pilot, aircraft, and processed camera rolls to the world, convicting Powers of espionage in a Moscow show trial.

Osama bin Laden, the founder of the Islamic terrorist group al Qaeda, was killed in Pakistan by a team of Navy SEALs on 2 May 2011. While his death was a welcomed accomplishment in the "War on Terror," no other person significantly impacted early 21st-century American security and defense policy and contributed to global instability.

On 5 May 1961, Navy Commander Alan Shepard was launched aboard the Freedom 7 space capsule on a 15-minute suborbital flight, becoming the first American astronaut launched into space. Ten years later, Shepard became the fifth man to walk on the moon as part of the Apollo 14 lunar mission.

"The American Legion" was adopted as our organization's official name at the Saint Louis Caucus on 5 May 1919.

8 May 1945 – Americans celebrated the victorious end of WWII in Europe, dubbed "VE Day," with the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany. Harry Truman had been President less than one month following the untimely death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt on 12 April. Having served as an artillery officer in France during the First World War and a founding member of the first American Legion post in his native Missouri state, Truman earned the distinction as the first Legionnaire to become U.S. President. Suddenly inheriting the American



wartime commander-in-chief role, Truman remarked, “I felt like the moon, the stars, and all the planets had fallen on me.”

On 9 May 1997, following the American restoration of diplomatic relations with Vietnam, former USAF Captain Douglas Peterson became the first U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam since the 1975 fall of Saigon. Shot down on a 1966 bomber mission over Hanoi, Peterson had been held as a POW for six years during the Vietnam War.

The Berlin Airlift, considered an early “battle victory” of the Cold War, ended on 12 May 1949. Eleven months earlier, in retaliation for the Allied nations’ formation of Western Germany, the Soviet Union blockaded all road, rail, and water communication routes into West Berlin to force the isolated city into Soviet control. In the first significant test of the newly formed U.S. Air Force, America (and Britain) responded with the largest airlift in history, flying over 2.3 million tons of food, fuel, and supplies to the beleaguered city around the clock for eleven months. Six years later, when Western Germany became a NATO member in May 1955, the Soviet Union responded by establishing a “Warsaw Pact” organization of seven Soviet-controlled Eastern European nations.

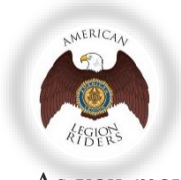


On 15 May 1942, the Women’s Auxiliary Army Corps (WAACs) was established, granting women official military status. Though performing “noncombatant” roles, the WAACs served in every theater of war and paved the way for the eventual integration of women into every component of military service.

Traditionally, “Decoration Day” began in May 1868 to adorn the Arlington National Cemetery graves of the Civil War dead. Memorial Day, observed on the last Monday of May, is set aside to remember those who have died in military service to our nation lest we forget.

Kurt Skinner
Historian





From our American Legion Riders

As you may know, we have a very active American Legion Riders program here at Post 209. We have 57 members that average around 4800 group miles a month. Most of our members ride all year round in all types of riding and weather conditions. However, fair-weather motorcycle enthusiasts wait until the temperatures warm up before hitting the road. May is when most of the bikers are out on the streets. That is why May is motorcycle safety awareness month.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, over 5000 motorcyclists are killed yearly as drivers of cars, trucks, vans, and SUVs; we are responsible for sharing the road and taking proactive measures to increase the safety of motorcycle riders, some of whom may be from our very own Post 209. There has been a notable increase in motorcycles on the road in recent years, partly caused by increasing gas prices. Many drivers have traded their cars for super-efficient motorcycles to decrease fuel consumption. Unfortunately, this movement has led to many inexperienced motorcycle riders, many of whom become involved in car accidents. Many accidents involving motorcycles and automobiles can be avoided by following some basic guidelines. Below I have listed ten things that you can do to help keep motorcyclists and yourself safe:

#1 Always check your blind spots!

This is the number one reason for accidents involving motorcycles and cars. Motorcycles are smaller than other vehicles and can be even more difficult to spot while merging or changing lanes. The shape of a motorcycle and rider is also more likely to blend into the images you see in your rear-view and side-view mirrors than that of a large automobile. Take your time before merging, and devote several seconds to searching each of your car's blind spots before proceeding with your intended maneuver:

#2 Be extra cautious when passing.

It is lawful to pass a motorcycle in the same way you would an automobile, assuming that you are driving on a section of roadway that allows passing; however, the gust of wind that results from your increase in speed as you pass could cause the motorcycle to become unstable and blow the rider off the road. Make sure to signal your intention to pass a slower motorcyclist using your left turn signal. Always ensure you are several car lengths ahead of the motorcycle before returning to your lane.

#3 Remember that motorcycles react more quickly than cars

Make sure that you maintain an adequate following distance behind motorcycles. Rear-ending a motorcycle can be fatal to the rider, mainly if you drive a large, heavy vehicle.

#4 Weather warning

Weather warning: lousy weather drastically affects motorcycle riders more than automobile drivers. Rain and winter weather can make it almost impossible for motorcyclists to continue to travel. Likewise, windy conditions can make it difficult for motorcyclists to control their bikes. Also, remember that weather conditions often reduce your visibility and may cause motorcycles to be more challenging to see.

#5 Night riding can be treacherous for motorcyclists.

Help riders stay safe after dark by increasing your following distance, ensuring that your high beams are turned off when you notice an approaching motorcycle, and refraining from passing.

#6 Stay in your lane.

Motorcycles are legally entitled to their lane of traffic. However, you are not allowed to drive your automobile in the same lane and in proximity to a motorcycle. No matter how small these vehicles are or how much extra room there appears to be, sharing a single lane with a motorcycle is a recipe for an illegal accident.

#7 Inform motorcyclists of your intention to turn.

Initiate your turn signal sooner than usual when you know a motorcycle is driving behind you. Not only is this courteous, but it also helps to reduce pile-ups involving motorcycles.

#8 Intersections are danger zones.

Most accidents that involve automobiles vs. motorcycles occur at intersections, particularly blind corners. Therefore, always follow the safety protocol for intersections every time you approach one: come to a complete stop, view and obey posted traffic signs and signals, look both ways for approaching traffic, and then proceed slowly.

#9 Watch for turning motorcycles.

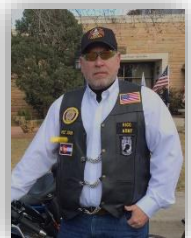
Self-canceling turn signals became standard on motorcycles in the late 1970s. As a result, many motorcycles on the road today still need the self-canceling turn signals that we are now accustomed to. If you notice that a motorcycle is driving with an activated turn signal for an abnormal distance, increase your following distance so you have time to react whenever the rider decides to turn.

#10 Take a second look at left turns.

Before you cross a lane or lanes of traffic to turn left, take a second look at approaching motorcycles. Vehicle accidents involving the collision of a left-turning car and an approaching motorcycle can be very severe, often because the motorcycle T-bones the vehicle. At the same time, it is mid-way through the left turn.

LOOK TWICE; SAVE A LIFE.

Jerry "RACO" Shay
President of American Legion Riders





From our Sons of The American Legion Commander

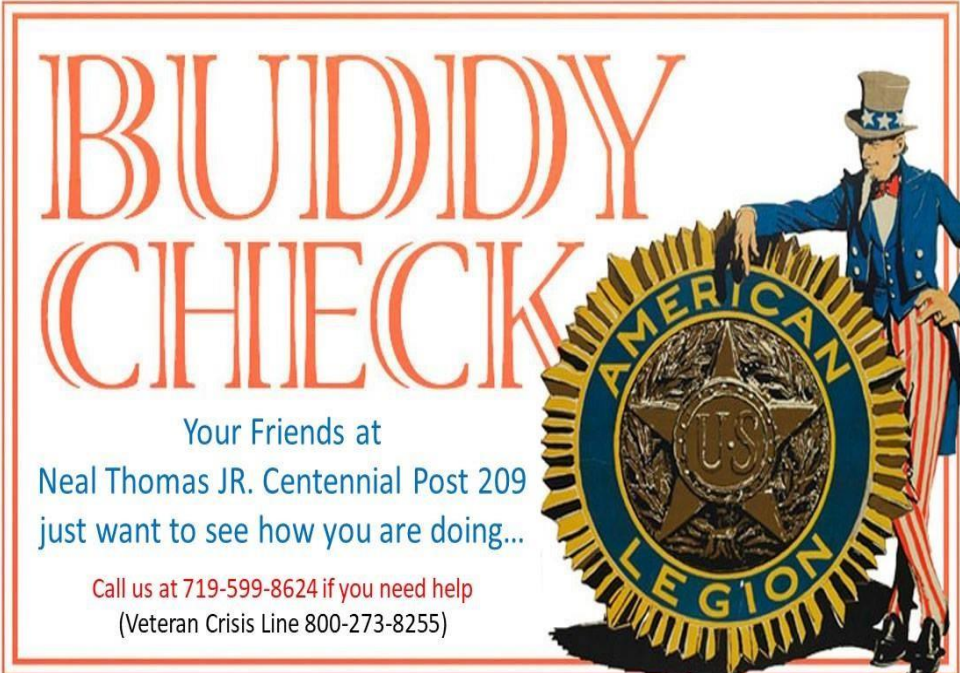
Volunteering and community service are something I have enjoyed and have been doing most of my life. With a career in the fire department, we looked at it as a job. There, we worked crazy hours, leaving us mentally exhausted and physically spent. However, we did our best to ensure everyone took time for themselves. That is always something that most of us overlook.

Our volunteering mimics my previous life. So many wonderful people give all they can for the Legion family. I just want to remind everyone to take time for themselves. As we all know, you can't take care of others if you don't care for yourself. That is a phrase I had to use many times with my fire crews. We are the worst for practicing what we preach.

As the busy season ramps up, keep this in mind. It will make a fantastic season even better.

Rob Barry
Commander

Sons of The American Legion 209

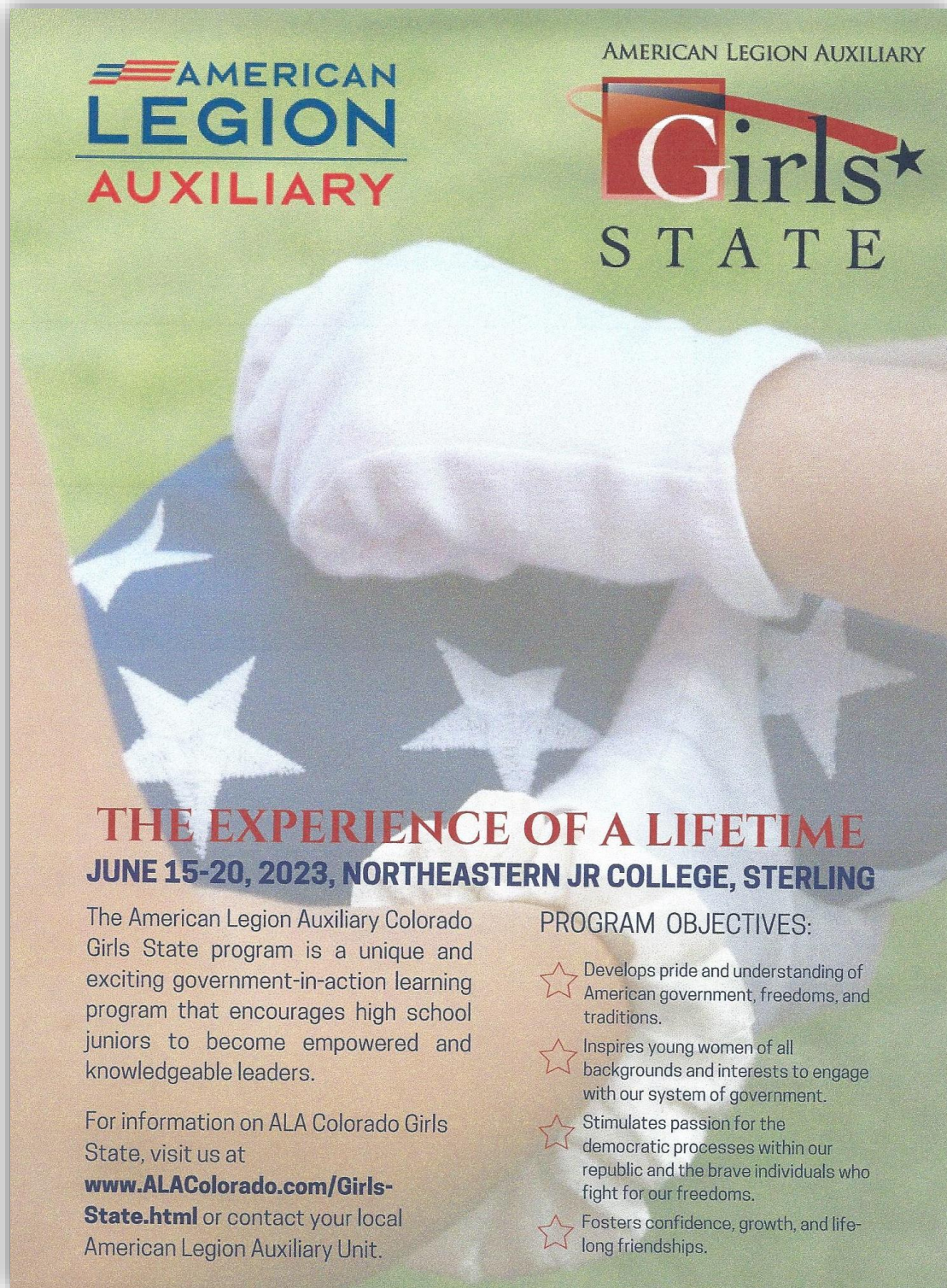


**BUDDY
CHECK**

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



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.

As of January, the post is 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.



May's Buddy Time is **May 20th, 0900 – 1100**. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

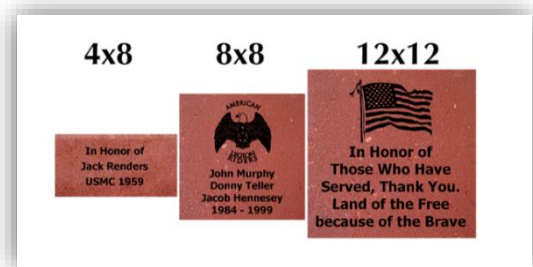


FUNDRAISER INFORMATION

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



Looking for a New Editor

With mixed emotions, I am writing to inform you of my resignation as the editor of The American Legion newsletter. After much thought and consideration, I have decided to step down from my position due to my busy work schedule.

I want to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to serve as the editor of this newsletter for the past year. Working with such a dedicated and talented team of writers and contributors has been a privilege.

It was truly rewarding to get to know each of you through your valuable contributions, despite the distance and the lack of face-to-face interaction. It is an honor to be part of such a dedicated group of individuals who share a common passion for supporting our veterans and making a positive difference in their lives.

As I step down, I request that you consider the position as editor for the newsletter. I am confident that many talented and qualified individuals within our community would be eager to take on this role and continue the great work we have done. Please contact Jay Bowen if you are interested at legionnairejay@yahoo.com

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your editor. I wish you all the best, and I look forward to seeing the continued success of The American Legion newsletter. You can stay in connect with me on LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/in/drgeorgeshea/>.

Georgianna Shea
Editor
letters@legion209.org





Salty Dog

We all have gone thru a front gate at our respective Base or Post and know the procedures for getting on the installation, but do you know the proper way to board a ship? Just because you are on a Base (i.e., Naval Operating Base (NOB) Norfolk) does not give you free rein to go onto a ship docked there.

The proper way to board a US Naval Vessel is as follows:

1. You go up to the brow, and before you step onto the quarterdeck, you salute the American Flag at the stern of the ship.
2. You present your Government ID card, salute the Officer of the Deck (OOD), and request permission to come aboard.
 - If you are boarding your ship, you report your return aboard.
 - If your ship is tied up to another boat and it is outboard of the ship, you request permission to cross deck.

This ensures that only the personnel assigned to the ship are on board; all visitors are logged in the visitor log book and must be ashore before the ship gets underway.

Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Post 209 Commander



The American Legion

Neal Thomas JR. Centennial Post 209



Veterans Strengthening America



Bringing A Little South to the West

For kids who grew up in the '50s and '60s in Memphis, there were two HUGE events; the Cotton Carnival and the Mid-South Fair. I don't think the Cotton Carnival exists anymore; although the younger folks would probably associate it with Memphis in May, they are different. And the Mid-South Fair is still being held, but it has moved across the state line into northwest Mississippi.

The Cotton Carnival was a big celebration, not unlike Mardi Gras in New Orleans. The history of the Cotton Carnival dates back to post Civil War (or the War of Northern Aggression as many Southerners refer to it). While parades and the welcoming of the King and Queen of Cotton made their way through downtown and along the Mississippi River, my siblings and I only cared about the massive fireworks display. I remember Mom and Dad loading us up in the family '58 Chevy Belair Station Wagon and driving to Front Street along the river. Dad would find a good place to pull over along the side of the street, along with everyone else, and we'd wait for the sky to turn dark. Suddenly the night sky was illuminated with fireworks that seemed to last 30 minutes or longer. It was indeed a fantastic spectacle.

Then about six months later, the Mid-South Fair came to town. It was held at the Fairgrounds and lasted about a week. Toward the end of the week, there was always a big outdoor concert with a few significant entertainers. As a kid, I didn't care about the concert. I was too busy spending hard-earned cash I saved from mowing lawns, chopping and picking cotton, and the allowance from household chores to win a stuffed animal or show off my pitching skills.

And the rides. Man, oh man, the rides. The Fair provided all the day's familiar and popular rides: the Tilt-a-Whirl, a giant Ferris Wheel, Merry-Go-Round, and many others. But, hands down, the most popular ride was The Pippen! This was a huge roller coaster ride. It didn't have any 360-degree loops (I don't know of any roller coaster back in the day that did that), but its claim to fame was the frame on which the roller coaster traveled around a large part of the midway. The structure was completely wooden. The planks looked about 100 years old, and from the ground, it looked like the roller coaster would collapse as it twisted and dove its way around the track. But I think that's what made it fun for most of us.

In my senior year, Mom and Dad bought tickets for all of us to attend the concert toward the end of the Fair. Of course, we protested having to go, but we knew it wouldn't matter. While Dad allowed us to vote and vent (for a little while), he always reminded us he had veto power over all decisions. And he used it often. So after the votes were tallied (and then vetoed), we headed to the Fair with the promise to meet Mom and Dad at the gate to the concert theater.

Being a red-blooded (and red-neck) American boy of the '60s, the only music I listened to was Rock and Roll. Mom and Dad hated it but occasionally allowed us to put it on our favorite AM rock station at home. If we were on a road trip, the radio was always set to a country station, or it was turned off if no station was within range.

So what concert was attended? Yep, you're right, a country music concert. I dreaded having to sit and listen to the nasal twang of the singer, the squeaky banjo, and the whine of the steel guitars. But that concert that night changed my musical taste forever. The show opened with Carl Perkins, who sang his hit, Blue Suede Shoes. It was okay, but I preferred Elvis' version. Then the Statler Brothers came on stage. Their show was hilarious, and along with other songs, they sang "Counting Flowers on the Wall." It was a massive hit from just a few years earlier, reaching the top 5 on the country and Billboard charts. They were great, and my opinion about this type of music began to change.

After they left the stage, the main attraction walked up to the microphone. With a deep voice and guitar slung across his back, he said, "Hello, I'm Johnny Cash." Then the Man in Black regaled us with his biggest hits, and WOW! Just before he ended his show. Momma Mabelle Carter and The Carter Family joined him on stage to help sing "Momma Sang Bass." Their harmony was mesmerizing. They stayed with him on stage, and June Carter-Cash entertained the crowd with good clean comedy and a couple of duets with Johnny. Finally, he ended his show with a gospel favorite that brought Carl and the Statlers back to help him and the Carter Family sang "He Turned the Water Into Wine."

That did it. My music tastes opened up. To this day, I still love the Rock and Roll songs of the '50s and 60's, but I also am a big fan of classic and current country music. It's music about the love of our great country and each other (as well as partying). It is Americana!

Jay Bowen
Past Post Commander



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/>

May 2023						
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 Girls State Ice Cream Social 2:00pm - 4:00pm	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 \$16/Person Steak Night! 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	20 Armed Forces Day District 7 Convention Florence 11:30am  Buddy Time! 9:00-11:00am
21 Dept. President's Homecoming 1:00pm - 5:00pm	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 <b style="color: red;">Memorial Day Holiday!	30	31	Notes: <b style="color: red;">There will not be a monthly meeting in May. <b style="color: red;">There will be no breakfast the second Saturday this month.		

June 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Executive Committee Meeting 6:00pm   Venture Crew 7:00pm	2 Price Depends on Menu Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm 	3
4	5 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm Post Honor Gd.  Training 6:00pm	6	7	8  Venture Crew 7:00pm	9 Price TBD ALR Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	10 Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00  
11	12 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	13 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	14 Flag Day/Army B'day! Happy B'day US Army!	15  Venture Crew 7:00pm	16 \$16/Person Steak Night! 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	17 Post 209 "Buddy Time" 9:00am - 11:00am 
18 Father's Day	19 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	20	21 Summer Solstice Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	22  Venture Crew 7:00pm	23 Price TBD Auxiliary Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	24 Healing Warriors! 9:00am - 1:00pm
25	26 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	27 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:30pm  	28	29 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm   Venture Crew 7:00pm	30 Department Convention	Notes: